



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

July 2009

NUMBER 73

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website:  
<http://www.smcm.edu/cneha>  
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HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

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*Northeast Historical Archaeology* seeks manuscripts dealing with historical archaeology in the Northeast region, including field reports, artifact studies, and analytical presentations (e.g., physical anthropology, palynology, faunal analysis, etc.). We also welcome commentary and opinion pieces. To submit a manuscript or request preparation of manuscript guidelines, write to Elizabeth S. Peña, Northeast Historical Archaeology, c/o Anthropology Department, Classroom Bldg B107, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY 14222. [neha@buffalostate.edu](mailto:neha@buffalostate.edu)

## CNEHA 2009 MEETINGS - QUEBEC CITY



HISTORICAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY TODAY:  
New Frontiers in Interdisciplinary Studies  
October 16-18th, 2009

L'ARCHÉOLOGIE  
HISTORIQUE AUJOURD'HUI:  
Nouvelles frontières interdisciplinaires  
15 au 18 octobre 2009

Plans for the 2009 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology meetings are being finalised and a first Call for Papers was included in the last newsletter. The conference website is up and running at [www.celat.ulaval.ca/cneha](http://www.celat.ulaval.ca/cneha) and information about travel, accommodation, and registration will be available in June. However, abstracts of 150 words for papers or posters can be sent anytime before August 1st to the conference email address- [CNEHA2009@celat.ulaval.ca](mailto:CNEHA2009@celat.ulaval.ca). We would also like to remind students about the student paper competition and we will update the student section of the website in June with more details.

Speakers at the plenary session on New Frontiers Interdisciplinary Studies include Peter Pope of Memorial University, Brad Loewen of the Université de Montréal and Laurier Turgeon of Université Laval. The Friday night welcome reception will be in the archaeology labs in the Quebec Seminary, also the site of the conference meetings (see photo). The Saturday evening banquet is at the Auberge Saint-Antoine, a four-star hotel, that uses archaeology as its theme, showcasing artefacts throughout the hotel.

A special trip to Grosse-Île historic site is planned for the Thursday before the conference. Located in the middle of the St. Lawrence River, Grosse Île was a quarantine station for the Port of Québec from 1832 to 1937. At the time, the island was the main point of entry for immigrants coming to Canada. We plan to fly up with a local airline, tour and have lunch on the Island. Parks Canada is providing a guide for our visit,

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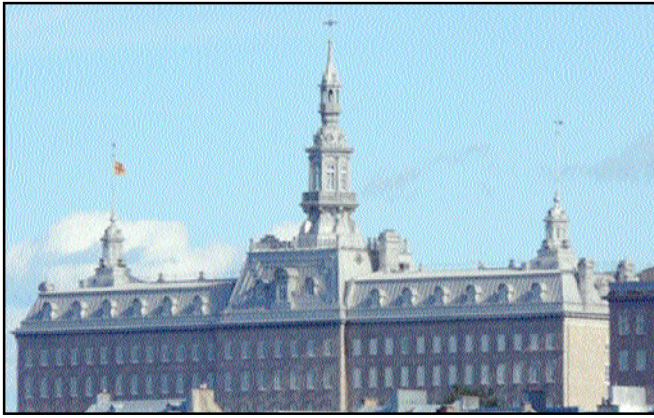
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and one of Parks' archaeologists will explain the archaeology of this Canadian National Historic Site.

On Friday, we have a varied calendar of events for conference participants. Please note that all activities are half-day activities. Friday morning you can choose from a bus tour of the countryside, a walking tour to explore the city's fortifications or visit Jacques Cartier's 16th century Upper Fort and visit the Cartier-Roberval collections.

**Friday morning you may choose one of the following:**

**1. Bus tour in the Quebec Countryside**

Join architectural historian David Mendel to explore the countryside around Quebec City. Following a short lecture illustrated with historic maps, images and photographs, depart for the Island of Orleans where many ancestral farms have been home to the same families since the 1600s. On the island of Orleans, you will visit the picturesque village of Ste-Pétronille, once the base camp of General Wolfe and his army. You will then follow an old rural road to cross the island and stop in the village of St-Pierre before crossing the bridge to visit Montmorency Falls, which are over 33 meters higher than Niagara Falls. Today, the waterfall and Manor are surrounded by a beautiful park which includes extensive walking paths, a cliff-side boardwalk and staircases leading to a dramatic foot bridge over the waterfall.

**2. Walking tour of Québec, the Fortified City**

Join Parks Canada archaeologist Robert Gauvin on a stroll around Quebec City visiting the recently excavated Fort and Chateau St. Louis sites designated Canadian National Historic Sites. The first fort on this site was built by Samuel de Champlain and for over two hundred years they were the seat of political power and the official residence of most of the French and British governors. Historic decisions made from the heights of Cap Diamant influenced the development and history of North America. Your visit will also include part of the Citadel Fortifications and the Artillery Park Heritage Site.

**3. Visit the 16th century Cartier-Roberval site and collections**

During the summers of 2007 and 2008, the Cartier-Roberval Upper Fort site was excavated by the National Capital Commission of Quebec in the suburbs of Quebec City. Occupied from 1541-1543, the site contains fascinating features and a unique collection of 16th century materials. Visit and tour the site with project archaeologists and then visit the collections at the archaeological reserve.

**Friday afternoon you may choose one of the following:**

**4. Archaeological Tour: Enhancing the Urban Landscape**

This is a walking tour with chief archaeologist for the City of Quebec, William Moss. This tour will visit some of the most important archaeological sites in Québec City's Historic District, including d'Youville Square, the Intendant's Palace, Place de la Gare (former shipyards of the Royal French Navy), the FAO Square, the Museum of Civilization, the Auberge Saint Antoine, Place-Royale and the Saint-Louis Forts and Châteaux National Historic Site of Canada. Comments will highlight the manner in which research on these sites has contributed to the enhancement of the urban landscape.

**5. Geocaching--discover Quebec City's Heritage with a GPS!**

This is an activity for the general public to discover the archaeological sites of Quebec City. Using the Geocaching principles with a handheld GPS, people of all age groups take part in the game seeking out 10 different thematic containers or geocaches which are both real or virtual, and realize their archaeological mission. Sounds like fun but still confused? Read more here at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com).

**6. Collections visit, Fort and Chateau St. Louis and Champlain's Farm**

Visit the Parks Canada laboratories to see visit collections from the Fort and Chateau St. Louis National Historic Sites as well as the collection from Champlain's Farm (1626-1628) located outside Quebec City on the Beaupré Coast.

**7. Interpretation Centres of Quebec City**

Join Quebec Ministry of Culture archaeologist and museum specialist Pierre Desrosiers on a guided visit to some of the significant interpretation centres of the city. This visit is designed to explore how the diverse heritage of the city is interpreted and presented to the public. Planned stops include Place-Royale and the Ursuline's Museum.

Two hotels within walking distance are available for participants, the Auberge Saint-Antoine ([www.saint-antoine.com](http://www.saint-antoine.com) or 888.692.2211) at \$135 CDN plus taxes or the Hotel Clarendon ([www.dufour.ca/en/dufour\\_menu/hotels/clarendon\\_hotel](http://www.dufour.ca/en/dufour_menu/hotels/clarendon_hotel) or 888.222.3304) at \$112 CDN plus taxes. Please mention the CNEHA meetings when booking your rooms and

book early as these rates are only valid until August 15th. We look forward to welcoming you to Quebec City, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Questions at any time can be sent to the conference chair, Allison Bain, at CNEHA2009@celat.ulaval.ca. Please remember that passports will be needed for all border crossings.

