

### NEWSLETTER Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

One Little River– The Connetquot



The Story of the Connetquot River: Millionaire-Sportsmen's Paradise



Robert Graham Giffen

This unique new book provides the unknown story of several aspects of Long Island history – partly environmental, partly historical, partly national, not known before.

The Connetquot River was a major waterway and the source of food – fish, especially trout, ducks, game birds, small animals – used from the Native Americans to the 19<sup>th</sup> century power brokers of the country – as well as today's fishermen. The water powered grist mill provided flour for the growing area population.

When hunting and fishing were no longer necessities for the population, it became sport for the rising corporate leaders. Snedecor's Inn was the original use of the site of the river at Montauk Highway in today's Islip. As knowledge of the excellent trout fishing grew, more of New York City's leaders came and eventually wanted the site for themselves. So it became a private club -- the Southside Sportsmen's Club in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The original Inn building was enlarged several times to provide lodgings for the sportsmen. Eventually, the site became Connetquot Vol. 43, No 1 ISSN 1079-2198 Winter 2017

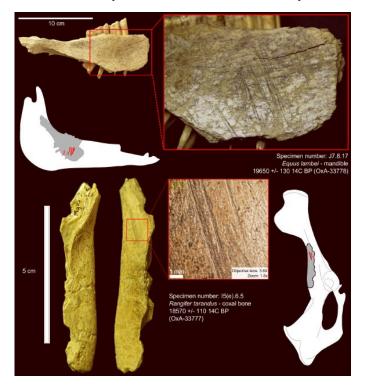
State Park; the Club buildings are the Museum at the site, now open to the public.

Bob Giffen, who ran the trout hatchery for a time – known for its contribution to scientific hatchery management -provides an extensive list of all the dignitaries who belonged to the Club, as well as the story of the management of the river, including bungling by the NYS DEC and NYS Parks in protecting the source of the river as development of the LIE and other developments impinged on it.

This story of an Island natural resource, usually a major water source, serving human needs from the Native Americans, to the early settlers, to developing commercial use and private ownership, is true for most of the parks we enjoy today.

### Humans Arrived in North America Around 24,000 Years Ago --

10,000 years earlier than previously thought, according to analysis of ancient animal bones found in northern Yukon, Canada. Graduate student Lauriane Bourgeon and professor Ariane Burke of the University of Montreal examined 36,000 bone fragments from the Bluefish Caves, and found 15 with cut marks and 20 others with possible cut marks. They were sent to Oxford University for C14



dating. A horse mandible that appears to have had its tongue removed with a stone tool was dated to at least 23,000 years ago.

The Bluefish Caves were excavated by Dr. Jacques Cinq-Mars, director of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, from 1977-1987. Beringia is a vast region stretching from the Mackenzie River in the Northwest Territories to the Lena River in Siberia. Population genetics studies have shown that a few thousand individuals lived in isolation from the rest of the world in Beringia 15,000 to 24,000 years ago due to the glaciers. The archaeological findings support the Beringian Standstill Hypothesis. These Beringians were the ancestors of people, who at the end of the last Ice Age, colonized the entire continent and the coast to South America – **including Long Island Native people**.

#### **New Neanderthal Site**

A 15 year old boy in the Aveyron Valley, France enlarged an opening from which cool air was emitting, and entered a tunnel which led to a large cavern, now Bruniquel Cave. In the middle of the large chamber broken off stalagmites and rocks made a circle, which appears to be ceremonial or ritual in nature – traces of fire, mass of burned bones, etc. It has been C14 dated from a burned bear bone to be 47,600 years old, earlier than other Neanderthal sites.

The structures within are unprecedented in their complexity, antiquity, and depth. This indicates their cognitive abilities and behaviors were complex. "The Neanderthal group responsible for these constructions had a level of social organization that was more complex than previously thought," the investigating team says.

Scientists know that Neanderthals made tools, used fire, made art, buried their dead, perhaps had language. They are trying to understand why they died out and we (Homo sapiens) did not. Also just known recently due to Svante Paabo's research with Neanderthal bones, is that they did not die out – **all of us today are 2%-4% Neanderthal in heritage**. This also gives us a few genetic quirks – a higher tendency for blood clotting and a higher ability to digest starch.



