



New York Archaeological Council

NYAC Newsletter

2020

From the President, Doug Perrelli

Greetings NYAC members and friends of New York State archaeology. As you know, The New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) cancelled the spring 2020 meeting on March 13 in response to the earlier decision by the New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) that was predicated by the Governor's COVID-19 response. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again soon, but we obviously needed to postpone the meeting given the state of affairs in New York. We were, as usual, planning a joint meeting with the 104th Annual Meeting of the NYSAA, to be held April 24-26 at the Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah, in Suffern, New York. The NYSAA conference, hosted by the Incorporated Orange County Chapter, is postponed until next year, to be held at the same venue and we look forward to joining them. In lieu of the spring meeting here is an update of recent events and activities.

New LOGO!

Thanks to Pat Heaton and staff from EDR in Syracuse who developed the new NYAC logo you see at the top of this newsletter! We are excited to have a new look and thankful for EDR's expertise and interest in doing this for NYAC.

NYAC Election Results

NYAC election results were reported on behalf of the committee by David Staley on April 18, 2020. In all, 28 ballots were received from members in good standing with 25 ballots received electronically and three by regular mail, resulting in significant changes to the Board. Greetings to our new Vice President Joe Diamond of SUNY New Paltz. Joe replaces Tim Lloyd and will be responsible for membership applications and increasing membership, as well as communicating with the webmaster. Ann Morton has been reelected as NYAC's Treasurer and we thank her for her many years of service in that role. Carol Weed was elected to another term on the Board and we are grateful for her commitment. Our newest Board members are Laurie Miroff, Director of Binghamton University's Public Archaeology Facility (PAF), and Adam Lucier of Hartgen Archaeological Associates. We welcome you both and appreciate your interest in participating. Many thanks are due to Sissie Pipes and Joan Geismar for their years of dedication and service to the NYAC board and membership.

Awards

We are fortunate to have had Bill Engelbrecht serve as the NYAC Awards Committee Chair for over 10 years. He has requested to pass the torch, and we are grateful to Nina Versaggi for agreeing to take on the responsibility of presenting future NYAC Student and Founder's Awards. Nina has expressed an interest in establishing a committee of past winners to select future awardees and we appreciate her willingness to take on this important responsibility for our organization. Note that Founder's Award winners receive lifetime membership in NYAC. The Founder's Award tab will soon appear on the NYAC web page in celebration of all awardees and the founding of the New York Archaeological Council.

Poster

Special thanks to Pat Heaton and the team at EDR for developing a concept and design for the 2020 Archaeology Season poster for NYAC and New York State. This year's poster theme is a map of the state showing the locations of museums that house NYS-based archaeology collections and/or where the public can learn about NYS archaeology. We are compiling a list of museums, historical societies, and other similar repositories that maintain archaeological collections. We would still greatly appreciate your suggestions. Whether they're large or small archaeological collections, we want to represent the diversity of NY's institutions in the poster. Please let us know where your favorite archaeological collections in New York are located! The criteria for inclusion are facilities that have NYS archaeology materials on display and accessible to the public. EDR identified and reached out to hundreds of historical societies and museums. The museums that will be included will represent only those that have archaeological materials on display for the public. Printing and distribution of the poster has been delayed due to the current situation in New York and our inability to take advantage of the opportunities that would be presented by the poster. It will be unveiled soon, when it can be put to good use!

Note that we are attempting to alternate between Archaeology Season posters and Archaeology Video Festivals on an annual basis for the spring meeting. NYAC has a need for sponsorship and a concept for the 2021 Archaeology Video Session.

NYAC Programs: Tribal Consultation

The following is a summary of events and planning leading up to what was supposed to be our Spring Meeting Program for the year 2020. Much has happened in terms of trying to organize a NYAC program that involves a conversation with Native American/Indian Nations about the performance of archaeology in a consultation framework in New York. Our plan is to pick up this program idea at our next meeting. Recall that this effort began over a year ago and the first phase occurred at the 2019 Spring Meeting.

Tribal Consultation Part I, M. L. Pipes

The 2019 spring meeting afternoon program was held in Johnstown and was well-attended and generated a lot of discussion about archaeological oversight and consultation with Native American or Indian Nations. Topics included the responsibilities and limits of involvement on the part of regulatory agencies such as the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and various cultural resource management (CRM) firms. Presenters were Dirk Marcucci of Landmark Archaeology, Inc., Patrick Heaton of Environmental Design and Research (EDR), Nina Versaggi as Director of the Binghamton University Public Archaeology Facility (PAF), David Witt from DEC, and Nancy Herter from SHPO. Several key issues of concern emerged at this time and the intent was to address some of these at an expanded Spring 2020 NYAC Meeting to include representatives of Tribes and Nations from across New York.

First, it is evident that there is a great need for the CRM community to better understand the legal boundaries for discussing projects with Nation representatives. The permitting agency, such as the DEC or US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has the legal authority to determine how a project unfolds. Because some tribal groups are sovereign Nations unto themselves, consultation on projects must go through appropriate officials of the state or US government, such as the appropriate DEC or USACE representative. A second issue involves the sometimes-misunderstood role of the State Historic Preservation Office. The SHPO acts in an advisory capacity. They review state projects as well as other projects - when they are asked to do so, and they typically are asked to do so. Third, it was emphasized by all presenters that establishing and maintaining good relationships with tribal representatives based on trust and communication is important. Delays and other unforeseeable issues will often arise on projects and having good communication between parties avoids negative tensions. It is also important for the tribal representatives to be copied on all correspondence between CRM firms and the permitting and oversight agencies.

While CRM firms typically do not have the authority to consult directly or negotiate project outcomes, when the permitting agency representative is confident in the Principle Investigator's abilities, there may be less formal communication and agreements made between clients, consulting parties, Nations, and agencies. On occasion there are projects that do not have any direct consultation involving the CRM firm and the tribes. It is rare for a CRM firm to be left out of discussions, but when that happens it may be because the tribe involved lacks confidence in the firm.

The program ended with a discussion of the fall 2019 program, with the intent of inviting Indian Nations from across New York to participate. The program was tentatively scheduled for September 28th at Utica College, a location selected because of its central location and a tentative invitation to use the facilities at little or no cost.

Unlike past programs, this event was envisioned as a full day event with a luncheon and a fee for attendees to support the cost of lunch and the inclusion of people from across the state. We planned to invite Indian Nation representatives, archaeologists, permitting agencies, such as DEC and USACE, and SHPO to speak in the morning about issues and concerns. The afternoon program was envisioned as break-out sessions and workshops on specific issues that emerged in the morning session. To this end and after considerable drafting and editing on behalf of the NYAC Board, an invitation letter was composed and sent to the many Indian Tribes and Nations with interests in New York state in July. It reads as follows:

7/15/2019

Greetings from the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) membership. We hope you are well. NYAC is an organization of concerned professional archaeologists involved in Cultural Resource Management (CRM) in New York State. We recognize a need for better communication between Nations and CRM archaeologists and are proposing a Listening Session to improve our relationships with you. We acknowledge that archaeologists and anthropologists have contributed to the trauma experienced by Indigenous Peoples, past and present and we would like to do better and improve our relationship.

