

### **Suffolk County Archaeological Assn. Blydenburg Program**

This end of another successful season at Blydenburg Park for the Colonial Life Program.

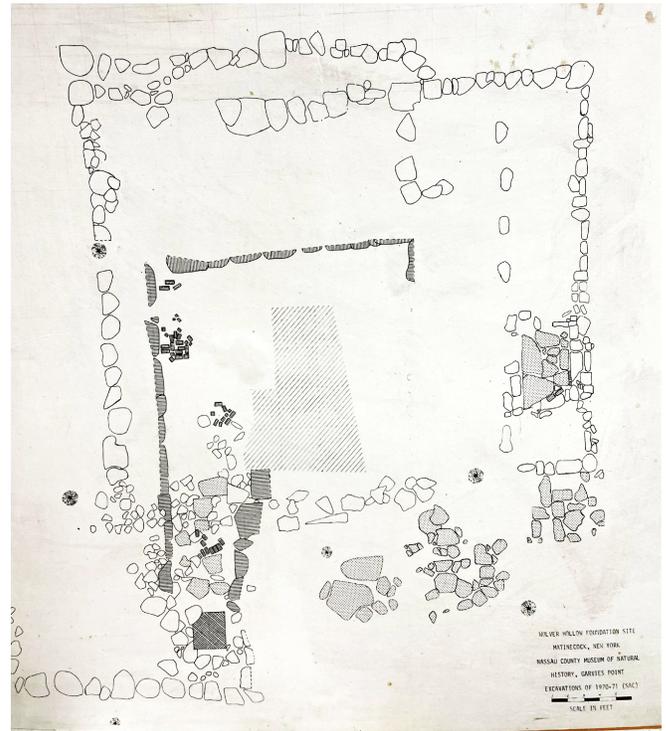
This spring we hosted 23 schools and ran the program for 46 days accommodating approximately 2,100 students.

Each student had the opportunity to participate in Colonial Life workshops - colonial cooking, weaving, blacksmithing, and carpentry.

A special thanks for our docents who worked at the program.

### **The Archaeology of the Wolver Hollow Site Foundation**

In 1970, Garvies Point Museum, under the direction of archaeologist Ronald Wyatt, conducted a detailed excavation of a house site located on a private estate in Locust Valley, Long Island. The investigation revealed the stone foundation of a modest 19th-century farmhouse, along with a wide range of domestic and agricultural artifacts typical of the period. The artifact assemblage included architectural remnants such as hand-wrought nails, window glass, fireplace bricks, and unmortared fieldstone, alongside everyday household items like ceramics, glassware, buttons, sewing needles, wire, fragments of a tilt-top table, a broken mirror, and blacksmithing tools. Animal bone fragments—likely kitchen refuse—were also recovered. Notably, the assemblage included Indigenous artifacts, probably collected by children at the house, serving as a reminder of earlier Native American presence in the area.



The house foundation appears to have been used as a refuse pit after the building was razed, a common practice in the 19th century, when formal garbage disposal was limited. Valuables were removed by the Thorne family, while unwanted household goods were discarded into the cellar. Although the excavation did not uncover additional features, Herb Scheirhorst, president of the Locust Valley Historical Society, reported that locals recalled finding other trash pits in the area during childhood explorations.

The farmhouse was constructed around 1797 by James Thorne and his wife, Mary Cock, who raised two sons: Leonard and Samuel. Leonard moved to Roslyn and became a farmer, while Samuel remained on the Locust Valley property until his death. His son, Isaac Thorne, continued the family's agricultural operations. Samuel's wife, Maria Hoogland appears to have lived in the home until her death in 1880.

