

**Charles Sumner Bunn, Shinnecock Decoy Carver –
One of Greatest American Decoy Carvers**

The May/June 2015 issue of *Decoy Magazine* contains the latest research proving that Charles Sumner Bunn, a Shinnecock leader who died in 1952, was the accomplished artist who created shorebird decoys which have been called “unique, ... he is now recognized as one of the greatest shore bird carvers and painters of shore birds in America...” by appraiser Bill Mackey when the decoys were mis-identified as the work of Bill Bowman. Many decoys have had their carver attribution changed as research progresses.

The American art form of decoys have passionate collectors and fine examples sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars at auctions. For 15 years Jamie Reason, a traditional carver of decoys of Cherokee descent, a contributor to *Decoy Magazine*, and the Mastic Beach Village Historian, and Joseph Janssen, scientist at the Nature Conservancy and contributor to *Decoy Magazine*, have researched the Bunn decoys. They have shown that the decoys are 20th century (hence the excellent condition), produced after the 1906 death of the putational Bill Bowman, and that Bunn, a college graduate and noted guide to wealthy Southampton residents, had access to **The Birds of America** book through his relationship with noted artist William Merritt Chase’s art school across the road from the Reservation. The recent *Decoy Magazine* article juxtaposes the Bunn painted birds against *The Birds of America* illustrations as another authentication. The Bunn decoys should now be even more valuable, as the rare work of a historic Native American.

The Cuffee and Bunn-carved decoys were first discussed in the SCAA Vol. VI, *The Shinnecock: A Culture History*, 1983, by collector Robert S. Gerard, Jr., p.297-299. There is a photo of Bunn carving a decoy toward the end of his life (obviously posed, in a suit!). The intricacies of proof of Bunn carved decoys is discussed in the following publications: Also see the Janssen letter in the May/June 2015 issue of *Decoy Magazine*.

Decoy Magazine, November/December 2003. “Solving the Mystery of the Chief Cuffee Decoys,” Jamie Reason. David Bennett and Jamie Reason research.

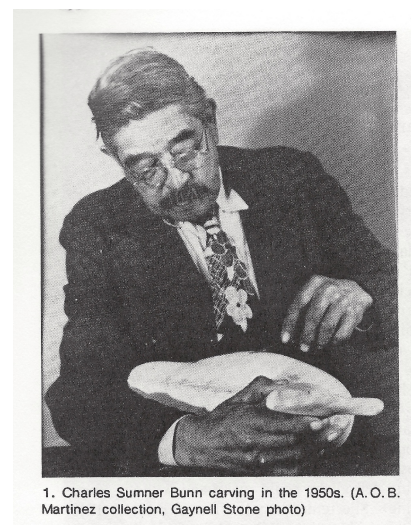
Decoy Magazine, January/February 2004. “Charles Sumner Bunn: The True Maker of the Bowman Decoys.” Jamie Reason

Decoy Magazine, November/December 2015. “The Final Chapter on Charles Sumner Bunn

Decoy Magazine, November/December 2014.. “Charles Sumner Bunn: The Rigs of Southampton,” Joseph Janssen. Janssen and Reason research.

Decoy Magazine, May/June, 2015. “Dating the Shorebirds of Charles Sumner Bunn, Jamie Reason.

Decoy Magazine, November/December 2015. “The Final Chapter on Charles Sumner Bunn,” Joseph Engers, editor and publisher, *Decoy Magazine*. Reason and Janssen research.



1. Charles Sumner Bunn carving in the 1950s. (A. O. B. Martinez collection, Gaynell Stone photo)

Archaic Period Burial Mound in Jamesport in Danger of Development

State Archaeologist William Ritchie, while pursuing the Archaic period (3,500 years ago) of Native American occupancy of New York State, excavated sites in Stony Brook, Sugar Loaf Hill/Southampton, Orient, and Jamesport, which was published in 1959 by the New York State Museum.

The Stony Brook areas have been heavily developed, so the area's Native inhabitation is now known only through that report and the numerous contract archaeology reports required by the Town of Brookhaven. The Sugar Loaf Hill site was protected from a house being built on top of it by Southampton Town protective action. The Orient burial site trenches (a notable national finding) now have houses over the area, since there was no protective action by Southold Town. Riverhead Town is now faced with protecting the last remaining Native burial site (known as Sharper's Hill) on Long Island.

