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NEWSLETTER

REPRESENTING NASSAU AND SUFFOLK COUNTIES

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Editor: Don Thomas Crane

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KENT LIGHTFOOT LEAVES FOR SUNNY CALIFORNIA

Archaeologist Kent G. Lightfoot, Vice-President of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association, has left SUNY Stony Brook for a position at the University of California at Berkeley. Dr. Lightfoot, who has just completed work at the SUNY Stony Brook summer archaeological field school, begins work in September.

During his tenure on Long Island, Dr. Lightfoot addressed the theoretical and methodological problems that have historically hindered Long Island archaeology. He has questioned (see "LIST OF PUBLICATIONS" below) the over-emphasis on coastal shell midden excavation and the resultant misperception that the interior woodlands are largely devoid of archaeological remains, the failure to view shell middens as heterogeneous sites that played very different roles in prehistoric settlement systems, and the lack of functional artifactual studies.

Dr. Lightfoot recognizes the difficulties in working in the northeast (dense vegetation, acidic soils, etc.), but stresses the need to design subsurface surveys that will detect both different kinds of sites and sites of varying sizes. His survey results compare favorably with those of the southwest.

His approach is methodical and multi-faceted. He stresses the importance in examining relationships between artifacts before interpreting the functional activities of a place. He believes that only within a context of a 'model' can past, present, and future findings be evaluated.

Dr. Lightfoot's work will be sorely missed on Long Island. But not to end on a depressing note, we wish him well in his future endeavors and hope that the future of Long Island archaeology does not stray from the path that he began to pave.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Lightfoot, Kent G., Robert Kalin, and James Moore. 1985. "Interior Resources Exploitation: A Woodland Settlement Model for Long Island, New York." *Anthropology* 8(2): 15-40.
- Lightfoot, Kent G. 1985. "Shell Midden Diversity: A Case Example from Coastal New York." *North American Archaeologist* 6:289-324.
- Lightfoot, Kent G. 1986. "Regional Surveys in the Eastern United States: The Strengths and Weaknesses of Implementing Subsurface Testing Programs." *American Antiquity* 51:484-504.

Stephanie Rippel-Erikson, SCAA member and contributing editor to the Long Island Archaeological Project Newsletter, and her husband Steve have relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico. As an archaeologist for the Long Island Culture History Lab and Museum, Stephanie has catalogued thousands of Montauk Park artifacts. You can read her article "Faunal Remains From Excavation Unit N4E0: The Brewster-Mount Site, East Setauket" in SCAA's latest publication, Volume 7: The Historical Archaeology of Long Island.

LONG ISLAND CULTURE HISTORY LAB AND MUSEUM

The Long Island Culture History Lab and Museum (LICHLM) at Hoyt Farm Park offers diverse programs designed to enhance topics taught to children in their respective school districts.

In addition to the Archaeology, Ethnobotany, and Indian Life Activities programs, schools may enroll in the Technology, Physical Anthropology, Math in Nature, Photography, or Museum Studies sessions, or the Colonial Life and Technology program (which includes mapping, architecture, blacksmithing, crafts, and more).

The LICHLM staff offers an assortment of natural history topics as well. Established programs include Pond Life, Maple Sugaring, Botany, and Ornithology. Nature programs can be developed to suit your needs.

LICHLM has aided several school districts in developing culture history workshops for students prior to their visit to Hoyt Farm. Up to six sessions are presently available: slides on native American life, Indian artifacts and materials, archaeological discovery techniques, ethnobotany, and archaeology.

LICHLM has also collaborated with several school districts in developing a school archaeology program. The program includes site setup and LICHLM supervision of teachers directing their students' excavation. The teachers and students catalogue and interpret their artifacts, and develop a school museum to house their findings.

Pre-visit educational materials have been developed for the Indian and Archaeology program by Gaynell Stone and Wendy Martin. (Ms. Martin is formerly of the British Museum of Natural History).

A post-visit activities poster has been printed and is on sale at Hoyt Farm. Children may purchase this poster - which makes use of children's drawings - or one of the T-shirts as a souvenir of their experiences at Hoyt Farm.

For information on any of these programs, or on activities open to the general public, call either 929-8725 or 543-7804.

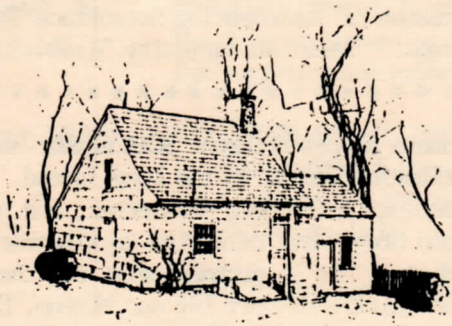
The following players have been added to the Long Island Culture History Lab and Museum staff: Debbie Oleksiak, Robin McMullen, Betty Adamo, and Alice Ross.

