

NYSAA NEWSLETTER



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The editors encourage any NYSAA member who would like to submit an article, letter, editorial or news items to submit it electronically to Sissie or Lisa at the addresses listed above.

Village of East Aurora and Roycroft Campus Landscaping and Scenic Beautification Project and Roycroft Campus Drainage Improvement Project, Village of East Aurora, Erie County, NY Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery
By Ann Morton

Fisher Associates conducted Phase III Archaeology Data Recovery on the National Landmark Roycroft Campus in July 2010.

The Roycroft, founded by Elbert Hubbard in 1895, was the earliest and arguably the most successful Arts and Crafts community in the United States. The Arts and Crafts Movement represented a "response to the deleterious effects of industrialism on society and on artistic production in nineteenth-century England" (Quinan, 1994: 1). Arts and Crafts ideas reached the American public through a variety of

sources including authors such as Ruskin, Morris, Dickens and Carlyle, English magazines (the *Studio* and the *Builder*), work



Roycroft Campus

commissioned for prominent buildings, and the lecture circuit.

Roycroft began with a

printing shop and bindery, and gradually added a number of other trades. Local labor, especially female, made up the bulk of workers, with "specialists" drawn from all over the globe. A number of these men were at the beginning of their career, and it was at Roycroft that they first developed their talents. Often, they did not stay long. The Roycroft under Elbert's leadership had a decidedly "college campus" feel, with lectures, dances, organizations such as the baseball team and the band, and even a dormitory. Intellectual and cultural freedom (and probably sexual) appear to have been a part of

NYSAA 95th Annual Meeting, April 15-17, 2011

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The Van Epps-Hartley Chapter of NYSAA is hosting this year's annual conference at the Holiday Inn, Route 30A North, Johnstown, NY 12095.

We are very pleased that our former NYSAA President, Dr. William Engel-

brecht will be our speaker for the Saturday evening banquet. Also, we are planning a Friday afternoon trip to Historic Johnson Hall and a Sunday afternoon trip to the Kateri Tekawitha Shrine to view the Mohawk Village site excavated in the

late 1940's through the 1950's by Father Thomas Grassmann and members of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter. A guided tour through the museum located at the Shrine will follow the site visit.

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the Roycroft idiom, from hairstyle and dress to Elbert's own marital situation. Pay was generally poor, but working conditions appear to have been above average, but Hubbard added amenities, including life insurance and a bank, that were the fore-runners of the modern employee benefits package.

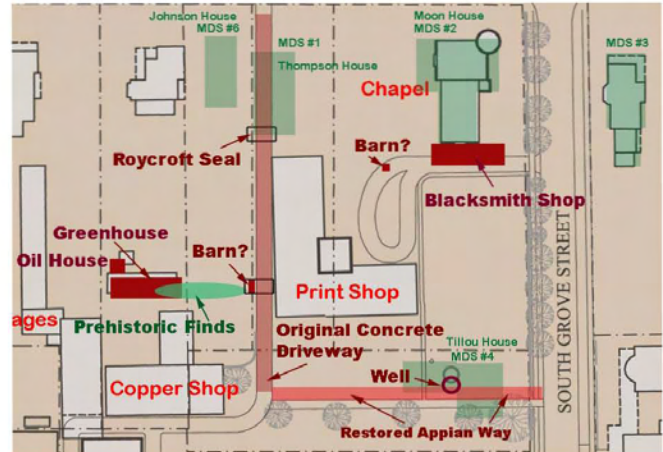
Unlike many fellow impresarios of the Arts and Crafts Movement—Hubbard made money. In 1909 the Roycroft was worth the equivalent of \$5.9 million. Hubbard, who owned 100% of the firm, supplemented his \$50 a week in salary by hitting the lecture circuit, collecting \$10,000 (roughly \$200,000 today) in 1908 (Pots 2005: 327). The Roycroft Community lasted until 1938 and was revived in the 1980's.

A large parking and drainage project scheduled for Fall 2010 on the Roycroft Campus, East Aurora, Erie County, NY necessitated Phase III Data Recovery on this National Landmark site. Fisher Associates conducted excavations on the Roycroft Campus, between July 6 and July 30, 2010. A total of 98 shovel tests, 6 test units and 5 test trenches were excavated during that period. Excavations were conducted in five areas and are described below.

Area 1. Copper Shop Parking Lot.

