

**SUFFOLK COUNTY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

REPRESENTING BOTH SUFFOLK AND NASSAU COUNTIES

**NEWSLETTER**

*P. O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790*

Volume 9 No. 3  
1983 Fall

The 1983 Suffolk County History Conference, "Suffolk History Now--Resources for the 80's" will be held Saturday, November 5 at the Suffolk County Community College, Islip Arts Building. Selden N.Y. This conference is open to the general public and there is no admission fee required. There will be three concurrent meeting sessions along with exhibits, a preview of the movie "People of the Sea" and an address by S.C. Executive Peter F. Cohalan. Programs include:

Speaker	Topic
Gaynell Stone Levine and Dr. John Strong	The Shinnecock Indians of Eastern Long Island
Frank Turano	Colonial Forests of Long Island
Gaynell Stone Levine	Discovering History Through Maps, Pictures, Houses and Gravestones.
Kent Lightfoot	Pre-Historic Archaeology on Eastern Long Island:Recent Findings
Bernie Bookbinder	Long Island:People and Places, Past and Present

SCAA's Volume VI The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History will be available by November 5, 1983. This volume concerns the pre-history and documentary history of the Shinnecock Indians. Topics covered include: Whaling and land transactions, tribal trustee records, tenure and kinship systems, the wreck Circassian, the pow-wow and Shinnecock families. Contributing writers include Gaynell Stone Levine and Dr. John Strong. Contact either S.C. Historical Museum or N.C. Museum for price and purchase (for details see the back of this newsletter).

The SCAA newsletter format has been changed! Starting with this issue the newsletter will include brief statements from local and interested lay people concerning matters pertinent to local archaeology. This fall we welcome James E Truex's discussion on the Livingston Pond site of Lloyd Harbor. All interested parties wishing to submit a consideration should include no more than three single spaced pages with 1" margins. Artwork is limited to illustrations but exceptional photographs (B & W only) will be considered. See the back of this issue for the forwarding address of the editor.



SCAA's Volume III; The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians was reviewed in the January 1983 issue of New York History, the quarterly journal of the New York State Historical Association. It is as follows:

"One of a series whose purpose is to reprint primary and secondary sources for Long Island history, this volume, as the title indicates, presents material relating to the ethnohistory of the Montauk tribe whose few descendants reside in eastern Long Island. The present volume reprints in full Marian Fisher Ale's "A History of the Indians on Montauk, Long Island", an excellent master's thesis at New York University, first published in 1950. Lynn Ceci's introduction makes the reprint even more valuable. The remainder of the volume is comprised of primary sources relating to the Montauks and reprints of articles and other writings relating to the group. Illustrations include archaeological field sites and other maps, lithographs, and especially interesting selection of photographs of Montauks".

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PUBLICATIONS

New books from Academic Press:

Working at Archaeology by Lewis Binford 1983, 489 pages \$29.50  
Archaeology of Urban America: The Search for Pattern and Process.  
1982 Edited by Roy S Dickens Jr.. 496 pages \$39.50.

Order from the above at: P.O. Box 733, Old Chelsea Station, New York 10113

Archaeological Services Branch of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service is currently collecting information on archaeological projects concerning investigation of Afro-American historical sites to prepare an expanded and updated edition of the now out-of-print "Archaeology of Black American Culture: An Annotated Bibliography" by Bert Salwen and Geoffrey M Gyrisco, published by the Washington office of Interagency Archaeological Services. All interested parties are being encouraged to send citations, in the American Antiquity format, with a short summary (not more than 100 words) of relevant Afro-American archaeological surveys and investigations to Mr. Mark Barnes; Archaeological Services Branch, National Park Service, 75 Spring Street, SW., Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

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Continuation from page 5, Livingston Pond Site

a rim, were discovered in N5E6 and N4E5. It has been typed as Matinecock Point Incised, North Beach Focus, Windsor aspect (Smith 1950: 196-97), further confirming the occupation of the site in the Middle Woodland period. The presence at the site of the Late Woodland pottery indicates use of the site over an extended period of time.

