



SOCIETY *for*  
HISTORICAL  
ARCHAEOLOGY

# The SHA Newsletter

Quarterly News on Historical Archaeology from Around the Globe

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*A flintlock side plate from Michigan - pp. 21-23.*

**SHA'S  
50TH ANNIVERSARY  
CONFERENCE:  
FORT WORTH,  
TEXAS,  
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2017**



*The Loma Prieta mill site, California - pp. 27-30.*



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## President's Corner

Charlie Ewen

### So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish

In the fourth installment of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, this is the message that the dolphins leave to humanity when they mysteriously leave the Earth for another plane of existence. By the time you read this, I will have entered another plane of existence in the SHA myself – moving from the presidency to the constituency. I will get to experience what I, and the board, have wrought over the past four years.

Increasing the membership was at the top of my To Do List. Unfortunately, over the past couple of years membership has remained flat. I think it will inch up a bit because the meetings in DC will bring a lot of participants and that always bumps up the membership. But sustaining the growth has been problematic. We did a membership survey, blogged about the issue, and have improved the website. Hopefully my successor, Joe Joseph, will have better success in growing the society.

One of my initiatives that did show success was dealing with the National Geographic Channel. Many of our members were offended by their show *Diggers*, prompting a meeting with the channel. The experience was an education, but our persistence eventually paid off. The show is MUCH better now. They have hired an archaeologist to guide their detectorists, they don't place monetary values on their finds, and they work on established projects when they can. Both we and the SAA have panels that review the rough cuts of the shows and make suggestions that are incorporated into the final episodes. That's about as good as it gets, in my experience.

We have had mixed success with our lobbying efforts. Our consultants, Cultural Heritage Partners, have been haunting the Hill and keeping us on top of bills that are of interest to archaeologists. I am pleased to say that this latest session has been less active than the past (or at least I have written fewer letters). Not much progress on the government-funding front (the NSF outlook is still gloomy for the social and behavioral sciences), but we haven't lost ground and that is good. We also have had good success in fending off attacks on Section 106. We will continue working on key legislators and will visit them before the conference in January.

A behind-the-scenes drama, of which you may not have been aware, had to do with our website. We had essentially outgrown our previous web service provider. Posting content was being delayed and there were many changes that seemed to take longer than they should. When it started to affect membership and conference matters, we needed to act. Joe Joseph and the new web editor, Mark Freeman, working with Kelly Dixon and Chris Merritt, guided our transition to our new ISP, Visual Harbor, in such a fashion that it was virtually unnoticed by most of you. The platform



is stable and doing what it should. It is great working with good people.

Speaking of working with good people, I would be remiss if I did not give a shout out to our Newsletter editor, Alasdair Brooks. He spearheaded our transition to the digital newsletter you are now reading. This was not an insignificant undertaking, but he has stayed on top of things while moving halfway across the world. I found it difficult to answer email while I was digging down in Brunswick Town. Alasdair, on the other hand, put together a newsletter while travelling between Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and the UK!

Actually, all of the board have been great to work with and I extend my gratitude to all of them. Even when we disagreed, it was over how best to advance SHA. The

motives were never in conflict—only the methods. We had some interesting board meetings, but they were always civil and usually ended on time. I have found that if you can end a meeting on time, you probably have accomplished what you set out to do. If I have had any successes, it is due to the great backup I have had. Sarah has kept us solvent and Karen has kept me sane. Joe has a great group to work with and will continue to take us where we want to go.

To quote Jerry Garcia, “What a long strange journey it’s been.” With the bang of the gavel at the business meeting on January 8, I officially pass over to the realm of revered past presidents. It’s a happy place, where you dodder around, attend all the receptions, and go back to minding your own business. It’s been fun, but I can’t wait. 🍷

## Images of the Past

Benjamin Pykles

Images of the Past returns with another video from the “SHA Stories” series. Here Bernard Means relates an anecdote involving a cockroach and the 1992 SHA conference in Kingston, Jamaica.



“SHA Stories” will return at the 2016 conference, so drop by the Technologies Room if you have an anecdote of your own to share!

*Note: Video only available to digital Newsletter readers.*



# Opinion and Debate

## Building Common Ground on Collections: An Initial Glossary of Collections-Related Terminology

Submitted by the Archaeological Collections  
Consortium (ACC)

In 2012, the Archaeological Collections Consortium (ACC) was formed as a national group of representatives from the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), and the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA). The current ACC members and authors of this article are Ralph Bailey, Danielle Benden, S. Terry Childs, Teresita Majewski, Christopher Pulliam, Kevin Smith, Michael “Sonny” Trimble, and Mark Warner. The ACC’s goal is to instill collaboration among and between these organizations to address overlapping collections-related challenges. Specifically, the consortium is charged with (1) identifying overall objectives relating to archaeological and museum collections; (2) serving as a unified voice for collections-related issues that are relevant to SHA, SAA, ACRA, and their constituents; and (3) developing and acting upon a common platform of goals and objectives designed to benefit the discipline and ultimately the general public, for whom collections are curated in the public trust.

Since 2012, the consortium has met quarterly via conference call and once in person each year. One early-meeting outcome was a collective realization that the use and interpretation of key terms was highly variable. In some instances, we found ourselves talking past each other simply because of differences in interpretation of seemingly basic terms such as “deaccession” or even definitions of what a “collection” is. Furthermore, there were terms regularly used by some ACC members that were effectively not in the lexicon of other members (e.g., “orphaned collections”). The realization that unfolded was that the sector in which each ACC member worked (e.g., academic, government, museum, CRM industry) had a direct impact on the vocabulary used in discussions of collections management.

To address this basic semantics challenge, ACC has developed working definitions for a glossary of key terms used in management of archaeological collections. The ACC product is presented below and is not intended to replace the widely used glossary of terms that the National Park Service has previously published <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/collections/glossary.htm>. Rather, our intent is to capture the subtle variability in the terms that archaeologists from different sectors use to discuss issues surrounding curation and collections management.

While we recognize that the ACC glossary is not intended to be the definitive source to which all archaeologists refer, we propose it as a living document that should be periodically

reviewed, and a guide designed to help those working in different stages of the archaeological process communicate more effectively. Our hope is that by sharing our experiences and presenting these definitions of key terms, we can build common ground to collectively address the challenges we face in managing our archaeological heritage.

**accession, v.**

### Definition

The formal, documented process of legally adding an object or group of objects and associated records to a repository collection.

### Discussion

The accession process begins with assigning a unique control number to a collection received from one source at one time, for which the repository has custody, right, or title. Accessioning usually involves documentation of ownership and long-term responsibility of a collection. There are many cases in which repositories accept physical custody of collections and accession them to document that custody arrangement. Accessioning does not always equate to legal ownership. Clear distinctions about ownership must be established during the accessioning process. This is typically done through an agreement document.

**acquisition, n.**

### Definition

The act of taking physical possession of objects and associated records.

### Discussion

This process involves preliminary evaluation of and negotiating for the care of objects and associated records prior to undertaking the legal accessioning process. Methods of acquiring collections may include field collection, transfer, donation, and exchange.

**collection, n.**

### Definition

The objects that are excavated or removed during a survey, excavation, or other study of a prehistoric or historical-period resource and associated records that are prepared or assembled with the investigation.

### Discussion

There are two basic types of collections, new and existing. New collections are those that are currently in the process of being systematically excavated and recovered, analyzed, prepared for curation, and/or in the process of being accepted into a repository. New collections become existing collections once they have been formally accessioned into a



repository. Some older, existing collections are referred to as legacy collections, which may or may not be processed according to professional curatorial standards. (see also **orphaned collection**, defined below).

**associated records, n.**

Definition

The original records (or copies thereof) that are prepared and assembled and document efforts to locate, evaluate, record, study, preserve, or recover a prehistoric or historical resource (adapted from 36 CFR Part 79.4(a)(2)).

Discussion

Associated records (paper and/or electronic formats) may include field notes and site forms, artifact inventories, maps, photographs, scopes of work, permits, project reports, laboratory records, historical documents, repository curatorial forms, and other related documents.

**collections reburial, n.**

Definition

The re-interment of a collection, or portion thereof, previously recovered from an archaeological investigation. This does *not* include cultural items subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Discussion

Legally sanctioned collections reburial began with the enactment of NAGPRA legislation. However, archaeological professionals have adopted this process to rebury collections not subject to NAGPRA. There are currently no standards and best practices for this process, which may be in conflict with federal law and the ethical standards adopted by professional archaeological organizations. This is an area of critical urgency that requires attention.

**curation, n.**

Definition

The long-term process of managing and preserving objects and associated records according to professional standards.

Discussion

This process involves documenting, cataloging, preserving (e.g., storage in secure and environmentally controlled facilities, and conservation), periodic physical inventory, and providing access so that the collection can be used for research, education, interpretation, heritage uses, and other functions by a variety of publics. It is preferable that objects and associated records from a single investigation are curated in the same repository.

**deaccession, v.**

Definition

The formal process used to remove permanently a collection

or portion thereof, from a repository.

Discussion

Decisions to deaccession a collection or portion thereof should be undertaken judiciously and must be made by a committee that does not benefit in any way from the deaccession. A deaccession determination must be fully documented and made after careful review and advice from professionals. At a minimum, documentation should include the reason for the deaccession, the specific objects slated for deaccession, the method(s) of disposition, and the location of any records associated with the collection, including those associated with the deaccession action. The proposed federal deaccessioning regulations were published in the *Federal Register* in November of 2014 and are currently in the process of revision for final publication.

**museum, n.**

Definition

A permanent collections-based, nonprofit institution with a public outreach mission that employs professional staff to care for, manage, interpret, and exhibit collections.

Discussion

Museums are a type of repository. A museum that serves as an archaeological repository must have appropriate language in their contracts or agreements to document and preserve collections that they curate on behalf of other entities such as the government.

**no-collection strategy, n.**

Definition

A deliberate decision to leave objects in the field and conduct in-field artifact analysis on-site.

Discussion

No-collection strategies have been employed for nearly 40 years without extensive study. The implications of this practice on the archaeological record are not fully understood but preliminary studies have identified detrimental impacts. There are currently no standards and best practices for this strategy, which is in conflict with federal law and the ethical standards adopted by professional archaeological organizations. This is an area of critical urgency that requires attention.

**orphaned collection, n.**

Definition

A group of objects and/or associated records with unclear ownership that have been abandoned in a repository, museum, or other facility, such as a laboratory in a cultural resource management firm.

Discussion

There are several reasons that collections become orphaned. These include lack or loss of documentation; the collection



owner was never identified or notified; closure or merger of CRM firms; closure of museums; retirements in academia; and loss of staff and “institutional memory.” In some cases, those legally responsible for orphaned collections refuse to assume financial responsibility for their curation.

**repository, n.**

Definition

A facility or institution that professionally manages collections on a long-term basis.

Discussion

A broad range of institutions may serve as repositories, including federal, state, tribal and local museums, university departments, historical societies, and archives.

**sampling, v.**

Definition

The deliberate process—often based on mathematical probability theory, a regular pattern, or existing knowledge of data patterning—of identifying and selecting a representative subset of data and accumulated physical collections that are recovered from an archaeological investigation.

Discussion

Sampling of archaeological artifacts may occur in the field or during laboratory analysis and prior to depositing and accessioning a collection into a repository. This is done by applying specific criteria to the collection, such as identifying objects that have relatively limited scientific or historical value or those that are profoundly deteriorated. Other terms, such as culling or selective removal, are used as synonymous terms for sampling, but do not apply a deliberate scientific selection process. ❏

## WMU Graduate Students Awarded Archaeology Field School Scholarships

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Two Western Michigan University graduate students will share a \$1,000 scholarship from the Register of Professional Archaeologists to participate in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.

