# NEWSLETTER Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

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S.C.A.A. Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 26

Nelson Residece 5 Glenrich Drive St. James, N.Y.

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631-724-2182

6:00 PM - potluck dinner

7:00 PM - annual business meeting

election of officers

8:00 PM - Program: S.C.A.A.'s documentary

film "Lloyd Manor" - the unknown story of the Henry and Joseph Lloyd manors and still existing houses...

# NOTED LONG ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGIST RALPH SOLECKI DIES AT 103

Born in Brooklyn in 1917, Ralph as a young lad explored the Southold area where his family had a summer home, and encountered the men who founded the Southold Indian Museum to hold their ever increasing collections of Native

American artifacts. He soon became intrigued with the quest, and joined their activities. At the same time, Robert Moses was carving exposure of land (and artifacts) with his extensive road building across the Island, especially in the area of Queens and the Island's two airports.



Ralph and other intelligent young men like Matt Schreiner, Stan Wisniewski, Ed Kaeser, etc. were exposed to the evidence of Native American life all around them, so began to excavate and record what was being unearthed. They formed an Archaeological Club at the Flushing Public Library, where they held meetings and stored artifacts (the collection has disappeared).

Ralph received a B.Sc. From City College in Geology in 1941, shortly before being inducted into the U.S. Army in 1942. While fighting in the Battle of the Bulge, Ralph was wounded in the ankle; the battlefield medic who treated him asked him to rotate his foot. Being able to do so saved his foot from amputation and thus allowed the very active professional life he subsequently had.

Ralph received an M.A. in Anthropology from Columbia University through the G.I. Bill so many returning soldiers accessed. His master's thesis for the M.A. was based on excavating the Native Fort Corchaug in Cutchogue, published in the Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, 1950; reprinted in Stone, ed., Vol. VIII, 2006:9-86.



Ralph Solecki, Stanley Wisneiwski, Al Kaeser, Carlyle Smith

Earlier, Ralph and his fellow searchers had explored the remains of the Native Fort Massapeage in south shore Nassau County; later reported in "The Archaeology of Fort Neck and Vicinity, Massapequa, Long Island, New York," in Stone, ed., **Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area,** Vol. VIII, *Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory, 2006:143-242.* Although there had been extensive pot hunting and collecting at the site with subsequent loss of information, materials from Ralph's field schools and some collectors were deposited at the Garvies

Point museum and remain available there for future research.

Ralph's germinal contributions to the story of the Native forts of the Long Island Sound Area are three-quarters of the contents of **Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area**, covering Forts Corchaug, Massapeage, Montauk.. Other scholars contributed information on the two Fort Montauks, the Block Island Fort Island, Rhode Island's Fort Ninigret, and Connecticut's Fort Shantock and Fort Monhantic. The Long Island 'forts'" construction was supervised by the Dutch, who were seeking to build trading posts and spots to manufacture wampum. None were involved in any battles over wampum production.

While Ralph was a major contributor to the prehistory of Long Island, especially the Forts stories, his international renown was based on his early research on the Neanderthal burials he excavated in Shanidar Cave, Iraq, for which he received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1958. His finding of pollen remains with the Neanderthal skeletons led to the belief for the first time that these early humans cared for those who needed it. Author Jean Auel's best selling novel, **Clan of the Cave Bear**, was based on Ralph's research.

Ralph also worked in caves in Lebanon, and Sudan, also Alaska, the Middle East, and Africa from 1958 - 1970. He was an associate curator for the Smithsonian Institution for three expeditions, 1955-1959, and wrote 9 reports for the Smithsonian and 4 for the N.Y.C. Dept. Of Water Resources. He became an Assistant Professor at Columbia in 1959, Chair in 1975-79, Professor Emeritus in 1987. He joined Texas A&M University Anthropology Dept. in 1989, returning to New Jersey in 2000 to be nearer his two sons. He is survived also by his wife, Dr. Rose Solecki, an anthropologist. One colleague described Ralph as "not having a mean bone in his body," an eloquent epitaph for an exceptional person.