55 shovel tests and four test units were excavated in the Copper Shop Parking Lot. Most shovel tests recovered artifact material, most commonly slag, brick, ceramics and glass. Test Unit #1 was located near ST6, and identified a layer of concrete pavement below dirt and gravel fill. This concrete layer was common across the Roycroft Campus, and was underlain by a layer of coarse steel slag, probably from the local Bethlehem steel mill. TU#1 also recovered a number of prehistoric artifacts, including primary, secondary and tertiary chert flakes, calcined bone and a net sinker. Several ST's also recovered flakes, bone and an additional net sinker.

In test unit #4 at the base of layer 3 the foundation of the Roycroft Greenhouse was identified. Further excavation revealed the foundation wall, traces of a wooden floor, and the southwest corner of the structure. Subsequent investigations with a backhoe identified the other three corners, portions of the north, east and south walls, and additional segments of wooden floor.



Schematic Plan of the Roycroft Campus Showing Excavation areas and Identified Features. Not to Scale.

The greenhouse appears to be approximately 15 ft. north-south by 55 ft. east-west. The foundation is made of concrete and large fieldstones, reinforced with rebar, and averaged 8 inches by 2 ft. deep. The base of the foundation was not reached. A number of artifacts that could be clearly associated with the greenhouse were also recovered. It is likely that the flowerpots recovered in TU's #2-3 are related to the greenhouse, and may represent the location of a back door.

Area 2. The Concrete Driveway behind the Print Shop

Two test trenches were excavated by backhoe in

this area: Trench 1, near the south west corner of the Print Shop, and Trench 2, to the north of the Print Shop. Both trenches identified a similar stratigraphic pattern. The original concrete driveway was identified in both trench sections, below two layers of asphalt. Original scoring and curbing could be easily identified. The concrete varied in thickness and had been poured over a 4 inch square galvanized wire fence mesh placed directly on the ground. The original concrete driveway varied from 11 to 14 feet in width. Below the con-

ROYCROFT CONTINUED:

crete was a layer of fill with quantities of Roycroft-period debris, particularly terracotta roof tiles, and below that was the old ground surface.

In Trench #1, an unknown foundation was encountered, identified as Feature 7. This was oriented north-south and was constructed of very large fieldstones loosely mortared. The foundation was approximately 3 ft. in width and 2-3 ft deep. The concrete driveway terminated at the foundation. To the west of the foundation, layers of ash fill with household type debris, and a thick layer of slag had been used to level up the ground surface for asphalt paving. A similar pattern of layers was identified in Trench #2, without the foundation being present. A lead seal block with the Roycroft Seal was recovered from the ash layer in this unit.

There are no known buildings in this location, although there are a number of houses that were moved by Hubbard for the development of the Campus. Based on the termination of the concrete driveway at the foundation, it is likely that the foundation was still visible at the time the

driveway was poured, and it is possible that the building had some use by the Roycrofters for some period. The dimensions of this probable building are unknown, although it is presumed to have extended both north and west of its identified location.

Area 3. The Print Shop Gravel Loop.

Forty-three shovel test holes on a 3m-grid pattern were excavated in the grass and garden area in front of the Print Shop. Although a number of artifacts were recovered, attempts to identify a gravel loop or pathways in this area were inconclusive. Almost all shovel test holes, with the exception of those on the outmost eastern edge of the grass area, identified a layer of recent topsoil, varying in thickness, underlain by a very compact and dry gravel, sandy silt and pea gravel layer. This layer averaged 8 to 12 inches in thickness, and was compact enough that the roots of the two large Red Oaks in the front loop had extended horizontally in an attempt to find downward access.

Two test units and one test trench were also excavated in this area. The test trench, Trench 3, was located in an area where it

appeared that some differential subsurface stratigraphy might indicate the placement of gardens and paths or a driveway. However, this did not turn out to be the case. Additional review of historic photographs suggest that there were probably several different configurations of gravel driveway in from of the Print Shop, and that subsequent replanting activity has disturbed subtle traces in the upper stratigraphic layers. Additional potential foundation deposits were identified in test units 5 and 6. In TU#6, below the hard-packed gravel layer, was a large gap loosely filled with very large fieldstones. These stones were identical to those used in constructing the Chapel and the Print Shop. Although no structure was identified in this location, TU#6 was positioned to the backyard of two earlier houses that Hubbard had moved, and could have been a barn or outbuilding foundation. It would appear that Hubbard used some of the stone loads he purchased for construction of the Chapel and Print Shop to fill the remaining foundations.

Area 4. The Well

Two attempts were made to locate the original

Roycroft well, in the parking lot to the south of the Print Shop. The first attempt was unsuccessful, but the second attempt identified the well immediately adjacent to and underneath the restored Appian Way, to the north of the crosswalk from the Print Shop. This area was designated Trench 4.