The 45 acre parcel was recently purchased at auction by a developer who appears willing to work with the local preservation group Riverhead Neighborhood Preservation Coalition, Peconic Land Trust, and the Shinnecock Nation to preserve the site in conjunction with sensitive zoning. Fortunately, Richard Wines, chair of the Town's Landmark Preservation Commission, had included the site in the proposed Main Road National Register District. Designation to be listed on the National Register, which makes the site eligible for Section 106 protections.

The Peconic Land Trust wishes most of the land to be secured for continued farming, a wise choice, as it has been shown in other cases that inhabitants of houses surrounding a Native site have been known to carry out illicit digging for their own pleasure. North Fork County Legislator Al Krupski is proposing that the County purchase the burial mound site as part of its Farmland Preservation action. Hopefully all this proactive interest will prevail.

The Stony Brook Site and its Relation to Archaic and Transitional Cultures on Long Island

William. A Richie

New York State Archaeologist

New York State Museum
Bulletin #372

Researching Long Island History During the CETA Program: How I Became an Archivist

Burton Altman, Florida State University

Introduction: John A. Strong
Professor Emeritus,
Long Island University



About twenty years ago when I was working with Dr. Gaynell Stone on the Suffolk County Archaeological Association series on Long Island Indians she sent me to the Nassau County Parks facility at Sands Point to look at a collection of bibliographic cards that were stored there. Dan Kaplan, a park staff member, ushered me to a big empty library area, seated me at a long table, and brought me several long rectangular boxes filled with hundreds of three by five index cards with writing on both sides. I was amazed and overwhelmed. He told me that Burt Altman, a CETA intern, had prepared them back in the 1960s and left when the grant funds ran out. They were, Dan said, dumped here because no one knew what to do with them. For me, the boxes were a gold mine full of leads to obscure archives. I took extensive notes and made some Xerox copies. The short annotations on the backs of the bibliographic citations were extremely helpful. The cards were moved from the repository during a time when funds were being cut and some staff retired. Efforts to locate them made by Herb Mills, former Nassau County Museum Director, and Gary Haglich, former director of exhibits, have not been successful. My Xerox copies have been placed in the Suffolk County Historical Society Museum collections.

Burt Altman's experience is a reaffirmation of Johnson's oft-maligned War on Poverty. As we approach the fiftieth anniversary of the program, scholars are re-evaluating Johnson's vision and his domestic policies. Johnson's historic attempt to reduce inequality was pushed into the background of the public awareness by his disastrous Vietnam policy. Altman's story reminds us that much good came from Johnson's more humane War on Poverty policy. Now that the concern about inequality has once again emerged, let us hope that we can advance the mission set in motion by Lyndon Johnson.

Results of the 1970s CETA Program on Long Island

During the mid 1970s when I lived in Long Island, I was employed for about two years by the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums through the federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA), an outgrowth of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty that began in 1964. Originally designed to provide employment and training for the poor, this program offered work to those with low incomes and the long term unemployed as well as summer jobs to low income high school students. Full-time jobs were provided for a period of 12 to 24 months in public agencies or private not for profit organizations. The intent was to impart a marketable skill that would allow participants to move to an unsubsidized job.

My experience working in the CETA program was quite beneficial, because not only did it provide me with a dependable source of income, it opened my eyes to the archival profession and to historical research, a passion that has persisted to this day. I became an archivist at Florida State University and remained so for over 30 years.

When I began working in CETA, I was employed for about a year at the Nassau County Museum and Reference Library in Eisenhower Park, under the direction of Nassau County historian and author Richard A. Winsche and Librarian Mary Louise Matera. My work consisted of creating typed inventories of 17th-19th Century deeds, wills and other business and personal papers of Long Island residents during those periods. Some of the oldest and most fascinating records, particularly for eastern Long Island, documented land sales and various business transactions between representatives of the Shinnecock and Montauk Indian tribes and land settlers. I remember how many of the deeds were executed by "Wayandance" (Wyandanch, Chief and Grand Sachem of the thirteen tribes of Long Island), and those signed by other Indian witnesses. This experience not only opened my eyes to the history of Long Island, but by seeing researchers to the library actually use the records that I processed, it demonstrated the importance of writing clear and accurate descriptions of the documents.

