

Summer 2007

Special points of interest:

- The annual CNEHA meeting will be in Buffalo, NY October 26-28 For more information: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/depts/artconservation/CNEHA.htm>
- NYAC will be having its fall meeting September 29th. For more information on location and program contact pipesml@aol.com.
- The 2007 ESAF meeting will be Nov. 8-11 in Burlington, VT. Cara Lisa Sargent, cara.sargent@aya.yale.edu, Arrangements Chair, John Crock, john.crock@uvm.edu, Program Chair.
- The 2008 ESA meeting will be Nov. 6-9, Lockport, NY. Bill Engelbrecht, engbwe@buffalostate.edu, Arrangements Chair, Lisa Anselmi, anselmim@buffalostate.edu, Program Chair.

Inside this issue:

2007 Annual meeting photo gallery, *photos courtesy of David Starbuck*

Results of the 2007 NYSAA awards, *Peter A. Pratt*

Results of a University at Buffalo Archaeological Project, *Ryan F. Austin*

Campaign to mark Max Schrabisch's grave, *Charles A. Bello*

NYSM calls for paper contributions in honor of Charles (Chuck) L. Fisher

NYSAA Newsletter



Annual Meeting

Thanks go to the Adirondack Chapter for a successful conference at the stately Gideon Putnam Hotel in Saratoga Springs. One hundred and forty individuals registered for the conference. A total of 31 papers were presented and there was a moving panel discussion Saturday morning, "Site Sensitivity from an Indigenous Perspective." After the Friday evening Business meeting, Dr. Robert Kuhn gave a talk entitled, "Welcome to the Gideon Putnam Hotel and Saratoga Spa State Park." The Saturday evening banquet speaker was Dr. Douglas Scott, president of the Society for Historical Archaeology whose talk, "From the Little Bighorn to Baghdad: Archaeological Battlefield Models of Conflict" was very well received.

The official minutes of the Business meeting will appear in The Bulletin for 2007. What follows is a brief summary. Fred Assmus of the Incorporated Orange County Chapter has been appointed NYSAA liaison to the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. His major responsibility will be to work with both organizations to try and prevent the scheduling of our respective annual meetings on the same date. His address: 10 Keystone Park, Middletown, NY 10940, Phone (845) 343-1671, e-mail: fasa10key@aol.com. We look forward to future cooperation with the SPA.

Student winners of Funk Foundation awards are required to present the results of their research at a meeting. A motion was passed to reimburse such student winners for their expenses up to \$200 for presenting their research at an annual NYSAA meeting and to award them a one-year student membership in NYSAA.

Successful motions were made to donate \$300 to each of the following:

- 1) Archaeology Season in New York State
- 2) Fisher Fund for Historical Archaeology, New York State Museum, in memory of Dr. Charles Fisher
- 3) Robert E. Funk Foundation, in memory of Beth Wellman

Printed reports of officers, committee chairs, and chapters for 2006 were distributed to chapter representatives at the meeting. Bill Bouchard, Corresponding Secretary, announced that membership for 2006 now stands at 558, up from 446 in 2005. Carolyn Weatherwax, treasurer, reported that NYSAA total assets are \$40,769. Charles F. Hayes, Bulletin editor, needs submissions. I welcome submissions to this newsletter.

Bill Engelbrecht, NYSAA President

2007 Annual Meeting Photo Gallery



Carolyn Weatherwax, Sandy Arnold and Paula Dennis standing in the hallway.



Doug Scott, Banquet Speaker.



Folks at the registration desk.

Meritorious Service Awards

At the 2007 Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs the following NYSAA members received Meritorious Service Awards.

Dr. Sherene Baugher was one of the founders of the Finger Lakes Chapter and served as its first president from 2005-2007. She also currently serves as chair of the NYSAA Chapters and Membership Committee. Since joining the faculty at Cornell in 1991 she has been committed to expanding the visibility and public role of archaeology in Central New York.

Vicky Jayne has been an integral part of the Beauchamp group for 37 years, first as a member of the Beauchamp Archaeological Society and then as one of the founders of the Beauchamp Chapter. She currently serves as treasurer of the chapter and writes the publicity for the monthly Chapter meetings. She also volunteers weekly at the Ste. Marie Among the Iroquois Museum where she identifies and catalogs artifacts.

Dr. Gregory Sohrweide has long been active in the Beauchamp Chapter and is currently Chapter president. He has scheduled a varied program of speakers from across the state, often hosting speakers over night in his home. Over the last four years, he has helped revitalize the Ste. Marie Among the Iroquois Museum in Liverpool, NY, implementing a program to save, identify and catalog the museum's collections.

