



# Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2015

NUMBER 91

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CNEHA Has a Permanent Address for Its Website:

<http://www.cneha.org/>

COUNCIL FOR NORTHEAST  
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 Susan Maguire, Editor, Northeast Historical Archaeology, c/o Anthropology Department, Classroom Bldg B107, Buffalo State College, Buffalo, NY 14222. [neha@buffalostate.edu](mailto:neha@buffalostate.edu)

## CNEHA Facebook Page

CNEHA now has a Facebook page! Log onto Facebook and then search for Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology to see announcements about conferences and other updates.

## CNEHA 2015, FREDERICKSBURG, VA

### Call for Papers

CNEHA's 2015 annual meeting will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel in historic, downtown Fredericksburg, Virginia, from November 6th through the 8th. The theme for this year's conference is Recover, Restore and Remember, a phrasing designed to capture Fredericksburg's history as a crossroads during numerous significant events in American history, most notably the Civil War. Conference organizers are Dovetail Cultural Resource Group and the Center for Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington.

Individual papers and sessions, as well as posters, on this and other themes related to historical archaeology are welcome. Abstracts should be no more than 150 words and include a title, author(s), and affiliation. Abstracts should clearly describe the research's purpose and significance, while summarizing the project's results. Papers are limited to 20 minutes. Each session will include a closing, five-minute question and answer period.

Deadline for abstract submission is June 26, 2015. Please send your abstract as an e-mail attachment to the Conference Program Chair, Douglas Sanford, at [dsanford@umw.edu](mailto:dsanford@umw.edu). Hard copy submittals can be sent to Dr. Sanford at the Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA 22401. Please email Dr. Sanford with questions. He can also be reached at 540-654-1314.

## UPDATE--*Northeast Historical Archaeology*

Reported by: Susan Maguire, Editor

Happy Summer. Hope your field seasons are off to a great start! Volume 43 (2104) has been sent to the members. I hope you enjoyed the broad range of topics covered in the volume. Please email the journal office at [neha@buffalostate.edu](mailto:neha@buffalostate.edu) if you have not received your journal. We are working on Volume 44 (2015) and are still accepting articles for Volume 45(2016) so plan on submitting your recent research to NEHA!

Volume 41 (2012) will be available shortly in electronic format from the digital commons website <http://digitalcom->

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mons.buffalostate.edu/neha/. Electronic content of the two most recent volumes is available for purchase from the CNEHA website [http://www.cneha.org/shopping\\_cart.html](http://www.cneha.org/shopping_cart.html).

Do not forget to purchase the two new Telling Time Posters for your lab. Now available for sale are Telling Time – Historic Lighting and Telling Time in the American Revolution. These posters are \$10 each plus shipping. Check out the journal website at <http://anthropology.buffalostate.edu/northeast-historical-archaeology> for ordering information.

Feel free to email me at [maguirse@buffalostate.edu](mailto:maguirse@buffalostate.edu) with any comments, questions or suggestions for the journal. Have a great summer.

## **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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## **CNEHA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

November 9, 2014

Ocean Place Hotel and Resort, Long Branch, New Jersey

Karen Metheny called the meeting to order at X:XX A.M. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2013 annual business meeting held on November 10, 2013 in Newark, Delaware.

Silas Hurry moves to adopt the minutes  
XXXXX seconded the motion  
Motion carried.

### **Old Business**

#### **1. Treasurer's Report and 2015 budget:**

Sara Mascia provided the Treasurer's report. Income for 2014 to date is \$19,000; total expenses are \$23,000. The disparity is due to the additional funding expended during the year to get the journal back on track to one journal per year. We have \$19,000 in the US checking account and \$15,000 in reserve accounts. The organization is healthy.

Joe Last reported on the Canadian account. Income as of January 1, 2015 is \$6,755.80. Credits generated from mem-

bership are \$2,010.00. This does not include those memberships paid through PayPal, which go directly to the US account. The Canadian account earned 22 cents (Canadian) interest. Debits for 2014 were \$10,000, primarily for journal printing and mailing. Joe congratulated Susan and her team for their effort in getting the journals out and back on track. The current balance is \$2,147.47.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Silas Hurry and seconded by Richard Veit. Motion approved.

## **2. Membership reports:**

a. Individual US: Ed Morin thanked the new and renewing members. Overall, the membership had increased by a total of 30 new members, including 18 individual, 4 students, 3 joint, 4 retired and 1 life, for a total of 423.

b. Individual Canadian: Joe Last reported that there are a total of 93 Canadian members, which represents 5 less than last year. The membership represents 8 of the Canadian provinces, with most of the members (50%) from Ontario.

c. Institutional: Meta Janowitz reported that the Institutional membership is low but stable, likely as a result of the changing climate of private firms and institutions. Meta is working on a plan to try to increase the institutional membership in 2015.

A motion to approve the Membership reports was made by Richard Veit and seconded by Christa Beranek. Motion approved.

## **3. Publication Reports:**

a. Newsletter: David Starbuck reported the third issue of the newsletter has been printed and is in Buffalo for mailing. David noted that the number of photographs per issue has stabilized, and it is requested that captions identify the people in the photographs sent in for publication. All editor positions are filled and the goal for all editors is the submission of copy at least once per year. David acknowledged Silas Hurry for his submission of copy for every issue of the newsletter.

Karen Metheny introduced a discussion from Thursday night's Board Meeting regarding paper vs digital newsletters. Currently, the number of newsletters printed and mailed meet or exceed the current minimum for bulk mailing rates; however, the number of printed and mailed newsletters is getting close to where the organization will fall below the minimum at which it can benefit from lower bulk mail rates, which would increase the cost to produce and mail the newsletter and increase membership costs, as the newsletter would be subject to higher postage. Karen is interested in the membership's view of newsletter format.

The newsletter is emailed directly to those members who indicated that it was the preferred method and provided a cur-

rent, working email address, with their membership renewal. A digital copy of the newsletter is archived on the website, but not until the following calendar year. Silas noted that the complete newsletter is emailed to members. The newsletter that is posted on the website has had personal information redacted.

Karen polled the membership in attendance for the business meeting. Approximately 25% of those present indicated it would prefer paper; the remainder preferred an electronic newsletter.

b. Journal: Susan Maguire reported two journals have been sent out and 2014 will be sent out in January. There was a mix of content and the articles were distributed across the CNEHA region. The 2015 will be a volume pertaining to the War of 1812. The 2016 journal is open and currently there are a few papers in review; there could be a few more added. Susan noted there has been a steady stream of articles through the journal office. Susan thanked the membership and the Board for their support with the resources for layout that enabled the journal office to bring the journal up to date.