Kudos to County Legislator Al Krupski for saving from development the site of the rare Native Transitional Period, of 3,000 years ago, burial spot on the top of Sharper's Hill in Jamesport. That site is probably the only such site from the Transitional Period of 3,000 years ago that still is in existence. The other such sites in the Orient Hills have been



allowed by Southold Town to be developed, and the Town of Southampton allowed a mini-mansion to be built on top of the site on Sugar Loaf Hill.

These rare in the U.S. sites were originally excavated by the founders of the Southold Indian Museum, later scientifically studied by N.Y.S. archaeologist Dr. William Ritchie (N.Y.S. Bulletin #372, N.Y.S. Museum and Science Service, The Stony Brook Site and its Relation to Archaic and Transitional Cultures on Long Island, Bulletin 372, January 1959).

This mural of such a Transitional period burial site, based on archaeology, was painted by Shinnecock artist David Bunn Martine. The fact that there were few people buried ceremonially indicates they were probably the leaders, who were interred in several ways -- 'bundle burials,' bones within skin pouches, cremations, etc. They were surrounded by objects to give them a comfortable life in the After Life, the latest cooking form - steatite bowls, 'killed' with a blow to break them so their spirit could accompany the deceased to the After Life. They were also accompanied by stone tools, projectile points for hunting, and other objects needed for a life beyond death.



Since only 29% of Americans can visualize (which is why movies and TV which visualize for us are so popular) having such recreated images is crucial for children to understand Long Island's past, since they are tested on it. The only way to see these images is at the Shinnecock Museum and was S.C.A.A.'s Native Life program, until recently at Hoyt Farm Park, and S.C.A.A's newsletter.

## Remembrance of Steven Czarniecki, Archivist

Steve died February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 and a celebration of his life was held for over 200 people at Painters restaurant in Brookhaven; his ashes were spread in one of his favorite spots, the Great South Bay. Steve was a larger than life figure who entranced everyone who knew him.



A resident of Center Moriches, Steve completed high school in Hawaii, then

was in the U.S. Army before attending Stony Brook University for a 2008 B.S. in Anthropology. During summers he worked as a Ranger on Fire Island and assisted Dr. Gaynell Stone in photographing the database of 4,300 Colonial gravestones throughout Long Island analyzed for her doctoral dissertation.

He had 35 years of experience as a Curator of Collections at the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island National Monument, as a Curator for the Fire Island National Seashore at the William Floyd Estate, as a Curatorial Consultant with Dr. Stone at the Brookhaven National Laboratory for its Camp Upton Collection project, as a Curatorial Consultant at the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, and as an Archivist at the Port Jefferson Historical Society for his company, All Museum Services. Steve was greatly beloved by all who knew him or worked with him; Long Island historical societies have lost a most helpful resource.

## A History of Long Island Archaeology Gaynell Stone, Ph.D.

(Continuing)

## The Contact Period, ca. 1600 AD

The arrival of the Dutch and English explorers marked a different lifestyle for the Native people and the Europeans -- again marked by trade networks. The Europeans, barring finding gold or other metals as sought by alchemist John Winthrop, Jr, (see SCAA film, Fishers Island Manor), sought furs to warm themselves in their cold stone structures at home. The Native people sought what their Stone Age culture did not have metals, as well as textile clothing, novel and presumably more comfortable than their skin clothing. These mutual needs promoted the building of Native 'forts' by the Native people with supervision by the Dutch. The forts were built of tree trunk palisades in the Native tradition but had the four and five sided shape of forts throughout the European world. They appear to have been used more as workplaces for the production and storage of wampum than for defense from enemies.



Fort Corchaug, Cutchogue

As noted above, Dr. Ralph Solecki began his interest in archaeology as a young lad vacationing with his parents at their summer home in Southold. After service in the Army in WWII (narrowly missing amputation of his foot from an injured ankle in the Battle of the Bulge), he entered Columbia University's Anthropology Department. He began to scientifically excavate the Fort Corchaug site, often with help from fellow students who became the early American anthropologists. When the fort acreage was threatened with development in 1988, local government and the Peconic Land Trust arranged its sale to a wealthy person who would keep the site intact, utilizing one spot for his home.

