



NYAC Newsletter Fall 2010

From the President

Dear Members,

As the newly elected president of NYAC I thank you for voting for me. On behalf of our organization I extend a heartfelt thank you to Nina Versaggi for her years of service as NYAC President and board member. Her leadership and guidance has served NYAC well and has been greatly appreciated.

NYAC held its fall meeting at Columbia University October 1st in partnership with PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City). The planning committee included Linda Stone, Meredith Linn, Doug Perrelli, Kelly Britt, and Stephanie Roberg-Lopez. The program, entitled *The Practice of Urban Archaeology - A Panel Discussion*, featured William A. Griswold, Archaeologist, National Park Service, Northeast Region Archeology Program, Vincent Maresca, Historic Preservation Specialist, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, and Catherine Spohn, Cultural Resource Professional, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, with written answers from Mark Shaffer, Historic Preservation Specialist, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. The program was well received. NYAC extends a big thank you to the committee for putting together such a wonderful program and to panelists for their participation. We hope to publish the discussion in the near future.

I would like to highlight some of the NYAC decisions that were made that day which include a new webmaster, a new publication series, the creation of a Program Committee, and the reorganization of some of our committees. Doug Perrelli has assumed the role of NYAC webmaster. We have decided to put out an occasional publication. The Program Committee will assist the hosts of upcoming meetings.

NYAC has created many committees since its inception. Each committee is an indicator of some pressing issue in the past. Many of the committees have been inactive or static for a long time, and some of them are related. It was decided that rather than dissolve committees, they could be consolidated. The standing committees now are: Action, with ASPI as a subcommittee; Archives and Collections; Awards; Website, with Communications as a subcommittee; Funk Foundation; Legislative with Human Remains and State Plan as subcommittees; Publications, with Abstracts and Newsletter as subcommittees; Public Education, with Continuing Education and Safety as subcommittees; and Standards.

In the near future you will receive a letter from NYAC's vice-president concerning the standing committees, and a request for a commitment on your part to be a member of the group or to serve as chair. The lack of volunteers impedes NYAC's ability to move forward with ideas on how to better serve the archaeological community through education, access to resources, exposure to new technologies, and to act in critical moments. I ask each of you to consider extending an offer of help. When many people serve the individual effort is small, but when a few carry the load it is often too great.

Sissie

Working Group Summary 2007-2010

At the request of the NYAC Board and President, the NYAC working group presents this summary of activities conducted to date as part of our discussions with SHPO on CRM issues in New York State.

Date	Action	Result
October 9, 2007	Letter to SHPO requesting a meeting with NYAC members to discuss review issues noted by our membership.	Meeting with Ruth Pierpont and John Bonafide arranged.
January, 2008	Review of issues of concern to NYAC members	A compilation of these was made for future discussion and shared with the Board.
February 20, 2008	Meeting with Ruth Pierpont and John Bonafide. Representing NYAC were Matt Kirk (NYAC Board member; representing private CRM companies in NY), Christina Rieth (NYAC Secretary; NYS Archaeologist, and representing the NYS DOT program), and Nina Versaggi (NYAC President; representing University-based CRM groups).	NYAC presented documentation of the issues noted by our membership. John Bonafide proposed a SHPO/NYAC working group. In addition to those attending this meeting, he added Mike Cinquino (for his SHPO and DEC experience) and Chuck Vandrei (DEC), as well as Nancy Herter, Doug Mackey, and Mike Shifferli if there were GIS issues to discuss. Written meeting notes were submitted to the Board for discussion.
April 18, 2008	NYAC spring meeting program on the Standards and issues of concern.	A document with four issues for working group discussion resulted: <i>Respectful Dialog/Mutual Trust; The Review Process – how can we all be more productive? Innovative approaches to challenging archaeological environments; Eligibility Determinations.</i>
June-Sept, 2008	Review of 1994 standards and 2005 guidance.	Production of documents for discussion at the next Working Group meeting. Meeting scheduled for October 20, 2008.
October 20, 2008	Meeting to discuss the four issues.	John Bonafide determined two general categories where NYAC input is needed: 1) reporting – how information is organized and put on paper; and 2) field issues – how to best handle geomorphology, stray finds, plowing, historic sites, and a range of field responses based on project types and field conditions. What are the appropriate methods and best practices? NYAC and SHPO divided a set of tasks for future meetings.
October 2, 2009	Working Group meeting	SHPO “Best Practices” document discussed?
Winter 2009	NYAC discussion of Best Practices document.	Detailed comments and concerns noted on the document and submitted (March 8, 2010) to John Bonafide for further discussion.
Spring 2010?	Short Report Form Discussion	Examples of non-DOT reports. NYAC members asked to provide discussion of what is working and not working.
Fall 2010	Geomorphology/Wetlands Discussion	Doug Perrelli assembled a series of examples of what was useful or not. More input requested for future meetings.
Fall 2010	Next working group meeting	Members ask John Bonafide to set the next meeting and he is eager to do so.

INFORMATION ON THE LISTERSERVE FOR NYAC MEMBERS AND HOW TO ACCESS ALL THE FEATURES

The New York Archaeological Council Listerserve (NYAC-L) was established to help facilitate communication among the membership. As a member of a number of other lists, including the Archaeological Society of New Jersey (ASNJ-L) and the Arizona Archaeological Council (AAC-L), I had become aware of the usefulness of such a tool. These listeserves provided a way for the members to keep in contact regarding important legislative issues, research, information on upcoming conferences, on news, or any topic. It became clear that these organizations had benefitted greatly from the establishment of these lists. After doing a bit of research, I discovered that each of these organizations utilized a service available at egroups.com, which not only provided the e-mail service, but also provided a free place for members to share information in a number of other ways. This service provides:

- A place to post files of any kind to exchange;
- A place to post image files;
- Links to other sites that may be of interest;
- A place to conduct polls;
- A place to construct databases;
- A calendar for keeping track of group events
- And a chat room, for real time discussion.

After examining these options I approached the Board, and it was determined that a NYAC-Listserve should be established and made available to any members that wished to join. It was decided that this would be a closed group, available only to NYAC members and only through invitation. The initial invitations went on in April 2001, and since then I have attempted to invite any new members as they are approved. Over the last several years, a large portion of the membership has joined NYAC-L and, although many members do not post to the service, it is hoped that they are all receiving the NYAC-wide messages that go out.

Since it was initially established, this service has grown in size and complexity and now provides access a number of important items for the membership. These include OPRHP site forms, an electronic version of the NYAC standards, the Handbook, the SED guidelines, applications for new members, information on upcoming events, and the last several years of the NYAC abstracts. All of these items are available for members to read online or download. It is hoped that the use of this service will help to increase communication among all members of NYAC.

While the list will send e-mail to any address, in order to access the additional features it is necessary to have a Yahoo account. Yahoo took over the service from e-groups soon after the site was established, and they restrict access to groups services to people that have established such an account. These accounts are free and I have never received any unwanted mail as a result of establishing one. If you already have a Yahoo "name" and are a member of any other "groups" it is very easy to have you added to the NYAC-L group. You simply need to have an invitation sent to your Yahoo name.

If you do not have an established Yahoo name, but would like to access all the features of the site, it is an easy process to create one. Simply follow the directions on how to register at <http://www.groups.yahoo.com>.

To gain access to the list and the website send your desired contact info (e-mail or Yahoo name) to me at douglas.mackey@oprhp.state.ny.us. Then be on the lookout for an invitation e-mail. You may also contact me if you are having difficulties getting access and I will help get you through the process.

In order to help keep the service "clean," if you know that you have changed your e-mail address at some point since joining the list, please check the members list. If you see a no longer valid address still listed, please let me know.

(Much of this piece is taken from an article originally published in 2003.)

Submitted by: Douglas Mackey

SUMMARY OF THE OCTOBER 2 PROGRAM

The Practice of Urban Archaeology

On October 2, 2010, PANYC had a joint meeting with NYAC. After the board and business meetings, we held a program called “The Practice of Urban Archaeology.” This was a panel discussion. The panelists were from the regulatory or review side of the aisle from places outside of New York State. The program began with panelists presenting brief overviews of how the archaeological process works in their cities. This gave us an opportunity to listen and learn about what we may have in common and what may be unique in the practice of archaeology in these other cities. The remainder of the afternoon was spent addressing a series of 10 prepared questions designed to enable comparisons between the panelist’s cities and those here in New York State. The list of questions is below. The discussion sparked a great deal of interest and it was decided a publication of the program will be forthcoming.

