NEWSLETTER Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

Herbert C. Kraft, archaeologist, and a major interpreter of the Lenape, the native people of New Jersey, died October 31, 2000 in Elizabeth, N.J., age 73. A professor since 1950 and curator of the Archaeology Museum at Seton Hall University, he wrote about a dozen books (the most recent of which was published this winter) and more than 170 articles in his field. Two years ago he was named an emeritus professor of anthropology by the University. During his career he was N.J. State Archaeologist, and President of the N.J. Archaeological Society and Eastern States Archaeological Federation.

James Deetz, one of America's early and most noted historical archaeologists, died at age 70 in Charlottesville, VA on November 25, 2000. He was developer and director of Plimoth Plantation for many years, had taught at many major universities, taught at U-C Berkeley from 1979-1994, and retired to teach at the U. of Virginia in 1994. His latest book is on his earliest area of work, The Times of Their Lives: Life, Love, and Death in Plymouth County, MA. His and Edwin Dethlefsen's germinal analysis of New England gravestone material culture was the model for Dr. Gaynell Stone's analysis of Long Island gravestones, for which Jim Deetz was an advisor.



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RESOURCES: CULTURAL RESOURCE STANDARDS HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The Handbook: Guidance for Understanding and Applying the N.Y.S. Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations, has been produced by the N.Y. Archaeological Council. It assists nonarchaeologists in the use and understanding of N.Y. State's Professional Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations. New York regulatory requirements for compliance have been formalized in the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the N.Y.S. Historic Preservation Act (NYSHPA), and the N.Y.C. Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQRA). These follow the lead of Federal laws, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Protection Act, where cultural resources are given equal weight with ecological factors in making decisions about the potential impacts of projects on important aspects of the environment.

The information in the Handbook is important for developers, planners, and governmental agencies, as well as landowners, Native American groups, and archaeologists. Information and copies are available from – NYAC president Christopher Lindner, Bard College 1285, Annandale, NY 12504-5000 or Nina Versaggi, Public Archaeology Facility, SUNY- Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13902-6000.

PIPELINE THROUGH THE PAST is an attractive publication which summarizes the archaeological research results stemming fromthe 375 mile Iroquois gas pipeline which crosses New York, Connecticut, ending on Long Island. The State Historic Preservation Office in the project's environmental review in part to make the results of compliance archaeology more accessible to the public. For a copy, write to the Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, Peebles Island State Park, P.O. Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188.

VIKINGS (AnthroNotes:) THE NORTH ATLANTIC SAGA, 22, No. 1, by William Fitzhugh, Smithsonian Dept. of Anthropology, is a very useful condensation of text from the major exhibit on the Vikings which is now touring the U.S. It rewrites the story of the first Europeans to colonize the New World around 1,000 AD (no, they did not wear horned helmets); L'Anse aux Meadows in Newfoundland is the major archaeological evidence of Viking habitation, where over 100 European artifacts indicated iron smithing, textile making, boats, temporary sod longhouses, the presence of women, etc. Most useful for teachers (many teaching resources listed) and interesting for anyone; available free from Anthropology Outreach Office, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560-0112.

NEW DISCOVERIES IN PALEOANTHROPOLOGY: WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S TRUE, AND WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

The latest issue of AnthroNotes, Vol. 21, No.2, reviews the latest fossil finds throughout the world and the on-going scientific lab work which are changing interpretations of human evolution in an appealing 7 pages, with 3 pages of sources and Teacher Resources. Although aimed at high school students, it is a useful adjunct for college courses in Physical Anthropology. Free copies may be obtained from the Anthropology Outreach Office, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC 20560.

NATIVE LANGUAGES AND LANGUAGE FAMILIES OF NORTH AMERICA maps are now available. Compiled by Ives Goddard, linguist in the Smithsonian's Dept. of Anthropology, The Wall Display Map (38"x50") is the only published map that has located every language and major dialects; a brief descriptive text and complete classification are printed on the larger map, and supplied separately on the smaller Folded Study Map, which lacks some details of the larger one. Available from the U. of Nebraska Press for \$19.95 and \$14.95; call 800-755-1105.

NEWS

RE-CREATION OF FORT ORANGE, PROPOSED

Governor Pataki has allocated a State grant of \$300,000. to study the feasibility of re-creating Albany's original Dutch settlement, Ft. Orange, as a living history museum, and building a permanent berth for the Half Moon, a replica of Henry Hudson's ship which explored the Hudson River in 1609. State and City officials would like the facility to be completed in time for the 400th anniversary of Hudson's voyage for the Dutch East India Co., which made him the first European to perceive the river's potential for trade.

