

SPRING 2020

Unfortunately, due to Corona Virus restrictions, our school programs at Blydenburgh Park were cancelled until further notice. Also cancelled was our Annual Spring Festival (scheduled May 9th).

We hope to reschedule everything as soon as the park and schools are open.

We are working to start a summer colonial program at the park (if possible). Our books, films, t-shirts and school materials are available at the web site SCAA-NY.ORG. Please visit us for information and to support our organization.

Looking forward to reopening and continuing to serve Long Island through educational programs, field schools, publications, and archaeological.

Douglas DeRenzo, Director SCAA, and Board Members: Dave Thompson, Diane Fish, Deanna Nelson, Randi Vogt and Laurie Billadello

Looking Back On Long Island

Spring/Summer 1774-1777

Many of us may not know just how involved the people of Long Island were in the American Revolution. Below are excerpts from *Revolutionary Incidents of Suffolk and King Counties 1849* by Henry Onderdonk, Jr.

“At a general Town Meeting, June 21, ‘74, the inhabitants of Huntington came into the following resolutions:

1st That every freeman’s property is absolutely his own, and no man has a right to take it from him without his consent, expressed either by himself or his representatives.

2^d That therefore, all taxes and duties imposed on His Majesty’s subjects in the American Colonies by the Authority of Parliament, are wholly unconstitutional, and

a plain violation of the most essential rights of British subjects.

3^d That the Act of parliament lately passed for shutting up the port of Boston, or any other means or device, under color of law, to compel them, or any other of His Majesty’s American subjects, to submit to Parliamentary taxations, are subversive of their just and constitutional liberty”

May 2, 1777: Levi Allen (brother of Ethan) posted at Mrs. Hubbard’s in Mattituck, some counterfeit bills (as a warning to the public); gave one to Rufus Tuthill, at Oyster Pond, and one to John Brown, on Fishers Island. N. London May 2 ‘77.

Aug. 25 ‘77, “Last Friday, Gen. Parsons landed 500 men from 3 Privateers at Setauket with several pieces of brass cannon, and summoned the small Fort there to surrender. The Commander, Col. Hewlitt, desired one hour to consider of the matter, when he was allowed only 10 minutes. His answer was, ‘he would defend the Fort for his Majesty King George the 3d. As long as he had a man alive;’ when a smart fire immediately ensued; but the rebels were soon obliged to embark, several of them being killed and wounded, as much blood was seen in their encampment after they went away. We had 1 killed and 2 or 3 wounded. On this occasion, the militia of Queens Co. turned out in order to support the Royal cause, but the Rebels went off with such precipitation, that the Militia were ordered to return before they reached Setauket” -- Gaine

Local Archaeology

In 2011, 18 acres of land owned by the Tuthill family in Orient was in plans for development into 17 residential lots. As the area is known to contain many archaeological sites., some dating back 600 years prior to colonial contact.

Tracker Archaeology Services, Inc. was called in to do site testing. A Phase 1A investigation was conducted to determine if the areas to be developed had any prehistoric/historic evidence on site.

One site, known as South Brown, had once been a Native American Village composed of several camps. The area is approximately 5 acres dated to approximately 600 years prior to colonial contact. The area contained numerous artifacts, a shell midden and more than 300 scrapers and quartzite fragments of tools. A possible cremation style burial site was also found there.

In 2015, a Phase 1B survey recovered more artifacts.

A local archaeologist, Dr. Joel Klein, was concerned that the town planning board wasn't considering the environmental impact that the development would cause and argued for more thorough investigations to determine if the site can be designated for placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

In May of 2019 in a Suffolk Times article by Mahreen Khan, Dr. Klein states in a letter to the Planning Board:

"The discovery of a significant archaeological site, especially one which might contain human remains, could render the parcel unusable, or usable only after a costly archaeological data recovery project."

"He was concerned that his tax dollars may have to be spent defending potential challenges brought on by an inadequately overseen subdivision proposal."

According to the article:

"Tracker's principal investigator Alfred Cammisa, will be contacting Tina Lloyd of NYS OPRHP," Mr. Terry said, to "discuss the best way forward."