Helen Tanner has served as the Beauchamp Chapter's secretary and librarian for over a quarter of a century. She has regularly distributed and collected the chapter's digging tools stored in her home for years. She has also been supportive of all the Chapter's fundraising activities, contributing both ideas and time. She cheerfully helps out in all aspects of the chapter's needs.

The Blackmar-Eaton (MDS 1001) Site (UB 3660; NYSM 11358): Preliminary Phase III Data Recovery Results by Ryan F. Austin, PhD, University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey

Between October 2006 and June 2007, the University at Buffalo Archaeological Survey conducted a Phase III Data Recovery excavation at the historic 19th century Blackmar-Eaton (MDS 1001) site. The site is situated on a small, two acre parcel in the northeastern corner of Holland Land Company Lot 68, Subsection B of Township 7, Range 6. The site is on Zoar Valley road, just southwest of the Village of Springville, in the Town of Concord, Erie County, New York (Fig. 1). The Blackmar-Eaton site was identified by the Archaeological Survey in 2002 during a Phase 1B Reconnaissance Survey of the US Route 219 Construction Section 5, and is almost totally encompassed within project area limits.

Archival sources, including census schedules, property records, land-owner atlases and subscription histories suggest that the Blackmar-Eaton site was occupied as a tenant farm and/or rental property from 1838 to c.1875, and encompassed a residential dwelling (MDS 1001), outbuildings (e.g. privy, shed), and associated work yards, lawns, gardens and fields. From 1838 to 1857 the site was occupied by a series of at least three tenants, including the Blackmar, McKinney and Darling families. The site's first owner, Lester Brace, a prominent local political figure and Erie County Sheriff between 1835 and 1837, was likely acquainted with the first tenant, William Blackmar, who had worked in the Erie County Court as a jailer during the late 1820s. Brace served as an absentee landlord until 1853 when he sold the lot to Blackmar, who continued to maintain the site as a rental property (Fig. 2).

In 1857, William Blackmar's nephew, Luzerne Eaton purchased the site property. From 1857 to the mid 1870s, the site was occupied by Eaton's aging parents, Elisha and Betsey, who had turned over the day-to-day operation of the adjacent family farmstead (MDS 1007) to their son and his family. The property was abandoned after 1875, when Luzerne moved away, and his farmhouse was re-occupied by his parents. After this point, MDS 1001 appears to have been demolished, while the site property was integrated into the adjacent MDS 1007 farmstead complex and used as an ornamental lawn area and wood lot (Fig. 3). During the mid-20th century, the two acre lot was re-used as cultivated farmland.

Excavations at the Blackmar-Eaton site produced a wide variety of historic materials related to the sites 19th century occupation. Testing involved the excavation of forty (40) 1 x 1 meter test units, followed by the mechanical stripping of plowzone soils from six (6) 5 x 30 meter trenches, and the subsequent excavation of the multiple historic features identified during this process, including the remains of the former farmhouse (MDS 1001), two deep privy / midden pits, as well as a over thirty postmolds associated with outbuildings and fence-lines.

The majority of artifacts were identified as architectural debris derived from MDS 1001, and included a collapsed brick chimney, a wood lined cellar pit, as well as the remains of wood boards, floor joists and posts. In addition, other types of building hardware were recovered, including iron nails, bolts, straps, hinges, and door handles, as well as flagstone steps, plaster fragments and window glass panes. Based on excavated remains, MDS 1001 was "L" shaped, and was aligned with Zoar Valley Road.

Although the historic artifacts found in the plowzone were highly fragmentary, material recovered from deeply buried features exhibited a high degree of preservation, especially for metal, bone, leather and wooden objects. In addition to their remarkable preservation, artifacts recovered during the data recovery investigations evince a wide array of functional activities carried out by the site's occupants.



Figure 1. Bird's eye view of the Blackmar-Eaton (MDS 1001) site project area.



Figure 2. Blackmar-Eaton Site (MDS 1001) on 1855 Map of Erie County, New York (Geil 1855).

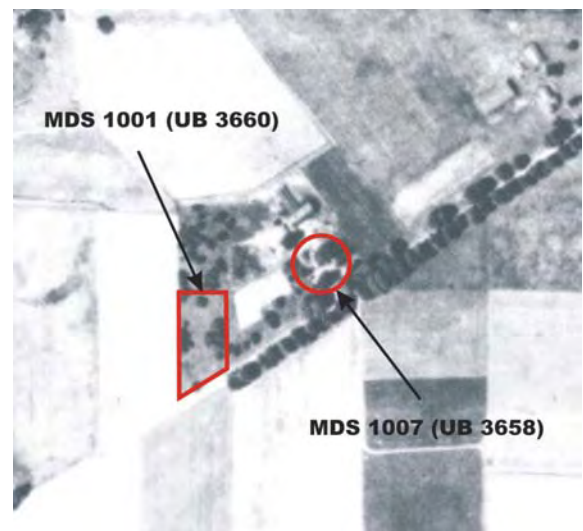


Figure 3. Blackmar-Eaton Site (MDS 1001) on 1929 Fairchild Aerial Photo of Erie County, New York.