Amelia Harp of Marietta, Georgia, and Erika Loveland of Adrian received \$500 each to participate in the project that provides strong hands-on learning components in both the field and laboratory, information on the culture history of the site as well as that of the surrounding region through lectures, tours to other archaeological sites, and if possible interaction with native/indigenous/traditional groups living in the area. The project in Niles also teaches students how to communicate their technical findings through written journals and blogs, to interact with the public through open houses, public days, or other outreach programs and includes educational components designed to teach students about archaeological ethics and their responsibility to the various constituencies that they will serve in their careers.

Harp is a nondegree graduate student studying anthropology at WMU, and she is also pursuing her master’s degree in anthropology at Georgia State University. She received her Bachelor’s in Anthropology from Kennesaw State University, and completed an internship with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Department of Language and Culture. Her research interests include historical archaeology, public archaeology, and Native American studies with particular focus on the Great Lakes region. She is currently studying architecture and critically analyzing the relationship between academia and other various stakeholders, including Native American tribes, in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project as part of her thesis work. She has participated in previous archaeological studies at Fort St. Joseph, the Dabbs site in Georgia’s Bartow County, and Fort Daniel in Gwinett County. She has also aided in analyzing historical artifacts that were uncovered during the 1970s in archaeological excavations associated with the MARTA subway system in Atlanta.

Loveland is a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at WMU. She received her bachelor’s degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan and completed her archaeological field school at Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest. Her research interests include historical archaeology, public archaeology, colonialism, trade, and regional analysis. She is currently examining the architectural components of Fort St. Joseph, a French mission-garrison-trading post complex. She has participated in research projects for the prehistoric Garden Creek Site in North Carolina and the Undocumented Migration Project.

*About the Register of Professional Archaeologists*

The Register of Professional Archaeologists is a listing of archaeologists who have agreed to abide by an explicit code of conduct and standards of research performance, who hold a graduate degree in archaeology, anthropology, art history, classics, history, or another germane discipline, and who have completed a thesis or dissertation or its equivalent that addresses a substantive archaeological research question.





## Joint British–German Conference on Historical Archaeology in 2017

The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology and the German Society for Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Archäologie des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit, DGAMN) will hold a joint conference at the German Maritime Museum ([Deutsches Schifffahrtsmuseum](#)) in Bremerhaven, in northern Germany, in the autumn of 2017 (see the images below and left for views of Bremerhaven). The joint event is designed to strengthen international historical archaeology networks, to share knowledge about the status of field research, and to also strengthen postmedieval archaeology in Germany, where it is still struggling to gain a foothold in academia. The date is not fixed as yet, but the conference will most likely take place in October 2017—so there's plenty of time to start planning! The exact date will be announced before the end of 2016. Conference themes will focus on the current state of research and future perspectives for historical archaeology in Great Britain, Ireland, Germany, and neighboring countries, and at least one session will focus on maritime archaeology. North American colleagues will be warmly welcomed. The organizers will set up an attractive excursion program that will include a visit to the highly acclaimed German Emigration Center ([Deutsches Auswandererhaus](#)) in Bremerhaven, which saw some 7.2 million emigrants leave for the New World during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

For more information about the conference, please contact Dr. Natascha Mehler ([mehler@dsm.museum](mailto:mehler@dsm.museum)).

For more information on Bremerhaven, including travel information, please visit the city's [English-language tourism website](#).





## 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).

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### CANADA-ATLANTIC (New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)

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### CANADA-ARCTIC (Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut)

Vacant – contact the Newsletter editor for more information

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CURRENT RESEARCH BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE



# Canada - Atlantic

## Nova Scotia

**Shubie Park Public Archaeology Program 2015** (*submitted by Laura de Boer, Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia*): The last weekend of September 2015 marked the second annual Public Archaeology Dig at Shubie Park in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. The program, run by Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia (<http://www.industrialheritagens.ca/>) in partnership with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, allowed members of the public to join an archaeology dig free of charge.

The Shubenacadie Canal was conceived in the early 19th century as a method of moving vessels and cargo easily between Halifax and the Minas Basin and Bay of Fundy, a trip that was otherwise lengthy and treacherous as it required sailing around Cape Sable. Initial canal construction began in 1826 but halted in 1831 due to bankruptcy, resuming in 1854, and as a result the system was not completed until 1861. The canal functioned as a commercial waterway until 1870, after which competition with the province's railway network rendered the canal essentially obsolete.

The feature excavated for the public program is thought to have been be a cottage or more likely a bunkhouse at the south end of the canal worker's camp, occupied by members of the crew of Irish and Scottish laborers and stonemasons between 1826 and 1831, when the "deep cut" portion of the canal between Lake Micmac and Lake Charles was being completed. The camp originally included at least 11 structures, as indicated on an 1826 map, although it is possible that 3 of these features were tents, while the remaining structures may have been bunkhouses. Almost all of these buildings, however, are now located on private land and may have been impacted by construction of a row of modern houses along neighboring Locks Road.

Thanks to an historic newspaper article recounting a lightning strike in the camp, a little is known about the construction style of one of the bunkhouses found at the north end of the camp. A log or sleeper supported the rafters

or roof joists, and the upright posts supporting the walls and roof were of oak. A thin-board partition was found adjacent to a row of bunk beds arranged like a barracks, with triple-spaced bunks. It appears that the roof was peaked, covered in planks, and then shingled with wooden shakes or slabs.

Prior to the public archaeology event, members of the public were encouraged to sign up in advance and choose either a morning or afternoon group to join on either Saturday or Sunday. The purpose of dividing the day in this manner was to allow as many people as possible to take part in the experience, while working within the limits of a small site and having only four qualified archaeologists to supervise the dig. The morning shift ran 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., while the afternoon shift ran 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

It is notable that the volunteers came from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and age groups, and included university students, retirees who were interested in history, and parents with young children and even toddlers. For the most part, the act of digging was enough to hold the attention of even the youngest children, even when glass-

bottle fragments were all that were recovered from a unit. One young girl, perhaps about five or six years old, very proudly discussed the bone collection she had assembled at home, and when a large bone fragment was recovered, we enlisted her help to show it around to all the other diggers, to her great excitement. Another participant, a young boy about three years old, was so dedicated to the excavation that his parents frequently commented they had never seen him so focused on any activity before. Other

participants were park visitors who had not known that a dig was underway, or in some cases had heard about the dig on CBC radio, and when invited they were very happy to join the dig for anywhere from a half hour to several hours.

In all, we have every reason to believe that this was a very positive experience for all those involved. In fact, almost all participants expressed an interest in participating a second time, should the dig be undertaken again in the future. Two participants in the 2015 dig, preteen sisters interested in archaeology and paleontology, had also joined us in 2014. In total, the dig saw 37 volunteer excavators join the dig over the two-day event.

The small scale of the site and short span of time for the dig were conducive to the goals of this project, which was



FIGURE 1. Participants learn to excavate in units spanning the width of the bunkhouse foundation. (Photo courtesy of Vanessa Smith.)



aimed at increasing awareness of Canada's industrial past, in this case the history of the Shubenacadie Canal and the workers who made it happen. The dig was also completed on a shoestring budget, thanks to the efforts of volunteer professionals (Courtney Glen, Andrea Richardson, and Vanessa Smith, as well as the author) and the loan of equipment from Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc. (Sara Beanlands) and Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd. The only significant cost (aside from pizza for the professional archaeologist team!) was the landscape fabric used to line the units at the end of the dig.

With public participation and interest very high, Industrial Heritage Nova Scotia intends to continue to hold an annual public dig at Shubie Park with the Shubenacadie Canal Commission's support. The park is host to nearly two dozen separate archaeological features relating to the canal, many of which have not yet been the subject of a significant archaeological investigation.

**Excavations at "The Alexander" on Lower Water Street, Halifax, 2015** (submitted by Laura de Boer, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd.): In August of 2015, mechanical excavation began on a long-awaited construction project in downtown Halifax. Predominantly consisting of terraced gravel parking lots for the past half century, the half block located south of Alexander Keith's historic Nova Scotia Brewery is now being converted into a large mixed-use development known as The Alexander.

The fact that most of the property has not been built upon since the mid-20th century was an early indication that it would hold intact archaeological resources. An historic background study showed not only that the area had been open for so many decades, but also that dense rows of houses had once lined all three streets that form the boundaries of the study area. With this in mind, archaeologists at Davis MacIntyre & Associates compiled a detailed overlay of all known phases of building construction, resulting in a predictive model of intact archaeological features. Eight test trenches were proposed based on the model, and the team monitored mechanical excavation of each of these units, recording and backfilling whenever signs of intact features were encountered.

The model and testing proved to be a reasonably effective, though not foolproof, method of predicting intact features. The two key failings of the model are typical of problems relating to the archaeology of urban sites in Halifax: the absence of detailed, accurate mapping citywide prior to the 1870s, and the tendency of some mapmakers after that date to omit small

buildings such as privies. Nevertheless, the model aided in mitigating the archaeological material in a manner that did not significantly impede the progress of the construction project (which remained ahead of schedule throughout the mitigation). The mechanical soil removal was able to proceed in areas that had been previously "cleared" through testing and monitoring, while the archaeological team mitigated the identified resources or remained on call for those features that were encountered in the field but not shown on the predictive model.

Artifact processing (with the exception of early conservation and stabilization) has not yet begun, and interpretation of the site's various features is ongoing, even as the team awaits access to a final known archaeological feature against the site's edge, which needs to be shored up before mitigation can safely take place. What is clear is that the archaeological resources span the 19th century and may represent some remnants of Halifax's 18th-century waterfront activity as well.

Along Lower Water Street, which represents the approximate line of Halifax's original 1749 beach, three separate but possibly interrelated features were encountered. Separation of the features was due to disturbance by later features, including late-19th-century buildings and 19th- and 20th-century service lines, so it is unclear whether or not the features were completely disconnected originally. All three features incorporate layered wood floors with deposits of coal, birch bark, and scrap wood in varying concentrations, lying on floor joists almost directly over bedrock or hardpan, with at least one area of concentrated slag and burned material. Artifacts recovered include four



FIGURE 1. One of the features along Lower Water Street, with its wooden floor partially removed to show floor joists over bedrock and a stone wall along the south side against sterile soil. (Photo courtesy of Laura de Boer/Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd.)



coins (two of which have been dated to the 1820s and 1830s), buttons, a wooden spool for thread, multiple pieces of fabric, barrel staves and ends, a copper-alloy pocket watch, a file, and remarkably few nails. Fragments of Staffordshire slipware and tinglaze earthenware were also encountered, though currently it is speculated that this may represent disturbance from an earlier, now-destroyed feature. Further mapping, analysis, and research are pending, but findings tentatively point to a series of interrelated small-scale industrial sites along the waterfront, possibly including a small forge and a carpentry shop.

Uphill from this waterfront complex, the foundations of buildings along Bishop Street were identified, including, most notably, a Victorian home with a later concrete floor. Under this floor, the team encountered the remnants of what may have been a brick platform for a furnace, and under this, a buried barrel filled with half bricks and some animal bone. The barrel was dug into sterile soil, presumably to provide a drain in a waterlogged basement. The clay content of the soil was enough to neatly preserve the six wooden pieces that made up the barrel's bottom, in which three holes had been drilled to allow water to drain.

Two intact privies were also encountered, both having been capped with scrap wood after their last usage. The privies were made with four wood sides cut to match the undulations in the shallow bedrock below, resulting in an unusually soupy and smelly artifact recovery process compared to other urban privies. Nevertheless, the excavation proved well worth the effort, yielding an as-yet undetermined number of artifacts (currently stored in dozens of large bags awaiting processing), including several dozen brass sewing pins in the privy behind the house of 1870s dressmaker Miss Louisa Barrett.