Submitted by Allison Bain

### **UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology***

Reported by: Elizabeth S. Peña, Editor

Volume 37 is slowly winding its way through editing and layout, and it will be on its way to the publisher soon. I certainly regret the delay in publication, but without a “bank” of manuscripts to draw upon, producing a journal is difficult! NEHA relies upon you and your contributions. PLEASE send your manuscripts to the journal office so that NEHA can get back on track.

In other news, I would like to announce a change in the journal office. I am—with both enthusiasm and regret—leaving CNEHA territory for the San Francisco Bay area. My husband is taking a position at the University of California, Berkeley, and an exploratory trip revealed several encouraging prospects for me. So, I leave the journal office in the ever capable hands of Associate Editor Sue Maguire, here at Buffalo State College. As many of you know, Sue is an assistant professor in the Anthropology Department and Director of Archaeology at Old Fort Niagara. Sue will be ably helped by the advisory board. I have every confidence in the journal's success, provided you submit your work for publication!

### **Newsletter Editor's Report**

Reported by: David Starbuck, Newsletter Editor

Please send news for the October issue of the CNEHA Newsletter by September 15 to the appropriate provincial or state editor.

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## CURRENT RESEARCH

### New York

Reported by: Lois Feister

#### **18th Century Perry-Blauvelt Homestead, Rockland County**

[Submitted by Julie Abell Horn and Sara F. Mascia]

During the first half of 2009, Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) conducted Phase IA and IB archaeological investigations on a 45-acre property in the Town of Orangetown, Rockland County, New York, slated for redevelopment as a senior citizens housing complex. The property hosts an extent Dutch farm house dating to the eighteenth century which was determined eligible for the NR by SHPO and will be preserved and adapted for reuse within the new complex. The house, known historically as the Perry-Blauvelt House, has three sections, dating to ca. 1752, ca. 1776, and ca. 1830. An earlier house, dating to ca. 1728, was located in the same general location but is no longer standing. The house site had been occupied by generations of the same family from ca. 1728 to ca. 1906, first by the Perry family and then by the Blauvelt and Lydecker families, the women of the original Perry family inheriting the land and house more frequently than the men. In addition to the main house, the property contained a reputed slave cabin, several barns and other farm out-buildings, a large well, and a smokehouse or out-kitchen, which is still standing and may have been built at the same time as the ca. 1830 wing of the house. Remains of some of the other structures can still be seen on the landscape. Historic documents, including an architectural description of the Perry-Blauvelt House and a number of maps and other primary sources, were particularly useful in understanding the well-documented history of the project site.

Archaeologists at HPI completed Phase IB testing on those portions of the property that will be affected by the proposed housing development. Areas tested included the ca. 5-acre parcel surrounding the Perry-Blauvelt House where all of the associated farm buildings were situated. The extant smokehouse was photodocumented at the request of SHPO since it has lost its structural integrity and cannot be retained.

A total of 272 shovel tests were excavated and twenty-one above and below ground features were identified, including a well, cistern, a possible cobble drive, nine outbuilding foundations and a domestic midden. Two small Native American sites were also recorded, each on a well-drained, elevated bench on either side of the perennial stream.

### New Jersey

Reported by: Lynn Rakos

#### **Battle of Two Bridges Archaeological Survey**

[Submitted by Richard Veit]

At the request of the Branchburg Historical Society, Dennis Bertland Associates recently completed a survey of the Two Bridges Battlefield in Branchburg, Somerset County, New Jersey. Funding was provided by the National Park Service through the American Battlefield Protection Program, Grants 2255-06-001 and 2255-07-02. Fieldwork was directed by Richard Veit assisted by James Cox and Sean McHugh. BRAVO (Battlefield Restoration Archaeology Volunteer Organization) under the supervision of Dan Sivilich completed a metal-detector survey of the battlefield.

The Battle of Two Bridges took place in December of 1776 in the vicinity of the Old York Road, Colonel Abraham Ten Eyck's house, and the North Branch River Road. The battle occurred when local patriots from Somerset County intercepted a party of loyalists headed towards British-held New Brunswick. The battle was inconclusive: one American militia man was wounded and after a short and no doubt terrifying detour some 85 Loyalists hoping to join the Crown Forces made their way to New Brunswick and safety. Although brief, the engagement is significant in that it reflects the fact that even at one of the darkest points in the Revolution, December of 1776, Americans remained committed to the principles of the Revolution, and even as the juggernaut-like British army rolled across the Jersey midlands, patriots were willing to take up arms in defense of their freedom.

In an effort to determine if any archaeological remains of the battle were still present, a metal detector survey of the property was undertaken. Tracts of land running along the Old York Road and North Branch River Road, as well as the Abraham Ten Eyck property and the meadows along the Raritan River, were surveyed. Twenty-one artifacts were recovered, including two musket balls and a stirrup. Although it cannot be unequivocally stated that these artifacts date from the battle, their presence at the site is intriguing and is consistent with what is known of the battle. One of the musket balls appears to be chewed and was found in close proximity to the Ten Eyck house. The other was found near the crest of a hill roughly 1000 feet away. One is tempted to speculate that they represent the encounter between the patriots quartered at Colonel Ten Eyck's house and the Loyalists coming down the road towards the house.

Shovel testing in the immediate vicinity of the Ten Eyck house also located foundations associated with barns between the house and the Old York Road. This may indicate where the soldiers in Ten Eyck's company were stationed. Artifact deposits consistent with an 18th century occupation of the site

were also noted. Moreover, three features, all remnants of stone foundations, were noted in close proximity to the Ten Eyck house and may indicate that an earlier structure once stood in this commanding location.

Given the ephemeral nature of the engagement, the presence of any archaeological finds that might be associated with it is noteworthy. Based on the musket balls and the intact archaeological features associated with the Ten Eyck House, the site appears to be eligible to the National Register based on criteria A and D: A for its association with the Revolutionary War and D for its ability to provide new information about rural agricultural life in 18th-century Somerset County, particularly the evolution of farmsteads and farmstead layout. Additional fieldwork to further explore the domestic deposits identified during the survey is planned.

## Pennsylvania

Reported by: Wade Catts

### I-95 Summary

[Submitted by Douglas Mooney and George Cress (URS)]

URS Corporation (URS) is currently conducting Phase II and III investigations along a three-mile section of I-95 in Philadelphia. This work is being performed for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PADOT) and precedes planned improvements to the highway, including upgrades to key intersections and the addition of new north and south-bound traffic lanes. The project winds along the western banks of the Delaware River through portions of the Northern Liberties, Kensington, Fishtown, and Port Richmond neighborhoods of northeast Philadelphia--areas that have tended to be overlooked by historians and that have received very little previous archaeological documentation--and represents the first comprehensive archaeological investigations performed along this important transit corridor within the city. The Philadelphia segment of I-95 was originally built in the late 1960s and early 1970s, at a time when Section 106 compliance studies were in their infancy, and was constructed without prior systematic cultural resource investigations.

Prior to European settlement this locale was home to a thriving Native American population for thousands of years, and sat at the core of the Lenape (Delaware) homeland. In the 17th century this area was home to some of the earliest European (Swedish, Dutch, and English) settlements; in the 18th century it developed into a hub of the vital shipping industry; and in the 19th and 20th centuries it was transformed into an industrial manufacturing center and played a key role in transforming Philadelphia into the "Workshop of the World". While the construction of I-95 had a devastating

impact on archaeological resources in central Philadelphia, current investigations have already demonstrated that impacts to sites in the northeastern neighborhoods were much less severe and have documented evidence of multiple well preserved archaeological deposits, both adjacent to the highway and extending underneath the existing roadbed.