NEW SCIENCE MUSEUM PROPOSED

The Tesla Science Center at Wardenclyffe is proposed by the Friends of Science East, Inc. in the Stanford White-designed building in Shoreham used by Nikola Tesla in carrying out his experiments. Tesla is a famous early scientist, of which alternating current and neon lighting are a few of his ground-breaking inventions. A recent PBS documentary covered his unusual life, his many experiments, Nobel prize, competition with other inventors, and sad decline. Huge wooden transmitting towers in Rocky Point carried the first radio waves across the Atlantic, and another at the Shoreham site underpinned research on electricity. To join or for information, contact the Friends at P.O. Box 552, Shoreham, NY 11786 or call 631-744-0010.

MANHATTAN'S "SENECA VILLAGE" PROJECT

Between 1825 and 1856 a village of 260 African-American and Irish immigrants inhabited an upper West side area which was demolished to make Central Park. A recent exhibit at the New-York Historical Society chronicled this unknown story, and archaeologists Nan Rothschild (Barnard College) and DianaWall (CUNY) with Cynthia Copeland (N-YHS) last summer conducted geophysical (supervised by Roelof Versteeg of Columbia U.) and documentary research on Seneca Village. The nine week field school was supported by the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program. The data collected are being analyzed to incorporate into a GIS database. It is hoped to continue the project, looking for cemeteries, middens, structural remains, etc. which could be examined for further information on the site.

NYS BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES WORK ON L.I.

Peebles Island SBHS archaeologists conducted fieldwork at the Walt Whitman State Park, Huntington, in summer 2000. For the first time, significant deposits dating to the period of Walt Whitman's childhood were found at his birthplace and early home, hidden beneath flooring and the beams of an early addition. The material included

slip-decorated redware, early pearlware, light creamware, cutlery, an ink well, as well as animal bone, structural material, and horse equipage. The site has had major construction (a visitor's center), archaeological study, and re-interpretation in recent years.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY ON L.I. While it is anticipated that the story of the 17th c.enslaved Africans working at Sylvester Manor, Shelter Island will be revealed as the 5-year extensive excavations continue, the life of L.I. African-Americans has not been illustrated archaeologically here as it has been elsewhere. Two recent excavations are helping to change that. The first evidence was uncovered because federal and state preservation law requires archaeological study of roadway areas that are to be disturbed. A crew from the N.Y.S. Museum, headed by Mark LoRusso, examined the area near Miller Place more than 6 years ago and discovered remnants of a sunken foundation for an 18th century wood house; it is believed to have housed free black people, possibly even before the Revolution. It has been named after the last known owner, Betsey Prince. While the site is gone, its story is available - photos, presumed layout blueprints, pictures of the ceramics and artifacts found - at the N.Y.S. Museum and can be seen at www.nysm.nysed.gov/arccrspprince.html.

A site in East Hampton, the Carroll site at the Bianco estate, excavated recently by Tracker Archaeology Services, showed six thousand years of land use at Three Mile Harbor. Besides the many prehistoric artifacts, an unusual probably semi-subterranean shelter which utilized both wigwam style posts and recycled house timbers was found. It had a partial stone foundation which utilized recycled lithic tools and fire cracked rock, a cellar and a 'porch' overlooking the harbor. It appears the 18th century inhabitants recycled projectile points and other artifacts, such as using glass flakes as scrapers. There appeared to be a detached cooking area about 50' away, reminiscent of African and southern plantation practices. Freetown, a small community of freed blacks north of East Hampton village, was probably the closest village to the Carroll site. Thus the site MAY have been the home of African and/or Native Americans of the area. The structure was filled in during the mid-19th century, probably during plowing; documentary evidence of the inhabitants is not available.

MEETINGS

American Association of Museums annual meeting, St. Louis, MO, May 6 - 10. Information: call 202-289-1818 or www.aam-us.org.

Vernacular Architecture Forum will hold its annual meeting on "Newport and the Narragansett Basin" in Newport, RI, April 25 - 29. Extensive tours, focusing on colonial and early national period architecture and landscapes, are a valued feature of the conferences. To join or for information: \$25. dues to Gabrielle Lanier, P.O. Box 1511, Harrisonburg, VA 22801-1511 or http://www.vernaculararchitecture.org

Conference on New England Archaeology will hold its 20th annual meeting at Old Sturbridge Village, May 12; it will focus on the practice of archaeology in New England for the past 20 years. For information call Charlotte Taylor, 401-222-4140.

