

NYSAA NEWSLETTER



Parting Thoughts by Lisa Marie Anselmi

Contact Information:

Sherene Baugher
NYSAA President
sbb8@cornell.edu

David Moyer
Newsletter Editor
plumbbob66@yahoo.com

The NYSAA Website is
<http://nysarchaeology.org/nysaa/>

The editor and the NYSAA Executive Board encourage any NYSAA member who would like to submit an article, letter, editorial or news items to submit it electronically to David Moyer at the address listed above.

It is my honor to formally announce the new slate of officers for the state-wide NYSAA in this newsletter edition since we did not have a formal meeting in 2020. The slate ran unopposed and were elected unanimously by some 48 voters in Spring 2020. A full third of these votes were cast electronically.

Your 'new' officers for 2021-2022:

President	Sherene Baugher
Vice-President	David Moyer
Treasurer	Ann Morton
Secretary	Gail Merian

Sherene returns to the presidency following a two-year gap during which I served as President. It is my pleasure to see her return to this position. The other officers are continuing in their previous roles. I am stepping back from all NYSAA duties including as newsletter editor after the winter 2021 edition due to previous commitments at Buffalo State, community organizations, and the Conference on Iroquois Research. Vice-President Moyer will be taking over the editing duties for the newsletter. Please forward submissions to him directly at: plumbbob66@yahoo.com

Before his passing, our Bulletin editor, Dr. David Starbuck, was able to complete the editing for the 2020 volume. It should be on its way to members shortly. You will receive a volume if you were on the chapter mailing list that Gail and Ann received at the end of 2020.

NYSAA Conference 2020

Many continued thanks to Stephanie Benson and her team from Orange County for dealing with the arrangements for, and then the postponing of, the April 2020 NYSAA conference. Stephanie arranged for a future conference to be held at the Crowne Plaza resulting in no financial losses for the chapter. Fingers crossed that Covid-19 will be under control via vaccine or other means so that we might meet in person soon.

Future business

If there is one thing that the pandemic has taught us, it is the place for technology in organizations such as ours. It is my hope that the state-wide officers and chapter officers will continue to embrace the best of these advancements in order to facilitate NYSAA business. This means opening the by-laws to include provisions for electronic voting, virtual meetings (such as the November business meeting), and electronic collection of membership dues, conference fees, and donations.

Best wishes until we can see each other in person at a future NYSAA meeting.

-Lisa Marie Anselmi

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Incoming President's Message By Sherene Baugher

Dear Members of the New York State Archaeological Association,

This has been a turbulent and very challenging year for us all with the Covid-19 pandemic, an economy with numerous people unemployed, and the election. But as Governor Cuomo says – we are “New York Tough!” and as members of the NYSAA we are trying to put together our lives and safely move forward.

The NYSAA has some exciting plans to help our members safely get together in this period of the “new normal.” We are working to create a winter/spring schedule of once a month zoom chapter meetings. A committee is planning an exciting program so members of all of our chapters can join a zoom meeting and hear lectures with great Powerpoint presentations on New York State Archaeology.

Because we know that it won't be safe to have an in-person conference in April, we had a committee look into the possibility of doing what other archaeology organizations have tried – a zoom conference. But with more and more of our members expressing that with working at home they are “zoomed out” we decided NOT to have a virtual conference. Instead, we are focusing on the once a month, one hour, evening zoom lecture series. Just think, you can relax in casual clothes with your slippers on and sitting in your easy chair with a nice cup of coffee or a glass of wine and tune in for the monthly evening talks that you want to hear. While we will miss seeing everyone in person and chatting, this is a nice, stop-gap measure until we can happily celebrate together at our conference in April 2022. On another good note, the Orange County chapter has worked with the hotel and they have changed our conference registration to April 2022, so we are all set with the hotel. Now we just need to wait for everyone to receive their vaccines.

While we didn't have an annual meeting, we did have an election, and I am your new president, or should I say, I am a returning president after a two-year hiatus. I am pleased to report that my husband is doing much better after his stroke in 2017. The Executive Board of NYSAA happily has Dave Moyer, Ann Morton, and Gail Merian continuing their wonderful roles as Vice- President, Treasurer and Secretary of NYSAA. We thank Lisa Anselmi for her work as NYSAA President from 2018-2020. Also, for many years Lisa has been the fine editor of our newsletter. Unfortunately, Lisa is stepping down from that job, and we will miss her (she always made the job seem easy, but it is not). Happily, Lisa is training our Vice-President Dave Moyer to take over as the newsletter editor.

I hope you have received your copy of *The Bulletin* this month. It is with very sad news that I have to announce that David Starbuck died in December after a year and a half battle with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer (further information on David and his long career in archaeology is in a separate article this newsletter). David was active throughout the fall. He was busy excavating until November and doing the last editing of our journal in mid-November. And at the mid-year zoom board meeting on November 20, he was able to chat with us. He was in very good spirits at that time. He was looking forward to having time for lab work and writing in the winter, and we were shocked to hear of his death in December. So, a big round of applause goes posthumously to David Starbuck for editing another great journal! In the three years since David has been editor, he has turned our journal into both a refereed and non-referred journal. He has encouraged writers to drop the jargon and “write in English” so that non-archaeologists can understand our articles. As editor, David has encouraged authors to have more engaging photos, especially ones with people in them. You can see how he has applied that idea to the latest cover of *The Bulletin* with photos of numerous volunteers at the Lake George Revolutionary War burial site that was facing destruction in 2019. Finally, David encouraged all of us to become storytellers in the best sense, to make archaeology come alive for the readers, and his latest article in the journal is a good example of his “storytelling style.”

To remember David's major contributions to military sites archaeology, Tim Abel will be the guest editor of the 2021 issue of *The Bulletin*, a memorial issue on military sites archaeology. Martha Sempowski, our former *Bulletin* editor, has graciously agreed to return to edit the 2022 issue of the *Bulletin* to give us time to find a permanent editor.

I encourage you to submit short articles to our newsletter and longer articles to our journal.

I look forward to seeing you all in person for our 2022 conference, but for now, we will live in the Zoom world of get-togethers.

Stay Safe,

Sherene

Sherene Baugher
President, NYSAA

In Memorium:

David Starbuck

1949-2020

David Starbuck receiving the Achievement Award and the Theodore Whitney Commendation at the Rogers Island Visitors Center in April of 2020.



