



SOCIETY *for*
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ARCHAEOLOGY

The SHA Newsletter

Quarterly News on Historical Archaeology from Around the Globe

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President's Corner

J. W. (Joe) Joseph

As we conclude another year with our annual meeting, it is a good time to reflect on who we are, where we are, and how we can insure that the discipline we love continues to survive and to thrive. We all are, to one degree or another, individuals who value the perspectives that archaeology can provide on our historic past. Whether we work in an agency, an academic setting, in a museum, in business, on our own, are retired, or not engaged, we recognize that archaeology provides us with a means of developing a deeper and fuller understanding of our past. And, in the present circumstances, we recognize that the benefits of our field are not universally recognized and respected. So, as I write the final column of my SHA presidency, I present it as a call to action.

We must work to share the benefits of our work with the public, to insure they understand and appreciate the perspectives we hold. Presenting at the annual meeting is great. Presenting at a state archaeological society, a local historical society, or another group of the interested public is even better. The public cannot appreciate the benefits of what we do if they do not know our work. Our future depends on having a public who is willing to come to our defense if that is required.

We must work to benefit communities who need us the most. We are the historians of the disenfranchised. We must work to make certain that their stories are part of the American narrative. We have an obligation and a platform to support anti-racism and we must. Our work to bring light and guidance to abandoned burial grounds is one area where we are having an effect, but this is a battle that needs to be fought on multiple fronts. We need to lend our voices to the debate over race and confirm the contributions and accomplishments that all people have made in forging our national identity, accomplishments that were often literally and figuratively swept under the earth.

We must use our status as an NGO to counter the efforts to remove the United States from UNESCO, and, if we cannot thwart withdrawal, to work with the next administration to rejoin as promptly as possible. We must use our position as a global discipline to promote the benefits of human heritage in building connections between nations and peoples.

We must work to recognize the threats of climate change to heritage resources and to provide guidance and support when natural disasters impact our sites, our collections, our museums, and our facilities. We must use our recently formed Heritage At Risk Committee and our status as a participating member of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) (<https://culturalrescue.si.edu/resources/heritage-emergency-national-task-force/>) to provide the resources our members need to prepare for and respond to disasters.

We must continue to reach out to our elected representatives to inform them of the perspectives that historical archaeology brings to sense of place, and make

sure that they understand that archaeological sites are irreplaceable. We must continue to make our presence known on the U.S. Capitol and to support the efforts of our Government Affairs Committee and the Coalition for American Heritage (<https://heritagecoalition.org>) to insure that our elected representatives understand the benefits of historical archaeology and our heritage.

We must collaborate and coordinate with our colleagues in the built environment, in archaeology before history, in history and anthropology, in all related fields, to insure that we all share information and resources to work toward our collective interests. We have common, although not identical, interests; we need to focus on the things that unite us, disregard those that might be divisive, and work toward a common good.

And we must work to support the associations that are our homes to support our collectives. This includes local, state, and regional societies and it includes SHA. Our efforts and ultimately our accomplishments depend on you. As part of this call to action, I ask each of you to be the best member of SHA that you can be.

Your membership dues support our operations, so please rejoin. Encourage your friends and colleagues to become members and let them know how much you value the scholarship, outreach, and community that is SHA. If you are at a point in your career where you can afford to pay dues as a Friend, Developer, or Benefactor, please do so—these additional funds help us to underwrite our student membership dues. If you are able to make a donation, please do so as well. SHA operates on a modest, well-administered budget and your contributions help support our efforts outside standard operations. You will see lists of Friend, Developer, and Benefactor members as well as donors elsewhere in this newsletter. If your name is on the list, I thank you and encourage you to continue your support. If it is not, I encourage you to join me in your financial support of SHA.

And I encourage you to support us as a volunteer. SHA is a volunteer-driven association. While we have an executive director as paid staff, our committees and our board do the vast majority of the work that is done. If you are not on a committee but are interested in being involved, reach out to the chair of a committee of interest and ask to become a member. Committee work offers you the opportunity to help fulfill the mission of SHA and to interact with others with a commitment to the association. Committees are also one of the pools we survey when looking for candidates for elected office; you can also signify your interest in serving in elected office by checking the service box on your membership renewal. And our conferences are locally hosted by volunteers and we are always looking for a good venue and volunteers willing to shoulder the load. We need your efforts on whatever front and in whatever role you feel you can best support us.

