



The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
of the  
**New York State Archaeological Association**  
Program and Abstracts



April 12-14, 2024  
Best Western Waterfront Hotel, Oswego, New York

## **The New York State Archaeological Association**

A non-profit organization composed of people interested in the archaeology of New York State. Founded in 1916 and chartered in 1927 by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, NYSAA is a nonprofit organization composed of 16 chapters and a world-wide membership-at-large. All who are devoted to historic and pre-historic archaeology are invited to join.

### **Officers of the NYSAA**

President .....	Sherene Baugher
Vice President .....	David Moyer
Treasurer .....	Ann Morton
Secretary .....	Gail Merian

### **Officers of the 1000 Islands Chapter**

President .....	Larry Corbett
Vice President .....	Vacant
Treasurer .....	Diane Coates
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### **Officers of the William Beauchamp Chapter**

President .....	Greg Sohrweide
Treasurer .....	Mike Beardsley
Secretary .....	Greg Sohrweide

### **2024 Annual Meeting Committee**

Chair and Accommodations.....	Greg Sohrweide
Program Organizer.....	Timoty Abel
Treasurer .....	Mike Beardsley
Book Room Organizer .....	Greg Sohrweide

## **Hotel Map**

## Program

### Friday, April 12

1:00PM Guided walking tour of Fort Ontario State Historic Site

Meet in the hotel lobby around 12:45pm then we'll carpool over to the fort. If you would like to walk, it's about a 20 min. walk to the fort. Admission is \$2 cash at the door. The near-by Safe Haven Museum will also be open for tours all weekend long. Cost for the Safe Haven Museum is \$3.00 per person.

5:00PM Fellows Dinner- Grain Room  
Buffet Dinner- Canal Room

7:30PM NYSAA General Meeting- Great Lakes Room

### Saturday, April 13

7:00AM Chapter Officers Breakfast- Grain Room  
Buffet Breakfast- Breakfast Room

8:00AM Book Room Open- Diamond Match Room  
Registration Table Open- Lobby

8:30AM Indigenous Peoples of New York State I- Great Lakes Room

8:30 *Owlville Evolution: Discovery, Exploration, Mysteries, and Future Potential of North America's only Crowfield Site Cluster*

Michael Beardsley (William M. Beauchamp Chapter), Jon Lothrop (New York State Museum), Mark Clymer (William M. Beauchamp Chapter), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)

8:55 *New Insights on Late Pleistocene Peoples in Western New York*

Jonathan C. Lothrop (New York State Museum), Kevin P. Smith (Smithsonian Institution) and Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)

9:20 *Letting the Chips Fall Where They May: Lithic Analysis of the Goodyear Site – Kiosk Locality, Otsego County, New York*

David P. Staley (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)

9:45 Break

10:00 *Differentiating Chipped Stone Perforators and Gravers:*

Engelbrecht, William (Frederick M. Houghton Chapter) and Sean Hanrahan

10:25 *The Not So Free Bridge: An Archaeological Investigation in Montezuma, New York*

Joel Ross (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)

11:00 Poster Session

*Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad, ca. 1832*  
Daniel Bradt (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady)

*Outlining the Boundaries of the Stockaded Fort in Lake George Battlefield Park with Surface Archaeology*  
Lynda Karig Hohmann (Adirondack Chapter), and Charles Vandrei (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)

*The Pottery and People of the Pethick Site*  
Jamie Meinsen (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)

*Integrating Technology and Data Curation for the Public at the Frost Town Archaeology Project*  
Bailey Hartman (The Ohio State University)

12:00PM Lunch-

1:30PM Indigenous Peoples of New York State II – Great Lakes Room  
1:30 *Some New Discoveries in Hudson Valley Archaeology, 2019-2023*  
Curtin, Edward V., Kerry L. Nelson, Kirsten Dymond, and Jenna Hendrick (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)

1:55 *A Statistical Comparison of Carbonized Corn Kernel Samples from Five Nations Iroquois Sites and Ontario Iroquoian Sites*  
Robert D. Kuhn (VanEpps-Hartley Chapter)

2:20 *Resetting Archaeological Interpretations of Precontact Indigenous Agriculture: Maize Isotopic Evidence from Three Ancestral Mohawk Iroquoian Villages*  
John P. Hart (New York State Museum) and Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)

2:45 *Seneca Lake Rock Art: The Perils of Iconographic Misrepresentations*  
Francis Scardera (Member at Large) and David Moyer (Birchwood Archaeological Services, Inc.)