David Starbuck a long time NYSAA member, the President of the Adirondack Chapter, and the editor of the *Bulletin*, passed away in December. Many NYSAA members have either worked on his excavations or visited his numerous excavations. We have all enjoyed his yearly presentations at our annual conferences and many chapters have had him as a guest speaker.

Even though we did not have a conference this past April, the NYSAA Fellows did award David Starbuck both the Achievement Award and the NYSAA Whitney award. Our Vice-President David Moyer presented the awards to Starbuck (see photo).

The NYSAA Achievement Award was for his publications. David Starbuck was perhaps one of the most prolific authors in the NYSAA, writing books and articles on such diverse topics as the Canterbury Shakers, archaeology in the Adirondacks, the New England Glassworks, industrial archaeology, and of course the topic closest to his heart – military sites archaeology. He wrote 10 books, 46 monographs and reports, 83 journal articles, and 15 book chapters.

In his publications David Starbuck excelled as a storyteller and was able to make the past come alive for his readers. His books go beyond descriptions of artifacts to try to tell a story how archaeology was undertaken at colonial forts and encampments, such as in his two books on Fort William Henry. These popular books have had far reaching effects beyond the academic community. David's military books have had an impact on tourism in the Hudson/Champlain corridor, drawing visitors from across the United States and around the world. Whenever I (David Moyer) sign the guest book at Rogers Island or Fort William Henry, I'm always amazed at the visitors who come from other states and countries. In the column next to your name there's usually a space to write "how did you hear about us?" and invariably someone mentions "David Starbuck's books" as to what drew them upstate.

For the Theodore Whitney award, the Adirondack Chapter members noted Starbuck's continuing role in community outreach work and involving students and adults in his summer excavations. They added that Starbuck was a founder of the Adirondack chapter and served as president for all 28 years. Through his leadership, the Adirondack Chapter had the opportunity to host the annual NYSAA conference four separate times (1997, 2003, 2007 and 2017).

A longer remembrance of David Starbuck will be in our memorial volume of *The Bulletin*.

Lost Goose Returns
(“What, me cry over spilt milk? No whey!”)
By Mike Beardsley

Imagine walking one of your favorite sites in blistering August heat. Now imagine that every inch of your site has been repeatedly drenched with spoiled milk waste. Rancid pools accumulate in the deeper furrows. Mud the color of a Mocha latte (heavy cinnamon) sticks thickly to your boots and threatens to separate your hips from their sockets. Agile limbs and a keen sense of balance are needed to prevent the worst sort of stinking mud bath. The air is black with flocks of rejoicing flies. Hosts of some unknown insect's larva are piddling in the putrid puddles.

We're not done. Let's throw in a “welcoming committee” of turkey buzzards who huddle and leer at seldom seen intruders from atop a ruined silo near the entrance to this isolated site. A bored vulture will occasionally take flight and “buzz” you with drone-like stealth gliding 20 or so feet above your head casting his eerie shadow on the tortured ground. The sweet-sour stench of milk waste rotting in the sun is all pervasive. It's up your nose; it's in your clothes; forever in your memory. Rocks and relics alike are coated with a reeking translucent film (Photo 1).

So, have I detailed a scene from an avocational archaeologist's horrific nightmare? Or, perhaps this is a description of one of Dante's lost rings of hell? Would anyone push the borders of insanity to voluntarily spend hours in such a satanic environment?

Well, one man's purgatory just might be another man's opportunity.

My Lost Goose Site ([Indian Artifact Magazine](#), Volume 30, November, 2011 and NYSAA Newsletter Summer 2019) had been out of commission for 3 long years. Hay might be great for cows, but it is a terrible crop choice for avocational surface collectors.

Lost Goose and her many sister fields aren't your most nutrient rich farmlands. The clay is red and rock hard. I've seen many crops underperform or simply fail so it was difficult to fault the farm's new owners for their decision to scrap crop farming for hay.

Lost Goose is a secluded, multicultural site which had heretofore delivered artifacts from the early archaic to the Woodland period. A nice Kirk Stemmed point along with several serrated broken tips, all of exotic materials, gave indications of the site's potential to reward our diligence with even more important discoveries (Photo 2). Uniface scrapers and tools crafted from lustrous Esopus chert gave us permission to dream about a potential Paleo component here as well. Lost Goose is, after all, only a handful of miles from the Owlville Creek Crowfield Site Cluster (currently being investigated with the assistance of the New York State Museum). How very disappointing then when the site passed into hay. We'd lavish longing looks at Lost Goose's scruffy hay as we'd drive by and wish for the “good old days” of corn and beans.

One day I noted a large yellow tanker truck parked on one of the Lost Goose sister fields (Photo 3). A pungent odor assaulted my nose long before my trusty Astro van reached the field. This was my first introduction to milk waste disposal as a way to enrich nutrient poor fields while providing large dairy farms with an outlet for their prodigious quantities of waste. What is milk waste? Well, it can be a lot of things. It can be milk left over in the pipelines and bulk tanks, mastitic milk, milk from antibiotic treated cows, spills, bulk tank failures, colostrum milk, or milk from rejected loads. These unappetizing dairy bi-products can't be dumped down milking center drains, into septic systems, and can't be discharged into streams or onto low marshy ground. What's a farmer to do? Dump it on one of my best sites!

My initial reaction was “how terrible...dump stinking milk on my wonderful site while tearing deep scars 3” wide and 4” deep across my fields and filling the newly dug trenches with rotting milk often 6 to 8 times a day...how disgusting!”

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 1. Lost Goose in situ Brewerton after fresh milk bath.



Photo 2. Lost Goose Kirk Stemmed point.

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 3. Lost Goose milk waste tanker and spreader truck.

Then, it hit me. My heretofore dormant hay fields were now coming back to life. They were being plowed, albeit in an unorthodox manner, but the end result was the same...fresh dirt and exposed artifacts after a 3 year slumber. Hey, maybe flies and buzzards weren't so bad after all! Lost Goose was returning!