My service to SHA began as the Local Events Chair for the 1998 Atlanta Conference, continued as an elected write-in candidate on the Nominations and Election Committee (that is a story best told over a beer), and then transitioned to election to the board in 2005 when I was also an associate editor. When my board term ended, I continued for another six years as the journal editor at a time when SHA's editorial structure was evolving. For the past four years I have served on the board as president elect and now president. While my tenure on the board is coming to an end, I will continue to serve as past president, as a member of the Gender and Minority Affairs Committee, and as an advocate. This service has been intellectually and socially rewarding—I have had the opportunity to work with a great group of fellow committee members, board members, and officers who share a commitment to the health and well-being of SHA. It is one all of us need to share as we move into the future. I thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve and I look forward to seeing your work and the work of future generations. 🍷

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Many Thanks to Our Donors and Sponsors!

The Society for Historical Archaeology's work is supported through the generosity of individuals, foundations, organizations, and universities. We are highly grateful for their support! Our donors and sponsors of special memberships, events, and initiatives occurring in the period of January 2013 through December 1, 2017 are set forth below, and we plan to publish annual updates starting with next winter's Newsletter issue. Similar lists of donors to the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology may also be included in future newsletter editions.

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Looking for a meaningful way to protect our history, heritage, and the material legacies of the past? A simple step to protect these vital cultural assets for future generations is to make a lasting gift to SHA through your will, retirement plan, or life insurance policy. Interested in ways of giving that provide tax benefits? Please let us know! Contact us at hq@sha.org.

Images of the Past

Benjamin Pykles

Robert L. Schuyler and The Big Easy

For the second time in its 50-year history, the annual meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) is being held in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA in January 2018. The only other time the society held its annual meeting in The Big Easy was in 1981—nearly 40 years ago. In this short video, recorded at the society's 2015 annual meeting, Robert L. Schuyler (President of SHA in 1982) reminisces about a near crisis at the 1981 meeting. We hope this video leaves you feeling grateful for preliminary programs!

To see a copy of the 1981 conference program, visit the "SHA 50 Years Exhibit" online at: <https://sha.org/online-exhibits/exhibits/show/fifty-years-of-sha/programs> 📺

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Please send summaries of your recent research to the appropriate geographical coordinator listed below. Please submit text as a Word file. **Submit illustrations as separate files** (.jpeg preferred, 300 dpi or greater resolution); **contact the relevant coordinator for guidelines on submitting video and audio files.**

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Vacant – contact the Newsletter editor for more information

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CURRENT RESEARCH BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE

Canada - Atlantic

Newfoundland and Labrador

Avertok Archaeology Project, 2017 (*submitted by Laura Kelvin, Maria Lear, Jacinda Sinclair, and Lisa K. Rankin, Memorial University*): The Avertok Archaeology Project had an eventful inaugural field season this summer in Nunatsiavut, Labrador. The Inuit Community Government of Hopedale, Nunatsiavut initiated the project, which has the support of the Tradition and Transition: Piusitukaujuik Asianguvalliiajuillu research partnership between Memorial University and the Nunatsiavut Government. The project encompasses many subprojects and the 2017 field season had several aims: (1) to communicate our findings to the community and use the research to facilitate knowledge transfer between youth and Elders in Hopedale, Labrador; (2) to undertake ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the Moravian Cemetery in Hopedale to identify the locations of all graves, enabling the community to properly mark and care for the cemetery; and (3) to locate, excavate, and learn more about the original Inuit settlement of Avertok (Agvituk, Arvertok) (GiCb-01), which underlies the present Hopedale community (Figure 1), as well as investigate other nearby sites. The 2017 field crew included Lisa Rankin (project lead), Laura Kelvin, Maria Lear, Jacinda Sinclair, Robin Fleming, Dierdre Elliott, Emma Lewis-Sing, Maryssa Barras, and Kayley Sherret from Memorial University; Emma Gilheany from the University of Chicago; and Hopedale community members Ida Semigak, John Piercy, and Rosie Edmunds.

