



New York Archaeological Council

NYAC Newsletter

2021

From the President, Doug J. Perrelli

Greetings NYAC Board and Membership. The New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) held our spring 2021 meeting via Zoom on Friday, April 23 with the Board meeting from 12:30-2:00 p.m. followed by the general membership meeting from 2:30-4:40 PM. This was our first membership meeting since the cancellation of last year's spring meeting due to COVID and it was great to see everyone. The Board has met remotely twice since our last meeting as a group. Updates about our activities were provided at the spring meeting and some are included here in the newsletter. We had a lively and enjoyable conversation and admitted three new members to our ranks this April. Please welcome Nathan Allison, Ryan Austin, and John Garbellano as new NYAC members. Please be aware that we are looking forward to seeing everyone in person again at the joint meeting with the 104th Annual Meeting of the NYSAA, to be held April 22-24, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah, in Suffern, New York. The NYSAA conference, hosted by the Incorporated Orange County Chapter, is again postponed until next year, to be held at the same venue and we look forward to joining them at that time. Please accept this friendly reminder to be sure your membership dues are paid for 2021 and that all Board members must complete their 'Conflict of Interest' policy forms annually.

NYAC Election Results

NYAC election results were reported on behalf of the committee composed of David Witt, Carol Weed, and Laurie Miroff by David Witt on April 16, 2021. In all, 49 ballots were received from members in good standing with most ballots received electronically and some by regular mail, resulting in a response rate of over 90% of the membership and significant changes to the Board. Four Board seats were up for election and three new members were elected in addition to the re-election of Beth Selig. Greetings to our new board members Allison McGovern, Kristy Primeau, and Kate Whalen. Thanks to Vivian James and David Staley for agreeing to run. Special thanks to the outgoing board members for their service and leadership while on the board. Pat Heaton served actively and provided important insights and achievements including the new NYAC logo and a great upcoming poster plan. David Staley and Nina Versaggi served numerous terms on the NYAC board and have been important members of our team for decades and deserve our heart-felt thanks for their dedication and service to the NYAC board and members.

Awards

We are fortunate to have Bill Engelbrecht and Nina Versaggi serve as the NYAC Awards Committee with Nina as the new Chair. This year a new **Lifetime Achievement Award** was created and awarded to **Paul Huey**. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of archaeology, cultural resource management, or community outreach through instruction, research and scholarship, and/or leadership and service, over a minimum of 25 years. This is not an annual award, but instead intends to honor individuals who have achieved outstanding levels of contributions to archaeology, so Paul is a great first choice. See Nina's write-up in this newsletter.

The Importance of Language and Vocabulary

Beth Selig led an important and interesting discussion about the use of language by archaeologists in reports and presentations in terms of the need for more cultural sensitivity. NYAC is in the process of initiating a dialogue about this and seeks to develop a short guidance document with the help of a new ad hoc committee purposed with exploring this issue. Thanks to Beth, David Witt, and Kate Whalen for offering to begin this process. We look forward to hearing more soon. Please reach out to the committee if you want to have input.

Proposal for a NYAC Land Acknowledgement Statement

As a follow-up to our spring meeting, NYAC member Dolores Elliott has created and shared a land acknowledgement statement for consideration by the NYAC membership:

'The New York Archaeological Council recognizes that Indigenous people living in what is now New York State for over twelve thousand years lived in harmony with the land and nature before the arrival and occupation of people from Europe. We respect and acknowledge that they continue to live here.'

The purpose of this statement is to use it as a salutation prior to the commencement of NYAC meetings and/or other engagements by its members out of respect for the fact that we are living and working in the traditional homelands of first nations. She wrote it with the advice and suggestions from a traditional Longhouse person from the Cayuga Nation, a Seneca Nation educator from Ganondagan, and archaeologists with precontact and historic specializations. It is intentionally vague because NYAC members often work outside of traditional Haudenosaunee territory. Please send any questions or comments to Dolores and/or the NYAC Board and we will try to answer them.

Future Poster Concept

Pat Heaton and the team at EDR still plan to design the next Archaeology Season poster for NYAC and New York State. The 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 are 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 criterion for inclusion is facilities that have NYS archaeology materials on display that are 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 future Archaeology Video Sessions.

Professional Development and Training Opportunities

The NYAC Board and Membership have repeatedly expressed interest in professional development, continuing education and other training opportunities. Please feel free to contact the Board with opportunities you know of or requests for specific programs you would like to see offered by our organization. Vivian James mentioned a new initiative of the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) requiring continuing education (CE) courses to maintain professional archaeologist status. She proposes that NYAC offer at least two CE programs per year, one virtual and one in-person, that will satisfy potential RPA requirements, stressing the need to keep costs reasonable. During the spring meeting, the need for a better understanding of navigating the OPRHP/CRIS was discussed by Carol Weed and others with Daria Merwin offering to host a professional development/training workshop on how to better navigate the OPRHP/CRIS. Many seem to want to take advantage of this offer and we will schedule that event soon.

Culling Document DRAFT Shared with SAA

Vivian James reported that, with permission from the NYAC Board, the DRAFT culling document was shared with the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) which is in the process of considering modifications to ethical principles for things like collections management. The document was dated, watermarked as a DRAFT, and shared with an SAA committee coordinating feedback.

Orphaned Collections from Private Land: Ownership, Storage, and Access

Carol Weed initiated a lively discussion at the spring meeting regarding the ultimate disposition of artifact collections from sites on private land, and in particular for situations where the sites are not National Register Eligible (NRE). This often occurs in the CRM process when Phase 1 and Phase 2 surveys find sites lacking sufficient integrity and research potential for the NRE designation. One issue is that of “collections ownership” and the question was raised regarding whether people/CRM firms were using any sort of formal ownership agreements about collections created as part of the CRM process on projects - particularly at the front end or before work commenced. Matt Kirk of Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. stated that they do use formal artifact ownership agreements with clients in this way. Another issue is whether artifact repositories would be willing to take such collections. NYAC is seeking help with this issue and a list of repositories that would take collections. Both Jon Lothrop and Mike Lucas of the New York State Museum (NYSM) stated that the NYSM has a policy of only accessioning those collections that are from NRE sites. Several members observed that Native American museums and cultural centers in New York may be willing to take collections, including the Roland B. Hill Museum in Otego, New York, the Iroquois Museum at Howes Cave, New York, the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, New York, and the cultural center of the Tonawanda Seneca Nation. David Witt of the NYSDEC offered a point about Nations having the right of first refusal in some cases regarding the ownership and stewardship of collections of interest to them. Finally, the issue of artifact re-burial was addressed as part of this discussion. It seems that in some cases where projects result in the recovery of collections, the collections are being reburied at or near the location of discovery.

NYAC Table at CNEHA and NYSAA Book Rooms

Carol Weed has generously offered her time and organizational skills, with the help of Daria Merwin, to create and operate a NYAC table in the book room for the upcoming Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) at its annual meeting at historic St. Mary's City, Maryland from November 4-7, 2021. The conference theme is “Enduring Legacies.” Please reach out to Carol, Daria, or me to arrange for books for sale and other promotional display materials to be available at our NYAC table in the CNEHA book room. Our book room team has also offered to set up materials for the 104th Annual Meeting of the NYSAA, to be held April 22-24, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Suffern-Mahwah, in Suffern, New York.

NYC Landmark Support

A letter of support on behalf of NYAC was drafted and approved for signature by the Board regarding the Landmark status of the Conference House Park site in New York City. The letter was sent to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission on May 13, 2020 regarding the site at Ward's Point, Staten Island. The site is among the largest and best preserved burial sites in NYC and has historic significance relating to the Revolutionary War.

NYAC Committees

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), and consult the list of committees supplied by Beth for this newsletter. 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!

New SHPO Human Remains Policy

The State Historic Preservation Office has been using new language regarding their human remains policy on a project-by-project basis for some NYAC members beginning in January 2021. Please be aware of this and get the latest information from SHPO as needed. A formal revised document is not currently available from the OPRHP/SHPO website.

NYAC Program: NYS Unmarked Burial Bill

The NYS Unmarked Burial Bill situation is complicated by the existence of multiple bill versions, numerous interested consulting parties, and uncertainty about where it is in the legislative process in Albany. NYAC has been asked to take a leading role in the development and sharing of information about the bill, its contents, and the process for its adoption due to our position as a somewhat neutral third party that can help build consensus. The information presented here is my incomplete understanding of things that are rapidly changing, and much of it is borrowed from other people based on many recent conversations within and outside of NYAC. While considerable new interest and conversation is heating up about the bill, it has also lurched forward in the legislative process as it appears to have been referred to committees in the NYS Senate and/or Assembly. This is not to say it has become law, rather it is reaching more advanced stages of consideration and finalization as a bill, just as people are talking about stepping back from the existing versions and rethinking it to some degree and possibly having a statewide conference or workshops about the topic.

The people, agencies, and entities involved and deserving our thanks include Joe Stahlman representing the Seneca Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYAC, Sue McGuire as President of the F. M. Houghton Chapter of the NYSAA, the Preservation League of New York, the Preservation League of Long Island, New York State Assemblyman Sean Ryan, Professional Archaeologists of New York City, and the New York State Museum, among many others. Interestingly and somewhat surprisingly, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) does not support the creation of an unmarked burial bill for NY in its current form.