I learned that walking the "milky way" requires a whole new methodology. Remember, these fields are being flipped multiple times per day. Milk makes messes but it doesn't wash artifacts well. You had to time your visit with precision and hope for a little luck. Your sweet spot was after a heavy rain and before the "milkman" returned to stir the soil and leave his latest curdled deposit. Since milkmen rise early that meant many dawn visits to Lost Goose for me. Sometimes I'd win. Sometimes I'd been beaten to the field and had to turn around and go home. I befriended the milkman and if we got to the site at the same time he'd gouge and milk in an area where I was not walking. To get the jump on him I'd often walk in the pouring rain slipping and sliding my way along the red clay furrows. I know that my milkman must have thought that I'd lost my ever loving mind out there mucking through his odiferous muddy milkshake in a thunderstorm.

The milk spreading tanker is a pretty clever device. Three large ominous looking steel hooks on the back of the truck were each backed with large hoses that efficiently filled the newly scored trenches with latte as the truck rolled past me at a surprising clip. The field tanker was supplied by a massive tractor trailer tanker (think Exxon or Shell). When the milkman finished spreading his field load he'd head the large tanker back to the barn for a reeking refill. Each full tractor trailer yielded 4 field tanker loads. I learned a lot more about this fertilization method than I'd planned.

Milk waste is considered industrial bio-solid process wastewater. Manure management permits are re-

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)

quired. The process can actually inflict harm to the land it was intended to enrich if not done properly. Large application rates of milk onto land can be problematic as the residue from decomposing milk can actually clog soil pores and thereby impede water filtration rates through the soil profile. This is evidenced at Lost Goose where deeper puddles have lingered long weeks after the final application.

The Lost Goose site had already delivered on some pretty early and exciting artifacts. As noted, in 2010, just before the site shut down, I found what looked to be either a bi-concave Kirk Stemmed point exhibiting a degree of serration or a Neville knife made from what appears to be degraded fossiliferous Devonian chert likely from the Hudson River Valley. My thanks to Dr. Edwin Struve for his assessment of this artifact, and his correlation of this knife to the Neville knives shown in the 2014 issue of Archaeology of Eastern North America, Volume 42 in the article “A Functional Analysis of Middle Archaic Stemmed Points from the Monhantic Fort Site, Mashantucket, Connecticut” by Thomas H. Ives. A classic Neville point has been found at the Indian Opening Site just a few miles from Lost Goose so Neville’s, while uncommon in Central New York, are not unknown to the area. Neville or Kirk, it’s old.

My buddy Mark Clymer from East Haddam, Connecticut wanted to get in on the smelly “fun” at Lost Goose. He made the 5-hour drive and we re-walked the site together. Mark has field walking wanderlust so it wasn’t surprising to me that he headed off to the seldom walked far western portion of this large field. On this day Mark’s intuition was spot on. I received a signal from Mark that he’d found a partially exposed point and to walk on over and watch him “excavate” the remaining portion. This is one of the truly exciting moments that field walkers eagerly anticipate...being the first to bring to light a partially exposed artifact hidden from sight for perhaps thousands of years. What kind of artifact is it? Will it be intact? What historical significance might this discovery add to our knowledge of the site, and of the early peoples who walked these lands long before us?

At first Mark felt that the partially buried projectile might be the broken base of a Brewerton Corner Notch point (Photo 4). Brewerton Eared Triangle and Side Notch points had been found at Lost Goose so Mark’s speculation was grounded. Something didn’t look right to me though. Adjusting my view of the still buried treasure I had the audacity to suggest to Mark that the point just may be a bifurcate. Bifurcate points are known in Central New York but are still pretty rare. How rare? In his 50 years of field walking Mark had never found a single bifurcate point.

Slowly and with much suspense Mark began to scrape away the milk sodden red clay. Paydirt! Emerging from the mud was a wonderful Susquehanna Bifurcate (Photo 5). Important photo to show. Here was proof positive that Lost Goose had been visited by the enigmatic bifurcate people approximately 9,000 years prior. We high-fived and then high-tenned, and then maybe danced little jig. Why all the excitement? This find wasn’t going to make us rich and even considering this bifurcates creamy pedigree the point wasn’t going to make it as an IAM “Crème de la Crème” selection.

Contrary to the beliefs of some, avocational archaeologists are not treasure hunters. Sure it’s great to find that “center of the frame” artifact but let’s face it those are once in a blue moon experiences. We’d have given up archaeology long ago if we felt disappointed if we didn’t come home with a “lunker” spear or a nice pipe after each field outing. Quite the contrary our passion is to uncover history and to shed light on the past. I’ve referred to our portion of northern Madison County, east of Syracuse, as an “archaeological wasteland”. West of Syracuse received all the archaeological attention and who can blame Beauchamp, Skinner, Ritchie and the like to “go west” when you had Jack’s Reef, Kipp Island, Montezuma Swamp, Frontenac Island, the Finger Lakes, Brewerton, Levanna, etc. so rich in prehistoric and contact era sites.

Today, Mark Clymer and I are having fun breaking new ground in exploring these harder to find but nonetheless important and exciting early sites east of Syracuse. To date we’ve discovered over 70 previously

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 4. Lost Goose bifurcate in situ.



Photo 5. Lost Goose Bifurcate.

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)

unrecorded early man sites here in Madison County between the flint rich Onondaga Escarpment to the South and Oneida Lake to the north. This narrow natural corridor has been used as an east-west “highway” from Paleo to present. These sites are “our babies” and the excitement that we feel is derived from uncovering our area’s rich prehistoric heritage and raising Madison County’s “stock” in New York archaeology. We are contributing to an understanding of the early history of New York.

So, get excited about the first bifurcate from Lost Goose...you bet! That evening Mark, my wife Nancy, and I popped open a bottle of champagne and sipped it around a campfire built in our back yard fire pit that Nancy had constructed. Call us crazy, but it simply doesn’t get much better!

As we were leaving Lost Goose with the bifurcate the “milkman” was arriving to once again score and soak the ground. Mark’s bifurcate would have been crushed or plowed under perhaps to disappear for another 9,000 years. Timing can be everything.

The Lost Goose bifurcate is the 10th that I am aware of with a Madison County, NY provenance, and the 8th in our local collection. Many authorities (Fiedel, Fogelman, Struve et al.) feel that bifurcate points likely evolved from Kirk Corner-Notch points. Indeed, 3 of our Madison County bifurcates exhibit strong Kirk characteristics. None more so than the wonderful example found in the Town of Sullivan which may represent a transitional artifact since it exhibits characteristics of both point styles (Photo 6).