A charcoal sample from Feature 2 of the Cusano site at Wading River, excavated by Ronald J Wyatt in 1968, provided a radiocarbon date of 1165± 90 years B.P. (785 A.D.). Feature 2 was a soft shell clam-filled pit which contained Windsor Brushed sherds and Levanna Points. It also contained several Wading River points and some grit-tempered "corded ware" potsherds (Wyatt:1977). Additional radiocarbon dates for Middle Woodland sites on Long Island appear to be lacking. Th Livingston Pond site may shed much needed light on this elusive prehistoric period in southeastern New York.



## THE LIVINGSTON POND SITE

by JAMES E TRUEX

The Livingston Pond Site (NCM #146) is located in Lloyd Harbor, an incorporated village on the north shore of Suffolk County, Long Island. It is at the south side of the harbor, within fifty yards of a small salt marsh. A freshwater pond lies to the east. The pond was created by the damming of a small stream that has its genesis in numerous springs to the south. In its present condition, the site covers less than half an acre, but may have been considerably more extensive before the dam was built. It meets most of the criteria for a northwest coastal Indian site; protection from the north and northwest winds, availability of fresh water and access to a saltwater tidal area affording an ample supply of shellfish. The midden contained the shells of hard and soft clams, oysters, scallops and mussels, as well as knobbed and channeled whelks.

Excavation of the site began in 1972. A datum point was established at 19' above sea level, and a grid pattern was laid out. Measurements were taken in feet and tenths of feet. Work proceeded intermittently, due in large part to the demands of a full time position at Friends World College, where the site is located. Occasional assistance came from students of the college, social science teachers from local schools, and others. The last of 34 five-foot squares was closed out in December of 1982. A full report on the site, with its hundreds of lithics and thousands of pot sherds, is in preparation.

In February of 1983 two charcoal samples were submitted to the Queens College Radiocarbon Laboratory for testing. The results are of sufficient interest that they are being released now, together with a brief description of the two features from which the charcoal samples were taken and some preliminary discussion of their implications for the site and the archaeology of Long Island as a whole.

Thirty-four features were identified in the course of the excavation. Many were shallow hearths penetrating less than half a foot below the surrounding midden layer. There were also clusters of stones, and a few clearly-defined baking pits. Features 15 and 26 were selected for Carbon-14 testing on the basis of artifactual associations and the quality and quantity of charcoal retrieved.

### Feature 15

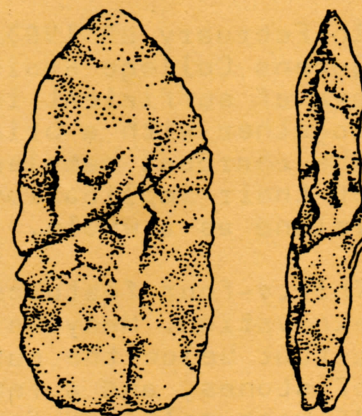
This feature, apparently a shellfish baking pit, was found near the center of square N5E3, located about 25 feet from the pond and toward the northern limit of the midden. Layer #1, a brown compact loam was deeper than was customary measuring 1.3 feet at the center of the square. Early maps suggest the site was under cultivation as far back as 1685 (Papers of the Lloyd Family of the Manor of Queens Village 1654 - 1826. Published by New York



Historical Society 1927, page 66). Whether or not this was the case, the midden in the northern portion of the site appears not to have been greatly disturbed. Generally the shell midden layer is a foot or less beneath the surface of the ground. Below that is a yellow-brown mottled layer, which in turn rests on a yellow, pebbly, sterile soil. While these primary divisions are fairly discrete, distinctions between periods of aboriginal occupation are not. The midden layer in square N5E3 was only 0.4 feet thick, and yet it contained 231 pot sherds, an unusually large number for a square within the site, Only five sherds were found in layer #1.