3:10 Break

3:25 *Show Not Tell: Indigenous Lives at Cedar Bluff*  
Jenna Hendrick, M.A. (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)

3:50 *The International Iroquois Beadwork Conference*  
Dolores Neidlinger Elliott (Chenango Chapter)

4:15 *The New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act*

Christina Rieth and Lisa Anderson (New York State Museum)

5:00 NYAC Panel- Career Transitions

This panel will consist of people with a variety of academic backgrounds and career biographies, who have navigated changing their careers to focus on different aspects of our industry. This panel will address questions about career paths for early and mid-career practitioners of archaeology and related fields. The goal of this discussion is to cover questions and concerns people have about initiating career changes and how to best leverage skill sets into seemingly disparate job titles. The panelists will offer insights from their personal experiences and the session will conclude with a Q&A period.

6:00PM Cash Bar- Canal Room

7:00PM Annual Banquet- Great Lakes Room

8:00PM Awards: Jonathan Lothrop- Awards Committee Chair

9:00PM Program

### **Banquet Program**

Special Guest: **George A. Bray, III**

Historian of the French and Indian War, author, collector, lecturer, researcher and reenactor

#### ***"Doomed British Forts of Oswego"***

This talk will focus on the construction, design, and destruction of the British forts located at present-day Oswego, New York during the French and Indian War. These forts were a threat to the French Forts Niagara (Youngstown, NY) and Frontenac (Kingston, Ontario, Canada) and endangered their Indian fur trade. The British, under Massachusetts Governor and Major General William Shirley began fortifying Oswego during the years 1755 – 1756. French Governor Vaudreuil ordered the newly arrived French Commander-in-Chief the Marquis de Montcalm to lead an expedition against the three forts in 1756 bringing about their demise in August, from which the English were unable to recover until 1759.



George Bray is retired from the U.S. Army where he served for over 21 years as an Intelligence Analyst and Counterintelligence Agent. He has always been interested in history, beginning a serious study of the French and Indian War as a teenager. During the American Revolution Bicentennial, he began to reenact the French and Indian War portraying an officer of Rogers' Rangers, which he still pursues to this day. For the past 43 years, he has been the event commander at the annual French and Indian War encampment held at Fort Niagara, Youngstown, NY on the Fourth of July weekend. He has also served as the event commander of French and Indian War events at Fort Stanwix, Rome, NY and other locations. He was also one of the members of the New York State French and Indian War 250th Anniversary

Commemorative Commission which has been responsible for the sponsorship of several 250th French and Indian War events and the digitization of the Sir William Johnson Papers.

He is a published author whose articles have appeared in several newsletters and publications, including the *Military Collector and Historian* (the journal of the Company of Military Historians), *Muzzleloader* (a publication for black powder shooters), and the *Journal of the Forces of Montcalm and Wolfe* (a publication for French and Indian War reenactors). He has also assisted in and been featured in several television documentaries for such producers as the Learning Channel and BBC.

He is a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a member of the Old Fort Niagara Association. An avid collector, George's collection includes original prints, books, documents, weapons, and other items of the French and Indian War period.

### **Sunday, April 14**

7:00AM Buffet Breakfast- Breakfast Room

8:30AM Settler Experiences in New York- Great Lakes Room

8:30 *Walking Underwater," Painting a Floor Mural of a 1758 Shipwreck in a Museum*

Joseph W. Zarzynski (The French & Indian War Society at Lake George, Inc.)

8:55 *The Yellow Barracks at West Point: Recent Archeological Explorations*

Matthew Kirk, (Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.)

9:20 *Community Archaeology and Public Engagement at the Grooms Tavern Blacksmith Shop, Clifton Park, New York*

David Moyer (Birchwood Archaeological Services, Inc.), Dawn Bishop (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady), Daniel Brandt (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady) and John Scherer (Clifton Park Town Historian/Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern)

- 9:45 *Moving Beyond Subsistence: Challenges to Wealth Generation Among African-American Farmers in 19th Century New York*  
Michael Lucas (New York State Museum)
- 10:10 Break
- 10:25 *Nathan C. Bell's Kingston Ceramic Factory and Its Reflection on 19th-Century Consumer Trends in New York*  
Rachel Drillings (SUNY New Paltz)
- 10:50 *2023-2024 Work at the Public Archaeology Project at 326 Liberty Street, Newburgh, NY*  
Kristin Clyne-Lehmann (SUNY Binghamton)
- 11:15 *Forty-Eighters in New York: Evidence of German Political Immigration and its Influence on Industry in Rural Nineteenth Century New York*  
Mickey Dobbin (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)
- 11:35 *Frost Town Archaeology 2019-2024: Teaching, Learning, and Growing Onsite*  
Bekah M. Leathersich Mertus (The Ohio State University) and Alexander J. Smith (SUNY Brockport)
- 11:55 *New York Through the Lens of a Classical Archaeologist*  
Berfin Karakaya and Marius Berger



**Other Area Attractions**

*Richardson-Bates House Museum-* 135 East 3rd Street, Oswego, NY. Open Friday and Saturday 1-5pm. Donations accepted.

