



SOCIETY *for*  
HISTORICAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY

# The SHA Newsletter

Quarterly News on Historical Archaeology from Around the Globe

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## START PLANNING NOW

QUESTIONS THAT COUNT  
**SHA Québec 2014**  
LES ENJEUX PRIORITAIRES



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## President's Corner

Paul Mullins

### The Agendas of Global Historical Archaeology

A half-century ago a handful of Atlantic World archaeologists began to flesh out precisely what defines historical and postmedieval archaeologies. As the field now stretches its chronological boundaries into the contemporary world and pushes its geographic horizons to every reach of the planet, that discussion may be as lively as it was in the 1960s. Every historical archaeologist who has stood at the front of a classroom, written a report, or explained our work to a colleague or community has a relatively clear sense of how they see the field, and our definitions tend to share some pretty consistent features: for instance, we collectively place concrete material things at the heart of the field; the field is usually conceived as being multidisciplinary; we share a commitment to rigorous and reflective scholarly analysis; and we most often focus on peoples living in the last half millennium or thereabouts.

Nevertheless, we still have some reasonable distinctions in how we define the discipline, and these differences are perhaps most apparent when historical archaeology steps outside the confines of North America. This fall I have been teaching and doing research in Finland and have worked with archaeologists in the Nordic world, Austria, the Czech Republic, the UK, and various other corners of Europe. What North Americans call historical archaeology goes by a variety of labels in Europe: postmedieval, modern, and contemporary archaeologies all describe some scholarship akin to American historical archaeology; in the United Kingdom the [Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology](#) has shared fundamental research interests with North Americans since SPMA was formed in 1966; and historical archaeologies are flourishing today in much of Africa, the Pacific World, and South America. All of these scholarly traditions push the conventional North American framing of historical archaeology in productive and exciting ways.

The specific definition of historical archaeology has evolved quite dynamically since the 1960s. The Society for Historical Archaeology itself has framed the field and SHA's mission in a range of forms since the [1967 Texas gathering that became the SHA \(Historical Archaeology 1967\)](#). In 1993 [Robert Schuyler surveyed SHA's first 25 years](#) and identified a series of what he referred to as "agenda" moments in which the discipline and SHA confronted crises in the definition of the discipline and the concrete role of SHA. One came in those formative 1960s moments in which SHA defined itself, as the very discipline was being cast, as something more than a scholarly niche and secured much of the disciplinary foundation that most North Americans take for granted today.

A quarter-century later Schuyler suggested the discipline and SHA were in the midst of another agenda moment,



advocating an SHA mission tackling membership expansion to enrich our scholarly voice and ensure SHA's material and intellectual viability. Nevertheless, he was sober about the potential for growth in North American archaeological circles, and today SHA has roughly the same number of members as it had when Schuyler surveyed the discipline two decades ago (in 1987, for instance, membership stood at 1,901 members, and 25 years later in 2012 it is 2,128 [Adams 1993]). Schuyler argued for an SHA focus on scholarly production in *Historical Archaeology* and the conferences, seeing these as our essential voices in the discipline. He expressed reservations about the potential for growth among kindred scholars in other disciplines—history, education, folklore, American Studies—who may share our interest in material culture studies but were probably not likely to share our commitment to charting the discipline's long-term growth as SHA members.

Twenty years removed from Schuyler's assessment we may not face a crisis as much as we confront an increasingly rich international scholarship of the last half millennium that traverses the world and hails from scholarly traditions distinct from North American anthropology. That global historical archaeology is profoundly shaped by the concrete connections made possible through online scholarship and communication across a wired planet, and it bears significant debts to SHA's own commitment to conduct international conferences (indeed, Schuyler's 1993 comments first came in a session a year earlier at SHA's Jamaica conference). This transformation to an increasingly global historical archaeology may be bearing the fruit envisioned by the very first historical archaeologists, whose January, 1966 gathering at Southern Methodist University was dubbed the "*International Conference on Historic Archaeology*" (italics added). In 1968, [SHA President Ed Jelks](#) (1968:3) indicated that "[h]istorical archaeology has much to gain in the long run from encouraging a spirit of concerted, interdisciplinary, international cooperation." Indeed, that global historical archaeology may well be SHA's next horizon for growth in terms of both the society and discipline's expansion as a scholarly voice throughout the world.

Many international colleagues share North Americans' own 50-year effort to define historical archaeology, and we are collectively fortunate to live in a moment in which global historical archaeologies are increasingly viable and worldwide archaeological scholarship is increasingly accessible to most of us. It is not necessary or even desirable for us to construct a universal definition of historical archaeology, and in fact the *discussion* of the rich range of global historical archaeologies is perhaps more important than reaching a commonly held definition of the discipline that encompasses every time and place. The most influential definitions of North American historical archaeology tend to revolve around the cultural transformations associated with European colonization, but that definition has a distinct New World focus and has often, somewhat ironically, not examined the European societies sending peoples to the New World. Eric Wolf persuasively argued that the face of the globe was transformed by colonization over the past five

centuries, and certainly many historical archaeologists have examined the emergence of capitalism and colonization. Yet that profit economy aspiring to unchecked growth and continuous shifts in productive capacity was never utterly homogenous and integrated despite its global scale, and the experience of capitalist penetration into the American colonies, Africa, and the breadth of Europe itself was inevitably variable across time and space.

Virtually all of our international colleagues hail from intellectual traditions that are more highly focused than the generalizing comparative scholarship common in American anthropological circles. For instance, a whole school of building archaeologists work entirely on the built environment ranging from castles to concentration camps, much like American and European industrial archaeologists who focus on manufacturing, extraction, and production spaces without necessarily wielding a trowel. The rapid growth of contemporary archaeology encompasses a breadth of research subjects and certainly has gained some traction in the United States, where William Rathje's garbageology studies laid much of the foundation for archaeologies of the recent past and contemporary world. Yet much of the European and British scholarship of the contemporary material world is distinguished by a focus on 20th-century wartime landscapes and a rigorous engagement with rich social theory and contemporary heritage politics.

The Society for Historical Archaeology needs only be one steward for this rich international scholarship, and our focus is likely to remain on rigorous material scholarship in the SHA-sponsored [journal](#), [co-publications](#), and [conferences](#), but that scholarship is inevitably richer for including a new range of global archaeological methods, scholars, and approaches. International historical archaeology provides increasingly rich possibilities for the scholarly growth of historical archaeology and SHA alike and may be the heart of a new agenda to grow SHA in particular and global historical archaeology scholarship in general.

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*Historical Archaeology*


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Schuyler, Robert L.

1993 The Society for Historical Archaeology, 1967–1992: A Quarter Century of a National Archaeological Society. *Historical Archaeology* 27(1):35–41.

All of the above articles from *Historical Archaeology* are freely available online via the SHA website publications browser: <<http://www.sha.org/publications/pubsexplorer/browsePubs.cfm>> 

# Opinion and Debate

## Comments On Collections: Case Studies in Curation and Management

**Giovanna Vitelli**  
(SHA Curation Committee and  
Ethics Committee Member)

In this issue of the *SHA Newsletter*, we hope to launch a series of profiles of SHA members and their colleagues who have been tackling some of the more intractable issues affecting collections curation and management. There are a number of practitioners engaging with problems of sampling, processing, classification, storage, and analysis, and it is valuable to have them share their stories as part of our growing understanding of best practices in this area.

A number of you will recall the first of the SHA Forums on Collections Management, which took place at the Albuquerque, New Mexico meetings in 2008. Bob Sonderman and Mark Warner chaired a packed room of practitioners, and opened a difficult conversation on the future of collections that has not died down since, even as it has evolved and grown into a movement. This movement has its deep roots in the work done in the past couple of decades by some of the most respected archaeologists in our discipline, including Terry Childs, Michael Trimble, and Lynne Sullivan. They have shaped the debate with their repeated calls for attention to the future of our inherited resources. Many of us owe our understanding of the issues to their work.


Not much separates the people who produce archaeological material from those who research, teach, or curate it; the perceived gap is more historical and ideological than it is professional, and often we are talking about the same people. No archaeologist will argue with the notion that our work is predicated on building an understanding of the past through the study of its material culture; why is a significant percentage of our body of archaeological evidence allowed to head to the storeroom without being processed, documented, or written up in some form? Why are collections—some of them important to scholarship, historiography or heritage—allowed to go dormant and disappear from the collective knowledge base?

The cultural issues behind the devaluation of collections stewardship in favor of other forms of archaeological practices may be complex, but the end result is that, in the aggregate, we are curating hundreds of millions of artifacts across myriad small and large institutions. With current levels of funding it would be difficult to reenter the collections and “reactivate” more than a small percentage of existing material. Yet we have duty of care for these collections and their associated records, and collectively,

an ethical obligation to redefine stewardship as something other than benign neglect.

The people and organizations that will be profiled in the Newsletter provide us with examples of successful approaches and methods for ordering and using the collections, whether in teaching, research or outreach. If you know of examples yourself, or are a local success story, please get in touch with the Newsletter Editor, Alasdair Brooks.

### **The Veterans Curation Program—this edition’s profile**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers owns or administers a significant body of collections, housed in 165 repositories across the U.S. Driven by federal legislation on curation, especially by Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections (36 CFR Part 79) regulations, in recent years the Corps has created a program of training and employment for veterans that has resulted in an increasing proportion of their collections being processed. This program, known as the Veterans Curation Program (VCP), is directed by SHA member Michael (Sonny) Trimble, Chief of the Curation and Archives Analysis Branch of the Corps. The following article describes the background, genesis, and operation of the VCP and highlights how the program has contributed to the successful rehabilitation of part of the Corps’ archaeological collections. 

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## Corps Archaeological Curation and Collections Management: Addressing Shrinking Resources Through Innovation

**Catherine McMahon and  
Dr. Susan Malin-Boyce**  
(U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis  
District, Mandatory Center of Expertise for the  
Curation and Management of Archaeological  
Collections)

### **Introduction**

Archaeological curation has always come second to the excitement of excavation. Following decades of large-scale land-management and water-resources projects by federal agencies, the accumulated materials and records associated with archaeological excavation are overwhelming. These agencies’ ability to appropriately curate these collections is increasingly limited by restricted funding. This paper briefly reviews the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) curation program over the last 20 years, and the



establishment of a center for expertise within that agency to oversee archaeological collections management agency-wide. It also documents a few of the problems faced by all federal agencies when curating archaeological collections. The creation of a unique program that addresses the needs of Corps curation and the regionalization of curation facilities is introduced. In closing, the authors suggest innovations that will affect the future of Corps archaeological collections.

### **History of Corps Curation**

Beginning with the American Antiquities Act of 1906, Congress has passed a series of laws (e.g., the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act) and associated regulations that recognize the importance of our nation's cultural heritage, which includes archaeological objects, documents, maps, photographs, and structures. The implementing regulations for these laws has impelled the Corps to maintain a highly trained cadre of historic preservation staff throughout its 38 districts and 8 division offices, its laboratories, and at its headquarters. These historic preservation professionals conduct or oversee necessary investigations for new water-resources projects, provide support to regulatory offices as part of the Rivers and Harbors Act and the Clean Water Act, and help identify, evaluate, and manage historic properties at water-resources projects under the jurisdiction of the Corps.

The Corps currently manages over 400 water-resources projects, which include about 12 million surface acres of land and water. From these projects, the Corps and its contractors have collected some 49,000 cubic feet of artifacts and other physical remains (e.g., soil samples, rock, plant remains, and faunal remains) along with over 3,300 linear feet of documents, maps, and photographs. By law, regulation, and agency policy, archaeological and historic materials must be cared for as the nonrenewable resources that they are, so that they remain available for the education and use of future generations. For many years the Corps had no consistent, long-term national management plan to care for these massive and important collections.

