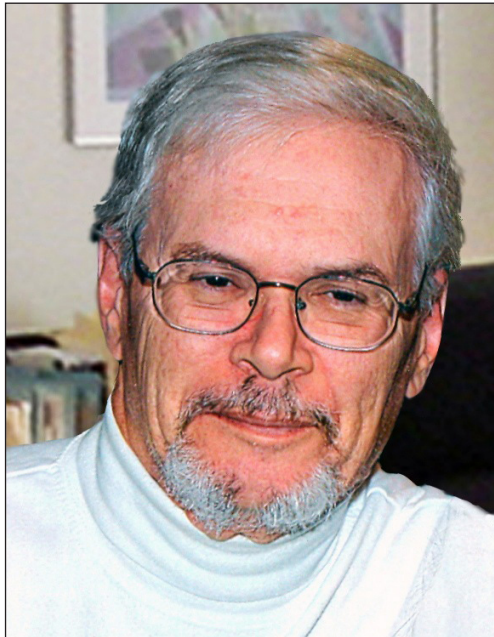


Memorial



Daniel G. Roberts 1947–2014

Cultural resource management (CRM), historical archaeology, and public archaeology lost a major voice on 24 May 2014 when Daniel G. Roberts passed away from prostate cancer coupled with the long-term effects of Parkinson's disease. In addition to serving as a pioneer in the fields of CRM and public archaeology, Dan Roberts was also an author, editor, former Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) Board member, long-time *Historical Archaeology* Associate Editor, and a tireless volunteer for the avocational and professional societies supporting archaeology. He was a mentor to members of a generation of historical archaeologists working in CRM, who heeded his call to publish their work and share it with the public. The SHA's award for public archaeology is given in his name.

Dan Roberts was born on 12 October 1947 at Philadelphia's Hahnemann Hospital and was the only child of Ada Eleanor Wahl and Daniel Baird Roberts. He was educated at the William Penn Charter School, a Quaker school, attended Quaker meeting, and tried to bring the Quaker values of piety, simplicity, and pacifism with him through life. Dan learned the game of golf while at Penn Charter, joined the school's golf team, and rose to first position and captain by his senior year (1965). The school won the highly competitive Inter-Academic League Championships in Dan's junior and senior years, with Dan one of the few self-taught golfers in the league.

In the eighth grade he visited the University Museum at the University of Pennsylvania and became enamored with Egyptology and archaeology; he would read C. W. Ceram's *Gods, Graves, and Scholars*, James Michener's *The Source*, and similar popular studies of archaeology. Dan graduated from high school intent on pursuing a degree in archaeology, and his advisor recommended Beloit College in Wisconsin. He applied, was accepted, and began his undergraduate studies at what was then one of the top undergraduate anthropology programs in the country. Dan studied

with Robert J. Salzer, William S. Godfrey, and Marco Bicheria, and worked with Salzer on a 14-week field school on the Northern Lakes Project in northern Wisconsin. Graduating in 1969, Dan worked as a sometimes-paid/sometimes-volunteer field technician on projects in Kentucky, Illinois, and Wisconsin. Returning home in 1971, Dan found work with Barbara Liggett at the National Park Service excavations at Franklin Court, as well as excavations at Budd's Row in Society Hill and Gorgas Mill in Mount Airy. While working as a field tech, he also drove a cab to make "real" money. In 1973 he went to work with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on surveys along the Susquehanna River. Ready to begin the next stage of his career, with a primary interest in lithic technologies at that time, Dan applied to and was accepted by Idaho State University (ISU). In the fall of 1974 he drove to Pocatello, Idaho, to begin his graduate education with full tuition and a research assistantship.

At ISU, Dan fell under the tutelage of Robert Butler and worked with Butler on ISU CRM contracts. For his M.A. thesis he sample surveyed 300,000 ac. of Bureau of Land Management land along the Tetons, camping on the desert floor as he and his team moved from one sample zone to the next. Butler taught Dan to write logically and professionally and to critique others' work fairly, and he taught Dan that archaeological knowledge is mostly made up of ideas rather than facts. Dan used his survey of the Bureau of Land Management lands as his thesis topic and graduated in 1976 with an M.A. in anthropology with an emphasis in CRM, certainly one of the first graduate degrees given in CRM, since the term had only been coined in 1974.

While at ISU, Dan began collecting vintage paperback books. Over time, he would amass a collection of more than 60,000 books, one of the largest vintage collections in the country. Dan became a well-respected collector and scholar of pulp fiction and published articles in *Paperback Quarterly* and the *Paperback Parade*.

