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NYSAA NEWSLETTER

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The NYSAA Newsletter Editor and Executive Board encourage any Members interested in submitting an article, letter, editorial and/or related news, to inquire with the Newsletter Editor in advance at the address listed above.

Friday, January 29th, 2027, is the deadline for materials to be considered for inclusion in the Winter 2027 NYSAA Newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 16 - 18, 2027

108th Annual Meeting of the
New York State Archaeological Association

Holiday Inn, Johnstown
308 North Comrie Ave
Johnstown, New York 12095

Hosted by the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

The 2027 conference will include field trips to local historic and archaeological sites, presentations and posters, a book room, Haudenosaunee Arts & Sale. Individuals interested in submitting papers or posters are encouraged to begin planning early.

2026 New York State Archaeological Association, 107th Annual Meeting

By Sherene B. Baugher and Marie-Lorraine Pipes

The 2026 NYSAA Annual Meeting was held at the Airport Marriott Hotel in Rochester, NY. This enjoyable conference was a time for sharing new research in archaeology, reconnecting old colleagues and friends, and generating new collaborations. Happily, we can report that 163 people attended the conference, including 31 students. This is the largest student attendance we have had. We thank the Houghton Chapter for their donation of $1,000 and NYSAA members for contributing money to provide free registration and either a free lunch or dinner for all students who either presented papers or posters. All students had either their lunch or dinner paid for. The student energy and enthusiasm were a great addition to the conference. Thanks to all the mentors who helped the students with their research and presentation skills. A special paper was given by a high school history teacher, Jessica Harney, and four students from Camden High School who talked about their experience working with archaeologist Matt Kirk on a free Black site in Florence, New York (Figure 1). One important development came from the successful attendance of students. At the Friday night business meeting, it was decided that the NYSAA would contribute up to $2000 to the host chapter each year to support student attendance.

Figure 1: Teachers and students from Camden High School. Left to right: Jessica Harney, Garet Rocker, Luke Eveleth, Shawn Whowell, Brooklyn Waterman, and Tricia Philipott (Photo by Matt Kirk)

The program included 29 papers as well as 9 poster presentations. The posters included ones from students at Binghamton and Oswego. The sessions had papers on prehistoric archaeology, Haudenosaunee archaeology, military and colonial archaeology, historical archaeology, and African American archaeology. The papers sparked many fruitful discussions.

On Friday, there was a tour of the 1816 Quaker Meeting House and Cemetery. Despite the rain, a dozen people were on the tour. At the same time, NYAC held a public program on the new regulations for NAGPRA. The program was organized by the NAGRPA coordinator hired by the University at Buffalo (UB) and students from the Anthropology Department and the Indigenous Studies Department at UB. The well-attended event sparked much discussion.

This year, rather than having a formal book room, we had a room of Haudenosaunee Arts & Sale that also included books and journals for sale, as well as free books donated by Bill Englebrecht and Ann Morton. Donations were collected for the free books, which are slated for the Student Conference Fund. The diverse art on display included jewelry, pottery, and Seneca beadwork. Conference members learned more about Seneca beadwork and diverse Seneca arts in papers on Sunday morning by Dolores Elliot, and George Hamell and Justin Tubiolo.

The Annual Banquet was an enjoyable event with over 90 attendees (Fig. 2). Jonathan Lothrop, the chair of the Fellows committee, presented the awards. The NYSAA Certificate of Merit Award is awarded to people involved as co-authors or authors of shorter reports. The 2026 award went to James Hewitt (Fig. 3). This year, two NYSAA members became Fellows of NYSAA for their numerous publications on New York State archaeology. The new Fellows are Edward Curtin (Fig.4) and David Moyer (Fig.5). Congratulations to the recipients; it is well deserved.

Figure 2: Members at the Saturday night banquet (Photo by Gail Merian).

Figure 3: The Certificate of Merit award given by Jonthan Lothrup (left) to James Hewitt (right) (Photo by Gail Merian).

Figure 4: Edward Curtin receiving his Fellow award (Photo by Gail Merian).

Left, Figure 5: Fellow award recipient Dave Moyer being congratulated by Sherene Baugher (left) and Gail Merian (right).

Below, Figure 6: Banquet speaker, Judith Wellman, presenting the history part of her joint talk with archaeologist Doug Perrelli (Photo by Ann Morton).

After dinner, we had a very informative and interesting presentation by historian Judith Wellman (Fig. 6) and archaeologist Douglas Perrelli. They discussed the work by members of the Underground Railroad at the Cataract House, a hotel in Niagara Falls. For over twenty-five years, Black men and women successfully helped enslaved people to reach freedom in Canada. We thank the following sponsors of the conference (Figure 7). We also thank the NYSAA members who organized the conference. They are: Lori and Greg Hunt, Bruce Knapp, Marcia DiMinco, Griffin Hamell, Justin Tubiolo, Dave Bruinix, Martha Sempowski, Ann Morton, Doug Pippin, Lois and Alan Jones, Larry Naylor, Kitty Lawrence, and Marie-Lorraine Pipes, and the program organizers: Wendy Bacon and Sherene Baugher.

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We look forward to seeing everyone next year in Johnstown!

Scaniverse in Historic Cemeteries: A Free, User - Friendly Smartphone App for High - Quality 3D Models

Kristin Clyne-Lehmann
(NYSAA At-Large & Central New York Cemetery Network)

For the last several years, I have been experimenting with mobile 3D scanning apps in archaeological contexts throughout New York, including historic cemeteries. Scaniverse is a free 3D scanning app for newer smartphones that has proven to be an excellent tool for creating 3D models of cemetery features. While there are aspects of this app to consider critically, such as digital likeness privacy, it is a powerful digitization tool for research and mapping of historic burial spaces. Since 2D images are inadequate representations of 3D models, I am making many of the models from this article accessible to readers via hyperlinks included in image captions.

