



A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 248

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

September 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 7, 2018

Dear Members,

Hope everyone enjoyed the summer, and we all are excited about the wonderful archaeological events that will be happening in Connecticut this fall. Classes are in session and we are looking forward to the 2018 Archaeological Expo at the Pequot Museum on October 13. At the Expo, the ASC expects to have a table, and is providing a slate of speakers.

The theme will be ongoing research occurring over the summer. Connecticut State Archaeologist Brian Jones will present his important work at two of the state's most important historic sites, the Lt. John Hollister site in Glastonbury, and the Mason-Marshall site in Windsor. Sarah Sportman will be talking about the exciting 17th century finds in Wethersfield. I will be presenting on the Templeton site in Washington Depot, where my students along with Zachary Singer have worked over the past two years during our summer field school.

The exciting discovery of a contact period Indian fort has been in the national news this summer, in Norwalk where preparations are being made to replace the century-old Walk Bridge. In this newsletter read the details behind all the buzz in an article by Sarah Sportman, one of the principal researchers.

This will be the first ASC meeting with the new slate of officers in place. Ernie Wiegand has taken over as treasurer, and Sarah Sportman is the acting secretary. Scott Brady, the new FOSA president, is our FOSA representative. I will be serving as president, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and say how excited I am to have this opportunity. I promise all that I will continue the tradition of hard work promoting education and research, as well as providing members a rewarding experience to thank them for their invaluable participation.

We are also excited to see Sarah Sportman take the reins as the Editor of the ASC Bulletin next year. For this year Lucianne Lavin will put together her thirtieth, and last, bulletin. We

extend a heartfelt thanks to Lucianne for providing us all with such a professionally edited bulletin over the past 30 years and wish her all the best.

We continue to make progress on the Dave Thompson's manuscript for the Binette site. However, just as we appeared to be reaching a conclusion, numerous new boxes of artifacts were found. Ernie Wiegand is currently documenting the new material which includes faunal and botanical remains. We are also currently making plans to reconstruct the ASC website.

Again, hope this has been an enjoyable summer for everyone, and hope to see you at the Archaeology Expo in October.

Cosimo Sgarlata
President

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NEWS FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

Summer 2018

Now that the summer excavation season has wound down, I have some time to summarize the Office of State Archaeology and CT State Museum of Natural History public archaeology programs we conducted. We kicked off with the 13th year of our Kids' Archaeology Week program at the Farwell House site, an 18th century house location on UConn property. One of my former Educators' Field School participants produced an educational video that week that you may want to check out: "What Does an Archaeologist Really Do" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0bTbHxmLqU&t=2s>.



Pipe stem with fleur-de-lis cartouche

After that it was the third year of our Archaeology Field School for Educators followed by our new Vets' Archaeology Field School, both at the 17th-18th century Mason/Marshall site in Windsor, CT. These two weeks were focused on exposing the western portion of the house cellar feature first identified in radar back in 2015. Though we kept to the topsoil

horizon we uncovered some excellent examples of early 18th century and probable 17th century ceramics, as well as an uncommon kaolin pipe stem with a cartouche of four fleur de lis (1650-1680). Once the cellar feature was exposed, we had it photographed by drone pilot Paul Coco, known for his aerial video work at Old Newgate Prison. These photos will permit a 3-D rendering of the excavation.

In early August we conducted our CT State Museum of Natural History Adult Field School and Friends of the Office of State Archaeology Field School back at the 17th Hollister Site in Glastonbury, CT. This year we focused on a radar feature at the south end of the site interpreted as a possible wigwam floor. After two weeks of hard work, we were able to determine that it was actually a second plank-lined cellar. This is now the sixth cellar feature at the site. In addition to the discovery of enough large redware sherds to indicate a probable dairying function for this area of the site, the cellar floor produced a large iron mattock and a well-preserved example of tin-glazed earthenware with the Chinese Scholar motif (1675-1695). The most remarkable find, however, was a dime-sized Arabic coin that was identified by Islamic coin specialist Stephen Album as a 1692 silver "khamsiya" of the Zaydi Imam of Yemen, Muhammad III (bin Muhammad), who ruled AD 1687-1718. Research into the history of similar Yemen coins in southern New England turned up an important 2017 article by James Bailey (The Colonial Newsletter, 57(2): 4575-4618) who very clearly links the appearance of these coins to increased Arab Sea piracy in the 1690s. Many of these pirates used Newport Rhode Island as a safe haven, and the coins were eagerly picked up by colonists for whom currency was in very short supply. The exact link between this small bit of probable pirate loot and the Hollister site is a mystery, but it may simply have been acquired as small change after a transaction at a local inn.



Arabic coin



Delftware Chinese Scholar

In addition to these more focused 1-week programs, OSA ran one day public archaeology events for local Historical Societies in Glastonbury, Stonington and East Lyme. Though we had some weather issues, I was also pleased to conduct our second multidisciplinary program with the Hartford area riding group and summer camp program known as the Ebony Horsewomen. Forty kids rotated through four stations including archaeology, environmental science, urban gardening and, to top it off, music by Mixashawn, a local jazz musician influenced by his Native American roots. The program was financially supported by the Connecticut Humanities and FOSA. All of the above events were mentored by experienced FOSA volunteers, without whom the programs would not have been possible. Most of the summer's activities were documented daily on my OSA

Facebook page, so check that out for more pictures and short videos: https://www.facebook.com/pg/CTA_rchaeology/posts/. More info on OSA can also be found at <https://osa.uconn.edu>.

*Brian Jones
State Archaeologist*

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



FOSA NEWS

Greeting ASC Friends,

What an exciting field season we've had so far! FOSA members have once again stepped up to the plate and volunteered hundreds of hours at over fifteen excavations and outreach events. During the season, we've worked alongside members from the ASC and Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club as well as students from the UConn and WestConn field schools. I've learned much doing so but have enjoyed the comradery and shared passions even more.