Every year a range of CRM professionals conduct archaeological investigations on Native American sites across the state. Many CRM archaeologists in New York State belong to the New York Archaeological Council but some do not, so we cannot speak for everyone. NYAC has at its core a responsibility to promote high standards of ethical and professional practice and part of this is developing a better understanding of the historical realities experienced by Indigenous People. We acknowledge that many CRM archaeologists have a poor knowledge base, limited experience and often lack cultural sensitivity when working with Nations. We are encouraging our membership to become better educated and more respectful.

NYAC would like to listen to the Nations, including those who are members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, about their experiences and challenges relating to the archaeology process in New York. While CRM firms do not consult directly with Nations, they are responsible for providing archaeological information throughout the process and to a wide variety of entities, agencies and clients. We often work with Nation representatives on projects that are culturally sensitive and historically important. CRM firms are often more aware of the laws governing their actions than the historical context and legitimate concerns involved Nations. Our goal is to better understand these concerns and improve our interactions and practices, especially with regard to the treatment of archaeological sites and cultural objects and their interpretation. Only through education and effective communication can these challenges be met.

NYAC members invite you to participate in a day-long event on September 28, 2019, at Utica College
NYAC will cover all travel costs for one delegate from each participating Nation
NYAC will provide a complimentary lunch for all Nation delegates

We would like to hear from as many Nations as possible. Enclosed is a brief program format description and registration form. The time given to speakers will depend on the number of participants, so we ask that you fill out the form and send it to me by August 15th so we can plan a schedule and lunch. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions whatsoever. More details will be provided as they emerge. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing back from you.

Respectfully,

**Nations and CRM Archaeology in New York: A Listening Session
Preliminary Program Format**

Morning Session: 9 – 12 AM

- Welcome
- Introduction to the topic and attendees
- Nation Presentations and Discussion

Lunch: 12-1:30 PM

Afternoon Session: 1:30 – 5 PM

- Nation Presentations and Discussion
- OPEN Discussion and Comments
- Farewell

Use this REGISTRATION FORM to register for the program. Please indicate if you would like to make a formal presentation and provide a title and description if you wish. Please return the form by August 15th via email to: perrelli@buffalo.edu or by regular mail to: Doug Perrelli, University at Buffalo, 380 MFAC, Ellicott Complex, Buffalo, NY 14261.

Name and Title: _____

Nation: _____

Contact Information: _____

Any specific issues/concerns for discussion: _____

Any additional Nation Delegates we should plan to welcome: _____

Unfortunately, we received zero responses to the letter from the Nations. In retrospect, the letter comes across as overly formal and it is perhaps not surprising that the response was as it was. The registration form was intended as a planning tool so we would know the number of attendees and participants, but in the context of regulatory archaeology in New York this is likely perceived as too formal and putting individuals on the spot for representing the complex views of Nations. Still, it was surprising that no one responded, so I reached out to several Nation representatives that I have good working relationships with for perspective. After several conversations it was clear that there is caution and mistrust on behalf of most Native people and Nations towards NYAC and NYSAA. This is based in part on the long history of actions against the legitimate and expressed wishes of these sovereign Nations, most importantly involving the treatment of human remains. The issue of consultation and regulatory interaction with archaeologists and agencies is separate and equally complicated. Fortunately, there are many examples of good relationships, cooperation and interaction between archaeologists and Nations across New York and we have good models to work with. After the initial rejection and conversation, people generally agreed that they would attend a meeting in the future to discuss these issues.

Still, the lack of response by Nations for the fall 2019 meeting presented a problem in terms of having a meeting program, but the conversations with Nation representatives presented a solution. The conversations produced a number of identifiable themes and issues to address, so a review of this list of grievances was the fall 2019 program topic. The fall meeting venue was changed due to some problems we had with Utica College regarding the high cost of the venue and insurance requirements. Thankfully, the meeting was hosted by Binghamton University and PAF. This was an important but poorly attended meeting. The discussion that ensued was interesting and productive and resulted in a number of resolutions and ideas for moving forward with the issues that emerged and a future meeting program.

Dolores Elliot recalled a clause in the NYAC Standards from past meetings where members signed a pledge to not excavate burials. We discussed whether these were or should be part of the By-Laws, so this is something to consider moving forward. Although not presented here, it is available upon request (contact me).

The spring 2020 NYAC meeting was to be held on a Friday with the 104th Annual Meeting of the NYSAA April 24-26 at the Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah, in Suffern, New York. The plan was to have a presentation and larger conversation about information from the Nations and ideas from the fall discussion. Some Nation representatives had agreed to come, and the program would likely have been important and interesting. I hope you agree that we should continue along this topic of conversation when we can meet face-to-face, or perhaps we will be urged to do so least six feet apart. Either way, look forward to a presentation regarding the information and having what will at times be a difficult conversation with a diverse range of Nation reps, NYAC and NYSAA members, agency reps and others. If future meetings continue to be a problem for our organization, this information will need to be communicated another way and I'm working on that now. It is really complicated and sensitive information, so it is hard to put it in the newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

Fort Bull Battlefield Project (Rome, NY)

Since April 2019 the Public Archaeology Facility (PAF), in partnership with the Rome Historical Society (RHS), has been conducting a battlefield survey of a French and Indian War battlefield. Funding for this project was provided through a grant from the National Park Service – American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS-ABPP). The project's research goal is to define the extent of the Fort Bull battlefield boundaries.



*A view of the earthworks and parade ground of Fort Wood Creek, facing northeast.
(Photo courtesy of Arthur L. Simmons III, Executive Director, Rome Historical Society.)*

The attack on Fort Bull on March 27, 1756 was devastating, debilitating, and demonstrative. The French control of Lake Ontario was paramount to the fur trade with indigenous groups in the Great Lakes region. The establishment of a small British seasonal trading post at the outlet of the Oswego River beginning in the mid-1720s highlighted the growing encroachment of British traders which diverted furs coming from predominately Onondaga Nation trappers. By 1755 Fort Oswego garrison and defenses were strengthened in anticipation of an expedition against the French at Fort Niagara. French military strategists saw the potential threat that Fort Oswego posed to French trade and dominance on Lake Ontario. Their plan to neutralize the British presence at Fort Oswego set the stage for an attack on the fort's supply lines. The honor of command for this military operation was entrusted to Lieutenant Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry. His late winter trek with 362 French marines, Canadians, and Native Americans covered approximately 273 km (170 miles), bringing Léry to the strategic heart of the British supply chain on the Oneida Carry. The subsequent attack targeted the small palisaded fortification called Fort Bull located on Wood Creek. The violent destruction of the fort and slaughter of its defenders illustrated the fragility of the supply network. Ultimately, this attack on the Oneida Carry and Fort Bull led to an under supplied, under manned garrison at Fort Oswego when it was captured by Montcalm in August 1756.