Update to follow in the next newsletter.

Field and Stream magazine published an article in the June 21, 2019 issue entitled "Find a 12,000 Year Old Arrowhead With These 10 Tips." You can read the article on line. We have printed here a response to this article by the Society for American Archaeology (SAA).



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

July 2, 2019

Mr. Erik Haegerstrand
Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Perri Dorset
Vice President, Public Relations

Bonnier Corporation
2 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016

Dear Mr. Haegerstrand and Ms. Dorset:

I write on behalf of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) concerning the article "Find a 12,000-Year-Old Arrowhead With These 10 Tips" by Tom Keer, which appeared in the June 21 edition of *Field and Stream Magazine*. The item, as written, promotes behavior that is highly destructive to the cultural heritage of the nation, runs contrary to the ethics of archaeological practice, and is also potentially illegal. We request in the strongest possible terms that *Field and Stream* correct the terrible misinformation that Mr. Keer's article conveys.

As President of the SAA, I speak for an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,500 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states as well as many other nations around the world.

Archaeology is a scientific discipline involving the systematic examination and careful study of evidence relevant to human lives and lifestyles in the past. Archaeologists endeavor to stimulate interest in the past, advocate for the conservation of cultural resources, encourage public access to and appreciation of archaeology, and oppose all looting of sites and the purchase and sale of looted archaeological materials. It is crucial that excavations be carried out in a scientific manner, because once a site is dug and artifacts removed, that place can never again reveal the mysteries of the past.

Given this, the SAA has longstanding Principles of Archaeological Ethics. Mr. Keer's piece, which reduces the search for historical artifacts such as arrowheads to mere treasure-hunting, advocates behavior that would violate three of them: Stewardship, which involves working for the long-term conservation and preservation of the archaeological record; Commercialization, which opposes the buying and selling of archaeological objects and recognizes that such commodification results in the destruction of archaeological sites; and Public Education and Outreach, which underscores the importance of promoting public support for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the archaeological record.

Throughout his article, Mr. Keer discusses the potential monetary value of artifacts, and outlines research methods

to use in order to maximize the financial potential of finding them. Nowhere, however, does he even mention that archaeological sites on U.S. public lands are protected by the 1906 Antiquities Act and the 1979 Archaeological Resources Protection Act. These laws were enacted precisely because Congress recognized the nonrenewable and vulnerable nature of cultural resources, and sought to protect them from people like Mr. Keer. Particularly troubling is this paragraph:

“Most arrowheads are found on the surface of the ground, but if you find a few in close proximity to each other, many arrowhead hunters will start digging. You might find more, but here’s where it gets tricky. You might be in a sacred place like an Indian burial ground. Leave that area for the pros to check out. Consult the local resources to report such a historical find, they’re what some archeologists search for their entire lives.”

The ignorance contained in this statement is astounding. If a site is located on federal, tribal, or most state lands, it is illegal to excavate without a permit. If it is a burial ground on non-federal land, then in most cases state or tribal law prohibits any kind of tampering. If it is a Native American burial site on federal land, then it and whatever objects it contains are protected by the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Mr. Keer’s readers would never know any of this from his article.

Whatever excavations archaeologists carry out are done according to all applicable laws and regulations, and according to scientific procedures. This is for a good reason – to prevent the destruction of our shared cultural heritage.

We urge *Field and Stream* to publish a rejoinder or correction to Mr. Keer’s article as soon as possible, to inform its readers of the laws and ethics that should inform excavating and collecting activities.

Sincerely,

Joe Watkins Ph.D., RPA
President

In The News

Dating Pottery - Professor Richard Evershed and his team at the University of Bristol School of Chemistry have discovered a more accurate method to date pottery.

Previous methods to do the pottery relied on radiocarbon dating of organic materials such as bones and wood to determine an age range. The new testing involves isolation of fat compounds from the food residue in the pottery left behind from dairy or meat.

This new method has been used on a collection of Shoredith pottery from England, dating it to approximately 5,500 years. This new dating helped archaeologists to determine the diet of the farmers who made the pottery.