Soon the weather will intrude on further excavations and FOSA volunteers will begin the process of cleaning, sorting and cataloging the thousands of artifacts recovered this season. There is always more to be done! Contact me at fosa.ct@gmail.com if you would like to learn how to get involved.

I look forward to seeing you at the CT Archaeology Expo on October 13th at the Pequot Museum.

*Scott Brady
President-FOSA*

Archaeology Club of Norwalk Community College



Sept Oct 2018 Meetings

**Thursday, September 13, 2018
8:00 Culinary Arts Dining Room,
West Campus –**

Three Talks on Regional Topics

Plymouth or Plimoth - Both Rock!
By Rob Wallace

In 1620 a group of English citizens, now known as the Pilgrims, set out for the New World for religious and economic reasons. After reaching what is now Cape Cod, Massachusetts, the settlers found a safe harbor to establish a colony in what is now the town of Plymouth. Now archaeologists are trying to establish if any of this original settlement can still be found.

In March of this year, Rob Wallace and his wife attended a lecture at the annual Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) meeting featuring Dr. Christa Beranek of University of Massachusetts Boston. Dr. Beranek and Dr. David Landon have been conducting several field schools in the section of Plymouth called Burial Hill and gave the results of some of the archaeological investigations conducted there.



Plimoth Plantation today

Dr. Beranek's talk inspired Rob to make his own trip to see Plymouth and the Plimoth Plantation. Rob's presentation will be a travelogue that also includes some of the archaeological investigations that took place in the area over the years.

Rob is a graduate of the archaeology program and has helped out on many excavations with the club and directed a few excavations on his own. He is a member of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and Friends of the Office of State Archaeology.

The Brush Island Site: A Single-component Orient Phase Site in Greenwich Connecticut Ernest A. Wiegand



Native Americans of the Orient phase occupied southern New England and coastal New York between about 1200-700 B.C., straddling the late Terminal Archaic and Early Woodland periods. Although found throughout this region, Orient phase sites are not numerous in southwestern Connecticut. Known sites include a steatite quarry-workshop in New Canaan and a number of small camps, most of which are known from surface collections. Those few that have been excavated under controlled conditions have been at multicomponent sites where the mixture of deposits have limited their analyses and interpretation. Some of these were discovered and excavated by NCC archaeology students and club members, and include the Finch's Corner site in Stamford and the Watts site in Westport.



Points from Brush Island site

The discovery of the Brush Island site in coastal Greenwich is the first undisturbed single component Orient site from southwestern Connecticut. As such, it offered an opportunity to study a site with high levels of integrity. Ernest Wiegand will present the results of this investigation along with a comparison with other local Orient phase sites.

THE DONATO COLLECTION

Jeff Zaino

Archaeology as an Avocation student, Jeff Zaino, will talk about his *Advanced Techniques in Archaeology* site survey project. The presentation will explore a rich private collection which represents over sixty years of collecting by long-time Woodbridge CT resident, Simon Donato. The collection was harvested from approximately eighty acres of farmland situated in the southeastern corner of Woodbridge, Connecticut, an area referred to locally as “The Flats.”



Donato Collection - Early Archaic to Late Archaic

“The Flats” lie at the foot of the towering trap rock columns of West Rock Ridge, an area with a long and fascinating history of continuous human occupation and reliance on the abundant resources so readily

available in this biologically diverse environment.

It is estimated the collection, which was entirely surface-collected, consists of well over 700 artifacts, including projectile points, lithic tools and ornaments spanning a remarkable timescale stretching from the Early Archaic (9,000 – 8,000 BP) to the Late Woodland (1,000 – 400 BP) periods. Past archaeological research in the area has revealed the many uses this unique and hospitable landscape provided man over millennia including tool and pendant manufacturing, hunting, quarrying, lookout and information gathering, and cultivating crops.



Donato Collection – Levanna and Madison

**Thursday, October 11, 2018 8:00
Culinary Arts Dining Room, West
Campus –**

A Bronze Age Cemetery in Eastern Hungary

Julia I. Giblin - Quinnipiac



Julia I. Giblin is an American Co-Director of the BAKOTA (Bronze Age Körös Off Tell Archaeology) project and Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Quinnipiac University. As an anthropological

archaeologist, she studies the dynamics between environment, subsistence, mobility, and mortuary customs to reconstruct landscape use and social organization in prehistoric Europe.



BAKOTA Lab

Dr. Giblin will discuss her collaborative fieldwork for the BAKOTA Project, a multi-disciplinary field research program that brings together an international group of scholars and students to study the human burials and material culture of a Middle Bronze Age cemetery and settlement in eastern Hungary. Her research combines techniques from remote sensing, soil chemistry, systematic surface collection, and targeted excavations to identify the extent and activity areas of the site. Ceramic petrography, biological anthropology, CT scanning, isotope analysis and ancient DNA are used to understand demographic trends and mortuary customs.

Dr. Giblin’s primary area of interest for BAKOTA is to understand how travel and participation in trade networks affected sociocultural change and the emergence of social inequality in later European prehistory. During the Bronze Age, social inequality becomes entrenched in many parts of Europe, never to return to the more egalitarian relationships of the earlier Neolithic and Copper Age. Powerful chieftains are buried with chariots, large fortified villages control the production in metals, and a dense network of trade connected the Mediterranean with Northern Europe. Archaeologists argue that it was control of this trade that allowed an elite class of warriors to emerge and travel great distances.