*H. Lee White Maritime Museum-* 1 W 1st St, Oswego, NY. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday 1-5pm. Donations accepted.

*Fort Brewerton and Oliver Stevens Blockhouse Museum-* 9 US Route 11, Brewerton, NY. Grounds open, museum open on Sunday afternoon for tours. Donations accepted.



We would like to acknowledge the generous financial contribution of the Archaeological Institute of America, Westchester Society to the Annual Meeting.

## ABSTRACTS

Beardsley, Michael (William M. Beauchamp Chapter), Jon Lothrop (New York State Museum), Mark Clymer (William M. Beauchamp Chapter), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)

*Owlville Evolution: Discovery, Exploration, Mysteries, and Future Potential of North America's only Crowfield Site Cluster*

From the initial discovery of the Glass Factory site in 2007 through the present day, the Owlville collection of sites has grown to encompass 24 individual occupation areas positioned along Owlville Creek in Northern Madison County, New York. Located on the former footprint of Great Lake Iroquois, Owlville's most remarkable feature is the presence of a cluster of 4 Crowfield Middle Paleoindian sites within 1,000 feet of each other. This Crowfield site grouping is unprecedented and represents the only cluster of Crowfield Paleoindian sites found to date in North America. During our presentation we will "visit" the 4 Crowfield sites, share the stories of their discoveries, and review their artifact assemblages. We will discuss what we have learned thus far about this seldom encountered and poorly understood Middle Paleo culture. We will also review the excavations conducted by the New York State Museum from 2015 through 2021 at the Owlville Pine South site, one of the 4 Crowfield sites in our cluster. Our work with these 4 unique sites has taught us much, but, as often happens, has also left us with unanswered questions and even a few mysteries.

**Poster:** Bradt, Daniel (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady)  
*Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad, ca. 1832*

In 1831, the Mohawk and Hudson Railroad (MH RR), the first passenger railroad in NYS, was constructed along a former coach trail with taverns at set points between Albany and Schenectady. In Schenectady, passengers continuing took either passage west on the Erie Canal or boarded the Saratoga and Schenectady Railroad (SS RR) north to Ballston Spa and Saratoga Springs. These two posters present the results of research and excavation project focused on the SS RR subterranean City Section. The posters were developed several years apart, 2013 and 2015 to reflect the changes in focus and activities of this excavation to help the community visualize the various phases of research and archaeology we were engaged in. The original subway cut through the historic Schenectady Stockade residential area was walled and uncovered, except at street intersections. The author completed the project posters and a report in completion of an advanced study certificate at SUNY Schenectady's Community Archaeology Program.

Clyne-Lehmann, Kristin (SUNY Binghamton)  
*2023-2024 Work at the Public Archaeology Project at 326 Liberty Street, Newburgh, NY*

326 Liberty Street in Newburgh, NY is a parcel located along a historic path and debated as a possible location of Weigand's Tavern from 1780-1800. The first public dig at the site took place in 2021. The project continued fieldwork on July 17-28, 2023. The public

participated in locating historical artifacts by screening unstratified fill dirt removed from the basement of the historic structure after a partial collapse of a basement wall in 2021. Approximately 50 volunteers, from a diverse range of ages and identities, participated throughout the 12-day fieldwork event, with many more visitors stopping by the site. Volunteers chose which fieldwork activities to participate in, including digging from the fill pile, screening at a variety of equipment set-ups, and sorting and cleaning artifacts. Two events were held in October 2023 to continue artifact cleaning, with substantial additional hours from three volunteers to complete the work. Three events were held in March 2024 to catalog the artifacts, including weight, quantity, description, and plan view photographs on graph paper with scale to facilitate measurement. The images and catalog were uploaded to an open-access Google Drive, to allow community participation in research. Finally, an interpretation event was held for community members to research the recovered artifacts, such as identifying ceramic wares and production dates, as well as contribute research questions and object biographies. Volunteers, visitors, and local researchers contributed significant insights throughout the project pertaining to Newburgh history, particularly local historic businesses/craftspeople and identification of associated material culture.

