

**101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference**  
of the  
New York State  
Archaeological Association

**PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS**



April 21-23, 2017

Fort William Henry  
Lake George, New York

Hosted by  
The Adirondack Chapter

**Program**  
**New York State Archaeological Association**  
**April 21-23, 2017**  
**Adirondack Chapter**

**Friday, April 21**

- 12:30 PM – 6:30 PM Registration Fort William Henry Conference Center (FWHCC)  
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM NYAC Board Meeting (Albany Room)  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM NYAC Board Members Lunch (Albany Room)  
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM Book Room (Long Lake Room, downstairs in FWHCC)  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM NYAC General Business Meeting (Albany Room, FWHCC)  
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM Tour of Fort William Henry with Steve Collyer  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM NYAC Program: *From Screen to Screen: Growing Your Archaeological Community with Video* (Albany Room, FWHCC)  
  
3:45 PM – 5:00 PM Tour of Lake George Battlefield Park with Dr. Lyn Hohmann  
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM NYSAA Fellows Meeting (Glens Falls Room, FWHCC)  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM Informal Reception (Tankard Taverne in the Fort William Henry Hotel—cash bar) and dinner on your own  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM NYSAA Business Meeting (Lake George Room, FWHCC)

**Saturday, April 22**

- 6:30 AM – 8:45 AM Breakfast Buffet (White Lion Room, Fort William Henry Hotel)  
7:30 AM – 8:45 AM Breakfast Meeting for NYSAA Chapter Officers (table in rear of White Lion Room)  
  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Book Room (Long Lake Room, FWHCC)  
8:00 AM – 2:00 PM Registration, Fort William Henry Conference Center  
8:45 AM – 10:20 AM Morning Paper Session 1 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
10:20 AM – 10:40 AM Coffee Break  
10:40 AM – 12:00 AM Morning Paper Session 2 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Lunch Buffet (White Lion Room, Fort William Henry Hotel)  
1:30 PM – 2:50 PM Afternoon Paper Session 1 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
2:50 PM – 3:10 PM Coffee Break  
3:10 PM – 5:10 PM Afternoon Paper Session 2 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM Cocktail Reception (Tankard Taverne in the Fort William Henry Hotel—cash bar)  
  
7:00 PM Annual Banquet (White Lion Dining Room, Fort William Henry Hotel)  
  
8:30 PM Banquet Program (White Lion Dining Room)  
- Dr. David Orr, featured speaker  
- NYSAA Awards

**Sunday, April 23**

- 6:30 AM – 8:45 AM Breakfast Buffet (White Lion Room, Fort William Henry Hotel)  
9:00 AM – 10:20 AM Paper Session 1 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
10:20 AM – 10:40 AM Coffee Break  
10:40 AM – 12:00 PM Paper Session 2 (Lake George Room, FWHCC)  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Tour of Rogers Island in Fort Edward with Dr. David Starbuck

**Tours:**

**Friday, April 21st, 2:00-3:15pm Fort William Henry, Lake George**

Steve Collyer, lead interpreter at Fort William Henry, will treat us to a behind-the-scenes tour of Fort William Henry. Steve will meet you in the lobby of the Fort William Henry Conference Center and escort you from there to the fort.

**Friday, April 21st, 3:45-5:00pm Lake George Battlefield Park, Lake George**

Dr. Lyn Karig Hohmann, President of the Fort George Alliance, will lead a tour of the Lake George Battlefield Park, which is located at the southernmost end of Lake George. Dr. Hohmann will meet you in the lobby of the Fort William Henry Conference Center and escort you from there to the Park.

**Sunday, April 23rd, 2:00pm Rogers Island, Fort Edward**

Dr. David Starbuck, Professor at Plymouth State University, will lead a tour of the archaeological sites on Rogers Island in Fort Edward, as well as a tour of exhibits in the Rogers Island Visitors Center.

