



*From the President*

The annual joint meetings of the New York Archaeological Council and New York State Archaeological Association were held in Watertown this past weekend. The meetings were co-sponsored by the Thousand Islands Chapter and the Finger Lakes Chapter. It was a fun and interesting weekend and we thank both chapters for their hospitality.

The afternoon program was put together by Lisa Anderson and Linda Stone and focused on the proposed unmarked burial bill. We thank them both for their efforts. Doug Mackey joined them in reviewing the key points of the proposed bill that are of importance to archaeological projects. Some of these issues include: 1) it is an unfunded mandate?, 2) the involvement of funeral directors, 3) the inclusion of oral and written genealogical traditions in claiming ownership over burials, and 4) the creation of a new committee to oversee the process. This is an important issue that potentially affects many of us and we may need your help in a letter campaign in the future.

NYAC grew significantly in membership over the weekend. We now have seven new full members. NYAC welcomes Timothy (Arron) Kotlensky, Zachary Davis, Tracy Shaffer Miller, Tina Fortugno, Wm. Brian Yates, Kristy E. Primeau, and Lauren Hayden.

NYAC received two nominations for the Founder's Award, Nina Versaggi and Ed Kaeser. Bill Engelbrecht prepared and presented the awards. The NYAC board also presented Lois Feister with a special service award for her years of service in preparing the NYAC Abstracts. Doug Mackey wrote a moving tribute to Lois and presented her with the award.

Christina Rieth brought 1500 copies of the 2013 poster to the meetings. You may contact her for copies to hand out to your clients, planners, and anyone else. This beautiful poster was done by the New York State Museum's Cultural Resources Survey Program. The poster features the archaeology of sites investigated in the city of Utica along the Utica Arterial. The poster was funded by NYS DOT and FHWA. Next year's Archaeology Season poster will be produced by AKRF and will feature the South Ferry Terminal project from lower Manhattan.

A couple of committee items are worth mentioning. We created a new committee to oversee programming. There is a need for continuity from one program to the next. The committee will serve to facilitate that process by guiding those who propose programs. We are also considering the creation of another ad hoc committee that would be involved with disaster preparedness. The NYAC fall program will be devoted to Disaster Preparedness and the role of NYAC. It was decided that the Fall meeting will be held in Albany, probably at the NYSM and hopefully on September 28th. We will keep you posted.

The membership voted to increase full membership dues to \$25 effective 2014. The extra \$5 will be used to pay for the maintenance of a website. The website is currently in a static state due to not having a webmaster. We decided to pay for the creation of a basic website that can be further developed as needed.

The conference papers at the NYSAA meeting were very interesting. One session focused on the archaeology of almshouse cemeteries. A paper given by Higgins, Liber-Raines, Montague, and Sirianni, SUNY Buffalo, mentioned that the records of the NYS county almshouses are available online. It made me think it would be helpful to all CRM firms if folks would share the discovery of such resources on the listserv when they are encountered.

Last, Jon Lothrop was made a Fellow of the NYSAA at the Saturday evening banquet. Congratulations!

Submitted by: Sissie Pipes

## ELECTION RESULTS

A total of 22 NYAC members voted in this election; ballots received by Wednesday, April 17, included four ballots submitted by mail, and 18 submitted via email.

All ballots have been counted, and the following individuals have been elected to three-year terms, effective at the close of the NYAC business meeting on April 26, 2013:

Sissie Pipes – President

Christina Reith – Secretary

Michael Cinquino – Board Position #1

Ed Curtin – Board Position #2

Thanks to all members who participated in this election, and congratulations to Sissie, Chris, Michael and Ed.

Submitted by: Jon Lothrop, NYAC Nominating Chair

## NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

In 2012 Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc., completed Phase 3 data recovery field work for two projects. These are (1) the Albany South End Revitalization project at two lots near the corner of Broad and Alexander Streets, and (2) the Precontact Locus 3/A. Shafer site at the SUNY Cobleskill campus (part of the new Center for Agriculture and Natural Resources). Data analysis is underway for both projects.

The Albany South End sites are 19th- to early 20th-century domestic sites that were located in a rapidly growing and changing working class neighborhood with a large immigrant (predominantly German) population. In Cobleskill, the Precontact Locus 3 site appears to be associated with lithic reduction and expedient tool production using local till sources. It overlaps spatially with an early to mid 19th-century German-American (Adam Shafer) component. Although German associations pertain to both the Albany and Cobleskill project locations, we are proceeding cognizant that the historic contexts of 18th- to 19th-century Palatine German heritage in Cobleskill and 19th-century German immigrant culture in Albany were very different, and reflect diverse waves of immigration and different New World experiences.

We have also renewed a series of blog posts on Archaic period sites and topics in *Fieldnotes*. Several posts in this series have been made recently. A total of approximately 15 posts in this series is planned for 2013. *Fieldnotes* can be found at INK "http://www.curtinarchaeology.com/blog" [www.curtinarchaeology.com/blog](http://www.curtinarchaeology.com/blog).