There is even some quiet speculation among several researchers that Central New York State may have been the birthplace of the bifurcate tradition. Clues include the tremendous diversity of bifurcate styles found in CNY, and some early dates as compared to other locations. Much work will be needed to prove this theory but it is certainly exciting to think about.

Two days later after a heavy rain I revisited the bifurcate area of Lost Goose. It was my good fortune to find a wonderful plano-convex adze. The adze exhibits pecking, hammering, and is ground on both sides. Its association with the bifurcate point can only be speculated. The material is very heavy, possibly granite. The center of the convex surface of the adze has a pecked depression denoting double duty use as an anvil (Photos 7-9).

Several nice knives were also found on this visit (Photo 10). Knives seem to outnumber points on this site perhaps indicating that a whole lot of butchering was going on. When I found the larger knife I took an in situ photo but realized that I had no coins in my pocket for scale. I recently had an unexpected encounter with heart disease so I used the only thing I had in my pocket, my little bottle of nitroglycerine pills, as my size reference (Photo 11). You work with what you’ve got.

I’ve always wondered about the Bifurcate people. Was this understudied group a people, a culture, or perhaps a cult? Bifurcate points can be found in almost every section of America save for the Gulf Coast and the Northern High Plains. Eastern bifurcates seem to be generally earlier than those found in the far west and south west. Most hail from either the early, middle, or late archaic periods.

There is much diversity among the many bifurcate styles from Lake Erie to MacCorkle, Taunton River to Jetta. Some are long, and elegant like certain Kirk Stemmed and Stanly Narrow Stem points while others are short, stubby, and borderline crude like certain Lecroy and Kanawha examples.

As I walked the bifurcate portion of the Lost Goose site again earlier this week I got to thinking (always risky). The feature common to all bifurcates, of course, is the distinctive basal notch. Was this notch utilitarian? Did it have a functional purpose? Perhaps it helped fasten the projectile to the shaft more securely? Or, could the basal notch have been more symbolic in nature? Perhaps the sign of a common belief system much like Christians wear crosses today or members of the Odd Fellows have secret handshakes? How did

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 6. Kirk-like bifurcate from the Town of Sullivan, Madison County, NY.



Photo 7. Lost Goose adze showing use as a hammerstone.

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 8. Lost Goose adze in situ.



Photo 9. Lost Goose adze in situ 2.

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)

“bifurcate-ism” achieve such widespread acceptance across such a large area and by such diverse populations in the long ago archaic period? From Texas to New York, Pennsylvania to North Carolina, West Virginia to Massachusetts the bifurcate styles and estimated date ranges can be quite similar.

Bruce Bradley and Michael Collins posited that Clovis might actually be a cult, an ideology involving much more than the fluting of spear points. Radical new belief systems spread by paleo prophets propelled Clovis from “coast to coast” and beyond in a remarkably short period of time expedited by and likely in response to stresses that the peoples were facing from climate change, the disappearance of mega fauna prey, etc. Bruce’s presentation at the 2013 PaleoAmerican Odyssey in Santa Fe entitled “Imagining Clovis as a Cultural Revitalization Movement” was both riveting and controversial. Either way, it sure made you think. Could bifurcate points have a similar cult-centric origin?

I had completed this story and submitted same to Dr. Edwin Struve for his thoughts. Ed suggested that I read Stuart J. Fiedel’s article entitled “Abrupt Changes of Climate and of Point Styles Along the Atlantic Seaboard of Eastern North America: How were they connected?” in the 2014 issue of Archaeology of Eastern North America. The read is recommended. Dr. Fiedel feels that there is a correlation between factors such as “climate change, resource fluctuations, inter-male competition, and shifting societal boundaries” that influenced changing projectile point styles every 1,500 years or so. He continued, “The development and extensive spread of bifurcates (from Illinois to South Carolina to Maine) occurred about 200 years after the peak of Bond 7.” Bond 7 was a major climactic change that witnessed the decline of pine forests, and was likely accompanied by social upheaval. In other words...stress. Some of the stress factors that Bradley and Collins speculate may have driven the spread of Clovis may also have stimulated the proliferation of “bifurcate-ism”...my term (smiles). Maybe my Lost Goose field musings with my buzzard buddies about a bifurcate cult weren’t so screwy?

Let me share one final gem from Fiedel’s article. He quotes D. L. McElrath et al. from the “Archaic Societies: Diversity and Complexity across the Midcontinent”. “McElrath in response to the question “Are points people?” by reasserting “the demonstrable relevance in the study of Midcontinental Archaic societies of projectile point types as group-identity markers and their importance in documenting group interaction across space and through time. Styles should be viewed as products of a community of practice”. What were we just saying about crosses and secret handshakes?

One thing we do know for sure about the bifurcate period is that there is a whole lot that we don’t know. Gary Fogelman and Dr. Edwin Struve are working diligently on a publication to help shed more light on the mysterious bifurcate people. Gary and Ed have logged untold hours and driven countless miles while conducting research, and visiting collections to further their investigation. Their work is eagerly anticipated.

So, Lost Goose has returned. It has rewarded those of us willing to brave the near ridiculous conditions required to salvage the artifacts that tell a story of life long ago. Lost Goose has enabled us to add a few more precious pieces to the puzzle that paints a picture of the earliest people to walk our lands (Photos 12 and 13).

This article is dedicated to all avocational archaeologists who deal with everything from cold to coyotes, snakes to swamps to further our knowledge of those who went before us. They are driven by their love of archaeology at their own expense and often with little recognition. A tip of the hat to today’s devoted avocationalists, and a sincere Thank You for advancing the cause. As all avocationalists know and as this story proves, “where there is a whey, there is a will”!

Michael Beardsley
Chittenango, NY

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)

Photo 10. A few Lost Goose knives (The in situ knife in Photo 11 is in the middle of the top row. Note the English gun flint bottom row right).



Photo 11. Lost Goose knife in situ (Small nitroglycerin tablet bottle shown for size...it was all I had in my pocket at the time...smiles).

Image Caption
August 24, 2014 at 12:53:37 PM
1400 Spaulding Rd. 2176-2177, Chittinango, Sullivan, NY, United States
Location: 42° 52' 52" N, 74° 52' 52" W
Distance to Deep Springs Dr. 301: Chittinango, Sullivan,
Altitude: 123 meters above sea
Speed: 0 km/h
0. 100
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Lost Goose Returns (Continued)



Photo 12. Lost Goose assemblage 1.