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**Saturday, April 22**

8:45 a.m. **Welcome:**

- 9:00 to 9:20 ***The Tale of the Dismembered 1757 Fort William Henry Shipwreck***  
Joseph W. Zarzynski, RPA (The French & Indian War Society) and  
Brigid Shaw (Independent Researcher)
- 9:20 to 9:40 ***Shrouded in Mystery: Changes in Mortuary Treatment at the Fort  
William Henry Military Cemetery***  
Marie Ellsworth (Adirondack Chapter, NYSAA)
- 9:40 to 10:00 ***The Collection of the Fort William Henry Museum***  
Lindsay Doyle (Asst. Curator, Fort William Henry Museum)
- 10:00 to 10:20 ***Much Ado about a Trash Pit in Schenectady, NY***  
Louise Basa (Adjunct Instructor, Schenectady County Community  
College, Community Archaeology Program)
- 10:20 to 10:40 **Coffee Break**
- 10:40 to 11:00 ***Combining Community, History, and Archaeology at the First  
Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York***  
Diana Carter and Louise Basa (Adjunct Instructors, Schenectady County  
Community College, Community Archaeology Program) and Norah  
Pattison (SCCC-CAP student)
- 11:00 to 11:20 ***Archaeological Research in the Shawangunk Mountains, 2006-2016***  
Lucille Lewis Johnson (Professor Emerita of Anthropology, Vassar  
College), Sally Gaston (Vassar College, Class of 2019), and Kryzel  
Bonifacio (Vassar College, Class of 2017)
- 11:20 to 11:40 ***A Town Repurposed: Using the Archaeology and History of a NYC  
Watershed Community to Reveal the Far-reaching Effects of  
Urbanization***  
April M. Beisaw (Vassar College) and Sarah Johnson (Putnam County  
Historian)
- 11:40 to 12:00 ***From Archetypes to Actors: The Impact of the Repatriation  
Movement on Museum Displays of Native America***  
Penelope Heilbrun Duus (Vassar College, Class of 2017)

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12:00 to 1:30 **Lunch**

**Saturday Afternoon**

- 1:30 to 1:50 Revisiting the Archaic Period in New York State  
Edward V. Curtin (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. and Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA)
- 1:50 to 2:10 *Discovery and Excavations at Two Key Lake George, NY, Prehistoric Sites*  
Tom Weinman (Beauchamp Chapter, NYSAA and Fellow, NYSAA)
- 2:10 to 2:30 *A Forty-four Year Odyssey Following Footprints from the Past*  
Ellie McDowell-Loudan (State University of New York College at Cortland)
- 2:30 to 2:50 *X Never Marks the Spot: A Fortified Settlement Discovered on Van Schaick Island*  
Adam Luscier (Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.)
- 2:50 to 3:10 Coffee Break
- 3:10 to 3:30 *We are Americans Too: The Utilization of Heritage, Monuments, and Memorialization by Ethnic Groups at Saratoga and Gettysburg*  
Brant Venables (Binghamton University)
- 3:30 to 3:50 *Reconstructing the impact of Romanization on diet at Nadin: Establishing the baseline*  
Kenneth C. Nystrom (State University of New York at New Paltz),  
Jessica Mortensen (State University of New York at New Paltz), Martina Čelhar (University of Zadar), J. Marla Toyne (University of Central Florida)
- 3:50 to 4:10 *Marine Shell from circa 1688-1754 Seneca (Onöndowa'ga:') Sites: Observations on Production and Consumption*  
Kurt A. Jordan (Cornell University and Finger Lakes Chapter, NYSAA)
- 4:10 to 4:30 *The New York Tavern: Romance Versus Reality in the Conceptions of Social Space*  
Dené Rivera (Hunter College)

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4:30 to 4:50 *Identifying Late Woodland Communities of Practice through Stylistic Debitage Variation at the Simmons Site, New York*

Joshua J. Kwoka (Research Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University at Buffalo)

4:50 to 5:10 *Why These Beads? A Look into the Color Symbolism of Historic Glass Beads from the Veeder Site*

Matthew LoBiondo (Monmouth University)

5:30 to 7:00 Cocktail Reception (Tankard Taverne in the Fort William Henry Hotel)

7:00 to 8:30 Banquet Dinner (White Lion Dining Room, the Fort William Henry Hotel)

8:30 Banquet Program (White Lion Dining Room)

*Some Things of Value: An Archaeological Odyssey*

Speaker: Dr. David Orr (Retired, Temple University and National Park Service)

NYSAA Awards

**A Special Feature:**

WCNY, Central New York's public broadcasting company based in Syracuse, NY, has created two documentaries that draw heavily upon the work of archaeologists. These DVDs will be shown in our Book Room during breaks throughout the day on Saturday.

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**Sunday, April 23**

8:45 a.m. **Welcome:**

**Reports from Research & Collections at the New York State Museum**

Session organizer: Daria E. Merwin (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)

9:00 to 9:20 **Coupling Lithic Sourcing with GIS Analysis to Model Paleoindian Pathways in the Northeast**

Jonathan C. Lothrop (New York State Museum), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum), Adrian L. Burke (Université de Montréal), Giles Gauthier (Université de Montréal)

9:20 to 9:40 ***The Engel Farm Precontact Site: Archaeological Investigations in the Albany Pine Bush***

Daniel E. Mazeau and Christopher Sobik (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)

9:40 to 10:00 ***Effects of Population Dispersal on Regional Signaling Networks: An Example from Northern Iroquoia***

John P. Hart (New York State Museum, Van Epps-Hartley Chapter), Jennifer Birch (University of Georgia), Christian Gates St-Pierre (Université de Montréal)