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## NEWS FROM THE CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY PROGRAM, NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

*Peaslee Paper Mill Site (NYSM # 11979), Malden Bridge, Columbia County, New York*

Staff from the New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program completed archaeological excavations in advance of the upgrade of Route 66 over the Kinderhook Creek in the village of Malden Bridge, Town of Chatham, Columbia County, New York. The project, which was conducted for the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration, identified the Peaslee Paper Mill site (NYSM # 11979). A subsequent site examination recommended the site to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Place due to its ability to contribute to the history of the community and its association with important persons in NYS history.

The Peaslee Paper Mill site consists of the remains of a small mid to late 19th-century paper mill established along Kinderhook Creek by Samuel Hanna and Horace Peaslee in 1843. Over the next 50 years, the paper mill supplied paper and cardboard products to local vendors in eastern New York and New England. The mill's strategic position along the Albany Post Road (Figure 1) facilitated its ability to transport goods by wagon and rail throughout the region. By 1860, the mill had become one of the largest in the country and supplied materials to the federal government during the Civil War. Accounts of the mill's operation during this time suggest that it ran twenty-four hours a day at the height of production. By 1900, the mill was competing with other mills in urban areas. Historic maps, including the 1989 *New York State Department of Transportation Highway Road Construction Maps* (NYSDOT 1989) and the 1933 15' *Kinderhook U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map* (U.S.G.S. 1933) dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, suggest that the mill finally closed its doors in 1933. Over the next 50 years, many of the buildings fell into a state of disrepair and collapsed.



Figure 1. Albany Post Road Marker located along Route 66.



Figure 2. Remnants of Peaslee Paper Mill Complex.

The mill consisted of several buildings located along the Kinderhook Creek. Included among these buildings are a dam that harnessed water for the mill, a large multi-story mill building, and several storage buildings (Figure 2). Currently, the footprint of several of the buildings remains visible along the banks of the creek and provides information about the size and arrangement of the mill complex. Units excavated adjacent to the mill foundation suggest that it had a massive foundation that extended nearly five feet into the ground and was constructed of field stone held in place by plaster. Brick fragments and other architectural debris (Figure 3) suggest that a large fireplace or chimney may have been located at the end of the structure. Window glass was found on all sides of the building and an opening suggests that the main building opened onto what would have been the Albany Post Road (the current Route 66). Other buildings surround MDS 2, including a small well (MDS 3) that was located northwest of the foundation and made of fieldstone. The well was likely capped during the upgrade to Route 66 during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Figure 3. Architectural remains recovered from the Peaslee Paper Mill Site.

Little is known about the lives of the workers who occupied the property, although historic descriptions indicate that the mill's workers lived nearby the mill. The recovery of utilitarian wares in the form of undecorated whiteware/ironstone fragments suggests that the mill workers probably consumed at least one meal each day at the mill. The meals consumed by the worker's probably were prepared off site since food preparation containers (i.e., stoneware and redware containers) are under represented in the collection. Holloware whiteware/ironstone containers (Figure 4) comprise much of the collection and suggest that meals may have been consumed as soups or stews. Shellfish and other expensive meat cuts are not well represented in the collection and may indicate that meals consumed during the work day may have consisted of less expensive meat cuts, possibly from local farm animals. Possible condiment bottles may represent attempts of mill workers to enhance the taste of these foods. Although limited in number, the presence of kaolin smoking pipes from the site suggests that the mill workers also had disposable income for the purchase of tobacco and other leisure activities.



Figure 4. Domestic artifacts recovered from the Peaslee Paper Mill Site.

The Peaslee site is located on land owned by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The artifacts from the Peaslee Paper Mill site are curated at the Division of Research and Collections at the New York State Museum in Albany.



The New York State Museum's Cultural Resource Survey Program is pleased to announce its newest on-line volume entitled "The J. G. Byers Site, Town of Hoosick, Rennselaer County, New York." The volume details archaeological excavations at the 19th-century domestic site and its role within the larger community. Artifacts associated with the excavation of this site show the changing household preferences of the family at the turn of the century. The volume can be downloaded from the New York State Museum website at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/publications/crsp/>.

#### *2013 Teacher Workshop in Archaeology*

The New York State Museum announces the professional development workshop entitled "*Archaeology in the Classroom!*" Archaeology is a science that reaches into many disciplines making it particularly useful for teaching not only about archaeology but other subjects including the natural sciences, history, math, language arts, geography, social science, and the arts. This approach is consistent with the Core Curriculum changes being implemented across New York State. This workshop provides educators with classroom lessons, activities, and projects (stand-alone or connected to other curricula) designed to expose students to the excitement of archaeology. For more information on the workshop, visit the New York State Museum's website at <http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/education/teacher/workshops/archaeology/index.html>

Submitted by: Christina B. Rieth

## **NEWS FROM HARTGEN ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.**

#### *Mohican-Battenkill 115kv Transmission Line*

In 2012, Hartgen performed Phase II archaeological site evaluations for the MB #33 and MB #81 Precontact Sites for National Grid's Mohican-Battenkill project in the Town of Moreau, Saratoga County, and in the Town of Fort Edward, Washington County. The site evaluations involved 125 shovel tests at 4-meter intervals, 5 excavation units, and 10 surface collection locations. Two precontact hearth features were explored, one at each site.