**Dr. Lorraine Williams**, a student of Dr. Bert Salwen at New York University, did her dissertation, "Fort Shantok and Fort Corchaug: A Comparative Study of Seventeenth Century Cultural Contact in the Long Island Sound Area, New York University," 1972. This comparison is extremely detailed, and revealed that there were differences in how the sites

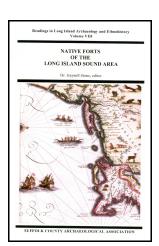


were utilized by each Native group. She also did a great

deal of historical reconstruction of the lives of the Native people involved in this period, which could be useful for historians and ethnohistorians today. Contemporary images of the Native people of the region are very few; however a **Native woman** of Brooklyn was sketched by the Labadist missionary, Danckaerts, who early traveled with his fellow missionary, Sluyter, through New Amsterdam and New Netherland.



Ralph Solecki and his colleagues from the Flushing Historical Society had discovered the Fort Massapeag site in Massapequa, Nassau County earlier than Fort Corchaug. He began the scientific analysis of this new historic resource with his excavations at the waterside site with his colleagues of the Committee on American Anthropology of the Flushing Historical Society, especially Stanley Wisniewski. A number of avocational archaeologists, including a local priest, participated in the digging. Their report and artifacts are stored at the Garvies



Point Museum. Images of the skeletal remains were analyzed by Dr. Anagnostis Agelarakis of Adelphi University. The Fort Massapeage report is published in Stone, ed., Vol. VIII, *Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area*, 2006. Ralph continued searching Long Island by air for other potential fort sites.

There were also Native forts located at Montauk-supposedly two -- on Shelter Island, and in the Shinnecock Hills of Southampton.

according to historic records. The one on Shelter Island was felt to be the home site of the last Native leader, on the southern part of the island, possibly where the Mashomac Preserve is located. Dr. Solecki feels that the Southampton fort was located on the ocean-facing hills near the current Shinnecock Reservation where a mansion is now sited: further west a hillside site felt by the Shinnecock to be their 'fort' site was purchased by the county to preserve it from development. A CRM firm proposed it as a fort site with piles of brambles for walls, as no log ramparts were found. Lack of a nearby water source and further archaeology by Tracker Archaeology, students at Southampton College and S.C.A.A. volunteers found no evidence that the site had been a fort. A small enclave of waterside homes further east nearby has a road named "Old Fort Road," which if it were the site (no archaeology has been done there), would indicate a waterside site, much like some of the others.

Of the two Montauk sites, one possibly facing Napeage Bay has probably disappeared under a paved vista viewing

site there, and portions of the one on a Montauk eminence, Fort Hill, have survived the building of a hotel, Montauk Manor, and use of the site by Teddy Roosevelt's returning ill soldiers from Cuba. This portion of the Montauk fort was excavated by Edward Johannemann and published in Stone, ed., Vol. III, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1991, *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk*.. Reports on excavations at the Connecticut Fort Shantok by Dr. Bert Salwen, Block Island Fort by Dr.Kevin McBride, Rhode Island Fort Ninigret by Charlotte Taylor, and the recently discovered Fort Monhantic in Connecticut by Dr. Kevin McBride are also reported in the volume. It appears Long Island had more Native 'forts' than any other area, possibly due to being a fulcrum in a regional trading sphere.

### The Historic Period

The State Parks of Long Island have generally received more archaeological attention than local parks. Dr. Paul Huey, director of the Historic Sites Bureau of New York State Parks for many years, has conducted or had done background archaeology any time there was disturbance at a State park, especially at Caumsett State Park (site of the Henry Lloyd Manor) and the Walt Whitman State Park in Huntington. See their website for the numerous archaeological studies. When the Brookhaven Town Planning Department collaborated with the Long Island Archaeology Project in the Anthropology Department, Stony Brook University, in the 1970s, Edward Johannemann and his assistant, Laurie Schroeder, conducted archaeological surveys in 26 county parks. Their report on the many resources of one County Park, Archaeological Survey at Blydenburgh County Park, (Truex, ed., Vol. VII:292-305) illustrates the many ecological, prehistoric, and historic resources at such water side sites. (Pictures above)

