

**NEWSLETTER**

Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties  
Editors: John Strong, Ph.D.  
Gaynell Stone, Ph.D.

Vol. 19, No. 2  
Spring, 1993

**SCAA ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, June 16

Blydenburgh County Park

New Mill Rd., Smithtown

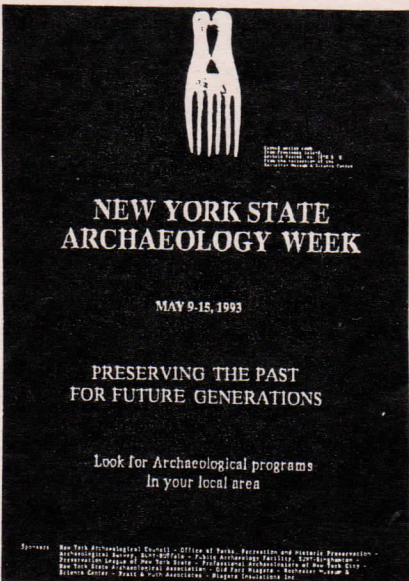
929-8725

Potluck: Bring a Dish, beverages provided

- 6PM Hands-On Blacksmithing
- Architecture Walk
- Historical Archaeology
- 7PM Dinner
- 8PM Brief Buisness Meeting
- 8:30 Slide show of the Blydenburgh Site & SCAA Program

**NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK**

NYS Archaeology week was celebrated by SCAA with open house visits to the Native Life & Archaeology and Colonial Life & Technology programs at Hoyt Farm and Blydenburgh Parks. The program director, Dr. Gaynell Stone, also gave a talk on Coastal New York's Native Americans at the Bayport-Blue Point Public Library on May 13; this was sponsored by the NY Council for the Humanities.



**THE MCNALLY-NICHOLS SITE  
(OLD HOMESTEAD)  
MT. SINAI, HARBOR, SUFFOLK COUNTY  
PART II**

*Linda E. Barber, Editor  
Gaynell Stone, Linda Wicks, James Truex, et al.*

**EXCAVATION FINDINGS**

The test pits on the McNally-Nichols parcel and on the southwest side of Winston Drive were extremely valuable in predicting the pattern of human activity on the site. The contents of the test pits mirrored the types of artifacts excavated from the squares closest to them. They also gave an idea of the boundaries of features and activity areas.

Testing in an easterly direction revealed small amounts of historic-period glass, ceramics, and bits of iron. The pits were clearly less productive than test pit E 20 of 1980, so it was decided to situate a square near this test pit, which contained ceramics and a cluster of rocks. Fewer pits were dug in a northerly direction, since refuse and a possible rock feature were visible at the surface. The area was found to be nearly void of cultural remains. Testing to the west, which was in the vicinity of the stone and cement foundation wall, was very extensive. Charcoal, ceramics, metal, glass, nails, brick, and shell were found in abundance. Test pit W was so productive that it was decided to put another excavation unit in this area.

Another phase of testing was conducted later to trace out the linearity of a rock feature that was found in Square II. Although testing was done on both the east and west sides of the square, no traces of the feature could be found. It is possible that the feature did continue, but followed the topographic contour.

The third phase of testing consisted of four pits (W, X, Y, Z) in the western portion of the parcel to collaborate an informant's description of the location of the house. She

Summary of Artifacts

Type	Artifact	Sq. I	Sq. II	Sq III.	Total
SHELL	Oyster	45	71	296	412
	SS Clam	605	27	412	1045
	HS Clam	183	28	377	587
	Scallop		28	377	587
	Mussell			33	33
	Snail	32+	13		45
	Nuts	<u>14</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>—</u>
		879	139	1506	2524
METAL	Col. Nails	38	10		
	Mod. Nails	38	10	372	420
	Flat/Dec.			38	38
	Misc. Frag.	1813	30	135	1978
	Cans	19			19
	Misc. Rakes/Hinges	<u>—</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>51</u>
		1908	97	758	2763
GLASS	Bottle	30			30
	Bottle, Broken	491	7 Colored	281	779
	Window	<u>—</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>411</u>	<u>487</u>
		521	83	692	1296
CERAMICS	I. Stoneware	1	11	18	30
	II. Earthenw.	4	32	88	116
	III. B&W	45	42	185	272
	IV. Edgew.	1	9	22	32
	V. Blackw.	3		6	9
	VI. Fl. Prtd.	1		4	5
	VII. Yel. Doc.			11	11
	VIII. Oriental	2		2	4
	IX. Faience		7	14	21
	X. Gilt w/des.	4		4	8
	XI. Lusterware				
	XII. Bleached			6	6
	XIII. Striped			4	4
	XIV. Whiteware	<u>50</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>296</u>
	101	195	538	834	
CONSTR.	Brick	66	236	305	607
	Plaster/Mortar	73		173	246
	Concrete			24	24
Fuel	Coal	50		27	77
	Charcoal	159	28	25	212
MISC.	Pipestem			1	1
	Leather			3	3
	Battery			1	1
	Quartz Chips			3	3
	Skeet			1	1
	Button		1	3	4
	Black Tar Congl.			1	1

