

**NEWSLETTER**

**Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties**

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S.C.A.A.'s film, **The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island** is finished in a 1:59 minutes version. The archaeology portion of the film was shown in an Archaeology Film Symposium at the January 2009 Society for Historical Archaeology conference to great interest in the high tech procedures and processes shown in the film, such as – faunal analysis, paleoethnobotany, soil geo-morphology, archaeophysics, UV soil analysis, dendrochronology dating, and soil block lift and analysis..

The documentary shows how much Dutch world history affected the development of Long Island and the role the Island played in the development of globalization – which is not noted in regional accounts.



The excavated artifacts reveal how the Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans lived together at Sylvester Manor producing provisions for Constant Sylvester's plantations on Barbados. Sylvester Manor was one of six manors in Suffolk County, the most in one area of the New World.

**The Sugar Connection...** shows the Dutch principles of toleration and freedom of conscience; Holland was the only country in the 17<sup>th</sup> century world to have it. It also illustrates the role of the Quakers, from England to New England to Shelter Island, in fighting for freedom of conscience. These beliefs affected the world and have shaped American history.

Dr. Steve Mrozowski, staff, and students of the Anthropology Department, U-Mass-Boston excavated at Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island for 8 years, beginning in 1999. Alice Fiske, resident of the Manor, funded the Andrew Fiske Memorial Archaeological Foundation at U-Mass to support the extensive excavations and the Sylvester/Fiske family story..

The information in this film supports Editor at Large of the *Long Island History Journal* Wolf Schaefer's view that "an integrated study of local, national, and global history is not only possible but preferable."

Stratigraphy from the excavation and family documents reveal that the first labor on the Manor plantation was by hired Native labor, the first such proof in the country. The Manor, later using enslaved labor, was the provisioning plantation for the Sylvester family's sugar plantations on Barbados. Dr. Mrozowski recently began testing of the Constant Plantation site on Barbados to ascertain that end of the story.



Seventeenth Century Barbados

Over forty scholars contributed their expertise in Dutch world history, slavery, sugar production, and the role of Jews and others in the vital international sugar trade.



Excavation at Sylvester Manor

The film is available on DVD for \$40., plus \$6.00 sales tax and shipping, from S.C.A.A. A version for teachers with a menu to locate the strands of world history, slavery, sugar production, religious tolerance, etc. for classroom use, is also available at the same price.

**The Manors of Long Island** documentary film is underway. It will show the history and archaeological story of the other manors in Suffolk County – Lloyd Manor on Lloyds Neck, Huntington; the Manor of St. George in Strongs Neck, Yaphank, and Mastic; Gardiner's Island; Fishers Island; and Sagtikos Manor in Bay Shore. Eaton's Neck and Plum Island were also Manors, but were used for animal husbandry and not lived on, as the others were.

This film will be a sequel to **The Sugar Connection...**, which focused on only Sylvester Manor, and will show how the purposes of each manor proprietor varied and were similar, as well as their role in regional and world history.

Archaeology at the Joseph Lloyd Manor has been carried out for the past few years by Dr. Christopher Matthews and Jenna Coplin. Archaeology at the Henry Lloyd Manor house (some of it reported in SCAA's Vol. VII - *The Historical Archaeology of Long Island*) was done decades ago by Edward Johannemann and Laurie Schroeder Billadello, by Dr. John Vetter and Dr. David Bernstein, and by Dr. Toni Silver for her doctoral dissertation, none of which is in print except Toni's from University Microfilms.

Archaeological testing has begun at the original site of the Manor of St. George this year, directed by Dr. Chris Matthews and Jenna Coplin. Further testing and excavation is planned for the next few years. A foundation corner was found, as well as a silver pin, a decorative pipe stem, and 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century ceramics. Fortunately, there is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century drawing of the site and buildings. It will be interesting to see which building this foundation corner supported.

State Archaeologist Bob Funk and John Pfeiffer excavated on Fishers Island, but it focused only on the prehistoric aspect of the Island. Earlier such research there, executed by Henry L. Ferguson (founder of the Ferguson Museum), was reprinted from the Museum of the American Indian's *Indian Notes & Monographs* in SCAA's *Readings in Long*

*Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory*, Vol. 1 (now out of print).

Dr. Kevin McBride, Research Director of the Pequot-Mashantucket Museum – whose research on a Block Island fort is in SCAA volume VIII, **Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area**, has a \$340,000. grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to research early Native American/European battle grounds in this area. Last summer he located and excavated a Pequot fort. This summer he will be locating and testing for Fort Saybrook, the fort built by Lion Gardiner for English developers Lords Seele and Say, for whom Fort Saybrook was named.