Although testing remains in the early stages of completion, excavation has already uncovered archaeological remains associated with dozens of historic properties as well as identified multiple areas that are preserved essentially intact. Consisting of former interior open spaces and backyards, intact areas have been found to contain segments of the city's original historic ground surface and have already produced artifact deposits associated with two Native American occupations. The Native components are among only seven intact prehistoric sites identified within the most heavily developed sections of the city, and represent small relatively short-term occupations tentatively dated (by diagnostics) to the Late Archaic through Middle Woodland periods. Geomorphological studies within intact areas have already generated new information regarding the original landscape of the city and are anticipated to provide data that will allow refined Native American site location models to be created.

So far, two properties within the study area have been found to contain significant archaeological deposits and have been subjected to Data Recovery excavations. The first of these sites contained the remains of the former Aramingo Canal (ca. 1847-1902). More of a wharved-in stream channel than a canal, in the traditional way of thinking, this interior waterway played an important role in the development of the Kensington and Port Richmond sections of the city in the later 19th century. Archaeological investigations resulted in the exposure and documentation of the exceptionally well-preserved timber walls of the canal and collected previously unknown data regarding its manner of construction.

The second data recovery is still ongoing and focuses on an historical property occupied by members of the Remer family from the mid 18th through early 19th centuries. The majority of this site was destroyed by the construction of I-95 and today exists as only a narrow 4-foot-wide by 120-foot-long band of intact deposits along the margins of the lot. This site is unusual in that former backyard areas contain more than 50 well-preserved subsurface features, including at least seven deep, wood-lined pits ("barrel privies") containing dense artifact deposits. Additional features exposed at the back of the lot could potentially be associated with a rope walk that traversed this property in the late 18th and early 19th century.

Archaeological fieldwork along the I-95 corridor is expected to continue through 2009.

## **Lancaster Intermodal Transportation Center**

[Submitted by George Cress, URS Corporation]

A Phase IB/II archaeological investigation was carried out by URS Corporation in May 2009 at the proposed site of the Lancaster Intermodal Transportation Center, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, at the intersection of East Chestnut Street and Queen Street. The Red Rose Transit Authority (RRTA) is planning a new facility to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queen Street Station located immediately north of the project site. RRTA plans to provide access to East Chestnut Street for bus departures from the proposed facility and three additional bus berths, along with the construction of a parking garage and condominiums. These improvements will entail ground-disturbing construction that will impact potential archaeological resources.

Initial excavation consisted of the machine removal of parking lot asphalt and fill, exposing foundations related to the 1859 Pennsylvania Railroad Station train shed and an adjacent building that functioned as the waiting room, baggage area, and restaurant. A sealed intact underground passenger tunnel was also exposed within the footprint of the train shed. All of the railroad buildings and other 19th century structures located within the project area were demolished in 1929. Features related to the 18th and early 19th century occupation of the project site were also encountered. A stone-lined well mentioned in a 1749 deed was preserved beneath the former train shed track area and a probably wood-lined box privy dating to the 18th and early 19th century occupation of the site was also revealed. In addition, evidence consisting of a large amount of redware wasters and kiln furniture encountered in a buried yard deposit located beneath the train shed structure suggests the possibility of a redware kiln located in close proximity to or within the excavation area. Data Recovery excavations will focus on the 18th century stone-lined well, the wood-lined box privy, and the redware kiln waster area along with detailed documentation of the railroad-related foundations and passenger tunnel.

### **Maryland**

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

#### **St. Mary's City**

Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) and Alexandria Conservation Services, Ltd. (ACS) has recently completed a new addition to the HSMC web site focused on archaeological conservation. This project, supported by a grant from the Institute for Museum Services, is entitled Keeping a Promise to the Past and explores the conservation of historic archaeological artifacts recovered in the 40 years of research at the National Historic Landmark which commemorates Maryland's first capital. The pages are organized by material type allowing one to navigate to archaeological metals, organ-

ic materials, and ceramics and glass. Information about the material, how it deteriorates during burial, degradation components that may form (i.e., corrosion) and more is included. Each material and its conservation concerns are detailed and illustrated with case studies. Rollover images depicting before and after treatment conditions are paired with commentary by both the conservator and the curator that discuss the treatment challenges and information gained by the study of that object. Numerous internal and external links allow for a great deal of embedded content and access to other useful resources concerning conservation. HSMC and ACS plan on expanding the site as additional material is treated. The permanent URL for this new web addition is [www.stmaryscity.org/Archaeology/conservation\\_at\\_hsmc/conservationhome.html](http://www.stmaryscity.org/Archaeology/conservation_at_hsmc/conservationhome.html)

#### **St. Leonard**

One of the goals of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), from its early days under the leadership of Dr. Julia King, has been to increase online accessibility to data critical for archaeologists to conduct their research. One of the early projects undertaken was a finding aid created to introduce users to 34 important archaeological collections curated at the MAC Lab (<http://www.jefpat.org/2archaeology.htm>). These collections represent archaeological sites uncovered from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, and they date from c. 10,000 B.C. to the mid-20th century. Another initiative was the Comparative Archaeological Study of Colonial Chesapeake Culture (<http://www.chesapeakearchaeology.org>), which placed maps, photographs and artifact inventories from 18 early sites from Virginia and Maryland online.

One of the most successful web-based projects undertaken at the MAC Lab has been the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland webpage ([www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm](http://www.jefpat.org/diagnostic/index.htm)). With funding from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the MAC Lab launched a series of webpages in 2002 that describe prehistoric and colonial ceramic types in detail, with photos of examples and lists of reference materials. Archaeologists use the site for cataloging, and the public has been using the site to identify and date ceramics they find in their own plowed fields and gardens.

In 2008, the MAC Lab decided to focus again on this website by adding new categories of artifacts. A new page on "Small Finds" was launched early that year to discuss miscellaneous objects not found on excavations in large quantities, the way ceramics, glass, and architectural debris often are. Small finds can be problematic to use in archaeological analyses because they vary greatly and it is often difficult to find publications that provide information about them. The goal of the Small Finds section of the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website is to help fill that void by providing details about the chronol-

ogy, function, manufacture, etc., of small finds recovered in Maryland. Small Finds categories currently available are leather ornaments (decorative metal pieces used on leather accessories or horse tack), bodkins, smoker's companions, religious objects and sleeve buttons. In addition to Small Finds, English and American ceramics dating from the last quarter of the eighteenth century through circa 1850 are also now being added to the website, with edged and printed earthenware and relief molded stoneware jugs currently available. Painted and dipped earthenware will be added by the early summer. The Lab has been assisted in this ceramic project with funding from the Maryland Historical Trust Board, which was used to hire George L. Miller, a noted British and American ceramics scholar.

Another new initiative by the Lab is a website on wood and wood charcoal identification. Funded by a grant from the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, this online resource (<http://www.jefpat.org/Wood & Charcoal Identification/Wood and Charcoal ID Introduction.htm>) will be an invaluable tool for archaeologists and paleobotanists. This website project was headed by Dr. Harry Alden, a botanist and world-recognized expert in the microscopic identification of plant materials. Alden created a type collection of unburnt wood and charcoal samples for trees and woody shrubs found in the Northern Chesapeake region. Using this collection, which is housed at the MAC Lab, he created online wood and charcoal identification tools for twenty-five of the most commonly occurring trees and shrubs in the region. High resolution photographs of magnified thin sections of wood and charcoal have been labeled to show key characteristics of cellular structure useful in identification. The webpage also contains a section on wood and charcoal identification basics, a glossary, and a bibliography, as well as links to other websites containing additional information. This website became available in early March 2009.