Eastern Long Island was settled by the third wave of English Puritan immigration beginning in the 1640s, but the Dutch/Flemish had arrived after Henry Hudson's arrival in 1609 and established the 1624 New Amsterdam settlement, establishing New Netherland, which covered the now Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware States. This interface of ethnicities, largely along the now Nassau-Suffolk County border, created a varied Long Island culture. Interestingly, this was also near a linguistic border between the New England Native languages spoken in now Suffolk County and the Munsee

Five Dutch Villages
Breukcien (Brookyn)
Amerisoror (Flatiands)
Hidwout (Flatiands)
Hid

language spoken in western Long Island, Manhattan, New Jersey and on. It was also the border between the Native pottery styles, the East River style of western Long Island and the Windsor type of eastern Long Island. Perhaps the friction effect of distance plays a role? It also seems to be a cultural border between the many Dutch and multicultural settlers of western Long Island and the primarily English settlers of eastern Long Island, though there was interplay between the two, which can be seen in the above ground archaeology, architecture and early gravestones evidence of the area.

Probably the most dramatic of the Historic Period sites are the manors of Long Island, most of them in Suffolk County and their island satellites -- Fishers Island, Gardiners Island, Shelter Island, the most manors in one area in the northeast U.S. Following the Dutch manors of the Hudson Valley, Nathaniel Sylvester of Shelter Island received a Dutch and an English patent for his manor from 1651, which changed the story of Long Island from being insular to being a substantial part of 17<sup>th</sup> century globalization through its participation in sugar production, the fastest way to get rich in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Sylvesters hired the local Natives (the first archaeological proof), were one of the largest slave holders

on Long Island, and later became Quakers. **Dr. Steve Mrozowski** and students of U-Mass-Boston conducted one of the most high-tech archaeological excavations in the country for 8 years, which resulted in the documentary *The* 



Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island (SCAA, 2017), a book by Mac Griswold, Slaves in the Attic: Three Centuries at a Plantation on Long Island, Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2011, and the archaeological report, published in the CNEHA journal, Northeast Historical Archaeology, Volume 36, The Historical Archaeology of SylvesterManor, 2007. The Sylvesters also owned Robins Island, just off Southold in the Long Island Sound, using it for animal production for provisioning the Barbados sugar trade. It had archaeological study by Ron Wyatt and Dan Kaplan of the Garvies Point Museum, as noted earlier, and



further work after being purchased by Louis Moore Bacon for a private retreat, to be supervised by the Nature Conservancy. There appears to be no record of the later excavations.

**Katherine Howlett Hayes**, the nerve center for the excavation years, received her Ph.D. from U-CA Berkeley for the Sylvester Manor work, which has been published as

Slavery Before Race: Europeans, Africans, and Indians at Long Island's Sylvester Manor Plantation, 1651-1884, New York University Press, 2013. It reveals, among many other things, how Sylvester descendants took advantage of some of their faithful servants. This very high-tech excavation used ground



penetrating radar, UV light night filming to detect traces of protein in the soil, microscopic analysis of cores which enabled separating the prehistoric and historic layers, and extracting a quarter of a square and transporting it to the U-Mass lab, engineered by Conservator **Dennis Piechota**.

There it was excavated horizontally and filmed instead of the usual vertical approach, which enabled new perspectives about deposition and the site's 'history'. Subsequent testing of the fenced garden by Dr. Hayes revealed evidence of the plantation dropping off as distance progressed.



Scholars in the film said there were 5 more manors in Suffolk, so SCAA decided to film them for presumably another 2 hour DVD. The research has found 13 manors, which have taken 6 full-length DVDs to cover. These are Fishers Island Manor, Gardiners Island Manor, the Manor

Fishers Island Gardiners Island Sylvester Manor

Strongs Neck Longwood Maste

Longwood Maste

Che 20 anors of Long Island

Eatons Neck Joseph Lloyd Henry Lloyd

Henry Lloyd

Richard Smith Segikos Manor Islip Manors

of St. George, the Manor of Smithtown, Eatons Neck Manor, Lloyd Manor of Queens Village, and the 5 manors that composed later Islip Town, Mowbray, Willett, Van Cortland/Sagtikos, Gibb, and SCAA tried to use Nicoll. archaeology to help tell the story at each site, which was accomplished at Sylvester Manor, the Manor of St. George, Lloyd Manors, and Nicoll Manor (SCAA, The Manors of Long Island, 6 DVDs, 2017).