A Panel Discussion

Saturday, October 2, 2010 – 3-5 PM

Columbia University – Schermerhorn Hall – Room 612

Broadway at 116th Street, New York City

William A. Griswold, Archaeologist, National Park Service, Northeast Region Archeology Program

Vincent Maresca, Historic Preservation Specialist, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office

Mark Schaffer, Historic Preservation Specialist, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

Catherine Spohn, Cultural Resource Professional, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Sponsored by:

New York Archaeological Council (NYAC),

Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and

Columbia Center for Archaeology

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Under what conditions are archaeological reviews required in your cities? Is archaeological work generally grouped with engineering/planning contracts or with construction contracts and why? What are the most common regulatory problems encountered when attempting to implement an archaeology project in your urban areas?
2. How is the process of regulatory archaeology structured in your area? Is it a three-phased process involving site identification, evaluation and data recovery, as in New York? What problems or advantages do you see that may stem from the way the process is structured?
3. New York State prefers to receive a single report on Phase 1A and 1B work, whereas New York City prefers to see the Phase 1A report before signing off on Phase 1B testing plans. Furthermore, New York City requires that the Phase 1A include research using primary documents such as deeds and census records whereas New York State does not necessarily require research as intensive at the Phase 1A level. How do your cities handle these Phases?
4. Monitoring of construction excavation has become more prevalent in recent years. NYAC, the organization that wrote the archaeological standards adopted by our SHPO, has, along with PANYC, compiled guidelines for archaeological monitoring in urban settings which detail what should be considered when monitoring is proposed. These guidelines specify what should be included in a comprehensive monitoring plan. Do your cities have monitoring guidelines? How do you handle requests from applicants to substitute monitoring for pre-construction testing? Is your response affected by consideration of on-site or logistical conditions such as work planned in busy roadways, potentially very deeply buried sites, or work that is on a fast track schedule?
5. Do you ever feel that local politics plays a role in the decisions you must make to ensure the archaeological compliance process proceeds as it is intended? If you have found this to be the case, it is understandable that you may not be at liberty to share specific examples, however it would be interesting to know to what extent, if any, you feel the archaeological process has the potential for compromise in your cities and what suggestions you might provide regarding strategies to overcome such pressures.

6. How is the public education aspect of archaeological work addressed in your cities? Do you have requirements for education components such as opening sites for public tours, providing literature for public consumption, or creating archaeological site web pages? Are there other aspects of public archaeological education that you have successfully incorporated into projects under your jurisdiction?

7. Many cities are Certified Local Governments, enabling them to apply for preservation grants that can involve projects including archaeological surveys. The CLG program requires the city establish a “qualified historic preservation commission.” How does CLG status affect archaeological work in your cities? Do you know of archaeological projects funded through the CLG program? If so, can you discuss the specific process that occurs regarding the review of these projects?

8. Does your city have a qualified historic preservation commission and, if so, is it staffed with at least one archaeologist who can review the CLG funded projects? If so, do they also review other local projects? If not, how are archaeological project reviews handled locally, or not, and is a specific review process being developed? If so, how was/is this process developed?

9. In certain situations, urban archaeology can be inherently dangerous to the archaeologists. How do you balance the need for safety with the goals of the archaeological compliance process? What creative field techniques have been employed in your projects to enable data collection and preserve safety?

10. Is there anything else that may be of interest regarding the practice of archaeology in your cities that you would like to share?

Submitted by: Linda Stone

Announcements

-NYAC is in the process of establishing a new website. Doug Perrelli has volunteered to set it up and launch it through a new venue- to be determined. The goal is for NYAC to have a web site independent of Yahoo Groups by December 1st. Please send any suggestions or information to perrelli@buffalo.edu.

-NYAC is in the process of restructuring committees. A revised committees summary and sign-up form will be sent to the membership in the next few weeks. Please consider becoming more involved in NYAC by joining a committee.

Submitted by: Doug Perrelli, NYAC Vice President

SYNOPSIS OF OPRHP GIS TELECONFERENCE

OPRHP is in the early stages of a complete redevelopment of its computer-based cultural resource information system. The current system, which has been on-line for public use since 2002, includes an address search program for National Register listed and eligible resources, scanned images of all 5,000 National Register of Historic Places nomination forms and photos, and a GIS-based program that provides boundaries for all National Register listed properties, listed historic districts, and archaeologically sensitive areas.

In 2009 the Division for Historic Preservation (SHPO) within the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) secured a Federal Highway Administration Grant to update and expand its State Preservation/Historical Information Network (SPHINX), migrate existing legacy data to a digital format, and substantially broaden and improve public access to, and use of, their extensive archive of resources (and other readily available information).

The proposed project will entail the creation of a secure, user-friendly ArcGIS server-based environment and a content management system-based historic preservation internet portal using state-of-the-art Geographic Information System, document imaging, and internet technologies. The new information system will bring together and expand on SHPO's three existing databases and enable SHPO to leverage its substantial historic properties inventory by significantly enhancing its current online capabilities – greatly improving data entry, retrieval, maintenance, accessibility, and reporting functionality.

These improvements will enhance operational efficiency, streamline SHPO workflow, and make it more time- and cost-efficient for local, county, regional, state, and federal agencies, as well as the public, to access and utilize our extensive information and expertise. The project will enable SHPO to substantially address many of the critical issues identified during a wide-ranging planning process, including much-needed improvements to the existing historic and cultural properties databases and internet presence, reinvigorating New York State's National Register survey/inventory program by making it easier to access and update historic and cultural property data both internally and externally, facilitating additional preservation planning at the local and regional government levels, and increasing education, training, and general availability of historic preservation resources via the internet.

The proposed project will build on SHPO's three existing databases which can be viewed online in their existing forms at: www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/resources/index.htm.

These existing resources included:

State Preservation/Historical Information Network (SPHINX): the Bureau's primary database for project review and compliance records, including State and National Registers listings, survey information, tax credit statistics, and environmental review project database. As of April 14, 2008, this database included 83,651 project records and 5,868 National and State Registers records.

Document Imaging: All National Park Service approved State and National Register of Historic Places nomination forms are digitized and are accessible via our current on-line Document Imaging Module. This database includes 5,000 nomination documents composed of tens of thousands of pages of text and an estimated 50,000 photographic images. This database and its associated viewer allow elementary on-line queries by subject, architectural style, architect, building materials, and location, among others.

Geographic Information System (GIS): Locations of all National Register properties are available on this system and have been minimally linked with document imaging information. All archeological sites identified in New York State are also added to an internal GIS desktop project. An IMS viewer is available in two versions for staff via the intranet as well as another version for the public that eliminates restricted data.

It is proposed that document storage and retrieval capabilities be integrated into the new system, such that a single browser-based application can be used to access the SPHINX database, with GIS functionality and document imaging built-in.

When completed, it is anticipated that all of SHPO's information will be accessible via an "internet portal" with all information retrievable through a single, fast, interactive map-based system. Users will be able to click on a specific location or property and quickly retrieve available information. SHPO staff and others, through a "permission" granting and submission review process, will be able to enter new data as it is collected, eliminating several redundant steps in the current process. The final "internet portal" would enable SHPO to provide substantially more, and more current, information on all programs and services, as well as frequently updated reference, resource, event, "how-to," and case study information.

In an effort to bring the concerns of a broad spectrum of existing and potential users of this new system into the planning process, a conference call was held on November 3, 2010 to discuss current uses and potential new uses. The NYAC Working Group was asked to participate in the call. Below is a synopsis of that call.

- Overall OPRHP has a goal to create an on-line system that consultants and other parties could easily access to find NR eligible and listed properties and districts, archeological sites, and other pieces of data, such as town registered sites, local historical markers, and the like. The system would be "robust" enough that no special training would be required. As OPRHP staff stated, "when the system is fully functional there should be no need for researchers from Buffalo to visit Pebbles Island."

- Schedule:

 - Request For Proposal (RFP)- 1 to 2 months,
 - Design and Implementation- 1 year,
 - Final Population of Database with "legacy data"-end 2014.

- All "legacy" data will be migrated to the new system: this includes Building Structure Inventory Forms for NR eligible structures and other windshield survey data. Information will be both in pdf forms and location data. Problems with old street names and addresses will need to be worked out.

- Legacy data will also include old survey locations and perhaps the pdfs of reports.

- The system, once operational, will be updated in real-time.

- The system will have an interface so that archeologists can enter their sites directly into the system, perhaps with a "mobile" component that will allow GPS systems to enter data.

- There would be an OPRHP gate-keeper to review the data.

- OPRHP was interested in collecting data from town historians, institutions, and others to effectively be a clearing-house for a broad array of historical and archeological data.

- OPRHP welcomed the idea of educational opportunities hosted by NYAC for the new system once implemented.

- OPRHP looked favorably on the idea of "alternative mitigation" strategies that may involve collecting and inputting data into the system.