10:00 to 10:20 ***Lithic Reduction and Resource Utilization in Southern and Coastal New York State***

Sean P. Higgins and Daniel E. Mazeau (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)

10:20 to 10:40 Coffee Break

10:40 to 11:00 ***“The smelly smell that smells smelly”: Chenango Canal Archaeology in Utica, New York and 1880s Political Corruption***

David P. Staley (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)

11:00 to 11:20 ***Tales from a Street Corner: the 69 George Street and George Clements Sites, Fort Ann***

Michael J. Lenardi (New York State Division for Historic Preservation, OPRHP) and Daria E. Merwin (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)

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11:20 to 11:40 *Albany Almshouse Cemetery Revisited: New Avenues of Investigation*  
Andrea Lain (New York State Museum) and Gail Hughes-Morey (Russell Sage College)

11:40 to 12:00 *From Big Numbers to Big Data: Organizing the Historical Archaeology Collections at the New York State Museum for Comparative Research*  
Kristin O'Connell and Michael Lucas (New York State Museum)

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**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM    NYSAA Tour of Rogers Island in Fort Edward**

There will be a first-time showing in the Rogers Island Visitors Center (RIVC) of major artifacts from the Sutling House (1757-58) excavated in Fort Edward between 2001 and 2013. David Starbuck will meet you at the RIVC at 2:00 for a tour of the exhibits and then for a tour of Rogers Island. To get there, please take the Adirondack Northway (Rt. 87) south to exit 17N, go north about 1 mile to Rt. 197, turn right, and drive the 4 miles to Fort Edward. Just before the village, you will see the sign on your right for the Rogers Island Visitors Center. Turn in there and park by the Center.



# Conference Abstracts

## *Much Ado about a Trash Pit in Schenectady, NY*

**Louise Basa (Adjunct Instructor, Schenectady County Community College, Community Archaeology Program)**

Who would have expected how important an accidental find at 32 Front Street in Schenectady, NY would be? Late in the 2010 excavations, while searching in this residential backyard for evidence of a 1690 stockade, Schenectady County Community College's Community Archaeology Program found a trash pit containing military and other artifacts that we were able to date to the 1755-1763 French and Indian War. At this time, the backyard was part of the grounds of a fort that stood at the intersection of what is now Front, Ferry and Green Streets. This trash pit is currently the only French and Indian War military site excavated in Schenectady.

The finds from the trash pit relate to the military's use of the site and connect with other forts in the region. This presentation will discuss the strategic importance of Schenectady during the French and Indian War. We will also explore the relationship of the material found at the site to the theaters of war to the north and west of the town.

## *A Town Repurposed: Using the Archaeology and History of a NYC Watershed Community to Reveal the Far-reaching Effects of Urbanization*

**April M. Beisaw (Vassar College) and Sarah Johnson (Putnam County Historian)**

In the late 1860s, New York City acquired less than 500 acres of land in Kent, NY, on which to construct the Boyds Corner Reservoir. Today, the City owns thousands of acres of Kent land in order to ensure a clean and ample water supply. The transition turned an agricultural landscape into one of subdivisions and second homes, surrounded by what is often depicted as virgin forest. But archaeological survey in between the trees has documented the abandonment of homes, farms, and cemeteries that was necessary to repurpose the town to create and maintain an urban water supply. Historical records show how this area's prosperous farms were reliant upon water-powered mills to process grain, wood, and some textiles; the diversion of streams to the reservoir literally dried up this area. Together archaeology and history can contextualize Kent's "lost" local community to explain the far-reaching effects of urbanization on historic and contemporary rural-urban relationships.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***Combining Community, History, and Archaeology at the First Reformed Church in Schenectady, New York***

**Diana Carter and Louise Basa (Adjunct Instructors, Schenectady County Community College, Community Archaeology Program) and Norah Pattison (SCCC-CAP student)**

The Schenectady County Community College-Community Archaeology Program (SCCC-CAP), with the approval of the Consistory of the First Reformed Church, conducted an archaeological investigation on a portion of their front lawn that was scheduled to be affected by proposed construction.

The excavation was located in the center of the 1664 settlement of Schenectady. After the 1690 French and Indian attack, historic records indicate ownership in the early 1700s by the Van Vorst family, and document two house lots on the site. We were able to locate the carriageway for one house that was razed after the 1861 Stockade fire, part of the foundation of the other house that was razed in 1938, along with part of its kitchen midden, as well as evidence of the major 1948 church fire. Students from the Documents, Field Work, Archaeology for Kids, Archaeology for Adults, and Archaeological Research classes participated in field work and historic research.