The materials circulated by NYAC include three bills including two identical Senate (S5701, Sponsor: Comrie) and Assembly (A6724) versions, and a newer version of this bill with more recent mark-ups by various people and agencies. In addition, the Preservation League of New York prepared a master document outlining the goals and issues to consider in a process of developing a comprehensive burial bill. Links to these documents will be provided on the NYAC/NYSAA web site. A link to the March 17, 2021 NYSAA presentation by Joe Stahlman was also shared and many have watched this with great interest and appreciation for what was discussed at this important event. At this time an open invitation for the formation of a committee was presented by Joe with the goal of widespread inclusion in this initiative as a human rights issue. Initial committee participants include Joe/SNI/THPO, Sue McGuire/NYSAA, Sean Ryan/NYS Senator, Mark Shaming/NYSM, Doug Perrelli/NYAC/UB, David Witt/NYSDEC, with others invited.

Recently, the versions I referred to as “obsolete” during the spring NYAC Zoom meeting were in a third reading and open for discussion and debate in the NY State Senate and Assembly, making them very much alive as potential legislation and complicating the notion of modifying the content of the working draft. I believe the version considered is this one:

BILL NUMBER: S5701

SPONSOR: COMRIE

TITLE OF BILL:

An act to amend the not-for-profit corporation law and the education law, in relation to the discovery and disposition of human remains and funerary objects; and to amend the parks, recreation and historic preservation law, in relation to requiring certain notice and consultation prior to the undertaking of certain projects

PURPOSE OR GENERAL IDEA OF BILL:

This bill provides a mechanism for the protection of unmarked burial sites and the determination of cultural affiliation, stewardship and disposition of human remains and funerary objects interred at such sites.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

Adds a new section 1517 to the not-for-profit corporation law regarding discovery and disposition of human remains and funerary objects at unmarked burial sites. The new section includes the following provisions:

A Native American burial site review committee is established, consisting of members appointed by each of the Native American tribes in the state, state archaeologist, and one member appointed by the Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Discovery of unmarked burial sites is required to be immediately reported to the county coroner or medical examiner, who in turn notifies the state archaeologist.

The state archaeologist determines whether the remains may be of Native American origin and reports these findings to the burial site review committee. If they agree that the remains are of such origin, the committee determines affiliation and notifies the affiliated group or descendants. Otherwise, such determination and notice are made by the state archaeologist.

Stewardship of the remains is with the committee until affiliation or descendants are determined, whereupon ownership, responsibility and authority to determine disposition vests in the affiliated group or descendants.

Burial sites, human remains and funerary objects are to be left undisturbed except as otherwise provided pursuant to this act.

Penalties are provided for failure to report the discovery of a burial site, removal of remains or objects from a burial site, defacing or destroying a burial site, remains or funerary objects, and possession with intent to sell or attempted sale of human remains or funerary objects.

Violation of these provisions may be enjoined in an action brought by the Attorney General or an aggrieved party.

Section 235 of the Education Law is amended to add a state archaeologist to the State Science Service within the State Museum. A new subdivision three is added to section 14.09 of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law to require the preservation officer of any state agency undertaking or financing a project to determine whether the project may disturb a burial site and if so, to consult with the burial site review committee to determine how to avoid such disturbances.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ORIGINAL AND AMENDED VERSION (IF APPLICABLE):

JUSTIFICATION:

Numerous unmarked burial sites in the state are in danger of being damaged or destroyed because of a lack of adequate protection under current law. Such sites are sacred to the groups with which they are culturally affiliated and the lineal descendants of the dead.

New York is one of the only four states in the nation without statutory protection for Native American burial sites or unmarked burial sites in general. There have been several known incidents of negligent or deliberate failure to protect sites, which were disturbed by development activity, as well as looting. This legislation is necessary to prevent additional destruction of these sites, which are of great historical and cultural significance to all the people of the state.

PRIOR LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Now is the time to mobilize with a unified message about the bill, but many of the people interested in this topic are unclear as to how to proceed in terms of the recent calls for people to contact their legislators in support of an unmarked burial bill for the state of New York. Should we be reaching out in support of the existing bills on the assumption that something is better than nothing, or to say that the draft bill requires some or substantial modification? Reasonable people may disagree about how best to proceed and the sense of urgency is growing based on the recent movement in Albany and uncertainty about when existing versions could be voted into law.

One approach is a complete overhaul of the existing bill with new language and modifications to include a dedicated funding stream with a line item in the state budget for this purpose. Originally, we had discussed using the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) as this funding source but subsequent discussions have moved away from that suggestion. This is part of the state of Vermont's unmarked burial legislation, a version that is being considered as a possible model from which to borrow for application in New York. Other important modifications include adding language for a more universal approach to unmarked graves including a wider array of underrepresented groups - in addition to Indigenous Nations - such as enslaved African Americans, county poorhouse cemeteries, and family plots, among others.

Sarah Kautz, Preservation Director at Preservation Long Island, provided important information during our meeting. Recall that the bill will likely not be voted on this session but may be next year so now is the time to get involved and also to decide about the funding issue and any specific changes to the language of the bill. If funding would be associated it needs to be in the budget and that is a reason to work on this now and also work on the funding source. Sponsors are open to changes in the draft, so now is the time to form a unified front and develop a letter of suggestions about how to change the bill and supply funding. This is an ongoing conversation that we must continue and turn into something productive and actionable. The NYAC Board and membership will be kept informed of this developing situation and more information will be provided soon, along with requests for additional input and document language. Please feel free to reach out with questions and comments and these will be shared with the membership as part of this ongoing conversation.

NYAC COMMITTEES

The New York Archaeological Council is committed to its mission of advancing archaeological research, archaeological site preservation and engagement with the archaeological community. To achieve these goals, NYAC is seeking members to serve on active committees and working groups. Many of these committees and groups have ongoing projects that are of particular importance to archaeologists in New York State. The outcome of these projects will provide valuable resources to both professional and avocational archaeologists.

If you are interested in becoming a committee chair or member, please contact Beth Selig (bethane@optimum.net) or the listed committee chair. You do not have to be a NYAC officer or board member to chair or be a committee member. 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! If you have a project that you would like to create an ad hoc committee or working group for, please don't hesitate to contact Beth Selig.

2021 Current NYAC Committees

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 and members.

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.

Currently seeking a committee chair and members.

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 Committee Chair: Patrick Heaton (pheaton@edrdpc.com).

Currently seeking a 2021-2022 committee chair.

Members of the committee:

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 (nversaggi@binghamton.edu).

Members of the committee:

Collections Committee: Oversee and provide guidance for collections held at repositories throughout the state.

Currently seeking a committee chair and members.

***2021 Working Group (Ad Hoc), Curation Facilities Accepting CRM-generated Artifacts:** The goal of this working group is to identify curation facilities that will accept CRM-generated artifact collections from private land when the landowner does not want to retain the artifacts. In many instances, these artifacts are from archaeological sites that were not determined significant under Section 106 criteria. Allison McGovern and Carol Weed are focusing their efforts on identifying curation facilities in the lower Hudson River and Long Island subareas, but similar efforts may be needed for other subareas of New York as well. They will report their results at either the Fall 2021 NYAC meeting or the Spring 2022 NYAC/NYSAA Spring meeting.

Subcommittee co-Chairs: Allison McGovern (ajmmcg@gmail.com) and Carol Weed (csw13108@gmail.com)

Members of the Subcommittee:

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).

Members of the committee:

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).

Members of the committee: 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 Co-Chair: Dave Staley (david.staley@nysed.gov).

Co-Chair: Beth Selig

Members of the committee:

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 disposition of non-Native American human remains and burials. This committee is currently reviewing and engaging with the New York State Legislature and THPOs to establish laws that protect unmarked burial sites.

Committee Co-Chair: Lisa Anderson (Lisa.Anderson@nysed.gov).

Co-Chair: David Witt (David.witt@buffalo.edu).

Members of the committee:

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).

Members of the committee:

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.

Currently seeking a committee chair and members.

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

***2021 Working Group (Ad Hoc), Indigenous Nomenclature Guidance:** The goal of this working group is to create a guidance document for culturally appropriate language use in CRM Reports and other NY Archaeology publications. The working group is currently conducting research into guidance afforded on this topic by SHPOs, THPOs, and other agencies. The research will form the basis for the development of a list of commonly used archaeological words (for example, prehistoric) that have been identified as culturally insensitive and their recommended substitutions. Eventually the subcommittee hopes to present its conclusions and recommendations in a seminar.

Subcommittee Chair: Beth Selig

Members of the Subcommittee: Allison McGovern, Linda Stone, Kate Whalen, Carol Weed, Dave Witt

Funk Foundation & 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).

Members of the committee: Pat Heaton (pheaton@edrdpc.com), Nina Versaggi, David Witt.

Submitted by: Beth Selig

NEWS FROM LANDMARK ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Kingston Point Site

In the fall of 2000, Landmark Archaeology, Inc. found evidence of a Late Archaic habitation midden and a buried, well preserved Late Archaic pithouse in Kingston, NY while conducting work for a shoreline survey (Figure 1). The site is located in the southern aspect of Kingston Point, a bedrock defended peninsula that juts into the Hudson River from its west (right) bank (Photo 1). The bedrock outcrop is an erosional remnant of the late Pleistocene era in the middle of the Hudson River's paleo-channel. This rocky outcrop was separated at the ground surface from the valley's bedrock wall at Ponck Hockie by a narrower paleo-channel filled with alluvium, now designated by green wetlands and "mud" with elevations of less than 3 m (10 ft) AMSL on the quadrangle map. That alluvial fill is part of an extensive Tributary Fan marked on the quadrangle map as "tidal flat."