BAKOTA burial

Her work with BAKOTA seeks to answer questions such as; was social inequality really a necessary consequence of participation in this trade and under what conditions could more egalitarian relationships prevail? Research at the Middle Bronze Age cemetery is helping archaeologists answer these questions during a time when massive social changes were affecting economic and political systems across Europe (2000-1500 BC).



BAKOTA cremation urn

WEBB-DEANE-STEVENSON MUSEUM

Walt Woodward Talk: The Wethersfield War: Hunger, Rumor and the Cost of Battles Fought & Not

On Thursday, September 27, 2018, at 6:30 p.m., join the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum to see why scholars believe recent discoveries on the grounds of the museum may be among the most important archaeological finds in Connecticut. The free event in the Webb Barn will be preceded by a wine reception, by donation, at 6 p.m.

State Historian Walter W. Woodward will discuss the events surrounding the devastating surprise

attack in late April 1637 on the Puritan community at Wethersfield. It was the precipitating event that resulted in the Pequot War, in which the Connecticut plantations, Massachusetts colony and their Indian allies defeated the strongest tribal nation in southern New England. The War had an impact on the eventual shift in the balance of power from indigenous people to the more recently arrived colonists, but it was not without years of unsettling worry, fear and stress in Connecticut about the dangers posed by the Indian population still living among them. Woodward's thought-provoking and image-rich presentation will examine the role that rumors played in the early wars between English settlers and the native people whose land they occupied. Woodward will argue that rumors, rather than actual conflict, resulted in a great expenditure of time, resources, and psychic energy.

Recent archaeological work at the Webb-Deane-Stevens Museum, carried out by the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (PAST) in 2016 and 2017, resulted in several exciting discoveries related to the pre-and post-Pequot War conflict. The work was required by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office to ensure that significant archaeological resources would not be impacted by the construction of a new Education and Visitor Center for the Museum, which is scheduled for 2018-19.

The most significant find by the archaeologists is the discovery of an intact palisaded or fortified wall associated with a large assemblage of artifacts that date to the 1630s, the time of Wethersfield's initial settlement. Woodward asserts that

these discoveries at WDS provide invaluable information that helps historians and archaeologists to understand better this early period in Connecticut history, about which very little is known. The palisade

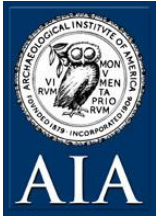


Ross Harper and PAST team at WDS

indicates that Wethersfield's settlers felt the need to protect themselves with a wall around their homes while, at the same time, trading with Native peoples as evidenced by the discovery of wampum and other artifacts that provide evidence of trade with Native peoples.

Whether they know the story of Pequot War in Wethersfield well or barely at all, Woodward's presentation will enlighten attendees on the importance of the first of New England's Indian Wars and how central Wethersfield was to that conflict.

Woodward is the state historian and an associate professor of history at the University of Connecticut's Hartford campus. He writes the column "From the State Historian" in *Connecticut Explored: The Magazine of Connecticut History*, and in collaboration with that publication, produces "Grating the Nutmeg," the podcast of Connecticut history. With Connecticut Humanities, the Office of the State Historian produces "Today in Connecticut History," a daily report broadcast on Connecticut Public Radio.



**American
Institute of
Archaeology**

Hartford Society Contact:
Prof. Martha Risser
martha.risser@trincoll.edu

The Hartford Society of AIA will
host the following lectures at the
Boyer Auditorium, Liffe Science
Center:

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 - 5:00pm

Dissemination or synoecism?
Archaeological perspectives on the
socio-cultural transformation of
Etruria from 900-580 BC
AIA National Lecture by Paul M.
Miller

Tuesday March 12, 2019, 5:00pm
“Amazons in ancient Roman art”
Alison Poe, University of Fairfield

Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - 5:00pm
Altars of Zeus, Games for the Gods:
Mt. Lykaion and Olympia in Early
Greek Religion
AIA National Lecture by David
Gilman Romano

New Haven Society Contact:
Carolyn M. Laferrière

carolyn.laferriere@yale.edu

Website:
<http://www.yale.edu/aia>

Society Events

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 - 5:30pm
Reflections on Ancient Greek
Mirrors
AIA National Lecture by Mireille
M. Lee

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 - 5:30pm
Barge of Heaven: Cleopatra the
Goddess
AIA National Lecture by Alison
Futrell



THE INSTITUTE FOR
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
museum & research center

38 Curtis Road

Washington, CT 06790

13th Annual Native American-Archaeology Round Table Conference

***The Benefits of Multiple Perspectives for Interpreting Our Local Histories and
Cultural Heritage: Decolonizing New England Archaeology and Museum Studies***

Saturday, October 27, 2018

8:30 am-4:45pm

Abstract

“Colonialism” has been defined as when one nation seizes control of another nation’s natural resources and peoples for profit. An extreme form is “settler colonialism”, in which the invading nation attempts to permanently settle the territory by eliminating the native population and erasing its culture.¹ In recent years, several researchers have branded the colonization of New England colonialism as settler colonialism.² “Decolonization” is the act of undoing the effects of colonization. It includes removing the cultural biases of the dominant colonial culture from historical interpretations to allow a more accurate presentation of a country’s past and present history and heritage. Recently, the decolonization movement has begun to remove the confines of colonial histories in the study of indigenous and other once “marginalized peoples”. Acts like NAGPRA, along with efforts to involve members from these communities in all aspects of historical study and programming have created new, more accurate interpretations that utilize archaeology, oral tradition, and written documentation to correctly incorporate indigenous, captive, and emigrant lifeways and thought into the larger history of the Americas. Papers presented in this conference express

efforts by museum professionals, archaeologists, historians, and indigenous leadership to decolonize archaeological, historical, and museum studies in the 21st Century.