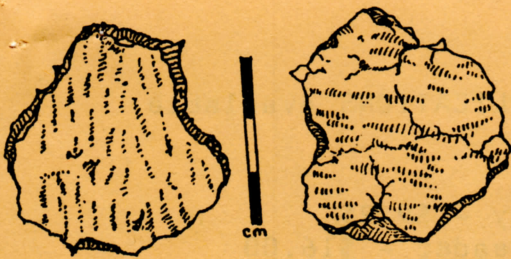
The baking pit was found at the base of layer #2. It extends 0.9 feet into layer #3 and the sterile soil beneath. It was ovoid in shape. A large, flat rock 0.9' by 0.4' lay at its northern edge. Two firecracked rocks were located 0.3' to the west. The sides of the pit were slightly convex, descending to a level base. The soil was dark brown--black when wet--much resembling the soil in the midden area above. Care was taken to dig the pit vertically across the center so that a north-south profile could be observed and photographed. When the entire pit was dug, it was found to contain at its base one large, irregular and one smaller rounded stone. A count of shells in the pit came to 59½ oysters, 40½ soft clam shells and 5½ hard clam shells. It is conceivable that these shells represent the principal remains of a single meal, thrown back into the pit where they had been cooked. Also found were quartz flakes, the base of a broken quartz knife blade and three sherds, The other half or the knife was recovered in the midden area, a few feet from the pit. The lanceolate blade is grey quartz, 4 cm wide by 8 cm long. Two of the three sherds are rims. All are from the same vessel. One of the rim sherds has a mending hole or carrying hole.

The vessel's temper is crushed shell, with shell fragments as large as 9mm. The occasional coarse sand grain was probably present in the untempered clay. The shell particles at the surface tend to leach out. The vessel is well-fired. In cross-section the color is red on inner and outer surfaces, with some shading to brown in the center. The large rim sherd (with carrying hole) is brown to black on its exterior, probably due to its placement in the baking pit. The rim is plain, slightly flattened at the lip. The sides were probably straight. The exterior is brushed, leaving pronounced but random diagonal channeling. The interior is wiped smooth. Other sherds from this same vessel were found in layer #2 of four neighboring squares. The sherds in the baking pit were in a better state of preservation than the others, many of which were badly pitted and eroded.



Livingston Pond #146  
Quartz Knife from N5E3  
(lower half from pit)





exterior  
Vinette-type sherd from N5E6

interior

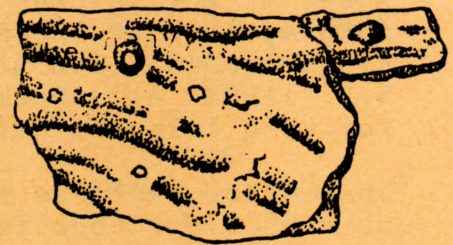
The carbon test for the charcoal from the baking pit resulted in a date of 1630 + 80 years B.P., placing the possible earliest occupation of the site in the Middle Woodland Period.

#### Feature 26

This feature is the largest encountered in the course of the excavation, measured both horizontally and vertically. Viewed horizontally, it is pear-shaped, over 6.00' long and 3.00' at its widest point. The pit

was first detected in the SE corner of square N5E5. It continued eastward into and across N5E6, reaching a depth of 12.8' ASL (app. 3' from the surface). As the pit approached the east wall of N5E6, it narrowed and became more shallow. At the edges of the pit were three small, rounded hearths. The midden directly above and descending into the pit contained an unusual number of tightly-packed whole and nearly whole shells. The soil at this level was alkaline, with a Ph of 7+. It appeared in digging that oysters and hard shell clams predominated. However, a careful study of several samples showed that in fact a larger amount of soft shell clams was present, with oyster and hard shell clam vying for second place, scallops a distant fourth and whelk last.