While much was accomplished when I worked at the museum and reference library, my most fulfilling time was spent working for the Curator of Anthropology Ronald Wyatt at the Garvies Point Museum and Preserve in Glen Cove. At that time, environmental impact studies were being conducted by the Nassau County Department of Public Works, and the reports that were generated from those studies were a new requirement to ensure the preservation of significant historical and archaeological sites. My specific responsibility was to conduct extensive historical research in as many archival repositories in the New York City area as possible that would provide for these reports documentary evidence of former Indian settlements that could be protected from future development.

Each week, through funding from the CETA program, I was given a set of note cards and funding for round trip transportation on the Long Island Railroad from my parents' home in Manhasset to and from Penn Station in Manhattan. On alternate weeks, I met with Ron to show him what I recorded on my note cards. Most of the data I provided were quite useful for the environmental impact reports.

The repositories I visited were quite interesting and usually yielded excellent primary sources documenting Indian activities. During these pre-Internet days, for example, I spent nearly a month visiting the New York Public Library's Rare Books and Manuscripts and American History Divisions pouring through published and unpublished materials; at least a month at the New York Historical Society reviewing colonial documents; several weeks at the Long Island Historical Society in Brooklyn; a week at the

Museum of the American Indian; and a week in the Long Island Division of the Queens Borough Public Library's main branch in Jamaica.

As it turned out, while much of the data I collected to prepare the environmental impact reports was included in the final reports, the note cards were also retained at the Garvies Point Museum and used by researchers during the years after I left the CETA program. I would like to prepare an annotated bibliography of these fascinating resources.

After I completed my projects at the Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums, I worked at several public libraries in Long Island and finally found my niche as a certified archivist in the Division of Special Collections and Archives at Florida State University. I've been there for over 33 years, and I must say that my experience in the CETA program nearly 40 years ago lit the spark that launched my career as an archivist.

CETA Projects in Suffolk County

Dr. Gaynell Stone

While CETA-funded Burton Altman was creating a vast archive of finding aids to Long Island's prehistory and early history for the Nassau County Museum, Gaynell Stone and Dr. Phil Weigand, Chair of the Anthropology Department, Stony Brook University, wrote grants for CETA funding for graduate students to find, for the first time, which Suffolk libraries might have Native American artifact collections as well as documents.

Ellice Gonzalez, Ann Daniels, and others created this data base. This, in turn, allowed, for the first time, a Sensitivity Map of Native Sites for Long Island drawn by Marcia Praeger. This map, now out of date because of the rise of much contract archaeology, was used by some Town government Environmental Protection departments to help them assess what areas were sensitive and to require archaeological testing before construction projects were approved – a big step toward preserving archaeological sites on the Island. Currently archaeological site reports are supposed to be filed with the State as well as the Town government involved. This does not always happen, or there is miscommunication between the two entities, and a site is destroyed.

The Site Map knowledge led to graduate student Stone and Dr. Weigand securing a grant from the New York Humanities Council to hold a day-long conference at Hofstra University on "Archaeology, Public Policy, and Planning," featuring lawyers, planners, and archaeologists. So the CETA grants in these cases resulted in real contributions to the region's knowledge base. discovered so that they can benefit future students and scholars of Long Island history.

In Memoriam

Sarah T. Bridges (1946-2015)

Sarah received her Masters degree in Anthropology/ Archaeology from New York University as a student of Dr. Bert Salwen, later her husband. After working for the Human Relations File under George Murdock, she joined Paul Huey's archaeology program at the NYS Bureau of Historic Sites, Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. She led important projects throughout the state, including interaction with the group of Long Islanders concerned about the destruction of regional archaeological sites – which led to the formation of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association.

She later became the first archaeologist for project review for the NYS National Register of Historic Places. Then she spent 31 years in Washington, most of it at the Department of Agriculture as National Cultural Resources Specialist and Federal Preservation Officer. Despite problems with rheumatoid arthritis, she continued to work with the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, the N.Y. Archaeological Council, and the Society for Historical Archaeology.

