History and Archaeology Lovers —

The six full-length DVD films on The Manors of Long Island are now available to libraries, scholars, and the public, revealing the stories of Winthrop Manor of Fishers Island, Gardiners Island Manor, Sylvester Manor of Shelter Island, Manor of St. George, Manor of Smithtown, Eatons Neck Manor, Lloyd Manor of Queens Village, and the five manors of Islip Town – Mowbray, Willett, Van Cortlandt’s Sagtikos Manor, Gibb, and Nicoll Manors.

The price is $225.00 for a book of the six DVDs, 2 hours long each : it is available from SCAA plus shipping ($6.) and NYS sales tax for individuals ($19.) = $250.

The Long Island story you have never known!!

An amazing amount of unknown Long Island history is in these illustrated stories, backed by the 17th century music of that day – a major re-write of the Island story.

No one has ever seen the extent of the historic maps through time used to illustrate the Island’s true story.

The large number of historic documents – deeds, patents, letters, paintings, portraits, silver, and more – supporting this new view will surprise viewers.

Hundreds of scholars have shared their expertise in –

- local history
- regional history
- manorial history
- Dutch history
- economic history
- family history
- slavery
- sugar production (the fastest way to get rich in the 17th century)
- trade routes
- the Native American story re: the settlers and the manors
- archaeology revealing historic lifeways at the manors
- the science supporting archaeological analysis at Sylvester Manor – the most high tech excavation in the country – and archaeology at Strong Neck Manor of St. George, the two houses at Lloyd Manor, and Nicoll Manor
- the archaeological discovery of Lion Gardiner’s Fort Shantock
- Long Island’s role in 17th century globalization, and much more
- the Revolutionary War, the Setauket spy ring, and the end of the manors.

Council for New England Historical Archaeology
2017 Annual Meeting and Conference
Portsmouth, New Hampshire - Nov. 9 - 12
“Taverns, Transportation and Trade”
Sheraton Harborside Hotel
Contact: Ellen Marlatt, IAC, LLC
801 Islington St., Suite 31
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Preservation of Rocky Point Glacial Erratic Site

The glacial history of New England from hundreds of thousands of years ago to 18,000 years ago of the last glacier which formed Long Island is the presence of very large glacial erratics, or boulders, deposited at various spots on the landscape. The largest one on the Island is the Shelter Rock, which gave its name to the nearby community of Shelter Rock, Nassau County. Its south side was excavated by Dr. Carlyle Smith, on behalf of the American Museum of Natural History in the late 1940s. He found an extensive Native use of this sheltered spot (unpublished mss.).

The largest erratic in Suffolk County is the one on Sam’s Path in Rocky Point. Its site was purchased by the earliest European settler in Rocky Point, Noah Hallock, who developed a colonial farm site on the property. This photograph from the late 19th century shows how he nestled his farm buildings into the shelter of the three story high boulder. This makes this site a Colonial-era archaeological site as well a Native American archaeological site, so entirely rare on Long Island.

Local County legislator, Sarah Anker, with the Rocky Point Historical Society and Civic Association, and Seatuck Environmental Association seeks to save this site by purchasing it from a resident living there and amalgamating it to the original Noah Hallock house next door. The Peconic Land Trust has joined the effort, and seeks $330,000. by the end of 2017 to purchase the site, remove the modern-era house, and clear the site into a green.

Since it is a rare archaeological site – the only glacial erratic also later used by succeeding people – SCAA seeks to get archaeology done to conserve that record before the site is disturbed. Kindly send contributions toward that goal to the Peconic Land Trust, P.O. Box 1776, Southampton, NY 11969. To learn more, contact www.peconiclandtrust.org/indianrock or 631-283.3195.

Forty two years of research by Dr. Moeller has resulted in the last word on the tattered American flag which has resided in the Suffolk County Historical Society for many years, burdened over the years by mistaken and incorrect stories of how it came to be. Available as an e-book online. $12.99 on Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com. Amazon Reader needed.

David Bunn Martine, Shinneock artist, museum director, and Curatorial Research Fellow with American Indian Artists, Inc. has compiled a second edition of his ancestor’s stories – now over 700 pages – which add much new material to the fascinating story of the first edition. Available from Amazon.
Shinnecock graduate student at Pennsylvania State University Jeremy Davis received a $10,000 grant to photographically pursue images of the Long Island Native habitat and sites that still exist. On This Site is the hard cover version of these iconic images, available on Amazon. This visual story was also exhibited at the Suffolk County Historical Society and at Guild Hall. $120. + $4.49 shipping.

**Destruction of historic Baxter house in Nassau County**

One of the oldest houses on Long Island, believed to be dating from 1670, was the homosite of the village's founder Oliver Baxter, of the current Village of Baxter Estates. As can be seen from photo of the house after the fire, the right side wing was Dutch architecture – as are most of the early houses of the Island – later added onto, usually in the 1700s, with an English architecture section.