Photo 13. Lost Goose assemblage 2 (Note cut nail, pieces of an historical flask, Kaolin pipe stem, broken bead, etc....some colonial activity at the site as well).

Lost Goose Returns (Continued)

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New York State Archaeological Association

Spring 2021 Digital Lecture Series
7 p.m., third Wednesday of the Month*

*Except April

Wednesday, February 17th at 7 pm: *Dating Iroquoia: Radiocarbon chronology-building and relational histories of coalescence, conflict, and confederacy-formation for Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee ancestors* by Jennifer Birch, Ph.D., University of Georgia

Wednesday, March 17th at 7 pm: *Burial Laws in New York State* by Joe Stahlman, Ph.D., Director, Seneca-Iroquois National Museum

***Wednesday, April 14th at 7 pm:** *Privies and Such: A Report on Archaeological Investigations in the Lower East Side* by Allison McGovern, Ph.D., Robert D.L. Gardiner Writing Fellow at the Gotham Center for New York City History

*Second Wednesday of the month

Wednesday, May 19th at 7 pm: *Archaeological Evidence for 15th- and 16th-century AD Iroquoian Agronomic Practices* by John Hart, New York State Museum

Wednesday, June 16th at 7 pm: *Prepare for Death and Follow Me': The Archaeology of New York City's Cemeteries* by Elizabeth Meade, Ph.D., Archaeologist, AKRF, Inc.

Follow the Zoom link on the NYSAA webpage: nysarchaeology.org



NYS Archaeological Association

Spring 2021 Lecture Series

Presents:

**February 17th
at 7 pm**

**Zoom Link
on the NYSAA
Webpage:**

nysarchaeology.org

Dr. Jennifer Birch

University of Georgia

Dating Iroquoia:

Radiocarbon chronology-building and relational histories of coalescence, conflict, and confederacy-formation for Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee ancestors

Chronologies fundamentally underpin all other aspects of archaeological thought. When our timeframes shift, so too does the interpretive scaffolding upon which we build our explanations for how past events unfolded. This talk will detail the results to date of the Dating Iroquoia project. It will review some of the most significant implications of our revised radiocarbon chronology for understanding processes of Iroquoian cultural development, including the timing of coalescence and conflict and the onset of the historical enmity between Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee communities and nations. The results of this project demonstrate not only the utility of radiocarbon dating and Bayesian chronological modelling for refining archaeological chronologies, but also for identifying variability and centering Indigenous agency in relational histories of societal development and change in North American archaeology.



Search for a new Editor of

The Bulletin: The Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association

The New York State Archaeological Association (NYSAA) is soliciting proposals for the volunteer position of editor of *The Bulletin: The Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association*. The editor serves a 5-year, renewable term. The Editorial Search Committee encourages proposals from individuals affiliated with universities, cultural resource management firms, government agencies, museums, and independent scholars.

The Bulletin: The Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association is published annually by the New York State Archaeological Association. It is intended to further the NYSAA's aims to stimulate and encourage the collection, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge and information concerning the archaeology of New York State. *The Bulletin* publishes archaeological and historical research into the lives of people of diverse cultures living in what is now New York State and the material culture that they have left behind over the last 10,000 years. Research in the journal may be published with or without peer-review based on the author's preference. Additionally, *The Bulletin* publishes the obituaries of recently deceased members of the NYSAA.

The Bulletin: The Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association is a publication venue for professional and avocational archaeologists, students, as well as non-archaeologists (preservationists, museum specialists, etc.) who have an interest in the material history and archaeology of New York State. The journal publishes field reports, technical and methodological studies, commentary, and interpretive analyses. The journal is committed to publishing the work of both avocational and professional members of the archaeological community in New York State.

The NYSAA Publications Committee works with the editor to solicit manuscripts for publication and identify peer reviewers, if requested by the author.

An honorarium of \$1,000 will be paid by the NYSAA Treasurer to *The Bulletin* Editor on completion of each year's journal.

Editorial Responsibilities

Publish one issue of the journal *The Bulletin: The Journal of the New York State Archaeological Association* annually, with the journal being mailed in November.

Evaluate, edit, copyedit, proofread, and prepare manuscripts and illustrations for publication.

Arrange for graphics design individual or company to lay out each issue of the

Coordinate rights and reproduction both for publication in *The Bulletin* and requests for reprinting in other venues.

Arrange for printing of needed print copies of *The Bulletin* with the NYSAA treasurer.

Arrange for bulk mailing of the journal with the NYSAA secretary and treasurer.

Report twice annually to the NYSAA Board, on which the Editor serves as a full voting member.

Present an annual budget request to be voted on at the annual meeting. The budget should include estimated costs of copy-editing, lay-out, printing, mailing, and extra copies to authors and chapters.

Central NYS Cemetery Network – The Year in Review by Tina & Dale Utter – Chenango Chapter



Photo 1. Members of the Central New York Cemetery Network at Madison Street Cemetery in Hamilton, NY.

This year will be remembered by both young and old and everyone in-between for a long time to come. The pandemic has caused immeasurable disruption to our otherwise ordinary lives and changed many lives forever. It is a sad time but hopefully the end, although still far off, is within sight and hope.

We are very lucky to be retired so the pandemic had a reduced impact on us. Fortunately, our hobby of cemetery/gravestone work was not limited due to social distancing or gathering. This turned out to be a very busy year for us.

We do some paid work when asked but we do not solicit any as we prefer our volunteer work, of which there is an unlimited supply. One call we received was from the historian in McGraw. She had six Revolutionary War soldier stones lying flat under a tree where they had been for one-hundred years and she wanted them back up.

All six stones had been broken off at the bottom. Fortunately, we were able to set four of them without having to bury any of the inscriptions. With two we had to make concrete collars to set them in the ground or we would have lost some of the epitaphs. It was rewarding to see these old veteran stones once again standing tall. It is experiences like this that motivate us in this line of work.

A friend referred Joe to us and he wanted to know if we could help him with a Civil War ancestor's marble stone that was broken in half. We met him in the cemetery and he watched while we did the repair. This single act resulted in us showing him and his two friends how to do marble gravestone repairs. With this knowledge, Joe will now do repairs in a family cemetery and the other couple will take this process back to the cemetery that they are the caretakers of and do some work there. A winning situation for all.