Based primarily on the data provided by the hearth features, both sites are likely National Register eligible. The MB #33 Precontact Site is on a former island on the flood plain of the Hudson River. A hearth feature at the site, Feature 2, yielded an AMS date of A.D. 1420-1450 (calibrated) and a faunal assemblage largely made up of fish bones. The MB #81 Precontact site is an upland camp from the Late Archaic period. The Normanskill projectile point found there indicates the site was occupied ca. 2,200-1,500 B.C.

The transmission project could not avoid the MB #33 Precontact site, and a Phase III data retrieval study is ongoing. The additional fieldwork involved 24 quarter-meter shovel tests, a backhoe trench, and 10 square meters of unit excavation. The site had an active plowzone and a buried historic plowzone with organic lenses and flood deposits overlying the primary artifact-producing stratum.

Marie-Lorraine Pipes analyzed the bones from the hearth feature. She noted an overrepresentation of gill parts and fins relative to vertebrae, concluding that the fish were trimmed, but not eaten, at the site. Three genii of fish were identified: catfish (Ictaluridae), sucker (Catostomus sp), and walleye (Stizostedion vitreum). Scales from other fish species were also present, but were too damaged to be further identified. Pipes also identified turkey bones, remains of at least one muskrat, gray squirrel, deer, turtle, and freshwater clam in the hearth feature's fill.

The Phase III fieldwork encountered a second feature at the MB #33 Precontact site, a medium-sized pit also used as a hearth (Feature 3). The pit contained precontact pottery with incising and punctate decoration – the small fragment was from the neck of a collarless vessel. Cord-malleated or cord-on-cord pottery was also found in the feature. The feature yielded an amorphous chunk of pottery that had been fired, along with a burnishing tool made from a pebble. These two items indicate that pottery may have been made at the site, possibly within the Feature 3 pit itself.

Charcoal from Feature 3 was AMS dated to circa A.D. 1280-1390 (calibrated). Analysis of the macrofloral assemblage in the feature fill (by PaleoResearch Institute) identified charred maize, butternut shell, and grape (Vitis). Therefore, although the initial assessment of the MB #33 Precontact site suggested that it may have been a fish-processing station of an itinerant group, the Phase III work at the site showed that it was occupied by a settled group of people who grew corn, constructed pottery, and hunted, gathered, and fished.

Submitted by: Matthew Lesniak

Hartgen recently completed a research report/historical context report for the South Troy waterfront area in Rensselaer County. The identification of a precontact site in the industrial waterfront area demonstrated that even ephemeral and discrete precontact Native American sites can be preserved in both unsettled and heavily developed environments, such as South Troy. The historical context report was designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the geological, precontact, and early European Contact period history of the South Troy waterfront area. A historical context is a structured study that describes patterns of history by examining related historic properties based on a theme, geographic limits, and a chronological period. Through intensive historical research and geomorphological analysis Hartgen identified several areas where precontact and early historic sites are potentially preserved, including in the South Troy area. The end result can be used by archaeologists, historians, preservation officers, and project planners in the identification and preservation of associated historic properties in future local planning processes.

Submitted by: Tracy Miller

*Benedict Road Project, Beers Historic Site*

In the summer of 2010, Hartgen was hired to complete an archeological study in an open field south and east of Round Lake Road in the Town of Ballston. Local residents remembered the large dairy farm that once stood in the field (c. 1830) and the old junkyard that covered it after the farm. However, no one knew that this field was also the site of an 18th-century settlement that was an important part of Ballston's rich historical past. Hartgen's excavations and analyses have shown that it was established prior the start of the Revolution and was gone from the landscape shortly after 1800.

A group of Phase I shovel tests found Staffordshire-ware, creamwares, and other early ceramics on a subtle rise in the field. It was clear that there was a much earlier deposit in the same field as the old dairy farm. Archaeology focused on this spot and the subsequent Phase II and III excavations uncovered evidence of a dwelling, a large well, two privies, and dozens of other archeological features that are still being analyzed. Thousands of 18th-century artifacts were

recovered that include an assemblage of coins, both US half-pennies and Connecticut coppers, which are among the earliest coinage minted in the United States.



The Beers Site following stripping to locate subsurface features. In the foreground is the initial excavation of a stone-lined well, the house cellar is to the right (slightly outside of frame), and related features of outbuilding and other farm appurtenances are to the rear.