To address this concern, the Corps created the Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections (MCX-CMAC) located in the St. Louis District. The MCX-CMAC was chartered in 1994, following several years as a Technical Center of Expertise, and is the largest single organization in the Department of Defense dedicated to addressing archaeological collections and heritage assets management. For the past 18 years, the MCX-CMAC has been locating and assessing collections owned or administered by the Corps and allied federal agencies, using the information to prioritize rehabilitation and developing strategies for the future management of the collections.

In 1996, the MCX-CMAC was tasked with conducting a nationwide technical study to evaluate repositories housing Department of Defense archaeological collections—those owned by the Army, Army Corps of Engineers, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force. Data generated by Corps staff during visits to 109 institutions included information on their

architecture and infrastructure, collections management practices and policies, and administrative structure. The larger mission of the study was to identify potential partners and evaluate their capabilities with intent toward future coalescence of collections in repositories that would be shared between federal entities. The results of these assessments were published in two reports, titled *Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Curation Options Project, Western and Mid-Atlantic States* (1999) and the *Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Curation Options Project, Eastern States* (2001).

A further assessment was completed in 1998, entitled *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Archaeological Collections Condition Assessment*, to determine how to improve long-term curation planning and collections management within the Corps (2000). This year-long project employed cultural resource management companies, along with MCX-CMAC staff, to locate all Corps collections and gather information regarding the number and size of investigations within the repositories, the volume and categories of artifact material classes, the types of associated records, and the condition of the artifacts and records. Information concerning financial arrangements between Corps districts and repositories was compiled for cost-comparison purposes. The report that resulted from this work detailed each Corps district's collection rehabilitation status, in addition to the volume of materials being curated.

The data that were compiled during the Corps Archaeological Collections Condition Assessment have been supplemented with annual questionnaires and continue to be used by the MCX-CMAC to prioritize rehabilitation. Additional information compiled during the study, including whether or not human skeletal remains and artifacts subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) are present and data regarding the complexity of collections, is used to determine whether collections will be processed at the St. Louis District archaeology laboratory or by cultural resource management firms under contract to the Corps.

### **The Collections Management Problem**

By conservative estimates, the Corps has a 20-year backlog of at-risk collections in need of rehabilitation. As of 2012, the archaeological collections owned or administered by the Corps are housed in 165 repositories across the U.S. Only 10% of Corps collections meet the standard of 36 CFR Part 79. Legacy collections that pre-date current curation requirements were largely assembled during major water-management projects from the 1950s through the 1970s, and while these collections were stored using archaeological best practices of the time (i.e., in paper bags in acidic cardboard boxes) many have not been revisited since. There is an insufficiency of appropriate places to store the collections, as well as a lack of funding to inventory and rehouse them. It is the responsibility of all federal entities to maintain their archaeological collections in accordance with 36 CFR Part 79; however, many agencies have neither the staff nor the expertise to undertake large-scale condition assessments.

The MCX-CMAC for its part conducts condition assessments for many federal agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of the Army Chief of Staff for Installation Management. The MCX-CMAC also supports a diverse laboratory staff, who work full-time to rehabilitate archaeological collections for Corps districts and other federal agencies. This staff includes archivists, archaeologists, historians, and technicians. Better-known projects completed by the MCX-CMAC staff are the inventory and curation of Kennewick Man, Legacy Resource Management Program – Archaeological Curation, Regime Crimes Liaison Office Iraq Mass Graves Investigations, and the African Burial Ground Cemetery. In addition to processing collections, the laboratory staff creates protocols, procedures, and manuals that serve as reference materials and form the basis for training provided by MCX-CMAC staff. In turn, these materials and the expertise of MCX-CMAC staff enabled the rapid development in 2009 of the Corps' training and employment program, the VCP.

### **The Veterans Curation Program**

The VCP was created to address two problems. First, it provides wounded and disabled veterans with employment, vocational training, and tangible work skills (figure 1). Second, the program advances the public stewardship of federally managed collections through rehabilitation and preservation. An additional goal of the program is to make a digital collection (figure 2), created in the course of the rehabilitation process, available through an online electronic archive.

Veterans who served during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom are hired by cultural resource management companies overseen by the MCX-CMAC to work as archaeological laboratory technicians for up to six months. Their work includes processing artifacts and associated records, which involves writing, data entry, photography, scanning, and records and electronic files management. During the training, veterans acquire and advance skills in a variety of areas – e.g., software proficiency, object inventory and tracking, database management, and digital image processing.

Veteran participants work to process, rehouse, and preserve the legacy Corps archaeological collections based on the need for rehabilitation and on geographic proximity with respect to the laboratories. Currently, there are three



*FIGURE 1. The Veterans Curation Program at work - veterans curating documents.*

VCP laboratories, located in Alexandria, Virginia, Augusta, Georgia, and St. Louis, Missouri. The Alexandria facility is operated by John Milner Associates and the Augusta and St. Louis facilities by Brockington and Associates. Corps collections from Kansas City, Louisville, Mobile, Pittsburgh, Savannah, and St. Louis Districts have been processed in the three VCP facilities. Over 150 archaeological investigations, comprising 757 boxes of artifacts and 53 linear feet of associated documents, are being or have been processed to date.

The benefits of the program are the increased visibility and public awareness of the Corps' expertise in the areas of archaeology and collections management. Additionally, at-risk Corps collections are getting much-needed rehabilitation and rehousing. Further preservation measures are being implemented using digital photography and scanning to create an electronic collection, which will be made accessible to the public for future research and education. Digital assets include 7,150 scanned documents and 4,500 images of artifacts. High-resolution scans of reports and field notes, and catalogs of artifacts accompanied by images that capture multiple surfaces with metric scales, will change the way that collections are accessed by the public. Rather than having to schedule an appointment to study a collection and then travel to the repository, collections can be previewed and, to a greater or lesser extent depending on the collection, studied online. This type of access to what have always been gray literature collections is a game changer for the way that these collections will be used. In addition, electronic access to fragile and unique objects and records will reduce damage resulting from handling.

Contractor staff assist the veterans working in the program by providing them with time and support, identify employment and educational opportunities for them, and



provide them with the financial stability needed during the veterans' transition to the civilian workforce. These impacts of the program, while less tangible, are of equal or greater significance to the veterans. Many veterans have described the ways in which the program has benefited them by building their confidence, developing a support system for them, giving them networking opportunities with potential employers, and providing them with a reliable income. Since its inception in 2009, the VCP has employed over 100 veteran participants, 80% of whom, after graduating from the program, have gone on to find permanent employment or gone back to school.

However, the VCP is only addressing the need to rehouse and rehabilitate Corps collections. It does nothing to solve the problem of lack of adequate space for long-term curation. Since its inception the MCX-CMAC has advocated a system of regionalization for archaeological collections, but during the late 1990s and 2000s no one wanted to hear this strategy. With the current financial issues facing every federal agency, the case for regionalization now may have an opportunity to be heard more objectively.

### Regionalization

For example, the MCX-CMAC concluded a recent report with the recommendation that the U.S. Army consolidate their archaeological collections into regional centers. In order to ensure high curation standards and public access, the report further recommended that the regional centers be centrally managed, by an executive agent. It was indicated that consolidation of the collections themselves, along with the management of the collections, would enable the Army to more rapidly and cost-effectively reach compliance with federal curation standards, thereby preserving their collections.

The future of collections management for the Corps and other federal entities is tied directly to the availability of scarce resources for the care of growing collections. Agencies, the Corps among them, must rethink how best to utilize the funds available for collections management and curation. Particularly for the Corps, maintaining collections in 165 repositories, each with its own set of standards for curation and contract for services, is not sustainable. One way to address the issue of vanishing resources would be to consolidate collections into centers, which could be shared between agencies. Bringing collections together into 8 to 10 centers around the country would reduce costs across agencies and make collections more accessible.

The initial requirement for this consolidation will be to craft a policy statement to be circulated up the agency chain of command that will officially grant permission to coalesce collections to achieve several major efficiencies. First, it will save money. Second, it will give the agency intellectual and physical control over collections even after they are housed in the repository. Third, it will allow the Corps to deliver on the promise of making the collections available for study and education.

### The Way Forward

The current reduction in resources will force government entities, such as the Army and the Corps, to do exciting things that were not necessary when sufficient funding existed to store collections in an ad hoc manner. One example of creative solutions currently being implemented is the use of digital repositories for storage and public access to archaeological collections. The Corps has investigated the efficacy of storing collections online with the Digital Archaeological Record (tDAR) and of archiving images to film for long-term historic preservation.

In order to remain relevant it is necessary for archaeology, as a discipline, to teach its stakeholders the importance of national heritage. The Corps is currently enlisting a two-fold educational approach that is teaching archaeology not only to VCP veteran employees, but also to their families and friends, accomplished through community outreach. The second component of the education program is a recently established archaeology education workshop for elementary school students taught in VCP facilities. The public benefit of these education programs will continue to be felt by developing preservation awareness in previously unreached populations. The Corps and other federal agencies have made great strides in addressing the curation management problem, but the work is unfinished and will require nationwide partnerships between cultural resource managers, repositories, and agencies.

The following websites contain further information on the Veterans Curation Program:

[www.tDar.org](http://www.tDar.org)

[www.VeteransCurationProgram.org](http://www.VeteransCurationProgram.org)


### References

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and Management of Archaeological Collections

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2001 *Department of Defense and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Curation Options Project, Eastern States*. Submitted to Legacy Resource Management Program and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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# Images of the Past

Benjamin Pykles

## Remembering Mel Thurman (1941-2012)

Former Images of the Past editor Robert Schuyler has provided the following photograph as a follow-up to his image-free Death Notice from the summer issue of the Newsletter. 🚫



FIGURE 1. Melburn D. Thurman at the 1995 SHA Conference in Washington, D.C.

### Book Reviewers Wanted!

If you are interested in reviewing a book for the Society for Historical Archaeology, please refer to the list of available books on our Web page, [www.sha.org/publications/bookreviews.cfm](http://www.sha.org/publications/bookreviews.cfm).

Please note that books are distributed on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact the SHA Book Review Editor, Richard Veit, at [rveit@monmouth.edu](mailto:rveit@monmouth.edu).

## Current Research

Please send summaries of your recent research to the appropriate geographical coordinator listed below. Photographs and other illustrations are encouraged. Please submit summaries as Word or text-only files. **Submit illustrations as separate files** (.jpeg preferred, 300 dpi or greater resolution).

### AFRICA

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### CANADA-WEST (Alberta, British Columbia)

Vacant [contact the *Newsletter* editor for more information]

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### USA-GULF STATES (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas)

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### USA-MID-ATLANTIC (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia)

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### USA-NORTHEAST (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont)

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CURRENT RESEARCH BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE

# Australasia & Antarctica

## Victoria

**New Book:** Alister M. Bowen's *Archaeology of the Chinese Fishing Industry in Colonial Victoria*, the third Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology monograph, has just been released by Sydney University Press. During the 1850s and 1860s, Chinese immigrants played a major role in the development of the fishing industries in Australia. Prior to their involvement, the industry was hampered by the problems posed by the transportation of fish to market. It was common for whole catches of fish to putrefy before they could reach their destination. The influx of Chinese gold miners, who relied on fish as a dietary staple, increased the demand that prompted the creation of many Chinese fish-curing establishments.

Chinese fish curers in colonial Australia fished but also purchased large quantities of fish, creating a new and reliable market for European fishermen. Fish-curing businesses supplied their compatriots on the goldfields with fresh and cured fish. These establishments, which made sums of money far greater than any European fishing operation, provided hundreds of jobs for both European and Chinese Australians in the fishing industry.

Very few pieces of documentary evidence, along with archaeological records from one colonial-period Chinese fish-curing camp in Victoria, remain. They reveal a fascinating story of how Chinese fish curers successfully dominated Australia's fishing industry; how they lived, worked, organized themselves, participated in colonial society, and the reasons why they suddenly disappeared. The book is available to order via the Sydney University press website: <<http://sydney.edu.au/sup/>>. 📖

## Canada - Québec

**Îlot des Palais Field School** (submitted by Julie April and Olivier Roy): Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Université Laval's archaeological field school returned for a 22nd season at the historic site of the Intendant's Palace, in Québec City. For five years now, excavations have occurred in what was mainly the courtyard of the Second Palace of the Intendant (1714-1759).