pinpointed it on the western portion of the parcel, under what is now Winston Drive. The exact location of the house was facilitated by the informant's recognition of a large old horse chestnut tree, still partially standing and the only one of its kind in the area, having been imported from England. The tree had been located on the southwestern corner of the front porch, as the informant remembered her father having to trim the branches because they were always touching the roof (daughter of Mrs. Heesch in conversation with L. Barber). Remains of the fieldstone foundation were found and the test pits were put in with the intent of following this foundation to determine the extent of the dwelling. The three test pits located inside the dwelling exhibited the same stratigraphy and cultural remains. Sand fill predominated at the beginning, followed by a layer of burned wood, mortar, and pieces of bricks, followed by an ash layer of bricks, then a heavier ash level, and a masonry floor. Nails, glass, ceramics were also found.

Below the floor was an absence of artifacts and the one test pit that was deemed to be outside of the dwelling had cultural remains concentrated only in the first 209 cm. These test pits seem to confirm the informant's story, both in terms of the location of the structure as well as the burning and subsequent filling that took place.

The final phase of testing was conducted on the southwest side of Winston Drive, near the two large evergreens and a linear depression. The land was disturbed in all directions and the test pits exhibited a surprising lack of cultural remains. This was understandable because it was later determined that it was where a long, circular driveway, framed by the two evergreens, led up to the house. In summary, the test pits were an extremely good diagnostic tool for predicting and interpreting what would be found on the site.

Square I was laid out about 10 meters north of the datum stake and appears to have been the site of trash deposited in comparatively recent times. It was the dump site for construction clean-up, as well as of some household debris. Rusted metal, mostly tin cans, was the artifact in highest evidence, while ceramics was the lowest. The surface findings included almost all categories of artifacts. Shellfish were the second most frequent natural material, with the amount rising in quantity as one neared the surface. This was followed by glass charcoal, and construction residue. Many of the ceramics found, including the willow are, arrhae still being manufactured today. A small Japanese tea cup, light bulb, tin cans, machine parts, and a bullet all point to recent times. The large rocks at this location appear to have been scattered

at random. The stratigraphy of this square was the most complex, with only three continuous soil layers, all interspersed with other soils. All this is indicative of a disturbed area where garbage was deposited in and around a natural hollow above the stone drainage channel ground in Square II.

Square II was opened about 20 meters east of the datum stake, around a test pit that had been especially productive the year before. A feature consisting of a linear arrangement of two rows of cobbles began to appear; this was eventually followed by a bed of smaller rocks to form a trough about one meter in width. The function of this rock feature is open to speculation. Although it is the width of a walkway, the steep sides and curved bottom, as well as its position following the base of the hill, suggest that it may have been some type of drainage channel in conjunction with the orchard and farmyards that is known to have existed at the time.

The square yielded the second highest total of ceramics, but the most limited in types represented. A gravel intrusion at level 3 is associated with much ceramic material, especially redware. The blue and white wares, edgewares, whitewares and stoneware appear to date this feature as contemporaneous with the other two -- late 18th and early 19th century -- but not as early as Square III. Enoch Wood blue-on-white ware found in Squares II and III date them between 1818 to 1846. The stratigraphic profile and the presence of modern nails in the sandy gravel channel overlay indicate that while the drainage feature was constructed in the early to mid 1800's, it was probably silted - in by the turn of the century.