Community Engagement:

The Hopedale community articulated that they wanted community involvement in our research, preferably in ways that facilitate knowledge exchange between Elders and

youth, and needed meaningful access to research results. We hired local students Ida Semigak, John Piercy, and Rosie Edmunds with funding provided by Inuit Pathways. The students worked primarily with Kelvin in our temporary archaeological lab set up in Hopedale. Throughout the field season they cleaned and cataloged artifacts and participated in the excavations. They also created a series of videos pertaining to archaeology and Inuit heritage that can be found on [the Avertok Archaeology Project's YouTube](#) page (Figure 2). For these videos the students developed research questions and interviewed Hopedale community members and archaeologists. They also learned to use video- and photo-editing software. These videos are part of Kelvin's postdoctoral research, which will create a digital community archive of archaeological and community knowledge of the Hopedale area. To disseminate our research findings to the community, Kelvin maintained the [Avertok Archaeology Project Facebook page](#) and [Instagram account](#). Social media provided community members with regular updates on our research activities. These accounts will be maintained throughout the winter to update community members on our research. Ida Semigak also wrote a post for the [Day of Archaeology](#) blog. Additionally, at the end of the field season we held a community gathering to meet community members, give presentations about our research, and display some of the artifacts recovered this season.

Ground-Penetrating-Radar Study of the Moravian Cemetery:

The community requested a noninvasive study of the Moravian cemetery in Hopedale because locations of all of the individual burials associated with the cemetery are no longer known. This summer Maria Lear conducted a partial GPR survey of the Moravian cemetery where no headstones were present to locate some of the burials so they can be protected, marked, and fenced. The results are still being analyzed; preliminary analysis is promising and further survey may be planned for the future. Click [here](#) to see a video explaining the GPR research created by the students.

Ground-penetrating radar is a nondestructive geophysical technique that uses radar to identify differences (or contrasts) in the subsoil. These contrasts can then be analyzed to make interpretations regarding the composition of the subsurface, both in terms of natural variations and the archaeological potential. The GPR survey used a Sensors and Software Noggin system with a SmartTow™ and a 500 MHz antenna. One survey grid was completed that measured 5 x 5 m with transects spaced at 0.25 m. This gave very good coverage of the grid and allowed the antenna to pass over the surface and record the subsoil along both the x and y axes. The grid was located within the upper portion of the cemetery within an area flanked by high natural rock elevation to the south and near a line of fallen headstones and among overgrown vegetation. Once the vegetation was trimmed to ground level, several oblong surface undulations were observed that we thought were



FIGURE 1. Hopedale, Nunatsiavut 2017.



FIGURE 2. Nunatsiavut summer student John Piercy shooting video for the Avertok Archaeology video series, which will all be housed on a digital community archive featuring archaeological and traditional knowledge.

indications of possible burial locations. The final image suggests that several possible grave locations were recorded by the GPR (Figure 3). One possible unmarked grave (yellow/red) was identified in this area at the depth of 1.25 m, measuring width along the x-axis of 2–2.5 m. The semioblong feature is consistent with a depression visible at ground level located roughly above the position of this image. Its shape, size, depth, and W-E alignment are consistent with interments recorded within the historical context. As can be seen, other areas of interest were recorded at this depth as well, namely the roughly oval-shaped contrast located just north of the aforementioned target, a few meters away.

Archaeological Survey and Excavation:

Avertok

Avertok is a large Inuit whaling settlement that played an important role in the Labrador Inuit coastal trade network between the 16th and 18th century. This large settlement prompted the Moravian missionaries to establish the Hoffenthal (Hopedale) mission nearby in 1782. Avertok is located within the present borders of Hopedale and remains culturally important to the community. The site has been subject to many archaeological investigations, most notably Junius Bird's excavation of nine Inuit houses in 1934. Modern homes, road construction, and water and sewer work have all negatively impacted Avertok. Much of the site has unfortunately been destroyed. Nevertheless, the community was hopeful that some portions of the settlement remained. During the summer of 2017, Jacinda Sinclair and her team excavated test pits in locations identified by community members and Nunatsiavut archaeologists as potential house remains. Unfortunately, no evidence of house remains was located this summer. However, it is likely that there are house remains located under concrete debris deposited at the edge of the village during road construction. This area has not been impacted by subsurface construction and the town has decided to move this rubble to allow archaeological

exploration in 2018.