This summer the Lab will be premiering a webpage and database devoted to the climate-induced environmental changes that have occurred in the Chesapeake Bay region over the last 20,000 years. This project uses botanical data available from archaeological evidence to track how plant communities have evolved and changed over this time period. Archaeobotanist Justine McKnight and Dr. Martin Gallivan, archaeologist and professor of Anthropology at the College of William and Mary, created a database of microscopic pollen, phytoliths, seeds, nuts, and other charred plant remains from 90 archaeological sites spanning 12,000 years of Maryland history. The new webpage will have a searchable online database of paleobotanical data from Maryland archaeological sites, descriptions of the 90 sites and a summary of environmental change in a narrative form on the JPPM webpage. This research tool will be of great use to scholars trying to develop a context for interpreting the plant remains found on newly-excavated archaeological sites, and will also be invaluable to

researchers interested in environmental changes. Check out [www.jefpat.org](http://www.jefpat.org) this summer to see the paleobotany site.

Finally, the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab) at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is developing a Cooperative Disaster Network across the State of Maryland thanks to a Connecting to Collections Grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services. Partners are representative across museums, archival, art, historical society and library communities. As part of this project, the MAC Lab and cooperative partners are working to develop an online disaster planning template together with the North East Document Conservation Center, develop a pocket response guide for reference in the event of a disaster, and compile a register of disaster response resources available in the State. The initial meeting of partner organizations will take place June 29.

### Washington D.C.

*Smithsonian exhibit tells it with bones*  
(From newswire reports, February 2009)

Did you know that bones can talk? So can burial sites.

Permanent clues about our lives are contained within our bones and teeth. Grave sites tell us about local customs, the social status of individuals and times of trouble in history.

"Written in Bone: Forensic Files of the 17th-Century Chesapeake," an exhibit opened at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, focuses on bay communities, including Jamestown, Virginia (established in 1607), St. Mary's City, Maryland (1634), and Providence, Maryland (1649).

Displays of human bones and artifacts found there will show visitors how 21st Century forensic anthropologists, archaeologists and osteologists (bone specialists) use observation and modern technology to unlock some mysteries of life and death from more than 400 years ago.

Some 340 objects, including artifacts and human bones, are on display for two years, with discussions of how cold cases from colonial times shed light on what life was like for some of the earliest English and Africans to settle in America.

Since 1992 researchers have unearthed the remains of hundreds of early settlers around Chesapeake Bay. "Now we can get to know these individuals, learn about how they lived and sometimes how they died," said forensic anthropologist Douglas Owsley, curator of the exhibit. Added co-curator Karin Bruwelheide, "Stories more amazing than you can ever imagine can be revealed by this type of investigation."

Skeletons can reveal sex, age, ethnicity, diet, amount of exer-

cise and health. Even without written records, today's scientists can determine which early settlers carried heavy loads, rode horses frequently, suffered from disease and infections or were left-handed. The clues are in the bones.

Lacking the dental care we have today, many 17th-Century settlers had teeth that were broken or had holes. Holes called "pipe facets" were common in smokers who clenched hard clay pipe stems between their teeth. Women who sewed often had "tailor's notches": grooves in teeth caused by holding pins and needles in the mouth.

It's important for archaeologists to work slowly when a skeleton or burial site is discovered. First, they gather as many clues as possible "in situ" -- at the scene -- before anything is touched. They take photographs and measurements. They look for other signs that might help them piece together the puzzle. Are there tools nearby? Other bones? Household objects? Weapons? Clothing deteriorates over time, so it might not be found, but metal fasteners or buttons may remain. Soil samples help pinpoint the date of burial. The bones are then carefully labeled to help re-create the skeleton in the lab, where more testing is done.

Sometimes grave sites don't fit with what we historically know about burial customs. For example, graves may not be where we expect them, or a body may be in an unusual position. In those cases, extra detective work is needed to solve the mystery. Consider these three stories that are part of the exhibition:

A number of disorganized grave sites found in Jamestown several years ago pointed to our historical knowledge of the winter of 1609. Colonists in the first permanent English settlement in America -- people who knew Pocahontas or worked with Captain John Smith -- were struggling to survive. The environment was harsh. Food was scarce and new supplies were delayed. Colonists resorted to eating leather, rodents and even their horses. The burial sites confirmed that deaths were so numerous that there was no time for proper funerals.

By contrast, 25 years ago in St. Mary's City, archaeologists digging in a cornfield found three 17th-Century lead coffins neatly entombed beneath the floor of a long-forgotten chapel. The coffins' construction and placement indicated that the occupants were upper class, well-known and given an appropriate burial. Two of the skeletons were identified as members of Maryland's founding family: Philip Calvert and his wife, Anne, who died in the late 1600s. The third coffin contained an unidentified infant.

A far different story was revealed in Anne Arundel County. In 2003, while digging in a plowed field, archaeologists found a human skeleton in the ruins of a 17th-Century house.

Researchers could tell that this was a hastily dug grave. Had someone tried to hide the body? The bone development of the skeleton indicated it was of a boy about 16 years old. Further testing revealed that he had a wheat-based diet, common to Europeans in the 1600s. Americans at that time ate corn-based diets, so the boy hadn't been in this country long.

The exhibit is scheduled to be on display through February 2011.

## Virginia

Reported by: David A. Brown

### The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

In 2008 and 2009, archaeologists with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation carried out a series of excavations in support of the ongoing reconstruction of Charlton's Coffeehouse funded by a generous gift from long-time Colonial Williamsburg benefactors Forrest and Deborah Mars. Originally built in 1750 as a storehouse, the 35 by 35-foot building was converted into a coffeehouse in the late 1750s until 1767 when it was converted into a tavern. Located near the capitol at the east end of Duke of Gloucester Street, Charlton's Coffeehouse was the center of news and commerce in Williamsburg in the years before the American Revolution. The building survived in various iterations until about 1889 when it was razed by Cary Peyton Armistead to make room for a large Victorian house. Armistead's buildings salvaged useful parts of the old building, including two English-bond brick foundations, bricks from the massive central fireplace, first-floor windows as well as hand-hewn and pit-sawn pieces of the old building's wooden frame. The examination of the surviving elements by Colonial Williamsburg's architectural historians provided critical information on the design of the reconstructed coffeehouse. The Victorian house was moved in 1995 to North Henry Street where it currently resides among other houses of a similar age and style.

Archaeological excavations in the late 1990s explored both the surviving architectural aspects of the building and an extensive midden dating to the short period when it was operated as a coffeehouse. The midden contained over 70,000 artifacts and 50,000 faunal bones. The glass and ceramic fragments suggested that although the differences between a coffeehouse and a tavern were not as clear as hoped, and although hot drinks such as coffee, tea, and chocolate were served with greater frequency than in nearby taverns, alcohol was copiously consumed. The quality of the ceramics suggested that while Charlton invested in expensive glass syl-labub and elaborate jelly and dessert glasses, he used cheaper, and a bit old-fashioned Chinese-patterned delftware for dinner service. The faunal remains suggested an elite fare was served, such as roast lamb, mutton, whole hams, calves



Figure 1. *Ditch and fenceline.*

head and a surprisingly wide variety of wild game dishes. The cuisine, table accoutrements, and the entertainment at Charlton's were obviously geared to the nearby gentry lawmakers working at the capitol a stone's throw from the front porch of the coffeehouse.