Curtin, Edward V., Kerry L. Nelson, Kirsten Dymond, and Jenna Hendrick  
(Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)  
*Some New Discoveries in Hudson Valley Archaeology, 2019-2023*

The results of four CRM data recovery projects are summarized succinctly in terms of the major findings. In Greene County, Cat 21 Site 1 was a workshop site and living area in the valley below the Kalkberg chert- and crystal quartz-bearing REF Quarry site. It is associated in part with the REF Quarry and in part with Onondaga chert occurring in local glacial erratics. A workshop here contained evidence of unifacial blade manufacturing. In addition, set apart from this workshop, there were quartz crystal and crinoid stem workshops and a hide-scraping area. The second site reported here, Hill Road in Saratoga County, appears to be the only excavated Snake Hill chert quarry-workshop site. This paper relates the quarrying to the local geology as a preliminary report while artifact analysis continues. Elsewhere, at the Hubbell-Smith historic site in Ballston, New York, ceramic and faunal data from 1813-1831 were recovered from an unusually stratified deposit. These data are related to the rise and fall of the rural-industrialist Hubbell family. Finally, in Malta, New York, the earthfast house features and artifact assemblages from the Hemphill site have provided a fascinating glimpse into ca. 1820-1827 African American home life and traditional religious practices. Emphasis is placed here on an innovative tool technology: knapped glass.

Dobbin, Mickey (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)  
*Forty-Eighters in New York: Evidence of German Political Immigration and its Influence on Industry in Rural Nineteenth Century New York*

In 2024, the Cultural Resource Survey Program at the New York State Museum was tasked with conducting a Cultural Resource Management phase II site examination of the H. Simon site prior to a construction project along Route 26, in West Branch, NY in

Oneida County. The site was initially documented and designated by CRSP during a phase I archaeological survey ahead of construction, based on a high concentration of historic artifacts in the location labeled as a wool carding mill belonging to a H. Simon on nineteenth century maps.

While no cultural material or other evidence of wool manufacturing was documented during the excavation, the domestic material collected indicated the occupants of the site were of a slightly higher socio-economic class typical of the rural setting. Further background and historic research afforded to the site examination went even further to shedding light on the occupants of the site, pointing towards Hartman Simon and his family being political refugees belonging to a wave of immigration from the Germany following a failed democratic revolution. The archaeological and historic evidence show the Simon family were the prototypical “Forty-Eighters” who brought with them from Germany traditions of blending agriculture with other occupations such as cloth manufacturing and civic engagement.

Drillings, Rachel (SUNY New Paltz)

*Nathan C. Bell's Kingston Ceramic Factory and Its Reflection on 19th-Century Consumer Trends in New York*

The site of Nathan C. Bell's ceramic factory (c.1830-1834), located in Kingston, New York, was excavated in 1986 by amateurs and subsequently stored for almost forty years. The collection contains ovoid jugs, flasks, ceramic bottles and handled crocks. Decorations consist of cobalt flowers and accents as well as Albany slip interiors and exteriors, and salt-glazed exteriors. This collection reveals the consumer trends of New York and the surrounding area through analysis of the stylistic choices Bell used. Focused specifically on what caused Bell to create the specific pottery that he made and reflecting on how it related to consumer and economic demand at the time, the fragmentary pieces of his pottery will be analyzed alongside whole vessels from both private and public collections. In turn, these artifacts will be compared to the larger socioeconomic and market trends of the 19th century.

Elliott, Dolores Neidlinger (Chenango Chapter)

*The International Iroquois Beadwork Conference*

When I became a professional archaeologist back in the 1960s, I knew that I could not collect anything that I might uncover during excavations. Being a devoted collector like my mother, I looked for something to collect. I turned to Iroquois beadwork knowing that I would not encounter any beaded pincushions or picture frames in the ground. I amassed a large collection, the largest known Iroquois beadwork collection in the world. While collecting and researching Iroquois beadwork I met other collectors and contemporary Haudenosaunee artists who are creating beadwork today. In 2009 when the Rockwell Museum in Corning mounted an exhibit of over 200 pieces from my collection, I decided to have a conference that would bring together for the first time: beadwork collectors and beadwork makers. The first International Iroquois Beadwork Conference was held in 2009 in Painted Post. Since then, the annual conference has been held on reservations in

New York, Wisconsin, Ontario, and Quebec and in several museums including the New York State Museum, the Niagara Falls History Museum, the Iroquois Museum, and at Colgate University and Ganondagan and other places. The beadwork conference moves each year as does the New York State Archaeological Association after which it is modeled.