The 2012 excavations at the site were divided into two separate projects, each with their own research goals. The first of these areas, on the east side of the courtyard, aimed to document the occupation of the site during the occupation of the First Palace of the Intendant (1685-1713). On historical maps, some small buildings are depicted near the St. Charles

River, and an excavation in the same area in 2009 uncovered wooden planks; these were hypothesized to be the remains of those structures represented on the maps. Unfortunately, the excavation of this sector did not reveal as much new information as was expected, and no further traces of these buildings were discovered. However, the excavation gave us the opportunity to learn more about the courtyard of the Second Palace of the Intendant and the fire that destroyed the palace in 1725.

The second excavation project, opened on the west side of the site, aimed to document the construction of the west wing of the Second Palace of the Intendant and explain the presence of the pavement found in previous excavations of the courtyard. There was also the potential, based on previous excavations led by Québec City's Archaeology Service, to uncover a vaulted pipe that would have brought water to the palace latrines; however, no such remains were found. This excavation reconfirmed that the pavement of the courtyard was much more substantial than just a small lane in front of the main entrance of the palace, as it was depicted in an 18th-century engraving. By exposing what are considered to be natural layers that were cut by the southern wall of the west wing of the palace-there is no evidence of a foundation trench-it was demonstrated that the foundation walls were erected directly on the natural sediments of the site. These are rich in clay, so it probably would have been possible to form vertical walls and build the foundations directly upon them.

With a new project approved, which will restore the vaults of the Second Palace, and the opening of a museum by 2014, excavations led by Université Laval's field school will continue on each side of the west wing prior to the major repairs to the current structure and foundation that will damage the site.



FIGURE 1. The 2012 field school team. (Photo by Jean-Simon Dion.)

**Thirty Years of Archaeological Field Schools Celebrated at Université Laval** (submitted by Olivier Roy): On Sunday, 26 August, a reunion was organized to celebrate 30 years of the Université Laval field school in archaeology. This event, as part of the Month of Archaeology, took place on the site of the Intendant's Palace (Îlot des Palais). The site was ideal



for this event because it has hosted no less than 22 cohorts of students over the past 30 years.

#### *An ambitious project*

The idea of establishing a practical training site in archaeology was born of the need to provide a quality education for Université Laval students in archaeology, especially within Quebec. Prior to the foundation of the present field school, it was possible to receive practical training in archaeology through Université Laval; however, this was mainly in classical archaeology and took place abroad. With the help of their colleague Michel Gaumont, Université Laval professors Marcel Moussette and Michel Fortin, began to develop the new archaeology field school at the site of the Intendant's Palace. Excavations began in 1982 and 30 years later, the site has not yet revealed all of its rich archaeological record. Nine years after its inauguration, the field school took a hiatus from the site of the Intendant's Palace and was instead held at two other major sites in Québec City: Îlot Hunt, from 1991 to 1995, and Domaine Maizerets, from 1996 to 1999.

The 2000s marked the return of the field school to the Intendant's Palace, and at the same time, a diversification of the archaeological sites used for practical courses occurred. This was done to give students experience with different archaeological contexts, and to respond to an increasing demand to offer practical training in prehistoric archaeology. Thus, prehistoric excavations took place at Lac St-Charles between 2007 and 2009, and at Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures in 2010 and 2011. In addition, excavations in historical archaeology were conducted at La Prairie from 2000 to 2003, at the Manoir Mauvide-Genest, Île d'Orléans, in 2003, and at Fort Saint-Jean, Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, from 2009 to the present.

#### *A festive day*

The hot and sunny weather meant that many people responded to the invitation and were given appointments to reunite with their former classmates. By 1 p.m., there were a hundred people, including students, professors, archaeologists, and members of their families, gathered to participate in the celebrations.

For the day, the ancient vaults of the Second Palace of the Intendant were adorned to welcome former students. A gallery of photographs encapsulating all 45 field schools

held in the 30 years was on display, delighting students who reminisced while having fun identifying old friends and colleagues in the pictures. In addition, an exhibition featuring various artifacts recovered from the different field school sites was showcased to archaeologists and the public, who also joined the party. In the morning, visitors were invited to take part in two guided tours of the Intendant's Palace site and its surroundings.

To entertain the crowd, three characters portraying colonial soldiers were on hand to tell their stories and conduct a demonstration of shooting using reproductions of historic weapons.

#### *Special guests*

In front of an attentive crowd, special guests were invited to speak about the success of Université Laval's archaeological field school. Among these were Marcel Moussette, professor and cofounder of the field school; Michel Fortin,

Chair of the Department of History at Université Laval and cofounder of the field school; Bernard Garnier, Vice-Rector of Academic and International Activities at Université Laval; William Moss, senior archaeologist with the City of Québec; Jean-Jacques Adjizian, from the Ministry of Culture; Claude Dubé, Dean of the Faculty of Planning, Architecture and Visual Arts at Université Laval and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Société du patrimoine urbain de Québec; and lastly, Allison Bain, current director of the field school and organizer of the event.

It was an opportunity for Mr. Dubé, in collaboration with the Society of the Urban Heritage of Québec, to announce that the plans to revitalize the museum of the Intendant's Palace had been approved. The reopening of the museum is planned for 2014. The building, which dates back to 1714, will require much restoration and rehabilitation before it can welcome the public.

The archaeological research program is ongoing at the site and further excavations, led by Université Laval's field school, will take place in 2013. 



FIGURE 2. From left to right: William Moss, Marcel Moussette, Michel Fortin, Allison Bain, Claude Dubé, Jean-Jacques Adjizian, Bernard Garnier, Réginald Auger. (Photo by Celia Forget.)

## Latin America

### Colombia

Archaeological Fieldwork in Cartagena, Colombia:

The Caribbean coast of Colombia has been the scene of considerable activity, in terms of historical archaeology, for several years now. Within what some scholars call the Greater Caribbean area, or Circum-Caribbean milieu, Cartagena de Indias has been, since the early colonial period, a key player in the maritime trade all over the huge area comprising the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Atlantic coast of northern South America.

The Fundación Erigaie y Terra Firme in Bogotá, Colombia has been studying the subject for some time and archaeologists Carlos del Cairo Hurtado and Catalina García Chaves, as well as Javier Rivera, have focused their attention on two canoes found at the Walls of Cartagena, in San Ignacio Bastion. The fieldwork was preceded by an understanding of what they interpreted as a maritime cultural setting. The archaeologists then studied the wall and fortress of Saint Ignatius. The wall was built in the early years of the 17th century.

During the excavation, they found the remains of two canoes at a depth of four meters in a damp and saline context. They were dated to the 18th century and were related by the excavators to the strategy of the military engineers of transforming the marine context into a land zone. The old canoes were used to fill in the area and to strengthen the defensive character of the whole region in the 18th century. In terms of their original functionality, the canoes had by that time been superseded by larger boats in the navigation of rivers and coastal marine waters. They were thus perfect for the new strategy of reclaiming land from the sea and the building of defensive structures along the coast. They attest to a change from a local, precolonial way of relating to rivers and coastal navigation towards more global transoceanic shipping links. The use of canoes in the construction of fortresses is also related to the conflicts among colonial powers, notably involving Spain and other emerging powers, such as the British and the Dutch. The two canoes are thus a link to the past and local and also to the future and global issues. 🏴

reference below) is centered in the archaeological research on the British sloop-of-war, which sank in 1770 in the Deseado estuary—currently in the province of Santa Cruz, Argentina—in the context of the first European settlements in the Malvinas islands. The discovery of the wreck occurred in 1982, resulting in the founding of the Mario Brozoski Municipal Museum which has since been in charge of the storage, curation, and conservation of the entire artifact collection. At the behest of the museum authorities, in 1997 the underwater archaeology team of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología y Pensamiento Latinoamericano took charge of the archaeological investigation of the *Swift*. The present book contains the results of the various field and laboratory studies which have been conducted since then, largely with an interdisciplinary approach.

The book begins with the account of the last journey and subsequent loss of the *Swift* in 1770, followed by that of its discovery over two centuries later. Next, the environment which surrounds the *Swift* site is described: its general hydrographic, geomorphological, and biological features are characterized. Subsequent chapters detail the diving techniques and other aspects related to the underwater archaeological work; the different lines of inquiry informing the project, such as naval construction, armament, and health and hygiene; the relationship between material culture and social hierarchies; and site formation processes. The last pages of the book summarize the main conclusions of the research and propose future lines of investigation. Finally, the second part of the work, in digital format, contains a series of specialized reports on sedimentary geology, botany, metallurgic characterization, chemical analyses, and bioanthropology. It also includes photographs of the entire artifact collection and a selection of underwater videos. The hundreds of photographs and illustrations included in the book (all of them in full color), plus the DVD with underwater footage, make it attractive to a broad spectrum of readers and nonreaders of Spanish alike. The book is available via Amazon.

## Underwater - Worldwide

### Argentina

**News from the Underwater Archaeology Program of the Instituto Nacional de Antropología** (submitted by Dolores Elkin, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas (CONICET) and Instituto Nacional de Antropología, Argentina):

#### *New publication on the HMS Swift*

Twenty-twelve began with an important landmark for our team, which was the publication of a comprehensive book on the HMS *Swift*, which has been our main research project for over a decade. The book, entitled *El naufragio de la HMS Swift (1770). Arqueología marítima en la Patagonia* (full

Dolores Elkin, Cristian Murray, Ricardo Bastida, Monica Grosso, Amaru Argueso, Damian Vainstub, Chris Underwood, and Nicolas Ciarlo

2011 *El naufragio de la HMS Swift (1770). Arqueología marítima en la Patagonia*. Vazquez Mazzini Editores, Buenos Aires.

#### *Ongoing projects in Patagonia*

Now that a significant portion of the HMS *Swift* project has been completed, the archaeological research conducted by the PROAS team is focused on two other Patagonian areas.

One of the projects is being conducted on the Atlantic coast of the main island of Tierra del Fuego. The project is part of the broader Atlantic Coast Archaeological Program, conducted by the Museo del Fin del Mundo (Museum of the End of the World) in the city of Ushuaia, under the direction of archaeologist Martín Vázquez. The goal of our shipwreck project is to conduct a baseline study along a 200 km long segment of the Atlantic coast of Tierra del Fuego in search of any shipwreck remains located in the study area. Historical



records indicate that numerous vessels were lost there, particularly from the 18th century on. Our fieldwork started in 2010, and a number of metal and wooden shipwreck sites, as well as hundreds of scattered remains, have been located and preliminarily recorded. A paper on this project was presented at the recent SHA meeting in Leicester.

Another project on which our team is currently focused is one which began back in 2004 with the goal of assessing, conducting nonintrusive surveys of, and providing tourism management guidelines for, the shipwrecks of a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Valdés Peninsula, as well as the adjacent coastal city of Puerto Madryn, both located in the province of Chubut. Around 30 shipwrecks are located within the study area, and a number of them have been selected, mainly on the basis of their historical and/or archaeological value, but also in view of their potential use as a sustainable tourism resource both for divers and nondivers, since some are located in the intertidal zone.

The sites range from wooden sailing vessels (some of them probably 19th-century whalers) to metal-hulled steamers. All of them provide insight into the history of seafaring in Patagonia and may constitute a significant complement to the wildlife and other natural attractions that the area already offers.

For more information: <[http://www.inapl.gov.ar/invest/proas/proas\\_proyectos.html](http://www.inapl.gov.ar/invest/proas/proas_proyectos.html)>.