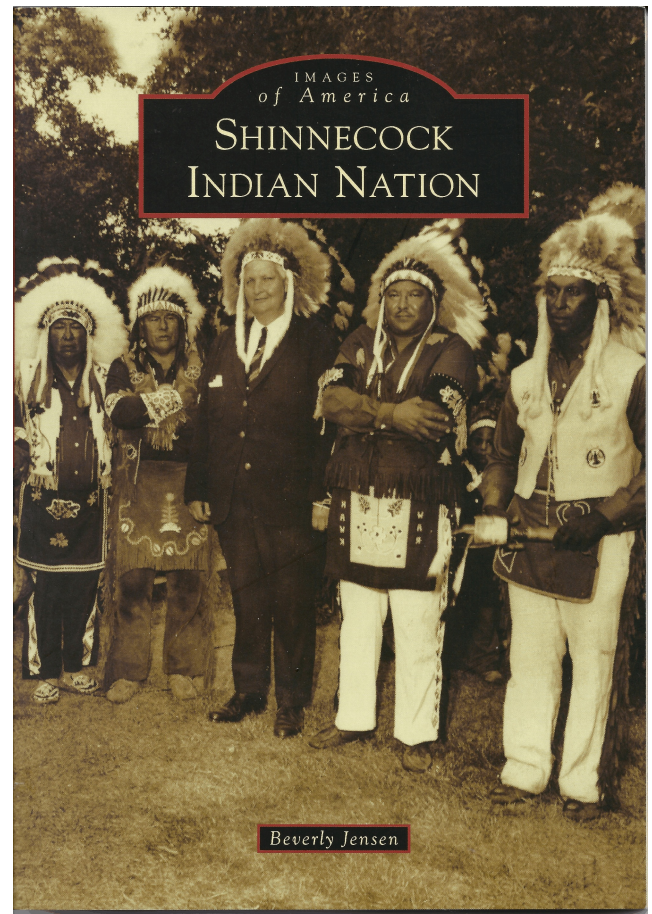
Among her publications was a nomination to the National Register for the Queens Vander Ende-Onderdonk House site, excavated by Dr. Ralph Solecki and students. The site report is published in SCAA's Vol. VII - *The Historical Archaeology of Long Island*, 1985.

Avery Dennis, Sr., a Shinnecock Elder and Leader died at 86 in September, 2015. He served in the American Air Force in WW II, and worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 20 years. He was a Tribal Trustee for nearly two decades, and was a leader in the fight for Federal tribal recognition of the Shinnecock. He also established the first substance abuse program on the Reservation, still functioning. Dennis was an avid traveler, lover of the beach, boating, and his family. He was an Elder of the Shinnecock Presbyterian Church, where a memorial service with military honors was held.

New and Noteworthy

The May 3, 2015 Long Island Life section of Newsday features "**Faces of Eastville**," a story of the rescue of dozens of historic tintypes of Eastville residents by local residents and the Eastville Community Historical Society. Some were nailed to the floor of a house – a common practice was to use can lids in old houses to cover a hole. Eastville was an unusually integrated community in the 19th century and earlier, being the home of Montaukett whalers and those displaced from their homes at Montauk by the developer Arthur Benson, freed slaves, and local people. SCAA's 720 page volume, *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk*, 2d ed., contains scores of historic photographs of the Eastville (east side of Sag Harbor), and Freetown (north side of Easthampton Village, home of many freed enslaved Africans), a number with the same family names as this new-found collection.

Shinnecock Indian Nation is a new photographic history of the Shinnecock by Beverly Jensen, a tribal spokesperson, published by the Arcadia Press, which has published photo histories of many Long Island hamlets. Jensen includes a number of photos taken by her, some from the Shinnecock Nation Museum's displays, and some from family collections. Many more family photo collections were first published in 1983 in SCAA's volume, *The Shinnecock: A Culture History*.



The New York State Museum recently accepted thousands of pieces of quartz debitage, debris from the making of chipped stone tools, from the Town of Brookhaven. They were unearthed by the required archaeological testing when the NYS DOT reconstructed Sunrise Highway from Rt. 112 in Patchogue to Center Moriches. The collection can provide information on Long Island Native life for thousands of years. Similar finds were made when Rt. 112 was reconstructed from Patchogue to Port Jefferson several years ago. When 347 was reconfigured in the Mt. Sinai area a few years ago, an unexpected and totally unknown settlement of freed slaves was discovered. Daniell Mazeau, a Principal Investigator for the New York State Museum's Cultural Resources Recovery Program, will report at the May SCAA Annual Meeting on the prehistoric and historic remains found when the Center Road between the County and State office buildings in Hauppauge was reconfigured a few years ago.

Telling Time are the wonderfully informative posters produced by the Northeast Historical Archaeology Assn. Two new ones on "Historic Lighting" and "The American Revolution" are now available for \$10. from their journal website – www.buffalostate.edu/cneha – for ordering information.