To readers with archaeological experience it will be clear that this site is still in the earliest stages of interpretation, with some fieldwork still to come before artifact washing, mending, cataloging, mapping, follow-up research, and reporting help us to refine our understanding of this broad slice of Halifax's history. In the meantime, we hope you have enjoyed this glimpse into our current research.

## Newfoundland and Labrador

**Newfoundland's Winter Nonpastoral Transhumant Tradition** (submitted by Anatolij Venovcevs, Memorial University, [av6052@mun.ca](mailto:av6052@mun.ca)): From the middle of the 17th century to the 1960s, rural European residents of Newfoundland did not practice a sedentary lifestyle typical of the settlers in other European colonies. Rather, they developed and maintained a seasonal migratory tradition that alternated between "outports"—small, isolated fishing villages—in the summer and "winter houses"—remote cabins in Newfoundland's forested interior—in the winter. This migration afforded the Euro-Newfoundlanders better shelter from the cold winters and utilized the peripheral areas within their environment that could not be readily accessed during the hectic fishing season. In so doing, they buffered themselves from the volatile boom-and-bust cycles of the



FIGURE 1. Location of the Big Mussel Pond sites behind the present-day community of O'Donnells.

commercial summer cod fishery with winter subsistence activities like forestry, hunting, and trapping. In essence, by migrating between two distinct locations, sometimes dozens of kilometers apart, to expand their economic livelihoods, rural Euro-Newfoundlanders practiced what can be referred to as a nonpastoral transhumant tradition.

Despite the 300-year-long history of this tradition, very little work has been done to identify, excavate, and interpret what rural Euro-Newfoundlanders were doing for over half of the year at winter houses. Work carried out by a team of Memorial University of Newfoundland archaeologists over the course of this past summer sought to reverse this trend by surveying and partially excavating three winter house sites near the small community of O'Donnells, St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland.

The sites all approximately date between the 1820s and the 1840s and are located on the south side of a tidal pool known as Big Mussel Pond behind the present-day community (Figure 1). Two of the three sites, Big Mussel Pond 1 and Big Mussel Pond 2, were known from the start of the field season and were subjected to test pitting and metal detecting survey before the excavations began. During the test pitting stage, 30 x 30 cm shovel tests were dug at 2 to 3 m intervals across the sites to determine the nature and



FIGURE 2. Gunflints from Big Mussel Pond 1.





FIGURE 3. Woodworking tools from Big Mussel Pond 3.

made from recycled ballast flint), indicating that hunting was the main subsistence activity carried out at these sites (Figure 2). At the same time, a few fishhooks were identified, suggesting that some winter fishing could have taken place. This, along with evidence for stored summertime provisions seen in a few storage vessel fragments, a cod vertebra, a pig tooth, and chokeberry and raspberry seeds paint a fuller picture of survival during the island's longest and harshest season.

These subsistence activities were balanced with the needs of the commercial aspects of the summertime fishery. The winter was the perfect time to harvest and process lumber and build boats, barrels, staves, and other equipment needed during the summer. Evidence of these activities consists of a saw, two axes, an adze, and a boat hook recovered from the three sites under study (Figure 3).

Recycling was another major activity that took place during the winter months, something that is not mentioned in any of the occasional archival references to the winter housing tradition. A clipped lead sprue, fragments of lead scrap, and a worn lead line weight associated with the summer cod fishery is evidence that commonplace lead items were regularly melted down to produce ammunition for hunting. The irregularity seen in lead-shot fragments indicates that it was made by pouring liquid lead through a colander into a bucket of cold water. Evidence of recycling and mending can also be seen in crudely cut, perforated, and cold-hammered pieces of copper and iron and by a mend hole found on a small sherd from a blue transfer-printed pearlware bowl. This evidence of the repurposing, recycling, and the extending of the longevity of basic consumer goods is indicative of economic duress during a season when the residents of these houses were all but cut off from the European market. The living conditions of people residing at these sites is evidenced by the undecorated nature of most of their ceramics. Out of 17 unique refined earthenware vessels found at these sites, only 3 had any decorations, 2 of which were older ceramic vessels. Most of the pipes were undecorated as well.

While the three assemblages were marked by similarity, the sites varied between 54 to 155 m<sup>2</sup> in size. The biggest of these sites, Big Mussel Pond 1, contained evidence of a substantial stone collapse that covered 6 m<sup>2</sup>. It probably represents a stone wall that protected the wooden house from the open fire pit being used to heat it (Figure 4). Big Mussel Pond 1 also contained a stone foundation wall for what has been interpreted as a cellar, and the stratified hearth deposits suggest that the site was reoccupied for several winters. Big Mussel Pond 2, on the other hand, was much more ephemeral, with only a low 12.5 m<sup>2</sup> stone collapse and no evidence for seasonal reuse or a cellar feature. It did contain a dry-laid stone base, which was used to create a raised level platform on which the house stood. It also contained a large amount of hunting equipment and little in terms of ceramics and smoking pipes. Finally, Big Mussel



FIGURE 4. Excavation of the hearth in front of the stone collapse at Big Mussel Pond 1.



Pond 3 is unique because it lacked a sizeable rock collapse, even though test pitting did identify evidence for an open hearth inside the house.

Thus, while the similarities between the three assemblages suggest a seasonal wintertime artifact pattern, the architectural differences suggest that the tradition was much more varied than what was previously believed. Instead of following one prescribed activity year after year, the versatile organic nature of the Newfoundland transhumant tradition speaks to the adaptability and flexibility of European fishers, who were able to settle and survive in a harsh and isolated landscape into the present day.

**2015 Archaeological Excavations at Double Mer Point, Labrador** (submitted by Vincent Jankunis, Memorial University; Laurence Pouliot, Université Laval; and Lisa Rankin, Memorial University): This summer M.A. students Vincent Jankunis (Memorial University) and Laurence Pouliot (Université Laval) conducted archaeological fieldwork at Double Mer Point near Rigolet, Labrador, under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Rankin (Memorial University). The site consists of three contiguous Inuit winter sod-walled houses (Figure 1), which open south to The Narrows of Hamilton Inlet, and at least four summer tent rings located nearby. Although recorded in 1968 by William Fitzhugh and surveyed by Richard Jordan in the 1970s, Double Mer Point had received little attention until Lisa Rankin was invited by the Inuit community of Rigolet to resume work there in 2013 as part of a local tourism initiative.

To date, archaeological research has focused on the Inuit occupation of the site, and in particular on the semisubterranean winter houses situated between the shore and tree line. The first large-scale excavation was undertaken in 2014 by M.A. student Jeralyn Bohms (Memorial University) and concentrated on House 2, the smallest house. This house was occupied during the latter half of the 19th century, and provides a tentative date of occupation for the Inuit winter component of the rest of the site. This occupation period of Double Mer Point coincides with the development of formalized trade in Labrador; the site provides an opportunity to investigate Inuit daily life during a time of increased contact with Europeans.

In 2015 fieldwork included the complete excavation of Houses 1 and 3. House 1 revealed a rich assemblage of artifacts and the presence of different architectural elements. The preservation in House 1 was better than that in the other houses: faunal remains, bone artifacts, and wooden features in good condition were recovered. Excavations uncovered a 6-m entrance tunnel connected to a semicircular house (7.3 x 5.75 m) by a two-step cold

trap. Prior to the commencement of excavation, we believed that all of the sod houses would be similar in construction, but House 1 was found to exhibit several architectural differences from Houses 2 and 3. Most notable was the discovery that the entrance tunnel floor—paved with flat stones—was covered with wood planking, which could represent two different phases of occupation. Moreover, we found two features unique to House 1: one central platform and another platform linked with the bench at the south side of the house. Further study is needed before any conclusions about the features can be reached, but presently the south feature is interpreted to be a workstation and the central feature, constructed of stone and clay, is believed to be a possible stove platform. Also unique to House 1 was the extent to which bedrock was incorporated into the design of the house. This included a flat portion used as a bench, in addition to a section incorporated as part of the south wall.

A preliminary overview of the material culture collected from House 1 reveals a complex archaeological context. Artifacts associated with European and Inuit cultures were identified, along with several Dorset Palaeoeskimo (prehistoric) tools. Inuit technology and daily life are well represented by artifacts, such as toggle harpoon heads, hooks and points made of modified nails, an ivory button, an ivory miniature of a traditional man's knife, and fragments of a steatite pot. The most common artifacts of European origin are glass beads, creamware fragments, iron fragments, and nails; the assemblage also contains more diagnostic and rare artifacts. Three shako plates, a glass seal ring with a crucifix design (Figure 2), a mocha dipped earthenware fragment, and four military buttons were also discovered. These items, among others, demonstrate the site was occupied into the 19th century. Typical Dorset prehistoric tools and what appears to be a miniature artifact in the shape of a polar bear were also found; at this point, these artifacts suggest a multicomponent occupation of House 1.

The excavated area in House 3 totaled 60 m<sup>2</sup> and focused



FIGURE 1. Aerial view of Inuit winter houses (Houses 1, 2, and 3) at Double Mer Point, Labrador.





FIGURE 2. A glass seal, from a ring, with a crucifix design.

on the interior of the house, the entrance passage, and an associated midden near the entrance of the tunnel. Although House 3 is larger than House 2, the architecture of the two is similar, with a long entrance tunnel paved with flagstones leading to a central floor area. A gravel sleeping platform is located along the rear wall with an associated crescent-shaped stone alcove abutting the edge. Along the sidewalls are paving stones leading to possible workstations and benches. Aside from the many rocks used for paving and

foundations of walls and features, evidence of other materials associated with the walls and roof was also discovered. Large quantities of nails of varying sizes were found and wooden beams—often greatly deteriorated—were uncovered in areas of the house where structural support was needed.

The total number of artifacts recovered from House 3 was lower than that recovered from the smaller House 2, and far lower than the amount collected from the similarly sized House 1. The artifact assemblage from House 3 does, however, resemble those of the other two winter houses. Earlier occupations are represented by lithic debitage and tools most likely redeposited in the house via the cut-sod roofing material; however, European-manufactured goods associated with the Inuit occupation form the majority of the collection. Glass beads and iron nails are the most common items, but artifacts representing a winter-season occupation are also present in the collection. Domestic items are represented by various ceramic types, pipes, knives and *ulus* (women's knives—Figure 3), clothing, and soapstone vessels. Moreover, the many fishhooks, pieces of lead shot, musket balls, gunflints, and whalebone sled pieces suggest food resources were pursued both near and far. This assumption is supported by the faunal materials recovered from the interior and midden of House 3,

which mirrors those of Houses 1 and 2. As expected in a coastal environment, marine animals predominate: seal is the most common species but mussel, bird, fish, whale, caribou, and dog remains have also been identified. Lastly, archaeoentomological samples were also collected from both Houses 1 and 3 to investigate the environmental context of Double Mer Point.

Overall, the 2015 field season was a great success. With the help of our research team, composed of researchers, university students, volunteers, and Robert Jacques, a local high school student, we were able to excavate the remains of two sod houses over three months. During this time we were fortunate to have many opportunities to share the preliminary findings of our research with others. These opportunities included visits to the site by locals, a week of filming with the television crew of *Wild Archaeology*, and a community presentation at the end of the season. The overwhelming support from the community was easily felt and regularly experienced throughout our stay in Rigolet. Without it, and financial support from the Northern Scientific Training Program, the Smallwood Foundation, Young Canada Works, Inuit Pathways, and the Institute of Social and Economic Research of Memorial University, our research would not have been possible. ❧



FIGURE 3. An Inuit woman's knife, known as an *ulu*, with an iron blade.