Two seasons of archaeology at the Joseph Lloyd Manor were directed by Dr. Chris Matthews, formerly of Hofstra University, aided by **Jenna Coplin** of CUNY Graduate Center, and Hofstra students and volunteers. The excavations uncovered a small structure and its base platform and rewrote what the structure was 'supposed' to be. The structure showed on

early maps and was thought to be a house for the Joseph Lloyd slaves. The artifacts tell a different story, they are of later provenience, so it was hired laborers who lived there -- one of the benefits of archaeology...



There has been extensive archaeological excavation at the 1711 Henry Lloyd Manor house near the son Joseph Lloyd's 1767 home, because the Henry Lloyd house is in Caumsett State Park, thus the State Historic Sites Bureau surveills it; the Lloyd Harbor Historical Society manages it. **Dr. Paul Huey** has



excavated there, as well as **Dr. Annette Silver** (her dissertation under Dr. Bert Salwen of New York University).

The house is on a slope, thus has drainage problems, so **Edward** 

Johannemann and Laurie Schroeder excavated the north side before placement of a drain. They also excavated a large amount of ceramics and other artifacts from under the floor boards so heating could be installed, and excavated a drainage trench from the back south across the yard. Argillite artifacts found here indicate prehistoric contact, usually Middle Archaic, with New Jersey, as was the case also near Great Pond, Montauk, (Cammisa) and at Oakland Lake, Nassau County.

Until Dr. Steve Mrozowski conducted 8 years of intensive archaeology at Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island, no other site had had such extensive attention, except the Henry Lloyd Manor site. For a list of the numerous excavations at the site, see the SCAA website -- Newsletter, Vol. 42, No. 2, Spring 2016. **John Vetter** and students of Adelphi excavated a number of units across the lawn in front of the house leading down to the water, a protected harbor. The artifacts are at the State Historic Sites Bureau, which

presumably has the site report. In December 2016 **Sara Mascia** of Historic Perspectives, Inc. led an excavation of the front lawn before new cesspools are installed. The results will be at the State Historic Sites Bureau.



**Dr. Toni Silver** unearthed a portion of a wigwam at this site, the second known on Long Island, now part of the 7 which have been found: by Ben Werner at Stony Brook (3),(Truex, ed. Vol. V:202-213) and the one found by Tracker Archaeology near the Englebright, Setauket site (New York State Museum), and the 3 more found by Tracker near Great Pond, Montauk (New York State Museum). They all seem to have been about 3 meters in diameter. Most of the Lloyd Manor archaeology dealt with the historic period, though all time periods from the Middle Archaic on have been found by Toni Silver. This is covered in more detail in SCAA's documentary film on *The Henry Lloyd Manor* in *The Manors of Long Island* film series, covering 13 manors on 6 full-length DVDs, to be discussed below.

The other manor which had archaeological investigation was the William Nicoll VII site in East Islip, now in Heckscher State Park, the Town of Islip. **Dr. Paul Shackel**, a doctoral student at SUNY-Binghamton, excavated the site in 1983, supported by the Town of Islip's Bicentennial Committee. His work was reported in *The* 

Long Island Forum (September 1984: 174-179) and in Stone and Kianka, eds., Vol. VII, The Historical Archaeology of Long Island, 1985:156-169. He declined to report on the site findings for SCAA's documentary film, The Manors of Islip Town (2016). The usual array of bottles and historic materials was found, and over 2,000 ceramic sherds were identified.