We have visited and worked in many cemeteries across New York State. The one common element we find is that often we have no idea of the name of the cemetery as there is no sign for it. One of the programs that we are working on under the Cemetery Network is our signage project. We believe a cemetery that has a name is less likely to be ignored and forgotten. Last year we erected two signs and this year we added another one. We have several more in mind for 2021.

Central NYS Cemetery Network (continued)



Photo 2. Preparing a stone for resetting at Ithaca City Cemetery.



Photo 3. Mary Dexter of the Central NY Cemetery Network still making new discoveries.

Central NYS Cemetery Network (continued)

The Cemetery Network had one meeting in January before the pandemic hit the country. Normally we try to have a couple of cemetery tours but with the Covid-19 in full force we only had one in which the members wore masks and practiced social distancing. At that time, we had a member meeting in the cemetery during our lunch break.

The focus of the cemetery tour was to learn about several early carvers that worked in Chenango and Madison Counties from about 1800 into the 1830s. A carver called Smooth Man was noted for his Old English style font for "IN" as part of "IN Memory." He is the earliest known carver in Chenango County and his work is found in Sherburne, Earlville and north into Madison County. The letters he carved utilized an unusually wide font and the shapes of his gravestones were quite imaginative. He carved many markers in this area during his career.

While touring Sherburne's Quarter Cemetery Mary Dexter discovered some new Coffin Man stones that she had not seen before. Adding these to her already extensive inventory was exciting. We also examined the work of Stephen Risley, Jr. as well as that of Robards Felton. To conclude the year, we had a zoom meeting in October.

We would like to thank Bill Pomeroy for his work with the William G. Pomeroy Foundation. Because of his grant program, we have seen numerous cemetery signs depicting local history. These signs are a beautiful addition to the front of any cemetery and help to tell its story and furthers local history and events.

The pandemic may have curtailed the activities of our Cemetery Network but each member's activities have not slowed. We look forward to our continued work next year and hopefully for a more normal year. Our thanks to all of our members and the efforts they put forth to make our cemeteries better and more enduring places and to record what has gone before us.

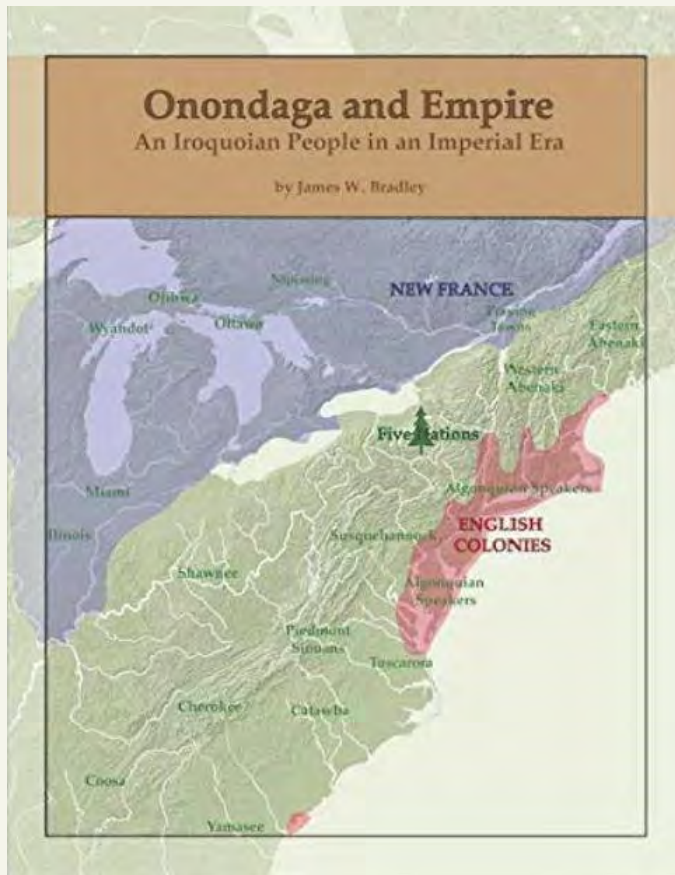
Although our Network was not as active as we would have liked, individual's activities continued. Mary Dexter completed her book, On the Trail of Coffin Man: Researching 19th Century Gravestone Carvers of Central New York State. This is an exciting addition to our field as it encompasses 45 years of her research and has an immeasurable amount of information for those who study gravestone carvers. Her associate, Kate O'Connell, was right there assisting with the book and helping Mary with her ongoing research which never ends.

Randi Kepecs also aided Mary with the book and has helped her organize her files of gravestone inventories. She is also researching the probate records for Cayuga County for the mention of any stone carvers, with a special emphasis on discovering the identity of a carver we call Eclectic Man.

Dave Moyer is working on a study of gravestones with faces which we are all looking forward to reading and learning his conclusions. Terry McMaster is working on a project to restore an old family cemetery his ancestors are buried in. Patt Dietlin is continuing her carver research and has written several related articles for the Backbone Ridge History Group Newsletter that Beth Bevars is in charge of.

Christine O'Malley's work continues in Ithaca City Cemetery where she is responsible for cemetery tours and several cleanup days each year. We were excited to hear that five Coffin Man stones, previously leaning against trees, have been reset there. One of these stones is special as it was mentioned specifically in Mary's book.

New Publication: Onondaga and Empire; An Iroquoian People in an Imperial Era



Just released! The NYSM has published the latest volume in the Bulletin Series entitled, *Onondaga and Empire; An Iroquoian People in an Imperial Era*. As author James W. Bradley notes, the publication “continues the story of the Onondaga, central nation in the League of the Five Nations, also known as the Haudenosaunee, and how they responded to the challenges of interacting with Europeans during the last half of the 17th century. By 1650, the Onondaga had experienced more than a century of contact with European traders and settlers. During this time, they learned how to integrate the strange new materials brought by Europeans – iron axes, brass kettles, firearms – into their own culture in order to better meet their needs.

As interactions with Europeans intensified between 1650 and the peace treaties of 1701, the Onondaga focus shifted from assimilating material objects to understanding alien European concepts and values such as sin, property ownership, and the demands of imperial agents. By learning to utilize these ideas for their own purposes, the Onondaga were able to lead the Five Nations to solutions –wampum belts, new diplomatic protocols, and an expansion of the League into a Confederacy – that would maintain their sovereignty and protect their culture in a rapidly changing world.”