- ORPHP would like to continue to use the existing site numbering system, instead of the Smithsonian system (like many other states). OPRHP staff indicated the system is tied to MCD codes and works well because it handles both archeological sites and historic properties.

- OPRHP laid out a vision for a paperless SHPO, whereby consultants file reports electronically along with site forms and other data.

- The staff indicated they have reviewed the systems of all 49 other states and have a clear idea of the functionality they desire.

- A model would be this website: <http://www.maphost.com/saratoga/>. Note the site has historical markers mapped. They would like it to be very user friendly, which was a complaint about the current system.

NEWS FROM THE FUNK FOUNDATION

The Robert E. Funk Memorial Archaeology Foundation has supported significant, small research projects in New York State since 2004. Grant awards have already supported projects ranging regionally from the mid-Hudson valley to the Niagara Frontier. However, while the grant program has enjoyed great success (and some of you may recall seeing the results presented at meetings, or published in journals and edited books), I have an important announcement to make: *The Funk Foundation is not currently accepting grant proposals, as we work to shepherd several current grant projects to completion, and increase fund-raising efforts for future projects.* This is a short moratorium to take stock and build toward the future. Future initiatives may couple a grant program with conferences, workshops, or other colloquia.

Grants from the Funk Foundation are small, ranging from several hundred dollars to about \$2,000.00. They typically support such things as radiocarbon dating or specialist studies such as faunal or microwear analysis. Although small, Funk Foundation grants are designed to provide an important piece of a larger research project. With respect to on-going grant work, in July 2010, with the submittal of Melody Pope's microwear analysis of Lamoka and Vestal points, Laurie Miroff completed her grant for analysis of data from the Castle Gardens site in Vestal, New York. Laurie's grant supported parts of a larger analysis of recent excavations at Castle Gardens, the type site of the Vestal phase. The Castle Gardens microwear results demonstrate exciting functional variation significant to understanding the Late Archaic period in the Susquehanna valley. Personally, as an Archaic specialist and someone who loves Susquehanna valley archaeology, I consider these results quite important and very promising for future research and interpretation.

On another note, now that the Great Recession has been declared over (ahem), and finances are not as tight (what?), and seeing that the end of the year (when thoughts turn to charitable contributions) is nigh-upon-us, the next couple of months are an excellent time to consider making a contribution (or perhaps an extra contribution) to support the future activities of the Funk Foundation. Contributions before the end of the year would support future grant projects when we begin accepting new grant proposals; but may also help to support and convey the importance of archaeological research in New York State in other ways, such as Funk Foundation-sponsored lectures, conferences, conference sessions, or workshops on special topics of broad interest. I perceive these initiatives as relatively low cost (and quickly self-sustaining) ways of supporting New York State archaeology by presenting forums for reporting and discussing new research. Some of the reported research would result from the Funk Foundation's grant projects, but these initiatives also would draw upon the wide range of research in New York. In addition to scholarly presentations, initiatives such as workshops would promote archaeological research through the discussion of technical and methodological issues of broad and common interest. Workshops or seminars would bring together the minds of diverse practitioners to consider common issues and promising solutions to research challenges, especially as the frontiers of archaeological research continue to expand.

We really, truly appreciate all contributions, and the plea I now make for large contributions is not for everyone. Small is still beautiful. However, in the future it will be important for at least a few people or (CRM firms) to increase giving above the usual range of \$10-\$50, and to commit to giving on an annual basis. I will do this, my company will do this, and I hope you will do this too. In order to contribute to the Funk Foundation, please send a check payable to the New York State Museum Institute, along with a letter, form, memo, or note indicating that the donation is for the Funk Foundation. The New York State Museum Institute provides the flow-through account and accounting for the Funk Foundation, and disperses the grant funds at the Funk Foundation's request. Before the end of the year, please financially support archaeological research in New York State through the Funk Foundation, and mail your contribution to:

Robert E. Funk Memorial Foundation
c/o The New York State Museum Institute
3025 Cultural Education Center
Albany, New York 12230

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

The Cascadilla Creek Prehistoric Archaeological District

The Cascadilla Creek Prehistoric Archaeological District (CCAD) was proposed in 2008 by the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) through consultation with the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The district encompasses a series of small prehistoric sites in the uplands of Cayuga Lake and Tompkins County. Diagnostic artifacts suggest the larger site area was occupied by hunter-gatherer groups from at least the Late Archaic (4500-1500 B.C.) through the Early Woodland (700 B.C. - A.D. 0). The district sites were recommended as individually eligible for the National Register. As an option to field-based data recovery, PAF and OPRHP recommended an alternative mitigation of these impacts through GIS modeling, microwear analysis, and additional artifact classification leading to an interpretive context for the sites. While alternative mitigations are clearly the exception and not the rule for most projects, these in-depth contextual based studies can provide some unique perspectives not available through the traditional focus of financial resources toward additional unit excavation.

Based on the GIS modeling, the upper Cascadilla Creek Valley does fit the description of a “marginal environmental region” in terms of large-scale prehistoric residential settlement, but the area was clearly utilized by small groups of hunter-gatherers and logistically-oriented agriculturalists. The environmental/ecological conditions support the preliminary settlement model for the Finger Lakes uplands based on small camps and resource processing stations, specifically those sites targeting wetlands and non-aggregated plant/animal species found in upland contexts. The environmental/ecological variables indicate: 1) the District occupies a moderately drained to poorly drained upland glacial lake plain; 2) the District soils are not subject to flooding, but adjacent poorly-drained depression areas are subjected to frequent ponding; 3) the District soils vary in productivity from fair-good to poor; 4) the District soils are suitable to herbaceous plants and hardwoods (some soils are well-suited for wetlands plants); 5) the District faces west and north away from the winter sun; 6) wind potential is moderate; 7) the District is outside of the predicted primary travel corridors linking Ithaca to surrounding regions; and 8) the District is adjacent to a secondary travel corridor leading to an upland valley southeast of Cayuga Lake.



Cascadilla Creek 1, Meadowood point and beveled adze.

The GIS assisted landscape modeling provided enhanced contextual layers that support interpretations of “how, why, and when” these landforms were used by prehistoric hunter-gatherer groups. The rugged nature of the upland landscape appears to have attracted hunter-gatherers to opportunistic resources, but was not optimal for seasonal aggregated camps or lengthy habitations. The sites within the Cascadilla Creek District fit this ephemeral landuse and settlement model, and, based on the mitigation results, we identified two site types that define the district: small camps and resource-procurement/processing areas. Re-examination of the lithic debitage/cores from all sites indicated two distinct and overlapping reduction strategies. The first was an informal core technology, a strategy geared toward production of unmodified debitage and core pieces for use as expedient tools. This strategy applies exclusively to the processing and foraging occupations at Cascadilla Creek 1, Cascadilla Creek 2, Loci 1-2, and Cascadilla Creek 4. The debitage at Cascadilla Creek 2, Locus 3 was produced primarily through bifacial tool production and maintenance. This technology produced an abundance of usable flake waste, and some of the larger pieces were used as expedient tools on-site. The overall higher artifact diversity and evidence for at least one thermal feature further compliments the classification of Cascadilla Creek 2, Locus 3 as a small camp.

The microwear analysis of a small sample of flakes and bifacial tools from the CCAD indicates that the residents of the sites, minimally, used unmodified flakes, some of which were inset into some type of wood or bone/antler haft, in butchery-related activities. This assertion is evidenced by the high frequency of flakes with contact polish characteristic of soft tissue, bone, and hide. To a lesser extent, unmodified flakes were also used to process plant foods or woody fibers. Some functional differences are evident when these two site types (camp vs. processing stations) are compared by tool use patterns. At the camp site (Cascadilla Creek 2, Locus 3) animal processing tools outnumber plant processing tools by a 4:1 ratio. This differential tool use reflects a strong emphasis on hunting/butchering activities within the main occupation zone of the district. Animal processing tools are equally numerous at the processing sites (42% of tools), but the percentage of plant processing tools is roughly two times higher than at the camp sites (29% vs. 12%). In addition, of the seven animal processing tools only one (Meadowood projectile point) exhibits edge-wear consistent with meat processing; the remaining six pieces were used for hard-tissue (bone-antler) or hide processing. For the camp site, three of the four animal processing tools were used for cutting meat, as well as bone and hide. These patterns suggest most tasks at the camp site involved some type of animal butchering activities, consistent with a primary hunting function. Tools recovered from the surrounding processing sites were used on both animal and plant materials, but unlike the camp site most animal processing tools were not butchering-related. Rather, these processing tools appear to have been used to scrape bone/antler and perforate hide.