*To be concluded in the Vol. 19, No. 3 Newsletter*

#### **BOOKS AND JOURNALS OF INTEREST**

**Journey Through Time: The Riverhead Bicentennial, 1792-1992**, Barbara Austen, editor. "The First Inhabitants of Riverhead Town" chapter is by Dr. Gaynell Stone, SCAA Museum Director. \$8. plus postage and sales tax from S.C. Historical Society, 300 W. Main St., Riverhead, NY; 727-2881.

**New York City's Buried Past: A Guide to Excavated New York City's Revolutionary War Artifacts, 1776-1783**, by Robert Apuzzo, illustrated, paper, \$26.95 incl. postage.

*North American Archaeologist*, Roger Moeller, editor. Published quarterly, current issue contains 4 of 11 papers on regional archaeology; \$36. Baywood Publishing Co., Box 337, Amityville, NY 11701. (800)638-7819.

*Bulletins of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey*, Many back issues are available at greatly reduced prices. Order from John W. Martin, 120 McMullen Circle, Bear, DE. 19701.

**Past Meets Future: Saving America's Historic Environments**, edited by J.L. Rogers (NPS), Hester Davis (Arkansas St. Archaeologist), and Antoinette Lee (National Register of Historic Places), \$30. plus sales tax from the Preservation Press, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20036.

## MEETINGS

**Long Island Culture: Ethnicity, Gender, and Multiculturalism**, November 20, BOCES 2 Sherwood Corporate Center, Holtsville, NY. A symposium sponsored by BOCES 2, SCAA, and the Hallockville Folklife Center for Suffolk County; write the Center at 163 Sound Ave. Riverhead, NY 11901 or call 298-9782. Selected papers will be published as resource material for college teaching and school classroom use.

**Eastern States Archaeological Federation:** October 29-31, Host: The Maine Archaeological Society, Bangor Motor Inn, Bangor, ME. Program chair: James B. Petersen, Archaeology Research Center, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, ME 04938. (207)778-7012.

**Conveying the Past to the Future: Interpreting Cultural History for Young Audiences**, a pre-conference workshop for the National Association of Interpretation, Washington, DE, November 17-22, 1993. Contact John Jameson, Jr., National Park Service, Interagency Archaeol. Services Div., 75 Spring St., SW, Atlanta, CA 30303; (404)331-2630.

**American Society for Ethnohistory**, Nov. 4-7, Indiana University, American Indian Studies Research Institute, 422 N. Indiana Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405 (812)855-4086.

## RESOURCES

The Film and Video Center of the National Museum of the American Indian lists more than 800 works in distribution, with a supplement of 200 new productions due this Spring, in **Native Americans on film and Video**, Vo. I and II. Videos are available for preview by the public by Appointment. For information, call (212)283-2420 or write the Center at the NMAI, 3753 Broadway at 155th St., New York, NY 10032-1596.

**Archaeological Protection Law** was reviewed in a new training course for Federal and Tribal attorneys, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and National Park Service at Mesa Verde National Park in October 1992. They used the new publication **Archaeological Resources Protection: Federal Prosecution Sourcebook**. For information, contact Francis McManamon, the Archaeological Assistance Division, NPS, PO Box 37127 Ste. 21.

**The New York State Newspaper Project** seeks newspapers published in the state for inventorying on Long Island in 1994;

microfilming is slated to begin here in 1996. It is urgent to protect this disappearing historical resource. If you know of any, contact David Moore, State Library in Albany, CEC, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230; call (518)474-7491, or Washington, DC 20013 (202)343-4101.

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**Readings in LI Archaeology & Ethnohistory:** All volumes are \$35. Vols. I and VI are out of print.

- I. Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology
- II. The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III. The History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2nd Edition
- IV. Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
- V. The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
- VI. The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History
- VII. The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part I: The Sites

### Student Series:

Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of LI	\$5.50
Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans	\$7.50
Wall Chart: Native Technology (26X39" 3 colors)	\$13.00
Map: Native Long Island (26X39" 3 colors)	\$13.00

### Exhibit Catalogs:

The Montauk: Native Americans of Eastern LI	\$3.50
Women's Work: Native & African Americans of LI	\$3.50

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 20% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (to age 18) \$10	Individual \$20
Family \$30	Sustaining \$50
Contributing \$100	Patron \$200
Life \$400	

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,  
P.O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, NY 11790

Send Newsletter Articles to:  
Editor: Dr. John Strong  
54 Hawthorne Rd.  
Southampton, NY 11968