## Indonesia

**Looting of an Underwater Site in Indonesia** (submitted by Nia Naelul Hasanah): British artifacts have been stolen from a late-19th-century shipwreck found at a depth of 17 meters in the waters off Great Natuna Island, in the Riau Islands of Indonesia. Most of the stolen goods, which included many ceramic objects, were seized by the Natuna Police in mid-September. The Coordinator of the Working Group on Documentation and Publication of Archaeological Heritage Conservation Center (BP3 Batu Sangkar), Teguh Hidayat, who is in charge of maritime heritage in West Sumatra, Riau Province, and the Riau Islands, said that the stolen items were about to be smuggled through cargo services. The discovery was made after maritime archaeology researchers and Nia Naelul Hasanah (Head of Technical Services Section of Research Institute for Coastal Resources and Vulnerability - Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries) liaised with police. At present it is believed that the historic items were stolen with assistance from divers from Vietnam. According to Teguh, the other shipwreck cargo items that are still in situ need to be excavated or at least secured. "If this is not done soon, the remaining items could potentially be stolen, and the entire cargo might disappear," said Teguh.

Nia had previously proposed an excavation of the Natuna site, to be carried out in 2013, and hopes to be able to travel to Leicester for the SHA/ACUA conference in order to outline some details about the site. It is therefore a cause of some disappointment that objects have already

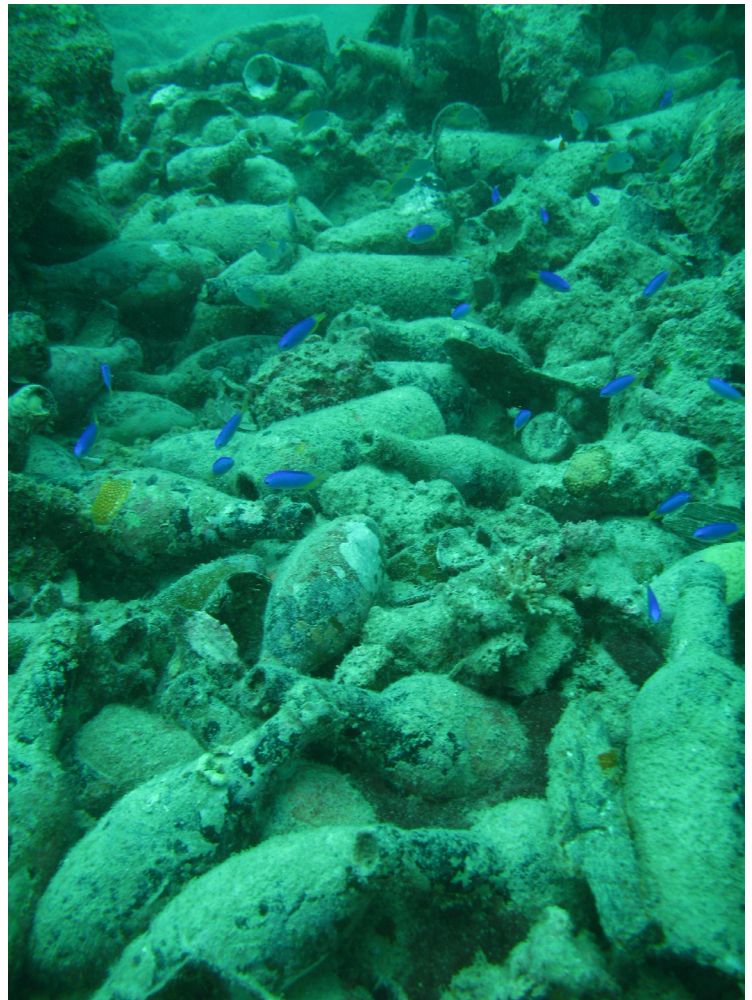


FIGURE 1. *In situ bottles at the Natuna site.*

been stolen in advance of any forthcoming fieldwork. Teguh said the team from BP3 Batu Sangkar is currently awaiting an assessment from the central government team of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage Preservation and Museum Affairs, which is currently examining the location. The full cataloging of the stolen objects will be undertaken following the team's report.

## Massachusetts

**Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA:** In March 2012, the National Park Service listed the shipwreck *Lamartine* on the National Register of Historic Places. *Lamartine* rests within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary located off the coast of Massachusetts. Built by a Camden, Maine shipbuilder, the 79 foot long, two-masted schooner was launched in 1848. During the vessel's 45-year career it was utilized in the U.S. coasting trade, carrying a variety of cargos along the Eastern Seaboard. *Lamartine* encountered a storm off Gloucester on 17 May 1893 while en route from Stonington, Maine to New York City. Heavy seas caused the schooner's cargo of granite sewer catch-basin heads to shift, capsizing it. One crew member drowned



as the schooner settled beneath the waves and the captain and mate were forced to swim for their lives. Fortunately, a fishing schooner returning to Gloucester saw *Lamartine* sink and rescued the swimming men.

"*Lamartine's* cargo of cut granite reveals fascinating details about the use of granite to meet the demands of this nation's increasing urbanization," said the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's Superintendent, Craig MacDonald, Ph.D. "The shipwreck is a physical link to our ancestors who moved the stone and whose hands chiseled the stone blocks that built our great American cities." Scientists from NOAA and the University of Connecticut's Northeast Underwater Research Technology and Education Center (NURTEC) documented the shipwreck with the university's remotely operated vehicle. The fieldwork recorded the vessel's features, including portions of its wooden hull, rigging, and granite cargo. This information allowed sanctuary maritime archaeologists, with help from a local maritime historian, to identify the shipwreck and connect it with New England's cultural landscape that is dotted with granite quarries on coastal headlands and islands.

NOAA and NURTEC scientists have located and documented more than forty historic shipwrecks in the sanctuary using side scan sonar, remotely operated vehicles, and autonomous underwater vehicles. The *Lamartine* is the sanctuary's sixth shipwreck site to be included on the National Register of Historic Places. *Lamartine's* location within the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary provides protection unavailable to shipwrecks in other federal waters off Massachusetts. Sanctuary regulations prohibit moving, removing or injuring any sanctuary historical resource, including artifacts and pieces from shipwrecks or other submerged archaeological sites. Anyone violating this regulation is subject to civil penalties.

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 842 square miles of ocean, stretching between Cape Ann and Cape Cod offshore of Massachusetts. Renowned for its scenic beauty and remarkable productivity, the sanctuary is famous as a whale-watching destination and supports a rich assortment of marine life, including marine mammals, seabirds, fishes, and marine invertebrates. The sanctuary's position astride the historic shipping routes and fishing grounds for Massachusetts' oldest ports also make it a repository for shipwrecks associated with several hundred years of maritime transportation. For more information contact <Matthew.Lawrence@noaa.gov> or visit: <<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/maritime/granite.html>>.

## New York

**Bateaux Below, Inc. and the French and Indian War Society (Lake George, New York):** On 9 August 2012, Fort William Henry, a replica of a 1755-1757 Vauban-style fort at the south end of Lake George, New York, opened a new exhibit: "Underwater Archaeology of 'The Sunken Fleet of 1758.'" Bateaux Below, an underwater archaeology team, created the display for the French and Indian War Society

and Fort William Henry Corporation. The exhibit's opening corresponded with the 255th anniversary of the 9 August 1757 surrender of the British garrison, Fort William Henry, to the French during the French and Indian War (1755-1763).

The exhibition includes over 20 pictorial display posters, 3 scale models of Lake George vessels associated with "The Sunken Fleet of 1758," which were constructed by Bateaux Below ship modeler, John Farrell, and several bateau- and maritime-related artifacts from the Fort William Henry Collection. Furthermore, there is a video component to the exhibit, a specially edited video by Pepe Productions. The video includes excerpts from two award-winning Lake George shipwreck documentaries, *The Lost Radeau: North America's Oldest Intact Warship* (2005) and *Wooden Bones: The Sunken Fleet of 1758* (2010) produced by Pepe Productions and Bateaux Below.

The new exhibit examines the history, underwater exploration, and archaeological investigation of the Sunken Fleet of 1758, an event when the British deliberately sank over 260 of their warships in Lake George in the autumn of 1758 to protect them over the winter of 1758-1759 from the marauding French and their Native American allies. Fort William Henry had been destroyed in August 1757, so the Sunken Fleet of 1758 represented an attempt to safeguard the British warships. In the early summer of 1759, about 200 vessels were raised from the lake, but about 50 sunken bateaux and other vessels were not recovered. These have been the focus of a long-term underwater archaeological study and historic preservation effort (1987-2011) by Bateaux Below.

## Northern Mariana Islands

The National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) awarded a \$76,590 grant to New Mexico-based Ships of Discovery to help protect World War II-related cave sites on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "We are proud to support projects like this that safeguard and preserve American battlefields," said Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service. "These places are symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage that we must protect so that this and future generations can understand the struggles that define us as a nation."

This is the third grant awarded to Ships of Discovery since 2009. The previous grants focused on the preservation and documentation of World War II underwater cultural heritage in Saipan and resulted in an underwater trail, guides, posters, and a film. The projects are a joint effort of Ships of Discovery and Flinders University Maritime Archaeology Program; Dr. Jennifer McKinnon is the principal investigator. Under McKinnon's direction students at Flinders and the University of Sydney have completed seven graduate degrees focusing on World War II underwater cultural heritage sites, adding to the understanding of and appreciation for these unique remains. For more information about World War II underwater cultural heritage on Saipan, visit: <<http://www.pacificmaritimeheritagetrail.com/>>.

This grant is 1 of 27 National Park Service grants for 2012, totaling \$1.35 million, to preserve and protect significant battle sites associated with all wars fought on American soil. Funded projects assist with the preservation of battlefields from the colonial-Indian Wars through World War II and include site mapping (GPS/GIS data collection), archaeological studies, National Register of Historic Places nominations, preservation, and management plans.

## Books of Interest

Benjamin, Jonathan, Clive Bonsall, Catriona Pickard, and Anders Fischer (editors)  
2001 *Submerged Prehistory*. Oxbow Books, UK.

**Abstract:** Major events of human prehistory such as the postglacial recolonization of Northern Europe and the spread of agriculture through the Mediterranean took place on landscapes that are now, at least partially, underwater. Large parts of this submerged terrain are accessible to divers and can be investigated archaeologically. Prehistoric underwater research has emerged in recent decades as a distinct subdiscipline, developing approaches and methodologies that can be applied in coastal regions worldwide. As a result, there is growing awareness of the potential for underwater archaeology to transform our ideas about the course of prehistory. This volume examines existing practice and new developments in the field of submerged prehistoric landscape research. The 25 peer-reviewed contributions from leading authors cover the results of recent research on 3 continents and the application of methodologies and techniques for site discovery, investigation, and interpretation.

## Other Underwater Items of Interest

**The World Heritage Convention Turns 40:** The World Heritage Convention, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference on 16 November 1972, has just turned 40. A year of celebratory events in 37 countries around the world began in January 2012 with a concert by UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador Herbie Hancock at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, and concluded last week with a conference of international heritage experts in Kyoto, Japan. The events were held in conjunction with the main anniversary theme, "World Heritage and Sustainable Development: The Role of Local Communities," and concluded with the launch of the Kyoto Vision, a statement outlining orientations for the implementation of the convention going forward. The only treaty for heritage preservation that encompasses both cultural and natural sites, the convention has been almost universally ratified, with there presently being 190 States Parties. There are now 962 sites on the World Heritage List, 745 of them cultural, 188 natural, and 29 mixed (both cultural and natural) in 157 States Parties.