## Canada - Québec

**Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History** (submitted by Laurence Johnson, *Ethnoscop*): Open since 1992, Pointe-à-Callière, Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History, has sponsored a number of archaeology projects over the past few years as part of its ongoing expansion. Since 2011, *Ethnoscop* has conducted archaeological excavations on three sites in Old Montréal for the museum.

St. Ann's Market and Parliament of the United Province of Canada (BjFj-4): In the 1830s, the Montréal authorities constructed a vaulted stone sewage collector in order to channel a small river. By filling in the river, they were able to gain a substantial amount of new space for construction. St. Ann's Market was built on top of the collector in 1834. Ten years later, the Province of Canada's government was transferred to Montréal and the market building was chosen to host the Legislative Assembly. In 1849, however, the building was burned down during a riot. Ottawa eventually became the Canadian capital and another market was erected on the foundations of the first. In 2011, six areas located on the south side of the east wing of the building, on top of the collector, inside the central building, and outside the market were investigated (Figure 1). Two years later, four areas in the central building and west wing were explored. Objectives were to establish the volume of the building and its architectural characteristics, distinguish the components of the original building and later additions, and contextualize the different occupations, namely the first St. Ann's market (1834-1844), the Parliament of the United Province of Canada (1844-1849) and the third St. Ann's market (1852-1901) – during the occupancy by the Parliament, the market was moved to a nearby wooden building. With excavations as deep as five meters, contexts preceding the erection of the market and filling in of the river were also investigated. More than 160,000 artifacts and ecofacts were collected and studied, with interpretation being supported by various specialized analyses of soil, wood, and mortar samples.

Mariners' House (BjFj-163): In 1953, a new Sailors' Institute was built to replace the previous one, which had occupied since 1875 a structure constructed in 1853. This older building was itself built over extensive remains of several generations of houses and outbuildings, the earliest of which date to the

1680s, in the commercial center of the fortified city. The 1953 building was recently completely renovated excavations in 2011 associated with the renovation uncovered more than 75 stone and wooden architectural remains. The archaeological data have been grouped into six distinct periods: prehistoric; fur trade market before the erection of permanent buildings; the first generation of buildings and construction of the fortifications ending with the 1765 fire; the English Regime; the first Sailors' Institute; and the second Sailors' Institute. Within this maze of ancient walls, outhouses, drains, and paving, the first two periods were difficult to document, but the artifact assemblage was similar to those from other nearby sites. A baker, a butcher, an innkeeper, and a King's warehouse keeper were among the occupants of that area prior to the construction of the Sailors' Institute, a place for sailors to stop by and rest while their boat was being readied for a voyage. Of note is certainly the presence of the stone




*Slideshow of Québec figures in order Figures 1 to 8 (slideshow only available to digital newsletter readers).*

fortifications of the city (1717-1803) and, less impressive, a collection of drains from all periods and made with various materials, evidence that the area was particularly vulnerable to flooding (Figures 2, 3, and 4).

Fort Ville-Marie and Callière's Residence (BjFj-101): Since 2002, Pointe-à-Callière has allowed the University of Montréal to conduct its archaeological field school on the site of Fort Ville-Marie and Callière's Residence (Louis-Hector de Callière was the general governor of New France from 1699 to 1703). This site contains architectural remains and soil deposits documenting the founding of Montréal. All but a few areas under the pillars of a 19th-century warehouse



on the site have been excavated by archaeology students. In 2014, the warehouse was torn down; a new building will be erected by the museum, in which features and artifacts associated with Fort Ville-Marie will be highlighted (Figure 5). Moreover, visitors will be able to move through the various museum pavilions via an underground network, using the William collector sewer (built in the 1830s) as the main corridor. Ethnoscop's first excavation at the site in 2014 uncovered the last intact areas (Figure 6). The findings, although quite modest, allowed the team to fill out the field school data.

Lastly, another dig was conducted in 2015 in front of the old warehouse. The team was able to locate one of the bastions of Fort Ville-Marie and explore an area situated outside the fort (Figure 7). Excavations in the street to build the underground passage between the collector and the new museum building also uncovered portions of the William collector sewer, an older wooden revetment, a stone arched bridge, and various late-19th- and early-20th-century underground public passageways (Figure 8). 

## Canada - West

### Alberta

**A Fur-Trade-Era Icehouse in Edmonton** (submitted by Erin Hannon and Brock Wiederick, Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Burnaby, BC): Archaeological site FjPi-63 is located in the Rosedale neighborhood of Edmonton, Alberta, on the floodplain flats north of the North Saskatchewan River. Historic resources studies have been undertaken at the site since the late 1970s, including historic-resource impact assessments, archaeological excavations, and

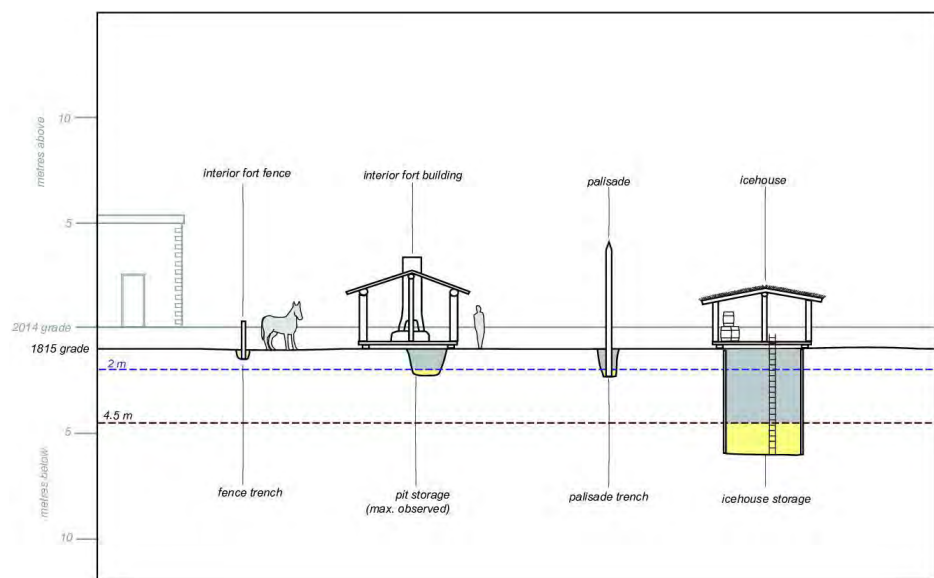


FIGURE 1. Depth of located features at Edmonton House/Fort Augustus. (Photo courtesy of Amanda Dow, 2014.)



FIGURE 2. Selection of 19th-century artifacts recovered during excavations.

monitoring of construction activities. These studies have revealed evidence of fur-trading establishments at the site, as well as an Aboriginal component dating to at least 6000 years ago. Excavations undertaken by Amec Foster Wheeler in 2012 and 2013 revealed portions of structural remains from the early-19th-century Edmonton House/Fort Augustus IV. During subsequent construction monitoring, two partially intact fur-trade-era icehouses were revealed. Anaerobic preservation conditions within the culture-bearing layers resulted in the recovery of a variety of artifacts unique to the site, and to historic fur-trade-era sites in the region. The presence of structural remains at the site is important both as an indicator that despite intense and deep subsurface disturbance, the site may still yield in situ data, and also because of the unique preservation conditions within the icehouses themselves. Analysis of the construction materials and techniques, in addition to that of the recovered organic artifacts, will enhance the archaeological record for fur-trade sites in western and





FIGURE 3. Hand excavation of southeast corner of icehouse containing organic artifacts.

central Canada.

Excavations and construction monitoring have taken place at FjPi-63 since the 1970s. Despite the significant ground disturbance that has occurred at the site, due to the construction and removal of a horse race track, the use of the area as a water storage facility, and the current presence of an electrical power plant, for example, there are still pockets of intact historic (early-19th-century and older) deposits. Systematic excavations in the late 1990s and in 2012 have revealed portions of fur-trade-fort structural remains such as a palisade trench (Figure 1), as well as a plethora of artifacts such as ceramics, pipes, lithic flakes, sewing implements, jewelry, and hundreds of fragments of animals bones (Figure 2).

Construction monitoring can sometimes be a long, tedious undertaking, resulting in the recovery of a handful of out-of-context finds, such as bone fragments or pieces of unidentifiable metal. However, in January of 2014, a backhoe excavator that was working well below the hypothesized historic ground level revealed two partially intact square structures. Both structures are believed to be the wood-lined subterranean cellars of icehouses. One of the icehouses was in poor condition and appeared to have been damaged extensively by fire. The other was less damaged, as it had all four walls partially intact, and up to 1.5 m of timber structure remained. The upper portions of the walled cellar, along with the aboveground superstructures, had been destroyed, but due to the depth at which the cellar had been dug in the 1800s, the bottom portion of each ice house was preserved from damage until 2014 (Figure 3). Once the walls of the structure had been revealed by the excavator bucket, the AMEC archaeologists excavated the remaining soil away from the walls by shovel. Once the timbers had been cleared of soil, they were photographed and mapped. However, as the excavator continued to work inside of the wall perimeter of the better-preserved icehouse, it became clear that there was an additional element present. Layers of ice and straw were used in the subterranean portion of the icehouse, and over time these straw layers compacted,

creating an anaerobic environment in which organic artifacts previously unknown at FjPi-63 were preserved. From within the straw-bearing layer, fur, hair, cloth, bark, and wood were recovered. Due to the weather conditions at the time of the monitoring (well below 0°C), preservation of these items was aided by the fact they were already frozen. The organic artifacts from inside the icehouse structure were sent to the Royal Alberta Museum for conservation and analysis.

The wood-lined square pit would have been stocked with ice that had been cut from blocks from the river in the winter, and hauled on sledges into the fort. The ice would have been placed within the excavated pit and then covered with insulating straw, and then more ice (Figure 4): “Goods would be placed in the pit as well and stored in the superstructure above it in order to keep them preserved.” Alexander Henry mentioned abandoning Fort Vermillion on 31 May 1810, with “400 limbs of Buffalo, still frozen hard as ice” (Ens and Binnema 2012: 491). The meat and other foodstuffs stored in the icehouse would have been used to feed the men, women, and children who lived and worked at the fort during the spring and summer. The goods stored in the icehouse would also have been used to trade with First Nations groups. While meat was the major focus of preservation in the icehouse, other goods such as root crops, grains, garden produce, and perishable items or

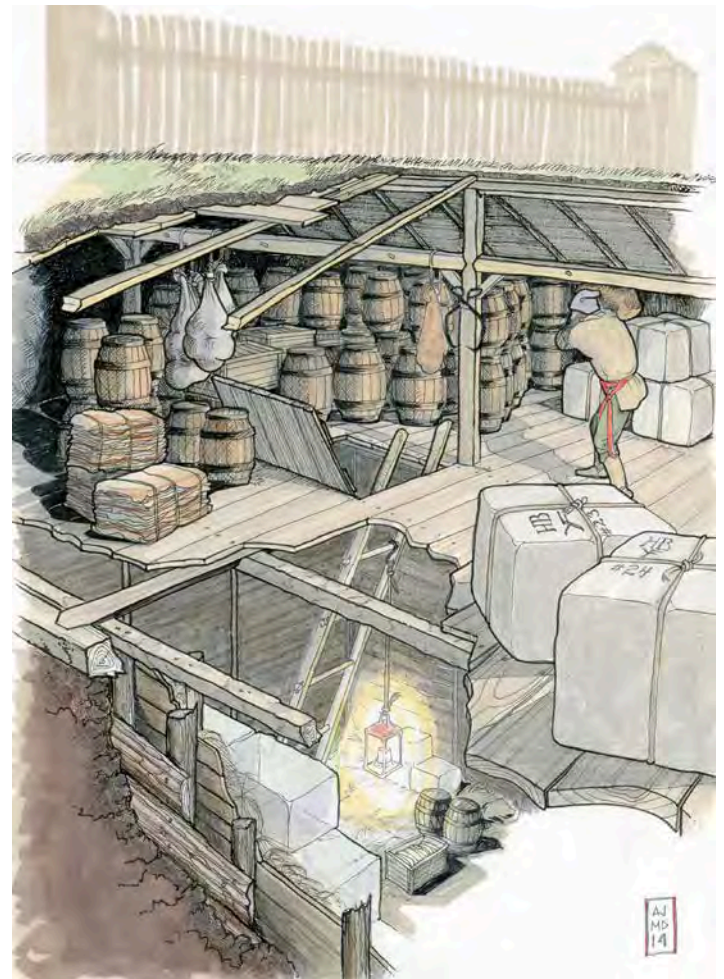


FIGURE 4. Artist recreation of icehouse structure. (Photo courtesy of Amanda Dow, 2014.)