In 2008 archaeologists returned to the site to learn more about the surrounding terrain and the building's interior. Highlights of the 2008 fieldwork included the discovery of a previously unknown brick retaining wall connecting the southwest corner of the storehouse/coffeehouse to Burdette's Ordinary, to the west. The retaining wall successfully prevented the erosion of the street and sidewalk in front of the storehouse/coffeehouse, and by the end of the eighteenth century, nearly four feet of debris had accumulated along the wall as a result. The area behind the retaining wall was also excavated which was used as a trash dump by the occupants of Burdette's Ordinary. The result was the accumulation of several layers of mid to late eighteenth-century trash so full of oyster shell, broken wine bottles, fragments of plates, and butchered animal bone that there was actually very little soil. The excavations also identified several fencelines and established height

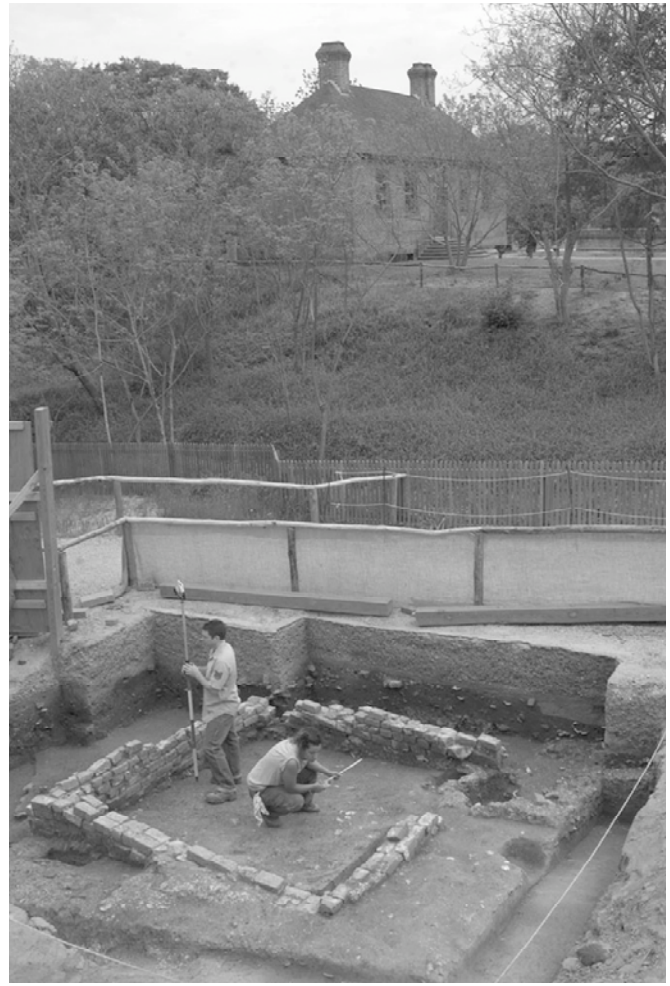


Figure 2. *Outbuilding.*

of the interior cellar spaces. All of the archaeological findings were included in the reconstruction plans which got underway in the fall.

Beginning in January 2009, the team examined a portion of a drainage ditch and parallel fenceline that extended north near the northeast corner of the storehouse/coffeehouse. The excavation of the ditch was contemporary with the construction of the building in 1750, as was the installation of the parallel wooden fence. Over the succeeding decade the ditch was allowed to silt-in after which the fence was taken down. Since debris layers covering the postholes and the ditch appear to be earlier than the Coffeehouse period (1759-1767), neither feature has been considered for reconstruction. The excavations do, however, help clarify the 18th-century topography, an important aspect in the interpretation of the historic landscape and tie directly into the foundation's Virtual Williamsburg Project, an NEH-funded project to model the town as it appeared at the beginning of the American Revolution.

In addition to the fence and ditch, foundation archaeologists and architectural historians examined the only outbuilding found on the property: a 10 by 10-foot smokehouse or dairy

located about 3.5 meters east of the kitchen door. (Unlike most Virginia houses of the period, the cooking was done inside the cellar rather than in a detached building.) The outbuilding was partially examined during the 1995 and 1996 excavation seasons, and at that time was thought to be contemporaneous with the use of the main building as a coffeehouse. Closer examination this spring showed that the foundations cut a loamy refuse layer containing pearlware. As a result, the outbuilding foundations have been preserved in place, but will not be reconstructed. The coffeehouse will be opened as an interpreted exhibition building in November of this year.

The annual William and Mary/Colonial Williamsburg field school in Historical Archaeology will begin on the 1st of June, continuing through the first week in August. The major venue this year will again be the Ravenscroft site, but east of Botetourt Street in previously unexcavated territory. The field school will explore a portion of the 18th house that straddled Botetourt Street until it burned in 1896 and an outbuilding (kitchen) associated with that house. A contingent of the students will explore the topography of the ravine adjacent to Charlton's Coffeehouse near the Secretary's Office (Public Records Office) in an effort to further our understanding of how and when Williamsburgers filled the area.

Information on both archaeological sites can be found at the Colonial Williamsburg website, [www.history.org](http://www.history.org).

### **Fairfield Foundation Update**

The frigid cold and chaotic travel to Toronto for the 2009 Society for Historical Archaeology conference could not dampen the excitement of the Fairfield Foundation's first symposium on the archaeology of the Burwell plantation in Gloucester County, Virginia. Packed with an assortment of William and Mary anthropology alumni and current students, the symposium entitled "A New Look at an Old Virginia Plantation: Changing Landscapes and the Material World of Fairfield Plantation" was a resounding success for the eleven participants who presented eight papers.

Thane Harpole and David Brown, co-directors of the Fairfield Foundation, were happy to put together a symposium filled with friends and fellow students delving deeply into the archaeology of Fairfield and pulling on many of the lessons learned through years of work in the Anthropology Department. Mark Maloy began the session with his research on the first European settlement at the plantation with a paper entitled "The Lost Fairfield: Searching for the Elusive Seventeenth-Century Manor House." His research was undertaken through an internship in 2007 with the National Institute for History and Democracy (NIAHD) through the College. Anna Hayden and Melissa Pocock combined their 2008 NIAHD Internship research with the paper "Skewed

Views: Landscape Perspectives of Eighteenth-Century Fairfield" Focusing on the eighteenth-century post-in-ground buildings, slave quarters, and midden deposits near the manor house, they demonstrated how undergraduate field research contributes to and guides future work at the Fairfield Foundation.

Danielle Cathcart presented her 2008 NIAHD Internship research with the paper "Identity and Place Making: A Study of Colonoware at Fairfield Plantation." After hours upon hours of studying and labeling tiny sherds of this low-fired earthenware found throughout the plantation, Danielle was able to show the complexities of assigning its manufacture to any given ethnicity and the importance of connecting where it was found with who might have made and used these vessels. Elizabeth Clites followed with her paper "Quarters in Comparison: The Fairfield Quarter in a Temporal and Geographical Context." Beth is currently an archaeological analyst at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and used her familiarity with our third president's plantation and the on-line Digital Archaeological Archive of Comparative Slavery (DAACS) to compare the quarters at Fairfield with others in Virginia as well as throughout the Carolinas and Caribbean.

Meredith Mahoney presented a paper entitled "Reading the Women of Fairfield in Textual and Material Terms" which was the first presentation on the complex lives of women at the plantation in the early nineteenth century. Her paper was followed by a presentation by Charlotte Gintert on the material lives of late nineteenth-century African American women at the plantation through her paper entitled "Medicine Bottles and the Mystery Room: Life at Fairfield Plantation During its Final Years." Finally, Lauren Anderson and Katherine Egner analyzed the six surviving late nineteenth-century photographs of the plantation's manor house in their presentation "A Snapshot of History: Fairfield Through Photographs." Taking apart the photographs by analyzing each object individually, and reassembling them into short narrative descriptions of brief moments in time, they approached historic photographs as archaeological contexts.