The research goal of this project is to identify and document defining features of the landscape that eyewitness accounts noted in journals, letters, or reports written prior to and after the battle. Using these descriptions from the primary sources, researchers can place the battlefield within the context of the modern landscape. Researchers utilize a military terrain analysis system for categorizing and organizing defining landscape features noted in the primary sources. The system is a process used by the military both to describe the terrain of the battlefield environment and

to analyze the significance of the terrain. By studying the military significance of the terrain, a person can identify the historic battlefield "hidden" in the modern landscape. Military terrain is analyzed using five key aspects: Key and Decisive Terrain, Observation and Field of Fire, Cover and Concealment, Obstacles, and Avenues of Approach/Retreat.

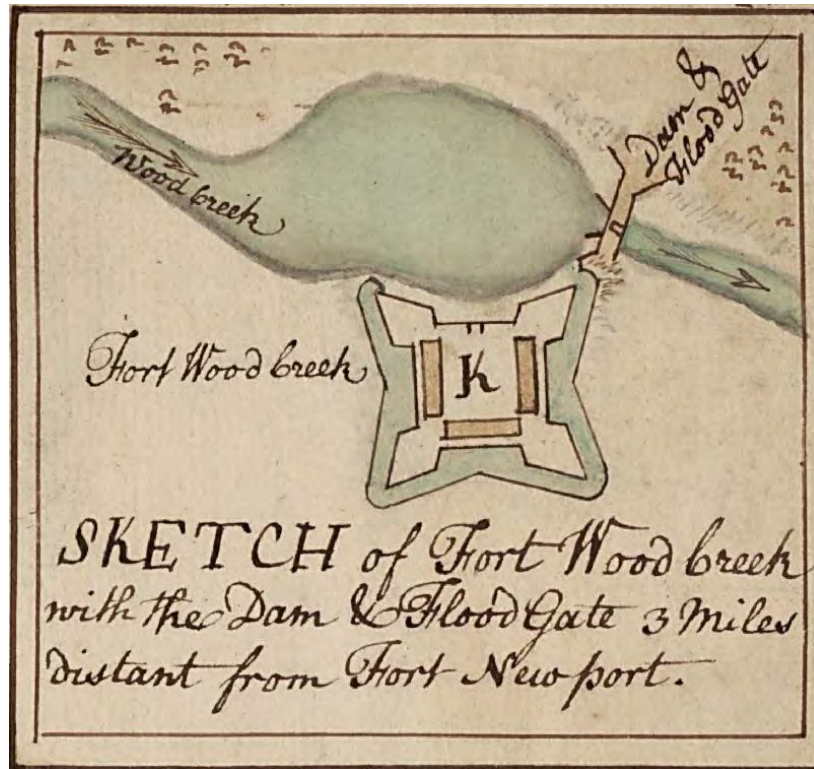
The most significant defining feature of this battlefield was the English fortification, Fort Bull. The construction of Fort Bull was completed in November 1755 to secure the western end of the Oneida Carry on Wood Creek with Fort Williams positioned approximately 4 miles east along the Mohawk River. The remainder of the fall and winter was spent transferring supplies across the carry to Fort Bull's storehouses and magazine with the expectation that these supplies would be ready for transport to Fort Oswego when the ice broke on Oneida Lake. In March 1756, Fort Bull was a lightly defended, richly supplied military target.

Following the attack and destruction of Fort Bull, British commanders were directed to reestablish another fortification to secure the western end of the Oneida Carry. In April 1756 a four-bastion fort with a moat was constructed. This new post was called Fort Wood Creek and is still visible today under the care of RHS. However, the French capture of Fort Oswego in August of 1756 prompted the British to destroy all the military fortifications for fear of them being captured by the French and abandon their control of the Oneida Carry until the spring of 1758.



Fort Wood Creek parade ground with the Battle of Fort Bull monument and Wood Creek in the background.

One hypothesis that is being explored in this research project is whether the second fortification was constructed on top of the original Fort Bull location or a nearby location. Locating Fort Bull and where the battle took place is vitally important since the fort is a key defining feature. On March 26, 1756 a very vicious engagement occurred at the walls of Fort Bull and eventually within the fort. Three translated lines from De Léry's journal were identified as events that would leave an archaeological signature and, if located, could provide evidence on the location of the battlefield. De Léry mentions the British defenders "firing heavy musketry and throwing quantities of grenades;" "the fort, warehouses and houses explode or catch fire;" and "the bombs, grenades, and cannonballs" are thrown into Wood Creek by the French. The field methodology is focusing on looking for munitions made from lead and iron, buttons, weapon parts, military accoutrements made from brass, copper, or pewter; a debris field or crater caused by the explosion and evidence of burning; and munitions in Wood Creek. Locating some or all of these archaeological signatures, in the right context, will be key to locating the fort.



A sketch of Fort Wood Creek as constructed by Major Charles Craven prior to General Webb's order to destroy the Carry Forts on August 31, 1756 (Mackellar 1756).



Timothy De Smet, PhD, Director, Geophysics and Remote Sensing Laboratory, Binghamton University conducting survey of the Fort Wood Creek parade ground with Cesium Vapor (CS-L) Magnetometer.

PAF and the Geophysics Remote Sensing Laboratory at Binghamton University have employed several different archaeological and geophysical methods to assist with locating the data we need to confirm the fort's location. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) is a nondestructive method that uses radar pulses to image the subsurface. GPR can detect subsurface objects, changes in material properties, and voids. Cesium Vapor (CS-L) Magnetometer is a nondestructive geophysical method for surveying the direction, strength, or relative change of a magnetic field at a particular location. The instrument can measure the earth's magnetic field altered by the presence of archaeological features and artifacts, such as soil disturbances, burning activities, or metal objects. Micro-fabricated Atomic Magnetometer on UAV Platform measures the vector magnitude of the magnetic field which is not affected by sensor orientation. The instrument is enclosed in a specifically designed aerodynamic UMT MagPiuke-1 Platform lifted using a DJI Matrice 600 hexacopter UAV. This platform was used to survey Wood Creek which is not accessible to traditional terrestrial platforms.