Submitted by: Samuel Kudrle



Cascadilla Creek 2, Locus 3, unfinished side-notched projectile point and scraper/graver.

Binghamton University's Archaeological Field School

Binghamton University's 2010 Archaeological Field School investigated the Bungalow site, a pioneer-era cabin site within the boundaries of the Revolutionary War's Newtown Battlefield in Chemung County, New York. At the close of the War, land grants to soldiers and other settlers encouraged a series of homesteads within the former battlefield. One prominent family, the Lowmans, built this log cabin as a temporary shelter until their main houses were finished. As the Lowmans moved into their new dwellings, this cabin became available for others, including Charlie Smith, an African-American servant of the Lowmans. Expanding on previous investigations of the Bungalow site by the Public Archaeology Facility, the 2010 Field School unearthed the cabin's foundation and possible cellar hole, a diverse assemblage of domestic materials, and some battlefield-related artifacts. Graduate Assistant Blaze Interligi will undertake the analysis of recovered materials for his MA Thesis. On-going study of the Bungalow site will contribute to the understanding of pioneer-era settlement in the Chemung River corridor, specifically the dynamic economic and social relationships between prosperous landowners and the people who worked for them.



Descendants of the Lowman family maintain ownership of the site and surrounding land, operating two of New York's recognized Bicentennial Farms. They are active in local historic preservation and share students' enthusiasm in the discoveries made this summer. In addition to teaching students methodological basics, site stewardship was central to the 6-week course. Students had the opportunity to exchange information and ideas with the descendent family and develop individual stewardship projects inspired by the Bungalow site, its descendants, and the Newtown landscape. For more information, please visit

the course website at: <http://anthro.binghamton.edu/fieldschool/>.

Submitted by: Stacy Tchorzynski and Heidi Savery

NEWS FROM THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

Cultural Resource Survey Program

Lake Champlain Bridge Project, Crown Point, Essex County, New York

Archaeologists from the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program have been conducting archaeological excavations in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Bridge Project for the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration in Albany. Archaeological excavations have been conducted in advance of the reconstruction of a new bridge across Lake Champlain. Planned opening of the new bridge will be in the fall of 2011.

The archaeological work was required under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, New York State Section 14.09, and the National Environmental Policy Act, to ensure that significant cultural resources relating to the French and Indian War and occupation Crown Point during the Revolutionary War period were not destroyed during demolition and construction activities. Cultural resources in the vicinity of the area of potential effect include the remnants of Fort St. Frederic, a pre-1929 ferry landing site used to transport passengers and cargo across Lake Champlain from Crown Point to Chimney Point, Vermont, as well as potential late 18th- and 19th-century deposits associated with the occupation of a historic lighthouse and tollhouse.

Under the direction of Principal Investigator Aaron Gore, staff from the State Museum have identified several archaeological features, including remnants of a 1759 roadway shown on historic maps. Artifacts intermixed throughout this roadway include gunflints, creamware and redware fragments, lead shot, handmade brick fragments, and gun parts. The results of the work are being written-up and will be documented in a report to be submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration during the fall of 2011.

In addition to archaeological excavations surrounding Fort St. Frederic, architectural historians from the State Museum completed a HABS/HAER documentation of the bridge under the direction of Mark LoRusso. Documentation of the bridge has included not only photographs and drawings of the former bridge, but also information and photographs of the construction and opening of the bridge contained in the New York and Vermont State Archives. Transcripts of interviews with local residents that were present at the opening of the bridge in 1929 are also included. Copies of the final report will be available at the New York State Museum and the New York State Department of Transportation, Albany.

The Schoharie Creek III Site, Village of Central Bridge, Schoharie County, New York

Archaeologists completed archaeological excavations for the New York State Department of Transportation at the Schoharie Creek III site near Central Bridge, New York. The Schoharie Creek III site produced information about domestic life in this rural community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The site, initially identified in 2007, was associated with the occupation of a small farmstead by the Croes family. During the first quarter of the 20th century, the residential structure at the site burned and was immediately abandoned. Debris from the household occupation was re-deposited across the site and provides insights into the family's use of the property.



Photograph of the Lake Champlain Bridge in 2009.

Architectural remains of the residence continue in the form of a stone cellar hole, remnants of a stone staircase leading to the cellar, and at least three stone wells that surrounded the residence. A large cistern was also identified within the cellar hole of the structure. A shallow builder's trench identified around two walls of the foundation document periods of use and renovation of the structure during the first quarter of the 20th century.

Architectural items in the form of nails, brick fireplace fragments, portions of a tin roof, lighting and electrical fixtures, were recovered. Domestic artifacts in the form of white ironstone hollowware and flatware fragments, milkpans, Ball canning jar fragments, metal eating and food preparation utensils, food and condiment bottles, redware hollowware fragments, and other food storage receptacles were recovered. Personal items in the form of buttons and other remnants of adult clothing items were also recovered. Children's toys, including cups and saucers from a child's teaset, small gaming pieces, toy guns, and toy soldiers believed to date to the first quarter of the 20th century, document the presence of some of the youngest household members.

The site is recommended as being eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a property that is likely to yield information that can be used to understand the role and activities of rural farming households in Schoharie County, New York. Artifacts recovered from the site will be curated as part of the New York State Museum's anthropological collections.

New Publication Series

The New York State Museum is happy to announce the launch of its new peer-reviewed, open-access publication series, New York State Museum Record. Volume 1: "Preserving Tradition and Understanding the Past: Papers from the Conference on Iroquois Research: 2001-2005," edited by Christine Sternberg Patrick, contains seven chapters that highlight the range of research presented at the annual Iroquois Research conference. The series can be accessed at: <http://www.nysem.nysed.gov/publications/record/>.

New York Projectile Points web page

A new web site, including an enhanced version of Ritchie's New York Projectile Points, has just been posted at http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/research_collections/collections/anthropology/index.html.

Submitted by: Chris Rieth

NEWS FROM UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Broderick Park

During the summer of 2010, The University at Buffalo's Archaeological Survey produced a successful application to the National Park Service's National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom for the City of Buffalo's Broderick Park. For the past year Archaeological Survey staff have been assisting Broderick Park College, a non-profit organization tasked with the revitalization of the park. From the late 1820s to about 1950, Broderick Park was the site of the Black Rock Ferry, an important transportation link between Buffalo, New York and Fort Erie, Canada, across the Niagara River. Documentary evidence shows that it was a last stop on the Underground Railroad for numerous escaping enslaved peoples trying to make their way to Canada and freedom. The designation gives the site the national recognition it deserves for the role that it played in the Underground Railroad. Additionally, it makes the site eligible for Network to Freedom grants and technical assistance for preservation, interpretation, and commemoration efforts.

Submitted by: Nathan Montague

Allegheny River Valley Study



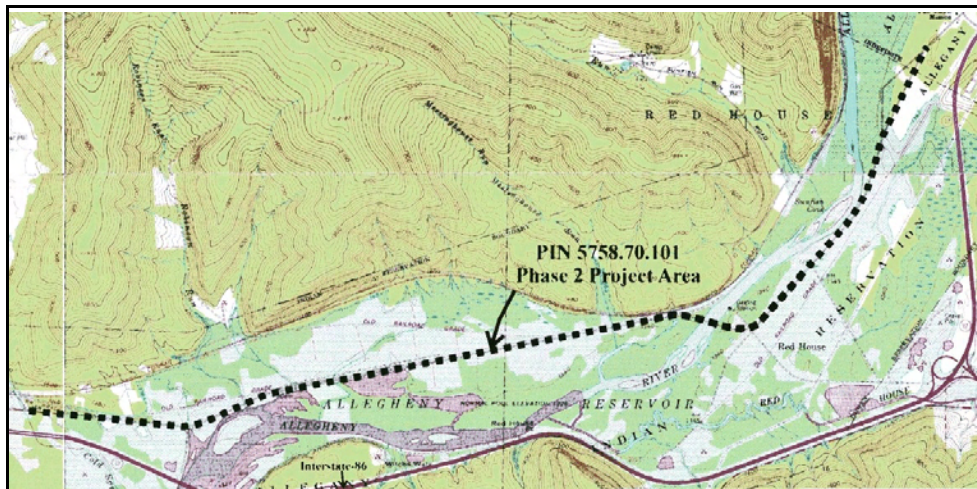
Typical view along Old NY Route 17 with the Allegheny River visible through trees on right.