Old Hopedale

After the Hoffenthal mission was established, Inuit families who had been converted to Christianity began moving away from Avertok and closer to the mission. The distance to the new settlement was no more than a few hundred meters, but this symbolic relocation separated those Inuit who were Christianized from those who were not. This summer we excavated a test trench in the north end of Hopedale where early Inuit Hoffenthal residents settled. Because this site has been continuously occupied, the deposits were highly disturbed and contained 19th-century European-manufactured artifacts alongside contemporary material. Additionally, a few soapstone artifacts were recovered, including a small carving of a man and a small vessel (Figure 4). Click [here](#) to see a video discussing community interpretations of these artifacts. In 2018 we will return to this area for further excavation.

Karmakulluk

The crew also revisited the Karmakulluk site, which was excavated by Junius Bird in 1934. Although his excavation helped establish a culture history of the region, the site warranted re-examination because the original excavation and interpretation did not meet current theoretical and methodological standards. The crew re-excavated and fully mapped all features in an Inuit winter sod house and put in test units to try to find the middens that Bird was unable to locate. This data should allow us to form a much more fine-grained picture of Inuit life around Hopedale in the 18th

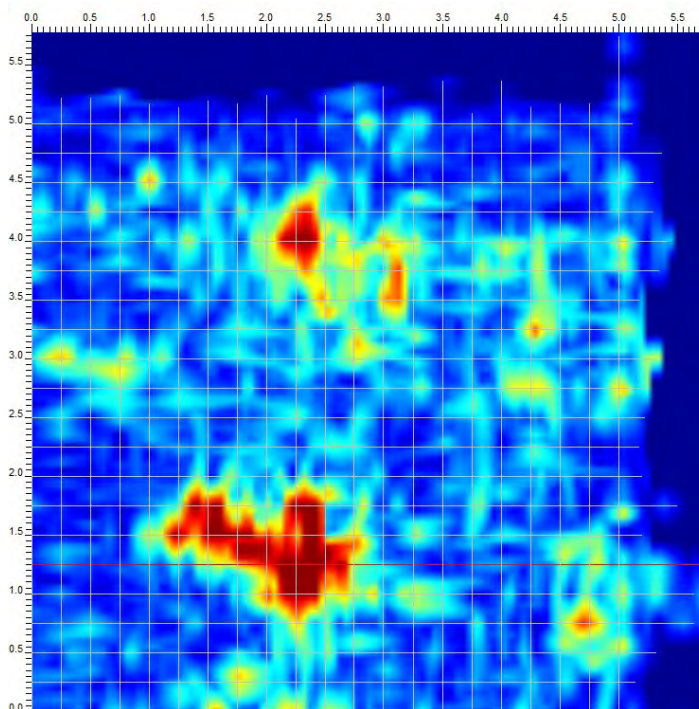


FIGURE 3. Amplitude map showing possible burial locations. The red-yellow semioblong features are aligned W-E.



FIGURE 4. Soapstone carving of a person that was recovered from Old Hopedale.

century.

We had a great first field season in Hopedale and look forward to continuing our research over the next several years. Please check our Facebook page for regular research updates. We would like to thank the Hopedale community for their support. Funding for this project has been provided by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada, the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the J. R. Smallwood Foundation, Inuit Pathways, Young Canada Works in Heritage, the NL Provincial Archaeology Office, and the Northern Scientific Training Program. 🇨🇦

Continental Europe

Germany

Back to the Light—The Mysterious Sinking of the German U-Boat S.M. UC 71 off Heligoland in 1919 (submitted by Florian Huber): S.M. UC 71 was deployed during the First World War by the Imperial German Navy in the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Bay of Biscay. In February 1919 the submarine sank for unexplained reasons during a routine transit journey to England. For almost 100 years, it has been resting about 1 km south of Heligoland in about 22 m of water. After two years of preparation, underwater archaeologists salvaged the submarine's net cutter in the summer of 2016. It will be exhibited as evidence of the exciting history of the submarine in the newly constructed Heligoland Museum.