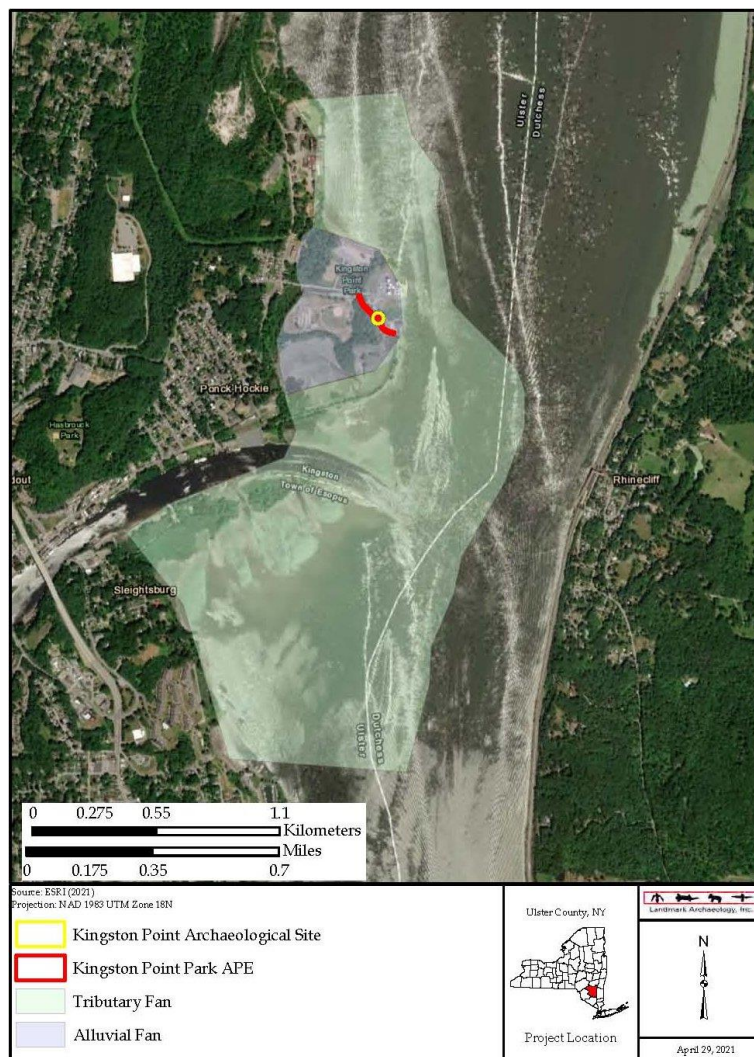


Figure 1. Project area and geological features.



Photo 1. Kingston Point site, view to southeast.

Shovel and bucket auger testing at Kingston Point documented a Late Archaic period habitation midden buried about 50 cm (20 in) below surface in paleosols of mid-Holocene age (Photo 2). Fieldwork recovered thousands of artifacts including 21 diagnostic projectile points, and recorded several cultural features (pits, roasting pits, dump zones) and architectural features including the house basin and relatively large post molds - all within complex stratigraphic layers with broken heating rock. Additionally, faunal remains, mostly burned fish bone, are preserved in the Late Archaic features and cultural deposits. The assemblage includes a wide range of chipped stone artifacts and tool types, and features contain plenty of organics with good context that can be securely radiocarbon dated. Three 1 x 1 m (3.3 x 3.3 ft) test units were excavated to the bottom of the terrace alluvium on Kingston Point. Two 1 x 1s were positioned together (TU 1 and 3), and another was opened about 5 m (16 ft) west. If three test unit profiles are representative of this habitation, which seems likely based on systematic shovel tests, the notable characteristic of this midden is the presence of (potentially) thousands of kilograms of fire-cracked rock (FCR) packed *in situ* in heating (roasting) pits and splayed across the habitation surface by the actions of residents digging pits and pithouses and dismantling heating features and house structures. Because FCR heating pits superimpose one another and cover a backfilled house basin, it is likely that occupations at Kingston Point spanned a long period of time - perhaps a millennium.



Photo 2. Test Units 1 and 3 showing buried midden.

Evidence of a pithouse structure at Kingston Point was exposed in a 1 x 2 m (3.3 x 6.6 ft) trench (Figure 2; Photo 3). Focusing on Stratum 11 (house basin fill) this very dark brown to black midden layer was mixed on top of the second buried soil horizon in Test Unit 1, where the 2Ab soil horizon appeared to have been truncated by intrusion and mixing of occupation activities typical of “floor fill.” Tracing Stratum 11 toward the right side of the Test Unit 1 and 3 profiles, the 2Ab-2B1b horizons were missing and appeared to have been excavated by the residents to create a 25 cm (9.8 in) deep house basin now filled with black soil midden (Stratum 12). In the middle of this wall profile is a 35 cm (13.8 in) deep pit, which might be the cross-sectioned profile of a trench dug to insert wall supports of numbered post molds sized 28 cm (11.0 in), 12 cm (4.7 in), and 22 cm (8.7 in) in diameter (see Strata 8, 9 and 10 in Figure 2). Another potential post mold at the bottom of the house basin in Test Unit 3 was not identified and sectioned during the excavation. No cultural material was found beneath the house basin, indicating its Late Archaic residents had dug the house basin into a relatively undisturbed terrace surface and covered it with a wooden (and bark or reed mat) structure.

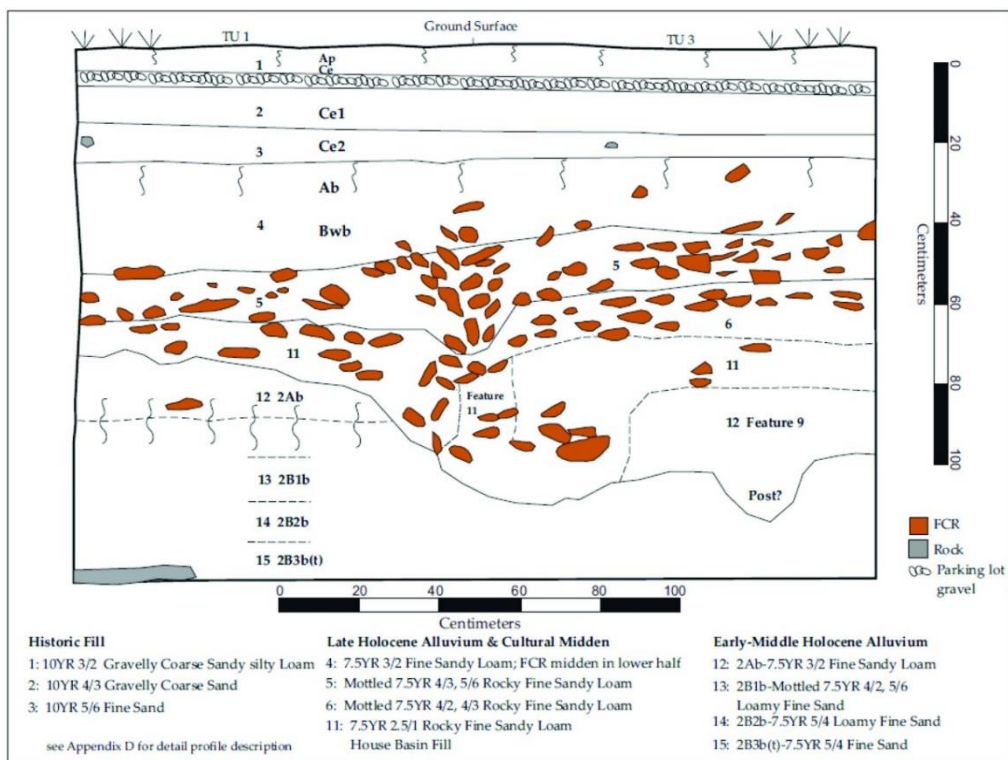


Figure 2. Profile, Test Units 1 and 3.