Our very visible work location on the front lawn enabled us to interact daily with church members, Stockade residents and visitors, and Pokeman Go players and show them what documents, history and archaeology were telling us about the site.

### ***Revisiting the Archaic Period in New York State***

**Edward V. Curtin (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. and Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA)**

Information concerning the Archaic period in New York State has grown considerably over the years. Scholarly issues have as well. Recently I have reviewed the literature on the Archaic period in New York to update the state of knowledge as it has developed since the publication of Ritchie's *Archaeology of New York State*. The present paper is a short version of this review, providing brief descriptions of (1) environmental dynamics such as Early to Mid-Holocene climate-change, sea-level rise, lake-basin inundation, and flood-plain stabilization; (2) implications of these for inland migration and encounter; and (3) historical and cultural processes involving material culture traditions and community formation. Special attention is given to possible ethnogenesis during the Frontenac and River phases, and the possibility of Late Archaic village organization.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***The Collection of the Fort William Henry Museum***

**Lindsay Doyle (Asst. Curator, The Fort William Henry Museum)**

The talk will be about the history of the collections, beginning with the digs in the 1950's and carried through to the current state of the collections today. I will discuss collection's complications throughout the last 60 years and how the museum is working to create a better space for the collection today. It will also focus on the museum's current conservation efforts, and the creation of a new climate-controlled storage space.

### ***From Archetypes to Actors: The Impact of the Repatriation Movement on Museum Displays of Native America***

**Penelope Heilbrun Duus (Vassar College, Class of 2017)**

Many American museums were founded to house and display collections of Native America. The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990 changed how museums and archaeologist interact with Native American communities. Two case studies exemplify these changes. First, the American Museum of Natural History's (AMNH) halls of Eastern Woodlands and Plains Indians provide an example of exhibits designed long before NAGPRA. Then, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology's (UPMAA) new exhibit *Native American Voices: The People—Here and Now*, provides an example of how consultation and collaboration have become an integral component of museum archaeology. The AMNH exhibits show Native American cultures as they were at the time of European contact, reducing them to historical archetypes through the use of outdated methods of display. The UPMAA exhibit, on the other hand, presents Native people as actors in vibrant contemporary cultures. Exhibits that portray Native Americans as peoples of the past have the potential to negatively affect how visitors understand and interact with Native America. Therefore, it is important that exhibits be updated to reflect what NAGPRA has forced museums to confront: that Native American people and cultures are still very much alive.

**NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

***Effects of Population Dispersal on Regional Signaling Networks: An Example from Northern Iroquoia***

**John P. Hart (New York State Museum, Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA), Jennifer Birch (University of Georgia), Christian Gates St-Pierre (Université de Montréal)**

What happens to a regional social interaction network when an important group leaves the network? The dispersal of Iroquoian groups from the St. Lawrence River valley during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries A.D. has been a source of archaeological inquiry for decades. Social network analysis presented here indicates that sites from Jefferson County, New York at the head of the St. Lawrence River controlled flow within regional signaling networks during the fifteenth century A.D. The simulated removal of this group of sites from the networks results in greater network fragmentation. Centrality measures indicate that Jefferson County sites acted as bridges between New York and Ontario sites. In the network for the subsequent century, to which no Jefferson County sites are assigned, no single group took the place of Jefferson County in controlling network flow. These results provide new insights into processes of population relocation and geopolitical realignment in Precolumbian and Contact-era northeastern North America.

***Lithic Reduction and Resource Utilization in Southern and Coastal New York State***  
**Sean P. Higgins and Daniel E. Mazeau (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)**

Excavations completed by the Cultural Resource Survey Program (CRSP) at the New York State Museum (NYSM) have identified two prehistoric sites in southern New York State: the Naima site in Suffolk County and the Paul J. Higgins site in northwestern Westchester County. The archaeological data indicates the primary occurrence of late-stage lithic reduction at these sites, which were occupied during the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods. This paper will present and detail the lithic assemblages recovered from these sites, as well as discuss the raw materials used by these sites' inhabitants. These data will be used to model the organization of lithic technology at both sites. Derivative interpretations will then be contextualized at both a localized regional scale and among broader intraregional patterns for southern New York State.

**NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

***Archaeological Research in the Shawangunk Mountains, 2006-2016***

**Lucille Lewis Johnson (Professor Emerita of Anthropology, Vassar College), Sally Gaston (Vassar College, Class of 2019), and Kryzel Bonifacio (Vassar College, Class of 2017)**

Between 2006 and 2016, field crews from Vassar College surveyed and excavated for 9 seasons in the Shawangunk Mountains. We also analyzed the materials we encountered as well as reanalyzing the Ski Minnie materials collected by Leonard Isenberg and SUNY New Paltz students stored at the Mohonk Research Station. The majority of the prehistoric diagnostic artifacts on the ridge dated to the Middle Archaic Period. This presentation will examine the distribution and dating of the sites and our current explanations of the prehistoric occupation of the Shawangunks.