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# Latin America

## Argentina

**Archaeological Fieldwork at Mendoza:** Horacio Chiavazza leads a team of archaeologists and other specialists from different institutions based in Mendoza, Argentina. The team includes scholars affiliated with the Centro de Investigaciones Ruinas de San Francisco del Área Fundacional de Mendoza and the Laboratorio de Arqueología Histórica y Etnohistoria de la Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, as well as doctoral candidates and postdoctoral fellows supported by the university and CONICET. Chiavazza's team is funded by the city administration and the Agencias Nacionales de Investigación (FONCyT) and studies urban development in Mendoza using a historical-materialist approach. The project involves close international collaboration with archaeologists working in Santa Cruz de la Sierra La Vieja (Bolivia) and Valdivia (Chile). The study of local pottery is an important component of the project, particularly that which evidences a mix of Inca and Spanish characteristics.

The regional material culture record saw significant changes in the 300 years following the initial colonization. Using an ethnogenetic approach, C. Prieto Olavarría, L. Castillo, L. Puebla, and V. Zorrilla have concluded that colonial encounters led to a unique blend of native and Spanish traditions. E. Araujo has explored the ways both native and imported plants and animals were used by peoples living in the Cordoba area. Researchers have been able to trace a change from hunter-gatherer, prehistoric foodways and practices to more-settled agricultural practices, including wheat cultivation and the exploitation of imported animal species (e.g., oxen, pigs, and goats). Isotope studies indicated a decrease in the consumption of native plants, such as corn, and an increase in the production and consumption of wheat, oats, and fish. Biological anthropology and zooarchaeological analysis undertaken by D. Mansegosa, S. Giannotti, and M. López enabled the team to correlate urban and population growth with land exploitation, incorporating the study of side effects such as environmental damage and human stress. The social and environmental changes led to metabolic stress, including hypoplasia. In addition to the research on foodways, the team has undertaken burial studies, a source of information concerning social differentiation. Though the fieldwork has been ongoing for 15 years, it continues to yield new evidence and interpretations. 📖

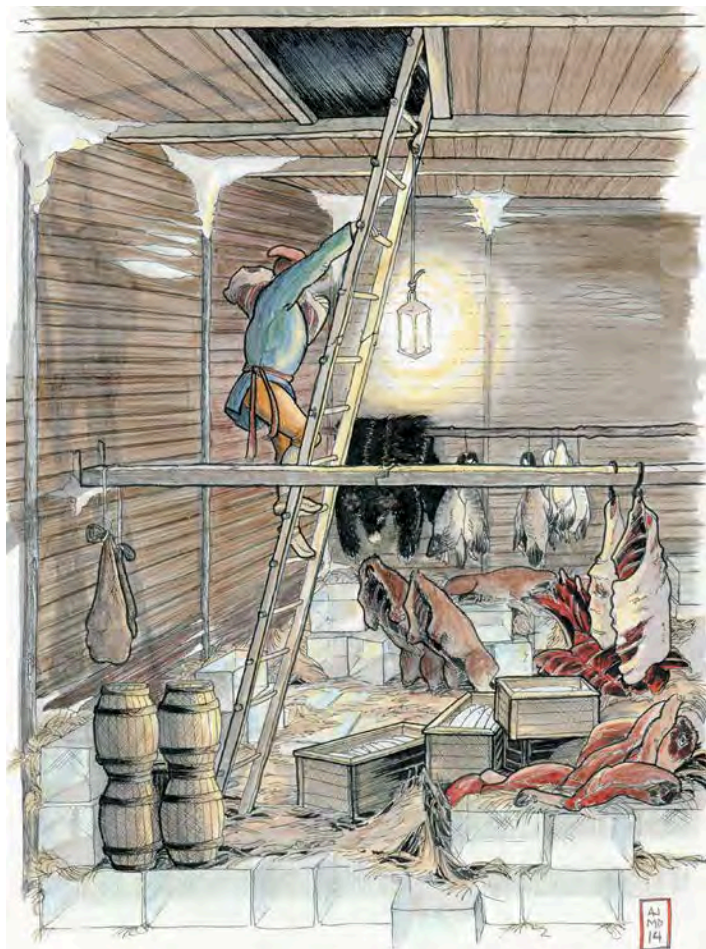


FIGURE 5. Artist recreation of icehouse cellar. (Photo courtesy of Amanda Dow, 2014.)

even furs could have been placed inside in order to prevent degradation (Figure 5).

Icehouses were an integral part of fur-trade-era forts. While their presence within the walls of each fort is inferred, prior to this discovery there was little concrete archaeological evidence of their existence in Alberta. This unique discovery of organic materials and artifacts within the icehouse provided a unique opportunity for insight into fur-trade-era forts. The preliminary results of the analysis of the materials collected indicate that the textile fiber is wool, and the weave is a napped plain weave, possibly a broadcloth (Kristine Fedyniak 2014, pers. comm.). The black hair comes from a black bear, the coarse gray/brown fur is wolf and the fine dark brown fur is from the weasel family, possibly mink or marten (Kristine Fedyniak 2014, pers. comm.). The bark and the wood have not yet been analyzed. The discovery of the intact wooden structure, as well as the well-preserved organic artifacts, provide opportunity for further study. Additionally, the presence of these partially intact structures is important for future construction-monitoring considerations. The discovery of the icehouses was unanticipated due to the extensive level of disturbance at the site, the extent of previous archaeological investigations, and because the ground-disturbance work that was being carried out was well below the hypothesized historic floor level.



# Underwater - Worldwide

## Technology

**An ROV of One's Own** (*submitted by Daniel McNaughton, SHA Newsletter Copy Editor*): In recent years, smart machines have left the confines of their original homes, factories, and now range down highways and through air space, performing tasks that are too dangerous or expensive for human beings to do. The potential of smart machines to aid scientific research is colossal; however, this potential will only be realized once these sophisticated devices are priced so as to be readily accessible. In fact, some already are. Two such examples are a kit for testing nitrate levels in water, developed at Michigan Tech (Mills 2015), and an underwater robot, the OpenROV (Buhr 2015). Both feature open-source software and hardware and can be built using a 3-D printer. The latter is more likely to be of interest to archaeologists, specifically those who work underwater. That said, the intense interest in and experimentation with smart machines in general suggests these examples are just the tip of the iceberg.



FIGURE 1. An OpenROV deployed by xeoPesca, a nonprofit organization in Spain that promotes the application of open-source software and hardware for environmental purposes, notably sustainable fisheries. (Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Commons - [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OpenROV-Xeopesca-Praza\\_P%C3%BAblica\\_2.jpg#/media/File:OpenROV-Xeopesca-Praza\\_P%C3%BAblica\\_2.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:OpenROV-Xeopesca-Praza_P%C3%BAblica_2.jpg#/media/File:OpenROV-Xeopesca-Praza_P%C3%BAblica_2.jpg).)

For more information on the OpenROV, please visit: <http://www.openrov.com/>. The author wishes to thank Ray Hightower, whose talk, "Wrestling with IoT," presented at the ChicagoRuby meetup of 1 December, 2015, discussed the device.

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## USA - Midwest

**11th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference** (*submitted by Rob Mann, St. Cloud State University*): The 11th Annual Midwestern Historical Archaeology Conference (MHAC), organized by Rob Mann (St. Cloud State University), Katherine Hayes (The University of Minnesota), Bruce Koenen (Minnesota Office of the State Archaeologist), and Jeremy Nienow (Nienow Cultural Consultants, LLC), was held Friday, October 9, and Saturday, October 10, 2015 at the Mill City Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Built in the ruins of a mill complex dating from the 1870s, the Mill City Museum is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is part of the St. Anthony Falls Historic District and within the National Park Service's Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. Given this exciting and interactive venue, the themes for the 2015 MHAC conference included issues related to immigration/labor, contemporary heritage representations, and rivers as agents.

The conference was by all accounts was a great success. On Friday evening the opening reception, held at the Mill City Museum, was an informal get-together where folks mingled and caught up on the latest happenings in Midwest historical archaeology in a relaxed, but still semiprofessional venue. Following the reception, Dr. Paul Shackel (University of Maryland) presented the keynote address. Dr. Shackel's presentation was entitled "Remembering the Lattimer Massacre" and detailed his recent investigations of the 1897 killing of 25 striking immigrant coal miners in Lattimer, Pennsylvania. Friday evening's events were attended by over 40 people.

On Saturday morning the conference kicked off with a series of Ignite-style presentations, in which participants were given 5 minutes and no more than 20 slides to "spark" the interest of our audience of over 60 people. This style of presentation was new to many and we were all pleasantly surprised at how smoothly and efficiently presenters were able to pack so much information into such a short amount of time. Saturday's presenters and topics were:

- Ryan Howell — Fort Snelling on the March: The





FIGURE 1. MHAC 2015 conference attendees enjoying the Ignite-style presentations on Saturday morning.

#### Archaeology of Enlisted Men Before the Great War

- David Mather — 1679 or Not? Historic Contexts of the Du Luth Stone and the Question of Fur Trade Authenticity
- Sigrid Arnott and David Maki — Immigrants as Colonizers in the Dakota Homeland
- Charles Peliska — Fortifying Saint Cloud: Searching for Fort Holes, a Dakota Conflict Era "Settler's Fort"
- Rob Mann and Jacob Dupre — Fort or Folly: Using Remote Sensing and Archaeology to Locate the Dakota Conflict-Era Fort Fair Haven
- David Maki and Sigrid Arnott — An Archaeological Study of the Wood Lake Battlefield: Site of the Final Engagement of the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862
- Nancy Buck Hoffman — Publishing Fort Snelling's Collections Data for Both Research and Interpretive Projects
- Adrian Blake — Failure on the Frontier: Historic Copper Smelting on Isle Royale
- Aaron Howe and LouAnn Wurst — Twelve Years in the Making: Daily Life and Resource Depletion at a Logging Camp
- Rebecca Graff — All That Could Be Solid Melts Into Air: The Struggle for Archaeological Sensibilities in Chicago
- Lydia Marshall — The Archaeology of Exodusters: African-American Migrants in 19th-Century Putnam

#### County, Indiana

- Jeremy Nienow — Archaeology and Local Historical Societies
- Amélie Allard — Rivers and the Creation of a Fur Trade Landscape
- Kat Hayes — Challenging the Silo Mentality: Creating a Heritage Studies and Public History Program

Between the morning and afternoon sessions there were tours of the Historic Mississippi Riverfront led by Patrick Nunnally, Coordinator for the University of Minnesota's River Life Program, and the Mill City Museum offered conference goers abridged visit tickets to the museum, allowing them to take in attractions such as the film *Minneapolis in 19 Minutes* and their famous "Flour Tower" tour. Several took advantage of both offerings.