David Brown and Thane Harpole added a concluding comment on the presentations entitled "Perception, Perspective, and Place: Landscapes and Plantation Archaeology." The symposium successfully demonstrated the need to take a multiplicity of perspectives on any given subject and approach archaeological research as a discussion...which is what followed as the group enjoyed numerous papers at the annual conference, covering sites from across the world, both terrestrial and underwater. A fine selection of restaurants and historic sites made venturing beyond the conference hotel more than worthwhile. As much fun as it was work, the conference was a successful first foray into sharing the many student-driven research projects at Fairfield with the world of archaeologists.

The success of our outreach to the archaeological community was followed most recently with our first field project of the dig season. Foundation staff, volunteers, and Archaeological Society of Virginia certification students participated in the clearing, mapping, and photography of a nineteenth-century cemetery on White Marsh plantation. White Marsh was once within the bounds of Fairfield Plantation, the bond established after the marriage of Lewis Burwell with Mary Willis in the 1730s. It remained under the Burwell family's control through the late eighteenth century when the Rootes family purchased the property. Five tombs related to this family and the owners that followed them were found broken and moved from their original locations. The large, brick wall surrounding the cemetery had been taken down and a large stone obelisk monument disconnected from its base. The project succeeded in reassembling four of the tombs and confirming that at least one stone was partially missing. The heavy amount of brick rubble from the wall dismantling appears to cover the original cemetery surface, suggesting there may be more tombs and monuments remaining to be found beneath this layer.

### **DATA Investigations Update**

DATA Investigation LLC focused the winter months on completing the nominations of B. Williams and Co. Store in Mathews County and the Ware Neck Store and Post Office in Gloucester County, as well as the Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District in Fauquier and Prince William Counties to the Virginia Historic Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. B. Williams and Co. Store is located at Williams Wharf along the East River and holds significant, yet untested, archaeological potential dating back through the eighteenth century to its function as a tobacco inspection station during the seventeenth century. While interest was garnered for nominating the Broad Run district under Criterion D, we settled with registering twenty-eight archaeological sites within the district boundaries relating to prehistoric lithic scatters, mid-nineteenth-century tenant houses and a train depot, two nineteenth-century hamlets, and an early twentieth-century creamery, to name but a few. Despite the remarkable preservation focus of Fauquier County's government, not one archaeological site had previously been registered within this 9500+ acre area. County planners hope to continue the inclusion of archaeological resources in future regional surveys of the county with particular attention to the quickly disappearing resources of the mid-to-late nineteenth-century farmsteads that at one time could be seen along every road in the region.

In the field, we spent an occasional day this late fall and winter holding public dig days including one in October at the Battle of the Hook reenactment in Gloucester County. Our excavations alongside Revolutionary War foot soldiers and cavalry served as stark reminder that much of what we saw during the recreated engagement between American and

British forces at the close of the war could be linked directly to the dirt and artifacts beneath our feet. The excavations took place at Warner Hall, site of the reenactment, and introduced hundreds of visitors to this noteworthy colonial and nineteenth-century plantation home.

Other projects revolved around completing research begun as early as the 1980s. In an effort to assist Gloucester County with its archaeological collections, DATA Investigations/Fairfield Foundation is helping curate the documents, artifacts, and other materials left behind by Dr. Frank Farmer who assisted state archaeologists and ran an early cultural resource management firm based in Gloucester County from the late 1970s through the mid-1980s. His excavations ranged from work at the seventeenth-century Boldrup plantation in Newport News to Fort Cricket Hill near Gwynn's Island in Mathews County where American Revolutionary War soldiers laid siege to Lord Dunmore's troops who sought refuge on the island after being driven from Williamsburg and Norfolk. Curation of these materials, including a film of the 1973 Morgan Jones Pottery excavation and salvage archaeology at Gloucester Point, Seawall's Ordinary, and Yorktown, will continue through the spring with the assistance many students, volunteers, and some members of the York County Historical Society. We are also working on the analysis and report for one of his most significant surveys in Mathews County at Hollerith/Brighton Farm. Capturing a near complete cross section of the county's history, Dr. Farmer's work identified numerous sites from the Archaic and Woodland periods, as well as the 17th through 19th century.

### **Ontario**

Reported by: Suzanne Plousos

### **Announcing Regional meetings to discuss Ontario Ministry of Culture 2009 Draft Standards and Guidelines**

[Submitted by Scarlett Janusas]

The Ontario Ministry of Culture has released a draft of the 2009 Standards & Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists. The document can be viewed at [http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/archaeology/arch\\_sng.htm](http://www.culture.gov.on.ca/english/heritage/archaeology/arch_sng.htm)

The Association of Professional Archaeologists (APA) is hosting a series of meetings to discuss and obtain input on the draft from licensed archaeologists and to address the Ministry's request to pilot the guidelines until November. Implementation of the new guidelines will take place in December 2009.

Regional meeting dates and APA contacts are:

**Northwestern Ontario** first meeting date to be announced.

APA contact - Bill Ross [wross@tbaytel.net](mailto:wross@tbaytel.net)

**Northeastern Ontario** first meeting date to be announced.

APA contact - John Pollock [jpollock@personainternet.com](mailto:jpollock@personainternet.com)

**Central Ontario** (including Greater Toronto Area) first meeting date to be announced. APA contact - Cathy Crinnion ccrinnion@rogers.com & Bill Finlayson w.finlayson@sympatico.ca

**Eastern Ontario** first meeting June 12th, 611 Princess Street, Kingston, Ontario 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. APA contact - Lawrence Jackson ljnortheast@sympatico.ca;

**Southwestern Ontario** first meeting Saturday June 6th, Museum of Ontario Archaeology (1600 Attawandaron Road), London 9:00am to 5:00 pm. APA contact - Scarlett Janusas jscarlett@amtelecom.net & Tom Arnold tarnold@sympatico.ca

### **Archaeology at Macdonell-Williams House, Pointe Fortune, Ontario**

[Submitted by Dena Doroszenko, Ontario Heritage Trust]

In the Township of East Hawkesbury on the southern shore of the Ottawa River, and adjacent to the village of Pointe-Fortune, stands a grand limestone structure known as the Macdonell-Williamson House. The property had been expropriated in 1952 for the construction of a hydro-electric dam built in the early 1960s. The house was never demolished and in 1969 it was designated a National Historic Site. The site remained boarded up and in jeopardy until 1978 when the Ontario Heritage Foundation, now the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT), obtained the property to protect it for present and future generations. This site has provided an intriguing look at the efforts of one man to build a farmstead and estate that would create an image of grandeur while providing a substantial income to support that image.

In 1793, at the age of 25 John Macdonell signed a 5-year contract to become a clerk for the North West Fur Trade Company and became a partner before his contract ended. During this time Macdonell established a family with a Metis woman, Magdelaine Poitras, and eventually married her. In 1813, he bought a large piece of property on the Ottawa River. The land which he purchased was first patented in 1788 by William Fortune. A 1797 map shows four structures related to the Fortune family on the land.

Macdonell's house, constructed in 1817, is a large stone structure, late Georgian in style, and includes a ballroom on the second floor. Plagued by constant financial problems and personal tragedies, the years following the construction of the house were less than kind to Macdonell. He built a small canal and lock, a storehouse and a retail store. However, in 1821, the fur trade company for which Macdonell had once worked ceased to exist upon amalgamation with its rival, the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). This reversal at about the time he was building his spacious home and estate was probably soon felt and affected his forwarding business.

