

NEWSLETTER
Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

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Fall 2005

The Dutch Barn Preservation Society
hosted by the Roslyn Landmarks Society

Fall 2005 Barn Conference

10:00 AM - Tour of Van Nostrand-Starkins &
Onderdonk Houses, Roslyn

1:00 PM - Presentations at Bryant Library

Tips for Surveying Barns - Carla Cielo, M.S.,
Columbia University, Historic Preservation Consultant,
has surveyed all the barns in Holland Township, NJ and
is currently surveying those of Delaware Township, NJ.
Taking orders for "The Barns of Holland Township," due
in 2006.

**Reconstruction of the Wyckoff-Durling Barn at the
Wyckoff House**, Brooklyn - Sean Sawyer, Architectural
Historian, Executive Director, Wyckoff Farmhouse
Museum, NYC's oldest structure & a National Historic
Landmark. Publications on Pieter Claesen Wyckoff and
the Wyckoff families will be available.

**Dutch-American Buildings and Their Old World
Antecedents** - John Stevens, Architectural Historian,
consultant for the restoration of Old Bethpage Village
and many other sites. His recent book on Dutch-
American Buildings... will be for sale.

Evidence of Dutch Culture in Coastal New York - Dr.
Gaynell Stone, Museum Director, S.C.A.A. and
Professor, S.C. Community College. The English took
over New Netherland in 1674 and all subsequent history
of New York was written from the English perspective.
This slide-illustrated talk shows the original Dutch
imprint still evident today in settlement patterns,
architecture, cemeteries and gravestones, surnames
and place names.

Directions: call the Bryant Library, 2 Papermill Rd.,
Roslyn (516-621-2240), or contact
www.historicroslyn.org/history.html.

New York State Archaeology Month

Celebrated on Long Island by SCAA's

Native Technology Workshop & Activities

Hoyt Farm Park
New Highway, Commack

Sunday, October 16

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Archaeology * Ethnobotany * Native Cooking
Primal Technology * Native Crafts

October is State Humanities Month!

Visit www.nyhumanities.org for a full calendar of the
special events throughout the State.

Fort Massapeague was featured in a May 8, 2005 *New York Times* article by John Rather and illustrated by pictures of Ralph Solecki as a young man excavating there and today holding a European clay pipe he found there. The article noted how invisible the location is, despite being a National Historic Landmark. Dr. Solecki and Dr. Robert Grumet believe the site is largely intact underground, despite much digging by amateurs in the 1930s. The many skeletons from the site have disappeared, a body of artifacts excavated by Dr. Solecki and others are in the Nassau County Garvies Point Preserve, and a much larger collection dug by John Burggraf is in the N.Y. State Museum. An extensive chapter with contributions by several scholars will be part of SCAA's upcoming volume on the Native forts of the Long Island Sound area.

Sylvester Manor Final Field School 2005

With over 500,000 artifacts to clean, catalog, and analyze, Dr. Stephen Mrozowski of U-Mass-Boston is winding up the extensive field schools which have excavated various portions of Sylvester Manor, Shelter Island since 1999.

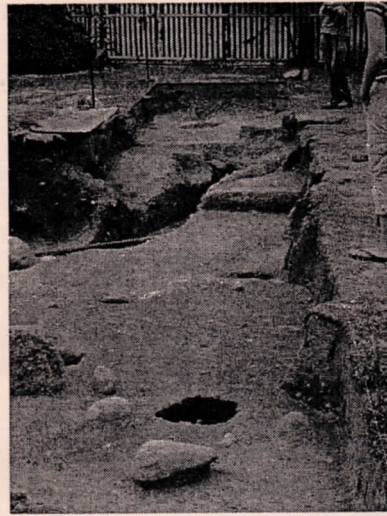
A National Science Foundation grant supported additional training in archaeological scientific techniques for students the past few years. An Open House was held to explain the season's findings to the interested public, several hundred each year.



S.C.A.A. has filmed the findings each year, plus the project's specialists, and scholars in Barbados and Holland for a documentary film, *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island*, expected to be completed in 2006, in time for the New Netherland Institute's planned major exhibition, *The Legacy of New Netherland*, to be held at the SUNY D&H Hall in Albany May to October 2006, later to travel the State. A video, craft presentations, a museum exhibit catalog, curriculum materials, a writers & artists fair, replica construction of the *Onrust* - New Netherland's first ship, and other activities are planned for this celebration.