¹ Patrick Wolfe, 2006, "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native", *Journal of Genocide Research* 8(4): 387-409; Danielle N. Bennett "Decolonizing Museum Session at NEMA", November 19, 2017, web site entitled *Museum Studies at Tufts University*, <http://sites.tufts.edu/museumstudents/2017/11/19/decolonizing-museums-session-at-nema/>.

² Amy Den Ouden, 2005, *Beyond Conquest: Native Peoples and the Struggle for History in New England*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln; Jean M. O'Brien, 2010, *Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis; J. Kehaulani Kauanui, 2017, "Challenging Settler Colonialism in the Recovery of Wangunk Tribal History", *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 79:37-40.

This event will take place at the Shepaug Valley High School, located at 159 South Street, Washington, CT. For more details, visit our website at www.iaismuseum.org.

Refreshments will be served. PUBLIC WELCOME!

Admission is \$10 at the door, which includes admission to the IAIS museum.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:30-9:45 Registration & Refreshments

9:45-10:00 Dr. Lucianne Lavin (Institute for American Indian Studies)
"Welcome & Introduction"

10:00-10:30 Dr. J. Kehaulani Kauanui (Wesleyan University)
"Decolonization in Settler Colonial Context"

10:30-11:00 Vera Longtoe Sheehan (Vermont Abenaki Artists Association)
"Decolonizing N'Dakinna"

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-11:45 Loren Spears (Tomaquag Museum)
"Decolonizing Museums"

11:45-12:15 Summer Sutton (Yale University)
"TBA"

12:15-2:00 Lunch (*On your own*)

2:00-2:30 Chris Newell (Mashantucket Pequot Museum)
"Re-Indigenizing History"

2:30-3:00 Paul Wegner and Colleen Swift (Institute for American Indian Studies)
"The People Who Were Here Before Us: Inclusion, Interpretation, and the Formation of IAIS"

3:00-3:30 Dr. Margaret Bruchac (University of Pennsylvania)
"TBA"

3:30-3:45 Break

3:45-4:15 Dr. Katherine Hermes (Central Connecticut State University)
“Decolonizing the Dead, 1607-2018”

4:15-4:45 Dr. Jason Mancini (Connecticut Humanities)
“Discussant”

Conference Organizers: Dr. Lucianne Lavin (IAIS) and Paul Wegner (IAIS).

Please PRE-REGISTER by calling the museum (860-868-0518) or go onto our web site (iaismuseum.org) to ensure seating!

Other Fall 2018 Events:

Monday October 8, 2018 – Indigenous People’s Day, a Day of Discussion

Join IAIS staff throughout our museum exhibits as we open dialogue about Native American contributions to American culture both past and present. Join the conversation as we discuss the traditions, stories and cultural items of the Native people here in Southern New England, as well as the complicated history of contact with European settlers. Included in the price of admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$6 children; IAIS Members free.

Sunday, October 14, 2018 - 1-4 p.m. – Artifact ID Day

Join the conversation as Director of Research & Collections, Lucianne Lavin, Ph.D. identifies and provides interesting commentary about your local stone objects and Northeastern Native American cultural items. While we can't appraise or speculate about the value of an object, we can certainly talk about the who, what, when, where, and how of your mystery items! *Please limit 12 artifacts per person.*

Included in the price of admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$6 children; IAIS Members free.

Saturday, October 20, 2018 – International Archaeology Day

Archaeology is the study of the past through the objects people leave behind. From this study, archaeologists can learn about past societies. Dig into the fun with IAIS’ staff as we uncover what makes archaeology such an interesting subject of study. Do you have a question for an archaeologist? Our staff archaeologists will be on hand to answer your questions. Engage with the past through games, activities and objects. Celebrate all that is archaeology as we join thousands of others around the world on this day.

Included in the price of admission: \$10 adults; \$8 seniors; \$6 children; IAIS Members free.

Sunday, December 2, 2018 - 3 p.m. – Litchfield Hills Archaeological Club Lecture Series

Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club welcomes Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, Associate Professor at UCONN and emeritus State Archaeologist, as he discusses his new book *The Long Journey Home: The Repatriations of Henry Opukahaia and Albert Afraid of Hawk*. The book chronicles the repatriation of the remains of two Native men, Henry Opukahaia and Alfred Afraid of Hawk, and the efforts of those involved in the process. Dr. Bellantoni will give a lively talk discussing his involvement in the project and the writing of his book. Copies of his book will be available in our gift shop for purchase. Dr. Bellantoni will also be on hand after the talk to sign books.

Price: \$5 lecture fee; \$10 museum admission and lecture; LHAC members free

A Contact Period Native American Fort in Norwalk

Sarah P. Sportman
Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.

Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) is currently conducting data recovery (Phase III) excavations at a remnant of a ca. 1615-1640 Native American fort site in Norwalk, as part of the Walk Bridge replacement project being carried out by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT). The site, which was initially identified through documentary research and geoprobe testing, is located in an area that has seen heavy industrial development since the mid-19th century. The archaeological deposits were capped by a layer of fill related to the construction of the railroad, and the fill protected a small undeveloped strip of land from most modern disturbances.

The fort site is situated on a glacial landform known as an esker, a long winding ridge of gravel and sediment that was deposited by meltwater during the last glacial retreat. In the early historic period, the esker was a spit of high ground surrounded by the marshes that formed along the banks of the Norwalk River. Until the mid-19th century, the landform remained relatively untouched by development. As the industries and population of Norwalk grew, however, the marshes around the esker were filled in to create more useable land, bringing the surrounding land up to the level of the esker and obscuring the landform from view.



Decorated Native American pottery sherds recovered from Site 103-53.