U-Boat S.M. UC 71

By the end of the war, S.M. UC 71 had carried out a total

of 19 enemy patrols under 5 commanders, while sinking 61 civilian ships, including the well-known English U-boat trap *HMS Dunraven*. After the German capitulation, the ship was to be delivered to the Allies. En route to England it sank on 20 February 1919, immediately adjacent to the southern approach to the North Sea island of Heligoland. In a telegram sent on 26 February the captain indicated bad weather and high waves were the causes of the sinking.

Due to its extraordinary fate and its special construction, the U-boat is of particular importance for military, naval, scientific, and technical reasons. At the request of this author, it was declared a protected monument by the Schleswig-Holstein Archaeological Office in 2012.

Investigation of the Wreck

The wreck of S.M. UC 71 was positively identified in 2001 due to a private initiative, in collaboration with the Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI). An initial inventory of the wreck was also performed at the time. In July 2014 extensive photo and video documentation was carried out by Submaris, a research diving company, to record the state of conservation. The current combined thickness of the outer and pressure hull was determined using an ultrasonic thickness gauge. The thickness in the bow area was, for example, only 4.3 mm at some points. Originally, this was 11 mm thick. Overall, however, the wreck is still extremely well-preserved. One reason for this is that it is located within a nature reserve, in which diving and fishing are prohibited.

The underwater archaeological investigations also revealed that the submarine was obviously scuttled. During the first dives in 2001, it was established that only the tower hatch was tightly locked, and that the remaining two hatches on the upper deck were open. In 2014, all the doors and bulkheads were found open during documentation of the ship's interior. The telegram of 26 February, on the other hand, says that all the hatches and bulkheads had been closed. This clearly shows that this was a deliberate scuttling, which was hushed up via the claim of bad weather. The diary of Georg Trinks, which was discovered just recently, confirms the scuttling. Trinks was the fourth engineer on board the ship and left an impressive and very personal record of information about daily life on board the UC 71.



FIGURE 1. The net cutter lay about five m from the bow area, probably having been torn off during the scuttling. (Photo courtesy of Uli Kunz.)



FIGURE 2. Historical postcards of UC 71: the 53 m long U-boat had a crew of 26 and could dive to 50 m. (Photo courtesy of Foto Drüppel Wilhelmshaven.)

The scuttling of UC 71 recalls the events of Scapa Flow. On 21 July 1919 German warships were also sunk by their own crews to prevent them being handed over to the Allies as reparations.

The Salvaging of the Net Cutter

A net cutter was supposed to cut submarine nets, which hung like curtains in the Strait of Dover, as well as in all the English river mouths and port entrances. The nets, often mined, were supposed to be directed or driven away from the sub by means of two steel cables attached to the end of the saw running in parallel from the bow over the tower to the end of the stern. Sometimes the net cutter would be supported by a second saw tooth welded directly to the hull below the bow.

The 4.10 m long and almost 200 kg heavy net cutter of the UC 71 was recovered in the summer of 2016 using lifting bags and an electric winch, and then it was brought to the State Museum at Schloss Gottorf in Schleswig, Germany. In the central archaeological workshop there the net cutter was



FIGURE 3. The net cutter is astonishingly well-preserved. After the initial rough cleaning, the original gray coat of paint began to show through the layer of corrosion. (Photo courtesy of Florian Huber.)

laid in a basin with demineralized water, in which it is to be desalinated and preserved for the next two years. It will then be displayed in Heligoland in the new museum. The fate of UC 71 and the naval war of 1914–1918 will be recounted in a virtual exhibition that will include the net cutter and the recently rediscovered diary of the fourth machinist of the UC 71, Georg Trinks, as well as footage and further explanation.

The Significance of First World War Wrecks

According to UNESCO, there are around 10,000 First World War shipwrecks. These—as well as those of the Second World War—are very complex archaeological sites. Some of these wrecks are well-preserved, but the majority have been severely damaged or destroyed by commercial salvaging, plundering, scrapping, or bottom trawling. Although the wrecks are witnesses to one of the greatest conflicts of recent history, they have not been sufficiently investigated. Wrecks of the First World War are a significant historical resource; many of them represent the state-of-the-art of the 20th century.

The protection of these underwater sites is also essential to the recalling of the horrors of the war and its history. Since 2014, the cultural heritage of the First World War has been under UNESCO's Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Photos and articles on the U-boat and two TV documentaries (in German) can be found at: www.florian-huber.info and www.submaris.com.