What is Scaniverse?

This free 3D scanning app is a product of Niantic Inc., developers of the popular mobile game Pokémon GO. Scaniverse works on newer smartphones, including Apple (iPhone 11 or later, iPad A12 processor or later) and Android (version 7 or later, with 4 GB RAM). Mobile 3D scanning apps utilize advanced cameras in recent smartphones and structure-from-motion (SfM) photogrammetric algorithms to create 3D models. Scaniverse also makes use of the phone's lidar sensor to construct the geometry of the object being scanned. Additionally, in 2024, Scaniverse released an option called Gaussian splatting, which uses machine learning to train the 3D scan to a photorealistic quality model.

Scaniverse is free throughout the entire workflow, which is unique among scanning apps. Users do not have to pay to download the app, collect unlimited scans, process data into a high-quality 3D model within the app, and export products in a variety of file formats. One might wonder, "if this app is so great, why is it free?". Niantic is working toward creating large-scale geospatial models of the world, a goal that is advanced when app users choose to share scans on the Scaniverse global map. Importantly, Scaniverse users are not required to share their scans in order to use the app.

Scaniverse is easy to use and provides clear instructions throughout the process. Users are offered a choice between collecting a mesh scan (image-based, further options for level of detail desired) or a Gaussian splat scan (video-based, uses machine learning to train the model by checking product against original data, results are hyperrealistic). In mesh mode, there are three further options: Speed, Area and Detail. Choosing between these options is a balance between the level of detail needed from the scan and creating files that are too large. Detail mode will capture a high level of crisp texture but begin to glitch if the scan becomes too large. Area will collect less fine detail, but can be used over an impressive distance.

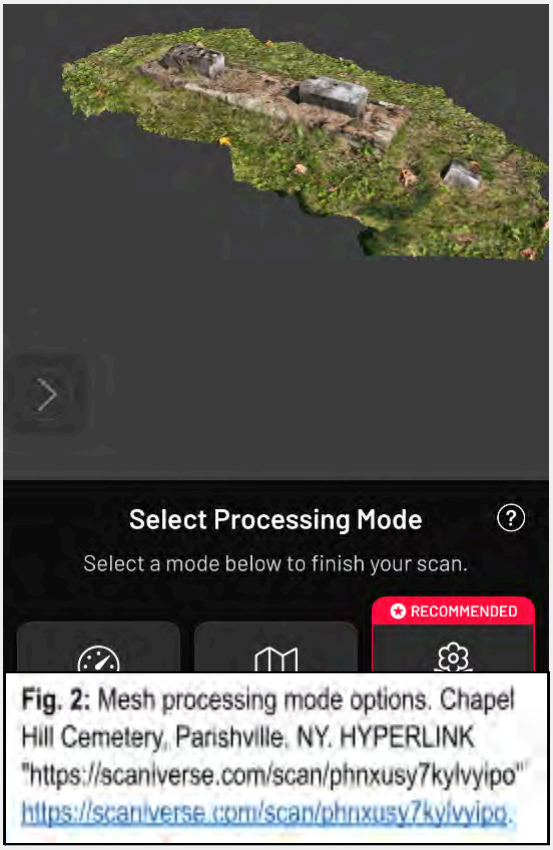
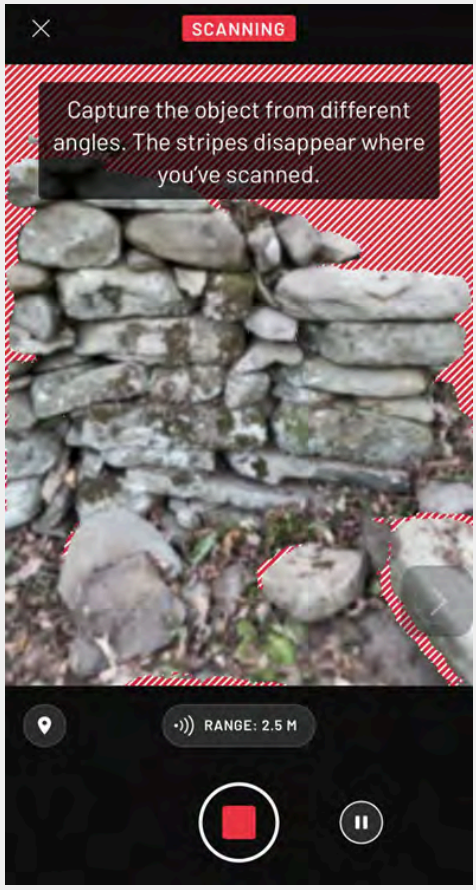


Fig. 2: Mesh processing mode options. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. HYPERLINK "https://scaniverse.com/scan/phnxusy7kylvyipo" https://scaniverse.com/scan/phnxusy7kylvyipo.



During the scanning process, the app prompts users to move the phone to new angles while scanning by marking unscanned areas with red and white stripes. Once a section has been adequately scanned, the stripes disappear. After the subject has been thoroughly scanned, users can then process the model within the Scaniverse app, without any prior experience in 3D model processing required on the part of the user. Processing Gaussian splats involves additional optional enhancement, allowing the user to continue to refine the detail of the model. The app utilizes machine learning to further train the model by comparing the initial resulting model to the original data and making adjustments. After a Gaussian splat scan is finished processing in the app, users have the option to share their model on the global Scaniverse map, but this is not a requirement. Users can choose to simply store models in the phone app or export them to save on a desktop, where software like Agisoft Metashape, can be used for further work.