The Digital Commons have a two year moving wall for back issue content. Currently, there are 3000 downloads per month. Mary Beaudry noted that there is something off about the downloaded content. The downloaded pdf should be fully paginated, including page number and format; true to the print copy. Any questions, comments or suggestions, please email Susan.

c. Web Site: Silas Hurry noted the site continues to mature and grow. All awards of excellence have been posted, as have all winners of the student paper competition. Kristi Morgenstern does all of the web site work. She is on vacation in Key Largo or would have been at the conference. If anyone has a suggestion for a web site, email Silas.

d. Poster: The Revolutionary War poster – American artifacts – is out this year. Next year, the Revolutionary War poster for British artifacts will be completed, followed by clothing and accouterments. Contact Ed Morin for any poster suggestions. Karen recognized URS, who subsidized these posters, with all sales going to the Council.

e. Facebook: The Council is on Facebook only, not Twitter, etc. Christa Beranek indicated the Facebook page may be opened to allow more posting options by the membership. It is used for posting regional events and conference announcements.

## **4. Programs and Meetings:**

a. 2014 Long Beach, New Jersey: Richard Veit announced a total of 90 papers will have been presented by the end of the meeting. More than 200 people registered for the conference. All of the tours ran smoothly. Gary Stone did a great job at Monmouth Battlefield.

Meta Janowitz recommended that PayPal be shut down after the pre-registration period is over because individuals could register at the pre-registration rate up until the very end. Silas Hurry suggested Paypal go over to full/late registration after the pre-registration.

b. 2015 Fredericksburg, Virginia: Silas Hurry, reporting for the organizers, announced next year's conference will be held on November 5 through 8 at the Courtyard Marriott in Fredericksburg, Maryland. Tentative events include: a pub tour on Thursday; a small finds workshop and 17th century arms workshop with Laura Gelke at Jamestown on Friday; walking tours along the river and regarding the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and slavery; a reception at the Indian Head Tavern on Friday; and a Saturday social and barbecue, with bluegrass music and a tour of the distillery.

c. 2016 Ottawa, Ontario: Joe Last is working on the 2016 conference in Ottawa. Currently, Joe is working with the Chateau Lord Elgin Hotel, the largest family-owned hotel in Canada. It's a 1930s hotel in downtown Ottawa with rates at \$139 (Canadian), which is much less than the regular hotel rate because it's a business hotel. It will be held on October 6 through 9. It will be the Council's 50th anniversary and there will be festivities planned to celebrate this anniversary.

d. Future Venues: Karen reported that the Council received letters of interest from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for 2017 and Halifax, Nova Scotia, for 2018. The Council is always looking at other future venues throughout the region. Karen also questioned the membership about pre-registration packets: should they be distributed electronically or digitally from the website, or are people still looking for registration materials in print? Some members indicated they were still looking for printed material. Mary Beaudry suggested a blast email with a reminder on Facebook.

### **5. Student Paper Competition:**

Nancy Brighton introduced the six participants in this year's competition and asked them to stand. The participants included Kellie Bowers, Katelyn Coughlan, Catherine Hawkins, Meghan Hester, Meaghan Ratini, and Jessica Rymer. Everyone hit their mark and did a great job giving their presentation; each one should be congratulated for her effort. The year, the panel selected a winner, who will receive \$100 and her 2015 membership. The winner is also expected to submit her article for publication in the journal. The winner of the 2014 Student Paper Competition is Catherine Hawkins.

### **6. Subcommittee on Collaborative Preservation:**

Christina Hodge is looking at a way to operationalize ideas provided previously by the membership. One suggestion is to have a poster competition on the theme of metal detecting, using creativity to combat common myths about archaeology and metal detecting, such as archaeologists hoard artifacts, and that archaeologists and those who use metal detectors are enemies.

### **7. Other Old Business:**

None.

## **New Business**

### **1. Nominations and Elections Committee:**

Meta Janowitz presented the results of the election. Alison Bain decided to go off the Board. A total of five spots on the Board were available. Four incumbents, Meta Janowitz, Craig Lukezic, Christina Hodge, and Nancy Brighton, were running for re-election. Two additional members, Stephane Noel and Chris Ricciardi, also ran. Elected Board members are Meta, Craig, Christina, Nancy and Stephane.

Also this year, Jim Delle stepped down from the Board to serve as Assistant Dean at Shippensburg University. The Board appointed Henry Cary, New Brunswick, Canada.

Karen welcomed Stephane and Henry to the Board and thanked Jim and Alison for their service to the Council.

Meta agreed to run for Vice Chair as nominated by Mary Beaudry and seconded by Wade Catts.

### **2. Other New Business:**

None.

### **3. Resolution of Thanks:**

Susan thanked the reviewers of the journal for their efforts during the year and Richard Schafer for assistance with the copy editing.

Stephane Noel read two resolutions of thanks:

#### ***a. Resolution of Thanks to the 2014 Conference Organizers:***

WHEREAS, the 2014 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference has been a resounding success;

WHEREAS, Long Branch has proven to be a most spectacular venue for a conference;

WHEREAS, we have all enjoyed the informative visits and tours to

Monmouth Battlefield  
Point Breeze and Timbuctoo  
Raritan Landing  
Allaire State Park

WHEREAS, the Ocean Place and Monmouth University have provided welcoming venues for toasts and talks; WHEREAS the entire conference has been conducive to the dissemination of knowledge and stimulating exchange of ideas;

NOW, THEREFORE let it be resolved that the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology wishes to express its ap-

preciation and gratitude for all of the hard work, long hours and excellent effort of the conference committee:

Richard Veit and Ed Morin, Conference Co-Chairs

Meta Janowitz, Program Chair

Tabitha Hilliard, Registration Chair

Jaimie Ancheta, On Site Registration Czar

Ilene Grossman-Bailey and Christopher Matthews, Book room Coordinators

Nancy Brighton, Raffle Coordinator

Tour Guides: Christopher Barton, Michael Gall, Paul Schopp, Daniel Sivilich and Garry Wheeler Stone

Workshop Leaders: Ed and Diana Gonzalez Tennant, Mark Nonestied, Mary Mills, and Kat Mueller

To all of the volunteers and students who have provided invaluable support and general go-for services to ensure the conferences ran smoothly, including:

Holly Baldwin

Bob Berardo

Andrew Colucci

Matt Craig

John Dysart

Kimberly Keene

Kayla Kraft

Lauren Lembo

Matthew LoBiondo

Sean Nepveu

Jonathan Seclow

Kristin Swanton

Lara Zullo

With Special thanks to:

Paul Brown, President of Monmouth University

Dean Stanton Green, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Monmouth University

Robert Hunter, Editor, Ceramics in America

Historic Allaire Village

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission

Divine Word Missionaries

New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry

Rancocas Nature Center

And The New Jersey Historical Commission

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Divine Word Missionaries

Hunter Research, Inc

JMA, a CCRG Company

Richard Grubb and Associated, Inc.

Historic Village at Allaire

New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry

To Rechnitz Hall, Monmouth University, for an excellent reception site on Friday Night

To Wilson Hall, Monmouth University, for a beautiful banquet space

To the session chairs who have kept or will keep their sessions organized and running time

To all the contributors to the raffle, including but not limited to:

Diane Dallal

Patricia Samford

Meta Janowitz

URS, Inc., Burlington

Richard Veit

To the Staff of the Ocean Place for the excellent and expeditious service,

Let us give a round of applause for the organizers, students, presenters and supporters of this wonderfully informative and most enjoyable conference –

A motion to adopt the 2014 Resolution of Thanks was made by Ed Morin and seconded by Sara Mascia. Motion Approved.