Professional Archaeologists of New York City annual public program on Manhattan archaeology will be held at the City Museum of New York on April 1st. For information, call President Joan Geismar, 212-734-6512.

Early American Industries Association annual meeting will be held the Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, PA from May 30 - June 2. Tours of the Landis Valley Museum are a highlight. For information: Judith McMillen, 3710 Richmond Rd., Staten Island, NY 10306.

The Great "Out Back" - a panel of noted urban archaeologists, chaired by the curator of archaeology, Diane Dallal, will discuss how archaeologists utilize abandoned privies to learn more about daily life in old New York. The importance of privy information has been highlighted in Historical Archaeology, Vol.34, No. 1, 2000, a total issue on "View from the Outhouse: What We Can Learn from the Excavation of Privies." South Street Seaport, March 15th. For information: 212-748-8786.

SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOLS

Dr. Steve Mrozowski of U-Mass-Boston will continue exploration of the **Sylvester Manor** site during the month of June; this is a 5-year exploration of a complex, significant Colonial

provisioning plantation. A public visitation day is usually held the last week of July; call the Shelter Island Historical Society (749-0025) for date and time.

The Hendrick I. Lott house, an 18 - 20th century Dutch American farmhouse in Brooklyn, NY will have continued excavation from June 11 - 29. Contact the Brooklyn College Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology, 719-951-4714 or Bcarc@brooklyn.cuny.edu. Besides the study of the archaeological record, the house, a N.Y. City landmark, will be turned over to the City's Historic House Trust for preservation, and a historic structure report is being prepared.

The **S.C.** Community College/Dowling College summer field school will continue from May 28 to June 15, 8:00 AM to noon, at a centrally located historic site in Brookhaven Town. The house being excavated has recently been purchased by town government and will be restored. The archaeological record will greatly contribute to the interpretation of this important historic site. For information: Dr. Toni Silver, 516-295-0250, or Dr. Linda Barber, 631-451-4336.

SCAA Student Archaeology Field Schools will be held full day June 25 - 29 through Nassau BOCES Gifted & Talented Program for Nassau 4th to 12th graders; call 516-608-6443 for information. Suffolk BOCES Enrichment Program sponsors a half-day program for Suffolk students Monday - Thursday, July 23-26 and July 30-Aug. 2; call 631-244-4269 for information.

Last summer's Suffolk BOCES students arrived at the site at dawn, 6:00 AM to be televised live by Channel 12 Morning News on July 20th. They demonstrated the skills being learned and explained what the artifacts they excavated told about Blydenburgh Park. Besides learning all aspects of archaeology, students experience 19th c. technology of blacksmithing, wood working, textiles, food preparation, etc.



PUBLICATIONS

The Colonial Williamsburg Digital Library, an on-line archive of manuscripts, rare books, newspapers, and research reports related to early America is now on-line. These unparalleled resources are available by annual subscription. For information, contact Jennifer Jones, 757-229-1000.

The Encyclopedia of Prehistory will soon be available in 9 geographic regional volumes. For information, contact Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, PO Box 358, Accord Station, Hingham, MA 02018-9990.

Colonial Leaders, a series of 10, has been published for children by Chelsea House Publishers, Philadelphia. A few local leaders, such as Anne Hutchinson and Peter Stuyvesant, are included; some illustrations are stereotypical. A series of Revolutionary War leaders is also available.

Native American Bows, Arrows & Quivers, Steve Allely and Jim Hamm. Hundreds of detailed drawings, 144 pgs. \$29.95 plus post from Bois D'Arc Press, PO Box 233, Azle, TX 76098.

Mysteries of the Hopewell: Astronomers, Geometers, and Magicians of the Eastern Woodlands, William F. Romain. \$44.95 plus \$3.50 post, University of Akron Press, 374B Bierce Library, Akron, OH 44325-1703; 330-972-6953.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory:
All volumes are \$35. + \$5. shipping, except Vol. III, 2d d.,
which is \$75. + \$6. shipping; both plus 8.25 sales tax in
N.Y. State. Vols. I and VI are out of print.

- I. Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology
- II. The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III. History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.
- 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 L.I.: Part 1 The Sites
- VIII. The Native Forts of Long Island (in press)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAAincludes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

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