***Marine Shell from circa 1688-1754 Seneca (Onöndowa'ga:') Sites: Observations on Production and Consumption***

**Kurt A. Jordan (Cornell University and Finger Lakes Chapter, NYSAA)**

This paper analyzes marine shell assemblages recovered from four Seneca principal communities dating to 1688-1754: the eastern White Springs site and New Ganestage Site Complex and the western Snyder-McClure and Huntoon sites. The data set is derived from museum collections and domestic-context excavation projects directed by the author. These Seneca assemblages provide a region-specific window on the political, economic, and diplomatic conditions surrounding shell adornment item circulation during the 1688-1754 period. As major players both economically and diplomatically, Senecas can be expected to have had access to all shell artifact forms available at the time, yet the archaeological record shows curious disjunctions and gaps in supply. This evidence questions recent scholarly claims that European settlers dominated the production of both short tubular wampum beads and the varied bead and pendant forms that archaeologist Duane Esarey terms the “Standardized Marine Shell Industry.” The Seneca data suggest that diverse suppliers engaged in marine shell adornment item production, and the disjunctions in supply imply that indigenous craftspeople, rather than Europeans, were the primary producers of Seneca-consumed shell items through the 1740s.

**NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

***Identifying Late Woodland Communities of Practice through Stylistic Debitage Variation at the Simmons Site, New York***

**Joshua J. Kwoka (Department of Anthropology, University at Buffalo, SUNY)**

Over the past few decades interest has grown in utilizing the concept of “communities of practice” as a means of modeling past social relationships. Within the realm of technology studies, a community of practice can be defined as a social group organized around a collective production strategy whose members share historically conditioned techniques. This paper presents the initial results of a project designed to test the efficacy of employing stylistic variation in lithicdebitage attributes as a means of identifying prehistoric communities of practice at the Simmons Site, a Late Woodland village located in Elma, New York. Marian White conducted an extensive excavation project at Simmons in the mid-1960s, though very little of this data has ever been published. As such, data derived from the digitization of original field sketches and maps will also be presented, including a new site map.

***Albany Almshouse Cemetery Revisited: New Avenues of Investigation***

**Andrea Lain (New York State Museum) and Gail Hughes-Morey (Russell Sage College)**

In 2002 NYSM staff excavated over 1,300 burials from the site of the Almshouse Cemetery in Albany, NY. Although most of the human remains were reburied after a brief period of study, in some cases bone or tooth samples were kept to allow for future analyses. For this study, we will examine stable isotopes present in bone collagen and dental enamel and dentine to learn more about Almshouse inhabitants. By comparing bone collagen sulfur levels with those of local fauna from the same period, we hope to determine whether individuals were born locally or if they were migrants to the area. Also, isotope levels taken from discrete locations in the skeleton give indications as to an individual’s diet at different points in their lifetime. Dentine and tooth enamel levels are set early in life and do not change, while the levels in bone collagen change throughout a person’s life as bone is continually remodeling. Using these analyses, we hope to create nutritional biographies for some of the inhabitants of the Albany Almshouse and increase what we know about these forgotten people.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***Tales from a Street Corner: the 69 George Street and George Clements Sites, Fort Ann* Michael J. Lenardi (New York State Division for Historic Preservation, OPRHP) and Daria E. Merwin (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)**

This paper presents preliminary results of field investigations at two historic period sites located in the heart of Fort Ann, the 69 George Street/Earle and Vaughn Store and the George Clements sites. The contiguous commercial and domestic sites yielded materials dating largely to the nineteenth century; intact archaeological deposits were capped in places by a layer associated with a catastrophic 1911 fire in the village. The sites speak to broad patterns of village development, starting in the years just prior to the construction of the Champlain Canal (opened in 1819) and spanning decades of intensive growth through the course of the nineteenth century as a canal town. Artifacts from the site also reveal clues about the people who lived and worked in the buildings, and together with historical sources can be used to tell tales from past life on a street corner.