***b. Resolution of Thanks for Outgoing Board Members:***

WHEREAS, the term of office for a certain member of the Executive board for the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology is expiring, the Council acknowledges and appreciates the long term and unfailing contributions of Alison Bain; and

WHEREAS, Jim Delle has resigned from the Board to focus on new responsibilities as the Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Shippensburg University;

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved the Council expresses its sincere appreciation and thanks to these individuals.

A motion to adopt the 2014 Resolution of Thanks for Outgoing Board Members was made by Silas Hurry and seconded by Joe Last. Motion approved.

**4. Karen thanked everyone for attending.**

A motion to adjourn the 2014 CNEHA Business Meeting was made by Ed Morin and seconded by Sara Mascia. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Nancy J. Brighton, At Large Board Member

## Avery's Rest

(7S-G-57)

Excavation of Eleven Colonial Period Burials

September 8-15, 2014

Archaeological Society of Delaware, Inc.

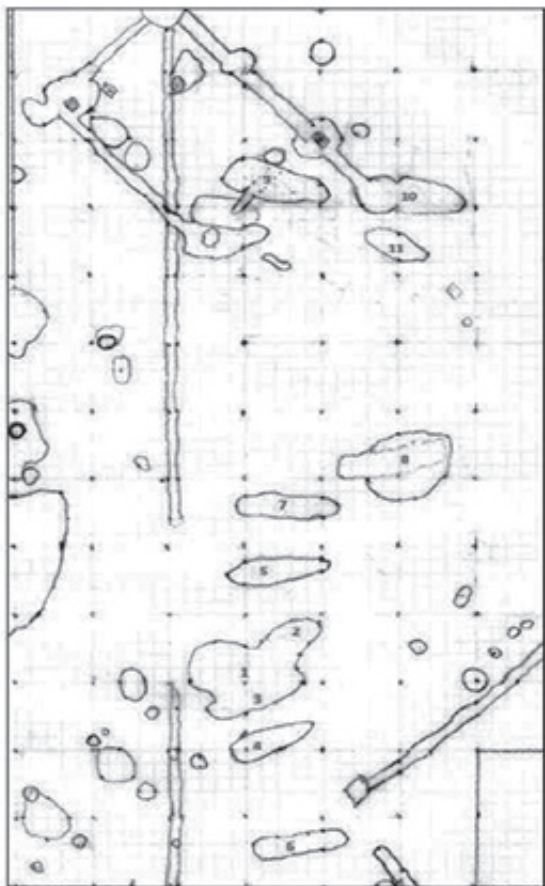
Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Prepared by: Daniel R. Griffith; ASD, Inc.

### Introduction

In 2012, Archaeological Society of Delaware, Inc. (Society) investigations at the Avery's Rest site encountered the first of eleven colonial period burials. Upon the discovery of the first burial, Dan Griffith contacted the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs (Division) to notify the agency of the find in accordance with the requirement of the Delaware Unmarked Human Remains law (7DE CODE Ch.54). On-site consultation in 2012 with Dr. Karen Rosenberg, physical anthropologist from the University of Delaware, confirmed that the first burial was most likely of European ancestry. Additional excavations by the Society in 2012, 2013 and 2014 focused on delineating the boundaries of the burial area and determining the total number of burials. Excavations completed in 2014 determined that the total number of burials was eleven and that no further burials were likely in the area of the investigation.



Avery's Rest Site (7S-G-57)

Location of burials in relation to other features at the site

### Consultation and Recovery Plan

In accordance with Delaware's Unmarked Human Remains law, the Division published Public Notices in November 2012 in two newspapers of general circulation in the state in an attempt to locate descendants of John and Sarah Avery. Through this process, three individuals were identified that are descendants of John and Sarah Avery. The first of two consultation meetings with the Division, the descendants, the landowner and representatives of the Archaeological Society of Delaware was held in Lewes on April 8, 2013 at the Zwaanendael Museum. The consultation concluded that 1) the Society should continue to investigate the Avery's Rest site to determine the number of burials and delineate the boundaries of the burial area and 2) the descendants were open to having the Society contact the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (Smithsonian) to determine their interest in assisting with the recovery of the burials and conducting the analysis.

In July of 2013, Dan Griffith of the Society contacted Dr. Doug Owsley at the Smithsonian to determine his interest in the site and the burials. Dr. Owsley confirmed his interest and on August 1, 2013 followed the conversation with a written proposal for the analysis. The proposal was submitted to the Society and the Division. In the following months, the Division, the Society and the Smithsonian discussed burial treatment options, analysis protocols, and possible schedules for recovery. Due to other obligations of the Smithsonian, the period set for the recovery of the burials was in the fall of 2014.

The Division arranged for a second consultation among the Smithsonian, the Division, the Society, the landowner and next-of-kin for May 8, 2014 at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes. Attending the meeting for the Smithsonian were Dr. Doug Owsley and Kari Bruwelheide. The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the treatment plan and set a framework for the development of a Memorandum of Agreement among all parties. The significant decisions made were:

- 1) The Smithsonian, with assistance from the Society and the Division, would remove the burials – the time frame was later set for the week of September 8, 2014;
- 2) The Smithsonian would conduct in-depth analysis of all the burials in accordance with the proposed analysis protocol and share the results of their research with all parties to the agreement; and
- 3) The Smithsonian would retain custody of the burials (i.e., the burials would not be re-buried after analysis).

Following the May 2014 meeting, the Division, in consultation with all parties, developed a Memorandum of Agreement and Treatment Plan, which was executed on September 3, 2014. The executed agreement permitted the fieldwork and analysis to proceed.

### **Site Preparation**

During the months of August and early September 2014, the Society consulted with the Smithsonian and the Division on site logistics and personnel. The Society took the lead in preparing the site for burial excavation by:

- 1) Excavating all non-burial features in the burial area,
- 2) Arranging for and installing a tent to cover the burial area for two weeks,
- 3) Excavating backfill from the burials down to the level of the coffin nail pattern, and
- 4) Excavating trenches in sterile sub-soil adjacent to burials to provide access by archaeologists to the burials at the same level as the burial.
- 5) The site was ready for burial excavation, which commenced on the morning of September 8.



*Tent over burial area - burials are covered with black plastic*



*Sub-soil trench next to burial - burial is under the black ground cloth and darker soil.*

### **Recovery**

The Smithsonian team of seven people, directed by Dr. Owsley, led the burial excavations. The Society provided a supporting role by assisting in burial excavation where needed, removing soil on the bone after recovery, excavation of sub-soil trenches next to burials, backfilling completed burials, recording information about coffin construction and grave shaft details, and sifting soil from the grave shafts for artifact recovery. The Smithsonian role in the recovery included directing the excavations, recording in-situ measurements and observations on each burial, producing photographic documentation of each burial and cleaning/boxing the burials for transport. The Division provided a staff archaeologist each day of the recovery to assist where needed and to take custody of the burials removed each day. The recovered burials were transported by the Division to the Division's archaeology laboratory in Lewes at Cape Henlopen State Park.