Alex Nikulin, PhD, Department of Geology, Binghamton University preparing the UMT MagPiuke-1 Platform and the DJI Matrice 600 hexacopter UAV for survey of Wood Creek.

Archaeologists also completed a metal detector survey to sample the near surface metal artifacts. We sampled a 2 m (6 ft) transect every 8 m (26 ft) across the property owned by RHS.



Metal detection survey line from the 2019 season.

Geophysics data are still being analyzed, but metal detection has produced some intriguing results that appear to reflect that archaeologists are within the core of the battlefield. The recovery of British grenade fragments, fired and dropped British and French musket balls, and artillery ordinance found on the shoreline of Wood Creek and within a buried A-horizon context is encouraging. PAF will be returning to the field this summer to conduct limited excavations to examine anomalies located in the geophysics survey.



British grenade fragments recovered during the metal detector survey.



Fired and dropped French musket balls. Left: 0.62 cal. balls French trade gun. Right: 0.67-0.69 cal. ball most likely from French Charleville musket.



Fired and dropped British musket balls. Left: 0.70 to 0.74 cal. balls fired from the British Land Pattern “Brown Bess” Musket. Right: 0.58 cal. ball most likely from British pistol.



British 6 and 12-pound cannon balls recovered during the metal detector survey. This ordinance was destined for Fort Oswego as no cannon were mounted at Fort Bull or Fort Wood Creek.

References:

Mackellar, Patrick

1756 *PLAN of the FORTS at the Onoida or Great Carrying Place in the Province of New York in America built by Major Charles Craven by Order of General Shirley Commander in Chiefe of all His Majesty's Forces in North America; and Destroyed by Gen.l Webb 31st. August 1756, before they were finished, also of General Webbs Encampment within his Entrenchments & Great Works, which he quitted 1st. September 1756 & Retreated to the German Flatts.* British Library Collection, London, UK. Accessed May 29, 2020.
<https://collections.leventhalmap.org/search/commonwealth:hx11z349h>

Submitted by: Brian Grills

NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

During the fall of 2019 Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. completed a Phase 3 data recovery excavation at Site 1 of the Exit 21 Development Project in the Town of Catskill, Greene County, New York. Site 1 is a workshop and probable habitation site located in a small valley at the foot of a limestone ridge that contains the REF Quarry Site, a site investigated by Hartgen Archeological Associates in the early 2000s. This ridge and valley situation occurs within a broader, rugged ridge and valley terrain referred to as the Hudson Valley Fold Thrust Belt (HVFTB). This portion of the HVFTB is comprised of parallel ridges and valleys formed in Kalkberg, New Scotland, and Becraft limestones, which are all rock strata of the chert-bearing Helderberg group. The fold-thrust terminology refers to processes that somewhat distorted the stratigraphic order among units of the Helderberg and other groups and arrayed perceptible rock stratigraphy horizontally and with reversals. Kalkberg chert outcrops at the REF Quarry site and was transported by hand from the mine faces to the Site 1 workshops on the gentle valley slope below. Besides Kalkberg chert in the bedrock, glacial erratics composed of Onondaga limestone arrayed over other nearby ridges and slopes add diversity to the locally available chert. In addition to excavating within Kalkberg chert workshops, the data recovery project discovered buried fragments of an Onondaga limestone erratic that had been taken apart and exploited to recover knappable chert, forming yet another workshop area. Finally, the REF quarry contained a small crystal quartz mine, and Site 1 contained a workshop where crystal quartz appears to have been extracted from quartz matrix carried from this mine or a similar source. Projectile points recovered from Site 1 are very fragmentary and appear to represent different forms of stemmed points. More consideration is needed before assessing chronological implications. At present the workshops appear to reflect a variety of activities. In addition to early stages of chert reduction, these activities appear to include the manufacture and use of unifacial blades or blade-like flakes, unifacial scrapers, spokeshaves, and gravers, as well as the afore-mentioned quartz crystal extraction. Apparently Site 1 was a chert reduction and crystal extraction workshop area as well as a more complex industrial site that also featured the production of chipped stone technology for intensive work in other activities, plus the performance of those activities.



Site 1 workshop excavation with the REF Quarry site in the background.

During May 2020 Curtin Archaeological began a Phase 3 data recovery project at the Hemphill site in the Town of Malta, Saratoga County. The Phase 2 investigation suggests that there are spatially differentiated ceramic assemblages reflecting temporal and functional variation. However, it is too early at the time of this writing to discuss even preliminary data recovery results. Nonetheless, there is a potential for additional interesting results as well as further insights from spatial variation. The site was established about 1800 by Robert Hemphill, a pioneer immigrant from New Hampshire. The 1820 census records the presence of two people of color, one enslaved and one free, within the otherwise white Hemphill household. The status of the household's African American members is not yet fully understood with respect to relationship or New York's complicated and nuanced emancipation history. Nor have their names been identified. However, Robert Hemphill, his son Augustus, and Augustus's daughter, Anna, acquired and farmed considerable land and represented a leading Malta family over the course of the 19th century.



Hemphill site excavation set up to assist social distancing.



Wash station set up with soap, water, diluted bleach spray, first aid kit, etc. at the Hemphill site.

Our data recovery work at the Hemphill site is being conducted with carefully considered safety and social distancing guidelines and practices that will be reported in the Curtin blog *Fieldnotes* by early in June (www.curtinarch.com/blog). Briefly, these protocols incorporate guidance from New York State for the reopening of work in fields such as construction. We also are following a widespread practice in current CRM: arrival and departure in separate cars. Practices for the Hemphill project also include wearing masks when closer than 6 feet (including masks provided by the employer), a wash station, and a table separate from the wash station where any items that need to be shared are stored and available. Chlorine wipes and hand sanitizer are available in the same location for use with shared items. More detailed information and photos will be included in the June blog article.

Ed Curtin and Kerry Nelson presented a paper on historic charcoal manufacturing sites (“charcoal pits”) at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) conference at Lake George in November, 2019. Also, Ed Curtin published a commemoration of the globally respected archaeologist, Columbia University professor, and long-time Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) member, Dr. Ralph Solecki. This is published in the 2019 volume of *The Bulletin, New York State Archaeological Association*.



A charcoal pit in Saratoga County. Note the low mound and just to its right a shallow ditch.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

HISTORY TOURS AT FORT DRUM CONTINUE VIRTUALLY DURING PANDEMIC

Fort Drum, NY - The Fort Drum History Tours have become popular among residents in local communities, gathering hundreds of visitors on post in recent years. Now people can still explore Fort Drum history on guided tours, but from the comfort of their homes.