Research discovered that the archaeological site falls within a lot that belonged to Nathaniel Mead in 1771 and was located along the "East Line," which was the eastern limit of Ballston Town (Ballston) and today Eastline Road. The archaeological evidence suggests the dwelling was impermanent – it did not have a foundation and may have been semi-subterranean. This may have been the pioneer home of Nathaniel Mead or was a tenant farmer who rented the part of the lands from Mead. Research and analysis is on-going and the final report will be completed by October 2013.

Submitted by: Adam Lusier

## NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

### *J. W. Wadsworth 2 Site*

The Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) recently completed a Phase 2 site examination of the J. W. Wadsworth 2 site (SUBi-2705) in the Town of Geneseo, Livingston County as part of a NYSDOT bridge replacement project. The site consisted of four large loci located on the flood plain, first terrace, and lower valley wall of the Genesee River. Locus 2 was a multi-component village site situated on the flood plain and yielded over 25 features and over 5,000 prehistoric artifacts and faunal remains. The locus had been plowed, and then covered with a layer of fill during the twentieth century. The features included post molds, hearths, and several large storage pits. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained for a pair of superimposed features, placing them in the Late Archaic period. Few projectile points were recovered and the majority of those derived from the fill layer. However, Late Woodland pottery was relatively abundant in the plow zone and several features. One of these features exhibited a dark basal deposit that may have been an organic liner, such as grass (Figure 1). Features intersected below the plow zone were typically devoid of pottery, indicating that they may date to a pre-ceramic period.

Locus 1 was situated on the first terrace and was a moderate density lithic scatter of indeterminate cultural affiliation. This locus was bordered by a few buildings and driveways, but on the other side of this minor development was the Hamilton site (Bark 1984). This multi-component village site was excavated in the 1970s and was believed to extend into the area occupied by Locus 1, though no testing of Locus 1 occurred at that time.

Loci 3 and 4 were situated on the lower slope of the gradually rising valley wall. This property belongs to SUNY Geneseo and has been heavily landscaped in portions of the two loci. Locus 3 was relatively intact in areas and yielded a moderate density lithic scatter of flakes and bifacial fragments. No cultural affiliation was identified for Locus 3 during the site examination.

Locus 4 yielded a large hearth feature dated to the Late Archaic by the presence of two Brewerton points. The feature had been truncated by plowing and the plow zone was, in turn, truncated by landscaping. However, the artifact assemblage derived from the plow zone included a few pottery sherdlets suggesting that the locus was multi-component.

The J. W. Wadsworth 2 site was recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Avoidance or data recovery mitigation was recommended for Loci 1 and 2 and for the intact portions of Loci 3 and 4.

#### References:

Bark, Richard W.  
1984 The Hamilton Site. *The Iroquoian* 7:3-16.

Submitted by: Andrea Zlotucha Kozub

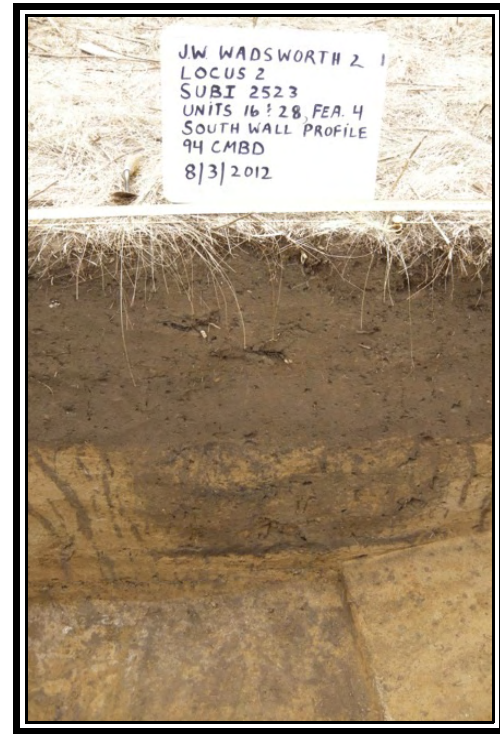


Figure 1. Feature 4 profile, J. W. Wadsworth 2 site.

Throughout the summer of 2012 the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) completed the Phase 3 data recovery for the John Moore Farm site (SUBi-2821; NYSM-12178) in the City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York. The proposed plans call for the construction of a bicycle/pedestrian walkway along the Susquehanna River and NY 434 in the City of Binghamton. The site is situated on a crescent-shaped alluvial terrace adjacent to the Susquehanna River, just west of the confluence with the Chenango River. Soils within the site area (Middlebury silt loam) are derived from Holocene alluvial deposits.

