NEWSLETTER
Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

Archaeological Investigations on Long Island

James Truex, former SCAA president, deputy supervisor of Nassau County under Eugene Nickerson, Broadway actor, and archaeologist (deceased), compiled this list of archaeological investigations on the Island to 1961. They pre-date university field schools, which have greatly augmented the record, and contract archaeology, which is usually unpublished. Dr. Ralph Solecki has added more sites from his long-term work on the Island, as has Stanley Wisniewski and Dr. Gaynell Stone. Many of the sites have been reported in SCAA’s Vol. I, Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology, Vol. II, The Coastal Archaeology Reader, Vol. V, The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader, Vol. VI, The Historical Archaeology of Long Island, and Vol. VIII, Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area. Vol. VI lists hundreds of sites from contract archaeology (and thus unpublished) in the four Long Island counties as well as collections in museums.

1883 J. Wickham Case made observations about his investigations at Fort Corchaug
1899 Nathaniel E. Booth at the Old Field site on Peconic Bay, North Fork.
1900 M.R. Harrington at the Dosoris Pond site, Glen Cove, Nassau, pub. 1982.
1901 M.R. Harrington at the Matinecock Point site, near Locust Valley.
1902 M.R. Harrington, A.C. Parker, Alanson Skinner at the Sebonac site, Shinnecock Hills, South Fork.
1918 Foster Saville at the Pantigo burial site, East Hampton, South Fork, pub. 1920, 1979.
1920s Goddard, Dart, Booth, Latham of L.I. Chapter, NYSSA, excavate widely on North and South Forks. 45 sites on the North Fork and 20 on the South Fork. Many of the artifacts are at the Southold Indian Museum, NYSSA. A few sites are published in NYSSA Bulletin, 1960s; SCAA 1978.
1925 Roy Latham at the burial site, Montauk, South Fork, pub. 1957.
1925 Foster Saville and Roy Latham at the Soak Hides site, three Mile Harbor, South Fork.
1927 F.P. Orchard at the Beach Haven site, Port Washington, Nassau, pub. 1928.
1928 Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter NYSSA at the Noyac site, west of Sag Harbor, pub.
1930+ Waldemar Pedersen at the Crab Meadow site, Northport (results of many diggings written up briefly by Richard Spooner in 1955), pub. 1982.
1930s Matt Schreiner at the Grantville site, College Point, Queens.
1933- Charles Goddard at the Conklin site and Wells site, Aquebogue, North Fork.
1934 William W. Claude excavated at Massapequa, pub. 2006.
1934 Waldemar Pedersen at Bayside Hicks house and other sites.
1934? Leonidas Westervelt poached on W.W. Claude’s burial investigations in Massapequa.
1935 Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter NYSSA at the Orient #1 site, North Fork.
1935 Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter NYSSA at the Orient #2 site, North Fork.
1936- Ralph Solecki at the North Beach site, LaGuardia Airport, Queens.
1936 Ralph Solecki at the Fort Corchaug site, Cutchogue, North Fork, pub. 1950, 2006.
1937 Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter NYSSA at the Sugar Loaf Hill site, South Fork.
1937 Solecki, Schreiner and others of the Flushing Historical Society at Fort Massapeag, Massapequa, Nassau, pub. 2006.
1938 Carlyle Smith and others, Flushing Historical Society at the Baker Hill site, Great Neck, Nassau.
1938 Local collectors at the Soundview site, Great Neck, Nassau; sites at Baker Hill, Aqueduct, North Beach, Whitestone, and Grantville were analyzed by Carlyle Smith for his dissertation, The Archaeology of Coastal New York.
1939 Flushing Historical Society members at the Wilkins site, Whitestone, Queens.
1939 Ralph Solecki excavates burial at Aqueduct, Queens, pub. 1951, 1982.
1940 Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter NYSSA at the Jamesport Hill site, North Fork.
1943- Roy Latham and the L.I. Chapter at the Smith site, Shelter Island, Suffolk, pub.
1946 Carlyle Smith at the Manhasset Rock site, Manhasset, Nassau.
Joseph Lloyd Manor Excavation Continues

Students and volunteers from Hofstra University and other institutions continued the excavation at the slave quarters of the Joseph Lloyd house. Dr. Theresa Singleton of Syracuse University spoke at a July community program on how to look for the African presence on archaeological sites. On October 18 Dr. Alan Singer, David Byer-Tyre, and Geri Solomon spoke on various aspects of African-American history. A great deal of community interaction has developed from this excavation, directed by Dr. Christopher Matthews, assisted by Jenna Coplin.

Underwater Archaeology Off Long Island/N.J.

Daria Merwin, doctoral candidate in the Stony Brook University Anthropology Department, reported on her projects at the SCAA Annual Meeting in June. She and a team of divers explored an underwater site off the New Jersey shore which was pinpointed by geological and artifactual evidence washed ashore. A transect was established parallel to the shore and divers tested the sea bottom at established intervals. Artifacts retrieved indicated this was a Paleo Native American site, now submerged by the ocean rise of ca. 350 feet during the last global warming ca. >12,000 years ago. This is the first scientific underwater excavation in the region.