Scaniverse in Historic Cemeteries

Scaniverse is a great tool for documentation of most grave markers. It works well on textured stone surfaces, including marble, granite, limestone, sandstone, slate, fieldstones, cement, and very well on zinc or “white bronze” monuments. However, the app can have issues with recording highly polished stone because reflective surfaces can be difficult for the sensors to identify. This was a significant problem when I used mesh data collection; I was unable to successfully capture the square top plane of a polished granite monument on a sunny clear day. The Gaussian splat results came out slightly better, but still could not fully capture the top surface.

Fig. 4 (top right): Mesh scan of Minnie A. Brown headstone. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. https://scaniverse.com/scan/ffgjnowzxgtrrhoy.

Fig. 5 (bottom left): Mesh scan of highly polished monument; failure to capture top plane. https://scaniverse.com/scan/t3vobdu6pnkpey2k.

Fig. 6 (bottom right): Gaussian splat of same highly polished monument; slightly better, but not successful. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. https://scaniverse.com/scan/eie7lg4fjevqnwqm.

The app performed admirably in a large Area scan, approximately 40 meters by 15 meters, albeit with a fairly low level of detail rendered throughout the model.

Fig. 7: Large Area scan, mesh mode. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. HYPERLINK "https://scaniverse.com/scan/nyucimt4ebssjqih"https://scaniverse.com/scan/nyucimt4ebssjqih.

Fig. 8: Measurements of headstone in the app. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. https://scaniverse.com/scan/fq5lukjug2d7b5cs.

One convenient feature of the app is the ability to take measurements of objects in the model. Measurements from the processed 3D models can be checked against true measurements collected while in the field, using a measuring tape.

I found that the app struggles to properly render iron fences, a common feature around the boundaries of historic cemeteries. I tested this on a sunny day, using Area mode in mesh data collection. Using this mode of data collection was not sufficient to capture the thin iron fence rails; further, the lighting conditions cast shadows from the fence, which did show up in the scan. It might be possible to successfully scan iron fences on a cloudy day using Medium Object mode, but traditional SfM photogrammetry using overlapping images would be more reliable.

Fig. 9: Missing metal fencing, only shadows captured. Detail of Area mesh scan. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. HYPERLINK "https://scaniverse.com/scan/nyucimt4ebssjqih" https://scaniverse.com/scan/nyucimt4ebssjqih.

Tall monuments can also pose a problem for the Scaniverse app. If the user cannot cover all angles of a monument, including from above, data will be missing. The app will try to work with what data is available, but the resulting scan will have distortions or blurry areas. The mesh mode struggled with this task, in both Detail and Area modes. Gaussian splats, however, performed much better, using machine learning to train the model and fill in gaps in perspective.

Fig. 10 (left): Mesh scan of zinc Whipple family monument; failure to render urn topper. https://scaniverse.com/scan/vp3a46x5f5um25sv.

Fig. 11 (right): Gaussian splat of same monument; much better final product. Chapel Hill Cemetery, Parishville, NY. https://scaniverse.com/scan/zk7br4llxzvpzeog.

Cemetery Scanning Fieldwork Suggestions

Weather, time of day and busy periods in a cemetery are critical considerations when planning a scanning survey. If it is raining or snowing, it is not a safe day to be outdoors collecting data with a smartphone. Sunny conditions are okay, but overcast lighting is really optimal. Direct sunlight causes shadows to be cast from objects, including the surveyor, which will show up in the final processed model. Choosing a cloudy day or surveying while the sun is more directly overhead, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., can help minimize shadows. To avoid inadvertently including bystanders in the background of scans, it is better to survey while a cemetery is less likely to have many people present. It is smart to check if the cemetery has any upcoming events, such as tours, and skip busier times, like the weekend. Desktop software, such as Metashape or Pix4Dmatic, can be used to clip/cut out shadows or bystanders, but this requires some training with photogrammetry programs. It is easier to simply plan how to minimize shadows and people in scans whenever possible.

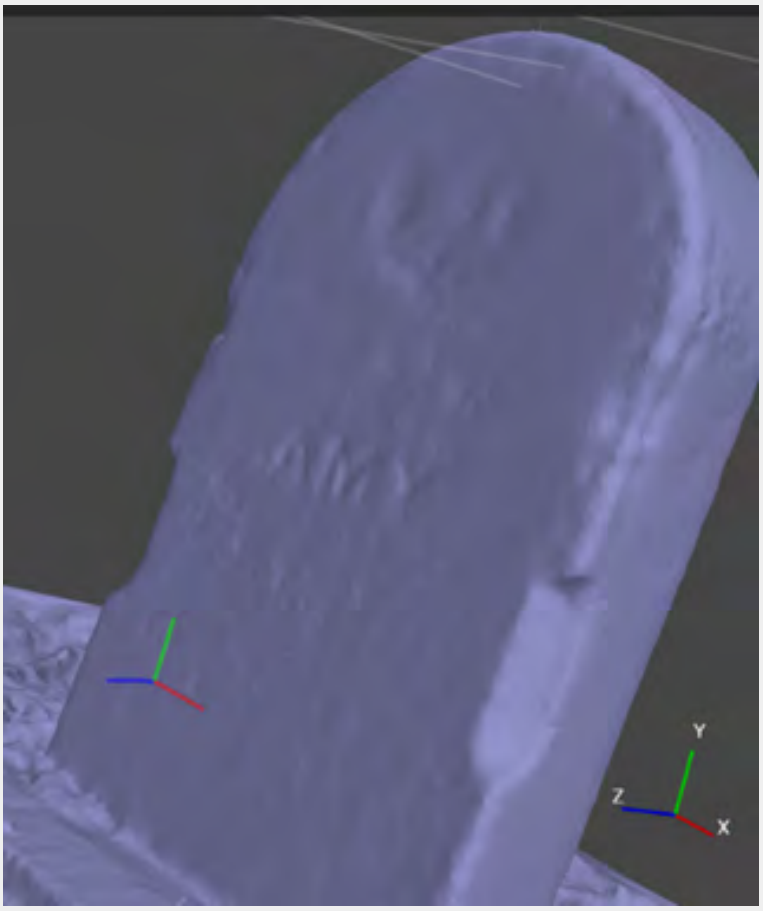


Fig. 12: Lidar of Amy Headstone. Bunn Hill Cemetery, Binghamton, NY.