Engelbrecht, William (Frederick M. Houghton Chapter) and Sean Hanrahan  
*Differentiating Chipped Stone Perforators and Gravers*

Both chipped stone perforators and gravers are characterized by projections. While the intended function of perforators and gravers is separate, there is terminological confusion in the literature regarding these tools and the actual function of a specimen is difficult to determine. We develop a projection index and then conduct use wear analysis on a sample of specimens from an Iroquoian village to see if there is a correlation between use wear and the index. We also examine the physical distribution of specimens on an Iroquoian village site and discuss some of the tasks for which these tools may have been used.

Hart, John P. (New York State Museum) and Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)  
*Resetting Archaeological Interpretations of Precontact Indigenous Agriculture: Maize Isotopic Evidence from Three Ancestral Mohawk Iroquoian Villages*

Archaeologists working in eastern North America typically refer to precontact and early postcontact Native American maize-based agriculture as shifting or swidden. Based on a comparison with European agriculture, it is generally posited that the lack of plows, draft animals, and animal manure fertilization resulted in the rapid depletion of soil nitrogen. This required Indigenous farmers to move their fields frequently. In Northern Iroquoia, depletion of soil fertility is frequently cited as one reason why villages were moved to new locations every 20 to 40 years. Recent analysis of  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  ratios of maize macrobotanical remains from Northern Iroquoia, however, suggests that Iroquoian farmers were able to maintain soil nitrogen in their maize fields. An expanded analysis of maize kernel  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  ratios from three ancestral Mohawk villages indicates that farmers from those villages maintained soil nitrogen throughout the occupational spans of their villages. It further suggests that precontact Iroquoian agronomy was consistent with contemporary conservation agriculture practices.

**Poster:** Hartman, Bailey (The Ohio State University)  
*Integrating Technology and Data Curation for the Public at the Frost Town Archaeology Project*

The Frost Town Archaeology Project is a series of excavations, archaeological field schools, and internships that is administered by the SUNY Brockport Department of Anthropology and hosted by the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Cumming Nature Center. The project engages with the public through the continued work on the frosttownarchaeology.com website which provides information and publications about

the Frost Town site to the public, including reports on our lab analyses and data collection of material culture recovered from the site. Technological work on the site, including LiDAR survey, infrared thermal imaging, and 3D modeling, along with artifact collection and cataloguing processes have created a wealth of data that can be used to understand and teach about Frost Town in ways that don't require direct access to the site, making them perfect for interacting with the work at Frost Town outside of the excavation season. This poster describes my work as an intern for Frost Town Archaeology, using digital platforms to improve data availability and public engagement with the project, ultimately creating resources for future research by both professional archaeologists and community members alike.

Hendrick, Jenna, (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)  
*Show Not Tell: Indigenous Lives at Cedar Bluff*

CRM is best served when it moves beyond dry, surface-level interpretations of inanimate objects, particularly in prehistoric contexts. The cultural resources that we archaeologists manage are “the collective evidence of the past activities and accomplishments of people [emphasis added]” (NYAC 2000). Although the definition specifically identifies “people” as the ultimate object of our research, the complex social dynamics that created the archaeological sites and assemblages that we study are hardly ever teased apart. This undermines the purpose of CRM: to preserve, manage, and present for the public's benefit our research. The way we currently present our research does not always benefit the public. As a means of rectifying this, the social context should be integrated into CRM data recovery reports. As shown through the interpretation of the Hill Road site at Cedar Bluff in Saratoga, vignettes provide an accessible, engaging window into what the client paid for and what we do as archaeologists. This would better guide the values of non-experts toward one of cultural stewardship, and thus give justice to the past peoples we spend our careers studying. No one cares about what they cannot understand or relate to, so why disturb these material ghosts of bygone lives if we are not going to properly honor them?

**Poster:** Hohmann, Lynda Karig (Adirondack Chapter), and Charles Vandrei (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)

*Outlining the Boundaries of the Stockaded Fort in Lake George Battlefield Park with Surface Archaeology*

In early 2020, a serendipitous observation of the site topography led to the suspected identification of one of the bastions of the fort. Using period maps and previously identified landmarks within the fort, we were able confirm that the topographical anomaly was likely the suspected bastion and to generally determine the outline of the fort. Further research identified that the fort was built on a stone foundation and with horizontal logs. Surface inspection identified a rock layout consistent with the previously determined outline of the fort in several areas. Use of drone photogrammetry allowed us to further confirm the fort's outer walls where tree cover did not limit the aerial view. While future archaeological digs may be limited, it is likely that simple surface archaeology will provide additional information regarding the unique history of this park.