The Well was approximately 12 feet in diameter, built of mortared brick and stone, and extended to a depth of approximately 3 feet below ground surface. Excavations on the interior identified a concert cistern box on the inside of the well, approximately 6 ft. square. The inside was smooth and the exterior rough and the wall thickness averaged 5 inches. The cistern was approximately 3 feet deep on the exterior—the bottom was not reached on the interior. A small number of artifacts were recovered from inside the well and cistern, but the fill was primarily brick and mortar, presumably form the aboveground portion of the structure.

Based on the size and depth, it is unlikely that the well was deep enough to provide water on its own. It seems more likely that the cistern functioned to hold water, possibly coming from a nearby well

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and hand-pump identified in several pictures. It is also possible that Hubbard connected the well to the Village water main running along South Grove Street. The location of the hand-pump was not identified as it is probably underneath the restored Appian Way. An attempt was made to locate the well sweep, but it appeared that this area was most likely disturbed by later utility line installation.

The well and cistern structures appear to be intact below ground surface, and capable of being re-watered. Their location below the restored Appian Way indicates that the location of a number of key features on the Campus has changed over time. Area 5. The Original Blacksmith Shop.

A large test trench, Trench 5, was stripped by backhoe and then hand excavated in the location of the original blacksmith shop c. 1899-1902.

A number of features were identified here, including the original gravel driveway and possible elements of the blacksmith shop. Below the recent asphalt, further concrete paving was found. Below the concrete was a layer of loose pea gravel and sand of varying thickness. Once removed, a hard-packed dirt surface was identified.

The concrete and gravel appeared fairly widespread through the trench, although more prevalent and thicker to the south away from the Chapel. Once the gravel was removed, unexpected features were identified. Deep tire ruts, possible made by a wagon or automobile, were discovered near the southeast end of the trench. Accompanied by the outline of a large puddle, these were probably laid down around 1900-1915.

To the south and west end of the trench several features that may relate to the blacksmith shop along with artifacts, were recovered. Three shallow post molds were identified in the dirt surface, and appear to correspond to the possible location of uprights in the historic photograph of the Blacksmith Shop. They appear to have been placed directly on the dirt surface. An area of burning and charcoal was located nearby, at the approximate location of the forge and anvil in historic photos.

Several blacksmith tools and bar stock were also recovered from this area. A few pieces of flat stock, tools and numerous nails and unidentifiable metal deposits were also found. All these deposits averaged less than 20 cm below the asphalt surface.

Memorial Symposium Honoring Gordon C. DeAngelo

By Peter Pratt

At the time Gordon left us last fall, he did not want to be remembered with a Memorial Service. Yet, many of his friends wanted a chance to remember him...to share stories...slides... memories... to reflect on the many contributions to archaeology, Gordon made over so many years... to think about what Gordon, as an avocational, contributed to archaeology...to appreciate the Gordon's life and his dedication and making the world a better place.

After considerable thought and discussions, it was decided that an appropriate tribute to Gordon was to organize a Memorial Symposium at the forthcoming NYSAA Annual Meeting. The subject of the symposium will be a topic near and dear to Gordon: the interface in archaeology between the avocational and the professional. Gordon has written on the subject, and his life and everything that he did was a shining example of what a dedicated avocational can bring to the field. Papers are being solicited from the people with whom Gordon had extensive involvement as well as from others. A formal call for papers will go out shortly on the list server. If you have a special memory that you would like to share in a paper, please contact the committee chair, Peter Pratt. Papers should explore Gordon's contributions as well as the important role avocationals can, and have, played in the field.

The Memorial Symposium will be scheduled Saturday afternoon. We hope for a series of thought provoking papers and lively discussion. The symposium will be followed by the social hour before the Annual Dinner at which people can continue the discussions and to share remembrances, stories, and photographs of Gordon. We invite you to go through your "old shoe boxes" of photos from the '50's or 60's, or 70's and beyond, and find some of the one with a feather in his hat that brought such joy and understanding to our many field projects. An area will be designated where people can post photos, and memorabilia as a "poster session". Slide and power point projectors will be made available for people to share photos, etc.

While Gordon did not want a Memorial Service, we feel that he might be pleased with this kind of commemoration. His work will be being used to help people better understand the important role non-professionals play in our field. Please bring your memories and stories and join us.