After John Macdonell's death in 1850, his heir, John Beverly Polifax Macdonell, continued to live on the property and made relatively few changes. However, by 1882 when the property was sold to the Williamson family, only three acres remained of the original 70 acres. The Williamson family and their descendants, the Redferns, made a number of large changes to the house and to the outbuildings, but preserved the three acres which the Ontario Heritage Trust is responsible for today.



*Foundation of the icehouse and smokehouse (2007)*



*Excavation of the driveway area (2008)*

Archaeological investigations on the property began in 1978 and have continued to the present. To date, there have been 8 field projects on this property investigating various aspects of the building itself as well as the location of former outbuildings.

The 1981 field season saw the excavation of 1) the basement of the house; 2) three window wells along the west facade of the house; 3) the retail store built by Macdonnell in 1822; and 4) the basement entrance which also uncovered a massive stone foundation which runs at a diagonal trajectory to the main house wall. Based on the recovery of 18th century coins in association with the foundation, this may represent one of the buildings constructed by William Fortune, which appear on a 1797 map. In 1982, excavations on the southeast lawn area uncovered a number of features including a late 19th century, driveway bedding surface and a dry-laid wall. The wall may relate to one of the Macdonnell buildings appearing on an 1829 map. Archaeology at this site did not take place again until 2000 when a monitoring project occurred with the assistance of Parks Canada. Excavations continued at the site from 2001 to 2003 and 2006 through 2009.

Continuing the work begun in 2003 and 2006, units excavated in 2007 discerned the presence of not just one but two building foundations abutting one another, running below the existing shed foundations to the north of the main house. The structure to the west was identified as a smokehouse, while the eastern structure was clearly identified as the icehouse. The lower story of the icehouse was filled with large river boulders. A depth measurement of 1.44 meters, roughly 4 feet, was taken between the boulders, although whether this is the absolute depth is unknown, as the boulders could not be removed due to their massive size and weight.

A list of Macdonnell's improvements to the land, drawn up in 1842 as part of an advertisement for the considered sale of the property, lists the icehouse as a shingle roofed stone building 12 by 14 ft with 2 stories, the ice story, the below ground por-



*Excavations in the basement of Macdonnell house (2009)*

tion, being 10 by 10 ft. The excavated dimensions of the structure differ slightly. The icehouse comes roughly to 14 by 14 ft, although it is 10 ft square within the interior. When the massive boulders were put in to fill the cavity of the icehouse is not clear, although it likely occurred around the time the Williamsons bought the property prior to the construction of the shed. The Smokehouse is listed as also being 12 by 14 ft and under the same roof as the icehouse. The excavated smokehouse foundations are 14 by 9 feet. The poor quality of the smokehouse foundation appears to indicate a simple wood structure. The smokehouse portion of the shared wall was in particularly poor condition appearing to be more mortar than actual stone. Despite recovery of over 17,000 artifacts during the 2007 investigations, none recovered in relation to the smokehouse or icehouse excavations was diagnostic.

Further archaeological work was carried out in 2008 prior to installation of washrooms into the shed on the north side, recovering well over 14,000 artifacts and interestingly, this was cancelled after the findings of the archaeological investigations (2007 and 2008) and it was decided to place the washrooms into the interior of the extant house. What this resulted in was a winter field project within the basement of the house, excavating the remaining portion of the basement in order to allow the new plumbing and utility servicing to be installed. During January 2009, a small team excavated in conditions which were the exact opposite to those encountered in June of 2008. In terms of temperature extremes, 300 Celsius compared to -350 Celsius.

Analysis of just over 4,000 artifacts from the 2009 basement excavations is underway. Work will include comparing the

assemblage to the over 15,000 artifacts recovered in the 1981 and 1982 basement excavations. This will complete the work within the interior of the house.

### **Fort York (AjGu-26) South Soldiers' Barracks 2009 Excavations**

[Submitted by Eva M. MacDonald, Archaeological Services Incorporated (AIS) and Andrew M. Stewart, Strata Consulting]

The archaeology at Historic Fort York continues to stimulate and challenge those of us seeking to understand the complex history of construction and destruction within this 3 hectare, bastioned earthwork fort on downtown Toronto's western waterfront. In March 2009, excavations occurred within the southern room in one of the original War of 1812 era buildings, the South Soldiers' Barracks. The fort itself is within the 16 hectare Fort York National Historic Site, which includes part of a War of 1812 battlefield and military burial ground on original ordnance lands (now a park), a modern armoury, and a remnant of original Lake Ontario shoreline before the fort was isolated by lake filling for railway construction in the 1850s. The entire site is owned by the City of Toronto, and Historic Fort York has been operated as a city museum since 1934 (Benn 1993, 2007).

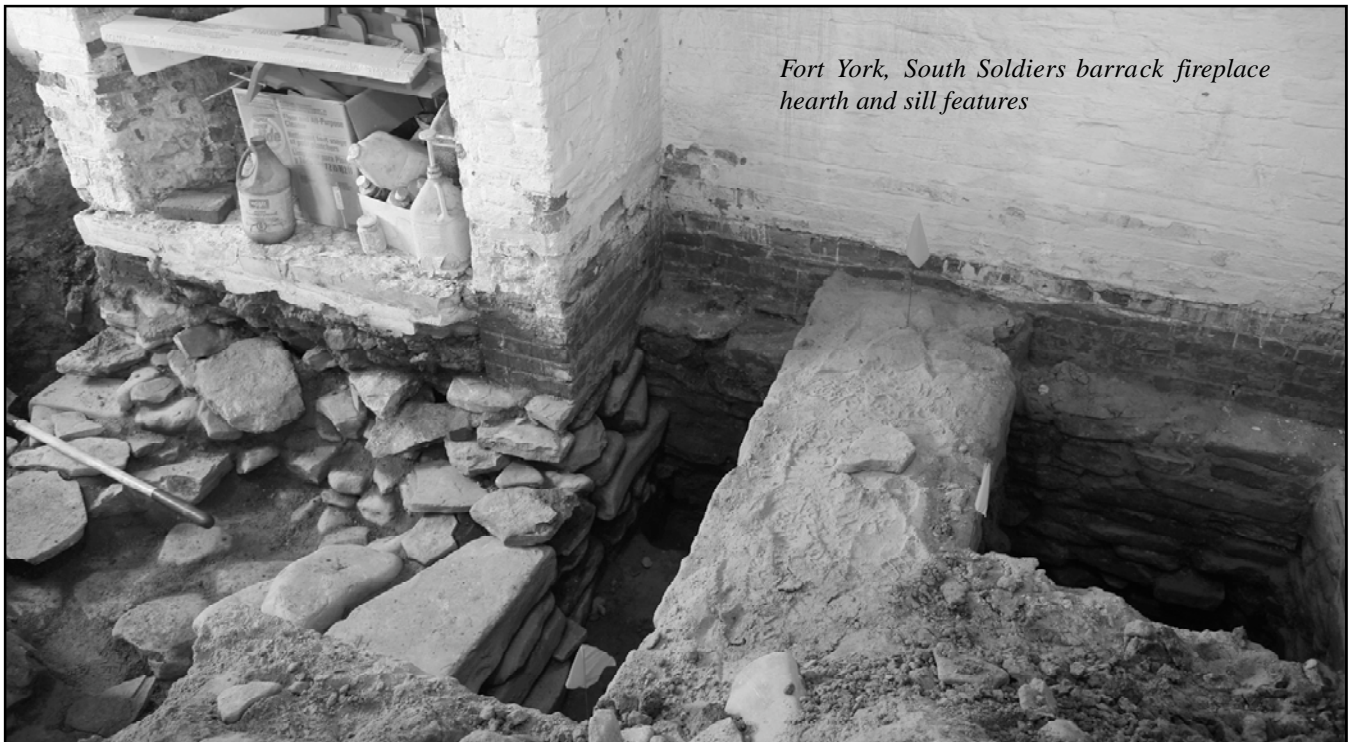
Fort York was established as a British frontier garrison in 1793 by Upper Canada's Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe. It was sited at the entrance to one of the best harbours on the north shore of Lake Ontario at a time of tense relations between Britain and the United States. Following the American attack on York (Toronto) in the spring of 1813,

which destroyed all previous defenses, the Royal Engineers began rebuilding the garrison on the former Government House site on the west side of Garrison Creek. Surviving elements of this rebuilt fort include portions of its trace and seven buildings on the parade ground within the trace dating to the 1813-16 period.