Dan continued work with ISU after graduation, excavating at the Wasden site near Idaho Falls, an important prehistoric cave site, where he discovered a Folsom point in a cluster of mammoth bones, the first artifact discovery that proved Paleoindians had hunted mammoth. Dan applied for a newly created position of assistant curator at the ISU Museum and was hired for the job, where he would have worked for Bob Butler. However, the Idaho State Legislature cut funding for education in the 1976 budget and the position was eliminated. With his work at the Wasden site completed, Dan was left high and dry in Pocatello and returned home to Philadelphia.

Colleagues in Pennsylvania informed Dan that an architecture firm known as National Heritage Corporation might be hiring an archaeologist. Dan interviewed with Alex Townsend at National Heritage and was offered the position as the number-two archaeologist in a two-person shop. Townsend had been the second archaeologist hired by National Heritage, and Dan was the third in the firm's history. In 1977 National Heritage Corporation changed its name to John Milner Associates (JMA). However, Dan was frustrated with the management structure and project development in the archaeology program at JMA and decided that he needed to pursue his Ph.D. He applied and was accepted into Southern Methodist University's doctoral program with the understanding that he could pursue Southern Plains prehistory as a dissertation topic. When he arrived in Dallas in early 1978, however, he discovered there had been a shift in the program's emphasis and only doctorate research on Israel or Egypt would be accepted. Dan stayed for the winter semester and then returned East, where he went back to work for Alex Townsend at JMA.

Dan worked on a variety of projects with JMA in the late 1970s and early 1980s, many of which were components of architectural restorations. However, he saw the opportunity to grow JMA's cultural resource program, and in 1982 Dan was promoted to be JMA Director of Archaeology. He actively marketed JMA's cultural resource program and began to develop a strong department of talented archaeologists and historians. The early 1980s was a period when CRM was becoming institutionalized in government contracting, and under Dan's leadership JMA grew into one of the nation's largest and most prominent CRM firms. Dan's approach to CRM emphasized commitment to the resources and the community; he published extensively on CRM projects, as well as on the CRM process, and encouraged JMA staff to follow his lead. At that stage in the history of CRM, publication was largely seen as the domain of those in academia, and Dan's efforts helped

promote a broader shift in the field and the recognition that CRM could be research archaeology as well as contract archaeology. Dan published in national, peer-reviewed journals, such as *Historical Archaeology*, *American Archaeology*, and *Archaeology*, as early as 1984. He emphasized consultants' obligation to disseminate and publish the results of their work and wrote an article on that subject in the *SHA Newsletter*. JMA's cultural resource staff became his extended family; he encouraged them in their research and publications, always offering a strong editorial eye to their efforts. Dan's colleagues were his students, and historical archaeologists who worked with him include Jo Balicki, Wade Catts, Charles Cheek, Tom Crist, John McCarthy, Mike Parrington, Tom Wheaton, Rebecca Yamin, myself, and others.

While Dan's interests through graduate school had emphasized prehistory, his research focus at JMA shifted to historical archaeology. This shift was a product of two factors. First, JMA was an architectural firm, and many of Dan's early projects focused on providing archaeological input to architectural topics associated with building restorations, as well as recovering archaeological data from new construction locations on historical sites. JMA was also based in the oldest historically, continuously occupied portion of the nation, and hence historical sites were far more common in the Middle Atlantic and Northeast than they had been in the West. Although trained in prehistory, Dan tackled historical archaeology with the same self-direction he had applied to golf. He sought out the advice and friendship of two prominent Pennsylvania historical archaeologists, John Cotter at the University of Pennsylvania and Ronn Michael at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Cotter, one of the founders of historical archaeology, was a National Park Service archaeologist who worked at Jamestown and who would join the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania. Cotter had first met Dan when he was a technician on the Franklin Court excavations in 1971. Cotter gladly shared his thoughts on historical archaeology, as well as his research in Philadelphia, when Dan reached out to him.

Together, Cotter and Roberts decided that the work that had been conducted in Philadelphia could educate the public on historical archaeology's contribution to the knowledge of history. With Cotter and Michael Parrington, Dan coauthored *The Buried Past: An Archaeological History of Philadelphia*, which was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in 1992 and was awarded the Antoinette Forrester Downing Award of the Society of Architectural Historians. Always one to repay his debts, Dan subsequently published an interview with John Cotter, as well as Cotter's memorial in *Historical Archaeology* in 1999. In 2007, Dan and David Orr published an anthology of Cotter's work, *Witness to the Past*, through the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Press with support of the SHA.