*Smithsonian photodocumentation of burials*



*Dr. Owsley taking in-situ measurements of Burial #11*

Excavation of the burials proceeded by carefully removing soil around all the bones and also mapping and describing all coffin nails and other artifacts encountered. Curation of the bones during and after removal was a top priority, as careful handling is both respectful of the individuals and preserves the historical information associated with the burials. The careful handling insured that the story each individual burial can reveal is complete and not compromised by the recovery.

In terms of process, any adhering soil on the bones was removed by light brushing. The larger bones were carefully packed in Hollinger burial boxes, with separation maintained between bones by Ethafoam sheets. Smaller bones of the hands and feet, and any small bone fragments, were packed in smaller, archival quality boxes and then placed in the larger containers. The skeletal remains of each individual were stored in separate containers. The Smithsonian will do additional cleaning in their laboratory prior to analysis.

The sequence of burial recovery was:

- Burials 9, 10 and 11 were removed on September 9
- Burial 2 on September 10
- Burials 5, 7 and 8 on September 11
- Burials 1 and 6 on September 12
- Burials 3 and 4 on September 15

All burials were delivered each day by Division archaeology staff to the Division's laboratory in Lewes in preparation for transport to the Smithsonian.

### ***Preliminary Results***

Eleven burials were removed, including nine adults, one child of about age 8 (Burial # 11) and one infant of about 7 months of age (Burial #2). As for the adult burials, there was one elderly female (Burial #6) and one elderly male (Burial #7); the remainder of the adults appear to have been in their late 20's or 30's at the time of their deaths. Two and maybe three burials may be of African ancestry, while the remainder of the burials appear to be of European ancestry. This attribution of age, sex and ancestry is based solely on field observations. It is likely that the more detailed analysis will adjust and fine tune these preliminary assessments.

### ***Disposition***

All eleven burials were delivered by the Division to the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History on September 30, 2014.

### ***Analysis***

The burials are now at the Smithsonian. Within six months of the receipt of the burials by the Smithsonian, which occurred on September, 30, the Smithsonian will produce a descriptive report on their analysis to date. Certain types of analysis, such as isotope fractions and DNA require a longer period of time to produce results, so the preliminary report will focus primarily on age, sex, ethnic identity and obvious pathologies for each individual burial. A more comprehensive set of data about the burials will be incorporated into a publication by Dr. Owsley about colonial burials of the greater Chesapeake Bay area.



*Smithsonian and Society crew excavating burials*

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### Massachusetts

Reported by: Linda M. Ziegenbein

#### Phase 1B Survey in Roxbury

[Submitted by Kathryn Curran, Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts]

Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (UMAS) completed an intensive locational survey (Phase 1B) in November 2014 at Parcel 8 in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The 0.78-acre parcel, owned by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR), sits at the corner of Melnea Cass Boulevard and Harrison Avenue. At the time of the survey, the project area remained undeveloped and fenced off from the public. During the Phase 1B, UMAS identified intact deposits dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A subsequent site examination (Phase 2) was undertaken in March 2015 to gather information sufficient to determine National Register (NR) eligibility of the archaeological deposits.

Parcel 8 is located in a portion of Roxbury (formerly the Boston Highlands) inhabited since the early seventeenth century. Several important historic properties and archaeological sites are found within one city block, which is part of the Eustis Street Architectural District (BOS.QW). Northwest of the project area, at the corner of Washington and Eustis Streets, lies the seventeenth century Eliot Street Burying Ground (BOS.824). To the north, along Washington Street, archaeologists recorded and excavated the late eighteenth century Doggett house/tavern (BOS.11511) and Cunning-

ham house (BOS.11510). The 1859 Eustis Street Firehouse (BOS.11.512), west of the project area, is the oldest standing firehouse in Boston. The 1880 Owen Nawn Factory (BOS.11513) on Washington Street abuts Parcel 8. Archaeological investigations of Roxbury by the Museum of Afro American History in the 1970s, helped establish the study of urban archaeology in Boston.

During the initial survey (Phase 1B), UMAS opened three 1.5-m (5-ft) wide machine trenches in Parcel 8. The trenches were oriented diagonal to Melnea Cass Boulevard and Harrison Avenue to increase the likelihood of intersecting with historic structures running parallel to the roads. Field staff identified nine cultural features: four foundations (Features 1, 3, 4, and 5), an area of brick/rubble (Feature 2), the outline of a brick outdoor planting bed (Feature 6), granite curbstones (Features 7 and 9), and a midden/trash disposal area (Feature 8). The features align with buildings and roads depicted on the 1885 Sanborn map of Roxbury/Boston.

Features 1 and 4 correspond with foundation walls for a 3-story wood frame tenement building that once faced Nawn Street. Similarity in mortar could indicate two walls from the same building, or instead be separate buildings constructed at the same time. A third foundation (Feature 3) aligns with the north wall of a 2-story wood structure that faced Harrison Avenue.

Tenement housing appeared in this neighborhood in the mid to late nineteenth century after construction of a “Morocco” Factory east of the Eustis Street Burying Ground (BOS.824). Historic atlases detail the development of industry in this section of Roxbury. At various points in time, this city block



Figure 1. *Photograph of the brick foundation (Feature 5), planting bed (Feature 6), and granite curb (Feature 7).*

housed leather manufacturers, copper works, a sawmill and lumberyard, and a blacksmith shop. The closely packed tenement buildings housed a growing immigrant population, workers needed for burgeoning industries in and around Roxbury/Boston in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Features 5 and 6 are related to a brick building that sat at the corner of Harrison Avenue and Plymouth Court (Figure 1). UMAS staff identified the east foundation wall (Feature 5) and a semi-circular area of brick (Feature 6) interpreted as an outdoor planting bed. The 3-½-story building was constructed between 1873 and 1885, based on Sanborn atlas data. The structure is keyed as a “Store” on Sanborn maps from 1885 through 1950. Preliminary background research revealed that the building housed a liquor store, a grocery, and a variety store at different points in time. Evidence from atlases and aerial photos show that the structure was demolished between 1950 and 1978.

The granite curbstones (Features 7 and 9) once framed the east and west sides of Plymouth Court. The distance between the curbs measured at 6-m (20-ft), matches the road width recorded on the 1885 Sanborn map. An area of cobbles underlying the curbstone (Feature 9) is likely the old roadbed and provides insight into early road construction methods.