Heather Wagner, Fort Drum Environmental Division public outreach and education coordinator, didn't want to see this program lose momentum during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In late April, she began recording video tours, starting with the Lewisburg Cemetery and following up with a tour of Lewisburg - similar to what visitors would experience during the Lost Villages Tour.

She has posted three videos, so far, on the Fort Drum Environmental YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCnZKLRVZrrxe-9QyilnpLnQ, with links also available at www.facebook.com/FortDrumCulturalResources/.

The Cultural Resources staff had the idea of creating educational videos before the pandemic, and Wagner said that this was the right time to start.

"The goals for me are to continue providing quality education and outreach for the Environmental Division, to ensure that our greater Fort Drum community has access to this information in this new normal, and to say thank you for all the public who over the years have provided the teams with information and support," she said.

Wagner said that she approached this endeavor with no video recording or editing experience, but she is learning on the go.

"The response to them has been overwhelmingly positive, even with a shaky camera," she said. "I am so glad that they are getting out to people who enjoy them. I have really, unexpectedly, loved doing these videos after I acknowledged to myself that they were not going to be perfect."

She said that the videos are attracting new visitors, as well as people she has met on previous tours.

"I think having these videos in record is crucial for posterity," Wagner said. "It has been a great way for me to manage some of our data, put the thousands of images people have given us to good use, and record my own thoughts and memories of these areas. I think, and hope, that they will be a great resource for future historians."



So far, the Lewisburg tour has been the most popular - with nearly 900 visits. Her oldest son told her she won't be a social media sensation until she exceeds 1 million views, but she noted that local historical groups have been discussing the videos online. Wagner said she hopes that parents and teachers can use these videos to teach children about local history.

"Even before the pandemic, schools were cutting back on field trips and outside learning experiences due to budget constraints," she said. "This is a huge issue for me. I am a Carthage (Central High School) graduate and I fell in love with history because of field trips. In 5th grade my teacher, Mrs. Thornton, walked us through Carthage and pointed out historic buildings and why they are important, how the great Carthage fire spread, and how cemeteries hold a wealth of information in them. That was the start of my love of history."

Heather Wagner guides a group of visitors through an historic cemetery at Fort Drum, NY.

In high school, Wagner went on a field trip to Fort Drum to observe an archaeological dig where evidence of a cavalry camp was being investigated.

"That was it for me, I was obsessed," she said. "It was like being in my own National Geographic adventure. And my dad said I would never get a job studying history and archaeology."

An archaeologist by training and education - as well as a historian - Wagner said she might never have pursued this career path if it had not been for her classroom experiences.

"I feel a personal responsibility to make sure those experiences are accessible to our Fort Drum families, and our greater Fort Drum community," she said. "Now I get to spread the love of history virtually, maybe to someone on the far side of the world. That is a total 'pie in the sky' mentality, but I really do hope it provides a spark to a student's interest."

Wagner said that her excursions would not have been possible without the support and coordination from the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security's Range Control.

"They have been awesome getting me access to these sites," she said.

Even a fierce encounter with black flies and ticks during a recent visit to Fuller Road Cemetery couldn't diminish her enjoyment of the work.

"Being outside this spring in particular has been nothing short of magical," Wagner said. "The pace of my life is so much slower right now than in recent years, and my goal is to really step into that pace while I can enjoy it. I haven't been to these sites with only one or two people in, literally, decades. There is something indescribable about the quiet and camaraderie that exists in that space with your team. It is like a visit with your favorite old friends."

She still looks forward to the time when busloads of visitors can share history of Fort Drum with the Environmental team.

"I try to mention it on every tour, but I learn so much more from our visitors than I could have ever thought, more than they ever learn from me," Wagner said. "You get to experience a site through their eyes and memories. To see all the emotion that being in a particular place, that looks so incredibly different, does to and for them."

Alpina is the next on her itinerary, and she plans on covering all of the Lost Villages, the 13 cemeteries on post and LeRay Mansion Historic District.

Wagner also alluded to stories she is excited to tell about the historic people and places of Fort Drum and a collaboration with Natural Resources staff on a video series.

"I think people will really enjoy them, so stay tuned!" she said.



Heather Wagner, Fort Drum Environmental Outreach Coordinator, welcomes "Lost Villagers"

Submitted by: Laurie Rush

HEALTH AND SAFETY PLANS – MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

Health and Safety Plans (HASPs) often are company-wide documents that are not routinely modified for project-specific conditions. The current health emergency makes it important that general HASPs are updated to respond to federal, state, and local restrictions and to ensure the safety of crew members. To these ends, the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) is offering a Webinar on Demand titled “Safety and HR for CRM During Covid-19” (<https://acra-crm.org/webinarsondemand>). It is free to ACRA members and students and costs only \$10 for non-members.

Safety Management Group also has some helpful guidance on “Best Construction Safety Practices for COVID-19” and that April 14, 2020 post can be found at <https://safetymanagementgroup.com/best-construction-safety-practices-for-covid-19/>.

In sum, we encourage all archaeologists who are conducting fieldwork during COVID-19 to use their company’s existing HASPs and to work with their health and safety contacts to adjust the HASPs to reflect current conditions.

Submitted by: Carol S. Weed

SAFETY PLANNING FOR GETTING BACK TO THE FIELD UNDER A COVID-19 CLOUD

Note: the following offers some suggested guidance on developing a safety plan for resuming archaeological fieldwork in New York State, but views and opinions expressed here are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any other agency, organization, employer, or company.

Within a few short months, the novel coronavirus known as SARS-CoV-2 has changed so much of life here in New York. As I write this I hope you are all doing well, knowing that many of you have been faced with challenges such as lack of work, trying to find a whole new work/life balance, or even direct experience with COVID-19 illness. Now that most parts of New York are reopening and people are getting back to work, we need to adjust many of our normal routines to do our best to keep the pandemic curve flat. The coronavirus is still a threat as long as there is no effective treatment or vaccine.

Developing a written safety plan is not only important for communicating new procedures but is actually required by the state as part of the phased reopening. While there are no guidance documents explicitly made for archaeology and other types of cultural resource work, New York does have a written plan for construction work that addresses many of the issues and situations our field crews share; there is also a written plan for office environments. Summary and detailed guidelines for construction, along with a business safety plan template can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov/phase-one-industries> while those for offices can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov/phase-two-industries>. Note that all guidance in New York State is frequently updated; the gateway for all coronavirus-related information can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

The state guidelines include sections on physical distancing, protective equipment, cleaning and hygiene, communication, and screening. Our team is currently using a document that covers all these topics, but is organized by pre-project planning, field and travel concerns, dealing with paperwork and artifacts, and health concerns. It was developed before the state guidelines were posted, adjusted as necessary, and is still considered a work in progress. Last year we started using a “Project Information Sheet” to be carried in all field vehicles that provides information such as field site location that can be described to 911 in the event of an emergency, nearest urgent care clinics and emergency rooms, and hotel information, but our starting point for coronavirus-specific planning was a document that Tim Scarlett of Michigan Technological University posted to the HISTARCH listserv in late April. It was expanded upon with staff input through email and video meetings. The following is an abridged version of what our team is using for the field as of June 3, 2020. I welcome any feedback or ideas you may want to share; please email me at daria.merwin@gmail.com. Stay safe out there!