Underwater - Worldwide

Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA)

Newly Elected Board Members

Three new board members will join the ACUA in January 2018 and will serve three-year terms through 2020. Dr. Jennifer McKinnon, Associate Professor, East Carolina University, Program in Maritime Studies was previously the institutional representative for the Australasian Institute for Maritime Archaeology. In that capacity, she served on the ACUA and the SHA UNESCO Committees, as well as on the ACUA Development Committee, and helped conduct the ACUA Job Market Survey. Dr. Maddy Fowler is Senior Curator Maritime Archaeology, Cultures and Histories Program, Queensland Museum Network and Associate Professor at Flinders University, and was a previous winner of the George Fischer International Student Travel Award. Dr. Sarah Holland, Principal Investigator Gray & Pape, has served as an elected member of the Nautical Archaeology Executive Committee and SHA Inter-Society Relations Committee. Please join us in welcoming all of them to the ACUA Board.

Graduate Student Associate Members

The ACUA is extremely pleased to announce our new Graduate Student Associate Members, Tara van Niekerk and Morgan Smith! We



Tara van Niekerk



Morgan Smith

Morgan specializes in geoarchaeology, underwater landscapes, and Paleoindian archaeology. Morgan has extensive experience working on submerged prehistoric sites in Florida and throughout the United States. We are excited to have Morgan, with his expertise concerning prehistoric cultural resources and his commitment to public outreach, on our board. He has a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of West Florida. We are looking forward to working with Tara and Morgan; please join us in welcoming them aboard!

2018 George Fischer Student Travel Award Winner

The 2018 recipient of the ACUA George Fischer Student Travel Award is Maria Ktori of Nicosia, Cyprus. Ms. Ktori holds a B.A. in History and Archaeology from the University of Cyprus and an M.A. in Early Celtic Studies from Cardiff University (UK). She is certified through AAUS and UNESCO's program in Advanced Underwater Archaeology, enabling her to pursue her interest in maritime landscapes. She is enrolled in the MA program for Field Archaeology on Land and Under the Sea at the University of Cyprus. Please join us in welcoming Maria and attending her paper, "Impressions, Itineraries and Perceptions of a Coastscape: The Case of Medieval Paphos (12th–16th Century CE)."

Maria's paper explores the dynamic relationship

between humans and their environment in a coastal setting. Medieval Paphos, a bustling harbor town, is analyzed through a variety of media (chronicles, traveling literature, surviving monuments, and archaeological finds) with the aim of reconstructing the monumental topography of the town. In addition, the medieval impressions and perceptions are used to propose the establishment of potential cultural trails across the urban landscape, which will encourage the public to understand, embrace, and protect these lesser-known monuments.



Maria Ktori

ACUA Mentorship Program Debut in New Orleans

In January 2017 at the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) meeting, the panel "Women in Diving and Archaeology: Past, Present, and Future" featured a diverse group of underwater archaeological professionals who discussed different perspectives, experiences, and possible approaches to the challenges, issues, and gender inequality that women have faced in the field. The Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology (ACUA) core principles of ethics, respect, diversity, and equality demand vigilant effort as the field continues to advance. As a direct result of the panel, a number of recommendations and action items were developed. While the discussion emphasized the impact of relatively simple actions, more systemic ideas were proposed. Mentorship was a main point of discussion and one that was brought to the attention of ACUA.

At the upcoming SHA conference in January 2018, the ACUA Mentorship Program will debut. The program is designed to connect graduate students, recent graduates, or young professionals with established individuals to discuss research, professional aspirations, or simply to become acquainted. This program offers an avenue for students and young professionals to gain introductions, to forge professional relationships, or just to ask questions. The program is not designed for the Mentee to shadow the Mentor throughout the conference, but to provide a window of time in which the Mentee can have one-on-one time with an established professional. Mentors will arrange to meet their Mentees at the Wednesday opening reception between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. (or at the first available time, if either cannot make the Wednesday reception). At that time the Mentor and Mentee will introduce themselves and set up a convenient time for both where they have the opportunity for a greater discussion. This meeting should last approximately one hour, although there is no maximum time limit. Mentors and Mentees should also be available for the Past Presidents reception on Thursday.