Architectural restoration over the last 20 years and the installation of new underground systems has led to and supported a programme of archaeological research and mitigation across the site. The interior of the southernmost barrack room of the 1815 South Soldiers Barracks (Barracks "A") became the most recent focus of investigation after it was determined that a concrete floor installed during the 1930s was to be removed and replaced, and a new interior drainage system installed.

Currently off-limits to the general public, the interior of the South Soldiers' Barracks is undergoing restoration as preparations are underway to mark the bicentennial of the War of 1812 (Hebib 2009). The one-storey gabled brick structure originally was built to accommodate 100 individuals, comprised of soldiers, their wives and children, divided between each of its three rooms (Benn 2007:24). Around the time of the 1837 rebellion, the occupancy was reduced to make quarters more comfortable, and after 1865, the south room became a garrison school room. Excavations were carried out in this 10 by 6 m room over a five day period with personnel from Archaeological Services Inc. (ASI). The field project was co-directed by Dr. Andrew Stewart of Strata Consulting and Ms. Eva MacDonald (ASI).

After the concrete floor was removed by the restoration con-



*Fort York, South Soldiers barrack fireplace  
hearth and sill features*



*Mya Sangster of the volunteer historic cooks at Fort York visits archaeologists working in the barracks.*

sultants, the south room of the South Soldiers' Barracks was treated as an operation within the larger Fort York archaeological site (AjGu-26). Excavation and recording methods followed Parks Canada procedures for stratigraphically complex sites (Cary and Last 2007), consistent with procedures used by Archaeological Services Inc. for urban archaeology in Toronto (ASI 2006; see also Roskams 2001).

The operation consisted of 18 sub-operations (individual excavation units labelled A through R) that were distributed to maximize information from the room perimeter, corners, around fireplaces, and the entrance door on the east wall in the time that was allotted for this research. Excavation proceeded from surface to deposits that were deemed to be culturally sterile. In units where excavation ended prior to removal of cultural strata, geo-fabric was laid down before backfilling began.

In Unit A, dry-laid stone was exposed from top to base, representing the southwest corner of the building. It consists of a wide stone footing on which the brick walls of the building sit, wide enough to form a level surface, or sill, 15 cm wide at the top, on the interior face of the wall. The footing has two distinct styles of construction – a lower rough-faced (cobble and boulders) section and a higher fair-faced (dressed shale) section. The sill likely supported east-west floor joists. The upper-lower distinction noted in 2009 corresponds with two styles of construction observed on the exterior of the east wall footing by Fort York archaeologist David Spittal (1993:43-46) during 1990-91 construction monitoring activity around the South Soldiers Barracks. At that time, contrasting construc-

tion techniques were noted as well along the horizontal plane of the stone courses supporting the east wall.

Excavations in adjacent units along the south wall further exposed the original hearth stones in front of a brick fireplace. The hearth apron was constructed of a 60-cm deep layer of flattish boulders that had been disturbed during preparation for laying the concrete floor in the 1930s. The hearth apron does not appear to have originally extended beyond the east or west edges of the fireplace chimney and is therefore not as substantial a cooking hearth as is found in the 1826 Officer's Mess kitchen. This is consistent with the expectation that most of the cooking done for the soldiers occurred in a separate cookhouse at the fort according to Senior Domestic Interpreter Bridget Wrannich. The hearth was of particular interest to the volunteer historic cooks at Fort York, who paid the archaeological field crew a visit.

The common denominator in each excavation unit throughout the room was a fill layer of organic silty sand, rich in artifacts and demolition debris, which lay directly below modern builder's sand that supported the concrete floor. The presence of children in the fort is attested by stone marbles found in several units. Smoking pipe fragments were common, including a mustachioed human effigy with shoulder epaulets above the bowl spur that would have appealed to someone in the military. The range of domestic artifacts including animal bone from discarded meals and ceramic sherds indicates that the fill originated with a midden as these things would not have slipped through the original wooden floor when the barracks was in use. The dressmaker's straight pins and buttons that were found in some units, however, were small enough that they could have been lost during activities inside the room.

Not surprisingly, numerous military buttons were also recovered, lost from the uniforms of various regiments that were garrisoned at Fort York during the nineteenth century. Perhaps the most exciting find was a rare button from the 89th Regiment, which served at York from November 1814 to February 1815, just before construction of the South Soldiers' barracks. It is possible that some soldiers from the 89th stayed behind to fill up the ranks of the incoming regiment. The coins will also be useful in dating the deposits, although sometimes the minted date is not what it seems. A case in point is the Austrian "EIN/KREUZER/1816," whose reverse is stamped with the word "scheidemunze," or "small change." Apparently these coins were minted with the date 1816 until 1852. The coin, therefore, is more interesting as an example of a souvenir brought to Canada by a soldier whose regiment had served in Europe beforehand.

In the end, the March 2009 excavations led to a reconsideration and cancellation of the perimeter drain that had been recommended for inside the room. The new system would have



*Button of the 89th Regiment of Foot, garrisoned briefly at Fort York during the War of 1812*

required removal of earth down to the depth of the footing wall (greater than 1 meter) all the way around the room. The integrity and depth of archaeological deposits suggested that a longer excavation would have been required to mitigate this option. The excavation also led to a revision of specifications for the wooden floor, requiring shallower disturbance to existing fill deposits across the room.

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#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Dennis E. Howe. 2009. *The Industrial Archeology of a Rosendale Cement Works at Whiteport*. Whiteport Press, Kingston, New York. \$12 for book + \$4 shipping & handling. Order from Michael Pavlov, P.O. Box 209, Bloomington, NY 12411. Make out checks to "Michael Pavlov."

The ruins of an American hydraulic natural cement manufacturing company that operated in Rosendale, Ulster County, New York, provides the platform for a study of the beginning and development of an important predecessor of the enormous modern cement industry. The archaeological survey recorded industrial surface remains within a larger area of ruins that represent the Hamlet of Whiteport, NY, a company town. The recorded industrial remains include structures or structure complexes constructed between c. 1850 and ca. 1895 by the Newark and Rosendale Lime and Cement Company, which produced natural hydraulic cement continuously at the site from c. 1838, when it purchased the works of Hugh White, until 1902, when the market for natural cement collapsed. Included is a synthesis of the Newark and Rosendale Company's mill organization, manufacturing processes, transportation infrastructure and cooperage. Whiteport was essentially abandoned soon after the company ceased making cement in 1902 and was never developed with later construction, which helped to make it a valuable archaeological site for the study of the structures and artifacts of a very important historic American industry.

Martha McCartney. 2009. *Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory: The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia*.

Martha McCartney (Sitesleuth@aol.com) announces the publication of her new book entitled *Nature's Bounty, National's Glory: The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia*. It'll be out in August and will cost \$49.95. It's abundantly illustrated and draws upon archaeological data as well as documentary evidence. Contact the author for more information at the email above.