Example Fieldwork Safety Plan

All times: staff are to continue to follow the best practices laid out by New York State, including keeping a minimum distance of 6 feet (2 meters) between people, wearing face masks/covering, frequent hand washing, covering coughs, and staying home if symptoms such as fever or cough develop or if the staff member has been in contact with a person with symptoms. Current information regarding COVID-19 in New York is here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

Pre-Project Planning

1. Project Director will coordinate start of fieldwork with Co-Director and client agency liaison and prepare Project Information Sheet including COVID-19 resources (e.g., field site County Health Department contact information).
 - a. At least two senior staff members not going in the field will be identified to provide remote backup/advice to field teams; contact information will be provided on the Project Information Sheet to be copied and placed in all vehicles
2. Travel planning considerations:
 - a. When possible, book hotel away from dense urban areas and away from hospitals where medical staff and/or convalescent Covid-19 patients may be staying.
 - b. When possible, book hotel rooms with kitchen appliances and near a supermarket.
3. Co-Director, working with Project and Lab Directors, will set up database template for field notes and establish a folder on a shared site (in our case, a drive on a shared server).

In the Field

1. Hygiene:
 - a. Gloves, masks, hand sanitizer for personal use and sanitizing wipes or spray plus paper towels for cleaning equipment and vehicles will be provided; alternatively, staff may wear personal cloth face coverings when in public.
 - b. Any time staff are less than 6 feet (2 meters) apart from one another, acceptable face coverings must be worn (including, but not limited to, cloth [e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana] and surgical masks).
 - i. Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded.
 - c. Limit the sharing of objects (e.g., tools, materials, vehicles) and discourage touching of shared surfaces; or, when in contact with shared objects or frequently touched areas, wear gloves (trade-appropriate or medical); or, sanitize or wash hands before and after contact.
2. Fieldwork:
 - a. All commuting will be done with only one person per vehicle.
 - b. Each member of the field team will have an assigned set of equipment for their use only; sets may be marked with flagging tape or other method.
 - i. Any equipment that must be shared (e.g., GPS) will be cleaned between users; when possible, allow a minimum of 48 hours between each use; use 70 percent isopropyl alcohol wipes or Clorox Disinfecting Wipes to wipe down any hard, nonporous surfaces.
 - c. All collective activities (e.g., reviewing daily work plan) will be done outside, maintaining at least 6 feet (2 meters) between individuals; keep such activities as short as possible.
 - d. Field supervisors and crew will need to maintain distance when discussing exposed soils, artifact identifications, checking paperwork, etc.
 - e. On projects where excavation units are dug, only one staff member at a time will work in the unit.
 - f. Use digital mapping (e.g., GPS) as much as possible in the field to facilitate data transfer to GIS/CADD staff for project map development.

Hotel and Meal Considerations

1. Once checked into individual rooms, wipe down commonly touched objects and surfaces (e.g., door handles, drawer pulls, remote controls, sink areas, etc.).
2. Keep Do Not Disturb sign displayed on room door for the length of stay.
3. Do not congregate in public areas inside the hotel (e.g., lobby), do not use hotel facilities (e.g., exercise room, pool).

4. Group meetings or meals can be held outside as long as distancing can be maintained.
5. Plan to use supermarkets and takeout exclusively for all meals; ideally, keep these trips to a minimum (e.g., one or two supermarket trips per week in the field).

Paperwork and Artifacts

1. Each field crew member may be responsible for entering their own field notes such as STP records into an electronic database.
 - a. In the event that a project is high priority with an abbreviated timetable, each field crew member will take clear digital photographs or scans of all paperwork to email to the Project Director and Lab Director handling the project every night in the field so that the database can be completed right away.
 - b. In the case of projects with a typical schedule, each field crew member will keep their own notes in their possession until they complete data entry either from the field, working from home, or eventually in the office.
2. At the end of the week, each field crew member will transfer digital photographs and any other digital files to the Project Director and Co-Director by email if possible; these will be posted to the shared site.
3. Once field notes have been transcribed, all paperwork will be kept with any artifact bags in “quarantine” for a minimum of one week prior to processing in the lab. Paperwork and artifacts will be placed in a lidded plastic bin at the end of each week and placed in a dedicated “quarantine” area in the office or lab.
 - a. In the event that a project is high priority with an abbreviated timetable, time will be set aside while still in the field so that each crew member can do a preliminary inventory/identification of all artifacts they collected. This preliminary artifact list will include material type, description, and count, and will be emailed to the Project and Lab directors along with artifact photographs if warranted. The list can be a legible hand-written document that has been photographed or scanned.
4. Project Directors will be responsible for scanning and/or taking clear photographs of field maps to share via electronic means (preferably email) with the GIS/CADD staff to aid in the preparation of report figures. Original paper maps will be placed in “quarantine” with other project materials for a minimum of one week.

Personal and Health Considerations

1. Field work during the COVID-19 pandemic will not be business as usual and will likely take significant adjustment on everyone’s part. All staff are asked to respect other’s concerns, and realize some staff will be more sensitive than others regarding distancing, hygiene protocols, etc. Please be considerate of one another. If any staff member has concerns that are not addressed in the field, they are encouraged to bring them to the attention of the Co-Director (discussion will be kept confidential upon request).
2. Please be aware that COVID-19 guidance is evolving; protocols outlined here may change and/or new protocols may be implemented.
3. All staff are encouraged to stay home if they feel sick.
4. In the event that a staff member becomes sick while in the field.
 - a. If COVID-19 is suspected, see the protocol under Screening, below.
 - b. For all other health concerns:
 - i. If the ill staffer is able to drive back home alone, they should check out of the hotel and go home until they are feeling well enough to resume work.
 - ii. If the ill staffer is unable to drive alone, the Project Director and/or Crew Chief (in consultation with the Co-Director or Human Resources if needed) will help coordinate assessment and care as appropriate (e.g., urgent care clinic, ambulance).

Screening

1. Project Director and/or Crew Chief will perform a mandatory health screening assessment (e.g., questionnaire, temperature check) before employees begin work each day and for essential visitors, asking about (1) Fever equal or more than 100.0 degrees F, (2) COVID-19 symptoms in past 14 days, (3) positive COVID-19 test in past 14 days, and/or (4) close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case in past 14 days. Assessment responses must be reviewed every day and such review must be documented.
 - a. The questionnaire can be completed online by staff if they are able to access the Employee Sharepoint webpage.