### Window to History

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission opened a 1,439-square-foot state-of-the-art archaeological repository under a skyscraper at 114 W. 47<sup>th</sup> street in October. It is named the **Nan A. Rothschild Research Center** after an emeritus Barnard College pioneer archaeologist. The wide array of artifacts, from pre-Columbian to recent history, was housed in several repositories until now. Most are from Manhattan, but some are from the other boroughs.

Amanda Sutphin, the Commission's Director of Archaeology, noted how much work it took to develop the archive – storage space is always an issue with all archaeological collections. Note: Suffolk County Parks Dept. has always refused to let any of the empty buildings it owns be used to house Suffolk County artifacts.

The archaeological artifacts enhance history; they can indicate when smuggling took place despite embargo laws, etc. So much can be done going forward with this resource. The repository is now available only by appointment, but the relics can be visited through an interactive website. Log onto **nyc.gov/archaeology** to see photos of the items, scans of historical documents, and take a quiz.



#### Storage for Archaeological Data

tDAR is a domain repository in which data and information about and from archaeological resources, investigations, and related topics may be stored. In tDAR, data and information are curated, discoverable, accessible, and preserved for future use. TAR is developed and maintained by the Center for Digital Antiquity, a not-for-profit center at Arizona State University.

The University is reducing the costs for using the system, which will be particularly useful for contributors who upload small quantities of digital files and create the metadata records on their own. Contact info@digitalantiquity.org for more information.

#### Unique Field School in Hawaii

Oregon archaeologist Dr. Alison Stenger is leading a group of Oregon Archaeological Society volunteers on an Institute for Archaeological Studies expedition to Hawaii this February. Ancient sites include village remains, ceremonial structures, water catchment areas, petroglyphs, and fish traps. Many areas along the coastline are not yet recorded. One wonders if this is not also true of Long Island? Salt pans for making salt are known to have operated in Sag Harbor historically; anywhere else? If Hawaiian natives built catchment basins to hold turtles, fish, or water – a form of food storage – did the Long Island natives do likewise? This sort of scrutiny has not occurred on the Island.



It is somewhat similar to Dr. Skip Moeller's research into signaling stations, essential land beacons (usually fires) used for ship navigation and guidance. Every country coastline had them, including Long Island, but they are relatively unknown.

The results of the Hawaii survey will be given to their Department of Land and Natural Resources and to the State Historic Preservation Office.

# World Canoe Voyage Visits National Museum of the American Indian

The recent first launch of a traditional Hawaiian outrigger canoe since the 1400s, and its sister canoe launched in New Zealand in 2012 have been sailing without instruments across thousands of miles of open ocean, navigating by the stars, bird flight and ocean swells. They reached their half-way mark of a four-year sail leaving South Africa and making their way up the South Atlantic.

Landing at the Chesapeake Bay, they provided programs for the NMAI on the Mall on Native culture, language, and especially navigating skills. The final leg from Miami to the Polynesian Triangle in the Pacific and Hawaii is scheduled to end in 2017. The progress of the *Hokule'a* and the *Malama Honua* tour can be tracked at <u>www.hokulea.com</u>.

# 2016 – The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Heye Museum into the National Museum of the American Indian

George Gustav Heye (1874-1957) was born into a family of wealth from Standard Oil in New York City. While he is known as an obsessed collector of Native American artifacts after a job he had out west and worked with Native people, he collected his first skin shirt artifact. His mother helped his collecting of Native artifacts and Mexican excavations by 1902, and by 1906 he planned to create a hemispheric American Indian museum to support adult education and lifelong learning through public exhibits, research, and study collections.