### **Why These Beads? A Look into the Color Symbolism of Historic Glass Beads from the Veeder Site Matthew LoBiondo (Monmouth University)**

Among Northeastern Native Americans shell and glass beads have played an important role in both trade and ritualistic practices. In the Mohawk Valley beads were entangled in both spheres – serving a monetary role, as well as being a prominent object of spirituality and ritualistic practices. The importance placed on beads by the Mohawks has made them a valuable tool for modern archaeological research. Glass beads are used to date and subsequently define Mohawk settlements and the cultural practices associated with them. By examining the color symbolism of the bead assemblage from the Veeder site, more commonly known as Caughnawaga, I seek a more nuanced understanding of the agency implied by the bead selection of the Mohawk and –explore the topics of coalescence and ethnogenesis within the Mohawk Valley during the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Through the use of pXRF, I developed a better understanding of trade between the Mohawk and the Dutch, English, and French, as well as introduce a non-destructive dating technique for beads. By combining color symbolism and pXRF data, the role of beads at the Veeder site are better understood.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***Coupling Lithic Sourcing with GIS Analysis to Model Paleoindian Pathways in the Northeast***

**Jonathan C. Lothrop (New York State Museum), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum), Adrian L. Burke (Université de Montréal), Giles Gauthier (Université de Montréal)**

One of the remarkable features of Paleoindian lifeways in the late Pleistocene Northeast was their extensive seasonal travel, as suggested by distances between proposed geologic sources of toolstone and sites where artifacts of those raw materials have been found. If Paleoindian sites can be linked to a toolstone source through geological analysis, regional terrain analysis using GIS (geographic information systems) can then yield insights on Paleoindian seasonal movements after toolstone acquisition. In eastern New York, Paleoindian peoples mined Normanskill chert for toolstone at outcrops in the Hudson Valley. Here, we combine (1) X-ray fluorescence (XRF) sourcing results that tentatively link Normanskill chert artifacts at Paleoindian sites to the West Athens Hill outcrop and (2) least cost path (LCP) analysis to model some seasonal pathways of Paleoindian peoples in the Northeast. The sourcing results confirm the presence of Normanskill chert in most of the assemblages analyzed, highlighting its importance as one preferred toolstone for northeastern Paleoindians. And, by revealing possible pathways that these Paleoindian peoples may have used, the GIS analysis may provide a more realistic perspective on how these early peoples traversed the Ice Age landscapes of New York and the broader Northeast.

### ***X Never Marks the Spot: A Fortified Settlement Discovered on Van Schaick Island*** **Adam Luscier (Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.)**

Much is written about the rich history of Van Schaick Island and its ties to the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars. A recent series of discoveries on the island appears to date from an earlier, less documented, chapter in its history. In May 2013, Hartgen uncovered the remains of what appear to have been two fortified settlements. One appears Late Woodland and the other colonial. The archeology suggests the historic deposits date as early as the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, but clearly extend into the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Native occupation may, or may not, predate the colonial settlement.

The Dutch had established trading posts at Castle Island in 1614 and at Albany in 1624 and had planned to build a “trading house” and a fort 18 to 20 miles north of Fort Orange; however it is unknown if it was ever constructed. The Van Schaicks purchased the island by 1674 and Anthony’s Van Schaick is thought to have taken residence there by 1687. The archeological deposits may represent an earlier trading post on the island, later legitimized by the Van Schaick’s purchase. The small but interesting assemblage may hold clues to the early trading relations between the Dutch and Mahicans, and other Native groups. This paper explores the complexity of the archeological deposits and plausible explanations for the features and deposits.



**NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

***The Engel Farm Precontact Site: Archaeological Investigations in the Albany Pine Bush***

**Daniel E. Mazeau and Christopher Sobik (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)**

The Engel Farm Precontact site is one of several located within the environmentally unique Albany Pine Bush in eastern New York State. The site was initially identified and tested by Hartgen Archeological Associates, while data recovery excavations were recently completed by the Cultural Resources Survey Program (CRSP) at the New York State Museum (NYSM). These excavations have yielded a robust lithic assemblage that, while lacking in stratigraphic integrity, have provided data useful in formulating an understanding of the site's occupation and function, subsistence, and the organization of lithic technology. As analysis of the material recovered from the recently-completed data recovery is still ongoing, this paper will seek to present preliminary interpretations concerning these issues at the Engel Farm Precontact site, and contextualize them within the site's environmental setting and the overall settlement of the Albany Pine Bush.

***A Forty-four Year Odyssey Following Footprints from the Past***

**Ellie McDowell-Loudan (State University of New York College at Cortland)**

A vast, fertile, well-watered region, its river-trails connecting to neighboring areas, Cortland County, New York, has been accessible for thousands of years. Documented prehistoric sites reflect short visits by small groups. Why are there no indicators of long-duration settlements? Two specific examples, one on the shore of the Tioughnioga River East Branch, and one on and beside the Otselic River, are discussed. Why were these locations selected? Do the artifacts, their distribution, and their variety point to sets of activities exclusive to a male group or multi-gendered, family-oriented projects? Are there specific paleo-environmental attributes at these two localities which make them more attractive at particular seasons? Were there distinct disadvantages for year-round usage?