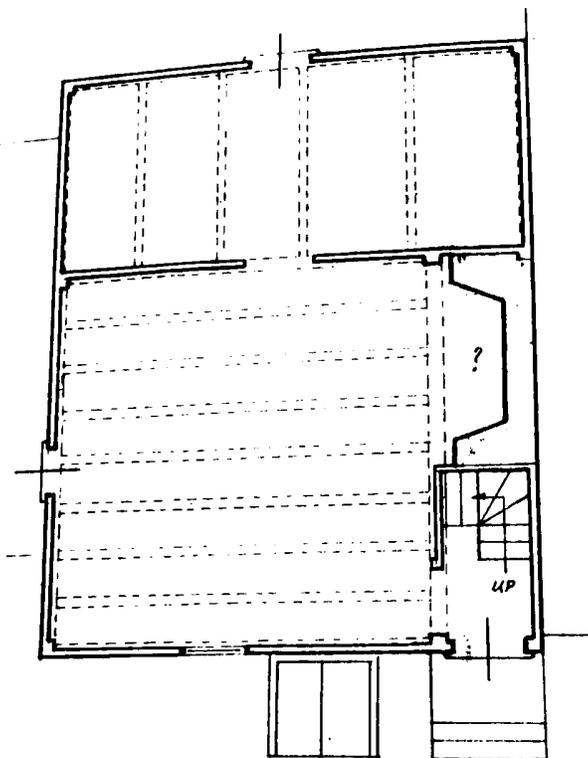
The house was likely demolished between 1880 and 1886, as no descendants chose to occupy it having relocated to other homes across Long Island, New York City, and upstate New York.

By then, the house was outdated and deteriorating. It retained its original footprint and layout, and had never been modernized with later 19th-century improvements such as indoor plumbing or updated heating. Small in scale, the structure likely



**Van Nostrand - Starkins House  
as it appeared about 1730**

featured a simple, possibly open floor plan: a combined living and kitchen space with a large hearth (possibly still used for cooking into the 1880s) and one or two rear bedrooms. Access was provided by three modest doors—one facing the road, another near the basement steps (possibly fitted with early “Bilco-style” doors), and a third between the hearth and bedroom area. Due to its modest size, off-road location, and signs of



long-term use, the house likely had limited reuse potential and may have stood briefly vacant or tenant-occupied before demolition.

Architecturally, the Thorne house closely resembled the Van Nostrand-Starkins House in nearby Roslyn, which has been restored to its circa-1800 form. A floor plan published by the Roslyn Landmark Society in its 40th Annual House Tour Guide supports this similarity. Like the Van Nostrand-Starkins House, the Wolver Hollow site was likely a one-and-a-half-story structure with a comparable layout and scale.

A second stone foundation—discovered in 1981 by Donna Ottusch Kianka, was located approximately 150 feet south of the Thorne house. This belonged to Morris and Nancy (or Ann) Frost, a free Black couple who acquired 2.75 acres from Samuel Thorne around 1840. Deed analysis shows that a hedge separated the two properties, and that Morris Frost initially maintained a garden on his parcel. According to his 1855 will, Ann Frost inherited all personal and real property, including a cow, hogs, poultry, and farm implements—demonstrating the couple’s self-sufficiency and deep connection to the land. The Frosts were part of a broader network of free Black landowners along Long Island’s North Shore during the 19th century. Ann Frost later deeded the property to her great-grandson, David Potter (Liber 242, page 61), who sold it back to Isaac Thorne in 1865, bringing the Frost family’s chapter of independent landownership to a close.

Today, Garvies Point Museum is developing a new exhibit titled Pathways to American Freedom, which will explore the parallel and intersecting histories of the Thorne and Frost families. The Thornes, as Quakers, sought religious freedom and spiritual equality. The Frosts, descended from formerly enslaved people, pursued freedom through landownership, self-reliance, and intergenerational resilience. Together, their stories offer a powerful narrative of faith, perseverance, and the pursuit of liberty on Long Island’s North Shore. The exhibit is scheduled to open next year and will become part of the museum’s semi-permanent collection.

Source: Donna Ottusch Kianka

References:

- Gerry, Roger, Peggy Gerry, Harrison Hunt et al., 2000  
Roslyn Landmark Society Annual House Tour Guide. Roslyn Landmark Society. On file at the Bryant Library, Roslyn, N.Y.