LEWIS HENRY MORGAN CHAPTER NYSAA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SURVEY 2010-2011
Burning Springs Site (Can 013) Bristol Valley, Ontario County New York

In the summer of 2010 the Lewis Henry Morgan Chapter, NYSAA conducted an archaeological survey at the Burning Springs site in the Bristol Valley of New York. The purpose of this archaeological investigation was to explore and document Native American and Euro-American visitation to and activities at the Burning Springs Site over the past 350 years. Last summer's activities included recording and mapping all the existing structures, walkover survey of the adjacent farmland, and a systematic series of shovel tests and test units. The collected material was processed and analyzed in the field, and in subsequent chapter meetings.

Burning Springs is one of several places in western New York State where natural gas trapped in the bed-

rock below escapes to the surface dissolved in the water of a spring. At the surface the natural gas escapes into the air and can be ignited; hence its name. Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de LaSalle and companions, in the region seeking guides to the Ohio country, were shown the Burning Springs by the Seneca in 1669. L'Abbe de la Galinee recorded the visit in his journal and map, and specifically mentioned the phenomena of how the water burned when a torch was put to it. Sporadic references to the Bristol Springs were made by subsequent Euro-American visitors to the region in the 18th century. After 1788, the Burning Springs and its adjacent lands were first purchased by Daniel Burt and became a farmstead with farm house, barns, and other out-buildings. Well

into the 20th Century, the Burning Springs was a popular tourist attraction and destination for visitors, hikers, and picnickers.

The Burning Springs property is presently owned by Mr. Alan Jones, President of the Bristol Historical Society, a collaborating organization on this project along with the Honeoye Historical Society. The Morgan Chapter and the historical societies will continue the investigation of Burning Springs in 2011. Contact Sissie Pipes (pipesml@aol.com) or Doug Pippin (douglas.pippin@oswego.edu) for more information.



Morgan Chapter members conducting the test unit excavations



Morgan Chapter members conducting the STP survey

Publications: *The Archaeology of Maspeth, Long Island, New York and Vicinity*

The New York State Archaeological Association is proud to announce the advanced sale of its latest Researches and Transactions publication, Volume XVIII, Number 1. This issue is entitled ***The Archaeology of Maspeth, Long Island, New York and Vicinity***, by Stanley H. Wisniewski and Ralph S. Solecki. 104 pages. 59 illustrations. The cost is \$10 for NYSAA members, \$15 for non-members, plus \$2 shipping and handling. Make checks payable to NYSAA and mail to William Engelbrecht, 16 Atlantic Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222.



New York Archaeological Council Update :

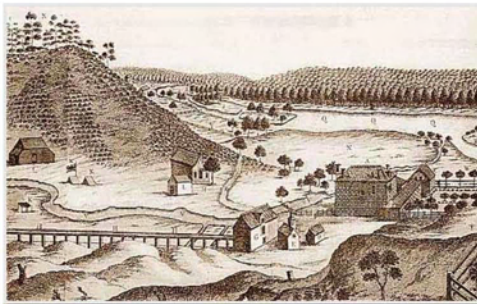
NYAC held its fall meeting at Columbia University on October 1st jointly with PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City). The program, entitled “**The Practice of Urban Archaeology**-A Panel Discussion,” featured William A. Griswold, Archaeologist, National Park Service, Northeast Region Archeology Program, Vincent Maresca, Historic Preservation Specialist, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, and Catherine Spohn, Cultural Resource Professional, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, with written answers from Mark Shaffer, Historic Preservation Specialist, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office. The program was well received.

Some of the decisions made that day include the appointment of a new webmaster, the reorganization of some of our committees and the creation of a new publication series and a of a Program Committee. Doug Perrelli has assumed the role of NYAC webmaster. NYAC decided to put out an occasional publication.

NYAC has created many committees since its inception. Many of the committees have been inactive or static for a long time, and some of them are related. It was decided that rather than dissolve committees, they could be consolidated. The standing committees now are: Action, with ASPI as a subcommittee; Archives and Collections; Awards; Website, with Communications as a subcommittee; Funk Foundation, Legislative with Human Remains and State Plan as subcommittees; Publications, with Abstracts and Newsletter as subcommittees; Public Education, with Continuing Education and Safety as subcommittees; and Standards.

NYSAA 95TH ANNUAL MEETING CONTINUED:

Hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn can be made on line at www.holidayinn.com or by calling Holiday Inn Nationwide toll free 1-800-Holiday or by calling the Hotel directly at 518-762-4686. When registering any one of the 3 ways you must provide the group code NAS for the conference rate of \$72.95 per room per night. If you require special room accommodations please indicate this when registering.



Deadline for hotel reservations is March 15, 2011 to insure availability.