- b. COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell.
 - c. Note that keeping records of employee health data (e.g., temperature data) is prohibited.
- 2. Staff who present with COVID-19 symptoms in the field will notify team leader (Project Director, Crew Chief) and the County Department of Health will be contacted for assessment and COVID-19 testing. If tested positive, employee may only return completing a 14-day quarantine.
- 3. Staff who present with no symptoms but have tested positive in past 14 days may only return to work after completing a 14-day quarantine.
- 4. Staff who have had close contact with a confirmed or suspected person with COVID-19 but are not experiencing any symptoms should inform their employer and may be able to work with additional precautions, including regular monitoring for symptoms and temperature, required face covering at all times, and appropriate social distancing from others.

Communication

- 1. All staff will affirm they have reviewed and understand the guidelines, and that they will implement them.
- 2. Printed copies of the safety plan will be placed in all vehicles traveling to the work site.
- 3. Updates to the safety plan will be communicated to all staff via email as well as by periodic remote meetings.
- 4. The Project Director and/or Crew Chief will maintain a continuous log of every person, including staff and visitors, who may have close contact with other individuals at the work site or area.
 - a. Visitors will be encouraged to maintain social distance and limit interaction with staff.
- 5. If a staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the Co-Director will immediately notify Human Resources to coordinate immediate notification to state and local health departments. All staff will cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as staff or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

Submitted by: Daria Merwin

NYAC COMMITTEES AND CHAIRS

The New York Archaeological Council is seeking members to serve on active committees. If you are interested in becoming a committee chair or member please contact Beth Selig (bethane@optimum.net), or the listed committee chair. Please note that this list is a work in progress and some reshuffling of committees has occurred. We would appreciate any suggestions or information about committees and statements of purpose. If you were formerly involved in any listed or unlisted NYAC committee, and want to continue involvement with that committee, please alert us!

Advocacy Committee: Ongoing support efforts for preserving archaeological sites, collections and historic preservation initiatives within New York State. The member(s) serve as liaison with the American Archaeology Council of Councils.

Currently seeking a committee chair.

NYAC Archives: Maintains and curates NYAC Records as well as artifact collections associated with NYAC archaeological investigations. This committee oversees the proveniencing and cataloging of the NYAC records.
Committee Chair: M. L. Pipes, pipesml@aol.com.

Archaeology Season: This annual event includes posters and video competitions that promote archaeology in New York State. The participants in this committee change annually. The archaeology poster will alternate with the video or electronic productions at the discretion of the NYAC Board. 2020: Patrick Heaton, pheaton@edrdpc.com.

Awards Committee (includes Founders Award): The Awards Committee reviews submissions for the Student Awards (Paper & Poster Competition), as well as reviews nominations for the Founder's Award.
Committee Chair: Nina Versaggi, nversagg@binghamton.edu.

Collections Committee: Oversee and provide guidance for collections held at repositories throughout the state.
Currently seeking a committee chair.

Culling Committee (Ad Hoc): This committee is working to develop culling standards for New York State artifact assemblages and collections management. Committee Chair: Vivian James, vsjames@tds.net.

Communications Committee: Works to communicate pertinent NYAC information to the membership and subscriber list via the NYAC website and email list. In addition, the members of this committee are working to enhance the NYAC presence within social media platforms.

Committee Chair: Joe Diamond, beckjoe@hvc.rr.com.

Co-chairs: Patrick Heaton, pheaton@edrdpc.com, and Daria Merwin, Daria.Merwin@nysed.gov.

Professional Development and Continuing Education: Promotes continuing archaeology training and education at all levels through educational workshops, seminars, and in-field practicums. Educational workshops and topics are proposed on an annual basis.

Committee Chair: Dave Staley, david.staley@nysed.gov.

Co-Chair: Beth Selig, bethane@optimum.net.

Human Remains & Unmarked Burial Sites: The purpose of this committee is to ensure compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, for all Native American human remains and burials. In addition, the committee provides guidance with regard to non-Native American human remains and burials.

Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Anderson, Lisa.Anderson@nysed.gov.

Co-Chair: David Witt, David.witt@dec.ny.gov.

Newsletter Committee: The annual newsletter includes submissions and dissemination of information pertaining to new events in New York State archaeology.

Committee Chair: Laurie Miroff, lmiroff@binghamton.edu.

Standards Committee: This committee reviews the standards and best practices for archaeological investigation within New York State. The tasks are subdivided to include members devoted to Urban Standards and Geomorphology.

Committee Chair: Nina Versaggi, nversagg@binghamton.edu.

Urban Archaeology Committee Chair: Linda Stone, lindastone@juno.com.

Funk Foundation and Student Grants: The Funk Foundation grants support archaeological research conducted in New York State or on archaeological collections from New York State.

Committee Chair: Ed Curtin, ecurtin12003@yahoo.com.

Native American Engagement Committee: The Engagement Committee works with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to improve working relationships between tribal members and practicing archaeologists. This committee also works to bring awareness to outdated practices regarding Native American sacred sites and artifact assemblages.

Committee Chair: Doug Perrelli, dperrelli@buffalo.edu.

Co-Chairs: Pat Heaton pheaton@edrdpc.com, Nina Versaggi, versagg@binghamton.edu, David Witt, David.witt@dec.ny.gov.

Submitted by: Beth Selig

NEWS FROM THE ROBERT E. FUNK MEMORIAL ARCHAEOLOGY FOUNDATION, INC.

2020 Request for Proposals

The Funk Foundation has opened a grant proposal submittal and review cycle for 2020. The proposal submission deadline is October 15, 2020. Proposal review will be completed by November 15, 2020. Typically, two grants are awarded each year, although this may vary depending upon the Board's discretion after review. For more information please visit the Funk Foundation website at www.funkfoundation.org, email Ed Curtin at ecurtin12003@yahoo.com, or call Ed at (518) 928-8813

The report of the grant work must be completed within one year of the award date. At the time of the award 80% of the grant amount will be paid to assist the research. The final 20% will be paid upon the Funk Foundation's review and acceptance of the report. Grant amounts are up to \$2,500.00. In the past, the Funk Foundation has awarded grants for work such as radiocarbon dating, stable isotope analysis, debitage analysis, projectile point analysis, microwear analysis, thin-sectioning and petrographic analysis, ceramic analysis, phytolith analysis, faunal analysis, and remote sensing.

Kinds of activities that are not eligible for Funk Foundation grants include conventional pedestrian survey, excavation fieldwork, field equipment purchases, and artifact cataloging.