New York Will and Probate Records.  
Queens County Surrogate Vol.7

Queens County Deeds,  
City Register, 88-11, Sutphin Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11435.  
Jamaica. New York

Wyatt, Ronald, Daniel Kaplan and Donna Ottusch Kianka,  
1970-2024 Wolver Hollow House Site File. NCM #133,  
Garvies Point Museum, Glen Cove, NY

## EARLY WRITING

Early writing found on a ceramic pot handle in the island of Therasia (Santorini) Greece.

Dating back to the Bronze Age Minoan civilization, these seal impressions from 4,000 years ago used symbols in rows. Alphabet writing hadn't been invented yet. Archaeologists believe that they are similar to hieroglyphics found in Crete.

A second impression on a handle was just designs of triangles and zig zags - not like the Proto-writing of the first mentioned handle impressions. It could be evidence of the beginnings of writing and not just symbolic.

Source: Union Rayo - June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Sandra V.

## DATING AT WHITE SANDS

A new dating of the White Sands foot prints (White Sands National Park, New Mexico).

The foot print found in 2009, has placed their date to between 22,000 to 24,000 years ago. 10,000 years older than the Clovis Culture. At the time the northern half of North America was buried by miles thick ice sheets. This may corroborate the theories of Randal Carlson and Graham Hancock.



Source: *ARSTECHNICA* - June 18,2025 - Jennifer Ouellette

## OLDEST 3D CARVINGS

French scientists believe that stone reliefs and engravings found in a cave near Paris are the oldest 3D maps found. The carvings seem to show hydrological (vector) and geomorphological (land shapes) features of the area. Amazing comprehension and accomplishments for the time. Upper paleolithic (20,000 plus years ago).

The article and photographs are in the *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*.

Source: *Stone Age Archaeology*

by Guillermo Carvajal, Jan. 3, 2025.

## ILLEGAL EXCAVATING

Ray Everett Jordan, Jr., 57, a Georgetown, Louisiana man, has been sentenced to 24 months in prison for illegally excavating archaeological sites in the Kistehia National Forest in Grant Parish.

He had in his home a collection of arrow heads and pottery shards. he had stolen the artifacts in 2022.

KALB News July 17<sup>th</sup> 2025, *Digital News Team*

## OLDEST WOODEN TOOLS

300,000 year old wooden tools that were found in Yunnan province, China, are believed to be the oldest wooden artifacts found in East Asia. Thought to be digging sticks to dig up plants and roots, they are made of pine and hardwood. Hook shaped wooden tools were also found, perhaps for cutting roots. They were found in an ancient lake bed in clay sediment.



Source: Archaeology News Online Magazine

## NORTH CAROLINA SHIPWRECKS

A number of shipwreck sites have been discovered on the coast of North Carolina. Students from East Carolina, working with marine archaeologists, came upon ships remains at the area formerly known as Brunswick Tow, a British colonial city.

They are is approximate 12 miles south of Wilmington. Sites of four separate shipwrecks were found including what may be a Spanish warship LaFortuna. Testing on the timbers discovered by student divers reveal the wood to be a type of cypress tree from California and Central America.

A cannon was found in this area in 1985. The ship exploded and the cargo recovered helped pay for two churches to be built in the area.

*Smithsonian Magazine* - Aug. 2025  
Christian Thorsberg.

## ANCIENT BARK TAR

Ancient birch tar reveals how Europe's first farmers chewed, cooked, and crafted 6,000 years ago.



*Archaeology News Online Magazine.*

Birthday wishes to our founder, Dr. Gaynell Stone who is 96 on Dec. 4. She resides at The Bristol, 400 Sutton Ct. Mt. Sinai, NY 11766

## OBITUARIES

**Shirley W. Dunn** of East Greenbush, NY died on 4/25/2025 at the age of 93. She worked as a teacher, museum interpreter, editor, and historic preservationist. She wrote and edited books on Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation and the Dutch of NY. Shirley will be remembered for her work for New York Native American and Dutch History.

**Publications of the Suffolk Cty 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. Bulk pricing is available.

- 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.
- Past newsletters available on our web site**
- 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) \$20.
  - Map: *Native Long Island* (11x17"-2 colors) \$ 5.

### 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

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