Archaeological sites like the Lake George Battlefield Park are unique and finite resources. Investigative techniques that are noninvasive and nondestructive provide ways to continue learning from and about these places, while preserving more of the site for future generations.

Karakaya, Berfin and Marius Berger

*New York Through the Lens of a Classical Archaeologist*

New York, a major city obviously created independently of the Roman Empire, bears a pervasive legacy of Rome. This lecture explores the North American metropolis through the lens of a classical archaeologist. In classical archaeology's introductory semester, students learn about Roman city characteristics, such as a rectangular street system and large public squares, mirrored in New York's landmarks like Washington Square Park and Times Square. However, what sets New York apart from other cities? Ancient Rome's cosmopolitan nature, welcoming people from across the empire and beyond, finds a parallel in New York's global diversity. Rome's population exceeding a million and dense urban development, with ten-story residential buildings. If Romans had employed steel in their structures, Rome what have drawn a striking likeness to modern Manhattan. Notably, structures like the Rockefeller Center reflect energetism, a wealthy-endowed urban development catalyst. The commitment of the United States to the Roman Republic's legacy is evident in New York's cityscape, adorned with classical architectural elements on skyscrapers. Direct architectural references include the Washington Arch resembling the Arch of Titus and the now-demolished Penn Station replicating the Baths of Caracalla. The Metropolitan Art Museum housing America's premier collection of ancient art further solidifies the city's connection to Roman heritage. This analysis unveils the enduring and somewhat surprising influence of Rome on New York's urban fabric and cultural identity, providing insight into what sets the city apart from its global counterparts.

Kirk, Matthew (Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.)

*The Yellow Barracks at West Point: Recent Archeological Explorations*

Today known as Trophy Point, the bluffs on the west side of the Hudson River were once part of the larger fortifications of Fort Clinton and Fort Putnam during the Revolutionary War and later the historic kernel of the United States Military Academy. Early Continental Army Garrisons stationed on the Hudson Highlands began by construction forts and surrounding batteries. These early efforts started the remarkable landscape alterations that would continue into the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries at Trophy Point. Presently, Trophy Point is known for its scenic vista and the long tradition of displaying captured cannons and arms. Yet, deep below fill, structural debris, and redeposited soils there appear to be the foundation of a large barracks that housed artillerymen and some of the earliest cadets at the Academy. Excavations undertaken on behalf of the Army Corps of Engineers under Section 110 regulations, revealed a unique assemblage of buttons, bones, bottles and more, that sheds light on this early period of the school which has been poorly documented in the historical record.

Kuhn, Robert D. (VanEpps-Hartley Chapter)

*A Statistical Comparison of Carbonized Corn Kernel Samples from Five Nations Iroquois Sites and Ontario Iroquoian Sites*

At the 2023 NYSAA annual meeting an analysis of carbonized corn from Five Nations Iroquois sites was presented. This analysis produced a number of important conclusions, including: 1) archaeologists have been substantially underestimating the size of the corn ears grown by the Iroquois; 2) there is a significant trend of increasing corn kernel size over time, probably resulting from the practice of seed selection; 3) kernel size increased by as much as 70% from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, significantly increasing Iroquois crop yields; 4) periodic droughts, recorded in the North American Drought Atlas, are readily observable in the corn kernel data and would have negatively impacted crop yields during these periods. This study has been expanded to include a comparison of the Five Nations Iroquois data with data available for the Ontario Iroquoians of southeast Ontario and western New York. The results show that there are similar trends over time between the Iroquois and the Ontario Iroquoians, but there are also significant differences in kernel size and shape between regions. Some preliminary interpretations are offered and explored.

Lothrop, Jonathan C. (New York State Museum), Kevin P. Smith (Smithsonian Institution) and Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum)

*New Insights on Late Pleistocene Peoples in Western New York*

The Paleoindian archaeological record in what we now call western New York is best represented by Early Paleoindian sites dating to circa 12,800-12,200 calendar years before present, reflecting the first indigenous peoples in the region. Based on recent research, we discuss four investigated Early Paleoindian sites in the region: Kilmer in Steuben County, and Arc, Hiscock, and Lamb in Genesee County. After reviewing regional evidence for the deglacial sequence and post-glacial Ice Age environments and landscapes, we discuss relative dating of these four sites and toolstone profiles as evidence for seasonal mobility and interaction. Our primary focus, however, is in evaluating site/assemblage characteristics to generate behavioral interpretations of each locality as evidence of Early Paleoindian lifeways in the region.