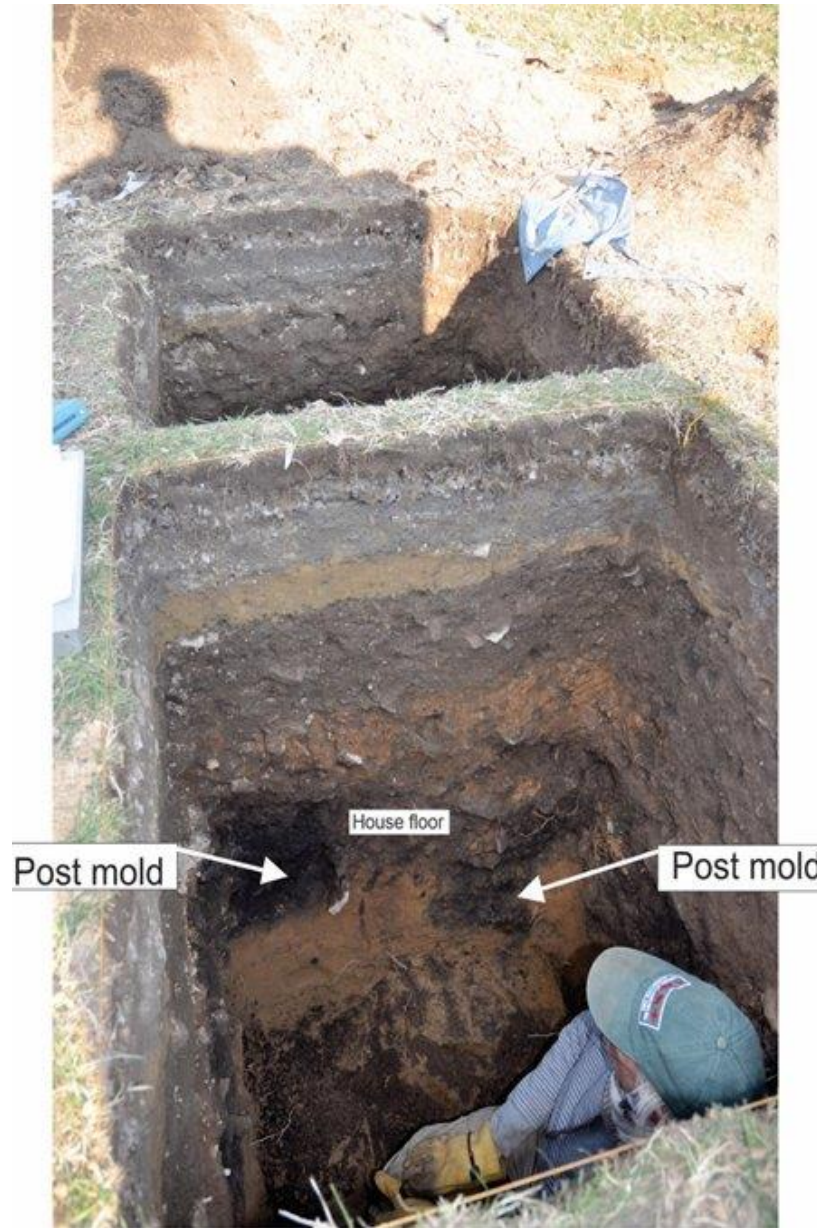


Photo 3. Buried Late Archaic pithouse.

There are three excavated house pits at the Late Archaic Davidson Site in southern Ontario (Ellis et al. 2014:61–64) with features that resemble characteristics of the house pit profiles at Kingston Point. The Davidson house pits were uncovered in a paleosol (Ab) in the youngest component (ca. 1400–1000 BC), which was created by Late Archaic people who made relatively small projectile points (e.g., Crawford Knoll, Innes, Ace of Spades, Hind; Ellis et al. 2014:9, 53). The large pit house in Block Unit C was a keyhole-shaped structure about 5 m (16.4 ft) in diameter in a meter deep basin (measured from ground surface?) and with a sloping entryway facing the river. Four substantial posts positioned in the quadrants apparently supported the roof, and the house pit had a narrow bench or shelf around the interior wall. A second smaller pit house also had a sloping entryway ending in a 2 m (6.6 ft) diameter house pit (Ellis et al. 2014:63–64), but the back and sides of the interior floor outlined by post molds incorporated a 0.5 to 1 m (1.6–3.3 ft) wide “bench” on the original ground surface. A third house consisted of a 2.5 x 3 m (8.2–9.8 ft) wall trench on the original ground surface (Ellis et al. 2014:65). Although vertical cross-sections were not provided for the Davidson houses, we detect some potential similarities between the feature we call a “house pit” in Test Units 1 and 3 at Kingston Point and descriptions of the Davidson house pits. First, there are post holes at the edge of the

deep house pit at Kingston Point, and that house pit (Stratum 12) was 35 cm (13.8 in) deep at its maximum. The posts had substantial diameters (~20 cm [7.9 in]) like the ones at Davidson. On the western side of the Kingston Point house pit, habitation midden had been mixed into a truncated 2Ab soil horizon (Stratum 11 in Figure 7.6) as if a section of the house interior had been placed over the original ground surface to create a “bench.” The large house pit at Davidson had “thick deposits of earth...found at the edges of the house” apparently for insulating the lower walls of the structure (Ellis et al. 2014:63). Piles of backdirt and quantities of FCR were encountered in the three test units - enough to insulate house walls around a pit dug into the original terrace surface at Kingston Point.

Two carbon samples from features imposed on the buried “surface” of the 2Ab-2B1b soil profile were processed by Beta Analytic, Inc., Miami, Florida. Both samples came from sealed contexts in pit features, where no evidence of post-occupation contamination from other younger sources was detected. These samples were collected using clean trowels and bagged immediately in foil (the charcoal sample) and a plastic bag (the bulk sample).

Sample Beta-581840 consisted of bulk sediment derived from carbonaceous fill in post Feature 11. Black feature fill was collected between 80–90 cm (31.5–35.4 in) depth (below surface) within the 29 cm (11.4 in) diameter post mold as TU3 was being excavated. In this stratigraphic context, post Feature 11 (Stratum 9) had been superimposed by house basin fill (Stratum 11). This post mold extended about 32 cm (12.6 in) deep from the 2Ab through the 2B1b horizons (Figure 2). The resulting radiocarbon date is 3840 ± 30 BP. When corrected for past variations in atmospheric C13/14 ratios the calibrated range for this date is 4359–4150 BP or cal. 2410–2201 BC at the 95.4% confidence level. This corrected assay falls within the early half of the Late Archaic period.

Sample Beta-581839 consisted of charcoal pieces collected from the FCR midden in pit Feature 8 in TU2. This basin-shaped pit originated in Level 7 (Stratum 5; see Figure 3) and had intruded into the 2Ab and upper 2B1b soil horizons. A possible post mold filled with black soil (Feature 10) extended from the fill of Feature 8 into the underlying culturally sterile sediments, but the excavators were unable to determine the stratigraphic relationship between these features. Therefore, it is not clear from the field notes exactly where the charcoal sample came from (i.e., the FCR midden fill in pit Feature 8 or the black matrix in [post] Feature 10). The resulting radiocarbon date is 4980 ± 30 BP. When corrected for past variations in atmospheric carbon ratios the calibrated range for this date is 5753–5601 BP or cal. 3804–3652 BC at the 95.4% confidence level. This corrected assay falls at the end of the Middle Archaic period.

Both dates came from similar stratigraphic contexts with regard to buried soil horizons, yet their corrected ages are about 1400 years apart. Can this discrepancy be explained in a way that tells us what Archaic component(s) might be buried at Kingston Point? The older Beta-581839 date of cal. 5753–5601 BP came from charcoal recovered from pit Feature 8 whose orifice originated in the lower half of the Bwb soil horizon. That this pit appears to have superimposed possible post mold Feature 10 in a deeper soil context (2Ab-2B1b) is a complicating factor. The younger Beta-581840 date of cal. 4359–4150 BP came from post mold Feature 11 within the 2Ab soil horizon sealed beneath house basin fill. The site’s Archaic period occupants had dug a house basin into the surface of the 2Ab soil horizon, which subsequently was buried by sediment in the Bwb soil horizon. Therefore, the Feature 11 post mold with the younger date came from a deeper soil context than the basin-shaped pit Feature 8 with the older date. In short, the two dates are reversed with regard to the soil stratigraphy. After sorting these dated contexts and stratigraphic details, we conclude that the Late Archaic midden at Kingston Point is a complex, layered array of FCR roasting features, house basin middens, and backdirt splays interspersed with superimposed and intrusive pit and post features.

Despite the unusually large size of the Kingston Point assemblage (from only three one meter test units), Landmark’s Phase II investigation did not produce enough diagnostic tool types to securely associate this assemblage with any of the four Laurentian phases. The Kingston Point assemblage includes ground slate tools, a bannerstone fragment, a gouge, chipped stone knives and drills, and four varieties of Brewerton points (i.e., Corner and Side Notched, Eared Triangle, Eared Notch), all of which are diagnostic of the Laurentian tradition (Funk 1988; Ritchie 1938) but not specific to any of its named phases (Photos 4-15). Relatively rare Laurentian artifact types like celts, plummets, and copper tools were not recovered from Kingston Point. Also absent from the Phase II assemblage are Beekman Triangle, Otter Creek, and Vosburg point types that have been found at Vosburg and Vergennes phase sites, which are concentrated along the Hudson River valley inclusive of Kingston Point. We suggest three research-based

postulates might explain the composition of the Kingston Point assemblage: a) because some of the “early” point types, especially Vosburg and Otter Creek, are missing, the Kingston Point occupations may have begun during the latter half of the Laurentian tradition, b) intensive excavation likely would produce a more diverse artifact assemblage, indicating that multiple components are present, c) the assemblage includes several Lamoka points as well as a few Wading River and/or Bare Island types, which might be construed to represent a variant of the “late” Laurentian tradition focused specifically on exploitation of the Hudson River estuary habitat. Kingston Point also yielded one Orient Fishtail point type that dates to a “late” or “terminal” phase of the Late Archaic period. Perhaps there are deposits of a post-Laurentian tradition component somewhere else on the Kingston Point site.



Photo 4: Brewerton Points



Photo 5: Brewerton Points



Photo 6: Lamoka Points



Photo 10: Drill Fragment



Photo 7: Bare Island (a, c-f) and Wading River (b) Points



Photo 11: Quartzite Preform



Photo 8: Bifurcated Base Point



Photo 12: Chipped Stone Knives



Photo 9: Broken (untyped) Points (a, b) and Orient Fishtail (c) Point



Photo 13: Scraper



Photo 14: Bannerstone (a) and Ground Slate (b)



Photo 15: Sinew Stone

Additional archaeological investigations at the Kingston Point site will provide substantial information regarding adaptation to the Hudson River Valley estuary ecosystem by Indigenous people during the Middle through Late Archaic periods (see Funk 1992). An important aspect of the research paradigm should be geomorphological investigations of the site context, since the cultural deposits are in alluvium that formed as the Hudson River aggraded during the mid-Holocene era (see Schuldenrein 1996). Correlating paleosols is one of the principal methods by which large-scale modeling of the Holocene geomorphology of the middle reach of the Hudson River Valley can be achieved. Furthermore, modeling of Hudson Valley landform development during the Holocene era coupled with correlation of site contexts can be employed to analyze Indigenous settlement patterns during the Middle and Late Archaic periods.