During the summer of 2010, the SUNY Buffalo Archaeological Survey conducted an extensive Phase 2 study examining 20 prehistoric sites in the Allegheny River valley. Eleven also have historic components. This study was conducted on behalf of the NYSM for the NYSDOT in cooperation with the Seneca Nation. Work included 144 m² of excavations to examine sites located along Old NY Route 17, which lies adjacent to the river and will be reconstructed. The largest drainage within a hilly region, the broad flood plain of the Allegheny River valley is among the most archaeologically sensitive areas in southwestern New York. This study has provided important information on regional settlement patterns with evidence dating to the Late Archaic, Early Woodland, and Middle Woodland periods. Phase 2 finds are currently undergoing detailed analyses, but preliminary results indicate there are a large variety of chipped stone artifacts, along with some ground stone and pottery, as well as evidence of features and possibly a habitation floor associated with the Robinson Run site. This site also yielded numerous pottery fragments that will provide useful data for refining regional chronologies and distributions of prehistoric ceramic types. Located on a terrace near a tributary stream of the Allegheny River, the site's setting is typical of many of those examined by the Phase 2 investigations. This relatively large site also produced historic finds, including domestic refuse and architectural debris that is typical of the finds that were associated with the nineteenth- and twentieth-century structures, mostly residences, that stood until the construction of the Kinzua Dam in the 1960s. Sites documenting Native American life on the reservation during this period have not previously been the subject of archaeological investigations and these data will provide many interesting insights. The Meeting House site (UB 831) provides another example that documents both the ancient and relatively modern use of the Allegheny River valley by Native Americans with evidence of both a Transitional period occupation and a nineteenth-century Seneca meeting house. The Barnwell site (UB 4219) provided evidence of site deposits extending under the shoulder and road pavement, which itself could be considered a historic feature, demonstrating that archaeological deposits with considerable research potential can be identified in what initially might be considered a highly disturbed setting. The Phase 2 study revealed many of the 20 sites merit further study and Phase 3 studies may be proposed once results are finalized.



Pottery from Robinson Run site, Locus 2 (UB 619).

Submitted by: Doug Perrelli



Location of PIN 5758.70.101 in the Allegheny River Valley.



Projectile points from Robinson Run site (UB619). L to R: Jacks Reef and two untyped examples.



Domestic refuse from Old Pines site (UB 4218). Top, L to R: 1889 penny, toy buffalo; Bottom, L to R: pipe bowl, gas lamp burner.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants

Since May 2010 Chrysalis Archaeology and URS – Burlington have been conducting archaeological testing and construction monitoring at New York City's City Hall within City Hall Park. The property is part of the landmark African Burial Ground and The Commons Historic and Archaeological District. Past projects have demonstrated that the property is minimally disturbed and remains a rich archaeological resource.

The area known as City Hall Park has been public space and used for municipal purposes since the seventeenth century. Its earliest institutional use dates to the 1735 construction of New York City's first Almshouse. Over the next 75 years the property would house two prisons, a second almshouse, several British barracks during the Revolutionary period, and serve as a burial ground. The first Almshouse was demolished in 1797 and stood within the footprint of the current City Hall, which was constructed between 1803 and 1811. By 1860 all the remaining eighteenth-century structures had been demolished and the newly created City Hall Park was open to the public. Tweed Courthouse, at the park's northern end, was constructed between 1861 and 1872.

The current project has uncovered an array of architectural features and associated deposits ranging from the eighteenth century through the early decades of City Hall. The close proximity of these features highlights the density of the historic occupation of the area as well as its continued use and re-use. Among the architectural features uncovered within a 1500 ft² area are a 13' diameter eighteenth-century well, a 16' diameter eighteenth-century cistern, a nineteenth-century outdoor kitchen, an unidentified brick square shaft feature, and an extensive nineteenth century brick drainage system. Other architectural features located on site include early retaining walls, shaft features, a well and two 18' diameter nineteenth-century cisterns.

Work within the basement of City Hall has revealed several original architectural details including a fireplace with a stepped horizontal chimney that vented through the side of the building and a sizable kitchen hearth located in the basement. A bricked-up doorway in this former basement kitchen aligns with a stone sill and entry way on the exterior of the building and leads to an outdoor kitchen feature. Testing within the basement uncovered eighteenth-century deposits associated with the almshouse. Artifacts include bone button blanks, sewing pins, a 1746 British farthing, and eyeglass frames.

Another square brick feature was later repurposed for drainage and contained an artifact laden ash deposit dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Among the artifacts were pottery, wine, and liquor bottles, drinking glasses, a spittoon, and buttons. Adjacent to and beneath this feature was a late eighteenth- through early nineteenth-century midden dominated by large mammal bones.

City Hall Park has been heavily used and densely populated during its 300+ years of occupation. The multiple archaeological and historical investigations of the area continue to provide new theories and insights about institutional and municipal materials and landscape use within the City of New York. The current renovation project at City Hall, being undertaken by the City of New York – Department of Design and Construction is scheduled to be completed in July 2011.

Alyssa Loorya, M.A. R.P.A. and Christopher Ricciardi, Ph.D., R.P.A, Chrysalis Archaeology
Edward M. Morin, M.A., R.P.A., Daniel B. Eichinger and Eileen Krall, URS – Burlington

Black Drake Consulting

Black Drake Consulting in conjunction with SUNY Plattsburgh has been conducting archaeological investigations at the site of one of the Underground Railroad stations in the Town of Peru, Clinton County. In the 1850s and 1860s, the farm was owned by Stephen Keese Smith, a Quaker and abolitionist who was active in the Underground Railroad. In recollections recorded by Dr. D. S. Kellogg in 1887, Keese Smith talks about hiding runaway slaves in outbuildings on his property. One of the barns from that time period contains a hidden room which has been assumed to be one of the hiding places.

The North Country Underground Railroad Historical Association is currently conducting a restoration project for the barn and invited Black Drake and SUNY Plattsburgh to assist. With volunteer students from SUNY Plattsburgh and SUNY Potsdam, we have been exploring the deposits within the hidden room to determine if there is clear evidence of its use as a hiding space. Additional excavations in and around the barn have been answering structural questions which will directly assist in the restoration. Finally, we have begun exploratory work on a small cabin foundation at the back of the property to determine if it could have been the residence of an enslaved person owned by the original owner of the property in the early 1800s.

Work at the site will continue for another month.

Submitted by: Andy Black

Fisher Associates

Village of East Aurora and Roycroft Campus Landscaping and Scenic Beautification Project and Roycroft Campus Drainage Improvement Project, Village of East Aurora, Erie County, NY Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery

Fisher Associates conducted Phase III Archaeology Data Recovery on the National Landmark Roycroft Campus in July 2010. The Roycroft, founded by Elbert Hubbard in 1895, was the earliest and arguably the most successful Arts and Crafts community in the United States. The Arts and Crafts Movement represented a “response to the deleterious effects of industrialism on society and on artistic production in nineteenth-century England” (Quinan 2007:1). Arts and Crafts ideas reached the American public through a variety of sources including authors such as Ruskin, Morris, Dickens and Carlyle, English magazines (the *Studio* and the *Builder*), work commissioned for prominent buildings, and the lecture circuit.

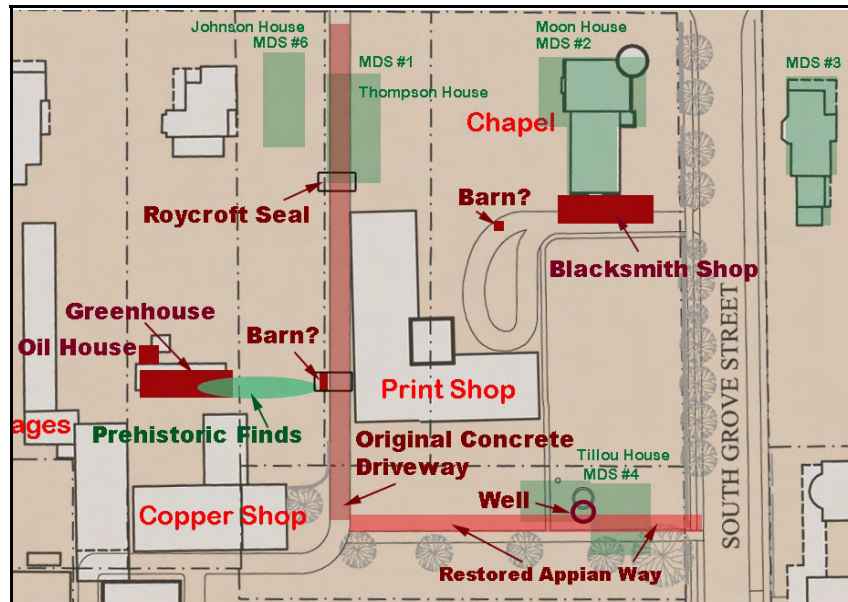
Roycroft began with a printing shop and bindery, and gradually added a number of other trades. Local labor, especially female, made up the bulk of workers, with “specialists” drawn from all over the globe. A number of these men were at the beginning of their career, and it was at Roycroft that they first developed their talents. Often, they did not stay long. The Roycroft under Elbert’s leadership had a decidedly “college campus” feel, with lectures, dances, organizations, such as the baseball team and the band, and even a dormitory. Intellectual and cultural freedom (and probably sexual) appear to have been a part of the Roycroft idiom, from hairstyle and dress to Elbert’s own marital situation. Pay was generally poor, but working conditions appear to have been above average. Hubbard added amenities, including life insurance and a bank, that were the fore-runners of the modern employee benefits package.