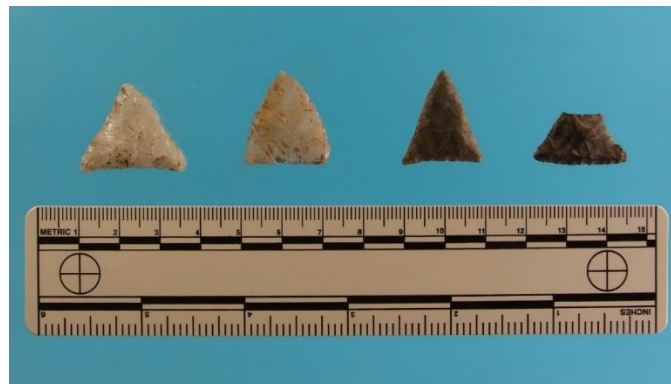


A gunflint and chunk of ballast flint, both of European flint, recovered from Site 103-53.

To date, the archaeological investigations have resulted in the identification of over one hundred cultural features, including postmolds, hearths, trash pits, and a section of palisade wall. The recovered artifacts (see photographs below) include a mix of local Native American artifacts and trade items. Numerous finely-made triangular projectile points of quartz and chert have been found, along with hundreds of sherds of Native American pottery and several fragments of Native-made tobacco pipes. Trade items include glass beads, brass fragments, a small iron trade axe head, an iron fish hook, a gunflint, kaolin tobacco pipes, and a distinctly Dutch knife blade. There is also evidence of wampum production. In addition to the artifacts, the preservation of food remains at the fort is exceptional and the excavations have produced thousands of animal bones, shellfish, and charred plant remains. An earlier Late to Terminal Archaic period component is also present, as evidenced by several projectile points.

Based on the recovered artifacts, the site is interpreted as a trading fort, initially established to trade with the Dutch. The earliest diagnostic trade artifacts, which include glass beads commonly recovered from Mohican and Mohawk sites in New York, as well as the axe head and Dutch-style iron knife, indicate that trade with the Dutch at the fort

predates the English presence in Connecticut. It is likely that the earliest trade at the site began around 1614, when Adriaen Block sailed through Long Island Sound and explored the Connecticut River.



Triangular projectile points of quartz and chert recovered from Site 103-53.

Roger Ludlow, one of the founders of the Connecticut Colony, purchased a large tract of land that included the fort area in February of 1640/1641. The Native American occupants probably abandoned the fort around that time. Although sustained English settlement of Norwalk did not begin for another 10 years, the location of the former fort persisted in the local memory. It was used as a landmark in a 1689 deed, and its general location is noted on two 19th-century maps.

The site is unique for several reasons. Very little is known about the Native Americans who occupied the Norwalk area, and the site has tremendous potential to shed light on their daily lives and cultural affiliations. The fort also marks the first archaeological evidence of Native American trade with the Dutch in Connecticut. Finally, while other 17th-century Native American forts, such as Fort Corchaug, Monhantic Fort, and Fort Shantock (among others), have been found and investigated in Connecticut and Long Island, this fort dates considerably earlier, at the cusp of sustained European contact in Connecticut. Several of the other forts were also excavated decades ago, without the benefit of modern archaeological methods and analytical techniques.



An iron trade axe head recovered at Site 103-53.

The survival of a well-preserved portion of the fort in such an urbanized environment serves as a cautionary tale for us as archaeologists; this is an area that could easily have been written off as too disturbed to have archaeological sensitivity. The archaeological investigations at the fort are ongoing, and AHS and CTDOT will share the results of the work with archaeological community and the public in a detailed technical report, in public presentations, exhibits, and future publications.

The following article is provided by Daniel Zoto and AHS, Inc., and is based on Dan's recent Master's thesis.

Archaeological Investigations at the Laurel Beach II Site (84-76) in Milford, Connecticut
Daniel Zoto
AHS, Inc./PAST, Inc. and the University of Connecticut

In the fall of 2017, PAST, Inc. conducted Phase II Site Examination testing and a Phase III Data Recovery excavation at the pre-contact Laurel Beach II Site (84-76) in Milford. The project was conducted under contract to the City of Milford and associated with proposed road and drainage improvements in the Laurel Beach neighborhood. The site is located near the Housatonic River Estuary and consists of a dense shell midden intermixed with and underlain by concentrations of pre-contact Native American artifacts. The analysis of recovered materials indicates that the site was reoccupied throughout the Woodland Period (3,000 – 500 years ago). Documented archaeological sites in the Laurel Beach vicinity demonstrate that the area was an important part of Native American settlement patterns during this time and the preceding Late Archaic Period.

Project Background

The Laurel Beach II Site was discovered in September 2017 during Phase I testing conducted by AHS, Inc. The site was identified in a test pit and an associated array pit that contained a dense midden of marine shell and animal bone refuse, as well as, quartz chipping debris and a Narrow Stemmed projectile point. The midden contained the remains shellfish species including eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), soft shell clam (*Mya arenaria*), northern quahog (*Mercenaria mercenaria*), and ribbed mussel (*Geukensia demissa*) as well as a non-calcined bone fragment identified as white tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*). The site was the subject of Phase II Site Examination testing and Phase III Data Recovery excavations to mitigate potential impacts by the above-mentioned drainage improvement projects.

Ecological and Cultural Context

The Housatonic River, the second largest river in Connecticut, was a focal point for Native American groups throughout the pre-contact period. The river served as both an ecological resource and a transportation corridor linking the coast of Long Island Sound with the mountainous interior of the southern Berkshires. What became known as the Laurel Beach neighborhood, located on the east side of the Housatonic Estuary near Milford Point, was of particular importance to the subsistence and settlement patterns of Native groups during the Woodland Period.