Dr. Shackel utilized George Miller's economic ranking system to arrive at "Conspicuous Consumption and Class Maintenance: A Case Example from the Nicoll Site," Stone and Kianka, eds., Vol. VII, 1985:156-169). He chose tea

ware as the best exemplar of this phenomenon. The Nicolls were downwardly mobile due to having owned 40% of Islip Town in the  $17^{\text{th}}$  century, but forced to sell off most of it to pay for dowries and other legal requirements, as well as Revolutionary War damages. Dr. Shackel felt that the pearlware use and total ceramic assemblage reflected a decrease of the price index value as well as deterioration in the wealth of the Nicoll family. The artifacts, now housed at the Town's Ockers House, could be reexamined for many new perspectives in future.

**Dr. Chris Matthews** supervised two seasons of archaeology at the original Manor of St. George site on Strongs Neck, aided by **Jenna Coplin** and **Ray Scelzi**,

with SCAA and other volunteers. Since the owner, Jack Strong, found many broken artifacts in his gardening on the south side of the presumed original manor house, testing and excavation concentrated there. Native American artifacts and historic artifacts of the 17th-19th centuries were found.



V. V.

Evidence from a pre-1792 drawing showed a small Dutch H-frame house (1600s) on the north side of a later (1700s) house which is the base of today's house with Victorian porches and gables added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The excavations on the south

side unearthed the foundations of the Dutch barn and other outbuildings also shown in the pre-1792 drawing. The small Dutch H-frame original manor house, similar to the other original manor



dwellings, is gone, an archaeological site waiting to be explored. The earlier foundation of half of the larger house is schist imported from eastern Connecticut, as are the original gravestones of Col. William Tangier Smith and Madam Martha Smith in the nearby family cemetery, indicating the family's trading network with New London of eastern Connecticut.

Archaeology at most of the manors revealed the use of the site through time by the Native people, usually from the Archaic or Woodland Period until Contact, and then the historic use of the site in the Colonial period. Some of the Lords of the Manors also held high political positions in the Colonial Assembly, judges in the courts, etc. - Col. William Tangier Smith, William Nicoll, John Winthrop, Jr. Artifacts found at Sylvester Manor indicate the wealth of the family, who later become Quakers. The probate inventories of Lion Gardiner and Col. William Tangier Smith (the only ones found so far) indicate how wealthy they were, as well as serving as bankers for the local people. The manors became extinct when the patriots won the Revolutionary War and manor lands were sold by the new New York State. However, many of the manor families had split allegiance between the Tories and the Patriots, and thus maintained ownership of some of the manor lands.

There is a truism, "the victor writes history," which is the case in Long Island history, which has been written by the descendants of the Townspeople, who came seeking more representative governance. These historians have totally left out the story of the co-existence of the manors with the towns throughout the colonial period. Dr. Stone's production of the films redressing this omission has been given the Timothy Field Beard Award for her in-depth series, The Manors of Long Island, which documents 13 manors on New York's Long Island and environs, by the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America.

Fordham University"s **Dr. Alan Gilbert** was conducting a form of above ground archaeology in collecting historic bricks of the Hudson Valley, having them tested chemically in England, and developing a time frame for them and their production. SCAA President Douglas DeRenzo had a large collection of Island historic bricks, as did Nassau County Museum Curator Gary Hammond; the author connected the collectors so that now Long Island bricks are part of this database. Brick and ceramics production was

a large part of early Long Island industrial production, with roads called Clay Pits Rd, Brick Kiln Rd., etc. indicating the many clay deposits from the Island's geological origins. The Native people also had made use of this natural resource to begin producing pit fired cooking vessels beginning in the Woodland Period about 2,000 years ago.



**Dr. Chris Matthews**, formerly of Hofstra University and now Monmouth State University of New Jersey, has pioneered working with the Higher Ground Setauket community group that seeks to maintain the Native and African American heritage of their enclave. He first excavated the Hart house in Setauket, a 19<sup>th</sup> century homestead, on the south bank of the stream once running past the oldest houses in Setauket to Conscience Bay. Once it was dammed to become the Mill Pond, it widened, so the Hart site became almost waterlogged, making for difficult excavation. Artifacts found indicate the wife probably did laundry for local families, may have had a



sewing machine (based on an oil can), and utilized the eels and fish of the area as part of their subsistence. Paintings by nationally noted local genre artist William Sidney Mount illustrate this multi-cultural community as musicians, workers, etc. and may be seen on the Internet.