The program currently consists of five Mentors: Dave Conlin, Amanda Evans, Della Scott-Ireton, Jessica Keller, and Michael Krivor. If you are interested in participating in

the program either as a 2018 Mentee or as future Mentor/Mentee, please send an email to: info@acuaonline.org. The hope is for this program to continue and expand to include more Mentors and Mentees in the coming years.

U.S. National Park Service

National Park Service Submerged Resources Center: The National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center (SRC) had a very active year. The first main project took place on St. Croix, Virgin Islands at Buck Island National Reef Monument, Christiansted National Historic Site, and Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve, where invited colleagues from Senegal and Mozambique participated in a two-week workshop relating to cultural heritage and underwater site documentation. The project was funded by the U.S. State Department and members of the Slave Wreck Project (SWP) were in attendance. The SRC then went international as part of the SWP and teams traveled to Dakar, Senegal and Ilha de Mozambique, Mozambique to build capacity in these countries and provide assistance with submerged cultural heritage stewardship. A session at this upcoming SHA conference will go in-depth on these projects.

In May, a joint project with NPS and NOAA funded by an NOAA's Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) grant took part of the SRC to Midway Island in the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The project's objective was to locate and document downed aircraft for the 75th anniversary of Battle of Midway. This project will also be discussed in detail at the upcoming SHA meeting.

In June and July a multiagency collaboration took place at Biscayne National Park in the form of the search

for the slave ship *Guerrero*. NPS, NOAA, the University of Miami, and Diving with a Purpose's Youth Diving with a Purpose worked together to survey and document sites that might relate to *Guerrero* and HMS *Nimble*. A session at this upcoming SHA meeting will go in-depth on this project. Concurrently, the SRC supported a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) mission to recover the remains of three lost crewmen of the WWII Tusamecan B-24 bomber lost off the coast of Croatia.

In August, the SRC supported NPS's Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) on a project to assess foundations of the historic site at Red House Landing along the Mississippi River at Effigy Mounds National Monument. SRC and MWAC archaeologists worked together to document several features of the foundations and surrounding stone walls that remain. A side scan sonar survey was also completed along the riverbank to locate any remaining structures related to the historic landing, as well as dives to visually inspect the landing location. The SRC continued to work in the region in September with Steve Dasovitch of Lindenwood University and past SHA President Doug Scott to survey the Missouri River for the remains of *Far West*—a steamboat associated with the Battle of the Little Bighorn.

The SRC partnered with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) in October to provide sonar imagery of the underwater portion of the San Francisco Municipal Pier pilings. These data are necessary for the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park's project to assess the condition of the whole pier as they work towards plans for rehabilitation. Other SRC projects that occurred during the year included mapping artifacts from the USS *Arizona* at World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument, multiple site assessments of the B-29 airplane in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and site assessments

at Ozark National Scenic Riverways with MWAC.

Throughout the year, the SRC also participated in numerous educational outreach events ranging from local school visits to G.I.R.L. 2017, a Girl Scout Conference hosting 10,000 young women in Cincinnati, Ohio. SRC members were invited as speakers and presenters to G.I.R.L., where they highlighted STEM in underwater archaeology and showed the importance of protecting our submerged resources. In addition, the SRC introduced the Spanish version of the Junior Ranger *Underwater Explorer* booklet to multiple parks. The *Underwater Explorer* program has been quite successful, now with over 50,000 booklets distributed to children in over 60 national parks. The SRC was fortunate to partner with numerous agencies and organizations this year. Next year holds just as many opportunities for collaboration. We look forward to working with everyone!



*Slideshow of the SRC's recent work around the world.
Slideshow only available in original digital edition.*

North Carolina

East Carolina University (ECU) Program in Maritime Studies

Maritime Cultural Landscapes at Risk Program

In 2015 the Program in Maritime Studies at East Carolina University initiated a Maritime Cultural Landscapes at Risk: Data Collection Training and Techniques project in North



*Slideshow of the SRC's recent work around the world.
Slideshow only available in original digital edition.*

Carolina. Led by Dr. Lynn Harris, this project is funded by internal and external grant sources and continues until December 2017. The intention is student training in rapid in situ state-of-the-art documentation on diverse case studies of coastal cultural heritage that are situated on land and underwater and are unstable, eroding, or deteriorating. Researchers from different disciplines, such as geography, geology, and tourism, are collaboratively adapting and developing several technologies and techniques to respond to a national need in cultural resource management. Each case study site has state or national historic significance, conservation management challenges, and serves as an

intellectual platform to segue between preservation of an historic icon and research questions for student theses and dissertation topics.