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Submitted by: Dirk Marcucci and Dave Benn

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY FACILITY

Second Battle of Sackets Harbor, Horse Island Project (Sackets Harbor, NY)

The Public Archaeology Facility (PAF) in partnership with the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) and the Sackets Harbor Battlefield State Historic Site conducted a two-week survey of Horse Island during the summer of 2020. Funding for this project was provided through a grant from the National Park Service – American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS-ABPP). ABPP funds for this project allowed researchers to conduct a detailed historical and military terrain analysis of Horse Island using primary records and period maps to identify the defining landscape features associated with the military landscape. Archaeologists used the results of this landscape analysis to create a predictive model for archaeological/geophysical testing. The goals of this testing were to collect data to support a more informed assessment of Horse Island, to identify defining military features, and to refine the boundaries of this military landscape. The results of this study will be used as a blueprint for future archaeological research, and as the first step in developing a long-term preservation strategy. Achieving these goals will aid in placing Horse Island into the greater military landscape of Sackets Harbor Battlefield.

The plans for the 1813 campaign season, dispatched from the Secretary of War, John Armstrong, called for a concentrated offensive against Kingston, York (Toronto), and the Niagara Peninsula. General Henry Dearborn



recruited the regional regiments and militia for the campaign at the western end of Lake Ontario. Brigadier General Jacob Jennings Brown was left in command of the defense of Sackets Harbor made up of mainly inexperienced state militia and volunteers. On May 29, 1813, British Governor-in-General, Sir George Prevost, and Commodore Sir James Lucas Yeo took the opportunity to hastily organize a counterattack from Kingston against Sackets Harbor with Capt. Isaac Chauncey's fleet far to the west. The British goal for this attack was to recover captured military supplies and destroy the USS *General Pike*, under construction in the naval shipyard.

Cast iron shell fragment and cast iron grape shot.

Horse Island is an important part of the battlefield landscape and played a vital role in the action of May 29, 1813. The British fleet was initially stationed off the western side of Horse Island. The greatest threat to the fleet was a 32-pound cannon, part of Sackets Harbor's coastal defenses at Fort Tompkins, which required the landing to occur out of sight of the fort. On the evening of May 28, the Albany Volunteers were placed on the western side of Horse Island with a single six-pound field piece to oppose any landings. The initial attempt by the British to land on the western side of Horse Island was met by a stout defense of rifle and artillery fire. The British bateaux and supporting gun boats were forced to the north and east sides of Horse Island to land the assault force. This placed the landing boats within the field of fire of the coastal defenses which were able to cause some damage to the British force. As was planned, the militia made a fighting retreat across the causeway to the mainland. The militia positioned themselves on the shoreline and awaited the British assault force as they crossed the causeway and fired several volleys from the tree line before again retreating towards the village.



Brass side plate.



Left: Obverse of an 1814 Lower Canada Colonial Half Penny showing Britannia;
Right: Front of an 1809 U.S. Classic Head Large Cent.

PAF archaeologists conducted a limited metal detection survey and excavated shovel test pits adjacent to the Horse Island lighthouse, which was first built in 1831. Geologists from Binghamton University conducted a magnetometer and GPR survey in the open hay field in the center of the island.

Archaeologists recovered numerous artifacts related to the military occupation and the opening stages of the battle. A draft report has been submitted to OPRHP for review.



Sample of fired and dropped lead balls.



Lead flint wraps



Copper clasps for a leather neck stock.

Submitted by: Brian Grills

Photos by David Tuttle, courtesy of OPRHP.

NEWS FROM CURTIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTING, INC.

Cat 21 Site 1 Precontact Site, Catskill, Greene County

Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. recently completed the Phase 3 archaeological data recovery report for Cat 21 Site 1 of the Exit 21 Development Project in the Town of Catskill, Greene County, New York. Cat 21 Site 1 is the largest of several precontact period sites identified within the Exit 21 Development Project. These sites are located within a section of the Hudson Valley Fold Thrust Belt (HVFTB) containing parallel ridges and valleys with exposures of various Helderberg Group limestones (Marshak and Engelder 1987). Moving west from the REF Quarry site (located east of the New York State Thruway), across dramatically folded terrain toward Catskill Creek, there is a rugged landscape of rock outcrops, narrow ridges, steep slopes, and thin soil over limestone. From oldest to youngest, and usually from east to west (with some complicated variation) near-surface bedrock includes parts of the Silurian to Devonian age Manlius-Coeymans, Kalkberg, New Scotland, and Becraft formations. Cat 21 Site 1 occupies New Scotland limestone in the valley below the mostly Kalkberg ridge of the REF Quarry site. Throughout this section rock age is more predictably related to faulting and folding than it is to elevation. This particular geology has led to multiple Kalkberg chert outcrops on the east to west transect.

Significant chert and quartz mines at the REF Quarry site have been reported previously by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. (Sanders 2005). Much of the chert used at Cat 21 Site 1 is Kalkberg chert, and the Kalkberg chert is assumed to have come from the REF Quarry due to proximity. However, the term Helderberg chert is used instead of Kalkberg in relation to Cat 21 Site 1 due to the possibility that other Helderberg cherts also occur in the artifact assemblage. In addition to chert, large numbers of quartz crystals and crystal fragments are assumed to be from stone mined at the REF Quarry (The Hartgen investigation of the quarry identified a source of quartz related stratigraphically to the Taconic Unconformity, which is exposed east of the Thruway; Jordan 2005). The REF Quarry, by the way, was named after Robert E. Funk, who suspected a chert quarry was located near Thruway Exit 21 (Sanders 2005).

While the REF Quarry appears to be a major source of chert at Cat 21 Site 1, during the Phase 3 fieldwork another source of chert was found within Cat 21 Site 1. This material is Onondaga chert from a broken and ultimately demolished glacial erratic. Based on large fragments of the erratic found in one portion of the archaeological site, it appears that Indigenous miners took a glacial erratic apart as they intensively extracted chert (Other intact as well as partially collapsed or demolished Onondaga limestone erratics occur in several locations to the west).

The description and analysis of the data from Cat 21 Site 1 considered the variety of lithic reduction strategies used at Cat 21 Site 1 (amorphous core, bifacial, bipolar core, and blade), invoking the *chaîne opératoire* perspective to relate the technologies of the quarry to the valley workshops, and also to examine lithic technological diversity in the Cat 21 Site 1 workshops. This diversity is highlighted with respect to technologies that either were little used at the REF Quarry or not used at all. These include bipolar reduction and blade production, respectively. Bipolar and blade technologies were major approaches to stone tool manufacture used at Cat 21 Site 1, but unpredictably so with respect to the REF Quarry data.



Cat 21 Site 1, Large blade, dark grey chert, possibly Normanskill, ventral face showing retouch or utilization scars.



Cat 21 Site 1, Dorsal face of same large blade.

In addition to blades, other tools - scrapers, end scrapers, and hammerstones - were abundant at Cat 21 Site 1. A variety of tools occurred in smaller numbers. These include spokeshaves, gravers, combinations of gravers, spokeshaves and scrapers, choppers, and fragmentary projectile points. Although the projectile points are very fragmentary, the assemblage is assessed as associated with the couple of centuries around AD 1 based upon projectile points with Adena, Rossville, and small, stemmed point attributes, as well as the frequent occurrence of the unifacial blades. The blades and blade cores were found in all parts of the site. This is taken as an indication that the site represents a single period of occupation (although it is likely that this period spanned decades or centuries).



Cat 21 Site 1, Cutting edge of a large chopper, Helderberg chert.

Three areas of the site were analyzed in detail with respect to distinctive activities that were conducted in these areas. Area 1 contains the quartz crystal workshop. Area 1 is divided into two areas that are dominated, respectively, by crystal and crystal fragments, or a variety of lithic tools including scrapers, spokeshaves, and graters. This spatial differentiation illustrates the localized workshop nature of freeing crystals from rock matrix at Cat 21 Site 1. Area 2B is the area of the demolished glacial erratic. Much of the site's blade manufacturing evidence occurred in the immediate vicinity of the largest recovered glacial erratic fragment. Different starting points and degrees of core development involving blades removed from amorphous, bipolar, and more shaped, somewhat pyramidal, cores suggest that knappers may have been learning to make blades, and that the knappers may have had different lithic reduction skill sets. A more extensive excavation in Area 3B identified an area interpreted as a hide-scraping area based upon its content and internal spatial characteristics compared to the description of ethnographic hide-scraping areas by Binford (1983). Area 3B, a sub-area approximately 4 meters (13 ft) long and 1.5 m (5 ft) wide, was observed to contain a relatively low artifact density. It was surrounded by higher artifact densities. The low-density area contained a high frequency of end scrapers, some other scrapers, and several somewhat larger, more dispersed artifacts such as choppers, larger ("massive") scrapers, a grinding slab fragment, and a couple of fire-cracked rocks. Following the findings of Binford's ethnoarchaeological research, it is suggested that this area was swept clean, and hides were spread on the cleaned surface for scraping. In analogy to Binford's observations, the larger artifacts were essentially weights available to place on the hides to keep the wind from moving them. Some of these larger objects were found dispersed within the low-density area and others ringed the exterior, as though they remained handy to use if needed.



Cat 21 Site 1, average-size blade removal scars on a bipolar core fragment, Onondaga chert.