The house was allowed to deteriorate over the centuries, but was purchased fairly recently by a woman who gave conflicting stories on what she planned to do with the house and surrounding plot – including building a replica of the original house. The Trustees of the Village did not require protective action toward the house, in spite of their Landmarks Preservation Committee's landmarking of the site, although that was not sent to New York State for the State listing and then on to the Federal Register. A fire mysteriously burned the house recently and the site has been bulldozed.

Concerned citizens are very unhappy about this unnecessary loss of history, and hope for archaeological investigation of the site to retrieve the original Native American story (it was the site of a Matinecock village) as well as the Colonial story of the Baxter family.

**Resources**

The New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) recently added to its on-line collections a rare colonial-era ledger of Queens deeds and wills dating between 1683 to 1713, and unveiled a new version of its website, New Amsterdam Stories, developed in partnership with the Amsterdam Archives. There are numerous Long Island materials in it. It was created as a platform to share 17th century records related to New Amsterdam in the Municipal Archives and the Stadsarchief Amsterdam, which will reveal the shared cultural heritage between the U.S. and the Netherlands.

Revolution Song: A Story of American Freedom by Russell Shorto, acclaimed author of the acclaimed Island at the Center of the World about New Amsterdam. Through the lives of six people, Shorto casts fresh light on the range of experience in colonial America on the cusp of revolution. A brilliant defense of American values, it makes the compelling case that the American Revolution is still being fought today and that its ideals are worth defending. W.W. Norton & Co., 512 pages.

Joep de Koning is the founder of the Tolerance Park Foundation, whose goal is to seek national recognition for Governor’s Island in New York, originally Noten Eylant in New Netherland. New York State’s historic landing took place on Governors Island in 1624. By restoring the Island to its historical integrity as the birth place of New York State and the origin of the vital message of tolerance as the defender and definer of American liberty, the Island’s historic substance and national symbolism will be preserved as a fundamental American value for future generations thus: www.NationalHeritageTriangle.com.

A paper published recently in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found that land use changes associated with planting crops and grazing livestock have caused a loss of 133 billion tons of carbon from soil worldwide over the past 12,000 years, amounting to about 13 years of global emissions at their current levels – with half of those losses in the past few centuries. The losses have been speeding up since the industrial revolution, particularly in the 19th century, but suggests that land use was likely a much more significant factor in the
carbon emissions warming our planet than previously thought. Perhaps the findings could be used to help target the places that have lost the most soil carbon, and where restoration efforts through sustainable land management might make the most difference.

**Ancient DNA from mysterious figurines reveals African trade routes**

IAS2017 publishes the research on intricate clay figurines of the Koma Land culture, which occupied part of northern Ghana between 600 and 1300 C.E. Wondering if the figurine cavities had ritual purposes, researchers used sterile swabs to sample the cavities, and discovered DNA from plantains and bananas, pine trees, and a variety of grasses. Grass species could have been local, but plantains and bananas are not native to Ghana, but were likely grown in other parts of West Africa. Pine needles and bark are often boiled to make medicinal infusions, making them a valuable commodity; the closest pine trees were on the other side of the Sahara Desert in North Africa.

The study, to be published in the March issue of the *Journal of Archaeological Science*, provides the first window onto the trade routes employed by the Koma Land people, very extensive for early human kind. The research also provides evidence that ancient DNA can be found in hot climates, which was feared to be impossible previously.

**Researchers find 38,000 year old engraving in France**

The Abri Blanchard rock shelter in southwestern France was first excavated in the early 20th century and revealed artifacts from some of the earliest modern humans to migrate into Europe. 100 years later researchers have found a broken slab of limestone with the image of an aurochs, an extinct ancestor of modern cattle, etched into it and partially covered with dots. It is one of the earliest instances of imagery found in western Eurasia, produced by the Aurignacian culture of 43,000 to 33,000 year ago. Randall White of New York University felt there could still be evidence in the cave. In 2011 his team excavated through the piles of dirt left behind by the previous excavations, and found hundreds of stone tools, reindeer bones, a decorated bone, an ivory bead, and a pierced fox tooth, which was published in *Quaternary International* recently. He feels that the personal ornaments and exotic raw materials suggest that Abri Blanchard could have served as a meeting place for trade, ritual and storytelling. The aurochs are a common theme in Aurignacian art, including at Chauvet Cave, which contains the oldest known figurative art in the world. *Smithsonian.com*

**Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association**

*Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory*

All volumes are $30. + $5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is $50. + $8. Shipping, both plus sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print (soon to be e-book).

*1 Early Paper in Long Island Archaeology*  
*2 The Coastal Archaeology Reader*  
*3 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.*  

**Past newsletters available on our web site**

**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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