Unlike many fellow impresarios of the Arts and Crafts Movement—Hubbard made money. In 1909 the Roycroft was worth the equivalent of \$5.9 million. Hubbard, who owned 100% of the firm, supplemented his \$50 a week in salary by hitting the lecture circuit, collecting \$10,000 (roughly \$200,000 today) in 1908 (Pots 2005:327). The Roycroft Community lasted until 1938 and was revived in the 1980’s.

A large parking and drainage project scheduled for Fall 2010 on the Roycroft Campus, East Aurora, Erie County, NY necessitated Phase III Data Recovery on this National Landmark site. Fisher Associates conducted excavations on the Roycroft Campus between July 6 and July 30, 2010. A total of 98 shovel tests, 6 test units and 5 test trenches were excavated during that period. Excavations were conducted in five areas, described below.

Area 1. Copper Shop Parking Lot.

Fifty-five shovel tests and four test units were excavated in the Copper Shop Parking Lot. Most shovel tests recovered cultural material, most commonly slag, brick, ceramics, and glass. Test Unit #1 was located near ST6, and identified a layer of concrete pavement below dirt and gravel fill. This concrete layer was common across the Roycroft Campus, and was underlain by a layer of coarse steel slag, probably from the local Bethlehem steel mill. TU#1 also recovered a number of prehistoric artifacts, including primary, secondary, and tertiary chert flakes, calcined bone, and a net sinker. Several shovel tests also recovered flakes, bone, and an additional net sinker.



Schematic plan of the Roycroft Campus showing excavation areas and identified features (Not to Scale).

In test unit #4 at the base of layer 3 the foundation of the Roycroft Greenhouse was identified. Further excavation revealed the foundation wall, traces of a wooden floor, and the southwest corner of the structure. Subsequent investigations with a backhoe identified the other three corners, portions of the north, east, and south walls, and additional segments of wooden floor. The greenhouse appears to be approximately 15 ft north-south by 55 ft east-west. The foundation is made of concrete and large fieldstones, reinforced with rebar, and averaged 8 in thick by 2 ft deep. The base of the foundation was not reached. A number of artifacts that could be clearly associated with the greenhouse were also recovered. It is likely that the flowerpots recovered in TU's 2-3 are related to the greenhouse, and may represent the location of a back door.

Area 2. The Concrete Driveway behind the Print Shop

Two test trenches were excavated by backhoe in this area: Trench 1, near the southwest corner of the Print Shop, and Trench 2, to the north of the Print Shop. Both trenches identified a similar stratigraphic pattern. The original concrete driveway was identified in both trench sections, below two layers of asphalt. Original scoring and curbing could be easily identified. The concrete varied in thickness and had been poured over a 4-inch square galvanized wire fence mesh placed directly on the ground. The original concrete driveway varied from 11 to 14 ft in width. Below the concrete was a layer of fill with quantities of Roycroft-period debris, particularly terracotta roof tiles, and below that was the old ground surface.

In Trench 1, an unknown foundation was encountered, identified as Feature 7. This was oriented north-south and was constructed of very large fieldstones loosely mortared. The foundation was approximately 3 ft in width and 2-3 ft deep. The concrete driveway terminated at the foundation. To the west of the foundation, layers of ash fill with household type debris, and a thick layer of slag had been used to level up the ground surface for asphalt paving. A similar pattern of layers was identified in Trench 2, without the foundation being present. A lead seal block with the Roycroft Seal was recovered from the ash layer in this unit.

There are no known buildings in this location, although there are a number of houses that were moved by Hubbard for the development of the Campus. Based on the termination of the concrete driveway at the foundation, it is likely that the foundation was still visible at the time the driveway was poured, and it is possible that the building had some use by the Roycrofters for some period. The dimensions of this probable building are unknown, although it is presumed to have extended both north and west of its identified location.

Area 3. The Print Shop Gravel Loop.

Forty-three shovel tests on a 3m-grid pattern were excavated in the grass and garden area in front of the Print Shop. Although a number of artifacts were recovered, attempts to identify a gravel loop or pathways in this area were inconclusive. Almost all shovel tests, with the exception of those on the outermost eastern edge of the grass area, identified a layer of recent topsoil, varying in thickness, underlain by a very compact and dry gravel, sandy silt, and pea gravel layer. This layer averaged 8 to 12 inches in thickness, and was compact enough that the roots of the two large Red Oaks in the front loop had extended horizontally in an attempt to find downward access.

Two test units and one test trench were also excavated in this area. The test trench, Trench 3, was located in an area where it appeared that some differential subsurface stratigraphy might indicate the placement of gardens and paths or a driveway. However, this did not turn out to be the case. Additional review of historic photographs suggest that there were probably several different configurations of gravel driveway in front of the Print Shop, and that subsequent replanting activity has disturbed subtle traces in the upper stratigraphic layers.

Additional potential foundation deposits were identified in test units 5 and 6. In TU 6, below the hard-packed gravel layer, was a large gap loosely filled with very large fieldstones. These stones were identical to those used in constructing the Chapel and the Print Shop. Although no structure was identified in this location, TU 6 was positioned to the backyard of two earlier houses that Hubbard had moved, and could have been a barn or outbuilding foundation. It would appear that Hubbard used some of the stone loads he purchased for construction of the Chapel and Print Shop to fill the remaining foundations.

Area 4. The Well

Two attempts were made to locate the original Roycroft well in the parking lot to the south of the Print Shop. The first attempt was unsuccessful, but the second attempt identified the well immediately adjacent to and underneath the restored Appian Way, to the north of the crosswalk from the Print Shop. This area was designated Trench 4.

The well was approximately 12 ft in diameter, built of mortared brick and stone, and extended to a depth of approximately 3 ft below ground surface. Excavations on the interior identified a concrete cistern box on the inside of the well, approximately 6 ft square. The inside was smooth and the exterior rough and the wall thickness averaged 5 inches. The cistern was approximately 3 ft deep on the exterior – the bottom was not reached on the interior. A small number of artifacts were recovered from inside the well and cistern, but the fill was primarily brick and mortar, presumably from the above ground portion of the structure.

Based on the size and depth, it is unlikely that the well was deep enough to provide water on its own. It seems more likely that the cistern functioned to hold water, possibly coming from a nearby well and hand-pump, identified in several pictures. It is also possible that Hubbard connected the well to the Village water main running along South Grove Street. The location of the hand-pump was not identified as it is probably underneath the restored Appian Way. An attempt was made to locate the well sweep, but it appeared that this area was most likely disturbed by later utility line installation.

The well and cistern structures appear to be intact below ground surface, and capable of being re-watered. Their location below the restored Appian Way indicates that the location of a number of key features on the Campus has changed over time.

Area 5. The Original Blacksmith Shop.

A large test trench, Trench 5, was stripped by backhoe and then hand excavated in the location of the original blacksmith shop, c. 1899-1902. A number of features were identified here, including the original gravel driveway and possible elements of the blacksmith shop. Below the recent asphalt, further concrete paving was found. Below the concrete was a layer of loose pea gravel and sand of varying thickness. Once removed, a hard-packed dirt surface was identified.

The concrete and gravel appeared fairly widespread throughout the trench, although more prevalent and thicker to the south away from the Chapel. Once the gravel was removed, unexpected features were identified. Deep tire ruts, possibly made by a wagon or automobile, were discovered near the southeast end of the trench. Accompanied by the outline of a large puddle, these were probably laid down around 1900-1915.

To the south and west end of the trench several features that may relate to the blacksmith shop, along with artifacts, were recovered. Three shallow post molds were identified in the dirt surface and appear to correspond to the possible location of uprights in the historic photograph of the Blacksmith Shop. They appear to have been placed directly on the dirt surface. An area of burning and charcoal was located nearby, at the approximate location of the forge and anvil in historic photos. Several blacksmith tools and bar stock were also recovered from this area. A few pieces of flat stock, tools, and numerous nails and unidentifiable metal deposits were also found. All these deposits averaged less than 20 cm below the asphalt surface.

References Cited

Pots, Tom

2005 Utopian Capitalist. *Forbes* 176(7):327-328.

Quinan, J.