Dan Easton and Joe Piscioneri, film producers, Studio 4 Communications, filming Sylvester Manor Spring 2005.



Dr. Mrozowski's work this summer enlarged the Feature 221 large excavation to the east of the main units in front of the Manor house to reveal post holes for large timbers which are proposed to have supported a 1670-80 work structure. Pollen analysis is being done on soil under large stones as they are removed. Large amounts of animal bone may indicate the

refuse of a slaughtering operation for the provisioning of the family's sugar plantations in Barbados. This is also supported by the spot being filled with sand, possibly to reduce the stench of decomposing animal parts.

The large SE lawn unit closest to the front of the Manor house was also enlarged and deepened, which revealed Native American refuse (wampum, fish bones, shell, etc.) of a thousand years of life there before the Nathaniel Sylvester occupation in 1652. A post hole indicates support of a structure which apparently burned. Was it the 1st building? A commercial structure? There is a corner of a 17th c. structure, not likely the original Manor house though. A trench at the deepest level revealed a drainage problem of that time.



A ca. 1670-80 strata includes mortar from the 2d building stage which was disposed of across the landscape and in Feature 221 as well, linking them stratigraphically. A micro-stratigraphic analysis of a half-meter soil block lifted from the site previously has been done in the U-Mass-Boston lab, excavated horizontally in contrast to the vertical excavation at the site.

The documentary and the archeological records have been used synthetically; the archaeology has not been directed by the historic record. The Fiske family Sylvester Manor records have been inventoried by Project archivist Mac Griswold and will be deposited at

New York University. Together they shed a more complete picture of what was taking place at Sylvester Manor through time..

King Manor Archaeology Field School 2005

Hofstra University's second 5 week summer field school was held at King Manor, Jamaica, with lectures on July 27 by Dr. James Moore, Queens College, on "Slavery in the 18th Century New York City Hinterland: Looking for the Caribbean Connection," and by Dr. Christopher Ricciardi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on "From Enslavement to the Underground Railroad: The History of African- Americans at the Hendrick I. Lott Farmstead in Brooklyn, NY."

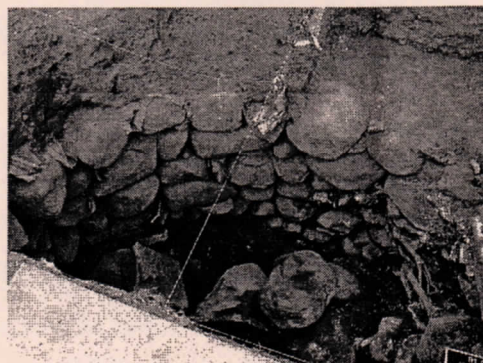


Dr. Christopher Matthews's research program is centered on recovering the archaeological record of the free laborers who supported the high status Rufus King family from 1805 on. The property was owned by the Colgan-Smith family from ca. 1765, who had as many as 10 enslaved Africans. The transition from the Colgan-Smiths to the Kings encapsulates the shift from slavery to freedom on Long Island, although it was earlier than most.

The 2005 excavations focused on 1) a small grassy area east of the north/summer kitchen and 2) in the northwest yard near the 2004 privy pit investigation. The area east of the kitchen was selected because it was near the kitchen service area and also behind 'Building K' of the original archaeological survey. 'K' was a stone structure, 30' by 10', likely a dairy or smoke house, thus a service structure. It is shown on an 1842 map of the property and may have been standing when Rufus King purchased it in 1805. The 2004 excavations showed that the demolition of 'K' by the NYC Parks Dept. entirely removed its stone foundations; however, the disturbance marked the north and south perimeters of the building. Thus the investigation defined the location of the building and was able to reconstruct the historic landscape.

To the north of 'Building K', facing away from the front of the property, a great number of artifacts, including many hand-blown wine bottle fragments were recovered. This area would have been out of the line of sight from the master's house, thus these remains may indicate illicit or casual activities defining the laborers' space and time. The bottle remains have not yet been analyzed to determine if they may be attributed to the Colgan-Smith or King periods. Their relatively large size suggests that this may have been a trash dumping site. The lack of associated food-related artifacts, such as bone or ceramics, further supports the possibility that this area was used for drinking and socializing.