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Digital download (PDF 35 MB):

http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/common/nysm/files/onondaga_and_empire_a.pdf

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About the author:

James W. Bradley is an archaeologist and historian with a particular interest in the Native peoples of northeastern North America. He received his Ph.D. from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University in 1979 and served on the staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission in Boston from 1979 to 1990. From 1990 to 2001 he was director of the Robert S. Peabody Museum of Archaeology in Andover, MA. Between 1998 and 2003, he also served as a member of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Review Committee. In 2001, he founded ArchLink, a small consulting firm focused on linking archaeology with education and preservation. He has been a Senior Research Associate at the New York State Museum since 2005. Bradley is an active scholar and has received numerous awards for his publications and partnerships.

NYC Archaeological Repository: The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center

Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology NYC LPC

Archaeologists have been working in New York City for over one hundred years. The initial work focused on life before the city was created and on sites associated with the Revolutionary War. In the last forty years, the focus has shifted to the study of the city itself and most archaeological work is completed by professional archaeologists in response to proposed construction projects under the guidance of the Landmarks Preservation Commission (to learn more about LPC review see our 2018 Guidelines [here](#)). These projects have produced almost 1,900 archaeological reports, (available on LPC's website [here](#)). This work has also created many significant archaeological collections that have provided new insights about the past and have the potential to yield far more through further study.

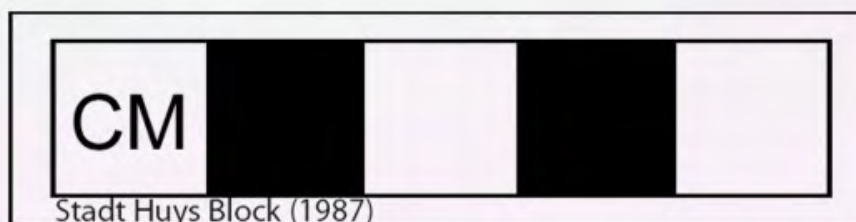
In 2014, the LPC opened an archaeological repository to curate some of the most significant archaeological collections that have been excavated by archaeologists on city land. The NYC Archaeological Repository: The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center, located at 114 West 47th Street, Manhattan, curates hundreds of thousands of artifacts from over 37 sites throughout the city. They come from all five boroughs and range in age from 8,000 years ago to the 20th century. The mission of the Repository is to preserve the city's significant collections for study and exhibition, and it is open by appointment to researchers and university classes.

LPC also created a digital archive and website for the repository in 2016 to make these collections accessible to as wide an audience as possible (www.nyc.gov/archaeology). Geared toward researchers, teachers, and the public, it includes digital exhibitions, archaeological quizzes, information about projects, and the ability to search for specific artifacts. Information may be accessed using up to eleven search fields. For example, one may search by particular artifacts such as "wig curler," by ware types such as, "Pearlware," by material types such as "glass," by the site they came from such as "Seneca Village," as well as other search fields, or by any combination one wishes. In addition, it is also possible to see artifacts grouped by context, and we are now working to provide information from the field records and final archaeological reports about specific significant contexts (for an example, see [here](#) for the description of a late 17th century landfill deposit from the 7 Hanover Square Project from Lower Manhattan and links to the artifacts found within it). Currently, 13 collections have been integrated into the database and can be searched and accessed. LPC plans to include the remainder as funding allows and will continue to add newly discovered collections as they become available.

Some highlights from the Repository's collections include:

The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center (continued)

Walter Raleigh Smoking Pipe Stem:



This pipe stem fragment was found during the Stadt Huys project led by Dr. Nan Rothschild and Dr. Diana Wall and is made of white ball clay. It is decorated on both sides depicting a toothed sea creature. Walter Raleigh pipes consist of a bowl in the shape of the head of 17th-century gentleman jutting out of the open mouth of a sea creature, which forms the stem. This image is thought to represent the founder of the Virginia colonies, Sir Walter Raleigh, being swallowed by a crocodile during a voyage to South America. Legend has it that Raleigh was an avid smoker, and that the stench of tobacco caused the crocodile to spit him out. Other interpretations of Walter Raleigh pipes center on the biblical story of Jonah and the Whale and tensions that existed between Sir Raleigh and King James I (eventually resulting in Raleigh's execution). Pipes such as this one only remained popular in towns along the coast of the Netherlands for a short window of time, circa 1630-1640, making them a rare find on New York City archaeological sites. This stem fragment depicts the sea creature.

The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center (continued)

[Thomas Commeraw Salt Glazed Stoneware Jar](#)



This grey salt-glazed stoneware jar fragment bears the distinctive mark—the stamped and cobalt filled swag and tassel—of free-black potter Thomas Commeraw who lived and worked in Corlear’s Hook at the north end of today’s Water and Cherry Streets in Lower Manhattan from circa 1793 to 1819. Commeraw’s identity as a free-black man lies in the pages of the 1800 U.S. Federal Census where he is recorded as “Thomas Commeraw, Black” at the head of a seven-person household in the City’s 7th Ward. By 1810, Commeraw was one of the 7,700 free people of color residing in New York. By 1820, Commeraw had shuttered his pottery and left New York for Sierra Leone as a founding member of an African Colonization Society settlement.

This jar was found in 2013 when Chrysalis Archaeological Consultants were monitoring the replacement of sewer and water mains along Fulton Street in lower Manhattan between Cliff and Pearl Streets and unearthed a large concentration of over 4,000 artifacts dating to the early 19th century. Subsequent research determined that the artifact deposit was located within the cellar of 263 Pearl Street (formerly Queen Street), a three-story brick dwelling and storefront, that contained a middle-class boarding house run by a Mrs. Riddle followed by Widow Williams between 1798 and 1815/16. In 1816 the building was demolished when the street to the west was widened and renamed Fulton in honor of engineer Robert Fulton (the inventor of the steamship). The artifacts found in the cellar of 263 Pearl speak to the day-to-day life of the boarding house proprietors and residents—artifacts associated with the cooking and serving of food and drink as well as items related to personal health and hygiene like medicine bottles, a bone toothbrush, and chamber pots. This particular stoneware jar would have been used for food storage by the boardinghouse proprietresses.