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***Reconstructing the impact of Romanization on diet at Nadin: Establishing the baseline***

**Kenneth C. Nystrom (State University of New York at New Paltz),**

**Jessica Mortensen (State University of New York at New Paltz),**

**Martina Čelhar (University of Zadar), J. Marla Toyne (University of Central Florida)**

This presentation reports preliminary results of stable isotopic analyses of human bone and teeth samples from the site of Nadin-Gradina, Croatia. First established as a Liburnian Iron Age hillfort in the first millennium BCE, it was transformed into the Roman municipium *Nedinum* in the first century CE. The overarching goal of the archaeological project is to examine the impact of the demographic and economic restructuring of the region following its incorporation into the Roman empire. One aspect of this involves evaluating the impact of Romanization on agricultural production and diet. While archaeological evidence provides indirect evidence for the intensification of food production, stable isotopic analyses have the potential to provide direct evidence of changes in people's diets. Bone and teeth samples were collected from individuals dated to the Liburnian phase of Nadin, and thus allows us to establish a baseline diet. These preliminary isotopic results indicate heavy reliance upon C3 foods (e.g., millet, wheat) with very little contribution from marine resources despite the sites proximity to the coast.

### ***From Big Numbers to Big Data: Organizing the Historical Archaeology Collections at the New York State Museum for Comparative Research***

**Kristin O'Connell and Michael Lucas (New York State Museum)**

The historical archaeology collection at the New York State Museum consists of approximately 3 million artifacts from locations throughout New York with the majority from archaeological sites in and around Manhattan and Albany. Over the past two years the Research and Collections Division has been assessing these archaeological collections in an effort to create an online finding aide. An important part of this process has been the identification and evaluation of the individual collection components, subcomponents, deposits, features, and their associated artifact numbers. The goal of this exercise is to create an active framework for future comparative research that can be updated as collections are reexamined, rather than passively summarizing the data presented in site reports. Presenting summaries of the collections by their sub-components conveys an accurate and transparent summary of the historical archaeology collections. This paper presents a summary of the collections evaluated thus far and their potential for comparative research.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***Some Things of Value: An Archaeological Odyssey***

**David Orr (Retired, Temple University and National Park Service)**

It discusses the various aspects of archaeology which influenced me in my career beginning with a few things from my early childhood, then Roman Coins, then my prehistoric work in 1963-4 in Iowa and South Dakota. From there its Classical and Landscape archaeology at the University of Maryland and Pompeii followed by my days in Rome. Then down shifting to Penn in the early seventies and Industrial Archaeology, Vernacular Architecture, Folklore and Folklife, and Popular Culture, especially McDonalds. The NPS in the late seventies until 2006 introduced me to Battlefield and Conflict archaeology and during this period I also studied Maritime Material Culture and Community Archaeology. It ends (?) fittingly with Cemetery Studies and Iconography. It is a romp and is intensely personal: demonstrating the complex mesh of "things" which have bewildered me throughout my life.

### ***The New York Tavern:***

#### ***Romance versus Reality in the Conceptions of Social Space***

**Dené Rivera (Hunter College)**

Numerous taverns in the northeastern United States proudly advertise their relevance in the country's history, with claims both questionable and documented. The tavern has a reputation in the minds of the American public as places where locals gathered to socialize, and to hear news from travelers passing through. Because the tavern has long been the center of community relations, these establishments have been attributed a revered status that ranks impressively amongst the most popular historic locales. Although perceptions regarding the role of the tavern in New York's social history are varied, these drinking establishments undeniably played a role which deserves investigation.

While taverns may have a reputation for representing birthplaces of the rebellious sentiments of the oppressed, they were, in fact, institutions which perpetuated biased ideologies. These exclusionary practices included those involved in the ownership, management, and use of space within taverns, some of which continued into the twentieth century.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### ***“The smelly smell that smells smelly”*: *Chenango Canal Archaeology in Utica, New York and 1880s Political Corruption***

**David P. Staley (New York State Museum Cultural Resource Survey Program)**

Archaeological discoveries at the bottom of the Chenango Canal contradict contract specifications for the filling of the abandoned canal through Utica. The firm of Wheeler and Dwyer were awarded that contract in 1887. Thomas Wheeler was a powerful and notorious Republican Party boss who, with his life-long partner James Dwyer, blended politics, business, and public works seasoned with a sprinkling of crime and corruption throughout the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth centuries. The shenanigans surrounding the Chenango Canal filling contract is an early example of their work in Utica. While Wheeler was mayor in the 1890s, Dwyer capitalized on the burgeoning sewer and road construction in the city. Later, Wheeler became assistant Superintendent of Public Works for New York State and provided Dwyer numerous non-competitive contracts of state canal repairs. Historic documents and the archaeological record illustrate the shady political cronyism in Utica during the 1880s. Current events demonstrate that history does indeed repeat itself.