THE VAN NOSTRAND-STARKINS HOUSE SITE (Circa 1680)

Hours: 1:00-4:00 P.M. on Saturdays.

Address: Main Street in Roslyn, New York.

Exhibit: This restored saltbox structure contains period furnishings and houses an archaeological exhibit in its basement.



THE GUGGENHEIM DOCK SITE

- Evan T Davies -

INTRODUCTION

For many years, employees at the Sands Point Park and Preserve have collected potsherds and other artifacts from a cliff base on that property. My investigation examined the cliff and determined that the layer from where the artifacts originated represents a refuse area used by farmers during the mid 1700's.

The Guggenheim Dock Site (NCM #59) is located in the Sands Point Park and Preserve in Sands Point, New York. In 1902, when the preserve belonged to the estate of Harold Gould, a sea wall was built along the beach (which then extended many more yards into the Long Island Sound than it does today) to control erosion on the cliff. Since about 1950, however, that portion of the sea wall east of Guggenheim's estate dock (Guggenheim bought the estate from Gould) has been in a state of decay. The cliff in this area has been subject to severe erosion. It is from this area where employees of the preserve have collected dislodged artifacts at the cliff's base.

EXCAVATION - 1986

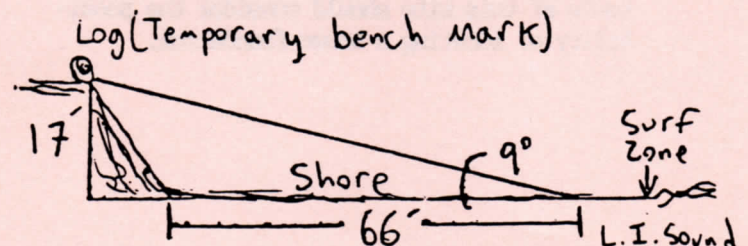
Excavation at the Guggenheim Dock Site was designed to determine both the vertical boundaries of the cultural deposit, and the nature of the archaeological deposits. Because the cliff has been severely eroded by wave action, I decided that a step-terrace excavation into the cliff would minimize additional erosion due to my digging.

The step-terrace excavation method is commonly used in the Near East to excavate the village mounds known as 'tells.' Step-terracing involves cutting steps into the cliff.

The source of the artifacts is not the entire cliff, but rather an 8-inch cultural layer, Layer IIIa, running horizontally across the cliff. The abundant shellfish valves that protrude from the cliff define this cultural layer, which stretches a distance of some 150 feet across the cliff's face.

The bottommost layer, Layer IV, consists of till (64% of which is unsorted gravel). What is surprising was the unusually high clay content (12.8%) of Layer IIIb. It seems that the till is acting as a C-horizon, which normally contains some leached material (i.e., clay), and the layer above it, layer IIIb, as a B-horizon. Because B-horizons are zones of leaching, the high percentage of clay in this layer and in the till was leached from layer IIIa, the A-horizon. The artifacts found in layer IIIa suggests that this stratum was deposited around the middle of the 18th century.

Layer II appears to consist of Eolian sand that was blown on top of layer IIIa as erosion progressed. The youngest and topmost layer on the cliff is layer I, the present humus layer.



THE CULTURAL MATERIAL

The two most common materials recovered from the excavation includes shellfish valves and various potsherds. The presence of such a large number of shells indicates that this site was a refuse deposit. The fact that most of the potsherds found were very small could seem to indicate that these were broken before being deposited onto the ground. In other words, it seems as though the potsherds were deliberately discarded along with the shells. The age of the artifacts suggests that this site was a mid-eighteenth century refuse area.

In the mid-eighteenth century, refuse areas were commonly associated with a structure, usually a dwelling. An old coastal map of the site area shows that a house was located in the general vicinity where the cultural deposit now lies. Aside from the nails, brick fragments, and glass fragments, however, no evidence was recovered to support the existence of a nearby structure. Such evidence might include roof shingles, post molds, a foundation, or perhaps even the recognizable remains of a fireplace. Perhaps further test excavations further back into the cliff might reveal the remains of a dwelling structure.

In conclusion, while many artifacts have been recovered, very little is actually known about the Guggenheim Dock Site. The type and variety of artifacts, however, seems to indicate that the site was used as a refuse area. Further tests at this site should consider the possibility of locating a house foundation.