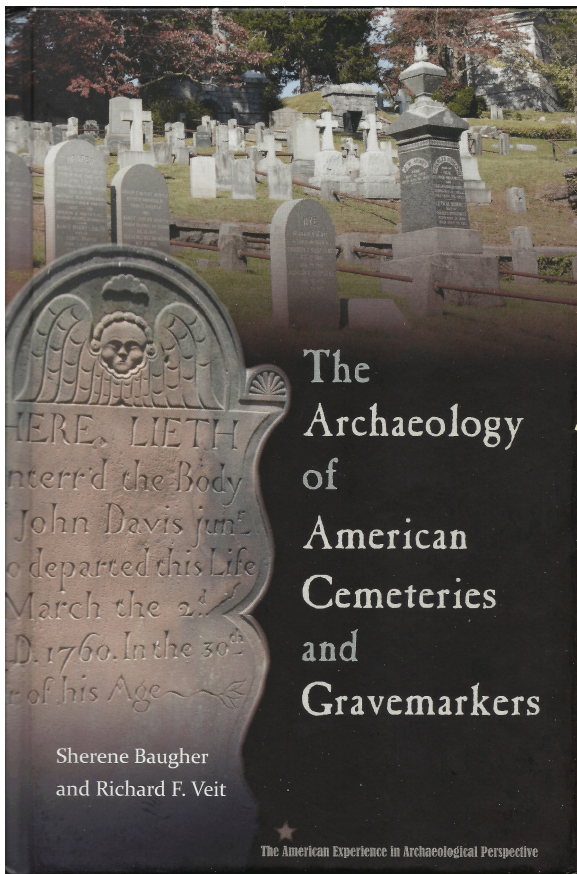
Searchable, Downloadable Database from *AnthroNotes* Editors

The National Museum of Natural History's Department of Anthropology publishes *Anthronotes*, now in a digital format, searchable by author, title, year, and major subfields, such as archaeology or linguistics, as well as geographic regions, contemporary issues, and education. Amazon carries the paperback and e-book versions of the expanded second edition of *Anthropology Explored: The Best of Smithsonian Anthronotes*. A free online *Instructors Guide* is also available.

The Archaeology Channel's next International Film and Video Festival is scheduled for May 11-15, 2016 at the Recital Hall of The Shedd Institute and other venues in downtown Eugene, Oregon. Details: <http://bit.ly/1hYf3Wv>.

Special Thematic Issue: Stone Cultural Features and Ceremonial Landscapes, *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut*, No. 77, 2015

contains a wealth of articles on the many stone features which have been found in Connecticut – from stone chambers to root cellars, ice houses, farm structures, and potential Native American ceremonial structures. Enjoyable reading!



Blood Residue Analysis in Archaeological Contexts

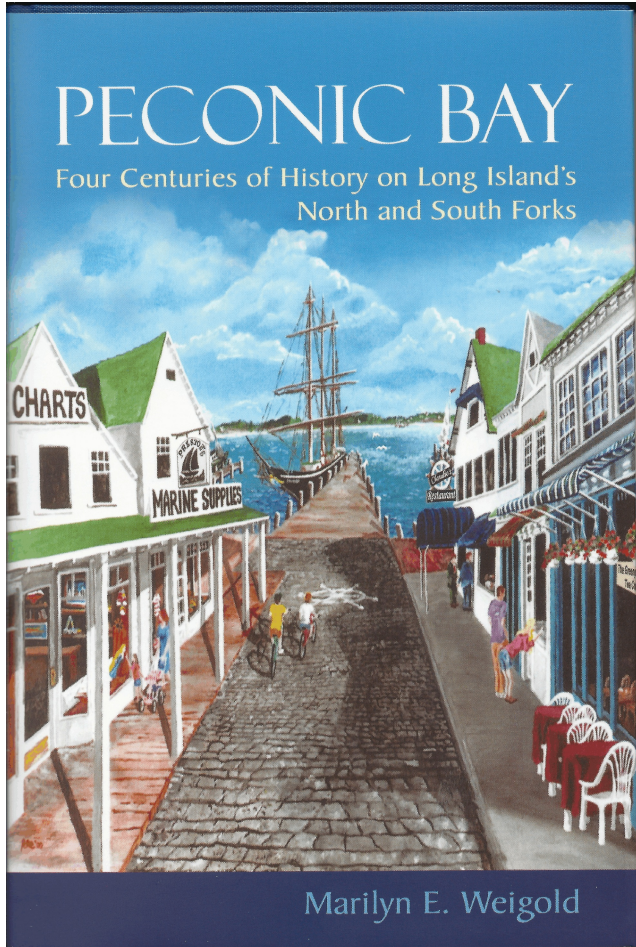
One of the means to determine the function of stone and groundstone tools from archaeological sites is through blood protein residue analysis. Several techniques exist; the cross-over immuno-electrophoresis (CIEP) technique is used by the Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. (AINW) group. This technique was developed and elaborated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Serology Lab in Toronto, which utilizes the antibodies and antigens almost all animals possess, known as immunoassay. It is cheaper than a radiocarbon date, faster (less than 48 hours), and extremely sensitive. Thirty commercially available vertebrate antisera are available for the testing, most of which will test for other placental mammals – guinea pig=porcupine and squirrel, etc. Blood residue up to 11,500 years old has been successfully tested. Artifacts and soil residue need to be collected as carefully and sterilely as possible. For more details, see Cam Walker, Ph.D. article in Screenings, the Oregon Archaeological Society Newsletter, Vol. 62, No. 8; screenings@oregonarchaeological.org.