If multiple individuals would like to do a Scaniverse survey together in a cemetery, there are some additional logistics to establish beforehand. Firstly, if people plan to share their scans with one another, perhaps working toward complete cemetery mapping, it is very helpful to agree on a common naming convention for the files ahead of time. Secondly, it is important to discuss how exactly to avoid being in the background of each other's scans. Spacing within cemeteries varies, but a good starting point is to leave at least one row or 5-10 graves between surveyors while scanning. Lastly, it would be better for a group to leave taller monuments for last; scanning these requires pointing the phone camera in a more outward than downward direction, making it difficult not to capture the background while scanning. In order to avoid being in the background of tall monument scans, any group members who are not the active scanner

should move outside of the survey area until this data collection is complete.

Based on my experiences using Scaniverse in historic cemeteries, it helpful to consider bringing: a backup battery and charging cable for the smartphone being used; tech screen wipes; a brimmed hat to shade your eyes; a photogrammetry pole or long selfie stick to obtain overhead views of tall monuments; notebook, pencil and pen; a measuring tape; water; and sunscreen. Also, it is important to check that there is storage space available on the smartphone prior to fieldwork. Resulting file sizes can vary greatly: the aforementioned large Area scan is my largest, a total of 4,430 MB, while headstone scans range between 130 - 550 MB. It would be smart to have at least 1 GB of available storage space in order to collect multiple scans. One final, but crucial consideration for using Scaniverse is an issue of digital likeness privacy and respectfulness. If a surveyor makes a 3D scan of a person and uploads it to the Scaniverse shared map, there could be negative consequences regarding misuse of that data. It is safer to avoid collecting and sharing 3D scans of people, given the potential for AI deep fakes. It is also essential to be respectful of the sacred nature of burial grounds, for those who are interred and those who visit for remembrance.

In closing, Scaniverse is an incredible tool for mobile 3D scanning and has a lot of potential for use in historic cemetery contexts. Over several years of experimentation, I have found it to be impressively effective in many recordation tasks. Given the pervasiveness of smartphones, the Scaniverse app makes 3D modeling accessible to many people, with no training required prior to use. Anyone doing cemetery documentation, research, mapping or digital preservation should consider utilizing this affordable, user-friendly, powerful tool.

Archaeologists and Students Investigate Unmarked Settler Burials Discovered in LeRay, NY

By Timothy Abel, PhD.

When a local farmer in the Town of Leray began preparing his field for the coming growing season in spring 2025, he discovered something unexpected: human skeletal remains. After State Police determined that the remains were not part of any active cold case, the scene was turned over to the New York State Museum who assumed jurisdiction under the state's newly-created Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act (2023).

New York State Museum Curator of Bioarchaeology Lisa Anderson, Watertown-based archaeologist Dr. Tim Abel, and Dr. Mindy Pitre, Associate Professor and Chair of Anthropology at Saint Lawrence University led an investigation in mid-April 2026. The work was monitored by representatives from the Oneida Indian Nation, as required by state protocol.

Anderson, Dr. Abel and his crew, Dr. Pitre and her students began their investigation in a field next to a busy highway. Together this collection of scientists and students excavated units to carefully recover the skeletal remains of at least three individuals. All the remains were scattered in the area save for one partial burial. The team also recovered coffin hardware from this partial burial including screws and hinges which suggested a settler interment dating to the mid-19th century.

A deed search revealed the owner of the lot in the mid-19th century to be William Barber. Born in White Creek, N.Y. in 1778, Barber moved to Leray with his family prior to 1810. He reportedly took up residence near Evans Mills, where he worked for James Leray clearing land for agriculture and roads. He purchased the property he lived on from James Leray in 1818 for $1.00 "and other valuable considerations." On his death in 1848 he willed it to his son William H. Barber. The junior Barber died

in 1862 and is buried in Philadelphia's Quaker Cemetery. In 1865, the land was transferred out of the family to James Larock.

Further genealogical research led to passages in two published genealogies that stated William Barber, who died 25 May 1848, his first wife Catherine (Flagler), who died 6 Aug 1814, and his second wife Sarah (Woodworth), who died 30 May 1860, were buried on the Barber farm in unmarked plots "near the road between Evans Mills and Philadelphia, Jefferson Co.., N.Y. about ¼ mile from Barbers Corners toward the Richard Cox farm" – the exact area of the find. Using this data, researchers were able to build a physical profile of the three individuals' ages at death.

The remains are now being examined in Pitre's lab at Saint Lawrence University, where she is carrying out skeletal analysis to estimate information such as sex, age, height, and cause and manner of death. The remains will be compared to the known details of William, Catherine and Sarah for possible identification. Once her analysis is complete, the remains will be reburied. Researchers are currently reaching out to descendants of the Barber family to participate in that ceremony.