To learn more about the 40th-anniversary activities and the theme of the year and to read the Kyoto Vision, visit

the 40th anniversary dedicated website: <[whc.unesco.org/en/40years](http://whc.unesco.org/en/40years)>. 🏰

## USA - Alaska

**Iditarod National Historic Trail Sites Survey** (*submitted by Andrew Higgs, Justin Hays, and Josh Reuther, Northern Land Use Research, Inc., Fairbanks, AK, and Chris Wooley, Chumis Cultural Resources Services, Anchorage, AK*): The Iditarod trail system was important to the early-20th-century economic development and initial Euroamerican settlement in south- and west-central and western Alaska. This "Last Frontier" trail facilitated travel to and communication with the remote and gold rush regions of Cook Inlet, the lower Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers, and the Seward Peninsula. Established in 1908 by Colonel Walter Goodwin, the length of the primary trail is 938 miles, from Seward to Nome; the system grew to add another thousand miles of connecting trails. Primarily established as a winter trail with dog-traction travel, portions of the trail were later supplemented by roads, tramways, and railroad grades.

During the late 1970s to early 1980s, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conducted historical research and field inventories to locate and evaluate sites and trail segments in support of a comprehensive management plan that permits recreational uses of the historic trail (<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/nlcs/iditarod/history.html>). To that end, most people think of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race (<http://iditarod.com>) or Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic (<http://www.irondograce.org>) when they hear the name Iditarod. Besides these two annual sporting events, the trail is primarily used by recreational mushers and snowmobile enthusiasts through the winter months, although winter trapping and fall hunting continue to be activities associated with the trail.

Under contract with Donlin Gold, Inc., Northern Land Use Research, Inc. (NLUR) archaeologists have been conducting reconnaissance surveys and site assessments along a central portion (the Skwentna River and South Fork of the Kuskokwim River) of the Iditarod Trail (hereafter referred to as the Trail). The survey team reassessed known cultural resources from earlier surveys and documented new ones, including several new prehistoric sites. Nine historical resources identified on the portion of the Trail surveyed include former roadhouses and shelter cabins located in creek and river margins. Early entrepreneurs constructed and operated roadhouses about every 20 miles (an approximate winter day's travel) along the Trail during its peak years of use (ca. 1910–1925). Roadhouses offered travelers prepared meals and a warm place to sleep during winter travel. As dog-traction transport methods gave way to air travel to remote villages, entrepreneurs abandoned the more isolated sections of the Trail and the Alaska Road Commission constructed unmanned shelter cabins for emergency situations.





FIGURE 1. Three-room Dalzell Roadhouse ruin plan view.

NLUR's survey determined that since the 1980s, the rivers have completely eroded away three former roadhouse sites on the Happy, Skwentna, and Tatina (Rohn) rivers, but our survey relocated and/or tested the remaining six resources: the Dalzell Roadhouse, Anderson's Roadhouse, Puntilla Cabin, Skwentna Crossing Safety Cabin, Rohn Shelter Cabin, and Rainy Pass Shelter Cabin sites.

Constructed during the early years of the Trail, the Puntilla Cabin was originally built by Waino Puntilla, a Norwegian immigrant who trapped and hunted in the area. Later the cabin was refurbished by the Alaska Road Commission as a shelter cabin, presumably after Puntilla had vacated it for another residence. Only a few logs of the cabin ruin remain today. Historical research determined that the cabin was heavily scavenged during the 1930s and 1940s by residents living nearby. NLUR archaeologists conducted subsurface tests and metal detection methods to determine the site's archaeological potential. Artifacts observed on the surface and in test pits included five-gallon fuel cans, sanitary-type food cans, nails, a triangular metal file, moose tooth and bone fragments, a leather strap, wood chips, and dimensional lumber. Little remains of the site.

Archaeological testing at the Dalzell Roadhouse (ca. 1910–1920) produced a much more robust artifact assemblage and determined from the collapsed log walls that the building was a three-room cabin (Figure 1). Also, the remains of one structure, interpreted to be a dog kennel, are nearby along with several other features of unidentified functions. The crew transected the entire area with a metal detector and excavated test pits in selected areas. Testing uncovered bone scraps, nails, window and bottle glass, metal crate straps, numerous rifle cartridges, food cans, and tobacco tin cans throughout the site area. The potentially significant archaeological assemblage should contribute to

the knowledge of this Trail resource that is rarely mentioned in historical documents.

Rainy Pass Shelter Cabin (ca. 1924–1940) was relocated and documented last summer. Prior to the survey, the cabin was known only from a few historic references and one 1920s photograph from a big-game hunting expedition through the pass. Based on the historic photograph, the roughly 12 feet square, shed-roofed building was constructed of spruce logs hauled to the treeless pass. The photograph shows a door, a window opening, and expedient dovetail corner notching. In 1980, BLM airplane reconnaissance through Rainy Pass photographed some logs on the ground, but there was no pedestrian visit. In July 2012, NLUR conducted a field study of the former structure. The cabin logs have degraded to the point that structural interpretation from the existing remains would be limited. Two small cooking pots were

noted among the decayed logs of the cabin. Within 50 feet of the structural ruin, artifacts found using a metal detector include post-1920s food cans, nails, a wrought-iron door latch, metal crate straps, baling wire, and a stove door, just beneath the moss. Later-period artifacts include crumpled wads of aluminum foil, a foil-lined tea bag, and creamer pouches. Recent site-use artifacts include pieces of reflective yellow tape, dog booties, and a wood lathe associated with post-1973 marking of the Iditarod race trail.

NLUR also conducted pedestrian surveys and testing around both the Rohn and Skwentna shelter cabins. In 1981, both shelter cabins were documented to Historic American Building Survey standards, and they have undergone only minor rehabilitation with like materials since then. Constructed in 1939 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Rohn Shelter Cabin lies adjacent to an emergency landing airstrip at the mouth of the Tatina River. Among other things, the fully functional Rohn cabin is used as a race checkpoint for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. In 2010, NLUR found only a small 1960s can dump located northwest of the cabin. The Skwentna Crossing Safety Cabin, constructed on the bank of the Skwentna River in 1924, was moved in February 2010 by Trail volunteers to save it from imminent flooding events. NLUR archaeologists documented the shelter cabin foundation and a few associated pit features after the emergency move. No significant subsurface remains or artifacts were identified. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cabin crews completed restoration of the cabin in the summer of 2010.

Recent historical research has brought to light archived collections of engineering survey photographs from 1914 and maps associated with a proposed railroad route along portions of the Trail, which would have opened southwest



Alaska to year-round transportation and supplies. One of the archived photos, found at the University of Washington, contributed to the field identification of the Anderson's Roadhouse site due to the topography visible behind the building that was not evident in other historic photographs. Based on the 1914 photograph, the roadhouse consisted of a log structure with two main volumes and a lean-to addition built onto the south wall. A large cache made of logs and elevated on four posts is visible behind the house. Historic narratives indicated that the site included a "kennel" for 100 dogs, and that the abandoned roadhouse burned to the ground in 1936 during a hunting expedition. Many of us concerned about the Trail's cultural resources feared that the Anderson's Roadhouse site had also eroded away, since its detection had eluded earlier surveys; however, this past summer, the burned roadhouse remains were discovered in the creek's margin. Among the dense willow, the field team identified the bermed outline of the main building, four post stumps associated with the former elevated cache, and a large "kennel" feature represented by linear grassy berms (Figure 2). Scorched metal artifacts (e.g., sheet-metal stove, pots, pans, washtubs, galvanized steel bucket) were noted within the confines of the roadhouse berm. Additional brush cutting of the dense willow in the site area is needed prior to controlled testing or metal detecting for additional features and artifacts.

Although most people presently relate the Iditarod Trail to "the" dog sled race, the Trail's history is more broadly associated with hunting and trapping, commerce, communication, settlement, and various modes of transportation in territorial Alaska between 1896 and 1942. Cultural resource survey data collected indicate that several sites, but not all, retain an historical archaeology component with structural and artifact integrity relating to dwelling construction, occupancy, and abandonment, as well as a few later-period artifacts that indicate posthabitation uses.


Funding and remote field logistics for this cultural resource management project have been part of project permitting for Donlin Gold, LLC, Anchorage, Alaska (<http://www.donlingold.com>). Kris Farmen (Northern Land Use Research, Inc.) also conducted historical research and project surveys. We would particularly like to thank Bureau of Land Management Iditarod Trail administrator Kevin Keeler and archaeologist Jenny Blanchard for sharing information on prior and ongoing trail research. The State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology emergency funding and staff, along with volunteers, saved the Skwentna Crossing Safety Cabin from river erosion. We also appreciate and acknowledge the mutual interest in the history of the Iditarod Trail we have shared with the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (<http://www.iditarodnationalhistorictail.org>). 



FIGURE 2. Outline of the Anderson's Roadhouse site features.

## USA - Midwest

**Eighth Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, Urbana, Illinois** (submitted by Mark Branstner, Thomas Emerson, Christopher Fennell, and Eve Hargrave): The Eighth Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference (MHAC8) was convened on 5 and 6 October 2012, in Urbana, Illinois. This year's conference was hosted and sponsored by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey, Prairie Research Institute, and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The festivities began with a welcoming party on the evening of 5 October, followed by an all-day conference gathering on the University of Illinois campus on Saturday, 6 October.

The theme for the 2012 MHAC addressed the challenges of meaningful public engagement through archaeology. Our focus explored the numerous approaches taken by archaeologists to educate and collaborate with nonarchaeologists on projects that illustrate how archaeological information can provide insights into past lives and events throughout the Midwest. In doing so, we sought to highlight the challenges of attaining significant civic engagement that goes beyond mere dissemination of findings.

We divided the conference into two general parts. The first round of sessions included more-formal, 20-minute presentations covering specific examples of public outreach and collaborative archaeology in the Midwest. Each group of three or four presentations was followed by general discussions, debate, questions, and answers by all in attendance. The second round of sessions consisted of 10-minute overviews of new and recent projects, again

followed by open discussions and debate by all in attendance. The afternoon concluded with a poster session and general reception. Twenty-three presentations and posters by 35 authors, with an additional 21 attendees including undergraduates, graduate students, and professionals, set the stage for a very lively day of discussions and debates of best practices and lessons learned through numerous, in-depth projects.

Discussions on the challenges of urban archaeology and public engagement included "Brooklyn, Illinois: America's First Black Town and the Reconstitution of Memory," led by Joseph Galloy, Miranda Yancey, and Thomas Emerson, and "Engaging Chicago's Gold Coast with the Gilded Age: The Charnley-Persky House Archaeological Project," by Rebecca Graff and Grace Krause. Moving to more rural settings, debates focused on "New Philadelphia Archaeology: The First Ten Years," by Terrance Martin and Chris Fennell, and "The Naperville Heritage Society and the Naper Settlement Investigations," by Don Booth. African-American residential sites and farmsteads were also the focus of Mark Groover and Tyler Wolford on "Rural Affluence and Landscape Change at the Clemens Farmstead" in Indiana and in presentations by Kathryn Fay and Amanda Burt on New Philadelphia in western Illinois and Annelise Morris on a community in southeast Illinois.

Archaeology and the public focus on historic fortifications and Native American sites were discussed in detail by Michael Nassaney, Lenville Stelle, Michael Hargrave, Steve Kuehn, Samantha Emrick, Khyrstin Chance, Christine Keller, Mark Groover, and Jamie Arjona. The promises and challenges of civic engagement during cemetery research and preservation were addressed by several presentations and subsequent discussions led by Hal Hassen, Dawn Cobb, Shawn Philips, Michael Moroz, and Raluca Szabo. Patrick Durst, Miranda Yancey, and Dwayne Scheid detailed an extensive project on a multiblock, urban, working-class neighborhood occupied during the height of industrial activity in East St. Louis, Illinois in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The challenges of collaboration, public volunteer work in archaeology, and uses of new remote sensing technologies were the focus of presentations by Suzanne Spencer-Wood, Anne Moore, Christopher Moore, Carl Carlson-Drexler, and George Calfas.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Michael Nassaney, who developed and launched the annual MHAC program at Western Michigan University in 2005. Please contact Michael ([nassaney@wmich.edu](mailto:nassaney@wmich.edu)) if you are interested in hosting and sponsoring MHAC9 in 2013 or if you would like to join an informal steering committee to help set the agendas for future conferences.