Attesting to the importance of the estuary are eight pre-contact archaeological sites recorded within the Laurel Beach neighborhood, including one shell midden said to cover an area of 24 acres (Federal Writers Project 1939). The area has a long history of artifact collecting and professional archaeological excavation. Most famously, the Eagle Hill Site (84-2 and 84-64) was excavated by former ASC President Claude Coffin, as well as Warren K. Moorehead, Norris Bull, Edward Rogers and others. These early excavations (Coffin 1937, 1946) focused on acquiring museum-quality pieces and well-preserved skeletons for the excavators' museum and private collections. Eagle Hill is reported to have produced 1415 fire pit features, long and round house floors, mounds, a large dancing or gathering area, shell middens, red ochre burials, and tools made of bone and stone. During the 1980s, excavations were conducted at the nearby Robillard Site (84-18) by the Greater New Haven Archaeology Society (Lavin 2013: 93). Recovered cultural material from Robillard spanned the Late Archaic through the Woodland Periods and included Laurentian, Rossville, and Narrow-Stemmed projectile points, pit features, postmolds, and a large stone hearth associated with steatite vessel fragments and cord-marked ceramics. In the early-2000s, Michael Bouchard conducted excavations adjacent to the Robillard Site at what he labeled the Laurel Beach Encampment (84-73). Bouchard's excavation yielded Laurentian, Orient Phase, and Narrow-Stemmed projectile points, Native ceramics, and ground stone tools. The excavation also revealed seemingly discrete shell midden deposits comprised of unspecified marine shells, mammal and fish bones, and human remains (Bouchard 2007).

It is probable that the Laurel Beach II Site is very closely related to the sites in the immediate vicinity or they are all components of a single large site. Site 84-76 was originally named the "Laurel Beach Site" but the II-designation was added after it was discovered that although none of the area's recorded sites were officially named "Laurel Beach,"

several of them have been referred to as such in the literature (Coffin 1946; Bouchard 2007; Lavin 2013). The recent investigations at 84-76 build on this previous work and our understanding of Native American life at the mouth of the Housatonic River.

Phase II Site Examination Testing and Phase III Data Recovery Investigation

Based on the results of the Phase I survey, PAST conducted a Phase II examination and a Phase III data recovery excavation of the Laurel Beach II Site in the late fall of 2017. Due to the small size of the impact area associated with the city project, Phase II and III excavations were limited in size and the recovered data was analyzed collectively. A combined 2.5 square meters, totaling approximately 18% of the midden, as located within the project area, was excavated.

The Phase II Site Examination testing consisted of a one-meter square excavation unit placed between the two positive Phase I STPs. Soils in the unit confirmed that the site had integrity and consisted of a modern fill overlaying an intact 20-to-25 cm-thick shell midden deposit that was underlain by B and C subsoil horizons (Figure 1). The Phase III Data Recovery investigation employed two perpendicular 50 cm-wide exploratory trenches to remove the modern fill overburden expose the extent of the midden within the project area, which covered approximately 14 square meters. An additional one-meter square excavation unit was placed at the densest concentration of shell exposed by the trenching.



Figure 1. Photograph showing the shell midden deposit in the north wall of N0E0.

Cultural materials recovered from the investigations at the Laurel Beach II Site included 401 lithic artifacts, 23 sherds of Native ceramics, 323 animal bone fragments, 17 nut fragments, and thousands of fragments of marine shell. Diagnostic projectile points included an Orient Fishtail and four Narrow-Stemmed points (Figure 2) indicating occupations of the site dated as far back as the Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland. However, ceramic and radiocarbon evidence more strongly suggests that occupation spanned the Woodland Period. Three types of Native ceramics were recovered including sherds of coarse grit-tempered pottery suggestive of the transition between the Early and Middle Woodland Periods, sherds decorated with dentate stamping dating to the Middle Woodland, and a rim sherd with

cord-wrapped stick decoration that dates to the Late Woodland. A hickory nut fragment recovered from the vertical center of the shell midden returned an uncalibrated radiocarbon date of 895 \pm 15 years before present (BP) with a calibrated range (2-sigma) of 742-905 BP (median 822 BP), confirming a Late Woodland component.



Figure 2. Photograph showing projectile points recovered from Site 84-76. Left to Right: Inv#37, untyped Narrow-Stemmed; Inv#194, Orient Fishtail; Inv#262 untyped Narrow-Stemmed; Inv#470 Squibnocket Stemmed; Inv# base of untyped Narrow-Stemmed.

Lithic artifacts indicate that numerous activities relating to tool manufacture and maintenance, as well as resource processing occurred at the site. All stages of the manufacturing sequence of Narrow Stemmed points, beginning with quartz cobble raw material and ending with discarded worn out points, are represented at the site (Figure 3). The wear-patterns on two of the Narrow-Stemmed points suggest that they were used as cutting implements, while a third is seemingly a projectile or piercing tool. Cutting and scraping activities are also evidenced by four scrapers and three utilized flakes. Scraping and cutting are typically associated with the processing of animal resources such as meat or hides but they could also be related to the shaping of bone, antler or wooden artifacts.

Lithic raw material types from Laurel Beach II suggest that the occupants acquired toolstone from both local and non-local sources. The majority of the raw material consisted of quartz (65%) and red-brown chert (27%). The quartz was most likely acquired locally from a several-hundred-meter-long gravel lens located on Milford Point, approximately 1.25 km southwest of the site. Inspection of this lens revealed large numbers of quartz cobbles of comparable size and cortex type to artifacts recovered from the site. The red-brown chert found at Laurel Beach II exhibited a visually strong agreement in composition, texture, and coloring to a sample of Indian River Chert from Kingston, New York. This agreement was geochemically tested using X-Ray Florescence analysis and the results demonstrated considerable similarities in the composition of both materials, suggesting the source of the red-brown chert is located over 100 km away in the Hudson Valley. These finding imply some level of inter-regional connection between the Housatonic and Hudson Valleys, although the timing of this connection remains unclear.