In 2005-06, Daria, of SBU’s Institute of L.I. Archaeology, and Roger Flood, SBU Marine Sciences Research Center, continued to explore submerged Hudson River targets with ultra-high resolution sonar, which had been located earlier by a NYS DEC funded project. About 100 sonar targets of potential archaeological significance, mostly 19th century sailing vessels and canal boats, were mapped.

Daria supervised reconnaissance dives by John DeFrancesco and team from West Point Divers, focused on targets probably related to Revolutionary War defensive structures, which appears to be the case. Fieldwork to identify each sonar target to assess its archaeological and historical significance is ongoing.

* The Flushing Historical Society had among its members Ralph Solecki, Carlyle Smith, Stanley Wisniewski, Matt Schreiner, John Wilson Jr., James Burggraf, and Waldemar Pedersen. All of them were involved in the dig at Fort Massapeag. The Society had a brief but productive career.
Margaret Wisniewski donates husband Stanley’s chert sample collection to Dr. Chris Matthews for use in the Hofstra University Archaeology Lab.

SCAA’s 35th Anniversary!

Below are pictures of SCAA’s beginnings – meetings at Dr. Gretchen Gwynne’s house in Stony Brook and early conferences held at the Neighborhood House in Setauket in the early 1970s... Subsequent conferences were held annually for many years at Suffolk County Community College Eastern and Ammerman Campuses, Shoreham-Wading River High School, the BOCES Center in Holbrook, Stony Brook University, and the Neighborhood House. Photos by Tom Gwynne

SCAA’s first officers - Ben Werner, President; Walt Saxon of Garvies Point Mus. V. Pres.; Gretchen Gwynne and Gaynell Stone of SUNY Stony Brook, Secretary and Treasurer.

From left: Dr. Mike Gramly and Dr. Phil Weigand of SUSB Anthropology Dept.; Lynn Ceci of Queens College (deceased); at a Neighborhood House Conference.

Walt Saxon, Gretchen Gwynne applauding SCAA award to Gaynell Stone.

Neanderthal-Modern Human Interaction is the topic of Dr. Daniel Shawn Adler’s talk for the Long Island Society, Archaeological Institute of America, to be held Sunday, November 16, 2:00 PM, Room 106 Breslin Hall, Hofstra University.

Paleoamerican Origins Workshop: Evaluating the State of the Paleoamerican Origins Debate

February 14-16 saw researchers from around the world, hosted by the Center for the Study of the First Americans, the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory, Southeastern Paleo American Survey, and the Smithsonian Institution, convened at Austin, Texas for the second conference, the first at Santa Fe, NM ten years ago. The scientists of many fields review specific early-occupation sites, models for the peopling of the Americas, and rules of evidence necessary to confidently verify human presence. DNA and genetics studies of the First Americans seems to point to a single source population, a single migration out of Beringia. The presence of Haplotype B DNA in the Americas more than 8,000 years ago points to a common, perhaps South Asian, ancestor, according to Brian Kemp, Washington State University molecular anthropologist.
Resources

The Archaeology Channel is now offering five new HD videos on archaeological subjects for members. To access them and for information, contact www.archaeologychannel.org.

The New York Archaeological Council sponsors Section 106 in the New Regulatory Environment, a Workshop by Lynne Sebastian, SRI Foundation. Two sessions will be held: November 4 at the New York State Museum, Meeting Room A in Albany or November 6 at the Holiday Inn in Lockport in conjunction with the ESAF conference. Advance registration required, $250. fee. Information: http://nyarchaeology.org.

The Eastern States Archeological Association Annual Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Lockport November 6-9. Dr. Richard Laub will give the keynote address on “The Hiscock Site.” Information on Long Island archaeology will be given as “Exotic Trade Goods or Glacial Transport: An Analysis of Differential Treatment of Non-Quartz Materials on Long Island” by Jaclyn Ann Nadeau, University at Albany. Jaclyn worked with Dr. David Bernstein of Stony Brook University and Michael Lenardi of the N.Y.S. Museum studying artifacts from Long Island glacial erratics, which suggests that non-local materials (“exotics”) were more important locally during the Late Archaic then they were during the subsequent Woodland Period.

Publications


Left Coast Press – 15% discount on web orders at www.LCoastPress.com:


Controversies in Archaeology. Alice Beck Kehoe, $29.95 paper.


Archaeology and Women: Ancient and Modern Issues. Sue Hamilton, R.D. Whitehouse, K.I. Wright, eds. $34.95 paper.

Publications of the S. C. 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 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 L.I. Sound

Student Series (Including shipping)
Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans 8.
Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39”-3 colors) 14.
Map: Native Long Island (26x39”-3 colors) 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.

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

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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, The Phillips Foundation, The Gerry Chitable Trust, JP Morgan Chase and County and State Legislators.

Douglas DeRenzo, President; Dave Thompson, Vice-President; Elena Eritta, VP Marine Archeology: Stephen Byrne, Corresponding Sec.; Gaynell Stone, Ph.D.; Recording Sec.; Randi Vogt, Treasurer.

>SCAA appreciates a bequest from Stanley Wisniewski toward its publications, as well as a grant from Harriet Gamper for the education program.

>SCAA Director Gaynell Stone, Ph.D. has been included in Who’s Who in American Women 2008-2009.