## Michigan

**Michilimackinac:** The 2012 field season saw the continuation of excavation begun in 2007 on House E of the Southeast Row House within the palisade walls of Fort Michilimackinac. House E was constructed during the 1730s expansion of

the fort and demolished when the garrison transferred to Mackinac Island in 1781. The only name we can directly associate with the house is Charles Henri Desjardins de Rupallay de Gonneville. He owned the house by 1749 and at least through 1758. House E is listed as an English trader's house on a 1765 map. Few English traders' houses have been excavated at Michilimackinac, because most of them lived outside of the palisade walls. Comparing the English trader's assemblage to previously excavated French traders' assemblages is one of the main goals for the project.

The objectives for the season were to better define and understand previously exposed features and to expand the area of excavation northward into the interior of the house. A linear clay-and-wood feature previously exposed and tentatively identified as the south wall of the British-era house was shown to extend to the west across the house this season. An intact French folding knife recovered from this feature was one of the most notable artifacts of the summer. A gap for the doorway was identified, as was a fragment of the earlier French-era wall, just north of the British-era wall.

An additional 5 x 15 ft. area inside the house was opened this summer. Several layers of deposit related to 20th-century park activities were removed. By the end of the season the layer created by the 1781 demolition of the fort was exposed in this entire trench. The 1781 demolition rubble here was artifact rich, as it has been elsewhere. The most unusual artifacts recovered were an intact shoe buckle and a trade ring. Some of the glass or paste sets had fallen out of the ring and been replaced with vermillion.

Excavation of this house unit will continue for several more summers. The project was sponsored by Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) and directed by Dr. Lynn Evans, MSHP curator of archaeology, with field supervision by Western Michigan University graduate student Justin Baetsen. The final report will follow completion of the house unit. The artifacts and records are housed at MSHP's Petersen Center in Mackinaw City. 🏰

## USA - Northeast

### Maine

**Popham Colony** (submitted by Jeffrey P. Brain): The Popham Project continued its investigation of Fort St. George (1607–1608) on the Kennebec River in Maine during August and September 2012, under the direction of Jeffrey P. Brain. This time we were looking for the chapel which the John Hunt map placed on private land contiguous with state-owned land that had previously been investigated. Our excavations provided further evidence of the reliability of the Hunt map, which guided us to the precise location and allowed us to confirm most of the north wall and entire east wall of the chapel so that we now know the orientation and dimensions



of the building. Another feather in John Hunt's cap!

**Fort Richmond Data Recovery Update** (*submitted by Leith Smith*): Excavation by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, volunteers, and students continues to reveal evidence of four periods of occupation spanning 1721 to ca. 1830. A barracks or garrison constructed by 1721 by the Pejepscot Proprietors is represented by a large, stone, central chimney foundation with two fireboxes. Recent discovery of an associated posthole demonstrates this to have been an earth-fast or post-in-the-ground structure. A formal fort measuring 70 ft. square was constructed at the site by the Province of Massachusetts in 1724. The existing 1721 barracks was utilized as a corner blockhouse, thereby dictating the orientation of the fort as a whole. The 1724–1740 fort is defined, in part, by a stone perimeter wall that likely supported a series of structures. Inside the fort have been found additional stone foundation walls, a stone-lined cellar, and a cistern, the latter 9 ft. in diameter and 2.2 m deep. The cistern's interior clay walls were fired to help prevent seepage. A long drain trench used to fill the cistern from roof runoff or from the fort well is present, as is an overflow drainage trench that exits under the fort perimeter wall.

The fort was expanded in 1740, and at that time most if not all of the existing structures were taken down and the cellars and cistern were filled. These were replaced by a large log structure 36 ft. wide and of unknown length. This building likely served as the model for the existing 1754 main structure at Fort Western in Augusta. One end wall of this building was constructed on a portion of the 1724–1740 perimeter stone wall, while other walls were supported by sills laid on discontinuous stones and bricks. The locations of a ramp entrance and separate doorway with stoop stone have also been defined. Inside the structure was a large central chimney with two hearths back-to-back and ovens, a shallow root cellar, and a deep cellar, both cellars being accessed via trap doors in the floor. The ground surface inside the fort adjacent to this building was paved with cobblestones in one area and with bricks in another. Two palisades surrounded the enlarged fort, the inner one consisting of a solid vertical log wall, and the outer, 12 ft. away, consisting of vertical logs spaced to allow visibility beyond the fort, but not access. The 1740 fort was largely dismantled at the time of decommissioning in 1755. The arrival of the John Parks family ca. 1776 resulted in construction of a large house within the footprint of the former fort. Since the remains of the fort were all around, the Parks family proceeded to fill the 1740–1755 fort cellars and covered many of the fort features with a layer of refuse until ca. 1830. A plethora of artifacts representing all four periods as well as prehistoric material has been found. Among these are glass trade beads and a cuprous cufflink bearing the insignia of the Freemasons (established in England in 1717). A fund-raising campaign is underway to support excavations in the spring and summer of 2013 before the site is destroyed by construction. It is anticipated that an archaeological field school through the University of Southern Maine will help with this effort.

## Massachusetts

**Replacement of Bridge R-12-004 (Royalston Bridge), Royalston** (*submitted by Kristen Heitert and The Public Archaeology Laboratory*): The Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) recently completed intensive (locational) survey and site examination investigations for the proposed replacement of Bridge R-12-004 (Royalston Bridge), which carries Northeast Fitzwilliam Road over Lawrence Brook in Royalston, Massachusetts. The Royalston Bridge, constructed in 1936, is located on a stone-and-earthen dam that impounded Lawrence Brook to provide power to a mill complex, which operated from the mid-1800s to the 1920s (Figure 1).

Historical maps and census data indicate that Seth



FIGURE 1. Ca. 1907 postcard showing Newton-Davis Mill complex from across mill pond.

Holman established a sawmill and gristmill at the site sometime before 1850. The complex, operated by Holman and his son, originally included woodworking machinery used to produce complete chairs. Eventually, the operation shifted to producing sawed and turned chairs, tubs, and pails, and a large variety of woodenware for factories in Gardner, Winchendon, and elsewhere. In 1858 the Holmans sold the mill and their Greek-Revival style residence to Maynard Partridge, who ran the business for 10 years, producing lumber and turned chair stock. In 1876 the mill was converted to steam power, and in 1905 the mill and mill privilege were sold to business partners Willard H. Newton and Willie Davis, who replaced the old up-and-down sawmill with a circular blade. The original, heavy-timbered mill building, however, burned down in the year of the sale. Newton and Davis rebuilt, using in part a building from a neighboring water privilege, and soon added a number of portable sawmills to their operation. The steam boilers and engines of the portable sawmills were fed with waste material and the resulting sawn products were transported



FIGURE 2. Cobble-floor feature, Newton-Davis Mill Site.

to the mill, a process that greatly lowered costs. Newton and Davis continued to operate the mill until 1925 when Newton died intestate, leaving the property to his son Leon. It is assumed that the mill was demolished shortly after Newton's death, and in 1935 all woodlots and other lands owned by Newton and Davis were seized and sold at



FIGURE 3. "Shaper knives" recovered from cobble floor, Newton-Davis Mill Site.

by systematic test pit and unit excavations across the site. A cobble floor identified in proximity to the tailrace and wheel pit yielded melted glass and lead, and may be the remains of one of two possible structures on the site (Figure 2). The 50 cm thick accumulation of cobbles could have supported heavier machinery utilized in a sawmill, and as such may be part of the stone floor or platform of the original sawmill that burned in 1905. Alternatively, the recovery of shaping knives typically used for turning machines suggests that the cobble platform may also have been the location of the turning mill that was added to the 1906 sawmill complex, which was rebuilt at the location of the earlier mill (Figure 3).

An annotated postcard of the mill complex from 1906 provides important information to fill out the preliminary picture of mill operations as interpreted from the field investigations. The postcard depicts the "new" sawmill erected shortly after the original sawmill burned. Visible in the photograph at the east end of the mill is a tall stack, possibly for the steam boiler that powered the mill. The postcard clearly shows that there was an opening in the dam before the construction of the Royalston Bridge in 1936. This opening housed the gate structure that regulated the water level in the mill pond. The postcard also shows what appear to be wooden "bumpers" facing the dam on both sides of the gate structure, which would have provided protection for the masonry of the gate structure and the face of the dam.

Based on preliminary research and the results of field investigations, the mill complex, designated the Newton-Davis Mill Site, is a significant archaeological resource and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, at the local level, under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the mill contributes to our understanding of the broad trends of the sawmilling industry in northern Worcester County and its association with the furniture-making industry in nearby Gardner. Under Criterion C, the site also may be eligible as a complex "that embod(ies) the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent(s) the work of a master, or that possess(es) high artistic values, or that represent(s) a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

auction to cover delinquent taxes.

Archaeological investigations of the site included mapping all visible remains of the former mill complex, including the dry-laid stone walls associated with the mill foundation, dam, mill pond, and tailrace structures, followed

## New York

**Cohoes Mill Archaeology:** The Public Archaeology Facility (Binghamton University) conducted excavations in the city



of Cohoes, north of Albany. The project involved a bridge replacement and examination of the 19th-century millrace. Using walkovers, mapping of surface features, shovel tests, and backhoe trenches, the work established the way the raceway was constructed and its route under the street and by a parking lot.

**Albany 17th-century Finds:** Louis Berger Group conducted both mechanical and hand excavations in the center of the city of Albany. They uncovered pitch-pine posts, a hand-wrought awl, brick, and a wood drain capped with flagstones, as well as a more modern cement-and-brick drain. Dendrochronological analysis showed the wooden posts dated to the late 17th century. Each post was completely removed and the locations recorded. Monitoring followed.

**More City Work—Binghamton:** The Public Archaeology Facility excavated an entire urban block, which was the site of industrial and residential properties dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. Under the asphalt, features were found: portions of house foundations, outbuildings, cisterns, a well, and a privy, as well as many artifacts dating to both centuries.

## Rhode Island

**Excavations at the ca. 1750 Dr. Reuben Mason House, Gloucester** (*submitted by Ross K. Harper*): Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) recently completed a Phase I(c) Intensive Archaeological Survey and Phase II Site Examination along a 1.5-mile stretch of U.S. Route 44 (Putnam Pike) in the Chepachet Village Historic District in Gloucester, Rhode Island. Putnam Pike historically was known as the “Great Country Road” and was a main connector between northwestern Rhode Island and northeastern Connecticut (as it still is today). Colonial settlement in that corner of the state began in the early 18th century, at which time the area was part of Providence; in 1730–1731, Gloucester, Smithfield, and Scituate were established as independent towns. Farming was the main occupation of the inhabitants during that period, along with various water-powered enterprises including sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills, and a trip-hammer shop.

During the archaeological survey, a total of 11 historical sites were discovered and several previously identified sites were tested. Among the previously identified sites was the ca. 1750 Dr. Reuben Mason house situated at the foot of Acote’s Hill and adjacent to a large cemetery (Figure 1). In 1774, Dr. Mason purchased the house and established a practice to serve the medical needs of the people of Gloucester. When the Revolutionary War broke out, Dr. Mason served as an army surgeon in General William West’s brigade of the Rhode Island Militia. After the war he had a long and productive practice until his death in 1799, after which his son, James, took over as the

town’s physician.