Another Native/African American spot, the Tobias site on Strongs Neck was excavated in 2016 for more of this unknown local story. This showed a subsistence of fishing and eel spearing (done by all levels of Setauket society, as shown in the noted William Sidney Mount painting "Eel Spearing, which shows Setauket Native Hannah Hart spearing an eel from a boat rowed by a small boy, Jud Strong of the Manor of St. George). Chris was recently given the Three Village Historical Society's History Award



for his work revealing more about this largely unknown aspect of the Three Villages history.

Above ground archaeology studies of historic bricks by Dr.

Alan Gilbert, noted earlier, amplified the Long Island record, as has the analysis of historic gravestones by the author (Stone, Spatial and Material Aspects of Culture: Ethnicity and Ideology in Long Island Gravestones, 1670-1820, dissertation, Anthropology Department, Stony Brook University, 1987). Her master's thesis demonstrated the trade networks in gravestone procurement between eastern Long Island and their sources in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York City, which existed because Long Island has no quarryable stone (Stone, "Colonial Long Island Gravestones: Trade Network Indicators, 1670-1799," *Puritan Gravestone Art II*, Dublin Seminar, 1978).

Her doctoral dissertation analysis of over 4,300 gravestones of geographic Long Island showed statistically that Long Island was not of all English settlement, as its histories seem to indicate. The Island had 9 denominations and 8 nationalities, as indicated by the stones, with competing cultural spheres; it was located between English New England and the multi-cultural Mid-Atlantic. The cultural spheres appear to meet mid-Island, about where the Nassau/Suffolk boundary is. These findings are published in *Material Culture*, "Material Evidence of Ideological and Ethnic Choice in Long Island Gravestones, 1670-1800", Vol. 23 (1991), No. 3:1-29, and in Sacred Landscapes, Sherene Baugher and Richard Veit, eds., Society for Historical Archaeology, Monograph Series, 2009, as well as mention in their The Archaeology of American Cemeteries and Grave Markers, University of Florida Press, 2015. The author received in 2012 the New Netherland Institute Alice P. Kenney award for her contribution to the understanding of the significance of the Dutch colonial experience in North America.

Noted historical archaeologist Dr. James Deetz, who pioneered the scientific analysis of cemeteries and gravestones, consulted on the Long Island project, which continued his system of recording, and felt the Island scope was propitious, with natural boundaries, preferable to his New England study radiating out of Boston, which had to rely on artificial boundaries. The National Science Foundation partially supported the gravestone recording, and the New York Council for the Humanities partially supported the Kings and Queens County recording, which became part of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Gravestone Project, directed by City Archaeologist Dr. Sherene Baugher. The author was an early contributor of gravestone analysis papers, which now are a regular part of the Society for Historical Archaeology conferences.

Another facet of archaeological work is the scientific dating of houses being studied. The author tried to get noted historical architect Abbott Lowell Cummings to visit Sylvester Manor during the archaeological work to analyze and date the house. He said he was tired of doing that only

to find out he was wrong when dendrochronology was done, and told her to get dendro testing done by the Oxford (England) Dendrochronology group they had been working with in New England. The author secured funding for most of the sites, so they came, they worked, and only about half of the 7 houses cored could be dated. Sylvester Manor, the Halsey House of Southampton, Mulford Farm of East Hampton were not successful. The Williams house of Orient (1720), the Old House in Cutchogue (1699), Home Sweet Home (1719) and the Gardiner Brown (1746) houses in East Hampton were successful. They have formed a master pattern for the area, which has now filled in the blank spot for Long Island on the national climatological map.



The Williams house of Orient, actually three houses from the 1700s, 1800s, and 1900s combined was believed by Ralph Williams, the scientist owner, to be pre-1640 based on a lot of circumstantial evidence. Dendrochronology placed the

original construction at 1720. It has had more depth of study than most historic houses on eastern Long Island.

Much is summed up in **Frank Turano's** Ph.D. Dissertation on the site "Two Hundred Years of Family Farm Households, 1700 - 1900: The Archaeology of the Terry-Mulford Site, Orient, New York". Anthropology Department, Stony Brook University.