In addition to the analysis of the Cat 21 Site 1 data, the report considers Greene County chert quarry and workshop sites in a comparative manner, with attention given to where different chert materials or tools (blades, for example) were used beyond the most notable quarries and workshops, such as Flint Mine Hill and West Athens Hill. The singular nature of Flint Mine Hill is part of this discussion. In this regard, the report takes a broad look at the ancient industrial context of chert quarries and workshops in eastern Greene County (with due recognition of Parker's [1925] statement on this, and the more contemporary concept of lithic supply zones related to mobile adaptations [e.g., Burke 2007]).

Hemphill Site, Town of Malta, Saratoga County

Other Phase 3 data recovery work was conducted from 2020-2021 at two 19th century farmsteads in the adjoining Towns of Malta and Ballston, Saratoga County. In Malta, fieldwork was completed at the Hemphill site established by a settler from New Hampshire, Robert Hemphill. Robert's son Augustus Hemphill inherited the house and farm; later his adopted daughter Anna Avery Hemphill Collamer inherited the property. These three households occupied the site from the early 19th century into the early 20th. Anna and her husband, Lafayette Collamer, eventually sold off portions of the farm during the formation of Luther Forest, an early 20th century initiative in forest creation and management.

During the early 19th century Robert Hemphill was a slave-owner. The name of the woman (or women) that he enslaved is not known, but the 1810 and 1820 censuses identify one enslaved woman in the Hemphill household at the time of each census. Moreover, a free man of color is listed with the Hemphill household in the 1820 census. He also is unnamed. The current archaeological analysis is primarily concerned with a spatially isolated component that is located behind the site of the house that the Hemphills built in the 1820s.

The backyard component could be the original (ca. 1803) Hemphill house site, or it could be the site of separate quarters where the Africans/African Americans resided. In view of this the literature on autonomous enslaved and free African American houses is being examined, with the awareness that the design and construction of their houses was one of the areas of life that enslaved people could negotiate or take some control over (at least in some circumstances). We are also aware that the relative autonomy of enslaved people to control the architecture of a home or even to actually live outside the owner's dwelling was sporadic and perhaps involved rare occurrences in the Northeast. The artifact assemblage is strongly dominated by items (including creamware, pearlware, and redware) consistent with occupation during the first quarter of the 19th century.

This part of the site also contained numerous archaeological features, including a line of post molds, other post molds that may indicate other corners or walls, and a variety of pit features. The "post molds" typically consist of square post holes ca. 20 cm (8 in) on a side that contained stains of smaller, round posts. In some cases, a short trench seems to have been used rather than a square hole, and these longer features may indicate repair and replacement along the wall. It may be possible to distinguish original from replacement or later-construction posts, as some post holes had no artifact content (presumably from the period when the site was founded) while others contained artifacts, presumably indicating post hole excavation after several years of artifact deposition in the surrounding soil.



There are other features under consideration for possible relevance to the African/African American component but these are still being analyzed. However, one aspect of the artifact assemblage is interesting in terms of possible material indicators of agency and resilience. These are chipped glass artifacts that include a knife or scraper made with retouch on a dark green glass bottle-neck fragment. It was found just outside of a spatial cluster of dark green bottle glass fragments. The other fragments may represent glass debitage and pieces that were available for retouching and use. Arguably, this is an activity area where knapped glass artifacts were made and used, or where they were stored for use. The terms agency and resilience are used here because knapped glass artifacts are a viable, alternative technology, and because artifacts made from found or recycled glass were something accessible to people largely excluded from economic resources. There is a seminal analysis by Wilkie (1996) and a developing literature on the use of knapped glass artifacts by enslaved Africans and African Americans (e.g., Walker 2016).

Hemphill site, a retouched bottle glass knife or scraper.

Hubbell-Smith Site, Town of Ballston, Saratoga County

Phase 3 Data Recovery fieldwork has been completed at the Hubbell-Smith site on Brookline Road in the Town of Milton, Saratoga County. Edmond and Polly Hubbell moved to this property in Ballston in 1813 and lived there until apparent hard times forced the sale of the property in the 1850s. The Hubbells were farmers and also owner-operators of a cloth manufactory that was located on the same property. The Smiths were later owners who appeared on the 1866 Beers Atlas and in the deed transactions.



Hubbell-Smith site, early 19th century ceramics, various pearlware, engine-turned red stoneware (bottom left) and Jackfield (bottom center).

The original Hubbell house burned in 1831 and was replaced by a house built of cut limestone blocks. Deeds indicate that the factory also was a stone structure. It is believed that the original house was in a part of the site that is protected with an avoidance plan due to the occurrence of precontact period artifacts there. There is a small, early 19th century artifact assemblage from Phase 2 excavation units dug in the now-protected part of the site. These will be used in the full analysis of the data recovery project. In addition, the Phase 3 investigation identified a stratigraphic sequence that includes, at the bottom, a pre-1831 buried A horizon with early 19th century artifacts; mixed soil above this is believed to be redeposited from the excavation of the 1831 house cellar (also including some of the site's early 19th century artifacts); and upper strata from the post-1831 occupation. Archaeological features in the data recovery area include various water drainage facilities. Artifact cataloging and data analysis are ongoing. Analyses will make optimal use of the stratified contexts to search for patterns of change through time.

Archaeological Site Avoidance Plans

Archaeological Site Avoidance Plans follow one of the oldest intentions of CRM archaeology, the creation of archaeological preserves (Lipe 1974), although today agreed upon plans for archaeological site avoidance have the further preservation purpose of protecting in place tangible aspects of cultural heritage. In addition to the Avoidance Plan written for the Hubbell-Smith site, we recently completed, and then re-emphasized the need for the Avoidance Plan for the Haight Barn site in the Town of Fishkill, Dutchess County. The Haight Barn site appears to be associated with the former Captain John Haight house site (burned in 1974). Captain John Haight was one of the American patriot leaders defending the southern approach to the Fishkill Depot during the Revolutionary War.

In Schenectady, a Phase 1 archaeological survey of the expansion of the Schenectady County YWCA has led to an Avoidance Plan protecting a Late Woodland or Contact period Indigenous site as well as a post mold line of the enlarged (ca. 1700-1780) Schenectady stockade, and eighteenth to early nineteenth century pit features and artifact concentrations. This part of Schenectady was on the Binne Kill, a relatively placid water body near the Mohawk River that served in colonial times (and the new Republic) as a port facility for bateaux and Durham boats navigating the Mohawk for trade. This particular Avoidance Plan has a requirement for monitoring during some of the adjacent construction where there is a possibility of encountering cultural resources buried below fill.



Ceramics from the Schenectady YWCA site.

Top row, left to right, salt-glazed stoneware with Albany slip interior, Rhenish stoneware (Westerwald).

Bottom-row, Staffordshire slip-decorated buff earthenware with combed designs.

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Submitted by: Ed Curtin

HUDSON VALLEY CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSULTANTS, LTD.

Brisben Mine Precontact Site (Greene, NY): More Than Just a Lithic Scatter

On a small knoll overlooking an old oxbow of the Chenango River, is a small Late Woodland camp site. This site, the Brisben Mine Precontact Site, was first identified in July of 2020. During the course of a Phase 1B Archaeological Survey, a single shovel test at the edge of the knoll yielded a mere six pieces of dark gray chert debitage. Out of the fifteen additional tests completed at this location, only four yielded cultural material (28 chert flakes, and one fragment of fire-cracked rock [FCR]). The boundaries of the site were delineated and this locus covers only 3,050 square feet on the edge of the knoll, bordered to the east and northeast by a gorge and to the northwest by the old oxbow of the Chenango River.

Within the vicinity of the Brisben Mine Precontact Site, is the McGowan Precontact site and further to the southwest, village and large camp sites have been reported along the banks of the Chenango River. This small lithic scatter was initially interpreted as being a small opportunistic workstation associated with a larger site further afield.



The Brisben Mine site is located on the edge of a knoll.

In December of 2020 the Phase 2 investigations commenced with the excavation of meter square units. The first was placed in the vicinity of the initial positive test. After the removal of the existing plowzone layer the soils within the unit became intriguing as they did not reflect the soil stratigraphy that was previously documented. The soils in this unit (Unit 1) were mixed and the stratigraphy aligned diagonally extending to the southwest from the northeast corner of the unit. These diagonal layers continued more than a meter below the ground surface. The two diagonally aligned strata were surrounded by natural soils. A hearth was identified just below the plowzone. More than 2,200 pieces of lithic debitage were recovered from these two strata. No depositional pattern of the lithic debitage was discerned, nor was a depositional pattern identified within the initial backfill level of this large pit feature. The lithic material was likely swept into a midden area, and those soils used to backfill what may have been a food storage pit. This pit was partially filled to prepare the space for use as a cooking/roasting surface. The hearth feature has been truncated with the upper portions incorporated into the plowzone. The carbon 14 analysis of the charcoal recovered from the hearth feature date the deposit to the Iroquoian Phase of the Late Woodland Period (340±30 BP).



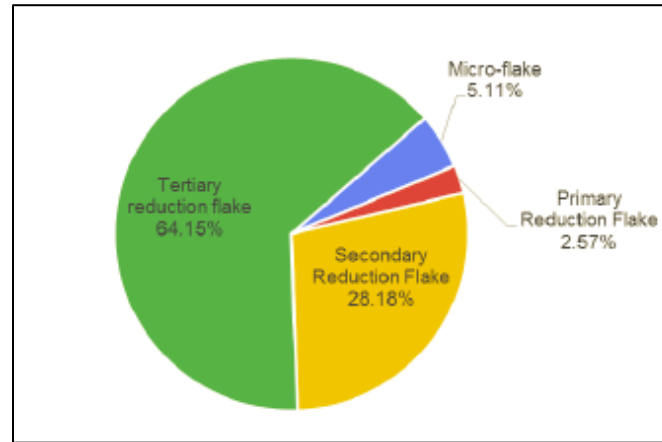
View of the soil stratigraphy- Ap horizon, hearth, and diagonal strata of the storage pit.