2007 Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft. In *Head, Heart and Hand: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters*, edited by Marie Via and Majorie B. Searl, pp. 1-19. University of Rochester Press, Rochester, NY.

Submitted by: Ann Morton

Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot

24th Annual Highlands Conference

Oct. 23, 2010

Sterling Forest State Park, Tuxedo, NY

History, Archaeology, and Historic Preservation at Fishkill Supply Depot

The Fishkill Supply Depot (FSD), Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County, New York, was a large military city occupied by Continental Army forces throughout the Revolutionary War. Many archaeological investigations occurred there in the last 50 years, and it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Prior investigators include renowned New York historical archaeologist Paul Huey in 1968, and Temple University from 1971 to 1973. Temple's Feature 1 was a large spread of stone with Revolutionary period artifacts. In the Fall of 2007, contract archaeologists exposed and tested Temple's Feature 1 and showed it was the foundation of a large building associated with the Continental Army. These contract excavations also uncovered part of a large soldiers' burial ground. Seven features, each the size and shape of an adult grave, were exposed in a shallow test trench. One was tested; it proved to be the coffin burial of an adult male. Evidence indicates that this is one of the largest military cemeteries of the Revolution. Documents indicate the graveyard probably includes soldiers from NY, NJ, CT, MA, RI, PA, MD, NH, and Quebec.

The Friends of the Fishkill Supply Depot (FoFSD) is dedicated to the preservation and study of the FSD, including protection and rededication of the soldiers' cemetery. This talk will discuss the history and archaeology of the Fishkill Supply Depot one of the last great unsaved Revolutionary War Sites, and also the ongoing historic preservation efforts by the Friends. Check out the Friends website and follow them on Facebook. www.fishkillsupplydepot.org, P.O. Box 311, Fishkill, New York 12524

Submitted by: Bill Sandy, RPA (IOCC-NYSAA, ASNJ & FoFSD)

HARTGEN PRESS RELEASE

Hartgen Archeological Associates Under New Ownership

Longtime owner Karen Hartgen announces retirement, sale of company to employees

Rensselaer, NY – (November 9, 2010) – After more than 35 years in business, Karen S. Hartgen recently announced her retirement and the stock sale of Hartgen Archeological Associates, the Capital Region's leading archeology and cultural resource management firm.

The firm's new owners are three members of the senior management team: Justin DiVirgilio, Matthew J. Kirk, and Darryl Straight. All have been with the company for several years.

"I have always endeavored that the company reflect my commitment to providing excellent, professional, customer-oriented service, as well as producing high-quality archeology and architectural history work, and serving as a responsible partner of the local business community," said Hartgen. "I am proud that the new owners share this commitment and confident that they will lead Hartgen with the greatest integrity."

DiVirgilio, of Albany, will serve as Hartgen's new president. He has been with the firm for over 10 years, the last four years in charge of daily business operations. Until 2009, he served as a trustee for Joseph's House and Shelter in Troy, for six years including two years as the president of the board.

Kirk, of Albany, is the firm's new vice president. He has been with Hartgen for 14 years as the firm's principal investigator and project manager. He is a director on the board of the New York Archaeological Council, president emeritus of the Albany County Historical Association, and serves as a trustee for First Congregational Church and Society of Albany.

Straight, of Troy, joined the firm as accounting manager in 2007. He will serve as Hartgen's treasurer and chief financial officer.

"As employees, we were very proud of Hartgen and our accomplishments. As owners, we will maintain the corporate culture that Karen fostered, redoubling our commitment to providing the highest quality service. While we intend to make changes aimed at improving the company's operations, I am confident that the transition will be seamless for our customers and employees," said DiVirgilio.

Hartgen was founded in 1973 and today employs nearly 40 people in New York and Vermont. Hartgen provides archeological and architectural history consulting services to a diverse client base drawn from both the public and private sectors. Some notable projects are:

- Fort Ticonderoga for the construction of the Deborah Clarke Mars Education Center,
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Headquarters, New York State Comptrollers Building, and State University Parking Facility along Dean Street all located in downtown Albany, NY,
- Quackenbush Square Parking Facility in Albany, NY where a 1750s rum distillery was uncovered,
- Experimental Media & Performing Arts Center (EMPAC) and College Avenue parking garage at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY,
- Albany Convention Center,
- And the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project, a proposed power transmission line from Canada to New York City.

Submitted by: Matt Kirk

LOOKING BACK AT THE UPPER HUDSON PREHISTORY CONTEXT STUDY

Ed Curtin

The end of September 2010 was the 20th anniversary of the completion of *A Prehistoric Context for the Upper Hudson Valley: Report of the Survey and Planning Project* by Susan J. Bender and Edward V. Curtin. This report was supported by a Research and Planning Grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to Skidmore College in 1990. As it turns out, this kind of support to prepare regional prehistoric contexts is very limited, making the upper Hudson study very unusual (In addition, during the 1980s Dean Snow and William Starna produced a three-part context for the Mohawk drainage). The upper Hudson context contains seven chapters, including an Introduction that defines the study area as approximately the recorded homeland of the Mohicans within the Hudson valley, from just south of Catskill Creek and the Roeliff Jansen Kill to Lake George. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 deal with Ethnohistory, Environment, and History of Research. Chapters 5 and 6 present and analyze the temporal, spatial, and environmental association data derived from SHPO, State Museum, and other institutional site files, as well as soil surveys, NYSAA bulletins, and other sources. Chapter 7 is a summary with recommendations. Appendix I provides draft National Register of Historic Places nominations for the Dennis and Arrowhead Road sites, while Appendix 2 is an electronic database of the information used in the analysis (provided to the SHPO in Dbase III+ format).

Presumably a document like this would have a lot of utility to regional researchers. Cassedy (1992), Fiedel (2001), and Lavin (2004) show some of the uses to which this study has been put, but, generally speaking, the upper Hudson context faded to gray and became buried in the large volume of Cultural Resource Management literature that has accumulated at an increasing rate. Many people working in the upper Hudson region are probably not aware of this report, while some who have remarked that they are surprised that it isn't used more regularly.

Still, the report is now 20 years old. The number of CRM reports of archaeological surveys performed in the region has grown exponentially, and one assumes that the number of sites added to the SHPO site files has also. Since the upper Hudson context study was issued, the Goldkrest site has been investigated, the Iroquois pipeline survey and data recovery projects have been completed, and several large business and technology parks have been surveyed, including Luther Forest Technology Campus and Greene Business and Technology Park. The 1990 conclusions drawn from site distributions and soil associations may still be valid, but probably could be refined now based upon additional data, or perhaps could be revised even more substantially.

Using data from the report, Fiedel (2001) has found that the temporal pattern of projectile point type frequency variation shown by Bender and Curtin (1990) (seen as a proxy for population change) replicates fluctuating patterns elsewhere in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic, providing support for Fiedel's (2001) position that regional populations crashed during the Early Woodland period. On another subject of equal interest, Lavin (2004) notes that the settlement data from the Goldkrest site is consistent with (one could say predicted by) Bender and Curtin's (1990) model of small, dispersed, unfortified Late Woodland farmsteads, rather than the older model of larger, nucleated, fortified settlements.

So how useful is a 20 year old context study? Following up on these examples, probably the most important things about the upper Hudson context study currently are how it can provide sources for ideas about regional prehistory, and baseline information or early problem statements for issues of continuing concern, as well as empirical in-put for discussions of these ideas and issues. For example, does the inferred pattern of population fluctuation really reflect an Early Woodland population crash, or does it more accurately reflect such things as changes in site size and distribution, or varying archaeological familiarity with the temporal diagnostics of the period, or even low frequency of temporal diagnostics at some types of sites? These several issues affecting archaeological visibility concerned Bender and Curtin (1990), and provide an alternative (or partial alternative) to the population crash hypothesis. More survey and site testing data are needed to test these competing hypotheses.

In another example, while the information from the Goldkrest site is highly concordant with the Late Woodland-Mohican settlement model discussed in the upper Hudson context study, how typical of Late Woodland or Contact period Mohican settlements is the Goldkrest site? The Goldkrest site appears to be a seasonally-occupied site in a flood-prone area. How common were sites like it on the Hudson floodplain? Where were the sites occupied during other seasons located, and what were they like? Were there also more sedentary or more aggregated Mohican sites? How did settlement patterns change throughout the Late Woodland? To answer these questions requires considerably more data than are currently available, which means that it is important for upper Hudson archaeologists to be especially mindful of the importance of new information on this subject.