Abel and Pitre had previously worked with Saint Lawrence University students on the recovery of individuals from the Old Burying Ground in Heuvelton, N.Y., a project that was awarded a New York State Preservation Award for Archaeological Stewardship. This current collaboration has also been fulfilling for students. According to Pitre, "students have been afforded a rare opportunity to experience anthropology in the field while at the same time working with various professionals from the New York State Museum, Oneida Indian Nation, and consulting archeology companies." David Grzebyta '26, an anthropology and Hispanic studies major, relayed how the experience solidified his desire to pursue graduate study and a career in archeology. Abel and Pitre are working to make this collaboration a model for future recovery investigations under the state Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act. For more information contact:

- Lisa Anderson, NYSM unmarkedburial@nysed.gov
- Timothy Abel, Consulting archaeologist timothyjabelphd@gmail.com
- Mindy Pitre, SLU mpitre@stlawu.edu

Historic Preservation Field School Best Practice: Building a Flexible Field School Database for Multi-Year Reporting and Research

By Alanna Ossa, Jylene Figueroa, Emil Sander, Mackenzie Schmitt, Joshua Winoski, and Cloey Wratten, SUNY Oswego

The Archaeology Field School at SUNY Oswego is designed as a historic preservation field school, in which students learn essential professional skills such as survey, excavation, artifact analysis, data recovery report writing, and curation. A key component is the creation of a flexible, relational database that can be deployed for each iteration of the school, which SUNY Oswego runs every other summer at a different local historic site. We have found that an effective database structure can help produce quicker reports in field school settings. We also demonstrate that a flexible relational database structure can be repurposed for legacy data to allow students to do research on decades old data.

Archaeology has regular data structures that make designing standard relational database architecture easy because there are fairly limited ways in which we organize our data (Ossa 2024). The main relationships are the location information (provenience) and the artifact analyses, ranging from artifact type summary by provenience to detailed analysis of individual pieces. Our standard database architecture is used every year (Figure 1).

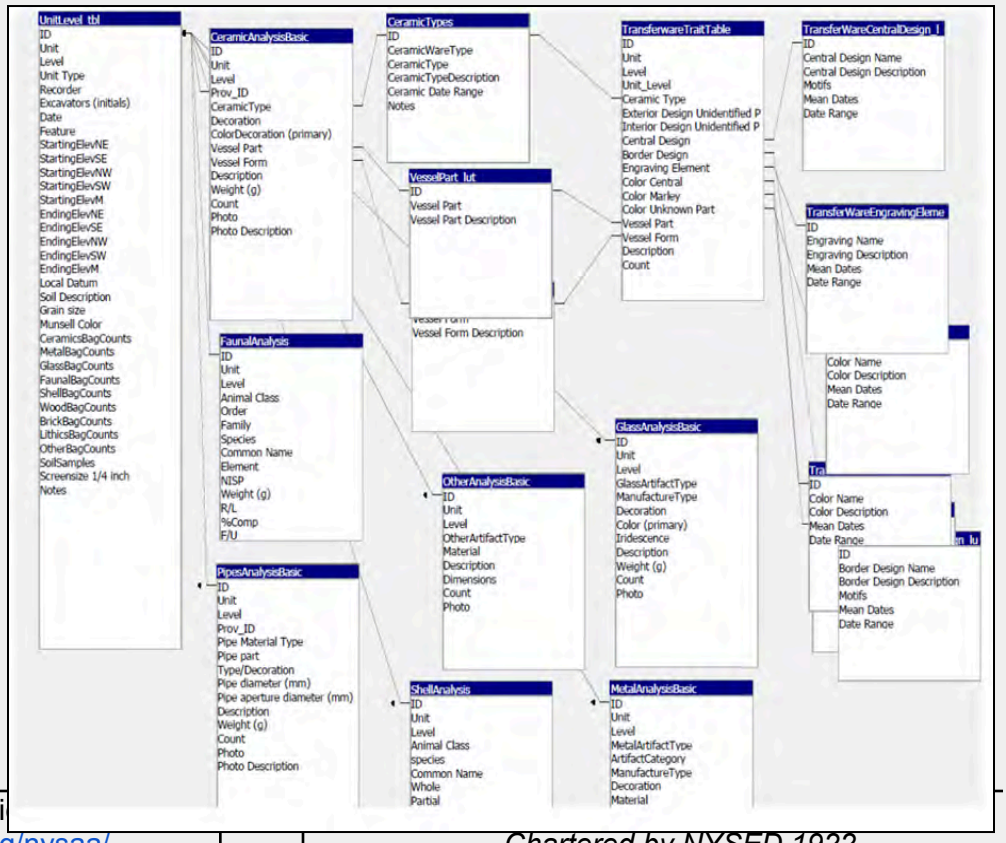


Figure 1. Standard Archaeology Database Table Schematic for SUNY Oswego Field school.

A significant advantage of our standardized database is its flexibility. Each season we have added new artifact types as we change site locations. The artifact analysis tables are set up in a way that makes adding a completely new artifact type, such as clay pipes (added in the 2024 season at the Van Buren Inn and Tavern site) easy by using existing artifact type structure as a template (Figure 2).

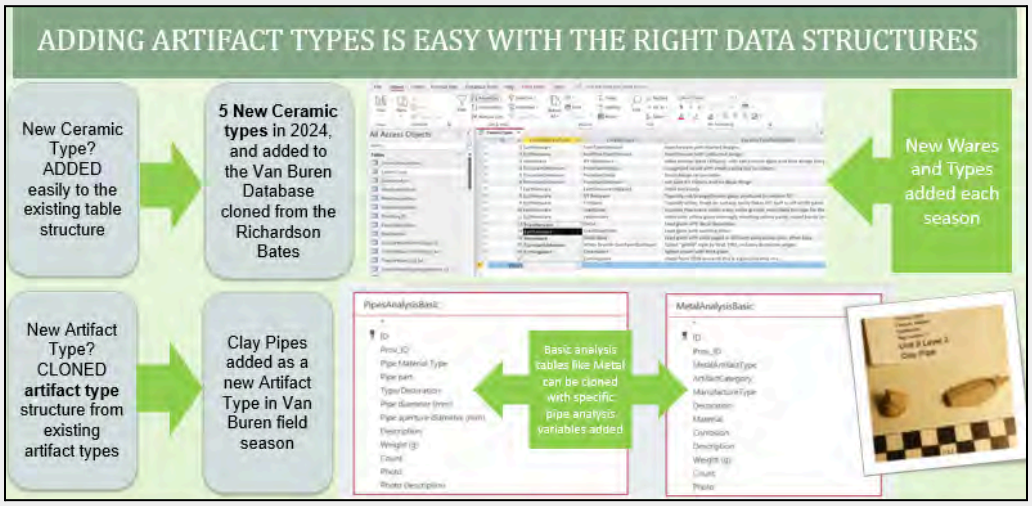


Figure 2. New ceramic types and a new artifact table created from 2022 to 2024.