Another historic house with unusual archaeological research is the 1600s Halsey house in Southampton. Collector Richard Spooner had become Mayor of Southampton Village; from his archaeological work in Nassau and as a founder of the Garvies Point Museum and excavations, he proposed to the Halsey House trustees an excavation of that site. They were so worried that visitors might fall into the excavations that they agreed only if the squares were next to the foundation and were closed the day they were opened. The artifactual results, analyzed by the author and Laurie Billadello, are shown in SCAA's newsletter reports, Vol. 37, Nos. 1 and 2, 2011. This very incomplete examination of a rich Colonial site is

joined by the recent accidental discovery of a large cache (garbage dump?) of historic artifacts disclosed when a large tree fell down, its roots over the hoard. There has yet to be professional investigation of this unusual occurrence or any other parts of the site.



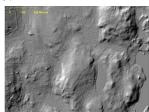
Most of the many historic house sites which have been excavated in eastern Long Island have not had published reports, so cross-site comparison on any variable is not possible. The ever-growing body of historic house/sites studies required by environmental impact statements gave rise to the 1985 SCAA publication: *The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part I - The Sites,* Vol. VII, Gaynell Stone and Donna Ottusch-Kianka, eds. The

reports published covered from Brooklyn to Suffolk Counties; Bert Salwen and Ralph Solecki provided ground breaking views of the development of historical archaeology in the region and noted some of the sites in the New York area. The editors provided useful sections on sources for archaeological reports and a list of recorded sites and artifacts in museums as known in 1985. Unfortunately, the proposed Part II on the material culture of the region has not come to fruition for intriguing Long Island, an opportunity for future scholars.

(To be continued)

#### **New Research Resource**

Lidar, a new research resource, uses lasers to see beneath tree cover, allowing Kate Johnson of the University of Connecticut **to peer into the past** – identifying old stone walls, foundations, dams, mills, and abandoned roads and paths that are obscured in aerial and satellite imagery – a type of data that was never available before.



Archaeology, May- June 2014

(Courtesy Connnecticut Environmental Conditions Online (CTECO), Courtesy 2010 USDA NRCS)

**Tick News** – Asian Longhorned Ticks, native to Asia and Australia, have now been found on Staten Island and Westchester County, as well as in New Jersey, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Arkansas. Also, Bartonella, sometimes a coinfection with Lyme Disease, has symptoms that can mimic MS, endocarditis, rheumatoid arthritis, and lupus, among other conditions. For more info – see newsletter@lymedisease.org.

### Archaeology at Sylvester Manor, Shelter Island

Dr. Steven Mrozowski of U-Mass-Boston, who conducted the most high tech archaeology in the U.S. at Sylvester Manor from 1989 to 1996, is back this Summer with a Field School at the Manor for two weeks in early June.

Interested people are welcome to visit and view the excavations.

#### Field Schools in Connecticut This Summer -

Western Connecticut U. - Templeton Site Mohegan Arch. Field School - Uncasville Southern Connecticut State U. Field School Uconn Contact Period & Battlefield Archaeology U-Mass Field School Emily Dickinson Museum Plimoth Plantation/UMass Boston Field School

Interesting to see Manhattan Island before it was the "Center of the World." Search block by block for the animals, plants, and Native Americans who occupied the Island before European settlement: <a href="www.citylab.com/">www.citylab.com/</a> weather/2015/10/explore-the-lush-overgrown-ecology-of-1600s-manhattan/408367/.

## 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).

- 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, 2d ed.
- 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: Sylvester Manor, Gardiners Island Manor, Fishers Island Manor, Manor of St. George, Smithtown Manor, Lloyd Manor, Manors of Islip Town - \$250. Per set, incl. tax and shipping; single DVD \$60 inc. tax & shipping.

## Student Series (Including shipping)

Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I. \$10. Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans \$10. Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors) \$14. Map: Native Long Island (11x17"-2 colors) \$5.

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.  Student (to 18) \$15. Individual \$25. Family 35. Sustaining 50. Contributing 100. Patron 100. Life Member 400.
Date:
Name:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Phone No
Willing to volunteer?
Occupation:

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