Field staff identified Feature 8 in a 50-x-50-cm STP (STP 5) in Trench 2; the feature soil extended beyond the limit of the STP. The location of Feature 8 on the 1885 Sanborn map corresponds to an open space between buildings. The density and variety of artifacts collected from the black, organically rich soil indicates one or multiple episodes of refuse disposal. Feature 8 could be a kitchen midden or an accumulation of trash from multiple surrounding tenements that dates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The Phase 1 survey provided a glimpse of Roxbury history, particularly in this neighborhood. Intact cultural deposits were discovered beneath pavement that capped 3 to 6 feet of historic fill. UMAS returned to Parcel 8 in March 2014 to examine two areas in greater detail: the midden/trash disposal area (Feature 8) and a “common area” to the west of the brick store (Features 5, 6, and 7). UMAS also excavated three deep mechanical trenches to identify earlier historic period and/or Native American occupation levels, and to explore the depositional history of Parcel 8.

Field staff opened Excavation Unit 1 (EU 1) around Feature 8 to determine the extent and function of this cultural deposit. When removing overburden, archaeologists identified a 45-cm (1.5-ft) wide stone and mortar wall (Feature 10) at a depth of 160-cm (5.25-ft) below ground surface (bs). The foundation marked the southern limit of Feature 8 and ran parallel to Plymouth Court. A 3-x-3-m (9.8-x-9.8-ft) unit (EU 1) opened east of Feature 10 was too small to delimit the horizontal boundaries of Feature 8. The crew excavated

Feature 8 from 1.99-3.19-m (6.5-10.5-ft) bs, to the depth of an impenetrable fill layer. The excavation of EU 1/Feature 8 ceased at this depth.

Archaeologists collected thousands of late eighteenth to early twentieth century artifacts from the 1.2-m (3.9-ft) thick feature soil, including whole bottles, and well preserved leather and wood. Artifacts such as a school writing slate, ceramic/porcelain doll parts, and clay marbles suggest the presence of children. There were also many household items: buttons, combs, wooden toothbrush parts, thimbles, multiple glass crucifixes, and sewing pins. Feature 8 also had several kaolin pipe bowls inscribed with “Home Rule” (Figure 2). The slogan, a reference to Ireland’s Home Rule Movement, was popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when the tenements along Plymouth Court were populated with Irish immigrants.

UMAS excavated an additional 5 EUs in the “common area” near Feature 5. While mechanically removing overburden, archaeologists identified a complex of cobblestone, brick pavement, granite curbstone, a concrete slab, and a rubble foundation (Feature 11) at 76-cm (2.5-ft) bs (Figure 3). The cobblestone and brick, in similar orientation and depth, likely correspond to Plymouth Court. The concrete slab and rubble foundation were a later building, with the slab angled upwards as a ramp for vehicle access. After recording Feature 11, the machine operator removed fill and rubble to a depth of 1.2-m (3.9-ft) bs.

Field crew opened 5 EUs in a 12.75-x-11.5-m (41.8-x-37.7-ft) area. The center of the block sat approximately 4-m

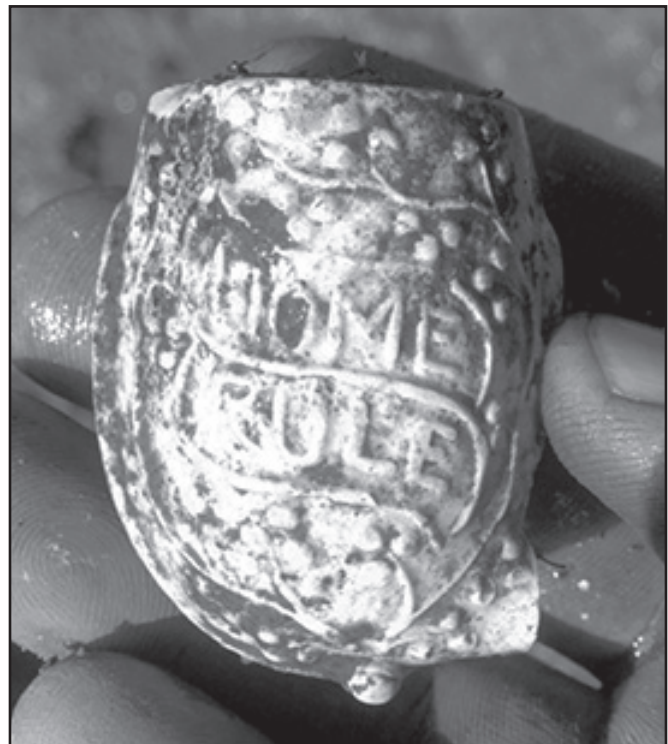


Figure 2. Pipe bowl inscribed with the slogan “Home Rule.”



Figure 3. Photograph of Feature 11 (facing south).

(45.9-ft) west of Harrison Avenue and 8-m (26.2-ft) south of Melnea Cass Boulevard. Archaeologists recorded eight additional historic features in this block: a brick and mortar foundation (Feature 13), brick pavement (Feature 15), stone/rubble foundation (Feature 16), builder's trench (Feature 17), a posthole (Feature 19) and several fill deposits (Features 12, 14, and 18).

EUs 2 and 3 straddled the brick and mortar foundation (Feature 13), with EU 2 sampling the outside and EU 3 the inside the building. In EU 2, field staff collected kitchen items (whiteware, bottle glass, fork fragments, bone, and oyster shell), architectural debris (nails, pane glass, metal fragments), and personal items (a bone toothbrush handle, buttons, and Kaolin pipe and bowl fragments). EU 3 also had kitchen items (whiteware, redware, spongeware, glass jars and bottles, and bone) and architectural debris (light bulb base, nails, copper pipe, marble, mortar, brick, slate, and wood). Using data collected during the Phase 2, field staff estimated the brick and mortar foundation (Feature 13) to be 8.35-m (27.4-ft) north to south by 6.1-m (20-ft) east to west. The building faced Plymouth Court.

EU 4 was excavated east of Feature 13 (brick and mortar foundation) and west of Feature 5 (brick store foundation). UMAS discovered a stone/rubble foundation (Feature 16) and associated builder's trench (Feature 17) in similar orientation as Feature 13. Again field staff recovered many kitchen items (whiteware, stoneware, Rockingham ware, bottle glass, a bone handled knife fragment, a copper alloy utensil handle, animal bone, and oyster shell), architectural debris (pane glass, nails, woods and metal fragments), and personal artifacts (a comb, and buttons).



Figure 4. Photograph of a bottle (ca. 18th century).

UMAS placed EU 6 just south of EU 4. No structural features were discovered in this excavation unit. The fill deposits in EU6 also contained kitchen artifacts (whiteware, bottle glass, a copper-alloy spoon fragment, animal bones, and oyster shell), personal items (buttons, Kaolin pipe stem and bowl parts, and a piece of cloth), and architectural debris (pane glass, nails, slate, and metal fragments).

Field staff opened EU 5 southwest of EU 6 and recorded a posthole (Feature 19), suggesting EU 5 sampled an area outdoors. The historic artifact collection from fill deposits in EU 5 held kitchen items (whiteware, redware, vessel and bottle glass, whole bottles, and a Mason jar lid), architectural debris (a porcelain electric insulator, brick fragments, a metal hook and metal fragments), and personal items (buttons, a slate pencil and Kaolin pipe stem fragments).