Tables with built in hierarchical relationships can be used to avoid the problem of creating a million look-up tables for each artifact trait; we show two examples in which this approach is used for easier reporting in both faunal and ceramic analysis (Figure 3). Faunal materials and ceramics can be organized to the level at which information is available, e.g. “large mammal” may be the only identifiable type for a piece of bone, likewise “plain earthenware” for ceramics. Having different levels of information built into each table structure, respectively, allows for that possibility without requiring separate tables.

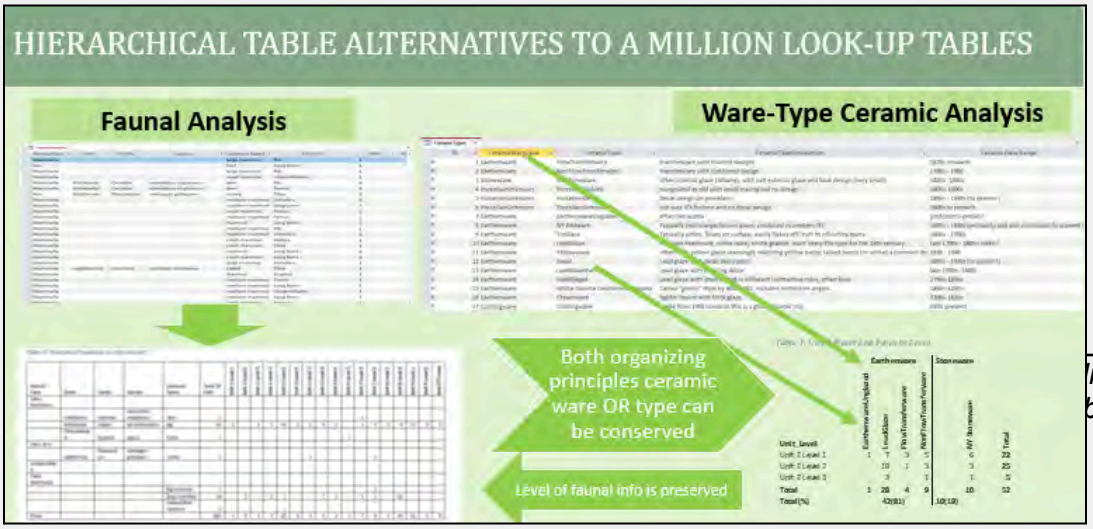


Figure 3. Hierarchical table organization to

avoid unnecessary look-up tables.

Summary counts of artifact types per provenience unit is not the only way to organize data. We leverage relational database structures to produce flexible tables, using query design to create crosstab tables, rather than being forced to organize our data in crosstab formulations (Figure 4).

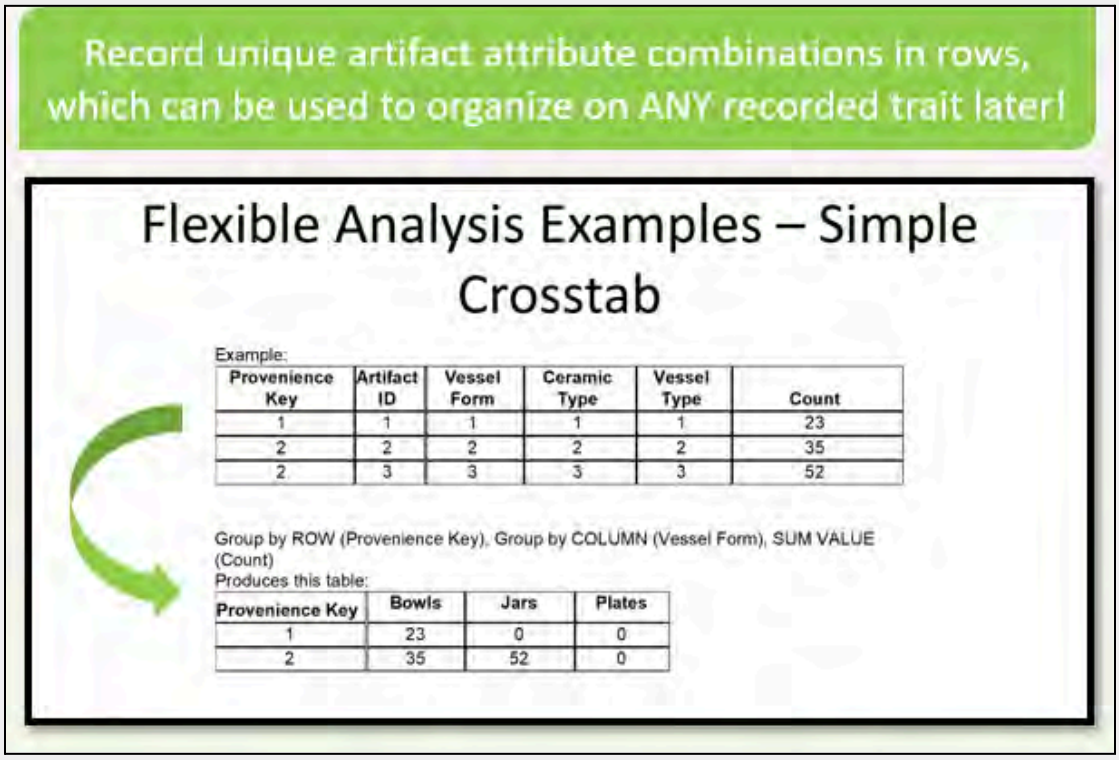


Figure 4. Flexible Tables on individual artifact combinations can produce any table with Queries.