A wide variety of domestic / food related artifacts were found, including objects related food preparation, service, consumption and storage. Among these are refined earthenware ceramic table and teawares, redware bowls, and stoneware crockery, as well as several metal cooking pots and eating utensils (Fig. 5 & 6). Other domestic artifacts recovered include objects used for medicinal and hygienic purposes, including patent medicine bottles, apothecary jars and ceramic chamber pots (Fig. 7).

The site assemblage also contained a variety of clothing objects, including the fragments of several leather shoes, as well as an assortment of buttons, buckles, and other clothing fasteners (Fig. 8 & 9). Personal items were also found, such as tobacco pipes, sewing-related accoutrements including pins and thimbles, an inkwell and pencil fragments, ceramic figurines, as well as several U.S. pennies dating to 1858, 1861 and 1867 (Fig. 10 & 11).

Information from the Blackmar-Eaton Site is valuable, in part, because our understanding of historic domestic sites in Western New York is under-developed. The practical knowledge gained through the study of agricultural practice and consumer behavior will help cultural resource managers to develop a regional context for interpreting and assessing other historic farmstead sites.

The availability of comparative site data represented by MDS 1001 will allow for more comprehensive and meaningful interpretations of cultural practices and their material associations at 19th century farmstead sites in rural Western New York and throughout the northeastern United States. The UB Archaeological Survey, Parsons Transportation Group, Ecology & Environment, Inc., the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration are committed to the site's development as an accessible cultural resource for educational and public use by students, professionals, the local community and the general public. For more information, contact the UB Archaeological Survey



Figure 4. Blackmar-Eaton Site after soil stripping. Brick pile in foreground is MDS 1001 (Feature 44).

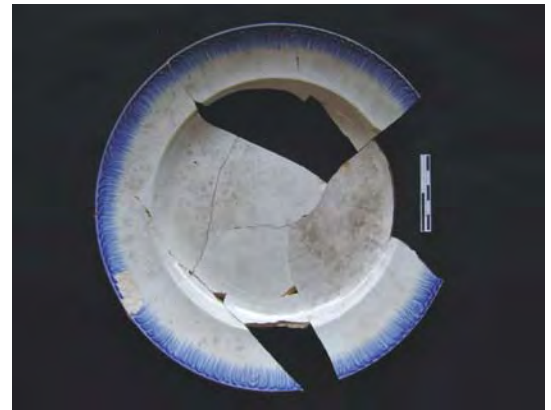


Figure 5. Blue shell-edged dinner plate from privy / midden feature (Feature 42).



Figure 6. Spoon recovered from collapsed chimney of MDS 1001 (Feature 44).



Figure 7. Patent medicine bottle from privy / midden feature (Feature 42).



Figure 8. Leather shoe sole recovered from collapsed brick chimney of MDS 1001 (Feature 44).



Figure 9. Copper alloy clothing fasteners recovered from kitchen midden pit (Feature 3)

Max Schrabisch: Early New Jersey Archaeologist (& Musician, Linguist, Naturalist & Rambler)

This article was submitted earlier to the N.Y.S.A.A. It is followed by an update from Charles Bello.