Figure 3. Photograph showing the Narrow-Stemmed point manufacturing sequence from Site 84-76. Left to right: Inv#314 unmodified quartz cobble; Inv#461 split quartz cobble; Inv#78 quartz biface; Inv#295 Narrow-Stemmed preform; Inv#470 complete Narrow-Stemmed point.

Conclusion

Investigations at the Laurel Beach II Site have added significant information about Native American lifeways along the Housatonic River Estuary. In addition to the Phase III excavations, two additional meters within the drainage project area were excavated by the author. Comprehensive analyses of the recovered artifacts and stratigraphic information from this work, as well as, more exhaustive comparisons to the adjacent sites located at Laurel Beach will be used for the author's graduate studies at the University of Connecticut. The project has the potential to greatly enhance our understanding of Native American occupation of the Lower Housatonic Valley.

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10TH BIENNIAL INTERNATIONAL

Fields of Conflict CONFERENCE

26 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

BANQUET DINNER

Dine with us September 29th, 2018

5:30 - 10:00 pm

At the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center



Keynote speaker Robert T. Ballard, USN, ret., Maritime Archaeologist and Professor of Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island will speak about discovering and interpreting the wrecks of the Bismarck, USS Yorktown and PT-109.

Featuring acclaimed **Mashpee Wampanoag chef Sherry Pocknett**, who will prepare a full Native menu.



➤ **THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

To register please go to:

www.pequotmuseum.org, Explore, Events, Field of Conflict Conference 2018, Register, Banquet Dinner (<https://13141.blackbaudhosting.com/13141/Banquet-Dinner>)

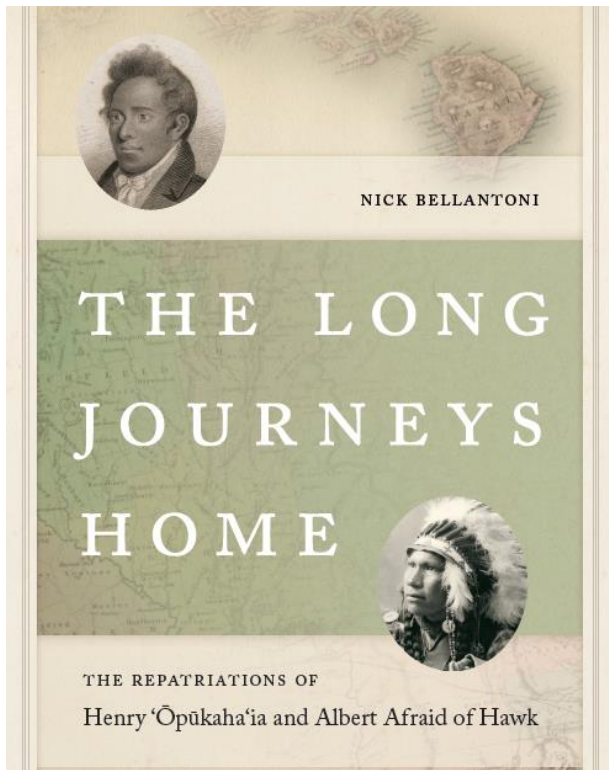
For questions about the event and a full menu for the evening, contact Ashley Bissonnette at abissonnette@mptn.org



MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER > 110 PEQUOT TRAIL, PO BOX 3180 > MASHANTUCKET, CONNECTICUT 06338 USA

September 26-30, 2018, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center in Mashantucket, Connecticut is honored to host the Tenth Biennial International Fields of Conflict Conference. This multidisciplinary forum will discuss aspects of battlefield archaeology, Indigenous conflict and diplomacy, military history, health & trauma during conflicts and historic preservation.

To register for all or part of the conference, go to: www.pequotmuseum.org



The Long Journeys Home

The Repatriations of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk

Nick Bellantoni

The moving stories of two Indigenous men and their repatriations

Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia (ca. 1792—1818) and Itankusun Wanbli (ca. 1879—1900) lived almost a century apart and came from different Indigenous Nations – Hawaiian and Lakota. Yet the circumstances of Western imperialism that led them to leave their homelands and come to Connecticut where they died and were buried have striking similarities. In 1992 and 2008, descendant women had visitations that their ancestors wished to “come home” and started the repatriation process. CT state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni oversaw the archaeological disinterment and forensic identifications in returning these men to their respective Native families. *The Long Journeys Home* chronicles these significant stories as examples of the wide-reaching impact of colonialism and the resurgence of Hawaiian and Lakota cultures.

Nicholas F. Bellantoni is an associate adjunct professor in the anthropology department at the University of Connecticut and Emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

“In this most engaging and extensively researched book, archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni recovers from obscurity the remarkable life journeys, dreams, and deaths of two Native men and the two worlds they lived in.”

—Paul Grant-Costa, Executive Editor, Yale Indian Papers Project

“Based on meticulous forensic research, Bellantoni’s tale of two indigenous youth from different cultures and time periods, and their struggles to survive cultural upheavals, clearly reveals the chaotic effects of American colonialism on Native peoples. The book is a major contribution to the field of Postcolonial Studies.”