After completing Phase 2 excavation units, UMAS had a backhoe operator dig three deep machine trenches in Parcel 8. Machine Trenches 1 and 2 (MT 1 and 2) were opened in the "common area" block, while MT 3 was placed in the vicinity of Feature 8. At the bottom of the trenches, field staff recorded a layer of organic peat that varied in depth from 3.9-m (12.8-ft) bs in MTs 1 and 2, to 5.2-m (17-ft) bs in MT 3. Historic records describe this portion of Roxbury as marshland well into the eighteenth century. During this

time period, people reshaped the greater Boston landscape by systematically filling vast areas of marsh and wetlands with sand and gravel from surrounding communities.

UMAS staff collected artifacts from deeply buried historic deposits, noting early to mid-nineteenth century artifacts from fills sitting atop the peat layers in MTs 1 and 2. It is interesting to note that in MT 3, archaeologists found a deep, black, clay-silt fill with eighteenth century artifacts (including a bottle) just above the peat (Figure 4). The fill extended from 4.9 to 5.2-m (16 to 17-ft) below modern ground surface and was the only deposit in Roxbury Parcel 8 that dated to the eighteenth century. In all three trenches, peat sits on top of blue-gray clay deposited during glacial retreat in the Late Pleistocene. The peat and clay layers mark the division between natural and cultural stratification at the site.

The site examination of DCR Parcel 8 in Roxbury provides interesting information about life in tenements during the late nineteenth and early nineteenth century. Artifact recovery suggests that the immigrant Irish population supported the cause of Irish self-government in Great Britain. Also interesting are the numerous children's artifacts, which could provide insight into the experience of immigrant families in Boston. UMAS staff must complete artifact analysis and additional research before presenting more detailed conclusions.

**Data Recovery at the Building 104 Site, Springfield**  
[Submitted by Eric Johnson, Director, Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts]

In 2014 archaeologists from Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts conducted a data recovery at the site of Building 104 at the historic Springfield Armory. Built in 1939 as a factory to manufacture the Garand M1 rifle, the staple firearm of the American army in World War II, Building 104 had served more recently as a warehouse and office space, and now was slated for partial demolition in order to

create a parking area. But before the gun factory was built, the area had contained structures and activity areas, including a barracks from the World War I era, a storehouse from the early nineteenth century, and mid nineteenth-century park, and was the site of undocumented activities associated with the military and the public.

Data recovery was preceded by a Phase 1 survey in which more than 50 holes were cut through the building's concrete floor, allowing archaeologists to dig shovel test pits. Upon finding several intact features, data recovery was planned.

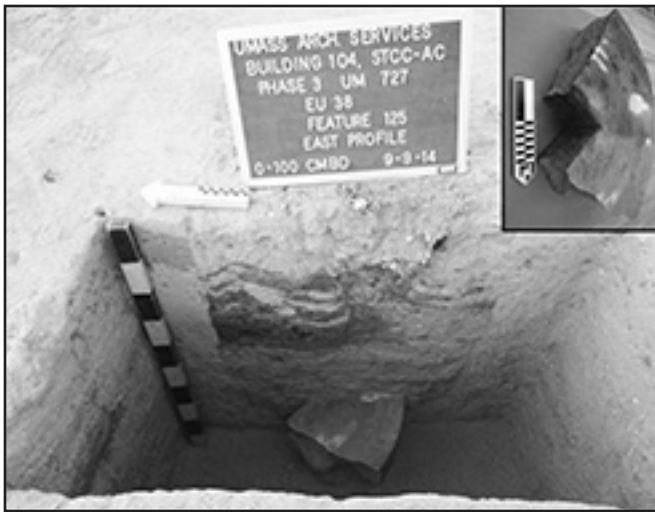
For the data recovery, the demolition contractor removed the floor and an underlying layer of construction fill working from one end of the project area to the other, revealing the largely undisturbed soil beneath. Archaeologists followed at a safe distance, exposing more than 150 features. These included the base of an incinerator, a twentieth-century privy,



*UMAS archaeologists Jessica Jay and Michelle Pope excavate a shovel test pit through a hole in the concrete floor of Building 104.*



*UMAS archaeologists explore features as the floor is removed.*



*Remains of a support pier for the storehouse. Inset: the broken grindstone used as a footing*

a charcoal kiln, support piers, footings, massive drywells, and the base of a fireplace for the WWI barracks, and support piers and footings for the early nineteenth-century storehouse.

Among the many features of interest was a kiln in which charcoal was made from pieces of wooden gunstocks, presumably rejects from the manufacturing process. A filled post hole that once contained a support pier for the early nineteenth-century storehouse contained a large fragment of a grindstone at its base. This would have served as a footing, supporting a wooden pier in the sandy soil and providing resistance to pier pressure.

This evidence of repurposing and recycling of materials by an organization often characterized as wasteful, was interesting. The archaeological record from beneath building 104 promises to add to our knowledge of military and industrial history and the lives of the soldiers, workers, and other citizens who used this area over the past two centuries. Perhaps most remarkable of all was the fact that this archaeological record was so well preserved beneath the concrete floor of the factory that was Building 104.

### **Survey of the Goshen Mystery Tunnel**

[Submitted by Kerry Lynch, Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts]

In the late summer of 2014, Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts (UMAS) completed an archaeological survey at the Goshen Mystery Tunnel, an enigmatic stone chamber complex located on private property in the uplands of the Berkshire Hills. Led by senior archaeologist Kerry Lynch, UMAS staff including Daniel Zoto, Michelle Pope, and Jessica Yopak excavated exploratory trenches and shovel test pits in the vicinity of the tunnel complex. UMAS was hired under a set of circumstances unusual in CRM: to be part of a television series aired on the History Channel

that was not archaeological in nature. The excavations were filmed for the series *Search for the Lost Giants*, an investigation by local, stonemason brothers (Jim and Bill Viera) tracing accounts of 7-8 foot tall humans living primarily in pre-Contact times.

The tunnel complex consists of three documented elements: a vertical, stone-lined, cylindrical shaft approximately 1.1 m (3½ ft) in diameter and 4.3 m (14 ft) deep; an underground stone tunnel (south tunnel) that extends from the base of the shaft southeast approximately 20 m (66 ft) and ending at a collapsed section; and an underground stone tunnel (north tunnel) that extends to the northwest approximately 4.8 m (15½ ft) from a point approximately 1.2 m (3½ ft) above the floor of the entrance shaft. The tunnels are constructed of dry-laid stone floors and walls topped by a series of very large, flat capstones.

The origins of the tunnel complex are uncertain, and various ideas have been proposed as to who constructed it and for what purpose(s). A number of hypotheses have been put forth over the years. Among these are: a shelter from “Indian raids,” a “counterfeiter’s den,” a root cellar, arms and ammunition repository, or a hiding place connected with the Underground Railroad. The tunnel complex itself has been explored, documented, and partially dug into a number of times since the nineteenth century. Investigations and excavations by town residents, the local Historical Society, the New England Antiquities Research Association, and the Early Sites Research Society have not revealed a purpose or the date of construction. Some speculation of its origin being Native American was postulated, but never confirmed or supported by associated cultural material.