The transferware trait analysis of the historic transferwares recovered in the field school is an example of how the flexible field school database was designed to deploy multiple levels of analysis for maximum information retention (Figure 5). Samford's (1997) transferware trait analysis identified different date ranges of production of both flow and nonflow transferware based on glaze colors and design elements are used to date the transferwares recovered during the school. This is a detailed level of analysis that does not apply to every ceramic piece recovered, since not all of them were transferwares. This table could be created and integrated with the ceramic analysis by recording information in a separate table that was still linked to the provenience (units) while still being captured

in summary format (without the same level of detail) in the basic ceramic analysis tables. This is one of the key advantages of using a relational database structure with flexible design.

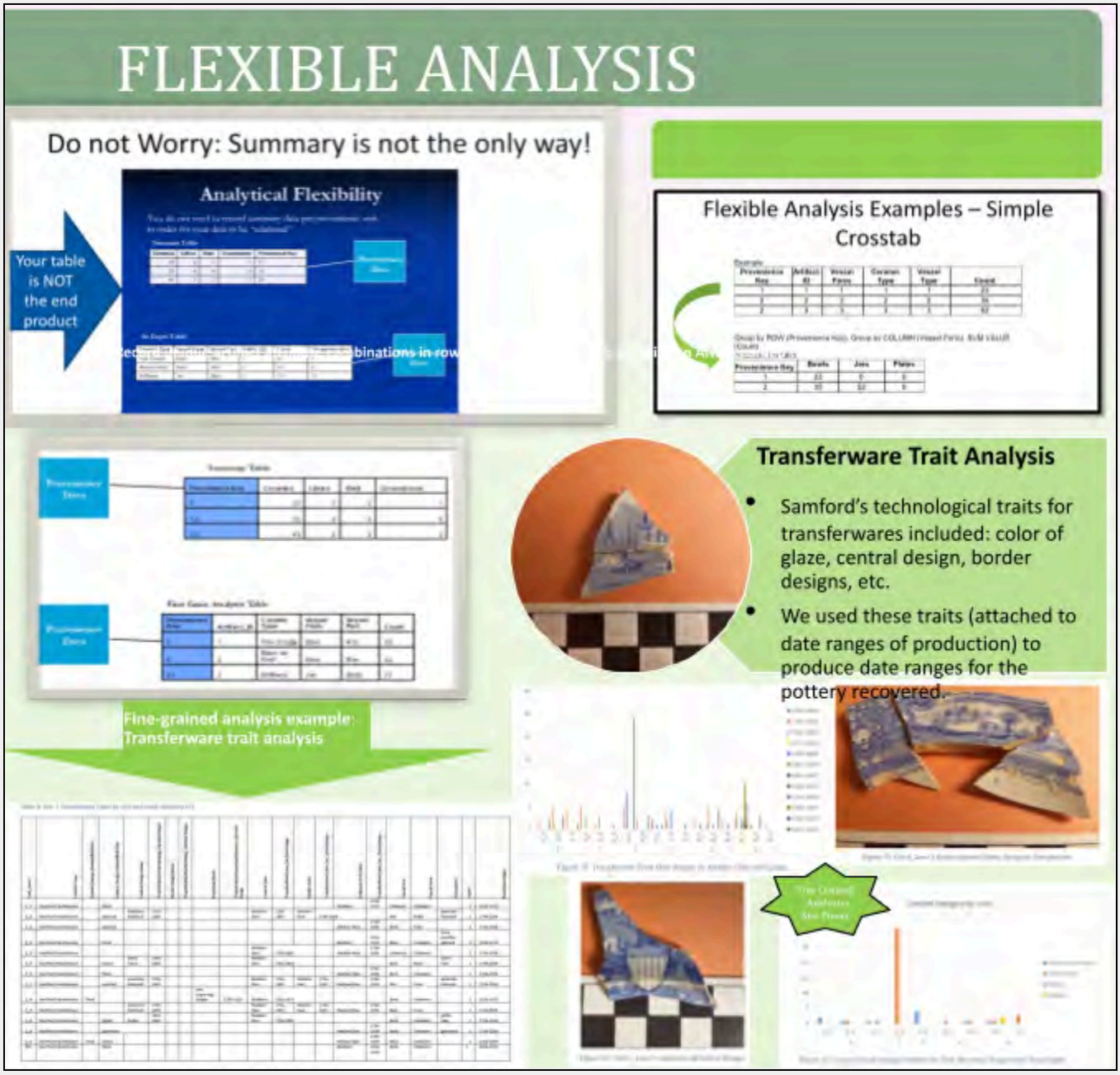


Figure 5. Transferware Trait Analysis as Fine-grained example.

Relational database technology and its organizational structure is used to make our data much less error prone and more regular. Data types and artifact type descriptions are decided well in advance of analysis and data entry. If new artifact types are required, these can be added while working on the analysis and prior to database data entry. We can avoid creating problems with “column junk” and haphazard descriptions in lieu of regular trait observations by planning ahead. Based on our experiences, the use of a regular relational database also increases the ability of students to analysis **all** the artifacts from each season during the duration of the school. This practice most closely follows professional expectations for cultural resource management and produces better data for future analyses (Figure 6). Table creation for the report can be automated by queries that are set up well in advance and once the analyses are completed, these queries are populated and can be immediately exported as tables and be formatted for reporting purposes.

Figure 6. Relational Databases best practices.