Grocery List from 1633 -A chance discovery in a 387 year old home in Kent, England led to a shopping list on a scrap of paper. The author, Robert Draper, wrote to a Mr. Bilby (It is thought that by the beautiful handwriting, Robert Draper was a well educated servant.)

The list requested items including - unsalted cod (greenfish), a “fire shovel” and “lights for Copt Hall” (Copped Hall, an Essex estate). Also on the list were two dozen Pewter spoons and a frying pan. Dated October 1633.

Turkey Feather Blanket - Anthropologist/ Archaeologist



Mary Weahkee was tasked by the New Mexico Dept. Of Cultural Affairs to attempt to use turkey feathers and Yucca cord to weave a blanket.

Starting in 2018 and taking 18 months to create a 2 foot by 3 foot blanket. She used examples of blankets in Museum collections throughout the United States. 68 turkeys were needed, (around 17,000 feathers). Using what she called a “simple technology.” Around 700 AD, Anasazi natives and others began keeping turkeys as livestock. The blanket served as both a water repellent garment and status symbol. (New Mexico Wildlife)

Paleolithic Village hit by Comet - Scientists and Archaeologists have teamed up to determine that a Paleolithic Village in Syria dating to 12,800 years ago was possibly destroyed by a comet fragment. The site, known as Abu Hureyra, originally excavated in 1972/73 and since flooded by dam construction has now been determined to be two sites. One built upon the other.

The comet, which broke apart in the atmosphere, produced explosions equivalent to nuclear weapons. The shock waves and resulting fires destroyed the village.

Perhaps this has happened at other sites worldwide throughout history.

A note from our one of our young students:

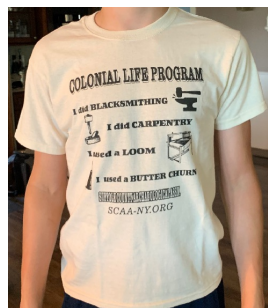
“Archaeology is important to me because it helps me learn about history. Archaeology helps you learn in a more interactive way like in a sculpture or artifact. Archaeology keeps history interesting by showing you artifacts from thousands of years ago. Archaeology helps you see what humans back in 266 b.c.e needed to survive and you learn what weapons they used and what food they ate. You could learn all this from Archeology.

I think the terra cotta warriors are my favorite thing I learned in history. In a video I found out that they are life sized and that the emperor wanted all these warriors in the after life so he could be protected in the after life. I think seeing these cool artifacts on a video was cool but one day I hope to see them in real life. That's why I wanted to write this article. In closing, archaeology helps me learn in a better ‘funner’ way.”

By Andrew Ferrandino
6th grader

The Suffolk County Archaeological Assn. welcomes questions, photos, artifacts, written stories pertaining to Long Island’s Archaeology and History. Contact us at Email: scarchaeology@gmail.com ; Phone 631-220-0918

Our new T-Shirts available on the website SCAA-NY.org



Child’s T-Shirt

Featuring crafts done at the Colonial Program. Black Smithing Carpentry, Weaving, and Butter Churning.
100% cotton



Adult T-Shirt

Featuring the original Native names of Long Island Towns.
100% cotton

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* - \$100. Per set, incl. tax and shipping; single DVD \$30 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:	
Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 532, Wading River, NY 11792 - Tel: 631-220-0918	

Programs of the S.C. Archaeological Association have been funded in part by public monies from the New York State Council of the Arts - Decentralization, the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, The Phillips Foundation, The Gerry Charitable Trust, JP Morgan Chase, RDL Gardnier Foundation, Virginia Barath, Dr. Gaynell Stone, Harriet Gamber, Margaret and Stanley Wisniewski, and County and State Legislators, especially Steve Englebright.

Douglas DeRenzo, President; Dave Thompson, Vice-President; Diane Fish, Corresponding Secretary, Deanna Nelson, Recording Sec.; Randi Vogt, Treasurer.

www.scaa-ny.org - email: scarchaeology@gmail.com