*Inside the south tunnel, looking south. Courtesy of production company Left/Right, Inc.*

## New Jersey

Reported by: Lynn Rakos

### **Doane Academy, Burlington City, Burlington County**

[Submitted by Michael J. Gall, RGA, Inc.]

RGA, Inc. of Cranbury, New Jersey, recently completed archaeological data recovery and monitoring excavations associated with a proposed addition to Doane Academy in Burlington City, Burlington County, New Jersey. The academy first began as a Quaker secondary education seminary in 1829 by educator Samuel Gummere, who ran the school until 1836. There, Gummere constructed a Georgian home serving as a dormitory space, flanked by a large school building. In 1837, Bishop George Washington Doane purchased the school from Gummere with the intent of operating the institution as an Episcopalian secondary school for girls. Expanding on Gummere's campus, Doane's school, known as St. Mary's Hall, instructed students in a robust liberal arts curricula grounded in Christian theology, separate spheres ideology, and the idea of Christian Motherhood. Academic instruction at St. Mary's Hall was on par with that of contemporary female colleges. The school was later converted into a successful, college preparatory co-educational K-12th grade institution and was renamed Doane Academy. Undertaken and directed by RGA staff, excavations, artifact analysis, and report writing were assisted by students and faculty from Monmouth University of West Long Branch, New Jersey. RGA, Inc. also provided site tours and presented a lecture on the excavations to Doane Academy staff and students. Subsurface archaeology included the hand excavation of 21 units, most measuring five feet square in plan, and mechanical exposure of cultural features, resulting in the identification of 14 cultural features and the collection of 4,563 artifacts associated with the school between the 1830s and 1902. In particular, the crawlspace of an 1829 to early 1840s summer house and the cavity of an ice house filled between 1896 and 1902 were identified. These two features contained notably rich artifact deposits and provide insight into changes at the school between the 1840s and turn of the 20th century.

The Doane Academy Site (28-Bu-749) was examined through various archaeological approaches, providing a unique glimpse into institution creation, the 19th-century female education movement, and boarding school life. Site analysis and investigations used elements of landscape, institutional, documentary, and gender archaeology to understand coping strategies employed by adolescents who boarded at the school. Data indicates that students used collective acquiescence and mutual resistance strategies to navigate social parameters and daily life at school. At times, the identity students constructed for themselves was somewhat different than that envisioned for them by the seminary.

Operating between moments of control, dominance, supervi-

sion, spaces, and opportunities to act, the historical archaeological evidence examined suggests students used concepts of "sisterhood" and collective agency in response to imposed control and order. These actions were utilized at selective times to instigate change, resist or acquiesce to authority, and express individuality. Collectively and over time, students were able to "trespass" against school rules and society's vision of women, cast into rigidly distinct gender-based roles and spheres of behavior. Resistance to these confining paradigms by learned practices in institutional settings ultimately provided the means for women to traverse social gender-based barriers. For many, the bonding experiences, mutual resistance strategies learned, and rich education received at institutions like St. Mary's Hall, provided an agency for women to be better positioned for paid professional employment. Strategies learned also enabled women to be increasingly involved in collective action for social and political change.

Archaeology at the site also offered a lens to examine the ways faculty, staff and administrators collectively used landscapes, buildings, consumer goods, and institutional culture in gender-based educational and religious instruction. The multivalent structures and systems instituted held disparate meanings for different individuals in the seminary at different times. There, Doane and later male and female principals employed goal oriented choices in selecting various elements to be used at the institution that best suited their desires and reforming academic vision. Faculty goals were in keeping with other contemporary female seminaries. Archaeology reveals that the intended use and symbolism of these structures and systems were not necessarily congruent with the meanings and symbolism they held for the student population.

Ultimately, this study illustrates the necessity of multiple analytical approaches when examining 19th-century campus educational institutions, like St. Mary's Hall. These approaches enabled illumination of nuances related to gender, power dynamics, identity creation, and female student resistance/acquiescence to social and institutional constructs. The ways females negotiated and navigated daily life and social parameters within seminary institutions were also brought to light by combined archaeological approaches. For further information, please contact Michael J. Gall at [mgall@rgaincorporated.com](mailto:mgall@rgaincorporated.com)

## Maryland

Reported by: Silas D. Hurry

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

Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Timothy B. Riordan has received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the St. Mary's County Commissioners and the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission on the occasion of his retirement from state service. Dr. Timo-

thy B. Riordan has spent the last thirty years unraveling the archaeological and historical mysteries that are Historic St. Mary's City. A native of Boston, Dr. Riordan came to St. Mary's City in 1985. He has directed major excavations at Chapel site, the Van Sweringen site, the Printhouse, and the Leonard Calvert house, including exploration of Pope's Fort. He is the author of the book *Plundering Times* which details the story of Ingles Revolt in St. Mary's City which almost brought an end to the Maryland colony. This volume stands as one of the most significant new studies of early Maryland. He co-directed Project Lead Coffin, which explored the three lead coffins discovered within the brick chapel in St. Mary's City. As an individual skilled in forensic science, he helped train members of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's office in proper forensic technique. Dr. Riordan has educated and inspired an entire generation of young archaeologists who enrolled in the HSMC Field School in Historical Archaeology. Many of these young professionals have gone on to receive advanced degrees and are currently pursuing careers in the field. Riordan has published widely in professional journals and has always shared his research with the citizens of St. Mary's County and Maryland through numerous presentations and lectures. Tim has lived a life saturated with archaeology and the story of early Maryland. After his retirement, Tim intends to return to Boston and continue to pursue his lifelong interest in archaeology.

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

St. Mary's College of Maryland excavations

Archaeologists at Historic St. Mary's City recently completed excavations on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland. The projects' conclusion was spent below the foundations of a 1950s classroom building that was demolished in preparation for the site's redevelopment. A remarkable number of cultural features were still preserved below the modern building. The most significant discovery was the outlines of a wooden building that, pending artifact analysis, likely dates to the later part of the 17th century. While the wooden posts that supported this building are now gone, having either rotted away or been deliberately pulled out, the archaeological evidence still survives.

The structure itself measures 60 feet by 20 feet, and has two brick-lined cellars within. Evidence that the building had undergone a number of changes and likely additions suggests that it stood on the landscape for several decades. Excavation of the early post holes provides additional evidence that the first construction of the building is likely around 1680. This may well have been the building that Daniel Clocker built before his death in 1675, referred to as Clocker's Choice and later called Providence. A brick-lined cellar on the north end of the building, measuring 12 feet by 10 feet, was likely an original architectural element, while a smaller and shallower brick-walled cellar was added to the building as a later renovation effort.