During the Saturday afternoon session, we held a series of "Knowledge Cafés," during which the Ignite-style presenters each led a series of roundtable discussions with audience members. It was kind of like speed dating for archaeologists. Presenters rotated from table to table at set intervals, so that all audience members had a chance to engage with each presenter. The Knowledge Café discussions were lively and informative. The afternoon session also included a series of poster presentations that were viewed by many. Poster session presenters and topics were:

- Anne Marie Brugioni and Xhris Fitzgerald — Material Proxies for Class from the Progressive Era: Preliminary



FIGURE 2. MHAC 2015 conference attendees taking a walking tour of the ruins at the Mill City Museum and the Historic Mississippi River Waterfront. Tours were led by Mr. Patrick Nunnally (far left), coordinator for the University of Minnesota's River Life Program.



Findings from Chicago's Charnley-Persky House Excavation, July 2015

- Stefanie Kowalczyk and Kelly Wolf – “Did You Find My Grandma’s Tupperware?” and Other Common Questions in Developing a Public Archaeology Project
- Michael Nassaney, Kaitlin Burton, Jenna Combs, Erika Loveland, Kyle Moerchen, Lakenia Payne, Joseph Puntasecca, Lana Simigliano, Stephen Staten, and Devon Yurko – Seeking Shelter From the Storm: Architecture in 18th-Century New France
- Daniel Trepal – GIS-Based Predictive Modeling and Urban Industrial Archaeology: A Case Study in London Ontario

The 11th Annual Midwestern Historical Archaeology Conference wrapped up with some concluding remarks by Dr. Michael Nassaney (Western Michigan University), the progenitor and driving force behind the MHAC for the last decade. The organizers would like to acknowledge and thank the following for their support and assistance: the Mill City Museum, the Minnesota Archaeological Society, the Council for Minnesota Archaeology, and John Reynolds (SCSU graduate student), as well as all the other students, audience members, participants, and community partners who made the conference such a success.

## Michigan

**Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2015 Field Season** (submitted by Erika Loveland, Western Michigan University): This past season Western Michigan University (WMU) hosted its 40th annual archaeological field school at the site of Fort St. Joseph, an important 18th-century French mission,

and trading post complex located in present-day Niles, Michigan. Directed by Dr. Michael S. Nassaney (WMU), the 2015 field school continued its investigation of cultural remains and artifact concentrations in order to better understand the fort’s role in the Great Lakes fur trade. The Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, established in 1998, is a collaboration between WMU’s Anthropology Department, Support the Fort, Inc., the City of Niles, the Fort St. Joseph Museum, and other community groups. The project was certified this year by the Register of Professional Archaeologists and recognized at the annual conference of the Society for American Archaeology as the best among the registered field schools. In addition, Fort St. Joseph was featured this past year in the exhibit “Evidence Found” at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, which attracted some 60,000 visitors.

The project has a long-standing commitment to engage the community and educate the public about archaeology and the history of New France in Niles. A total of 16 undergraduate and graduate students and staff joined Dr. Nassaney in this year’s field school. Students not only learned excavation techniques and artifact-processing skills, but also participated in community service learning and public outreach by assisting and attending the project’s public lecture series, the local French Market, and the Open House weekend. French colonial architecture was chosen for the theme of this year’s field season, which was reflected in all of our programs.

Due to an extremely wet spring, our excavations began and ended at the Lyne site (20BE10), which is located on a nearby terrace overlooking the floodplain area designated as Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). A total of eleven 1 x 1 m units were excavated at the Lyne site, continuing the recovery of 18th-century objects to determine the types of activities that took place on the terrace when the fort was occupied. Pieces of lead shot were found in 5 of the 11 units excavated this season, indicating an 18th-century presence. Projectile points and other precontact cultural materials related to lithic-tool production were recovered as well. A low density of flakes was found in each of the units excavated. The eastern edge of an undisturbed charcoal concentration, Feature 24, was discovered as well, in a unit located along the river, and will be considered for future investigation.

The focus of this year’s excavation in the floodplain was to continue investigations to identify, investigate, and interpret the architectural remains of the Fort St. Joseph site. Preliminary archaeological and documentary research has provided some information on the fort’s social composition and appearance; however, little is known about the built environment. Therefore, excavations on the floodplain focused on discovering further architectural evidence, as well as collecting



FIGURE 1. Type D flintlock side plate (15-2-15) found in the 2015 floodplain excavations. The side plate depicts a dog chasing what may be either a deer or rabbit. (Photo by John Cardinal, courtesy of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.)





FIGURE 2. Feature 26, a linear concentration of structural stones, may be a partial foundation associated with a building. Unfortunately, flooding of the site shortly after this photo was taken forced us to temporarily halt excavations for the season. (Photo by John Cardinal, courtesy of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.)

data on construction techniques.

Six 1 x 2 m units were opened this field season in locations where we expected to intercept walls, in order to ascertain the size, orientation, construction methods, and contents of the buildings associated with a series of fireplaces along the river. In one of these units, four structural stones (10 to 15 cm long) were uncovered in a linear orientation running north to south, which we designated as Feature 26. These structural stones appear similar to two other partial foundation walls (Features 17 and 24) associated with other buildings on

the site. More excavation is needed to determine their function and association with other architectural features. Unfortunately, most of the students were just reaching the undisturbed occupational soil zone when excavations ceased due to extensive flooding. Each unit is very promising and will be reopened for further investigation next year. Notable artifacts found include a French marine military button, a Type D flintlock side plate, a copper-alloy bell, a ring with blue glass insets, and two lead seals. The seals testify to the volume of cloth that was imported to the site. Each year the project invites the public to rediscover history and learn more about the work being done by archaeologists through summer camp programs, educational field trips, an archaeology lecture series, and an open house. The 2015 summer camp program provided a hands-on archaeological experience for 25 participants of different ages and backgrounds. One benefit of a spring field school was that we were able to host 800 grade-school students at the site. All of the students attended an educational tour of the Fort St. Joseph Museum, the Father Allouez Cross, and the Fort St. Joseph Commemorative Boulder, finishing at either the Lyne or Fort St. Joseph site. The public was also invited to attend the sixth annual summer archaeology lecture series held during the field season in cooperation with the Niles District Library, featuring prominent speakers who discussed architecture from historical and archaeological perspectives.



FIGURE 3. A summer camper (right) works alongside a Western Michigan University field-school student on the terrace. (Photo by John Cardinal, courtesy of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project.)

During the 2015 Open House, reenactors, community representatives, and craftsmen shared their knowledge with over 700 visitors, who experienced and learned about daily life, archaeology, and architecture at the fort. The floodplain was unfortunately closed to visitors this year, due to the flooding resulting from a wet spring season. However, staff and students provided guided tours of the Father Allouez Cross, the Commemorative Boulder, and the open excavations taking place at the Lyne site for the first time during the open house. In an effort to reach more people interested in the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, new social media accounts have been created on Twitter and Instagram, for example, along with a renewed commitment to the blog and Facebook page. Recently, the Fort St. Joseph blog surpassed 47,500 views; to read some of our past posts and keep updated with the project, visit



[fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com](http://fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com). Our Twitter call name is @fsjarchaeology and the Instagram page can be found by searching "fsjarchaeology" or "Fort St. Joseph Archaeology."

## Minnesota

**Searching for Fort Fair Haven, Fair Haven** (submitted by Rob Mann, St. Cloud State University): In August 1862, long-simmering tensions in Minnesota between the Dakota peoples and European American settlers, traders, soldiers, and government officials boiled over into open warfare. For nearly two months Dakota warriors, ostensibly under the leadership of renowned chief Little Crow, had been raiding European American settlements and military installations. In response, settlers across southwest and central Minnesota either fled the region or attempted to fortify their settlements. One such fortification was built at the small village of Fair Haven in southeast Stearns County, Minnesota. Now referred to as Fort Fair Haven, historical sources indicate that the "fort" consisted of a wooden stockade constructed around a ca. 1857 log hotel.

To date, there has been no systematic effort to identify, locate, and evaluate the dozens of so-called "settlers' forts" that were constructed during the Dakota Conflict era. This past summer Rob Mann, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at St. Cloud State University (SCSU), and SCSU CRM-Archaeology graduate student Jake Dupre attempted to locate Fort Fair Haven using a combination of gradiometry and shovel test survey. Our initial step was to do a gradiometer survey over the project area. Ms. Megan Stroh, Curator of Archaeology at the Sanford Museum in Cherokee, Iowa, conducted the survey. Since the lot was so small, we were able to cover the 3 gradiometer grids in 25-cm intervals. The gradiometer detected a number of magnetic anomalies, including at least two linear anomalies. We targeted several of these for shovel testing. One of our research goals was to assess whether the archaeological signature of the stockade suggests that the settlers constructed a formidable defensive structure, or, alternatively, whether it indicated that Fort Fair Haven provided more peace of mind than actual security. Our STPs revealed the presence of a deeply buried soil horizon, which contained artifacts diagnostic of the mid- to late 19th century. In two STPs below these deposits, we defined features interpreted to be the remains of the stockade line of Fort Fair Haven. The features appear to be post molds/postholes set within linear trenches.

It is too early to say much about the construction of Fort Fair Haven, but the archaeological record suggests that the remains of the stockade are sufficiently intact to enable us to address these questions with more-extensive testing. We are planning to return to the site in the summer of 2016 as part of the St. Cloud State University Archaeological Field School. This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. 🏰

## USA - Northeast

### Massachusetts

**Digging Northampton's History: The Parsons House Archaeology Project** (submitted by Linda Ziegenbein, University of Massachusetts-Amherst): "Digging Northampton's History" was a community archaeology project conducted at the Parsons House in Northampton, Massachusetts, under the direction of Linda Ziegenbein. It was funded by a Mass Humanities Project Grant and targeted fund-raising by Historic Northampton, Inc. The Parsons House was constructed in 1719 by Nathaniel Parsons, the grandson of Cornet Joseph Parsons, one of the founders of the city of Northampton in western Massachusetts. Like many historic homes, it has undergone significant alteration as the needs of its owners changed over its 300-year history. This has included the addition, alteration, and removal of doors, windows, and living spaces.



FIGURE 1. The archaeological process as drawn by Elena, a third-grade student at RK Finn Ryan Road Elementary School. She writes, "I learned that archaeology is the study of rocks, minerals and old stuff. I troweled and found lots of bricks. I cleaned lots of vases and glass. I also saw a cat."

Over forty people made their home there; in one period in the late 18th century as many as sixteen people, primarily three generations of women and children, were living in the house together. It was deeded to Historic Northampton upon the death of Anna Catherine Bliss, its last homeowner, in 1941. Historic Northampton, Inc. used it as exhibition space until recently, when it has been used for storage. One of its ells continues to be a rented residence.





FIGURE 2. Unit Y19, showing cow mandible, bottle base, and brick.

Recent inspection of the house revealed that the sill supporting the northern wall was disintegrating, causing the wall to sink and pull away from the house. Repair of the sill would require expansion of the basement and, therefore, excavation of soil below the house to a depth of eight feet. Since the house has an historic preservation restriction, archaeological investigation of the impacted area was required. Nancy Rexford, acting Director of Historic Northampton, Inc., approached Linda Ziegenbein about leading a project there. "Digging Northampton's History" was created as a way to involve the public in an archaeological project that centered on understanding the lives of women and children in colonial New England.

Over three weeks, between 19 May and 6 June, project archaeologists Mary Larkum, Elena Sesma, Jill Zuckerman, and Linda Ziegenbein excavated twenty-two 1 x 1 m units and five shovel test pits with the help of nine third- and fourth-grade classes from the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, Leeds Elementary School, and RK Finn Ryan Road Elementary School, students from North Star Center for Independent Learning, and forty volunteers from the general public. Instrumental to the success of the project was labor generously donated from members of the professional archaeological community, including Evan Taylor, Eric Johnson, Kerry Lynch, Maxine Oland, Peter Ames, and Barker Fariss. Progress on the project was recorded on the project's website ([www.diggingnorthamptonshistory.wordpress.com](http://www.diggingnorthamptonshistory.wordpress.com)), Facebook page, and Twitter handle. Over the course of three weeks, over four hundred people visited the site.