The Nan A. Rothschild Research Center (continued)

Underglaze Painted "Pavilion Landscape" Chinese Porcelain Body Sherd



Chinese porcelain painted underglaze body fragment from a large holloware vessel with a handle. It is most likely a Nanking porcelain, but may also be Canton. It was associated with the Wilson household. They lived in Seneca Village, New York City's largest community of free African American property owners. The village was first settled in the 1820s in what was then a rural area north of the city's center located today within Central Park between 82nd and 89th Streets and 7th and 8th Avenues if the grid continued into the park. The village was laid out in line with the New York City grid and included three churches, a school, planting fields, and orchards. The community was displaced in 1857 when the City of New York took the land through eminent domain to create Central Park. Seneca Village was then erased from the landscape and forgotten until recent efforts to reclaim this history including the 2011 site excavations undertaken by the Seneca Village Project (the fieldwork was directed by Nan Rothschild and Diana Wall with field supervisors Meredith Linn and Jenna Coplin and a team of undergraduate students). The recovered artifacts are curated by the Repository and help us to better understand what life was like for the Wilsons and other Seneca Villagers. For more information, please see a related Repository exhibit [here](#).

Works in Progress from the Central New York Gravestone Network

By Sherene Baugher

In the 1960s and 1970s archaeologists were busy studying colonial gravestones and it was only in the mid-1980s that archaeologists expanded their research into 19th century and 20th century stones. Archaeologists have analyzed markers in terms of ethnicity, race, class, gender, occupation, materiality, trade networks, religion, and consumer behavior. Other archaeologists have examined mausoleums, statuary, and the landscape design of 19th and 20th century cemeteries. Research has also focused on stone carvers. For decades the research by archaeologists, art historians, and other scholars focused on colonial gravestone carvers. Who were these men? Who were their clients, both in terms of class and ethnicity? How wide was their geographic area – just a county or multiple counties and states? Did they have apprentices? What symbols did they use? Before these questions can be answered the carvers must be identified. Members of the Central New York Gravestone Network have been undertaking research on the diverse 19th century carvers in our region. As a regular feature to the NYSAA newsletter they will present on-going research into 19th century carvers. The iconography used by these carvers is often different from the designs we find in the large coastal urban cities like New York and Boston. On our website we will have a cemetery detective section for our members to help locate examples of these carvers.

We hope you will find this section intriguing and will also entice you to explore cemeteries near you.

Asahel (Asa) Joiner

(1811-1886)

By Randi Kepecs

Asa Joiner was one of nine children born to William IV (1769-1862) and Hannah (1773-1853) Joiner (http://joinermarriageindex.co.uk/pjoiner/joiner/JOYNER_NewEngland_7.html) We may never know what brought Asa Joiner to Cortland County from Vermont where his grandfather and namesake signed the Freeman's Oath to form the town of Ira, Rutland County in 1779 (Rann, W. S. (William S.), and H. P. (Henry Perry) Smith. History of Rutland County, Vermont: With Illustrations And Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men And Pioneers. Bowie, Md.: Heritage books, 1993, p. 631) early resident, Justus Collins, Sr. of the famous carver family from Connecticut (and nephew to Zerubabel Collins) also lived in Ira, Vermont and was friends with the Joiner family (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Joiner-918>) Could Asa's interest in stone carving been influenced by the Collins family?

Asa traveled over 260 miles to Central New York and probably arrived around 1830 when he was around 19 or 20 years old. For such a prolific carver the records on him are shockingly scant. The 1850 United States Census for Harford (Babcock Hollow), Cortland County shows Asa and his wife, Roxanna May Harris Joiner living with their five children. It lists his occupation as "stonecutter."

Asa was an extremely prolific stone cutter, and hundreds of his stones – both signed and recognizable by his distinct lettering style – have been found in Broome (Killawog Cemetery), Cayuga (East Venice Cemetery, Genoa Rural Cemetery, Allen-Stearns Cemetery), Cortland (Quail Hill Cemetery, Virgil Rural Cemetery), Madison (DeRuyter Rural Cemetery), and Tompkins (East Groton Cemetery, Old Pioneer Cemetery) Counties. It's not known if he carved alone, or if he had others working with him in a shop. He was most active in our area from the 1830s to the late

Asahel (Asa) Joiner (continued)

1840s. At some point he left Central New York, as the 1860 U.S. Census shows him with this family living in Ashtabula, Ohio where he died in 1886.

He usually carved pre-cut rectangular sandstone slabs, often with geometric designs of urns, flowers, and fans that have a curious Art Deco feel. It's hard to know if these geometric designs were manufactured, traced or hand carved, but they are uniform. Another style of his stones would include two thin trees flanking an urn or obelisk in the center. When he signed his stones, it ranged from: A. Joiner to A.J. His signature is often found in left-hand corner of the bottom of the stone.

Examples of Joiner's (all stones signed unless noted):



Sally Andrews (1830), Old Pioneer Cemetery, Dryden, NY

Notice the thin trees flanking an obelisk in the center, and his initials A.J. at the bottom.

Asahel (Asa) Joiner (continued)



David Olmstead (1844), Virgil Rural Cemetery, Virgil, NY

His geometric florals are flanking two willows trees with an obelisk in the center. His signature is at the boom left hand side of the stone, beneath the epitaph.



Moses Rice (1846) Virgil Rural Cemetery, Virgil, NY
unsigned

This stone is a good example of the geometric flowers often favored by Asa Joiner in the top of the rectangular stone.

Asahel (Asa) Joiner (continued)

Lucynda Lanphear (1832), Virgil Rural Cemetery, Virgil, NY

Joiner has chosen a large “Eye of God” with a garland surround and Art Deco-like corner florals for the top of this stone. He also has columns on the side, flanking the lettering. His initials A.J. are on the lower right-hand corner below the epitaph.



Samuel Bell (1839), Quail Hill Cemetery, Lapeer, NY *unsigned*

The top of this stone shows his two obelisks flanked by geometric florals and columns on the side.

To all Chapter Treasurers and At Large Members: 2021 dues are due!

Please send your dues to:

Treasurer Ann E.W. Morton
amorton@rochester.rr.com
Phone: 315 986 3086

c/o Morton Archaeological Research Services
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Macedon, NY 14502-9301

This year, you can also pay your dues with PayPal—here's how (works for At-Large members and Chapters!)

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