PAF crews completed a total of 63 units as part of the fall 2011 Phase 3 data recovery excavation. Backhoe trenching sampled at least 50% of the area of Clusters 1-2 and roughly 30% of Cluster 3. Total area exposed through backhoe trenching varied from approximately 516 m<sup>2</sup> for Cluster 1 to 195 m<sup>2</sup> for Cluster 2. A smaller 45 m<sup>2</sup> trench was opened within Cluster 3; the remaining acreage of this highly productive section was reserved for the 2012 Binghamton University Archaeology Field School and the Community Archaeology Program (CAP) so that additional hand-excavation could occur in these areas. The field school was conducted at the John Moore Farm site from late May to early July of 2012 under the supervision of PAF. The area investigated by the field school was a highly productive region where detailed hand excavation was recommended. Excavations followed a checkerboard pattern of 1 x 1 meter units, with judgmental units placed around features and/or highly productive zones as defined by PAF in the fall of 2011 during the site examination. Over the six weeks the students moved along the row of units to the east and expanded on units where features were discovered. Following the completion of the field school in early July, the Community Archaeology Program (CAP) was conducted at the site. CAP participants, along with PAF staff, continued working in units/features not fully completed during the field school and opened a number of other units adjacent to highly productive artifact zones. The site was closed (all units completed) in August.

From the 2009 site examination to the data recovery excavations (2011-2012), archaeologists recovered over 11,000 prehistoric artifacts from the John Moore Farm site. Artifact types include: 11,360 pieces of lithic debitage, 13 amorphous cores, 407 chunk/shatter, 14 unifacial tools, 96 bifacial tools, 53 pieces of steatite (363.31 grams), and over 280,000 grams of fire-cracked rock (FCR). In addition to the abundant prehistoric artifacts, 16 cultural features were identified, including at least five hearths.

Site chronology was established based on the recovery of a number of diagnostic artifacts, as well as AMS radiocarbon dating of charred botanical remains from several cultural features. Both data types (artifacts and C14) indicate a series of Late Archaic and Transitional period occupations for the site. Numerous chronologically diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the John Moore Farm site, including: fully intact projectile points, projectile point bases, and steatite fragments. Projectile points range from Lamoka/Vestal types (Late Archaic 2500-1900 BC), Susquehanna Broad points (Transitional 1500-1200 BC), and some possible Orient/Dry-Brook types (Transitional 1100-750 BC). Steatite (another typical Transitional period artifact type) was recovered from across the site, but at least 95% of the pieces were found around the hearth feature (Fea. 3) in Cluster



Lamoka Points recovered from the John Moore Farm site.

3. AMS dating was conducted on charred butternut shell from five cultural features. All five are classified as remnant hearths. Three of the five dated features produced dates within the commonly accepted Transitional Period for the Upper Susquehanna Valley (roughly 1600 to 1000 BC); the two remaining hearths contained charred nutshells dated to the Late Archaic period and appear to be associated with the sporadic Lamoka/Vestal component of the site (approximately 2800 to 2400 BC).





Susquehanna Points recovered from the John Moore Farm site.

Data derived from the field investigations suggest that the site is the remains of several prehistoric hunting/butchering camps, with occupations ranging from the Late Archaic through Transitional Periods. Lithic artifact frequency per unit is high (roughly 67 to 147 per m<sup>2</sup>) with three primary spatial clusters centered around one or more hearth features. This diverse spatial clustering is to be expected at repeatedly visited hunting camp sites. Analysis of the debitage assemblage reflects a strong emphasis on bifacial reduction strategies, and at least 10% of the debitage exhibits macroscopic use-wear. In general, the assemblage reflects a limited number of daily activities, with a primary focus on tool production and hunting-related activities. Mast remains were generally lacking at the John Moore Farm site compared to other regional sites, but all dated features did contain some charred butternut shells. Butternut mature in October-November so it seems likely the John Moore Farm site was occupied primarily during the fall months. A heavy emphasis on hunting/butchering activities at the site appears consistent with a sample of other known Transitional Period sites from the Upper Susquehanna Valley.

As part of the data recovery plan a GIS-assisted landscape model of the local and regional environment was constructed for the Upper Susquehanna Valley. To construct this model a collection of prehistoric sites was digitized into ArcGIS 10.0 and intersected with a variety of spatial datasets. The intersected site results were compared to a random sample of points within the watershed and the environmental variables that produced most significant differences between sites and random points were used to classify basin landforms on a categorical scale. Significant site variables included elevation, slope, distance to water, distance to confluences, and either floodplain or outwash landforms. The GIS settlement model for the basin shows that the entire foot-print of the John Moore Farm site occupies landforms classified as “optimal” based on the selected environmental variables.

Submitted by: Sam Kudrle

#### *Chenango Point South Site, Prehistoric Component*

The Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) completed Phase 2/3 investigations of the Chenango Point South site prehistoric component (SUBi-2776) in the City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York. The site lies near the confluence of the Chenango and Susquehanna Rivers in the urban core of Binghamton. On the parcel to the north is the Chenango Point site investigated previously by PAF (Knapp 2011). Although the two parcels were excavated separately, Chenango Point and Chenango Point South are, in fact, the same site. This write-up will concentrate on the investigation of the southern parcel, Chenango Point South.