—Lucianne Lavin, author of *Connecticut’s Indigenous Peoples*

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History / Biography

September 2018

GARNET BOOKS

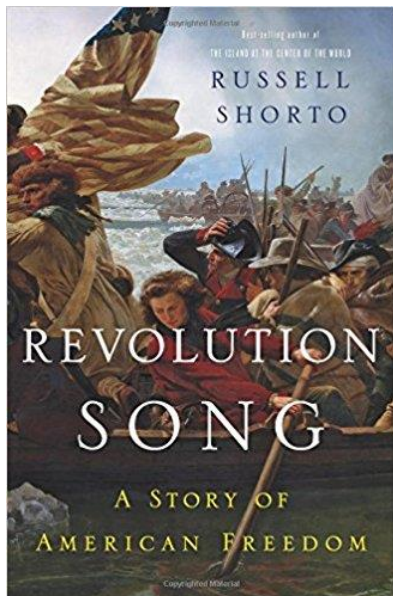
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Revolution Song by Russell Shorto

The latest book from Russell Shorto, author of *The Island at the Center of the World*, is *Revolution Song*, an account of the American Revolution told from the perspectives of six very different witnesses, one being George Washington and another being Connecticut's own Venture Smith. Smith was an enslaved African who eventually earned his freedom and went on to become a prominent citizen and subject of several archaeological investigations. As part of his research, Shorto interviewed ASC Bulletin Editor Lucianne Lavin, who conducted excavations at the Venture Smith homesite.

CALENDAR

To help members plan their calendars, we post the dates of meetings of interest in Connecticut and neighboring states, not mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Please contact the editor with any meetings you are aware of

which you feel would be of interest to the membership.

October 2018, Connecticut
Archaeology Awareness Month

October 13, 2018, [Archaeology Expo](#), Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, Mashantucket

October 18-21, 2018, [Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference](#), Halifax, Nova Scotia

October 27, 2018, 13th Annual Native American-Archaeology Round Table Conference, Washington, CT

November 1-4, 2018, [Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting](#), Watertown, NY

January 9-12, 2019
[Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology](#)
St. Charles, MO

March 21-24, 2019, Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference, (MAAC), Ocean City, MD

April 10 - 14, 2019, Society for American Archaeology (SAA) 84th Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM

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Note – the ASC website is currently down for repairs, after the passing of our webmaster Robyn Filippone. We hope to have the replacement site up and running soon.

ASC BULLETINS AVAILABLE ONLINE

This is a reminder that back issues of the ASC Bulletin from 1934 through 2014 have been scanned and made available online to the public without charge at the Dodd Library at UConn. The bulletins are available at this link: <http://archives.lib.uconn.edu/islandora/object/20002:ASCBulletin>

Back issues of this newsletter are not yet available online, but this is in the works. Stay tuned!

2018 DUES NOW PAYABLE

It's time to renew your membership for 2018. Check your mailing label if you are unsure if you are current. (The label may not reflect payments received in the last month.) If it reads 17 or earlier, please fill out the form and mail it back with your check. **Note the new address.** Thanks!

I want to apply/renew membership in the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC) to promote archaeological research, conservation and service. Enclosed are my dues for the membership category: (circle one)

<i>Individual</i>	\$25.00
<i>Student*</i>	\$10.00
<i>Institutional</i>	\$40.00
<i>Life</i>	\$300.00

Name: _____

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Affiliation: _____
(for students)

The newsletter will be sent to you electronically unless you indicate otherwise below:

I wish to receive ASC News by mail instead of electronic delivery

*Student Membership includes electronic newsletters, hard copy bulletins, and for each new member one back issue of the bulletin of your choice subject to availability.

Send payment to Lee West, ASC Membership Chair, 366 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109. **Starting in 2018, membership cards will no longer be issued except upon request.**



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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT FALL MEETING

**Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center
110 Pequot Trail
Mashantucket, CT**

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Once again, the ASC Fall Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Connecticut Archaeology Expo. The Expo is open from 10AM to 4PM, will be held in the gathering space of the museum, and is free and open to all. The ASC Speakers Session is being organized by Brian Jones, State Archaeologist and Dawn Brown, ASC Program Chair with the following program:

2018 Archaeology Expo speakers

Fleet Room, Level 2

Theme: Research and Publications this Summer

10:30 Brian Jones, CT State Archaeologist

“Highlights from the 2018 OSA Field Season”

11:00 Cosimo Sgarlata, WCSU

"WCSU Field School at Templeton"

11:30 David Naumec, MPMRC

Preliminary findings for the Pequot Swamp Fight (Southport, CT): The final battle of the Pequot War

1:00 Keynote Speaker Nick Bellantoni

The Long Journeys Home: The Repatriations of Henry ‘Ōpūkaha‘ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk

2:00 Sarah P. Sportman and Ross K. Harper, PAST, Inc.

Settling Connecticut: A 17th Century Component in Old Wethersfield

2:30 Katie Reinhart, AHS, PAST, Inc.

Preliminary Results from Recent Analysis of Botanical Remains from the Early 18th Century Sprague Site, Andover”

DIRECTIONS TO THE FALL MEETING

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center 110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT



Follow Route 2 East, take Exit 28 South to I-395 South. From I-395 South, take Exit 79A to Route 2A East, crossing the Mohegan-Pequot Bridge. Turn left on Route 12. Take the first right onto Route 2A East. Follow Route 2A to Route 2. Turn right onto Route 2 East. Stay on Route 2 and take the Route 214 exit. At the Foxwoods Boulevard light, go straight, drive 3/10 mile to third light (including Foxwoods Blvd. light), turn right onto Pequot Trail. The Public Safety Building is on the left. Continue until you reach the Museum parking lot on the left.

From NYC/New Haven

Follow I-95 North, take Exit 92. Turn left onto Route 2 West. Stay on Route 2 West for 8 miles. Take the Foxwoods Boulevard exit; then move to the left lane for Route 214 West. At the Foxwoods Boulevard light, go straight, drive 3/10 mile to third light (including Foxwoods Blvd. light), turn right onto Pequot Trail. The Public Safety Building is on the left. Continue until you reach the Museum parking lot on the left.