Finally, the field school template can be used on legacy data from older projects with the application of new artifact analyses. Many students with Capstone senior research projects at SUNY Oswego have used the field school template successfully to create new research projects and artifact analyses (Figure 7). We propose that our field school archaeology database pedagogy and creation is a great way to train students in best historic preservation practices and leverage their data and their analyses quickly and professionally. By creating and replicating our database each year, we are able to rapidly and accurately produce our field school reports.

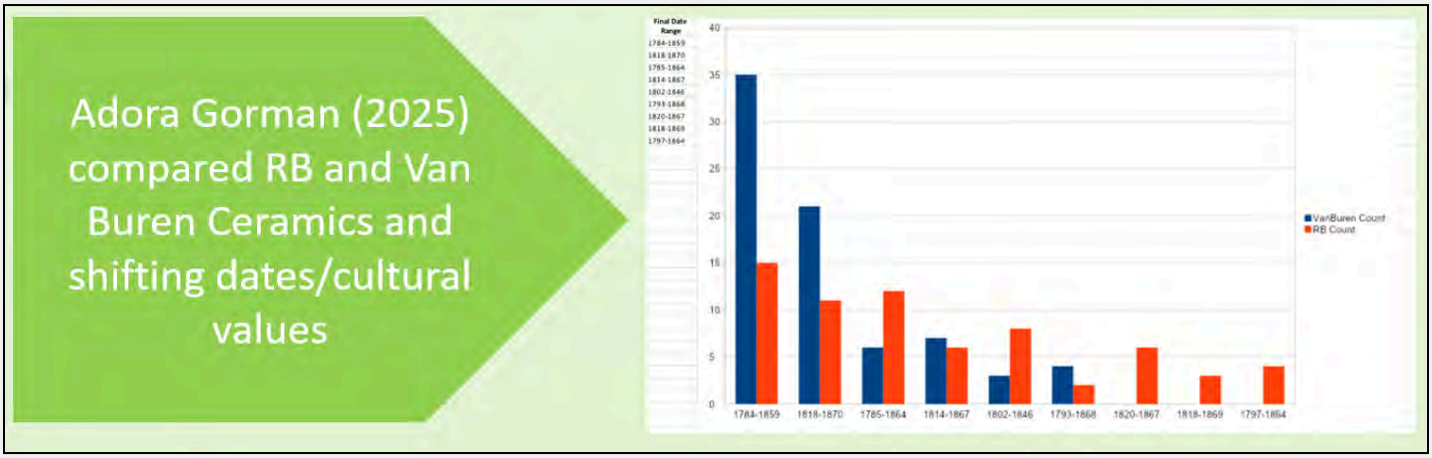


Figure 7. Field School Alum (Adora Gorman 2022) produced a capstone project from RB and VB databases.

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Ossa, Alanna. 2024. *Archaeological Database Management and Creation: A Manual,* created for the SAA Deeper Digs session: Archaeological Database Creation and Management Basics.

Samford, Patricia M. 1997. Response to a Market: Dating English Underglaze Transfer-Printed Wares, *Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 31, No. 2, pp. 1-30 Stable URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25616524

Brant Homestead Collection Transferred to the New York State Museum

By Bob Kuhn

Left: Bob Kuhn delivering the Brant Homestead collection to the New York State Museum, Winter, 2026.

Between 1982 and 1991 the Mohawk Valley Project conducted archaeological excavations at numerous Mohawk-Iroquois village sites under the direction of Professor Dean R. Snow of the University at Albany. Some of the important Mohawk village sites that were excavated include the fifteenth century Second Woods and Elwood sites, the sixteenth century Otstungo and Cayadutta sites, the seventeenth century Rumrill-Naylor, Oak Hill #1, and Jackson-Everson sites, and the eighteenth century Brant Homestead.

The important, well-provenienced collections from these sites were cleaned, cataloged, and inventoried by graduate and undergraduate students at the university under the direction of Dr. Snow. The collections were initially curated at the University of Albany and later transferred to the New York State Museum for long-term preservation, where they are available for research and study. The single exception to this appropriate conclusion to the Mohawk Valley Project involved the collection from the Brant Homestead because the owner of the site at the time of excavation decided to keep the collection locally. Therefore, after the collection was cleaned, cataloged, inventoried, studied, researched, and published (Guldenzopf 1986; Snow 1995), it was packaged, boxed and returned to the property owner.

The Brant Homestead site was excavated in 1984 and 1985 by summer field school students from the university under the direction of Dean Snow and graduate student David Guldenzopf. The site is often referred to as Indian Castle or, less frequently, as the Welden site after the owners of the property. The excavations produced a large and significant artifact collection.

The site is the pre-Revolutionary War home of the famous Mohawk war chief Joseph Brant (1743-1807). Brant (Thayendanegea) was a Mohawk military and political leader who served in important and influential roles throughout his adult life. He was arguably the most important and certainly the most well-known Indigenous figure of the American Revolution, notorious for his prominent role at the Battle of Oriskany and later raids in the Mohawk and Cherry Valleys. The artifact collection from his home site reflects the status, British influence, and wealth of Brant just prior to the outbreak of war.

In the spring of 2025 I contacted Linda Welden, the current owner of the artifact collection, to ask for the opportunity to examine the organics recovered from the Brant Homestead site as part of my on-going research on Iroquois corn. I was welcomed into the Welden home and after examining the condition of the collection, it became clear to me that the boxes the collection was stored in had never been opened since Dean had transferred them to the family. I found the organics, measured the charred corn kernels, and repackaged the collection. Afterwards, I talked with Linda about the significance of the collection and the importance of having the collection curated at an appropriate institution that would preserve the collection in perpetuity and make it available for research, study, and public display.

The Welden family decided to donate the Brant Homestead collection to the New York State Museum and the transfer took place over the winter of 2026. All the site collections from the Mohawk Valley Project are now preserved and available for study at the museum. The Welden family are to be thanked for preserving the collection over the decades and recognizing the value of having the collection curated at a public institution.

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