New Grants Awarded

The Funk Foundation awarded two grants during the fall of 2019. One of these was to Cornell University Ph.D. candidate Samantha Sanft for radiocarbon dating of samples from Cayuga village sites in support of her Ph.D. dissertation research. The sites involved are the Klinko and Carman sites. The other grant was awarded to Binghamton University Master's degree student Douglas Riethmuller for elemental (mass spectrometry) analysis of Owasco and Shenk's Ferry ceramics from the Thomas/Luckey site, a Late Woodland village site located in the Chemung Valley.

Recently Completed Grant Projects

Joshua Kwoka's grant to study lithics from the Simmons site has grown into a larger and very interesting project that is making significant contributions to the study of western New York Iroquois village sites. Josh's research already has contributed to published or draft articles on Northeastern chunky stones and a gendered analysis of endscrapers. Moreover, in collaboration with Douglas Perrelli, Josh's continuing Simmons site research is leading to a larger, more comprehensive analysis. Of special interest to NYAC, the Simmons site was excavated by Marian White, and the current research is providing extensive use of the curated artifacts and records.

In September, the Funk Foundation completed review of Tim Abel's final report of his second Funk Foundation grant. This grant was used to enlarge the sample of radiocarbon dates on Jefferson County Iroquois sites, following on Tim's successful first grant in 2017. The Funk Foundation grants funded a portion of the radiocarbon dates in the large sample Tim studied. Tim's research has had very significant results and has contributed to publications over the last year or so in *American Antiquity* and *Archaeology of Eastern North America*.

More recently, the Funk Foundation accepted Jessica Vavrasek's report on stable isotope analysis of dog and deer skeletal remains from Jefferson County Iroquois sites. The guiding concept is that stable isotope analysis may provide information on the likelihood of human migration using dogs as proxies for humans and assuming that deer lived their entire lives near the sites where their bones were recovered. Jessica's analysis used samples from the Pine Hill, Washburn, Frank, Point Salubrious, Toles, Talcott, Morris (Morse), and Oatman sites.

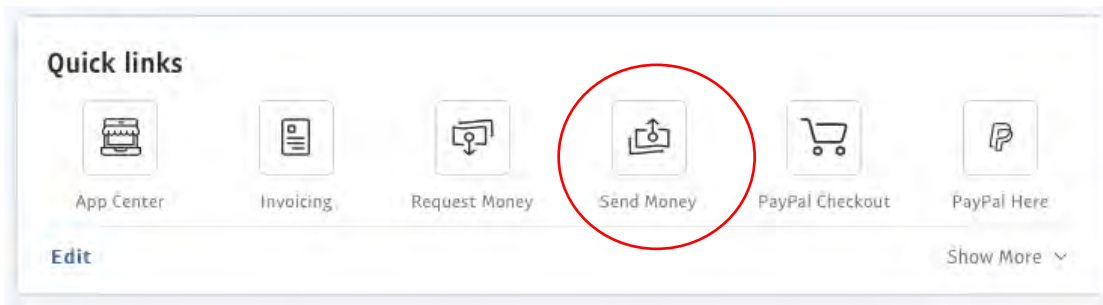
Finally, the Funk Foundation has accepted Amy Fox's grant report. A Ph.D. student at the University of Toronto, Amy was awarded a grant for morphometric analysis and interpretation of broadspear projectile point variation in New York State as part of a larger, Northeast region dissertation project studying broadspear variation. The New York collections Amy studied are from the Piffard, Frontenac Island, Snook Kill, Kingston Armory, O'Neil, Fortin 1, Kuhr, and Camelot II sites.

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

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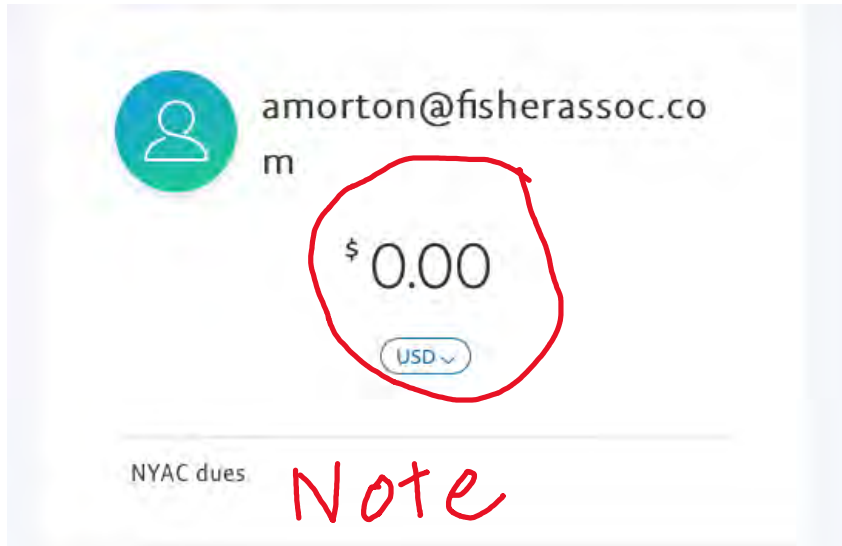


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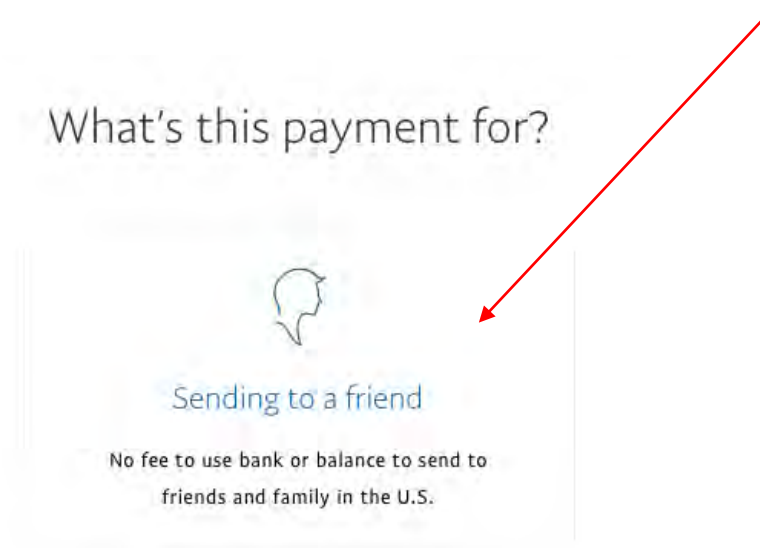
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Submitted by: Ann Morton

NYAC NEWSLETTER

*Please note, the NYAC Board voted to have one annual newsletter.
For the 2021 newsletter, please submit by **May 15**.*

*Submit news in either Word 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.*