To further evaluate this large pit feature an excavation unit was placed cater-corner to Unit 1. This unit revealed that the large pit extended further to the southeast and contained additional hearth features. These features date to the Owasco period of the Late Woodland, 630 ± 30 BP. Two other small features were identified within this unit. A third unit was completed to the west of this unit that identified a post mold feature and another hearth feature, interpreted to be the remains of a roasting platform. A total of six features were encountered during the Phase 2 investigations.

In addition to the carbon analysis, flotation and botanical analysis of the soils recovered from the features were also completed. The remains of raspberry seeds, nut-sedge and wood fern tubers, and wood fragments that were burned at a high heat were identified. The nutsedge tubers are comparable to chestnuts when roasted, and all parts of the wood fern were utilized; as a food source, for medicinal purposes, and as a storage and roasting material. The flotation analysis yielded plant remains that are considered “wild” and not domesticates. While this site dates to a period when agriculture was a predominant aspect of the culture, no domesticated plant varieties were identified. The plants recovered indicate that the occupants of the Brisben Mine Precontact Site were subsisting on plant varieties that mature in late summer and fall. Raspberries generally ripen in July and August, and while nutsedge is available from early spring to late fall, the tubers are generally larger later in the season.

A review of the Owasco and Iroquois period sites within the Chenango Valley has identified the use of large pit features (Prezzano and Stepanaitis 1990; Ritchie 1980). Ritchie (1980) has identified a number of food storage pits that vary in size and shape, (U-shaped to bell shaped) and ranging in size from 3 ft to 6 ft (0.914 m to 1.82 m) in depth and having an opening of 3 to 4 ft (0.914 to 1.21 m) in diameter. The large pits were frequently lined with grass, hemlock branches or bark, and utilized as food storage for dried corn, nuts, and beans. When the pits were no longer useful as storage bins, they were filled with refuse, including bones, ash, potsherds and possibly offal and excreta (Ritchie 1980). The presence of a food storage pit is indicative of a reliance on agriculture and food storage that would enable year-round occupation. The storage pit is a typical component of a Late Woodland–Owasco site in eastern and south-central New York particularly within the Susquehanna Drainage (Prezzano and Stepanaitis 1990).

The Phase 2 excavations yielded 2,566 pieces of lithic debitage, two fragments of pottery, a small non-diagnostic point and a single piece of FCR. The debitage is chert consisting of varying shades of dark gray to gray, with lighter gray shades in the smaller fragments. The debitage was primarily tertiary reduction, suggesting this material was the result of tool re-sharpening rather than tool making. In addition to the debitage the base of a Fox Creek projectile point was recovered.



Breakdown of the debitage recovered as part of the Phase 2 investigations.

Only a single fragment of FCR was recovered during the Phase 2 Investigations and only one fragment during the Phase 1B survey. Black and Thomas (2014) state that heated rocks were often removed from fires and used in other ways. The top portion of one of the hearth features has been incorporated into the plowzone layer. The lack of FCR may be the result of the feature being truncated by the plow action, and stones that were used for heating subsequently relocated within the plowzone or may represent the processes of the removal of the stones for other uses, or in other hearths.

This locus may be correlated to the McGowan site, located to the north, on the flood plain of the Chenango River. There is no indication when the course of the Chenango River changed, first creating and then subsequently abandoning the oxbow/wetland located between the McGowan and Brisben Mine sites.

The Phase 2 investigations revealed that this locus was not a small opportunistic workstation, but rather a significant habitation site, that may be connected to the village sites located along the banks of the Chenango River. The initial testing (Phase 1B) revealed a low density lithic scatter, suggesting that this site was most likely only a short stay camp.

The Phase 2 investigations revealed that this location was utilized for food storage and preparation and tool making and re-sharpening. The Brisben Mine Precontact Site has been declared Eligible for listing in the National Register, and a protection plan is under development.

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Submitted by: Beth Selig

DOWN THE DRAIN OR CEMENTING HISTORY?

The proposed major infrastructure legislation has been much in the news this year. Any CRM professional who has spent any time at all working alongside our highways, under bridges, or peering into urban trenches knows that there is overwhelming critical need. If infrastructure legislation is passed, I can imagine a flurry of construction work. I am urging all CRM professionals, P.I.'s, field directors, and regulatory reviewers to consider much of the existing infrastructure as potentially significant cultural resources to be preserved through research and documentation.

In the past, the presence of a utility trench through an area has been perceived negatively, often presented as evidence of previous disturbance, a rationale for limiting archaeological work, and ultimately project clearance. Recent archaeological monitoring in Utica, NY has enlightened me to the fact that much of the buried infrastructure in that city was built over 140 years ago. Cast-iron waterpipes and stone arch sewer drains dating prior to 1850 are operational today (Figure 1). Buried beneath the streets and sidewalks are gas distribution networks of pipes, drip drains, valves, and lamps related to long obsolete coal gas and other distillates (Figure 2). The national significance of urban water and sanitation systems relative to the growth of cities and industrialization has been framed by historians such as Martin Melosi (1981, 2000) and Joel Tarr (1988, 1996, 2016, 2019). Without the development of these systems, populations would not have been able to concentrate into urban spaces given the certain proliferation of epidemic disease with contaminated water and poor sanitation. Initially, urban water and sanitation systems developed independently within separate neighborhoods and enclaves that later were integrated into unified city-wide systems. These systems, influenced by wealth, political power and social privilege, grew in multiple spasmodic surges in an attempt to keep up with historic growth. Simultaneously, innovations in materials and engineering created a system that was, and remains, a highly variable, cobbled-together, mishmash that miraculously continues to function. This basic story applies to nearly every older American city.



Figure 1. Abandoned Hotel Street stone arch drain.



Figure 2. Coal gas drip trap ca. 1880s.

In 1920-21, bowing to political pressure exercised by industrialists to keep a small section of the old Erie Canal open in Utica, city engineers installed a large rectangular concrete conduit in the bed of the canal nestled against the northern wall. This conduit maintained the flow of water through the city and allowed the filling of the canal, the removal of bridges, and the construction of at-grade thoroughfares. Soon after, the canal was completely abandoned, and the conduit was quickly incorporated into the city's sewer and storm water system (Figure 3). The construction of the conduit utilized a relatively new innovation, the moveable/reusable concrete form. One might argue that the conduit is potentially significant for its relationship with the Erie Canal, a construction engineering innovation, the historic development of Utica, and the evolution of urban sanitary systems.



Figure 3. Junction of 1920 rectangular concrete conduit with later sewer pipe.

Each piece, component, or section of these systems is potentially unique and representative of one of the engineering or material innovations. Compiled, they physically reflect the systems growth and the social and political response to population growth and public health concerns. I am urging a shift in perspective; consider the aged infrastructure not solely as an agent of site disturbance but as a cultural resource itself. I am not arguing for avoidance or in situ preservation as these constructs desperately need replacement. Rather, I would suggest documentation such as HABS/HAER recordation similar to bridge superstructures. Don't let these important pieces of history go down the drain.

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Submitted by: David P. Staley

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

This has been a busy year for the Funk Foundation. To begin, I would like to say that we greatly appreciate NYAC's continuing support. The Funk Foundation awarded two grants during the fall of 2020. We made one of the grants to a previous Funk Foundation grantee, Dr. Albert E. Fulton II. Albert's grant proposal is titled *Calibrating High-Resolution Paleoecological Records for Archaeological Applications: Identifying Signatures of Climate Cyclicality and the "Paleoanthropocene" in Western New York State*. The Funk Foundation funds will be used to obtain a total of five accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon dates from plant materials contained in stratigraphic cores from bog and kettle lake sites flanking the Genesee Valley. The current research expands the data and perspective of Albert's earlier research, with implications for human settlement and activity in the Genesee Valley region.

The other Funk Foundation 2020 grant was awarded to Binghamton University Ph. D. candidate Michele Troutman, whose grant proposal is titled *Memories Knapped in Stone: A Lithic Analysis of the Early Archaic Haviland Site*. The grant is for radiocarbon dates, a portable microscope, storage bags, and mileage (since the collection is curated by the Iroquois Indian Museum near Cobleskill, New York). Michele will compare the data from the Haviland site to the Early Archaic components of the Johnsen No. 3 site that Dr. Robert E. Funk excavated near Wells Bridge (Oneonta area) in the Upper Susquehanna Valley.

During the last year, the Funk Foundation also reviewed and accepted the report on Samantha Sanft's grant. Samantha's grant was for radiocarbon dating of samples from the Klinko and Carman Cayuga village sites. The radiocarbon samples are derived from excavations conducted by Dr. Marian E. White and Dr. Kathleen M. S. Allen. The radiocarbon dates help to provide context for Samantha's Ph.D. dissertation analysis concerning sixteenth century shell and copper exchange in Iroquoia.

The Funk Foundation has granted an extension for grant completion to Binghamton University Master's degree student Douglas Riethmuller due to the pandemic-related, continuing inaccessibility of the lab he intended to use for elemental mass spectrometry analysis of Late Woodland Owasco and Shenks Ferry ceramics. The ceramics are from the Thomas/Luckey site, a Chemung Valley village site of considerable interest to Binghamton University archaeologists. Douglas has made arrangements for another lab to conduct the elemental mass spectrometry analysis.