The charcoal sample gathered for testing came from the heavy shell area. Beneath this shell layer was a thin layer of soil darkened by pulverized charcoal and containing few shells. The individual charcoal samples were unusually large, some over 1 cm, with the wood grain plainly visible. The test resulted in a date of 1255+ 75 years B.P., or 695 A.D.+ 75 years. The director of the Queens College radiocarbon testing program regards this date as the more reliable of the two. The charcoal sample from the small baking pit had to be diluted. The sample from the large refuse pit was large enough that dilution was unnecessary.



Livingston Pond #146  
Rim sherds from N5E3  
(Larger from baking pit)

Justification can, however, be found for the separation in time between the two tested areas, when the large pit was first dug in aboriginal times. The dirt from the pit appears to have been piled up to the south of the two squares (N5E5, N5E6). In fact, a large, crude stone hoe was found at the top of layer #2 just above the pit. This mound of yellow clayey soil overlies a thin shell midden, which rejoins an upper midden, about four feet to the south. Thus at least a portion of the site must have been older than the pit.

A comparison of the pottery at N5E3 and N5E6 is less supportive of the time sequence. The 231 pot sherds in N5E3, layer #2, represented a number of pottery types. In contrast, N5E6 yielded only 41 sherds, of which 26 were from a single grit tempered vessel, cord-marked on its interior and exterior. These Vinette-type sherds were scattered from top to bottom of the feature. At the edge of the same feature, but located in square N5E5, a small grit-tempered sherd was found with a smooth interior and intricate curvilinear stab-and-drag design on its exterior. Sherds from the same vessel, including



rim curvilinear  
Matinecock Point Incised  
sherds from square N5E5

CONTINUED ON BACK OF FIRST PAGE OF NEWSLETTER.



SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS available for purchase are:

- Volume I - Early Papers in Archaeology - \$9.25
- Volume II - The Coastal Archaeology Reader - \$16.00
- Volume III - History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians - \$18.50
- Volume V - The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader - \$22.50
- Suffolk County Cultural Resources Inventory - \$3.10

NOW AVAILABLE to libraries, institutions and all other interested parties, back issues of the SCAA Newsletter for \$5.00 per year. This would enable compilation of complete sets for research and reference. Contact SCAA at the address below.

All other publications can be purchased at: The Weathervane Shop, Suffolk County Historical Society, 300 West Main Street, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901. Include the following charges for postage and handling: 0-\$5.00: \$1.00, \$5.01 - \$10.00; \$1.25 and for each additional five dollar increment add \$0.25. A total of \$3.00 is required for a set of the volumes. Contact: Diane Perry at 727-2881 for additional information. At the Nassau County Museum Giftshops contact: The Old Bethpage Restoration Giftshop, Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804. All checks should be addressed to "The Friends for Long Island's Heritage".

SCAA Board Meetings are held at the Hoyt Farm, New Highway, Commack at 8:00 P.M.. Location of the Hoyt Farm: Just west of the Happaugue County Center, At light, turn west off Vetern Memorial Highway onto New Highway - 1.5 miles on the left, at the light, through the parking lot to the Manor House. The Meeting schedule is as follows: October 18, November 15 and December 20. This is the third Tuesday of each month. There will be no meetings during the months of January or February.

The next newsletter publication is February 1984. Material for inclusion should be forwarded to Donna I Ottusch-Kianka, 9 Tanglewood Lane, Sea Cliff, New York 11579. Deadline for the Winter issue is January 15, 1984.

-----MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION-----

This newsletter, a free publication on local archaeology and reduced rates to workshops and all SCAA publications (20%) come with membership. Fees as of April 1982 are:

_____ Life	\$200.00	_____ Family	\$15.00
_____ Patron	\$100.00	_____ Individual	\$10.00
_____ Contributing	\$ 50.00	_____ Student	\$ 5.00
_____ Sustaining	\$ 25.00		(up to age 18)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to SCAA, P.O. Drawer, AR, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790  
Contributions are tax deductible.