Test units were distributed randomly throughout the rear yard area of the house and beneath the removed floor of the kitchen inside of the house. Soil stratigraphy revealed a buried plow zone typical of this area in New England, with artifacts dating from the late 18th through early 21st century. Within the rear yard area, there was evidence of significant alteration of the landscape and what came to be revealed

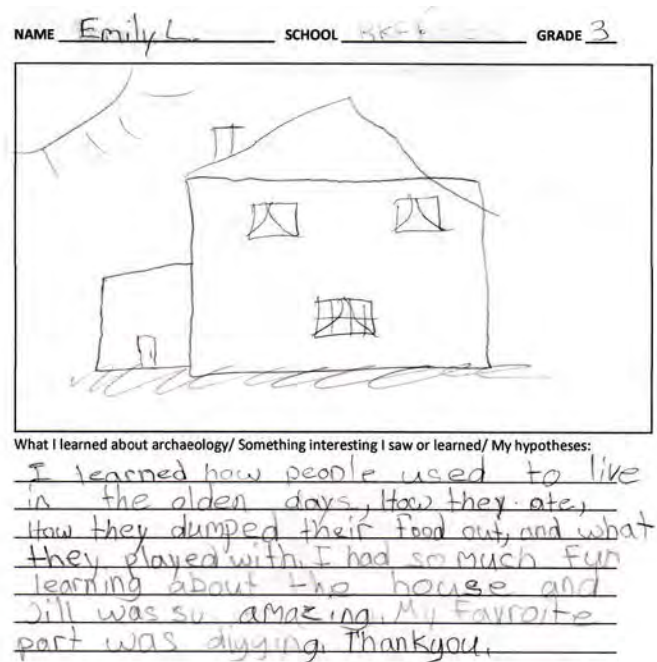


FIGURE 3. Emily L., another student at RK Finn Ryan Road Elementary School, writes, "I learned how people used to live in the olden days, how they ate, how they dumped their food out, and what they played with. I had so much fun learning about the house and Jill was so amazing. My favorite part was digging. Thank you."

as the foundation of a lean-to (no longer extant), housing a summer kitchen along the northern wall of the house.

Artifact analysis is ongoing but preliminarily it appears as though the majority of the artifacts excavated relate to the mid-19th-century occupation of the house. Surprisingly, given the number of children who lived in the house, no material culture that can be directly attributed to them, such as clay marbles or doll fragments, was recovered. Most of the artifacts were related to domestic activities (e.g., sewing pins, ceramic sherds, bottle glass) or building or construction episodes (e.g., nails and bricks). A great number of faunal remains were recovered, which will contribute to knowledge of dietary practice and preference. Chert flakes were recovered from deeper levels of the units, but were very few in number. Regardless, they were a cogent reminder of the native peoples who have long called this area "home."

Following completion of the final report, Linda Ziegenbein will visit the partners' schools to update the students on the project and will give a public talk at Historic Northampton to present the findings. More information on the project can be found on the project website: [www.diggingnorthamptonshistory.wordpress.com](http://www.diggingnorthamptonshistory.wordpress.com).

#### Emily Dickinson Museum

In 2016 Archaeological Services of the University of Massachusetts will again offer a summer field school in historical archaeology at the Emily Dickinson Museum, home of the renowned poet, in Amherst, Massachusetts. The upcoming field school may continue investigation in the conservatory location, where 18th-century delftware, other



ceramics, and numerous clay pipes were found, whose deposition is likely associated with the inhabitants of a house on the site that predated the 1813 Dickinson dwelling. Excavation will also continue behind the house, with the goal of locating evidence for a more exact location for the former barn.

In May of this year excavation focused on areas of the property where structures have stood and which the museum is interested in reconstructing. These consisted of a conservatory built onto the house in the mid-19th century for Emily and her sister by their father; and also a large barn with attached ells for carriages, worker housing, and animals. Test pits confirmed use of one part of the site for an early-20th-century tennis court, revealing an iron artifact that proved to be a tennis-court line marker made by the British company of William Whitely. The museum plans an historically appropriate orchard for that area.

During the 2016 UMass Summer Field School, students will learn the fundamentals of archaeological field and laboratory research, as well as the presentation of archaeological research to the public. In addition to excavation and artifact processing, the schedule will include discussions of readings and guest speakers, plus several field trips. Through their research, students assist the museum in developing reconstructions of the historic landscape and the history of land use at the site from ancient times through the 20th century, with an emphasis on the period of Emily Dickinson's residence there. More generally, the field school contributes to ongoing research on the history and anthropology of the Connecticut River Valley region, as part of the university's long-standing archaeological research program begun in the 1970s.

The six-credit course running four weeks in early summer is offered through UMass Continuing and Professional Education and the UMass Department of Anthropology. It is open to all, aged 18 or over, with a maximum of 12 participants; however, preference is given to '5-college' students, anthropology majors, and juniors and seniors. For further information, see upcoming posts on the UMass Amherst Anthropology Department website: [www.umass.edu/anthro/fieldschool\\_files/maininfo.html](http://www.umass.edu/anthro/fieldschool_files/maininfo.html), or contact Field Director Dr. Elizabeth Harlow ([eharlow@umass.edu](mailto:eharlow@umass.edu)).

**Plymouth** (submitted by Christa Beranek, Fiske Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts Boston): In 2015, a field school from the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with Plimoth Plantation, undertook a third season of work in Plymouth as part of "Project 400: The Plymouth Colony Archaeological Survey." The project, directed by David Landon of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research at UMass Boston, with the assistance of Christa Beranek, John Steinberg, and Brian Damiaata, was just awarded a three-year Collaborative Research Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Our proposed work includes reanalysis of previously excavated collections and site survey and excavation leading up to the 400th anniversary of the establishment of New England's first permanent English



FIGURE 1. The pipe bowl with "RB" mark.

settlement in 1620—the founding of Plymouth Colony. The goal of our field research is to identify parts of the 17th-century palisade wall that encircled the fort and encompassed the original colonial Plymouth settlement, and to find some features of the 17th-century settlement itself. Since the 17th-century settlement is under the modern downtown, this will be challenging, and we expect that areas of preservation will be discontinuous and may be small. In addition to providing specific information about the location of 17th-century features, we hope to answer questions about how the colonists used and altered the environment, the creation of the colonial landscape, and the interaction between colonists and native people.

The 2015 season's work was focused on School Street at the eastern edge of Burial Hill in downtown Plymouth, with geophysical survey at two other potential sites. Significantly, this year we identified two areas on Burial Hill where early deposits have been preserved. One excavation unit contained intact deposits from the Native American occupation of Burial Hill, including native ceramic sherds, lithic flakes, and a few partial tools. We do not plan to carry out any more work in this area because native sites are outside of the scope of the project at this time. The other early deposit was part of what seems to be an early-colonial feature, a segment of a small pit or trench. Part of this feature continues beyond the edge of the 2015 excavation area; the other end was truncated by later construction or demolition. It contained very few artifacts, primarily native ceramic sherds, but the disturbed material redeposited above and adjacent to the feature did include some 17th-century colonial artifacts, among them a marked smoking pipe. The pipe had an "RB" mark surrounding a dagger and a heart (Figure 1). The mark stands for Richard Berryman, whose pipes were made in Bristol, England, between 1619 and 1652. Pipes with the same mark have been found in Ferryland, a 17th-century English colony in Newfoundland (see [www.colonyofavalon.ca](http://www.colonyofavalon.ca)), and another example may have been found in Plymouth during the 1972 excavations



at the Allerton/Cushman Site.

Burial Hill was formerly known as Fort Hill, due to the fort that was established there during the first years of the Plymouth colony. The village and palisade ran down the hill towards Plymouth Bay. The fort was used for the town's defense through the time of King Philip's War in the 1670s. Afterward, the hill became a burial ground; it currently contains gravestones dating back to the 1680s. We have been working along the edges of the property to avoid disturbing any of the historic graves and monuments on Burial Hill, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The locations of the fort at the top of the hill and the path and nature of the palisade wall have been the subject of speculation but not pinpointed. Another area of focus relates to a series of 18th- and 19th-century buildings that were situated along School Street. The buildings included houses, two schools, and several large stables and warehouses. These were removed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The construction and removal of these buildings cut deep into the hillside, removing any older deposits within the building footprints and in some cases for a significant distance behind the buildings. We identified an area where older deposits remained—a significant milestone—and we plan to return to this area in 2016.

Two UMass Boston MA students completed thesis projects during the 2014–2015 academic year, examining existing collections from the Plymouth area. Meredith Luze restudied the material from a native site on the grounds of Plimoth Plantation and conducted in-depth interviews with members of the Plantation's Wampanoag Indigenous Program about their knowledge of the site, use of archaeological data in museum interpretation, and feelings about archaeology. Kellie Bowers analyzed artifacts that might have been part of colonist-native interaction from three 17th-century colonial sites in Plymouth County (the Winslow, Allerton, and RM sites), including cut- and shaped-copper scrap and several other categories of goods that might have been exchanged.

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**Archaeological Site Evaluation of the John Friend Gristmill Site, Beverly** (submitted by Suzanne G. Cherau, PAL Senior Archaeologist): John Daly, PAL Senior Industrial Historian, and Suzanne Cherau, PAL Senior Archaeologist, assisted by T. Arron Kotlensky, Industrial Archaeologist, conducted an archaeological site evaluation of the John Friend Gristmill

Site (MHC #BEV.HA.5) in Beverly, Massachusetts. The site is located in the intertidal zone of the Bass River off Elliott Street, adjacent to property formerly owned and occupied by the United Shoe Machine Company. The 2015 investigations consisted of archival research, including interviews with members of the Tide Mill Institute and the Beverly Historical Society regarding the history of the site and tide mill operations; and field investigations, including a walkover survey with close ground inspection and Total Station mapping and photography of structural remains visible at low tide in the adjacent tidal flats.

The origins of the John Friend Gristmill Site have been traced back to the mid-1600s, when John Friend petitioned the town of Salem to construct a gristmill and dam on the Bass River in what is now part of Beverly. The 17th-century tide mill and dam at Elliott Street may have been moved slightly to the south by subsequent owners, but it was kept active as a grain or gristmill by several different owners through the 18th and the better part of the 19th century. Prominent Beverly owners of the mill site, in addition to John Friend, were the Leaches, the Woodburys, and the Dodges. The Dodges were father-and-son millers who operated the tide mill for grain production from 1848 until it burned in 1885, and were responsible for upgrading it with a grain elevator, possibly the first of its kind in the state of Massachusetts. Meal, bran, and flour were produced at the mill for local consumption and for maritime export in the 19th century. The John Friend Gristmill Site is known locally and regionally as an important industrial, agricultural, and maritime landmark in Beverly, although it was located in Salem until 1753.

The archaeological site evaluation focused on recording in situ structural features that were visible on the surface and/or required only minimal hand excavation to uncover in the intertidal area south of Elliott Street. These features encompass a roughly rectangular area that measures 175 x 100 ft. (53 x 30.5 m), or 17,500 square feet (1,626 m<sup>2</sup>), approximately centered on the densest group of surviving timber piles immediately west of a modern culvert structure. Visible mapped features within the intertidal area south of the road embankment consist of dry-laid-stone wall segments; surviving timber piles, sheet piling, and timbers; the exposed shaft and coupling for the mill's turbine; and an incomplete bed (or lower) millstone. These remains are most likely associated with the final iteration of the mill and its active commercial use between the 1850s and 1890s under the Dodge family's ownership and later nonmilling owners. Intact site features associated with the 19th-century mill and the dam, and possibly earlier 17th- and 18th-century components, could be buried within the current Elliott Street embankment and under paved street surfaces.