In 1842, Chepachet Village became the headquarters of Thomas W. Dorr. Dorr was a vocal champion for greater equality in voting rights, and his strident stance on the issue led to the conflict known as “Dorr’s Rebellion.” After an unsuccessful attempt to take over the state arsenal in Providence, some 700 of Dorr’s men retreated to Acote’s Hill and began building fortifications. The Reuben Mason house was designated as a field hospital. When the Dorrites heard that the governor had dispatched 2,000 armed men, all but 150 dispersed. By the time the militia arrived, all the Dorrites were gone, and Dorr himself had fled to Connecticut. The next year Dorr was extradited to Rhode Island, tried and convicted of treason, and sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labor. In response to an outpouring of public support, however, he was released after just one year. His civil rights were restored in 1851, and his conviction formally reversed in 1854, the year he died. Despite the rebellion’s anticlimatic end, the principles behind Dorr’s Rebellion were vindicated when a new constitution for Rhode Island went into effect that gave any adult male, regardless of race, the right to vote provided he could pay a poll tax of \$1. Today, the Gloucester Heritage Society owns the Dr. Reuben Mason house, and members are currently conducting a momentous restoration of the two-and-a-half-story, center-chimney colonial, which will be used for a variety of purposes, including a Dorr’s Rebellion Museum.

Only a remnant of the original house lot survives, as much of it has been disturbed by driveway construction, utility installations, and repairs to the foundation. Other disturbances are related to past roadwork, landscaping, erosion, and an encroaching cemetery boundary. Thus, the testing offered an opportunity to explore some of the last undisturbed remnants of the yard. The archaeological testing included eight 1 x 1 m units, one 1 x 1.5 m unit, and six shovel test pits (Figure 2).

The units located 4–6 meters from the front of the



FIGURE 1. The ca. 1750 Dr. Reuben Mason house, Chepachet Village, Gloucester, Rhode Island.

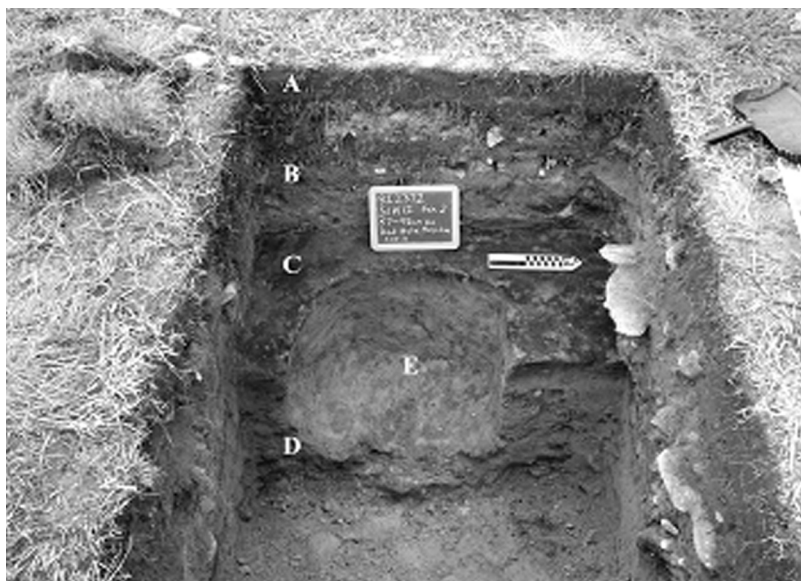


FIGURE 2. A 1 x 1.5 m unit excavated in front of the Dr. Reuben Mason house. Soils include: (A) topsoil; (B) cellar ejecta; (C) buried ca. 1750 yard surface; and (D) intact B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, and C subsoils. Also seen is the negative of a bisected posthole feature (E), probably from an early- to mid-19th-century fence.

house proved to be especially informative, with each being characterized by multiple soil strata of varying thicknesses. The uppermost soil stratum comprised a dark brown loamy topsoil that yielded the majority of the 2,256 artifacts recovered from the site. The materials date from the 18th through 20th centuries, and include early ceramic types such as delftware, white salt-glazed stoneware, English yellow slipware, Westerwald, and debased Rouen faience. The highly fragmentary nature of the ceramic assemblage suggests heavy trampling by people and livestock across the front of the house; consequently, little specific information regarding vessel forms and activities (dairying, tea drinking, food storage) could be gleaned from the assemblage. The low density of household trash across the front yard also indicates that there was no midden in that area, and that refuse likely was tossed out behind the house in a trash-disposal pattern typical for rural New England households during that period. Because Reuben Mason was a doctor who practiced in his own home, he also may have wanted to present a cleaner and more hygienic-looking landscape to his arriving patients (at least relative to 18th-century standards). Among the more intriguing artifacts recovered from the upper topsoil were a European flint strike-a-light, a fragment of a decorated brass knee-buckle frame, a pewter one-piece button, a red clay marble, five slate writing-board fragments, and a 1722 British Hibernia halfpenny.

The upper topsoil stratum capped one to three layers of cellar ejecta consisting of thick bands of redeposited upper and lower subsoils. The few artifacts recovered from the cellar ejecta consisted of

debris associated with the ca. 1750 house construction, including broken green and blue-green window-glass fragments, mortar, brick fragments, hand-wrought nails, and, most surprisingly, a complete iron hoe (Figure 3). Because the hoe was found in the cellar ejecta stratum, it can be confidently associated with the construction date of the house and likely was used to grade the soils around the completed building before being discarded or lost. The hoe is currently undergoing conservation in AHS's laboratory, and is important in that it is among a small number of these types of tools to be provenienced to a specific time and place in New England.

Below the cellar ejecta, a 3–6 cm thick, very fine sandy black loam was identified. This compressed, buried stratum was the remains of the original ground surface dating to the construction of the house in 1750, and overlaid intact B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, and C subsoil strata, indicating that the house lot had never been plowed. Moreover, the lot evidently was never occupied by an earlier house as only one artifact, a Staffordshire brown stoneware sherd, was recovered from the buried topsoil horizon. The relict yard surface did yield, however, a prodigious amount of wood charcoal. This charcoal appears to be evidence of lot clearing through fire, a technique commonly used by Yankee homesteaders in advance of house construction. By burning, the lot was opened up and the resulting wood ash could be collected and processed into potash or used to enrich the soil for the first year's crop, typically corn (maize). A comparative example to the Reuben Mason house findings is the ca. 1745 standing Cady-Copp house in nearby Putnam, Connecticut, where an artifact-rich topsoil, followed by strata of cellar ejecta, an intact Buried A topsoil and intact subsoils (B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, and C Horizons) also were found in the yard (Harper and Clouette 2010).




FIGURE 3. Iron hoe found within a matrix of cellar ejecta soil in the front yard of the Dr. Reuben Mason house, evidently lost when the house was under construction ca. 1750. Maximum size is 8 x 5 in. (20.3 x 12.7 cm).



The excavations also explored a possible well feature that appears in early photographs of the house. A number of large, dressed stones were found, although all were displaced within a matrix of disturbed soils. Modern debris was found at 80 cm below surface, indicating impacts to the area by heavy machinery, probably when the well was being cut down, filled, and buried during an earlier episode of road construction. One of the larger dressed stones, measuring 32 x 12 in. (8 x 30 cm), had a curve to one face characteristic of well curb stones such as those that were placed at the uppermost surface of wells. Two postholes dating from the early to mid-19th century were also found in the yard, and may be associated with a fence line that appears in early photographs of the property.

Although relatively limited in scale, the “roadside archaeology” at the Dr. Reuben Mason house contributes to our general understanding of historic house lot use, household artifact assemblages, tools and historic house construction, and yard-soil stratigraphy in New England. Artifacts from the excavations will be used in future exhibits at the Dr. Reuben Mason House Museum.

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## USA - Pacific West

### Nevada

**Rethinking the “Mississippi of the West”**(submitted by Jonah S. Blustain, Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc.): Throughout the period of the 1930s to the 1960s, the state of Nevada was notorious for the poor treatment of its small African American community. In the state’s larger population centers, such as Reno and Las Vegas, segregation was institutionalized through forced relocation into ethnic neighborhoods, disparate access to municipal services, and unequal business opportunities. From an archaeological perspective, Nevada’s legacy of institutionalized racism makes the experience of historic African Americans an area ripe for study and simultaneously presents opportunities to test and rethink existing models of historic race relations. New work by Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc., (KEC) of Reno, Nevada, suggests that this Jim Crow-like situation was a relatively modern phenomenon, and that African Americans in early-20th-century Nevada had opportunities to gain and hold much higher status.

In 2010, KEC began a Class III cultural resource survey that covered more than 5,100 acres in Lander County, Nevada. Part of the survey area encompassed the historic townsite of Tenabo. Now a ghost town, Tenabo was a

major hub of mining activity in the Bullion Mining District beginning in 1906, slowly declining in prominence until being abandoned in the mid-1950s. The area’s rich gold deposits quickly made Tenabo a bustling town. In its heyday, the town optimistically boasted a population of 1,000 along with multiple businesses, an assayer (Figure 1), a telephone line, and a post office. Like most of Nevada’s mining towns, Tenabo was ethnically diverse. In 1910, the 13th United States Census enumerated multiple people hailing from Western Europe, an Italian, and a Canadian. All of the townspeople were described as “white,” except for Henry Berry, the Tenabo assayer, and his wife and their children. Berry himself was listed as “black,” while his wife and children were described as “mulatto.”

The example of the Berry family represents an interesting opportunity to examine the history of African Americans in a 20th-century mining context. In 1910, there were only 513 people characterized by the census as “black” or “mulatto” living in Nevada, representing just 0.6% of the state’s total population. Seeing an opportunity to expand knowledge of the black experience in Nevada, KEC personnel traced the Berry family through history.

The Berry family first appears in Austin, Nevada in the Ninth United States Census conducted in 1870. Brothers J. B. and R. J. Berry, both Virginia natives, were employed as barbers, a common trade for African Americans at the time. Like other American blacks during or just after the Civil War, they had made their way west seeking opportunity. The booming mining town of Austin certainly offered that. Five years later, the brothers moved to Eureka, another Nevada town that was experiencing a mining boom. By the 1880 census, the brothers seem to have parted ways, but Robert’s family, including his wife Maria and two daughters, Hattie, 15, and Maria, 13, were counted in the Eureka district. Son Henry, then 18 years old, was living separately and working as a clerk in a local hotel. Maria and the three Berry children had been born in Maryland. Since most of the records from the 11th United States Census were destroyed by fire, we lost track of the Berry family for two decades.

The 1900 census shows that Henry and his family had moved once again, this time to Cortez, Nevada, another mining boomtown. After starting out as a hotel clerk, Henry had elevated himself to the highly skilled profession of assayer. Continuing the pattern seen earlier, the Berry household encompassed the extended family. Henry lived with his sister, Maria, a nurse; their mother, who had since been widowed; and a boarder, Evelyn Lott, a native of New Orleans, who was employed as a dressmaker.

Sometime in the first decade of the 20th century, Henry’s sister, Hattie, married Harry Robinson, a day laborer from Washington, D.C., and stayed behind in Cortez. Around 1907, the Berry household moved to the newly established town of Tenabo, where Henry held the important assayer post. The 13th United States Census in 1910 lists the nine-member family, which included Henry’s wife, Evelyn, and six children ranging in age from nine to newborn.