TABLE 1
EXCAVATION - 1986

100	Whole and partial shellfish valves
1	Sawed chicken bone
1	Dog's forepaw
7	Red brick fragments
6	Clear window glass fragments
3	Green bottle glass fragments
4	Kaolinite pipestem fragments
1	Kaolinite pipe bowl fragment
4	Square-shanked nails
11	Creamware fragments
1	China fragment
3	Glazed stoneware fragments
4	Glazed earthenware fragments
2	Redware fragments
17	Delft fragments

TABLE 2
SANDS POINT PRESERVE COLLECTION

Common:	Shellfish valves
	*Pottery
Rare:	Bones
	Brick fragments
	Glass fragments
	Kaolin pipe fragments
	Nails
Unique:	Nova Caesarea coin
	Iron key
	Iron scissors

* The POTTERY category includes creamware, salt glaze, Chinese export porcelain, delft, redware, glazed stoneware, and glazed earthenware.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

READINGS IN LONG ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY AND ETHNOHISTORY:

		Non-Members	Members
Volume I	Early Papers in Archaeology	\$10.00	\$ 8.00
Volume II	The Coastal Archaeology Reader	\$20.00	\$16.00
Volume III	The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians	\$20.00	\$16.00
Volume IV	Languages and Lore of the Long Island Indians	\$20.00	\$16.00
Volume V	The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader	\$22.50	\$18.00
Volume VI	The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History	\$30.00	\$24.00
Volume VII	The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part One - The Sites	\$34.00	\$27.20

STUDENT SERIES: THE INDIANS OF LONG ISLAND:

Booklet #1 A Way of Life: Indians of Long Island: Prehistoric Period:
Paleo - Archaic - Woodland: 12,000 to 3,000 Years Ago \$ 4.00 \$ 3.20

SCAA NEWSLETTER Volumes 1 - 12 (Back Issues): \$ 5.00/vol \$ 4.00/vol

All publications may be purchased from SCAA at the prices indicated. SCAA prices include postage paid for handling and delivery. Publications may also be purchased from local museums.

All who wish to have information, or an article, published in the SCAA Newsletter should send the copy to: Don Crane, 23 Garden Drive, Fairfield, Connecticut 06430.

SCAA MEETINGS are held at Hoyt Farm, located on New Highway in Commack, New York. The General Meetings begin at 8:00 P.M. (arrive earlier for any pressing education business). The next meeting will be held on SEPTEMBER 10; subsequent meetings are OCTOBER 8, NOVEMBER 12, and DECEMBER 10. Everyone is invited!

----- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION -----

Membership in SCAA includes a copy of the Newsletter and a 20% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

STUDENT (up to age 18) \$5 INDIVIDUAL \$10 FAMILY \$15
 SUSTAINING \$25 CONTRIBUTING \$50 PATRON \$100 LIFE \$200

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER () _____ WILLING TO VOLUNTEER? _____

Please send check and application to: SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
 P.O. DRAWER AR, STONY BROOK, NEW YORK 11790

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Archaeological sites on federal land are protected from destruction by law. Most archaeological sites, however, are located on privately-owned land and are thus subject to looting, construction, and other such detrimental invasions. The Archaeological Conservancy offers a unique solution to protecting archaeological sites: they buy them. The sites, once purchased, are turned into "permanent archaeological preserves" and managed in accordance with conservation principles. If interested in supporting the Archaeological Conservancy's efforts to protect our archaeological resources, send your \$25 tax-deductible membership fee to: The Archaeological Conservancy, 415 Orchard Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501; or call (505) 982-3278. Membership includes newsletters.

The Society for Historical Archaeology - joined in their efforts by the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the Society for American Archaeology, and the Society of Professional Archaeologists - are supporting the enactment of the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. This legislation would remove the jurisdiction over "historically significant shipwrecks" from the admiralty courts and place it into the hands of the states in whose waters they lie. Donald Hardesty, President of the Society for Historical Archaeology, states in a letter dated May 4, 1987 that "political action is costly. The Society expects to spend at least \$10,000 this year lobbying for the Abandoned Shipwreck Act. We have allocated \$3,500 for this important work, but must raise the rest from donations." Please contribute whatever you can afford to the Society for Historical Archaeology.

The collaborative efforts of the Archaeological Society of Virginia and the Eastern States Archaeological Federation has produced an archaeological computer network directed toward the amateur archaeologist. This information service is free of charge provided you have access to a computer, telephone modem, and communications software. The service provides the latest archaeological news, meeting and conference announcements, publications, articles, and archaeological site reports. If interested, write to Wm. Jack Hranicky (Network Administrator) at P.O. Box 4190, Arlington, Virginia 22204, or call him at (703) 256-1304.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

- September 26: AMERICANS BEFORE COLUMBUS: ICE AGE ORIGINS
The Natural Museum of Natural History. Contact the Smithsonian Institute for registration information.
- October 14-16: PERCEPTION AND PRESENTATION OF THE PAST
The University of Minnesota. Contact Leslie Denny, Professional Development and Conference Services, University of Minnesota, 220 Nolte Center, 315 Pillsbury Drive S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-0139; or call (612) 625-0727.
- October 23-24: THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT HISTORICAL CONFERENCE
Contact the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Council Office, P.O. Box 160, Ledyard, CT 06339; or call (203) 536-2681 for registration information.