The documentary and archaeological data collected during the 2015 site evaluation were sufficient to determine the integrity and significance of the John Friend Gristmill Site and its recommended eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and D, and possibly C. Its demonstrated period of significance is from the 1850s to the 1880s, under the Dodge family's



ownership, but could extend into the 18th and even 17th centuries, if earlier buried components are present in the intertidal zone or within the adjacent street embankment and/or road right-of-way. The mill site's history and the archaeological features identified on the surface of the site together represent the industrial development of tidal power by local entrepreneurs for milling grain, an economic activity otherwise unfeasible, because the immediate area lacked suitable upland waterpower sites.

**1645 Boston Latin Schoolmaster's House Found in Downtown Boston** (*submitted by Joe Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist*): A team of volunteers with the City Archaeology Program led by the City Archaeologist surveyed the front yard of Old City Hall in downtown Boston, seeking additional information at the former site of Boston Latin School, the first public school in the United States. Several test trenches revealed complex urban cultural deposits spanning the entirety of Boston's 400-year history, including the foundations of the 1645 Latin School's Schoolmaster's house, a nearby structure used for legal offices in the early 19th century, and intact soils from a small portion of undeveloped land. Additional survey is planned for the spring of 2016. Five intact cowrie shells were recovered from 18th-century deposits likely associated with two slaves owned by a former schoolmaster, Nathaniel Williams, from 1703 to 1734.

**Privy of 1859 Industrial School for Girls Excavated** (*submitted by Joe Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist*): Ahead of redevelopment of the extant Industrial School for Girls in Boston, a team of volunteers at the City Archaeology Program led by the City Archaeologist conducted a Phase 1 and 2 survey of the former carriage house foundation behind the 1859–1943 school. The school was attended by poor girls aged 6–15, and the artifact assemblage recovered was associated exclusively with these girls, dating to between 1859 and ca. 1880. An intact privy measuring 1.2 x 5 m was found and excavated in its entirety, as was an extensive household trash deposit found nearby. The two deposits differed dramatically in terms of material culture, though they overlap in their depositional history. The trash deposit contained almost exclusively domestic ceramics and glass associated with kitchen and dining practices, whereas the privy contained almost exclusively personal items associated with the girls who attended the school, including thousands of beads, buttons, and toys. An extensive assemblage of sewing-related artifacts, as well as a wide variety of dolls from ca. 1860 to 1880, are providing a unique insight into these girls' lives. Artifact processing and report production are ongoing.

## New Hampshire

**Enfield Shaker Village** (*submitted by David Starbuck, Plymouth State University*): Enfield was one of two Shaker villages in New Hampshire, founded in 1793 to foster a communal way of life that promoted equality between the sexes and races,

celibacy, communal ownership of property, farming, and craft industries. The 3,000-acre village overlooking Mascoma Lake was an idyllic setting for the community, which once numbered as many as 300 inhabitants who occupied over 100 buildings. The largest Enfield residential building, the six-story Great Stone Dwelling (completed in 1841), was once the tallest domestic building north of Boston.

While excavations have been conducted at several other Shaker villages, the first professional archaeology began in Enfield in the summer of 2015, conducted as a field school through the auspices of Plymouth State University. This research focused upon the remains of the 1818 Trustees' Office (located directly in front of the Great Stone Dwelling). It was here where the Shaker Trustees sold goods to the World's People; maintained a substantial kitchen where meals could be prepared; and operated work rooms where small manufactured items were produced for sale in the store.

Fieldwork in 2015 exposed the extensive remains of this building's foundations, together with an interior brick wall and Shaker artifacts lying on the cellar floor. It is anticipated that a broader range of sites will be examined in 2016, including the Shakers' mill system.

## New York

**Crown Point** (*submitted by Paul Huey*): In June 2015, Paul Huey and Chris Miller excavated at a site adjacent to Crown Point State Historic Site on private land, an area of sites threatened by relic hunters with metal detectors and by the potential for private development in the future. The excavation revealed the brick-fragment remains apparently of a brick fireplace within a soldiers' hut of ca. 1759–1762. A hickory tree growing in the fireplace had thoroughly churned and disturbed any pattern in the brick. No hut walls were found, but the artifacts from the site include faunal remains, hand-wrought rose-head nails, a few pieces of window glass, bottle glass, two gunflints, and dozens of fragments of scratch-blue white saltglazed stoneware saucers. Curiously, no other ceramics were found. An analysis of maps and drawings indicates the strong possibility that the site was a part of the Rogers' Rangers camp of 1759 to 1760. A draft of a complete report on the project has been completed. 📄

## USA - Pacific West

### California

**The Loma Prieta Mill Project** (*submitted by Marco Meniketti, Ph.D., RPA, Department of Anthropology, San Jose State University, [marco.meniketti@sjsu.edu](mailto:marco.meniketti@sjsu.edu)*): In 2015, San Jose State University, in partnership with California State Parks, initiated archaeological investigations of the Loma Prieta timber mill. This regional study is being conducted as a field school under the direction of Dr. Marco Meniketti, with San



Jose State, for archaeology and anthropology students, who are contributing to a new understanding of early California industries and the myriad ethnic groups who labored in the mills, kilns, factories, and on schooners. The project combines perspectives of industrial archaeology and social history as a means of contextualizing regional development.

The greater San Francisco Bay region has been home to diverse cultures for millennia. The first inhabitants of the bay region left their mark on the landscape in subtle yet significant ways that impacted local ecology, ranging from selective resource extraction to environmental management, and possibly through controlled fires that aided propagation of preferred vegetation. With arrival of Spanish colonists and the imposition of the mission system, new landscapes emerged that defined new social relations, new conceptualizations of space, and conflicting ideologies of “productive” environments. Conflicts arose between populations engaging in indigenous ecosystem management and the new arrivals with their nonnative animal herds (Clar 1957). Even following Mexican Independence, settlement remained sparse and exploitation of timber resources limited (Clar 1957; Evarts and Poppers 2001). The first possible sawmill is recorded in 1834 in Corte Madera, having been built by John Reed (*Marin County Journal* 1887). The mill was powered by an undershot waterwheel. The earliest circle saw in use dates to 1847 and was powered by four mules (*Monterey Californian* 1847).

Following the discovery of gold in 1849, the region’s landscapes were dramatically altered, not simply by the sheer number of new arrivals, but by such dynamic and frequently damaging processes as hydraulic mining, farming, ranching, town development, fencing, salt manufacture, lime production, shipping, rail development, and dozens

of other intersecting industries. Most of these required lumber. This mosaic of economic activity was mirrored in the diversity of laborers who found employment at various levels within it, including the lumber industry. There was some use of animal power: an advertisement for a used portable sawmill appeared in the *Sacramento Transcript* on February 26, 1851, which was driven by a horse. Most saws, however, were sash types or manpowered (Perkins 1900; Homans 1915; Wendling 1915; Carranco and Labbe 1979).

#### *Landscape change: case study*

Between the 1850s and 1920s, the region now encompassed by the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park, near the town of Aptos (Santa Cruz County), became the site of bustling logging operations that completely transformed the natural environment and prehistoric cultural landscape (Perkins 1900; Wendling 1915; Clark 1986). Several competing companies extracted timber for the growing communities of the San Francisco Bay Area (Clark 1986). The town of Loma Prieta was established in 1883, and at its peak could boast a post office, train station, hotel, general store, and school. The only indication of the existence of the town today is an interpretive sign placed by California State Parks.

Much of the work of constructing the railroad shoehorned into the terrain was done by immigrant Chinese laborers (Evarts and Popper 2001). The loggers were likewise immigrants to California, originating from various locations and representing several ethnic groups. Each contributed to the cosmopolitan character of modern California. Extant records, for example, suggest that the majority of men working in the town’s sawmill were of Italian heritage (Calciano 1964), while many of the captains and crews of the ships taking the timber from the Aptos wharf to San Francisco were Scandinavian.

Following its near-complete deforestation, the acreage was left to return to a wild state by the last of the timber companies. Machinery was sold off and parts of the mill dismantled. The Loma Prieta Mill burned to the ground in the 1940s (Clark 1986). Purchased in the 1950s by the Marks family and gifted to the state to hold as a park, the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park is a rare recovering and historic landscape.

#### *Fieldwork*

A total of 10 excavation units were placed strategically to inform concerning particular features. As the location of the mill is not unknown, the units were not tests to find the mill site, but to collect data concerning site depth, integrity,



FIGURE 1. Excavating the mill’s boiler area.



environmental stratigraphy, and presence/absence of artifact material. Of the more than forty features, three suggested a way to orient the mill on the landscape in harmony with historic photographs. The first of these features was a large rectangular mound atop a larger square earthen mound with a tree growing up from the center. A few construction bricks were held fast in articulated order by the tree's roots. After some surface clearing, we determined the feature might be the brick enclosure for the boiler or the boiler oven and firebox (Figure 1). If so, this would enable us to align the steam engine and circular saw (with a diameter of 5 feet) at the site. The second feature was a small square masonry structure, which was probably a blacksmith hearth or small forge. The third feature of immediate significance was represented by two concrete forms with immense timbers attached to it by 50-cm screw bolts. This structure may have been the foundation or base for the engine powering the saw blade, which ethnographic accounts inform us had to be removed and sharpened every two hours. Additional features encountered include construction timbers (Figure 2), cement footings, brickwork, and concrete slabs.

Artifacts collected from the site are being analyzed in the Integrated Anthropology Laboratory at San Jose State University by students in the Archaeology Lab and Field Methods courses. These have included tools, bricks, and assorted bottles and pottery. The bricks highlight the interconnected nature of industry. Timber from the Loma Prieta Mill not only went to San Francisco and other local communities for construction, but also to the many regional lime and brick kilns. Makers' marks from a dozen kilns are represented at the site (Johnson 1966; Perry et al. 2007).

In addition to preliminary documentation of the mill, the whereabouts of the laborers' housing was sought. Historic photographs hint at the location, but in a clear-cut landscape. Pedestrian survey through the forest eventually located a series of privy holes, refuse mounds, scattered Plain Ware pottery, tin cans, and other historic artifacts highly suggestive of the workers' housing. The site is proving to be a unique opportunity for gaining insights into labor organization, labor relations, and life among the diverse ethnic groups who have all too frequently been overlooked in terms of their contributions to the economic history of California. This new area will be investigated more thoroughly during the summer 2016 season at the site.



FIGURE 2. Construction timbers at the mill site.

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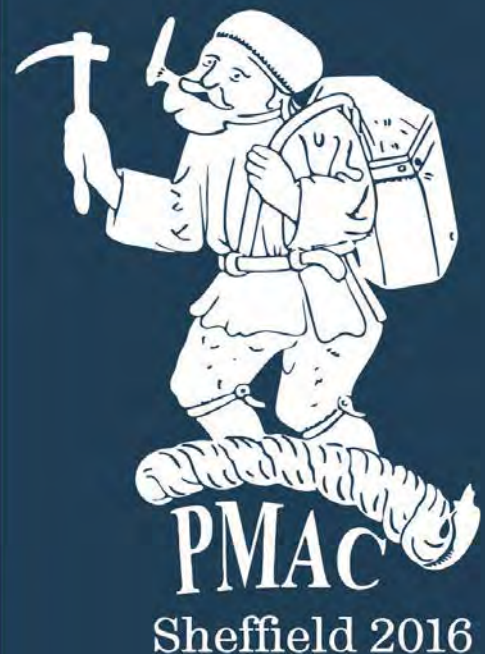
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