### ***We are Americans Too: The Utilization of Heritage, Monuments, and Memorialization by Ethnic Groups at Saratoga and Gettysburg***

**Brant Venables (Binghamton University)**

Examining memorialization at military heritage sites is fruitful in tracing how American society constructs and reconstructs understandings of important events in our past. Sites such as the Gettysburg Battlefield from the American Civil War and the American Revolutionary War battlefields of Saratoga have been interpreted as platforms where memorialization was utilized to reconcile North and South after a bitter Civil War or to craft founding national mythologies. However, such analyses have underplayed the utilization of such national trends by ethnic groups to gain wider acceptance in American society. Examples of memorials constructed by ethnic groups include memorials at Gettysburg dedicated by Irish Brigade veterans to their fallen comrades' who “gave the last full measure of devotion,” the Irish memorial at Saratoga, and two Saratoga memorials dedicated to Polish-American Engineer Thaddeus Kościuszko. By participating in the national ideology of lauding military heroes, martial valor, and sacrifice I argue that these rarely compared memorials were used by the Irish and Polish communities to stake a claim of belonging in American society.

## **NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

### **WCNY Battlefield documentaries**

WCNY, Central New York's public broadcasting company based in Syracuse, NY, has created two documentaries that draw heavily upon the work of archaeologists. The first *Losing Ground: The Race to Preserve War of 1812 Battlefields in New York State*, brings together some of the nation's foremost War of 1812 battlefield archaeology and history experts to reflect on preserving War of 1812 sites in Oswego, Plattsburgh, Ogdensburg and Sackets Harbor.

The second documentary, *Hallowed Ground: New York's Forgotten Revolutionary War Battlefields*, will have its premiere broadcast in June, 2017. It explores four Revolutionary War battlefields, all sites of pivotal battles (Battles of Bennington and Fort Ann in northern New York, and Newton and Chemung in New York's Southern Tier) and all on the list of the National Park Service's endangered battlefields. The documentary features interviews with historians, tribal leaders, archaeologists, preservationists, and community members to uncover each battlefield's past and present story. This clip is a sneak preview of the documentary prior to its premiere.

### ***Discovery and Excavations at Two Key Lake George, NY, Prehistoric Sites* Tom Weinman (Beauchamp Chapter, NYSAA and Fellow, NYSAA)**

#### **I. The Weinman Site GLF 17**

This stratified multicomponent site is located on the Weinman family property at the constricted neck of Assembly Point, Lake George, NY. The site was discovered and excavated by Tom and Paul Weinman (1963-1964) with the assistance of Dr. Bob Funk (New York State Museum). The physical and cultural stratification produced artifacts related to: 1) Middle Woodland, 700 AD; 2) Middle Archaic-Sylvan Lake, 1500 BC; 3) Laurentian, 2500 BC; and 4) Vergennes, 3000-4000 BC. 52 five-foot squares were carefully troweled vertically and horizontally, with data noted from each 5-foot square. The Weinman Site excavation reports written by Bob Funk were previously published in the Pennsylvania Archeologist and also in the New York State Museum Memoir 22.

#### **II. The Pickle Hill Site GLF-27**

This single component site (ca. 1760 BC) is located at the backwater drainage (east) of Dunhams Bay, Lake George, NY. It was discovered by the author (with Paul Weinman) and excavated, producing Normanskill Points and related artifacts from the Archaic River phase. This single component site had multiple stone hearths with points and carbonized bones and nuts which dated at 1760 BC +/- 100 years. Trenches on this glacial hilltop site were excavated; i.e., 50' x 3' and others at 25' x 3' in an accommodating sandy glacial soil. The site report was published in the NYSAA Bulletin by P. Weinman, T. Weinman, and R. Funk (authorized by the New York State Museum).

**NYSAA 2017 Meeting, Lake George, NY**

***The Tale of the Dismembered 1757 Fort William Henry Shipwreck***

**Joseph W. Zarzynski, RPA (The French & Indian War Society) and Brigid Shaw  
(Independent Researcher)**

In July 1903, a Glens Falls entrepreneur, with permission from the New York state legislature, raised a war-ravaged sloop from the shallows of Lake George. The 44 ft. long British warship had been burned and then sank into the frontier waterway during a March

1757 French raid upon Fort William Henry (1755-1757). Local and regional newspapers in 1903 reported on the French & Indian War hulk that was unceremoniously cut up for souvenirs after being salvaged. This paper reports on the history of the armed sloop, the archaeological recording of some surviving vessel timbers found in museum collections, a study of 1903 photographs of the 1757 sloop, and the story of several repurposed artifacts—gavels, candlesticks, and a clock—fashioned from pieces of the dismembered colonial battle craft.