The Funk Foundation requests proposals for grants to be awarded in 2021. The deadline for grant proposals is October 15, 2021, with the review of proposals and award of grants expected by November 15, 2021. We anticipate posting any revisions to the application forms on our website, www.funkfoundation.org, by June 2021.

Finally, the Funk Foundation is now set up to receive contributions by selecting the Funk Foundation as an Amazon Smile charity. This is another avenue to support the work of the Funk Foundation, in addition to contributing through NYAC as an extra, designated amount when you pay your annual dues, or by sending a check payable to the Robert E. Funk Memorial Archaeology Foundation, Inc. The address for checks is:

Edward V. Curtin
c/o Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.
61 Rowland Street
Ballston Spa, New York 12020

Thanks in advance!

Submitted by: Ed Curtin

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NYAC's First Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Paul R. Huey

In 2021, NYAC launched a new level of recognition for members of this organization. The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes individuals who have made a significant contribution to the field of archaeology, cultural resource management, or community outreach through instruction, research & scholarship, and/or leadership & service, over a minimum of 25 years. This is not an annual award, but instead intends to honor individuals who have achieved outstanding levels of contributions to archaeology.

At NYAC's annual (virtual) meeting on April 23, it was my pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Paul R. Huey with NYAC's first Lifetime Achievement Award.



NYAC's Lifetime Achievement Award Plaque

Paul began his archaeological career as a high school student excavating at Crown Point in 1956. Since then, he has amassed over 100 publications and nearly as many unpublished report and papers. His contributions far exceed the words he has placed on paper and surpass the eligibility requirements for this new award. Several of his colleagues provided letters of support for this award.



Dr. Paul R. Huey accepting the award.

From Sherene Baugher (Professor, Cornell): Paul evolved from an eager young scholar to a mentor and supporter of other archaeologists. Paul is internationally known for his work on Dutch sites especially his landmark work on Fort Orange. He has published extensively on Dutch sites and culture including editing a thematic volume on Dutch sites for *Northeast Historical Archaeology*.

From Mike Lucas (Curator of Historical Archaeology, NYSM): Phrases like “lifetime of dedication to their profession” are often used to praise those who have simply done their job and done it well. Far less common, are those professionals who go above and beyond what is expected of a job well done. Paul Huey truly belongs in this rare company.

From Jim Bradley (President, Archlink): I have known Paul since I was a graduate student. He introduced me to the archaeology of colonial Dutch sites. His heroic salvage excavation on the site of Fort Orange has given him an unequalled knowledge of 17th century Dutch material culture, knowledge he generously shared with me. I could not have written my first Onondaga book (1987) without his help.

From Laurie Miroff (Director, Public Archaeology Facility): I have personally benefitted from Dr. Huey's generosity as a scholar. While working on an eighteenth-century site in Albany County, he forwarded to me a wealth of information about the genealogy of the occupants and details about the site's artifacts – all done on his own time. We had many conversations that led to a richer site interpretation. I am eternally grateful to him for his support.

From Ben Ketcham (Graduate Student, Binghamton University): I have not known Paul Huey very long - he is an acknowledged expert of New Netherland archaeology, while I was new M.A. student. Paul shared his incredible knowledge with me, and was very kind and generous. During Covid-19 lockdowns, I had a hard-drive failure and lost most of my scanned inventories. Paul personally accessed and photocopied the paper copies and then mailed them to me. In short, he saved my thesis. He did not have to do this, so it was an incredible gesture. In the short time I have known Paul, he has gone above and beyond to help me finish my M.A. thesis. I'll be forever grateful!

NYAC established the following criteria for eligibility for future awards. We continue to consider nominees for the Student Award and the Founder's Award. Criteria for these two awards can be found on the NYAC website: <https://nysarchaeology.org/nyac/archaeology-awards/>

Eligibility for the Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominees must be current or past members of NYAC. A nominee's name may not be submitted posthumously.

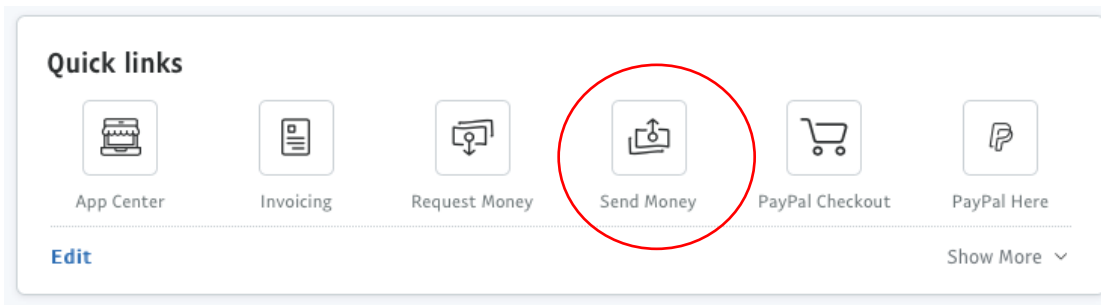
Nominees will be evaluated based upon contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- **Instruction.** The lifetime achievement award recognizes an individual's contribution to teaching and inspiring new generations of archaeologists, particularly in the Northeastern U.S. (but not limited to this geographic region); *and/or*
- **Advancement of the profession of archaeology.** This award acknowledges an individual's mastery of key components of archaeological research, and contributions of new knowledge in the field of archaeology, cultural resource management, or community outreach as documented in terms of publications (number and type) and grants/contracts; *and/or*
- **Sustained Leadership/Service.** This award applauds individuals who exemplify leadership and service in the field of archaeology, cultural resource management, or community outreach at the local, regional and/or national levels related to the ethical conduct of archaeology.

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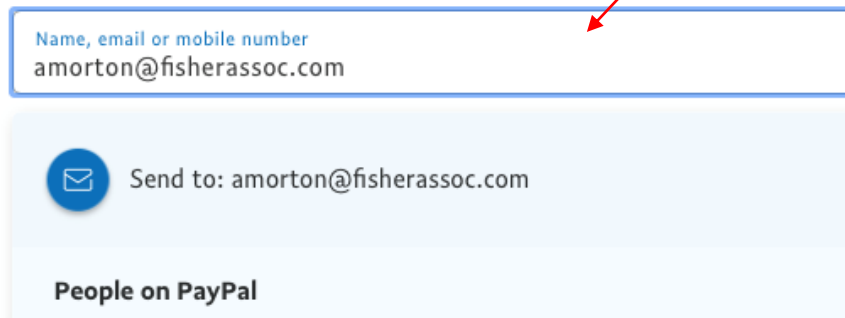
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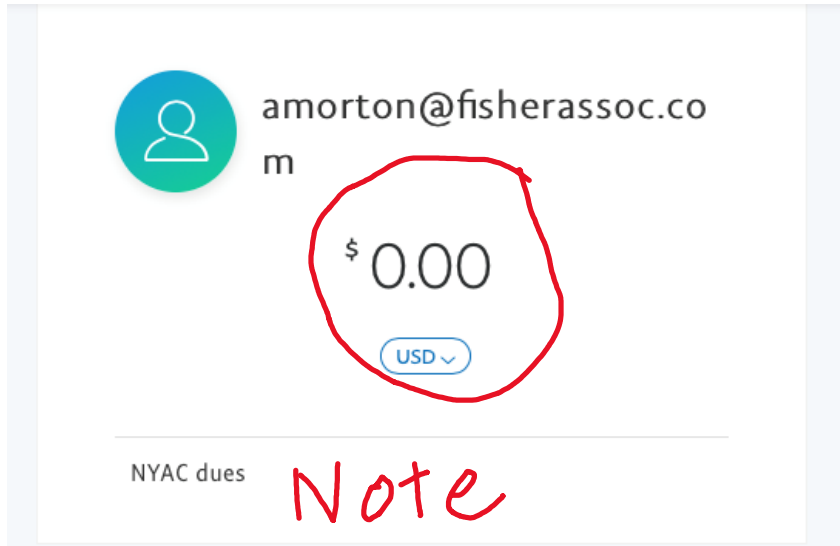


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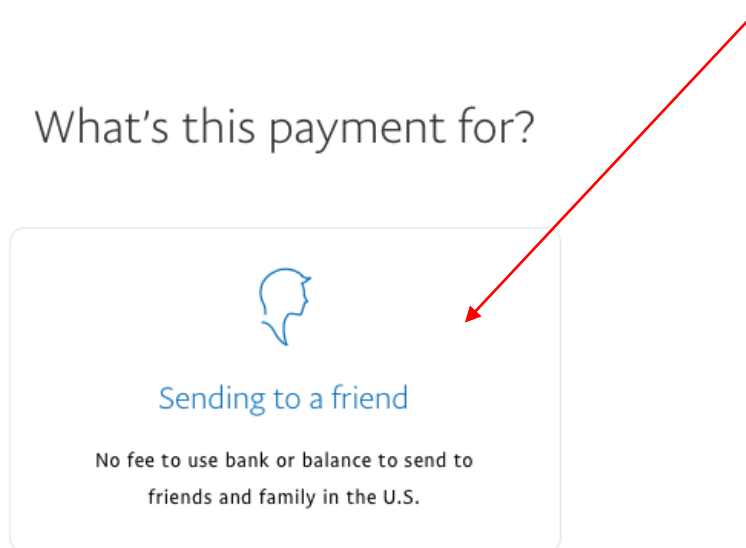
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Submitted by: Ann Morton

NYAC NEWSLETTER

*For the 2022 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.*