The Phase 2/3 field work occurred from 2009 to 2010. A separate volume (O'Donovan 2012) covered the historic nineteenth/twentieth-century component, known as the Binghamton Mall South site (SUBi-2782). PAF first identified the site (prehistoric and historic components) during Phase 1 trenching 1989 and 2008. Further investigations determined that both components were eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Redesign of the project, a privately funded student housing development, was not a viable option and PAF implemented the data recovery plan to mitigate proposed impacts. The Phase 2/3 investigations of the Chenango Point South site occurred from 2009 to 2010.

Archaeologists hand-excavated 21 units and shovel scraped surfaces that had been stripped of asphalt to define features throughout the project area. Excavation strategy was revised through consultation with the Onondaga Nation, DEC, and OPRHP following the identification of human remains in some pit features. Following consultation decisions, when these sacred cultural features were identified, excavation of the feature stopped, the location was mapped, and the pit was backfilled and protected. No further investigation was undertaken.

Site chronology was based on diagnostic artifacts and radiometric dates. Archaeologists recovered 18 projectile points from the Chenango Point South site including two Late Archaic Brewerton points (3000-2500 B.C.) and four Late Woodland Madison and Levanna points (A.D. 800-1550), as well as point fragments and untypable side-notched points. Pottery vessels include those that have been traditionally assigned to the early Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 800-1400) and late Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 1400-1550). Early Late Woodland forms are by far the most common, representing 88% of the temporally assignable vessels. A small, black glass tube bead suggests use of the area into the post-Contact period, possibly lost by travelers to the string of Contact period villages known as Otsungo.



Owasco Horizontal vessels.

Archaeologists secured seven radiometric assays for the Chenango Point South site – one standard chronometric date on wood charcoal and six accelerator mass spectrometry assays (five on maize and one on marsh elder). These dates fall into three basic groups. The earliest has a single member and falls at the end of the Middle Woodland/beginning of the Late Woodland period in the Upper Susquehanna valley. The remaining six radiocarbon dates fall into two clusters associated with the Late Woodland (approximately A.D. 1300-1650). Investigations to the north at the Chenango Point site returned dates with no clear breaks in the occupation of the site from ca. A.D. 1000 and 1400. Dates from Chenango Point South fit within this time frame and expand known site use. While the site (including both portions, north and south) may not have served as a village location for over five centuries, the location may have never been truly abandoned – although occupational intensity may have fluctuated. No radiometric date falls within the Late Archaic period, despite the presence of Late Archaic points.

Archaeologists identified 184 features, including post molds, sacred cultural features, shallow basins, small pits, hearths, storage pits, shell pits, and general pits. Artifacts include 5,556 chipped stone artifacts (projectile points, bifaces, cores, drills, scrapers, flakes, utilized flakes, chunk/shatter, and utilized chunk/shatter), 38 rough stone artifacts (net weights, pitted stones), 2,234 (147,175.11 g) FCR, and 2,054 pottery sherds. Sherds represent a minimum of 68 vessels; again, these mainly fall into the early Late Woodland with a smaller percent (all Richmond Incised) falling into the late Late Woodland.



Drills and scrapers.

Data from the chipped stone assemblage suggest that Late Archaic knappers relied more heavily on a curated bifacial tool technology, while their Late Woodland counterparts more frequently made expedient tools within their residential village setting. The presence of anvils/pitted stones, combined with bipolar flakes and cores, suggests that site occupants used, in part, a bipolar lithic reduction technique. The presence of a shell or bone bead from a Late Woodland shell pit supports Late Woodland shell bead production at the site. Furthermore, a drilled stone bead indicates other types of drilled materials.

Subsistence remains were relatively abundant. Faunal remains from the site include bird, fish, frog/toad, mammals, white-tailed deer, vulture, dog, and shell. Some of the frog/toad remains may have been used in rituals, such as healing ceremonies. A zygomatic arch from the skull of a coyote-sized animal (*Canis sp.*), may also represent ritual activity. Similarly, bones from the wing tip of a carrion bird (*C. aura*) possibly suggest that the wing was used for aesthetic and/or ceremonial purposes. Seven modified bones were also identified -- a possible knife or harpoon fragment, a possible whistle or game piece, a carved mammal bone, an awl, and a carved bone that may be a handle piece. Botanical remains, identified by Nancy Asch Sidell, include maize, a variety of nutshell, sunflower, marshelder, goosefoot, as well as fruit seeds and seeds of medicinal plants. Direct AMS dating of a marsh elder (*Iva annua*) seed to as late as the early fifteenth century helps to set an end date for the use of native cultivated plants in the Northeast.

As stated previously, the Chenango Point South and Chenango Point sites are, in fact, the same site. It is thus important to examine land use patterns across this large area. Most obvious is the absence of clear structural patterns at this portion of the site. To the north (Chenango Point), post molds delineated a partial Late Woodland structure oriented along an east-west axis. Although the intensive historic use of the Chenango Point South site created gaps in the prehistoric spatial patterning, feature data and artifact distributions suggest that there may have been a structure(s) present at Chenango Point South. Radiometric dates and pottery vessels suggest that the Late Woodland occupation may have spread to the south (Chenango Point South) from the north (Chenango Point) through time. The presence of sacred cultural features may indicate a different purpose for this later period of site use.