Heye collected avidly - sometimes by a boxcar load - and had the archaeologists who excavated also collect for him, such as Mark R. Harrington, who excavated Shinnecock sites around 1900. He established The Heye Museum on East 33rd Street in 1908, also storing collections at the University of Pennsylvania's University Museum . With his mother's death in 1915 he had the means to pursue his dream. In 1916 he founded the Museum of the American Indian, deeded his personal collection of 175,000 artifacts to the museum, and provided an endowment. Supported by affluent friends, the museum in Audubon Terrace. New York City was built by 1917, and opened to the public in 1922 after WWI. The museum was in dire financial straits during the financial crash of 1929 and the 1930s, as Heve had retired from his lucrative Wall Street career. Heye remained the Director and Board Chair until he died, only he appointing the trustees.

A storage and research facility was built in the Bronx in 1926 to house the overflow from the museum, paid for by wealthy benefactor Arthur Huntington, who also funded the Huntington Free Library expansion to house the Heye Library collection. Heye personally cataloged every object in his collection and the new acquisitions. The Museum Archives house pleas to be paid from the archaeologists who excavated for him, such as Mark R. Harrington and Foster Saville, who worked on Long Island, as he didn't

always pay those whom he asked to collect. The late Red Thunder Cloud/Carlos Westez, who lived among the Shinnecock and Montaukett in the 1980-90s said he was never paid for the Montaukett items he collected for Heye.

A late art professor of Adelphi University, and an East Hampton resident, who was a



member of the MAI board, mostly composed of wealthy friends of Heye (no women were allowed on the board until 1969), realized that artifacts were being recataloged and sold and other breaches of professional museum practices, and he could get no reform from the trustees, so he reported this to the New York State Attorney General, Louis Lefkowitz. All the trustees were fired, except him, who was then sued by the fired trustees. The Director, Frederick J. Dockstader, was also fired. The Museum was placed in receivership of the City and State for a time

Meanwhile, Cheyenne and Hodulgo Muscogee activist Suzan Shown Harjo and her mother had visited the MAI and were shocked at the display of mummies, shrunken heads, False Face masks with medicine bags, and other sacred or religious objects. As President Carter's appointee to implement the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, she and others sought a new approach by museums. As Director of the National Congress of American Indians, she began talks with the Smithsonian; about this time the MAI also began to talk to the Smithsonian.

The possibility of moving the MAI brought a fight to where it should go – from Ross Perot's plan for a world class museum in Dallas to many other venues. New York City insisted on a permanent collection to remain in the City, now at the Bowling Green site. The Museum had a new Chair, Julie Johnson Kidd, who saved the Museum in these negotiations, the National Museum of Natural History of the Smithsonian offered sponsorship, and Hawaii Senator Daniel K. Inouye introduced legislation to create and fund the current museum on the Mall in Washington, whose astounding collections – like forests of totem poles, etc. -could never be recreated today.

The author and internationally noted trade bead scholar Karlis Karklins, formerly of Parks Canada, spent two days at the Bronx Annex in the 1990s counting and analyzing the thousands of trade beads found by MAI museum archaeologist Foster Saville at a Contact/Historic period Montaukett burial site on a chicken farm in Amagansett, overlooking the Atlantic. See SCAA's 1993 volume, *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk* for the Karklins chapter and pictures of some of the trade beads. Due to the Island''s jutting out into the Atlantic, the Montaukett must have had contact with a wide range of European explorers, as Karlis found trade beads he had never seen before in his international research.



# The Archaeology Channel's International Film & Video Festival, 2016

From May 9 - 15, 21 films from film makers in 26 countries were shown in Eugene, Oregon, the only juried competition in the hemisphere. This annual exhibition showcases film, science, and visual storytelling. The keynote speaker, Tony Freeth, Ph.D. is a mathematician and founding member of the Antikythera Mechanism Research Project, and a film director and producer for 25 years. He has organized new scientific investigations on the Antikythera Mechanism, a sophisticated mechanical computer made by the ancient Greeks and found in a shipwreck. He also produced an award-winning TV documentary about this mechanism, broadcast as *Ancient Computer* on PBS's NOVA.

#### Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory

All volumes are \$30. + \$5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$50. + \$10. Shipping, both plus 8.625% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print.

- I Early Paper in Long Island Archaeology
- II The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.
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- V The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
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*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. \$6. Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans 8. Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors) 14. Map: Native Long Island (26x39"-3 colors) 14.

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