Dan met Ronn Michael at the 1979 SHA annual meeting in Nashville. Michael was then the editor of *Historical Archaeology*, a position he held for 27 years, and also editor of *Pennsylvania Archaeology*. Michael brought Dan in as an associate editor of *Pennsylvania Archaeology* and noted that Dan took particular pleasure in working with avocational archaeologists to turn their work into publication-quality articles. Dan would subsequently become an associate editor with *Historical Archaeology*, a position he held from 1988 until 2004. Dan considered Michael his mentor and used him as a sounding board for discussions on project and business management, and the business of CRM, which Michael also engaged in through his own firm, NPW Consultants. A historian of the field of historical archaeology, Dan's interview with Ronn Michael was published in *Historical Archaeology* in 2012.

Dan's growing interest in historical archaeology and urban archaeology would lead to JMA's involvement in the excavation in 1983 and 1984 of Philadelphia's First African Baptist Church Cemetery, a landmark cemetery-relocation project. Working on the project, Dan insisted that there be public outreach and the opportunity for members of Philadelphia's African American community to visit the excavations and learn about their collective past through archaeology. This occurred at a time when most CRM work was done behind a fence and agencies were reluctant to invite the public to witness cemetery excavations. Working closely with Dick Tyler, the head of the Philadelphia Historical Commission, Dan implemented a program of public archaeology, including site tours, that was very well received by Philadelphia's African American community. He went on to

publish articles on the benefits of public outreach, encouraging other archaeologists to follow his lead. Dan and JMA's work at First African Baptist Church Cemetery would lead to other African American cemetery relocations, including the Tenth Street Cemetery in Philadelphia, and ultimately to involvement in New York City's African Burial Ground Project, another nationally recognized cemetery project with a strong public outreach element.

While best known for his work on historical cemeteries, Dan worked on a broad range of historical sites with JMA, from urban domestic occupations to industrial sites to military conflict sites, and for clients ranging from pipeline companies to private developers, to state transportation departments, and to federal agencies, particularly the National Park Service, General Services Administration, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Dan's service to professional archaeology associations was unparalleled—he was on the board of the Society for Historical Archaeology from 2002 to 2004 and an associate editor of *Historical Archaeology* from 1988 to 2004; on a variety of committees with both the SHA and the SAA; on the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) Grievance and Standards Board (1991–1993); vice president (1997–2002) and president (1987–1989) of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council; and associate editor of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology's *Pennsylvania Archaeology* from 1988 to 2004. He was one of the founders of the American Cultural Resource Association (ACRA), hosting ACRA's first board-of-directors meeting at JMA's offices in West Chester, reviewing ACRA's by-laws and constitution, and serving on the ACRA Board of Directors from 1995 to 2003, and as vice president from 1997 to 1998 and 2001 to 2003. His service to ACRA was recognized by receipt of the ACRA Director's Award in 2011. His stature in the field was such that he was selected as a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's National Task Force on Archaeology, representing four national associations: the SHA, SAA, ACRA, and RPA.

Dan rose through JMA to serve as a vice president, ultimately becoming the firm's president in 2006 before retiring at the end of 2010. He was honored with a session devoted to his work at the 2007 SHA conference in Williamsburg and with a memorial gathering of colleagues and friends in West Chester on 12 October 2014. Throughout his career, Dan operated with the philosophy that we as archaeologists all share the same objectives—to bring consideration of the past into planning for the future—and that we all have an obligation to share our work with both our colleagues and the public.

Dan is survived by his wife of 19 years, B. J. Titus, his co-workers at JMA, and all of us who were fortunate to know him as a colleague, mentor, advisor, and friend.

Acknowledgments

Dan hired me as assistant archaeologist at JMA in 1984. After working on various field projects I was brought into JMA's lab and then promoted to a desk in the main building. JMA's office, then at 309 North Matlack Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania, was located in an historic house, and my desk was in a closet off Dan's office. I passed his desk daily, and Dan and I would have frequent conversations, and at the end of the workday Dan and I would discuss his interactions with clients and staff, as well as his approach to various proposals and projects, seeking feedback and teaching me the management side of CRM. His mentorship of my career in CRM would resume in 1988 when Dan convinced his colleagues at JMA to provide financial and managerial support for a new CRM company, New South Associates, that Tom Wheaton, Mary Beth Reed, and I were creating. JMA would be a shareholder in New South until 2006, and Dan and I would continue our conversations on historical archaeology, public outreach, and CRM through the years. Dan's colleagues at JMA, past and present, shared their memories, as did Ronn Michael and Vergil Noble, and I appreciate their thoughts. Recognizing that his time was coming to an end, Dan left an autobiographical summary of his early life. All of us who had the good fortune to work with him will work to carry his voice into the future.

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