LONG ISLAND BRICKS TO BE PART OF THE NEW NETHERLAND/NEW YORK BRICK STUDY AT FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Dr. Allan S. Gilbert of the Anthropology Department, Fordham University, has developed an extensive New Netherland/New York Brick Archive at the University. To date the collection contains specimens from the Hudson Valley, New Jersey, and Manhattan, with possibly some Holland and England bricks, and with only one Long Island brick from Farmingdale. Finding the sources of the bricks used in the region provides geological and economic data useful for archaeologists, architectural historians, etc.

Dr. Gilbert plans to extend his chemical analysis of these important ceramic artifacts to the Long Island area with the cooperation of S.C.A.A., Town Historians, historical societies, collectors, and concerned individuals. SCAA had co-sponsored a Brick Symposium as part of an early 1980s Suffolk County History Conference at Suffolk County Community College. Highlights were the extensive collection of Gary Hammond, a brick from the 1600s Old Brick House of Col. Jones of Massapequa brought by Carl Starace, a brick of Caleb Smith’s signed and dated 1752 from the Smithtown Historical Society.

SCAA began collecting bricks from historic house owners—the Terry-Mulford at Orient, the Suydam at Greenlawn, and others—which has been augmented by the personal collection of SCAA president Douglas DeRenzo. The collection is housed at Blydenburgh County Park and is available to interested persons.

Dr. Gilbert will take small samples from the bricks; they will be analyzed by ICP—inductively-coupled plasma emission spectroscopy—for 26 elements at the Department of Geology of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College in Egham, Surrey, England. This analysis has been compared and coordinated with the INAA—instrumental neutron activation analysis—conducted at Brookhaven National Laboratory on ceramics from throughout the world by Dr. Garman Harbottle. The chemical data is then grouped by general similarity, with clusters created by several computer programs.


All those who have marked or unmarked bricks (or clay samples or sources) are asked to contact Dr. Gilbert (718-817-3852) or SCAA (516-929-8725) to participate in this important addition to regional historical knowledge.
Dr. Linda Barber, Sociology/Anthropology Department of S.C. Community College, and Dr. Toni Silver, Soc/Anth Department of Dowling College, directed a 3-week archaeological field school in May and June at the historic Ketcham Inn in Center Moriches. Ketcham Inn Foundation president Bert Seides was pleased with the quality of work and the very large number of artifacts recovered.

The Ketcham Inn is on the National Register of Historic Places and the State Historic Register. It is one of the few taverns—so important to early Long Island life—to survive on its original site. Among the few are the Roe Tavern of Setauket, which was moved from its site, another opposite the end of Christian Ave. in Setauket, the Brewster house in Setauket and the Peace & Plenty Inn in West Hills, Huntington—all still on their original sites—among others.

Being on the post road (Montauk Highway) to the east end, the Ketcham Inn hosted all the ordinary and notable people who came through—Thomas Jefferson, among others. It was the first post office for the Moriches, a center for troops during the Revolutionary War, a stop for the stage coaches, the place where the new U.S. citizens cast their first votes. Since there is a ballroom upstairs, the Inn was obviously a community center.

In order to examine the evolution of the building and the site, a trench was opened behind the c.1693 wing seeking the base of the original stone chimney, which was not found; another was excavated to the North which gave evidence of foodways—butchering, shellfish use, etc. A square was opened to the west outside the c.1700 addition to the 1693 room, to the left of its door, but the soil was disturbed and the artifacts not in situ.
Research is ongoing by the Foundation board to document the Terrill, Havens, and Terry families who lived there until 1852, when it was sold to Andrew and Deborah Ketcham, who held it until 1912. In the 1940s the Inn was a gift shop and tea room, in the '50s a restaurant, from the 1960s to 1989 a halfway house for battered women and children. This research, plus the material evidence unearthed by archaeological study, will enable the Ketcham Inn to be the most extensively interpreted tavern on Long Island.

RESOURCES

The 1995 summer exhibit at the Southold Indian Museum will be on the art and culture of the Inuit (Eskimo). The opening reception will be Friday, June 30th, 5 - 7 PM. The display will open from July 1 to August 27th, Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30-4:30 PM.

The first Montaukett Festival was held by the Friends of the Pharaoh Museum at Montauk County Park on Saturday, May 27th. Native foods were available; flint-knapping, Native technology, beadworking, and dancing were demonstrated; ethnobotany walks were led by South Fork Natural History Society member Eric Lamont. The Montauk Pharaoh Museum was open for viewing and a slide show on Native basketry by Friends president Elizabeth Bowser.

Summer Fieldwork Opportunities: an overview is provided by the Winter/Spring National Museum of Natural History Bulletin for Teachers Anthronotes, which is free by writing P.Ann Kaupp, Anthropology Outreach and Public Information Office, Dept. of Anthropology, NHB 363, MRC 112, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, OR seeking it on America Online.

For a list of free copies of monographs about teaching archaeology, write to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Archaeological Assistance Division, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127.

The Society for American Archaeology, as well as the Society for Historical Archaeology, have created Public Education Committees to promote precollege archaeology and anthropology. For the SAA Newsletter and other materials, write to Ed Friedman, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, P.O. Box 25007, Attention D-5530, Denver, CO 80225-0007.
ANNUAL MEETING

The highlight of SCAA's Annual Meeting, held Thursday, June 22d at Blydenburgh County Park, the site of SCAA's Colonial Life & Technology program for students, was the illustrated talk on the discovery of a local Native longhouse.

The guest speakers, Drs. Robert and Janie Rees Miller, reported on their excavation of portions of a Native American longhouse in Commack. It is about 20' wide by probably 100-120' long, similar to the longhouse in Greenlawn they excavated several years ago. The longhouse--an extremely significant discovery--is being preserved by a buffer zone created around it by the developer. These longhouse discoveries by the Millers have rewritten Long Island culture history: previously longhouses were thought to have been only in Brooklyn.

The topography of the site, overlooking a pond (now obliterated by a road), influenced two different use zones--a tool-making spot on top of the hill where presumably hunters could observe animals at the water below, and the habitation zone with the longhouse closer to the pond. The artifacts recovered range from the early Archaic (c.9,000 years ago) to the present, and include a stone hoe, projectile points of several time periods, a Woodland period flint triangular Madison point--very rare in flint, and more.

This important finding is due to the interest of Bob Giffen, manager of Hoyt Farm Park, who had pointed out to Town Historian Brad Harris the legends about the spot and the artifacts found there. Thanks to Brad Harris' insistence, the archaeological survey was done. Smithtown is a well-watered area rich with the evidence of the first inhabitants, yet the developers of few sites over the years have been required to include archaeological survey as part of the environmental impact statement. This rare instance proved the wisdom of Town officials being sensitive to the prehistoric cultural resources of their area.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Readings in LI Archaeology & Ethnohistory: All volumes are $35. except Vol. III which is $75. + tax and shipping. Vol.s I & 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 10% 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: ____________________
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City/State/Zip: ____________________
Phone No: _______Willing to Volunteer? ___
Occupation: ____________________

Send Check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Drawer 1542 Stony Brook, NY 11790