During his tenure as town assayer, Henry Berry published articles describing the nature of Tenabo’s gold ores. One such

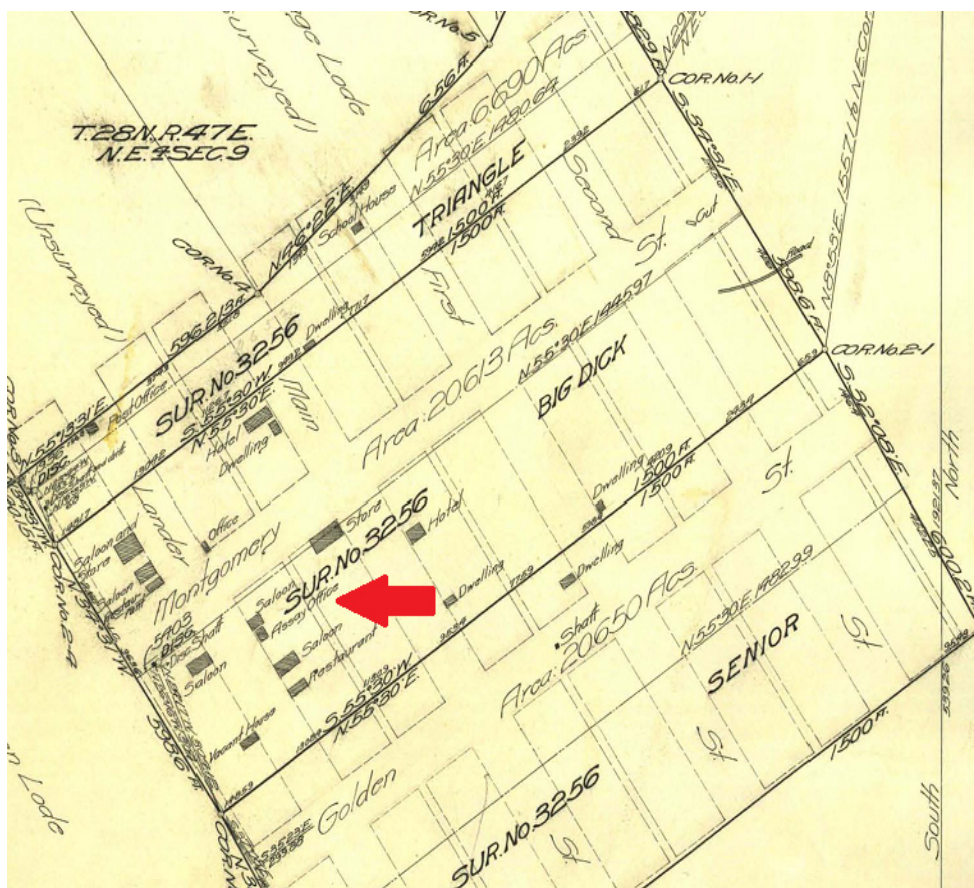


FIGURE 1. Tenabo townsite map, ca. 1907. Henry Berry's assay office is indicated with an arrow.

article, from the 23 July 1907 edition of *The Bullion District Miner*, shows Berry responding to multiple inquiries from outside interests, possibly investors, for news of the area's gold deposits. He offered a comprehensive description of the values of the gold returned thus far, but without the exaggerated boosterism or breathless hyperbole so common in the newspapers in early mining boomtowns. The overall impression of Berry is of an impartial professional, skilled in his trade, performing an important civic duty.

Despite Berry's favorable reports, he left Tenabo sometime between 1910 and 1920. Census enumerators gathering data for the 14th Census in 1920 listed the Berry household in Battle Mountain, Nevada. Henry, by then 54, was working for the railroad as a laborer. According to the following census, the Berry family stayed in Battle Mountain, and Henry continued working for the railroad. Why he left the assaying occupation is unknown.

After 1930, details regarding Henry Berry and his family proved elusive, but we know Henry and Evelyn's second youngest child, Henry, was a boxer in Winnemucca in the 1930s. The obituary of Maria Berry, Henry's sister, appeared in both of Reno's newspapers in November 1945. Maria had never married and, at the time of her death, had lived in Winnemucca for 28 years with one of Hattie's daughters. Hattie's other three daughters also lived in Winnemucca, and there were other relatives in Elko.

Considering the data gathered about Henry Berry in light of existing models of the social archaeology of mining provides two substantive insights into the Berry household. The first observation of note is that the Berrys moved frequently, more often than not following the population rush from one booming area to another. This behavior fits the model seen elsewhere in the state. However, the demographics of the Berry household represent a divergence from the prevalent model of single-sex bunkhouses, coresidential boardinghouses, and smaller nuclear families. The Berry family was almost always much larger, often including members from three generations. The Berrys had at least one boarder, Evelyn Lott, whom Henry later married. Families in mining contexts often took in boarders because of the symbiotic relationship between the housewife who prepared the meals and did the laundry and the miner who supplemented the family income.

The observations noted above are enough to set the Berry household apart as an interesting counterexample to the prevalent models of mining-household demographics. That the family was African American makes them even more interesting. The Berry household demonstrates that it was possible for African Americans to move with the booms and busts of late-19th- and early-20th-century Nevada. While members of the household engaged in occupations commonly held by African Americans, such as barber, dressmaker, and hotel clerk, Henry Berry's work as an assayer is notable.

Assaying was a trade that required substantial education, including knowledge of chemistry, geology, and mineralogy. It is not known where and when Henry got this education, but it is significant that he did. Perhaps more important was the matter of trust on the part of the assayer's clients. Mine owners relied on assayer reports to plan mine operations and to set values for the mines themselves. Fortunes could be made or lost depending on the outcome of a single assay. That his tenure as assayer lasted as long as it did suggests in part that Henry held substantial status in the town. This contrasts significantly with the status of black Nevadans fewer than three decades later.

KEC personnel were introduced to the Berry family as the result of a cultural resource survey. Future mitigation-level work, if it comes to that, will include excavation of the Berry household site, the location of which we know from the townsite map, as well as additional documentary research.



Regardless, KEC personnel enjoyed discovering the Henry Berry story, which challenged the widely held belief that Nevada was always a center of racism and segregation.

## New Publications

*Belonging to Places: The Evolution of Coastal Communities and Landscapes between Ten Mile River and Cottoneva Creek* (submitted by Thad Van Bueren): Archaeologists have focused increasing attention on public outreach in recent decades. These efforts have ranged from improved dissemination of information about poorly understood aspects of local history to vibrant partnerships with local groups that give voice to subaltern perspectives and contribute to site conservation. After working for over a decade with members of a small community in coastal northern California gathering historical information, local archaeologist and historian, Thad M. Van Bueren, has written a new history of the region surrounding Westport, located in coastal northern California, as an alternative to the standard county or township references that many teachers in the United States still rely upon as sources for precollegiate curricula.

This publication was an effort to produce a new kind of local history. Although several prior books covered various aspects of Westport history, they devoted little attention to the perspectives of groups such as Native Americans, other minorities, and the working classes. This new community history explores diverse points of view and the full record of occupation from the time people first arrived in the local area about 14 millennia ago. It characterizes the local history as a process of negotiations among different groups of immigrants who each had their own perspectives. That is accomplished by comparing diverse sources of documentary, testimonial, and material evidence in an effort to reconcile biases and highlight controversies. The book seeks to stimulate reflection about how histories are created.

This new approach differs from early accounts in another important way. It has a distinct story line. Organizing the volume around a theme offered a way to reveal the forest, not just the myriad details that comprise the trees. Using a central theme provided a way to showcase history as an interpretive undertaking that is worth revisiting with new questions and perspectives. The unifying theme was the evolution of coastal communities and landscapes. It is a story about relationships: between people and the local landscape, and among the many waves of immigrants who came to call this place home. Understanding relationships with the environment is a compelling issue today because our survival may depend on adopting new strategies. Other important lessons are revealed by the way groups of people have interacted through time.

The book was published as a joint venture between the Kelley House Museum and the Westport Village Society. It was published as Volume 26 of the *Mendocino Historical Review* and can be purchased from the Westport Village Society (P.O. Box 446, Westport, CA 95488) for a \$19.50 donation that includes book-rate USPS shipping.

### BELONGING TO PLACES

*The Evolution of Coastal Communities and Landscapes  
between Ten Mile River and Cottoneva Creek*

by

Thad M. Van Bueren



**Mendocino Historical Review**  
Volume XXVI • Summer 2012

*A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Work Camp Properties in California* (submitted by Julia Huddleson, California Department of Transportation, Cultural Studies Office): The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is pleased to announce publication of *A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Work Camp Properties in California*. The result of a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort among historians and historical archaeologists, Caltrans staff, and consultants, this document is the fourth in a series, following our 2007, 2008, and 2010 studies on agriculture, mining, and townsites, respectively. A study focusing on roads and trails will follow. Caltrans prepared this thematic study to help practitioners evaluate California's work-camp properties in terms of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. This study is intended to serve as both an analytical tool and a methodological framework to help the user interpret and evaluate properties associated with work camps in terms of their ability to yield important information.

The historic context provides a broad overview that addresses the major industries with associated work camps, covering the time period from the 1848 discovery of gold in California to 1941, when the United States entered World War II. Property types are viewed at the intrasite, site, and intersite levels, covering features and deposits related to



FIGURE 1. Trinity County Convict Labor Camp No. 12, ca. 1930. (Photo courtesy of California Department of Transportation, District 2 Archives, Redding.)

these property-type categories:

- Residential
- Support
- Infrastructure
- Industrial
- Recreation
- Refuse Disposal

Researchers are encouraged to use this context as a starting point when assessing the National Register value

of a work-camp property or feature; it is not a substitute for site-specific research. Previous archaeological and historical studies suggest that work-camp properties have the potential to address a number of research themes, which were divided into five broad categories:

- Camp Function, Design, and Conditions
- Household Composition and Lifeways
- Labor Organization and Management Policy
- Immigration and Ethnicity
- Technology

Research is not necessarily limited to these themes, however, and individual researchers may follow other theoretical approaches or find alternative research themes relevant to

specific sites. In an effort to establish consistency and thereby facilitate better intersite comparisons, this document includes an implementation plan that advocates standard methods to assess the information value of work-camp properties.

All four reports are posted on the Caltrans Web page at: <<http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/guidance.htm#agstudy>>. Hard copies of the work-camps report will be available in January and may be obtained from Julia Huddleson at 916.653.0495 or <[julia\\_huddlson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:julia_huddlson@dot.ca.gov)>. 📧

## National Park Service's 2013 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service's 2013 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques, "Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century," will be held May 13–17, 2013, at the Cedar Point Biological Station near Ogallala, Nebraska. Lodging will be at the Cedar Point Biological Station. The field exercises will take place at the site of Alkali Station near Paxton, Nebraska. Alkali Station was a major trail facility used by travelers on the Oregon and California trails, the Pony Express, the transcontinental telegraph, and the frontier army. Cosponsors for the workshop include the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center, the Lute Family, and the University of Nebraska's Cedar Point Biological Station. This will be the 22nd year of the workshop, which is dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this nation. The workshop will present lectures on the theory of operation, methodology, processing, and interpretation with hands-on use of the equipment in the field. There is a registration charge of \$475.00. Application forms are available on the Midwest Archeological Center's Web page at <<http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/>>.

For further information, please contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873; phone: 402.437.5392, x 141; fax: 402.437.5098; email: <[steve\\_de\\_vore@nps.gov](mailto:steve_de_vore@nps.gov)>.



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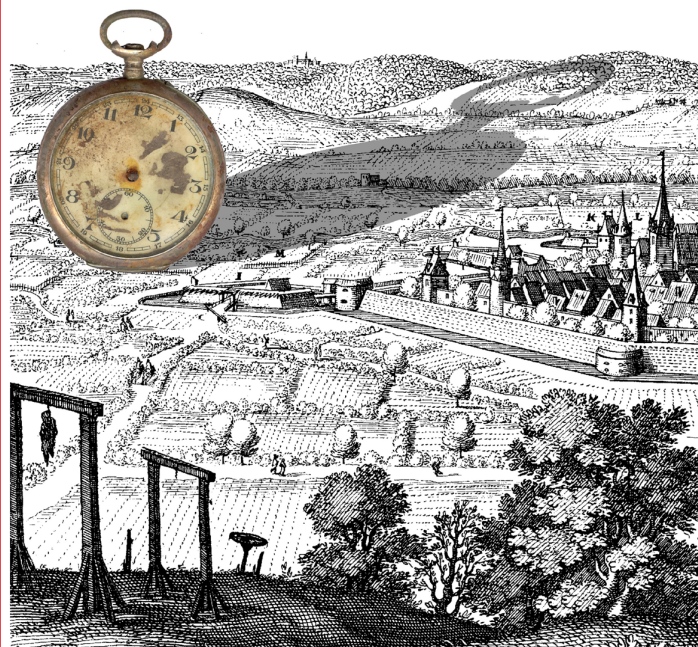
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Natascha Mehler, *Editor*



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