The oldest European fort in the Northeast is Jamestown; there was a fort at Boston, which has not been located. Kevin knows he can find Fort Saybrook because documents say it burned, which leaves a signature in the soil. It will be the second oldest European fort in the region, and is a major accomplishment of Lion Gardiner. His *Chronicles of the Pequot Wars* is the only original manuscript of that war surviving. The writings of the only other trained military men in New England, Capt. John Underhill and Capt. James Mason, do not exist in the original form. The excavation of the fort will be filmed for the Gardiner Manor portion of the **Manors of Long Island** documentary. The Fort Saybrook excavation will be a major new addition to New England and Northeast history and archaeology.

**The Archaeology of Maspeth, Long Island, New York and Vicinity**, by Stanley H. Wisniewski and Ralph S. Solecki, has been published by the New York State Archaeological Association, October, 2010. This volume puts into print, so its information is available to the public, the many years of excavation by the authors in Queens County, NY as *teenagers!* It will be useful to archaeologists and other scholars who do work in that area in future.

Besides an environmental background and a contemporary view, as well as a 17<sup>th</sup> century history of the Maspeth area and a history of the Maspeth Indians, the number of unknown sites includes – the DeWitt Clinton House and the Queens Head Tavern, the Garvis Pipe Factory, 7 other archaeological sites, prehistoric artifacts from the Maspeth site, historical artifacts from the Maspeth Creek and Laurel Hill areas, and the 17<sup>th</sup> century fireplace. The latter is thought to have been the remains of a Dutch trading post, the only such find in the metropolitan area to date.

A great contribution to the volume are the photographs taken by Ralph Solecki in the 1930s, showing the desecration of Maspeth Creek and the region by the dumping of New York City garbage and polluting heavy industry plants located there. The disposition given of the artifacts is good to know for future researchers.

The volume is available for \$15. + \$2 postage + sales tax from NYSAA, c/o Bill Engelbrecht, 16 Atlantic Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222 and the Southold Indian Museum, P.O. Box 268, Southold, NY 11971.

## Port Jefferson Village Protects Archaeological Resources

Six years ago SCAA wrote to the Mayor of Port Jefferson Village about the destruction of archaeological resources and ancient trees in the Village park on Mt. Sinai Harbor by vandals hunting for Native American artifacts. SCAA vice-president Dave Thompson reported the vandalism to SCAA, and took a number of pictures documenting the damage, included in the letter. There was no reply or action taken.



Chief Tomaszewski receiving Certificate of Appreciation

Village Chief Constable Wally Tomaszewski kept the letter, and showed it to the current Mayor, Margot Garant, when she assumed office. Being a proponent of protecting and enhancing the Village's culture history, she and Chief Tomaszewski have taken action: the park is locked at dark, there are increased police patrols in the area, and electronic surveillance is being planned.

Douglas Mackey of the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation provided the Village with the sources of the state and federal language used to protect cultural resources, but basically, removal of any item from governmental property is theft, and may be prosecuted as such.



Mayor Garant receiving SCAA's Golden Trowel Award.

Dave Thompson reports that the archaeological vandalism is rampant around the shore of Mt. Sinai Harbor, including Chandler County Park and other properties.

Besides a government agency re-zoning a site so development will not destroy archaeological resources, Mayor Garant is the first Long Island public official to take immediate action to preserve their archaeological resources.

## New Underwater Discoveries

A submerged landscape known as the Doggerlands in the southern part of the North Sea between present day Great Britain and Europe has been discovered. The inhabitants of this area developed a rich and advanced culture 8,500 years ago that was submerged by rising seas and lost of history. Maritime archaeological work off the coast of Skaelskor, Denmark is uncovering this submerged settlement, named Tudsehage. UConn archaeologist David Robinson is one of the team recovering the remarkable finds, including many organic artifacts preserved by the anerobic underwater environment. A story similar to that of the Lost Atlantis? The National Geographic Channel has produced a TV show about this investigation.

This discovery is similar to that of Dr. Ballard, of Titanic fame, whose underwater research vessel scanned the floor of the Mediterranean Sea, and discovered large areas of homes and villages. This was felt to have happened when a wall of water from the Black Sea broke through a narrow spot in the Dardanelles and inundated this inhabited area, leaving no time for residents to escape – possibly the basis of the story of Noah's Ark..

*Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Chesapeake*, an exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History through Feb. 6, 2011, examines history through 17<sup>th</sup> century bone biographies. New technological capability and forensic investigation provide intriguing information on people and events of America's past heretofore unavailable. Information:

<http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/anthnote/anthnotes.html>.

"Human Evolution from Darwin to Dover: What a long Strange Trip It's Been" is a teaching activity at [http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/Teaching\\_Activities/index.htm](http://anthropology.si.edu/outreach/Teaching_Activities/index.htm). Produced by Louise S. Mead, education project director for the National Council for Science Education, Berkeley, CA. This activity introduces students to primate (including humans) classification and systematics.

*Anthonotes*, the popular Museum of Natural History resource for teachers, is going Green. Email [anthroutreach@si.edu](mailto:anthroutreach@si.edu) with your request for an electronic version.

The germinal Adriaen van der Donck's *A Description of New Netherland* translated work has been expanded and enhanced by Drs. Charles Gehring and William Starna.

This soft-cover edition is the first complete and accurate English-language translation of an essential first-hand account of the world of Dutch colonists and northeastern Native communities in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. An astute observer, his description is that of an early ethnographer; he provided the earliest recorded information on the Native people and resources of Long Island as well as from Ft. Orange/Albany to New Amsterdam. The book is available for \$19.95 plus s&h from the New Netherland Institute online shop, [www.nnp.org](http://www.nnp.org).

**“Last Extinction” by Clovis Comet Refuted**

A recent issue of this Newsletter recounted the research (from *Mammoth Trumpet*) of Richard Firestone of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Jennifer Marion of U. of Oregon, and Wallace Broecker of the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory at Columbia U. regarding the postulation in 2001 that the impact of a supernova had caused the severe climate change of 12,900 ya of the ‘last extinction’ of Ice Age animals.. In 2009 it was seen as a comet that had imploded the earth and later as solar flares.

A new interpretation by Andrew C. Scott (U. of London, England) says “proponents of the theory have offered carbonaceous spherules and ‘nanodiamonds’ formed by intense heat as evidence of an impact. But a new study finds these are merely fossilized bits of fungus, charcoal, and other organic matter. Moreover, they date from times spanning thousands of years before and after the start of the Younger Dryas cool period, not from a time span of less than a century as originally reported – ruling out an impact origin. There just isn’t the evidence to support it.” His group’s findings will appear in *Geophysical Research Letters*. Stay tuned!

**The Society for Historical Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology** will be held in Austin, Texas, January 5 - 9, 2011. For information - <http://www.sha.org/about/conferences/2011.cfm>.

**Corinthian Data Capture** of Wyandanch, NY uses advanced laser technology to get 360-degree, digitized 3-D images of objects, such as buildings, with 2-millimeter accuracy. The images have several uses, such as archival documentation, the creation of virtual tours and models, and as an aid in restoration repairs – from a model to replace a fender on a classic car to replacing a broken part on a sculpture. Or scanning a structure, as they recently did for SPLIA’s Joseph Lloyd House in Lloyd Harbor. It can also be used to document a crime scene and make a model to use in court.

Its most recent high profile job was scanning the 18-19<sup>th</sup> century boat unexpectedly found in excavations for the new World Trade Center under construction. The waterlogged wood boat beams were disintegrating almost as fast as they being excavated, so the swift scanning technology was essential. The boat beams are now at the world-class Maryland State conservation laboratory being conserved.

This high-tech method is being used throughout the world to document pyramids, historic buildings, notable sculptures, etc.

**Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association**

*Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory*  
All volumes and DVD are \$40. + \$6. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$75. + \$9. Shipping, both plus 8.50% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vols. I, IV and VI are out of print.

- I *Early Paper in Long Island Archaeology*
- II *The Coastal Archaeology Reader*
- III *History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.*
- IV *Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians*
- V *The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader*
- VI *The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History*
- VII *The Historical Archaeology of L.I.: Part 1 - The Sites*
- VIII *The Native Forts of L.I. Sound*
- DVD - Sugar Connection...Film

**Student Series** (Including shipping)

- Booklet: *A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.* \$6.
- Study Pictures: *Coastal Native Americans* 8.
- Wall Chart: *Native Technology* (26x39"-3 colors) 14.
- Map: *Native Long Island* (26x39"-3 colors) 14.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.			
Student (to 18)	\$10.	Individual	\$20.
Family	30.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		
Date:.....			
Name:.....			
Address:.....			
City/State/Zip:.....			
Phone No. ....			
Willing to volunteer? .....			
Occupation: .....			
Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Tel: 631-929-8725			

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