One of the greatest contributions of this project is the successful consultation with the Onondaga Nation. DEC and the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) initiated contact with the Onondaga Nation to initiate consultation. Once the first consultation meeting was held, it became apparent that the number of participants and their legal representatives could have posed challenges to the successful conduct and completion of the consultation process. However, as the process moved forward, the archaeologists (PAF) and the developers (Washington Development Associates) assumed a more direct role in discussions with tribal representatives from the Onondaga Nation. This was essential to creating an atmosphere of open dialogue, trust, and mutual respect. This cooperative interaction, particularly the eagerness of the developer to address all concerns, was an essential factor to the success of the project when sacred cultural features were found. The protection and preservation of sacred cultural features were memorialized in written documents outlining protocols for their immediate physical protection, and deed restrictions memorializing these protections into the future.

#### Reference:

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2011 *Life at the Confluence: Archaic and Woodland Occupations of the Chenango Point Site (SUBi-1274), Data Recovery Excavations for the Downtown Academic Center Project, City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, MCD 00740*. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University. Binghamton, New York.

O'Donovan, Maria

2012 *Phase 2/3 Archaeological Investigations, Twin River Commons Project, City of Binghamton, Broome County, New York (MCD 00740)*. Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University.

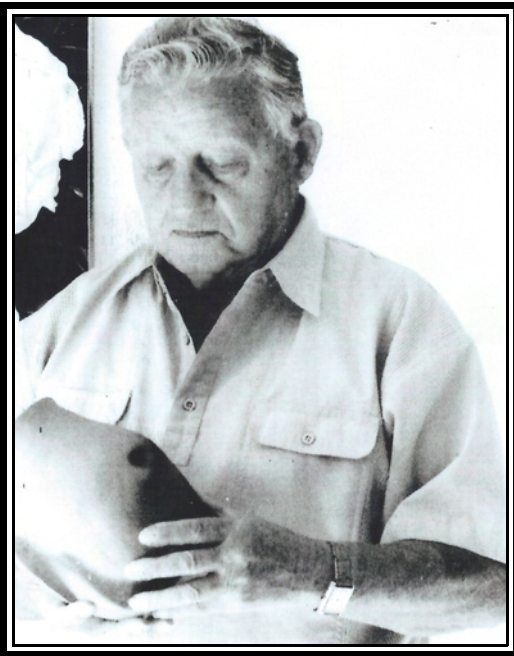
Submitted by: Laurie Miroff



## 2013 NYAC ANNUAL AWARDS

Three individuals were presented with awards at the Spring 2013 NYAC meetings in Watertown. Both Edward Kaeser and Nina Versaggi received the NYAC Founder's Award. Ed's daughter, Jackie Cosentino, wrote the nomination letter for her father and Laurie Miroff wrote a letter for Nina. Doug Mackey wrote a letter of support for Lois Miner Huey, who received an Award in Recognition of Service to NYAC.

### *Edward Kaeser, Founder's Award*



Edward J. Kaeser was a founding member of the Metropolitan Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association and served as president of the chapter from 1967-1969. In 1966 he was made a Fellow of the association and in 2006 received its Achievement Award.

Between 1954 and 1994 he directed or participated in numerous excavations in the New York City area. Some of these were salvage operations and other sites have since been destroyed. He has given numerous archaeological presentations and he has 40 publications to his credit, including 16 in the *NYSAA Bulletin*. He has donated 18 documented collections to the New York State Museum.

Edward J. Kaeser is an exemplary avocational archaeologist and NYAC is pleased to present him with its Founders Award.

### *Nina Versaggi, Founder's Award*

Nina Versaggi has been active in professional archaeology for over 40 years and recently celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> year as Director of the Public Archaeology Facility at Binghamton University. She has been a member of NYAC since 1976 and served as president from 2005 to 2010. Throughout her career she has demonstrated her commitment to professional archaeological standards, concern for archaeological education, and respect for Native American concerns.

As Director of the Public Archaeology Facility, she serves as investigator for over one hundred CRM projects each year. The data gained from these projects has led to major revisions of our understanding of New York State prehistory. She has authored numerous professional papers and publications on the archaeology of the Northeast and regularly encourages students and employees to present their findings. Additionally, she teaches graduate level courses on Cultural Resource and Heritage Management and she established the Community Archaeology Program as a way of bringing archaeology to the public.

Dr. Nina Versaggi is widely regarded as a model professional archaeologist and NYAC is pleased to present her with its Founder's Award.





*Lois Miner Huey, Award in Recognition of Service to the New York Archaeological Council*

Lois Miner Huey has been active in NYAC and the larger archaeological community for over 40 years, serving our organization in a number of important roles, in various offices, on the Board, and in many other ways.

In recent years she had been the driving force behind and the primary author of the NYAC Abstracts, an invaluable summary of all the Advanced Level reports that are reviewed by the State Preservation Office each year.