Max Schrabisch, well-known northern New Jersey archaeologist, lies buried in an unmarked grave in the East Ridgelawn Cemetery (255 Main Avenue) in Clifton (<http://www.eastridgelawncemetery.com/default.htm>). Max's archaeological career (ca. 1900-1940) has been nicely documented by Archaeological Society of New Jersey members Edward Lenik (1998) and Anthony DeCondo (<http://hackensackhigh.org/~decondo/>). To the best of their knowledge Max, a Paterson resident of German birth, never married, has no surviving relatives, and died penniless. His grave plot was donated. A decade ago Edward Lenik spoke of mounting an effort to purchase a grave marker for Prof. Schrabisch. Ed's thought was for the ASNJ and a variety of New Jersey Highlands Historical Societies to contribute funds for the project. Although this effort was officially put forth as an ASNJ project, few dollars were actually procured. However, Anthony DeCondo carried on, and through his website that documents the many articles authored by Max, made a most generous contribution of \$600 to the fund started by the ASNJ. Although money from Tony's website continues to come in to the Society (earmarked for the grave marker project), we do not yet have the total amount needed to purchase, inscribe, and erect the monument. The cost for a marker will run around \$1,200. The monument company is conveniently located across the street from the cemetery, and will inscribe (in addition to Max's name, place of birth, and birth/death dates) a short epitaph. All we have to do now is come up with an additional \$600. The status of this ongoing project was discussed at the ASNJ Executive Board meeting on January 20 and a decision was made to move forward toward completion as soon as possible. I have already gotten donations and verbal commitments from a number of ASNJ members who want to donate to the memorial fund. Anyone who would like to help honor the memory of Prof. Max Schrabisch is encouraged to send a check (payable to the Archaeological Society of New Jersey). Any amount is most welcome - people have already given me \$5, \$10, & \$20 right out of their wallets upon my initial presentation to them! It won't take much to make a difference and to participate in a wonderful and caring tribute to Max. Please take the time right now to help honor one of the great early-20th-century New Jersey archaeologists - described in his obituary (*Paterson News*) as "One of the most brilliant archaeologists in these parts ... an indefatigable discoverer of Indian rockshelters"(see also Lenik 1998:53). We are aiming to have the marker in place by March 1st to celebrate Max's 138th birthday! Please send checks (payable to ASNJ) to Charles Bello, 19 Ledge Lane, Pipersville, PA 18947. Remember the ASNJ is a non-profit organization and your donation is tax deductible (to the extent that the laws allow). The ASNJ will provide a receipt for your donations upon request. Thanks very much in advance.

Reference Cited

Lenik, Edward, J.

1998 *Max Schrabisch: Rockshelter Archaeologist*. Wayne Township Historical Commission. Wayne, New Jersey.

Photo credit: Max Schrabisch, circa 1920's (Passaic County Historical Society ~ photograph prepared by Giacomo DeStefano).

Charles A. Bello, M.A., RPA

19 Ledge Lane

Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

Friends and Colleagues,

March 1, 2007 was the 138th anniversary of the birth of New Jersey archaeologist Prof. Max Schrabisch (March 1, 1869 - October 27, 1949). Our campaign to get Max's grave site marked has been a resounding success and I thank those members of the ASNJ, SPA, NYSAA, NYAC, PANYC, the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum, the NJ History List, and many other historical societies who contributed. Max's grave is now properly marked in the Ridgelawn Cemetery (255 Main Avenue), Clifton. Congrats and kudos to all who helped respect the memory of this interesting archaeologist. Charles A. Bello, M.A., RPA March 1, 2007

N.Y.S.A.A.



William E. Engelbrecht
N.Y.S.A.A. President
Editor

Marie-Lorraine Pipes
N.Y.S.A.A. Vice-president
Associate Editor

News Items

The members of the William M. Beauchamp Chapter participated in the De Angelo's neighborhood garage sale in June. The event raised \$84.50 to benefit the Weiskotten Scholarship Fund. Barbara DeAngelo, Treasurer.

The 2008 (April 18-20) meeting is being hosted by the Beauchamp and Thousand Island Chapters and will be in the Syracuse area. For local arrangements, contact Dr. Gregory Sohrweide, gregsohr@aol.com. For program, contact Dr. Tim Abel, tabel@twcny.rr.com.

The 2009 meeting will be hosted by the Morgan Chapter, Rochester NY. Contact Ann Morton or Marie-Lorraine Pipes for program information, amorton@rochester.rr.com, pipesml@aol.com



Figure 10. Copper alloy thimbles recovered from kitchen midden pit (Feature 3).



Figure 11. Glazed ceramic tobacco "Face" pipe: "WASHINGTON".

New York State Museum Calls for Paper Contributions

Call for Papers: "Soldiers, Cities, and Landscapes: Papers in Honor of Charles L. Fisher"

The New York State Museum will hold a colloquium on December 1st and 2nd, 2007, in honor of Charles (Chuck) L. Fisher, the Museum's first curator of historical archaeology. The themes of the colloquium, titled "Soldiers, Cities, and Landscapes: Papers in Honor of Charles L. Fisher," reflect Chuck's broad range of interests including military emplacements and the lives of ordinary soldiers and the development of historical landscapes and urban environments.

The Museum is now seeking contributed papers. Please send proposed titles and abstracts to John P. Hart by August 15, 2007. (jhart@mail.nysed.gov)

Abstracts will be reviewed by committee, and authors will be notified of acceptance by September 15. Plans are to publish selected papers presented at the colloquium in the Museum's peer-reviewed Bulletin series.