Excavations in other sections of the east kitchen yard found the area to be relatively disturbed by various Park Dept. trenches; however, several areas of undisturbed stratigraphy show the area to contain midden deposits dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. In these deposits were small fragments of creamware and pearlware as well as coarse earthenwares likely related to kitchen use. These artifacts will be further analyzed in the Hofstra Archaeology Lab during the upcoming year.



Excavation of the privy pit continued from the previous year's work, which had identified the southwest section of the stone wall lining the pit and made an initial foray into the interior pit fill. In 2005 the privy pit was bisected along a north-south line to recover half of the pit fill and record the stratigraphy of the interior deposits. This excavation showed that the upper 4-5 feet of the pit fill consisted of a likely 1960s cut and fill operation following a major fire that destroyed a large section of the house. This fill contained a very large number of early 20th century artifacts, from fragments of a



porcelain doll to the leather soles of shoes, to over a dozen whole or nearly whole liquor, medicine, and mineral water bottles.

(Rare find of label still on the bottle.)

These artifacts are believed to have come from a clean-out of the house after the fire and thus represent the sort of materials that would accumulate in the house during its first decades as a museum after 1900. The museum always was also a home to a caretaker, thus the laborers who maintained the house as a museum may also be visible in the archaeological record! The fact that the privy was cut and filled may also indicate the memory of its location after it had been demolished for more than 30 years. More research on King Manor Museum caretakers is currently being undertaken.

At approximately 6' below the ground surface the privy excavation discovered a tumbled layer of large stones assumed to be the upper portion of the privy stone liner that was pushed in when the privy was closed and buried, probably in the 1930s. This layer of stones forced excavation to stop until mechanical equipment could lift out the stones and excavation could continue. Most tantalizing was a whole hand-blown wine bottle that was recovered from below the large stones, suggesting that the long sought after 19th c. deposits may lay just below the level of the currently suspended excavations.

Contact Dr. Matthews at 516-463-4093 or at anthczm@hofstra.edu for more information or to volunteer for lab work or excavation.

Contributors to the Sugar Connection...

Film in 2005 have been N.Y.S. Assembly- woman Pat *Acampora*, Assemblyman Andy *Raia*, Assemblyman Steve *Englebright*, County Legislators Cameron *Alden* and Dan *Losquadro*. Previous County Legislator contributors have been Vivian *Viloria-Fisher*, Michael *Caracciolo*, Angie *Carpenter*, Martin *Haley*, and Assemblyman *Englebright*.

CONFERENCES

Connecticut Archaeology Expo will be held **October 9** at the Keeney Memorial Cultural Center, Wethersfield, CT, with lectures, demonstrations, displays, activities, walks, etc. Information: www.dcruson@charter.net.

Archaeological Society of Connecticut Fall Meeting will be held **October 15** at the U. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. Gerald Sawyer, who is excavating a provisioning plantation in Connecticut, will be one of the speakers on the conference theme of "The Archaeology of Identity." Information: www.dawnlb@juno.com.

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference will be held **October 20-23** in Trenton, NJ, on the topic: "Cities Build on Commerce & Industry." Many tours of the area and its Revolutionary War sites are planned. Information: Edward Morin, 609-386-5444.

Clovis in the Southeast: Technology, Time, Space will be held **October 26-29** at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, SC, with the leading researchers in this fast-changing field speaking

as well as exhibits of artifacts from the major sites under excavation. Information: www.clovisinthesoutheast.net.

Eastern States Archaeological Federation, 72d Annual Meeting will be held **November 9 - 13** at Williamsburg, VA.

Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory

All volumes are \$40. + \$5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$75. + \$8. Shipping, both plus 8.50% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print; a few copies of Vols. IV and VI remain.

- I Early Paper 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 L.I. Sound (in press).

Student Series (Including shipping)

<i>Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.</i>	\$6.
<i>Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans</i>	8.
<i>Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	14.
<i>Map: Native Long Island (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	14.

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 18)	\$10.	Individual	\$20.
Family	30.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		

Date:.....

Name:.....

Address:.....

City/State/Zip:.....

Phone No.

Willing to volunteer?

Occupation:

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,
P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Tel: 631-929-8725

Programs of the S.C. Archaeological Association are funded in part by public monies from the New York State Council on the Arts - Decentralization, the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, and County and State Legislators.