Forgotten Bones: Uncovering a Slave Cemetery, Lois M. Huey, Millbrook Press/Lerner Publishing Group, is designed for school children in grades 5 through 7. It's a description of the discovery and rescue excavation in 2005 of burials in a slave cemetery near the Schuyler Flatts site north of Albany, occupied from 1672 til the early 20th century. Probably these were late 18th century family slaves. DNA analysis indicated one woman had MicMac ancestors. Evidence of disease, injuries, and other physical characteristics of the bones are compared with slave burials in the New York City African Burial Ground, and a slave cemetery found in Portsmouth, NH in 2003. These are the only three known slave cemetery analyses in the North. The Schuyler Flatts slaves were hard worked but quite healthy, but the New York City bones show evidence of poor health, beatings, and injuries. Students learn about the many scientific techniques to gain these new insights. Info: goodreads.com/book/show/26076647-forgotten-bones-uncovering-a-slave-cemetery.

The Archaeology of American Cemeteries and Gravemarkers, Sherene Baugher and Richard F.Veit, University Press of Florida, 2015.

This most informative book is the first to provide the archaeological perspective of cemetery and gravestone analysis, and thus greatly needed by archaeologists and the interested public.. The pioneering analysis of Long Island gravestones by Dr. Gaynell Stone is noted; she was mentored by Dr. James Deetz, who pioneered scientific gravestone studies in the U.S. As a founder of the national Association for Gravestone Studies, Dr. Stone tried to bring the archaeological perspective to the group. She was among the first to start the Gravestone Analysis presentations at the Society for Historical Archaeology conferences. This volume should be required reading for all archaeologists.

Peconic Bay: Four Centuries of History on Long Island's North and South Forks, by Dr. Marilyn E. Weigold. Syracuse University Press. 1915. A wonderful overview of the early historic to current lifeways of the North and South Forks. If Stony Brook University's 'sustainability' emphasis in its programs, especially housed at the Southampton campus, is to have a basic text to build upon, this should be it.



The World of Pocahontas, Unearthed is a new exhibit at the Historic Jamestown museum site in Virginia. Thousands of artifacts from over twenty years of excavations by the Jamestown Rediscovery archaeologists underpin the exhibit, which sheds new light on the interdependence of the Powhatans and English. Featured artifacts reveal that there was more interaction and familiarity between the Native people and the English within the fort during this early period of European settlement than is reflected in the historic record. Drills and mussel shell bead blanks indicate the presence of Powhatan women working and living in the fort. Bone needles and celts indicate their crafts and preparation of fibrous plant material for mats and baskets, both highly prized by the English.

Publications of the SC 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 8.625% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I, Vol. IV, & VI are OOP.

- 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*
- DVD - *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island* - 2 hrs. \$50. + \$4.31 tax + \$6. Shipping = \$60.31

Student Series (Including shipping)

- Booklet: *A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.* \$ 8.
- Study Pictures: *Coastal Native Americans* 10.
- Wall Chart: *Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors)* 15.
- Map: *Native Long Island (26x39"-3 colors)* 15.

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