*Foundation of brick-lined 17th c. cellar with superimposed 1950s building.*

Artifacts found within the larger cellar help tell the story of the structure's demise. Within the fill of the cellar one of the most datable objects is a bottle seal bearing William Deacon's name. Deacon was one of the wealthiest individuals in St. Mary's County, and served as the Royal Customs Collector for the Northern Potomac region. During the 1720s and early 1730s, Deacon lived on the Governor's Field and had numerous business activities. He was involved with agriculture, blacksmithing, shoe making, and ship repair. The glass bottle seal found in the cellar suggests that the cellar was filled in after William Deacon arrived in St. Mary's City in the 1720s. Large fragments of wine bottles and a broad assortment of ceramics provide additional evidence that the cellar was filled in during the 18th century. Laboratory processing is ongoing.

### **Statewide**

On Maryland Day (Wednesday, March 25th, 2015) the Maryland Historical Trust's Office of Archeology launched a new online tool to provide professional archaeologists and members of the public with greater access to data obtained through taxpayer-funded and publically mandated archaeological research. The Maryland Archeological Synthesis Project has been underway since late 2007, reviewing the nearly 50 years of archaeological site reports generated in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and similar state and local legislation (see [http://mht.maryland.gov/archeology\\_synthesis.shtml](http://mht.maryland.gov/archeology_synthesis.shtml) for more information on the overall project).

The Archeological Synthesis Database is a first-of-its-kind online catalog of archaeological sites within the state where Phase II and Phase III excavations have taken place. Focusing on compliance-driven research, the database is linked to MHT's Site Survey files, but is also tied to synopsis reports and cover sheets generated by reviewing larger excavation reports. The synopsis reports contain capsule summaries of

the overall site reports, organized so researchers can quickly pull out the most relevant information needed for determining if a particular site is of interest. Cover sheets deal with the history of archaeological activity at a site, specifically the justifications for fieldwork, research objectives, and potential for future research. Best of all, the entire database is keyword searchable. Simply type in your research topic or an artifact type and get back a list of sites that may be of interest. More robust searches can even be carried out on variables like soil type, archaeological research unit, county, etc. To access the Maryland Archeological Synthesis Database, logon at <https://webapps.mdp.state.md.us/apps/synthesis>.

### **West Virginia**

Reported by: David E. Rotenizer

#### **Drs. Stephen and Kim McBride Awarded 2014**

##### **West Virginia Archaeology Award**

[Submitted by Danielle LaPresta, Preservation Alliance of West Virginia]

The Preservation Alliance of West Virginia presented Drs. Stephen and Kim McBride with the 2014 West Virginia Archaeology Award for their contributions to the archaeological scholarship about frontier forts throughout West Virginia. This award was presented during Preservation Alliance's annual historic preservation awards banquet in Huntington, WV. The alliance recognized the McBrides for notable projects including numerous excavations and their publications *Frontier Defense: Colonizing Contested Areas in the Greenbrier Valley of West Virginia* and *Frontier Forts in West Virginia: Historical and Archaeological Explorations*. These publications have centered around numerous excavations in southern West Virginia.

Throughout the Frontier Fort Project, the pair explored the history, nature and function of 18th-century forts as a defensive system which helped promote the European westward movement into present West Virginia. Through this project, the McBrides have inspired an entire generation of school children by educating and instructing students during archaeological digs in counties all over West Virginia. Eighth grade students in counties including Greenbrier, Pocahontas, and Fayette have taken part in the archaeological digs the McBrides organized. The McBrides not only took students, teachers, and volunteers into the field, but they also created a lesson plan designed for eighth grade students studying West Virginia history. The lessons provided students with hands-on experience as an archaeologist. Students conducted computer lab research, employed hands-on excavation, learned to clean artifacts, and learned about interpretation.

Based in Kentucky, the husband-wife duo frequently travel to West Virginia for excavations of forts including Fort Edwards, Fort Warwick, and McCoy Fort. When in Kentucky, Kim serves as the co-director of the Kentucky Archaeolog-

ical Survey, a joint undertaking of the Kentucky Heritage Council and the University of Kentucky, Department of Anthropology. She has served on the Board of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Kentucky National Register Review Board.

Stephen is an historical archaeologist with a special interest in 18th century frontier settlement and the Civil War. He serves as Director of Interpretation and Archaeology at Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Jessamine County, Kentucky, and is manager of McBride Preservation Services, LLC.

### **Ontario**

Reported by: Eva MacDonald

#### **Old Fort Erie**

[Submitted by John Triggs]

This spring will mark the third season for the Wilfrid Laurier University Archaeological Field School at Old Fort Erie. The excavations represent the first research archaeology conducted on the site of what is sometimes referred to as Canada's bloodiest battleground. The reference is to the six-week-long siege that took place in the summer and fall of 1814 when the British army, commanded by General Gordon Drummond, surrounded the fort with almost 3,000 troops. On the defending side, General Jacob Brown led approximately 2,500 American forces. Importantly, native allies on both the British and American sides were present during the siege, and were instrumental in later events. Unlike earlier battles in the war, both Generals Drummond and Brown were capable commanders - harsh disciplinarians who drilled their troops in readiness for the battles that saw some of the greatest loss of life on both sides during this final campaign of the war on the Niagara frontier.

Archaeological investigations in 2012 and 2013 focused on the siege works constructed in summer 1814 by the invading U.S. army, in preparation for the defense of the fort against the British army. Three of the four American batteries were examined: Fanning's, Biddle's and the Douglass, all of which are documented in contemporary sources describing the siege. Among some of the more interesting finds in 2012 was evidence of a previously undocumented building in Biddle's battery. The structure is thought to be an Officers' Quarters situated adjacent to the 800-metre-long entrenchment running from the fort to Snake Hill, or Towson's Battery, the fourth battery at the American encampment. The most exciting find of 2012 was the evidence that the Officers' Quarters had suffered a direct hit from a mortar bomb. Fragments of the bomb were found in situ in a crater in what would have been the centre of the structure. The context of the bomb allowed for a reconstruction of the trajectory of the projectile, which was determined to have been fired from British Battery No. 3, put into operation for only two to three days in mid-September 1814. This unique conjunction of

documentary and archaeological information, never before available at the site, provided insight into the behavior and psychology of the two commanding generals at this crucial moment in the siege which ended only a day or two after the mortar bomb struck its intended target.

This spring, 20 more students will continue the investigation of the site in the area of Douglass Battery, and also begin the search for evidence of the soldier's encampment that was witness to more than 2,500 soldiers, native allies, and camp followers during the last months of the war.

In 2013 excavations took place at Douglass Battery, which played a significant role in the night attack on the fort in mid-August 1814, during which hundreds of British soldiers were killed, accidentally, as a result of a magazine explosion. Evidence of the night assault on this battery was found in the form of exploded mortar bombs, and musket balls. Just as significant was the evidence found of the first British fort, built in 1764. A domestic structure, with cellar pit and collapsed chimney, and an associated garden were revealed along with thousands of artifacts dating from the mid-18th century through to the siege period. A watercolour painted in 1804 by Edward Walsh, posted at the fort, is like an artist's rendering of the archaeological features found in 2013.

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