Lucas, Michael (New York State Museum)

*Moving Beyond Subsistence: Challenges to Wealth Generation Among African-American Farmers in 19<sup>th</sup> Century New York.*

Enslaved African Americans were integral to the development of agriculture in New York during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Those families that remained in rural areas during the 19<sup>th</sup> century struggled to gain a foothold in the rural economy following emancipation. Land acquisition was a crucial component of wealth generation as families struggled to move from subsistence to surplus. The communities of Boght Corners located north of Albany, and Becker's Corner located to the south, were similar rural crossroads surrounded by diversified farms. They were also centered around the Dutch Reformed Church with both Black and White parishioners. Yet, African American



families had more success in securing real property in areas north of the city than to the south. The Jacksons at Becker's Corner and the Powells at Boght, were able to acquire land that served as geographic anchors for the communities, but their economic fortunes were very different.

**Poster:** Meinsen, Jamie (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)  
*The Pottery and People of the Pethick Site*

In the summer of 2014, the New York State Museum Cultural Research Survey Program and the Anthropology Department at the University at Albany undertook the excavation of the Pethick Site in Schoharie County, New York. Through the efforts of undergraduate students and professional archaeologists, hundreds of Native American artifacts were found in addition to historical ceramics, glass, brick fragments, pipe stems, and metal nails. The Pethick Site produced about 58 sherds of pottery related to the time after the arrival of Europeans to the New World. Out of this sample, 57 sherds were able to be comfortably identified as either an imported ceramic type or a domestic-made ceramic type. All of the sherds were individually examined, measured, and weighed on a scale with all of the resulting information recorded on artifact report sheets that were specifically designed for this project. The data sample includes ceramic tiles, slipware, Jackfield-type pottery, redware, German salt-glazed stoneware, American salt-glazed stoneware, white stoneware, agateware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, and yellowware. While this project was originally undertaken in the hopes of shedding some light on the first European occupation of the Pethick Site, it has become apparent that the ideal way of studying the development of nationality and identity in an archaeological context would be to look into regional history, economy, and consumption patterns.

Mertus, Bekah M. Leathersich (The Ohio State University) and Alexander J. Smith (SUNY Brockport)  
*Frost Town Archaeology 2019-2024: Teaching, Learning, and Growing Onsite*

Frost Town Archaeology (FTA) is a historical archaeology project located at the Cumming Nature Center in the Finger Lake Region that explores the now abandoned site of Frost Town, a small logging community settled by Euro-Americans in the late 18th century. By the early 20th century, environmental degradation and the decimation of old growth forests by the logging industry in the area resulted in the abandonment of Frost Town by its residents. FTA looks closely at the relationship between Euro-American settlement and the landscape in and around Frost Town. The site also operates as a space for public engagement and education, with the intent to make both archaeology and the site's story accessible to local community members. FTA offers many platforms for education, including a biannual field school operated through SUNY Brockport, annual summer camps that offer school age children hands-on access to the site, as well as community and family days. The project has also created spaces to share our research, including a major exhibit at the Cumming Nature Center and a research symposium geared toward the local public in 2023. This paper will reflect on the efforts FTA has made to make the site a place for archaeological education. Additionally, it will discuss

plans for ensuring Frost Town continues to foster critical and culturally responsive learning opportunities in the future.

Moyer, David (Birchwood Archaeological Services, Inc.), Dawn Bishop (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady), Daniel Brandt (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady) and John Scherer (Clifton Park Town Historian/Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern)

*Community Archaeology and Public Engagement at the Grooms Tavern Blacksmith Shop, Clifton Park, New York.*

During the summer of 2023 members of the Auringer Seeley Chapter undertook a community archaeology project at the Historic Grooms Tavern, a National Register listed property erected ca. 1825 in the Town of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, NY. Through partnership with the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern, the Town of Clifton Park and the Community Archaeology Program at SUNY Schenectady, chapter members undertook field investigations coinciding with an extensive public outreach campaign designed to increase visibility of the tavern's museum complex to the public and promote awareness of archaeology in the local community. The project was conducted in anticipation of much needed stabilization work at the museum's blacksmith shop and carriage house building. Field methods included a ground penetrating radar study and the excavation of five one meter square areas, two of which were later expanded. Results of the investigations provided valuable information about blacksmithing on the property as well as the operation of the adjacent tavern complex. The project was also successful in promoting Grooms Tavern to the community and increasing chapter membership.