It soon became apparent that this effort was an important addition to the work of NYAC members. No longer would they have to rely on their own experience or personal communication with someone that might be aware of a particular project in order to identify other projects that might be useful ones own work. Now the Abstract provided an easy to search record, indexed in useful ways, that could be relied upon to help in that process. We know that the Abstracts have been useful to our members, but they have also been helpful to many students and other researches from various parts of the world that have expressed an interest in recent archaeological work in New York.



Each year Lois faithfully works with the SHPO staff to obtain a listing of the new reports, access and examine each one and produce the next volume in the Abstracts. I believe we will soon be seeing Volume 19 – representing 19 years of dedication to this tremendous task.

Please join me in thanking Lois for all the work she had done for NYAC over the years, and especially for the long hours she has spent to keep us all informed through her work on the Abstracts.

Submitted by: Bill Engelbrecht, Chair of the Awards Committee

## SHPO NEWS

As some in NYAC already know, I have been working on a degree in another field for about 4 years. In May I will receive a Masters of Divinity from Drew University and my life will take a new direction. Starting in July I will begin serving as the Pastor at Rockefeller United Methodist Church in Syracuse. Unfortunately, that also means that my time at OPRHP will be coming to an end in June. I have greatly enjoyed my nearly 16 years here at the State Historic Preservation Office and will miss the important work we do, and the all people I have worked with over those years. It has been a great experience. Although it will still be a few months before I leave, I wanted to say thank you to all of you that have made this part of my life journey what it has been. And to let the membership know that others at SHPO will soon be taking on my counties. Although not yet final it looks as if my duties in the Hudson Valley and on Long Island will be shifting to Brian Yates, while those in New York City will go to Phil Perazio. Once these are finalized, a note will be sent out to the email list.

Moving forward, although my positional will change, I hope to remain active in both archaeology and NYAC and look forward to opportunities to work with many of you in the years to come. Should anyone want to contact me, I can be reached through email at Pastdm@gmail.com. Thanks again to everyone for 30 years of interactions, discussions, disagreements and camaraderie.

Submitted by: Doug Mackey

## NEWS FROM THE FUNK FOUNDATION

The Funk Foundation incorporation process has progressed since the Fall 2012 report. The incorporation application, corporate by-laws, and conflict of interest policy were drafted by the Funk Foundation's attorney Janet Thayer, edited, reviewed by the Funk Foundation Governing Council, and returned to Ms. Thayer for filing with the New York State Department of State. Following submittal to the Department of State, clarification became necessary that no potential conflict existed with the State Education Department. This is not unusual when foundations, institutes, etc. are incorporated.

This week (on May 2) the Funk Foundation received word that there are no State Education Department issues, and this notification has been forwarded to the Department of State, hopefully for a quick finalization of the incorporation (*Note: This information is an update to the status of the Funk Foundation incorporation made at the NYAC and NYSAA business meetings on April 26, 2013*). Once notification of incorporation is received from the Department of State, the Funk Foundation can open a bank account and apply to the IRS for 501(c)(3) status in order for the new corporation to receive tax-exempt donations.

In the interim, probably the best way to contribute to the Funk Foundation is to make a contribution through NYAC by paying an additional amount (so designated) when you pay your NYAC dues. Several NYAC members have generously contributed during the last year, mostly through NYAC, while NYAC continues to support the Funk Foundation through the commitment of an annual donation in addition to individual members' donations. For this, the Funk Foundation is very grateful and works to fulfill its mission mindful of the good intentions of the donors.

The Funk Foundation is currently reviewing two grant applications, which have received preliminary reviews. Both grant applicants have responded to questions for clarification, and the review continues as we wait for resolution to the incorporation process and the transfer of our funds from the New York State Museum Institute (where they have been held while the NYSM Institute closes down).

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

## BOOK NOTES

Yale University Press (in association with the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History) announces the publication of *Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples* by Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies. "Lavin draws on exciting new archaeological and ethnographic discoveries, interviews with Native Americans, rare documents including periodicals, archaeological reports, master's theses and doctoral dissertations, conference papers, newspapers, and government records, as well as her own ongoing archaeological and documentary research. She creates a fascinating and remarkably detailed portrait of indigenous peoples in deep historic times before European contact and of their changing lives during the past 400 years of colonial and state history. She also includes a short study of Native Americans in Connecticut in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries."

ISBN 978-0-300-18664-2 | \$45.00 hardcover, 528 pages | Publication Date: June 25, 2013

For more information, or to schedule an interview with Lucianne Lavin, please contact:  
Alden Ferro, Publicist, Yale University Press, 203.432.0909, [alden.ferro@yale.edu](mailto:alden.ferro@yale.edu)

## NYAC NEWSLETTER

*For the Fall 2013 newsletter, please submit by October 15.*

*Submit news in either Word or WordPerfect to Laurie Miroff by email at [lmiroff@binghamton.edu](mailto: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.*