In terms of baselines and issues of continuing concern, the upper Hudson context identified several basic data needs having to do with chronology, preserved evidence of architecture, faunal and floral data, low artifact density sites, and “groups of sites usually within a bounded area that can aid in the interpretation of past human use of that area.” It seems that it would be useful to think about what archaeologists in the upper Hudson have learned about these subjects in the last 20 years. At the risk of being repetitive, it is worth noting that the excavation of the Goldkrest site (Lavin et al 1996; Lavin 2004) provided a good deal of information on several of these subjects, but is somewhat unique in these regards. At the same time, some of these subjects became “hot,” especially during the early 2000s. For example, there has been increased concern with low artifact density sites, and one useful approach to these kinds of sites has been to undertake spatial analysis, especially of lithics (Rieth, editor, 2008). In addition, the idea of studying *groups* of sites in a bounded area to characterize the use or use-history of that area has been promoted increasingly through the development of the concept of archaeological districts, and the study of variation within the district, as opposed to studying a selected site considered to be the most representative. In practice, the district idea, like all ideas, requires refinement. However, this process is on-going, and in order to assist CRM review, the SHPO has provided major stimulus to the use of the district concept in the upper Hudson region.

In terms of one of the most fundamental areas of concern in 1990 – chronology – many new discoveries largely support the broad outline available in 1990. However, in addition to this, extensive radiocarbon chronologies obtained for the Goldkrest site and Iroquois Pipeline Site 211-1-1 (Cassedy and Webb 1999) provide micro-chronological perspectives that permit the observation of varying periods of site occupational intensity, as well as the timing of significant events during the late Middle Woodland, Late Woodland, and Contact periods. Also, on a coarser temporal scale associated with projectile point typology, upper Hudson archaeologists have become increasingly aware of the Early and Middle Archaic periods. Nonetheless, this recognition of the earlier Archaic is still growing, while the most interesting question shifts from whether or not sites of this age can be expected, to how to characterize Early and Middle Archaic land use patterns. This interest will move toward further questions, such as to what extent are the Early and Middle Archaic patterns different from each other, or from the Late Archaic. These questions, of course, require data of other types, such as data on low artifact density sites and horizontal artifact distributions over larger sites, locales, or landscapes. In pursuing these interests, it is probably high time to apply the concepts of distributional, and landscape archaeology that clearly were emerging by 1990, but have had little influence on archaeology in New York State, where the concepts of “isolated finds” and “lithic scatters” remain remarkably current and theoretically impoverished (but see Curtin et al 2008 and Rieth 2009 for rare distributional approaches).

While it has been enjoyable to make a few observations on upper Hudson archaeology through the lens of the 1990 context study, it is important to do this from time to time in every region, through the lens of one’s choice. It would be useful for other voices to do this for other New York regions, although it is not likely that other studies with the upper Hudson context’s type of database could be performed today due to the tremendous increase in the amount of data region-wide and statewide. The possible exceptions to this cautionary note may involve developing similar contexts for the regions (or perhaps smaller regions) best covered by institutional site files coordinated with an extensive basis in reporting, scholarly interest, and problem orientation.

References cited

Bender, Susan J., and Edward V. Curtin

1990 *A Prehistoric Context for the Upper Hudson Valley*. Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Cassedy, Daniel F.

1992 *Native American Interaction Patterns and Lithic Acquisition Strategies in Eastern New York and Southern New England*. Ph. D. Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York.

Cassedy, Daniel F. and Paul Webb

1999 New Data on the Chronology of Maize Horticulture in Eastern New York and Southern New England. In *Current Northeast Paleoethnobotany*, edited by John P. Hart, pp. 85-99. New York State Museum Bulletin 494, Albany.

Curtin, Edward V., Kerry L. Nelson, and Jessica E. Schreyer

2008 Strategies for Investigating and Interpreting Small Prehistoric Sites and Low Density Artifact Distributions: Examples From the Hudson Drainage. In *Current Approaches to the Analysis and Interpretation of Small Lithic Sites in the Northeast*, edited by Christina B. Rieth, pp. 41-61. New York State Museum Bulletin 508, Albany.

Fiedel, Stuart J.

2001 What Happened in the Early Woodland? *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 29:101-142.

Lavin, Lucianne

2004 Mohican/Algonquian Settlement Patterns. In *The Continuance -- An Algonquian Peoples Seminar*, edited by Shirley W. Dunn, pp. 19-28. New York State Museum Bulletin 501, Albany.

Lavin, Lucianne, Marina E. Mozzi, J. William Bouchard, and Karen Hartgen

1996 The Goldkrest Site: An Undisturbed, Multi-Component Woodland Site in the Heart of Mahikan Country. In *A Northeastern Millennium: History and Archaeology for Robert E. Funk*, edited by Christopher Lindner and Edward V. Curtin. *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 12:113-129.

Rieth, Christina B.

2008 *Current Approaches to the Analysis and Interpretation of Small Lithic Sites in the Northeast*. Editor. New York State Museum Bulletin 508, Albany.

2009 Reevaluating Scale in the Eastern Woodlands: The View from Eastern New York. In *Iroquoian Archaeology and Analytic Scale*, edited by Laurie E. Miroff and Timothy D. Knapp, pp. 1-18. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

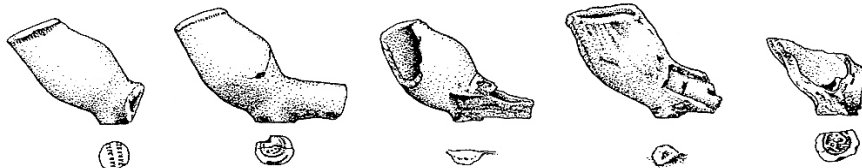
ADVANCED SALE NOTICE
FALL 2010*The Archaeology of Maspeth, Long Island, New York and Vicinity*

The New York State Archaeological Association is proud to announce the advanced sale of its latest Researches and Transactions publication, Volume XVIII, Number 1. This issue is entitled *The Archaeology of Maspeth, Long Island, New York and Vicinity*, by Stanley H. Wisniewski and Ralph S. Solecki. 104 pages. 59 illustrations. The cost is \$10 for NYSAA members, \$15 for non-members, plus \$2 shipping and handling. Make checks payable to NYSAA and mail to William Engelbrecht, 16 Atlantic Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Number of copies: _____

Amount enclosed: _____
(include \$2/copy S & H)



This award honors:

- Those individuals who have assisted in the preservation of archaeological sites in New York State; and/or
- Those who have contributed substantially to our knowledge of the past in New York State.

Submit:

- A letter outlining the nominee's contributions to preservation and archaeology;
- Letters of support from others familiar with the individual's contributions (encouraged but not required).

NYAC Student Award

This award honors:

- The best student contribution advancing New York State archaeology:
Two \$250 awards will be presented – one for the best student paper and the other for the best student poster.

Submittal Guidelines:

All paper submittals must follow the American Antiquity guidelines –

<http://saa.org/StyleGuideText/tabid/985/Default.aspx>

All poster submittals should consider the available guidance, for example -

<http://www.saa.org/Portals/0/SAA/publications/SAAbulletin/14-5/SAA10.html>

Deadline: January 15, 2011

Awards Announced: March 1, 2011

Please send all entries to: Hope E. Luhman, Ph.D.
The Louis Berger Group, Inc.
20 Corporate Woods Blvd.
Albany, New York 12211

Please mark the submittal envelope "2011 NYAC Award Submission."

NYAC ABSTRACTS

Following numerous discussions about “gray literature,” that is, archaeological reports for which there are only a few copies, NYAC members at Peebles Island near Albany in 1991 volunteered to abstract Phase II and III reports submitted to the SHPO office. Prior to this, NYAC members had made lists of such reports and mailed them to members; this ceased in 1985.

The new system involved actually reading and summarizing reports, beginning with those submitted in 1985. Thus, Volume I consisted of three parts as the committee worked to accomplish this. Volume II then began with reports submitted from April 1 of each year to March 31 of the next year. The project continues to this day with results coming out by early summer.

At first, hard copies were sent by mail. However, as the use of computers multiplied, the results were sent as email attachments with a few paper copies still being mailed. Today, the results are posted to the NYAC list-serve where currently they are available only to NYAC members. Soon, however, the abstracts also will be available to the interested public.

If you have any questions about the abstract project, feel free to email: Lois.Feister@OPRHP.STATE.NY.US

NYAC NEWSLETTER

For Spring 2011 newsletter, please submit by April 15.

Submit news in either Word or WordPerfect to Laurie Miroff by email at lmiroff@binghamton.edu. Note: please submit photos as .jpg files.

NOTE: *If you change your email address or would like the newsletter sent to another email address, please forward the address to me. Also, if you currently receive the letter as a hard copy and would like to begin receiving it by email, please forward your address.*