Rieth, Christina and Lisa Anderson (New York State Museum, Van Epps-Hartley Chapter)

*New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act*

The New York State Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act was enacted in August 2023. This legislation is designed to protect unmarked burial sites, create a Native American Burial site review committee, create a process for the disposition of non-indigenous burials, and provide penalties for intentionally disturbing human remains/funerary objects from unmarked burial sites. In this presentation, we will discuss the role of the Native American Burial Sites Review Committee and what each of us can do when human remains are found. Information about what to do if the site is Native American or non-Native American will be discussed.

Ross, Joel (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)

*The Not So Free Bridge: An Archaeological Investigation in Montezuma, New York.*

Located along the Seneca River between the Villages of Montezuma and East Cayuga lies a bridge and community historically known as the "Free Bridge." From the Late Archaic to the present the bridge marks the convergence of multiple transportation routes and natural resources. In the Fall of 2022 staff from the New York State Museum, Cultural Resource Survey Program preformed three Site Exams for a proposed

Department of Transportation project. The three sites were the Nesting Osprey Precontact Site consisting of a robust assemblage dating from the Late Archaic to Late Woodland, the Gill Site with a previously unidentified early 19<sup>th</sup> Century foundation, and the Cayuga and Seneca Canal Site containing the remains of the original 1826 canal prism and a stone canal bridge abutment. This presentation includes a historical overview of this location and the results of these investigations, placing them within a regional context.

Scardera, Francis (Member at Large) and David Moyer (Birchwood Archaeological Services, Inc.)

*Seneca Lake Rock Art: The Perils of Iconographic Misrepresentations*

The dynamic interplay between authentic rock art and its modern "touristic" renderings fosters a compelling narrative of cultural engagement and iconographic misrepresentation. At the heart of this discourse lies the "Seneca Lake Rock Art Site," prominently situated on the eroding face of a cliff along the eastern expanse of Seneca Lake. This site, adorned with a series of red pictographs, is in stark contrast to the tourist-popular "Pictured Rocks Site." This collection of modern Euro-American paintings, featuring an array of images including a teepee and an American flag, dates to the early 20th century, in part as a tribute to the original works and possibly superimposed on the same rock panel. Despite its historical significance, the Pictured Rocks Site is often erroneously referenced as authentic or a pre-contact work, leading to confusion and potentially detracting from the genuine pre-contact rock art in the region. This paper argues that while "touristic" rock art may draw crowds and captivate the imaginations of contemporary audiences, it may also provide a platform for social media which obscures indigenous iconography. The original works, depicted on the same landscape, hold the true essence of our collective past but also act as an austere reminder of the need to preserve these irreplaceable windows into antiquity.

Staley, David P. (Cultural Resource Survey Program- NYSM)

*Letting the Chips Fall Where They May: Lithic Analysis of the Goodyear Site – Kiosk Locality, Otsego County, New York.*

Multiple analytical approaches were applied to an assemblage of over 1,300 pieces of lithic debitage from the Goodyear site in Otsego County. Six lithic material varieties were segregated representing Onondaga and Esopus materials. Typological analyses included both the triple cortex and the Sullivan and Rosen technique. Mass analyses were conducted using flake lengths, thicknesses, and weights and attribute analyses of dorsal flake count, directionality, platform count, platform preparation, bulbs of percussion, lipping, cortex type, specialty flakes, and heat treatment. All material types were reduced from initial cores of mostly tabular materials to final products of usable flakes and some bifaces. Although there is some evidence of hard hammer use, most lithic reduction at the site used soft hammers and was associated with mid- to late-stage multi-directional core reduction. The study provides insights into local raw material availability, selection, and preferences.

Zarzynski , Joseph W. (The French & Indian War Society at Lake George, Inc.)  
*Walking Underwater, ” Painting a Floor Mural of a 1758 Shipwreck in a Museum*

One of the principles of archaeology is interpreting the results of fieldwork for the public. Thus, in 2023, volunteers, under the direction of a maritime archaeologist, painted a floor mural of Wiawaka Bateau Shipwreck at Fort William Henry Museum. In the autumn of 1758, the British sank much of their fleet, placing them in “wet storage” over the winter. The 31 foot, 7 inches long watercraft was one of 260 bateaux sunk in the lake. This hid them from marauding French since there was no fortress to protect them over the winter; the fortification had been destroyed in 1757. Wiawaka Bateau C was one of over 40 sunken bateaux not recovered in 1759. The presenter directed the 1987–1991 archaeological study of the seven Wiawaka Bateaux. In 1992, these researchers got the Wiawaka Bateaux listed onto the National Register of Historic Places. In 2023, a 1:1 scale floor mural painting of Wiawaka Bateau Shipwreck C was completed in the museum. The mural took 17 days and is based upon the archaeological record.