Case studies include historic structures such as lighthouses, boathouses and keeper cottages, submerged and beached shipwrecks, deserted coastal towns, and artifact assemblages.

The historic preservation component of this study consists of research into archival and government documents that report on the construction, condition, maintenance, and restoration of the structures. Using traditional low-tech mapping techniques, like GPS coordinates, baselines, offsets, and trilateration, the archaeology team will map the lighthouse complexes, boathouses, and river channel banks. The geology team will utilize ground-penetrating radar to locate former foundations of keepers' cottages and other worker facilities. The geography team will scan the interior and the exterior of the structures. Other techniques such as airborne photography footage can help visualize accurately the overall changes taking place in the lighthouse and boathouse structural alignments in preparation for future maintenance processes.

The project is different from other archaeology projects in that it comprises a team of multidisciplinary specialists, each familiar with a variety of techniques and tools, who will be working together to study, apply, and test different ways to document and study vulnerable coastal heritage sites. Pertinent management research questions relate to new concepts such as utilizing coastal sites, like beached shipwrecks, as indicators of coastal and climate change. The project serves to benefit students training within the disciplines of archaeology, maritime studies, and historic preservation and promote new applications for innovative technologies traditionally utilized for geographical and geological studies.

For more information about the project visit: https://www.facebook.com/North-Carolina-Coastal-Heritage-At-Risk-Project-294230697427842/?ref=py_c.

Hong Kong

Museum of Underwater Archaeology

The Museum of Underwater Archaeology (MUA) is proud to announce the upcoming online publication of *The Proceedings of the 2017 Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage* held in Hong Kong in November 2017. This is the third time this conference has met and the papers presented at all three conferences are freely available and searchable within the Museum of Underwater Archaeology's Images and Documents Collection (<http://www.themua.org/collections/>).

The conference featured 14 sessions containing over 70 papers presented by cultural resource managers from throughout the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. In addition to papers, the online proceedings contains video introductions by the session chairs and keynote speakers. The collections from the three conferences contain over

270 papers, videos, and posters, all of which are searchable and available for download. The first group of papers from Session 1, entitled: Underwater and Maritime Archaeology and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands, will be available after January 1, 2018 with additional sessions to be released later in the month. Additional sessions include:

- Maritime and Underwater Archaeology along the South American Pacific
- Ceramic Trade and Cross-cultural Exchange from Asian-Pacific Region to the World
- Ensuring a Sustainable Future for UCH: Museums and Public Engagement
- Iran's Maritime Cultural Landscape
- History and Current Trends of Underwater Archaeology around East Asia
- Underwater Cultural Heritage Politics, Laws, Ethics, and Values
- Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites and Conservation of Wet Archaeological Materials
- Maritime/Underwater Cultural Heritage in Southeast Asia
- Amphibious Warfare in the Asia-Pacific Region
- The Study of Traditional Boat Technology: Complementary Approaches to Maritime Archaeology
- The Archaeology of Manila Galleons, Past, Present and Future
- Beyond the South China Sea: Cross-regional Studies of Maritime Communities
- World War Underwater Cultural Heritage in Asia-Pacific

The MUA would like to thank the paper presenters and the conference organizers for allowing us to be a part of this incredible conference. 🍷

USA - Alaska

Archaeology of the 1813 Survivor Camp and Wreck Site of the Russian-American Company Sailing Ship *Neva* (submitted by J. David McMahan, Sitka Historical Society): Work was carried out in 2015–2016 under a grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (Award PLR-1330939) and permits from the U.S. Forest Service (SIT699/620935010602) and Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (2014-02).

Historical Background

The Russian-American Company (RAC) frigate *Neva* is arguably one of the most historically important vessels to have plied the waters of the North Pacific during the early 19th century. Launched as the *Thames* in 1800 from London's King and Queen Yards, the 372-ton ship was purchased by Russia (along with *Leander*, renamed *Nadeszda*) in early 1803 for Russia's first round-the-world voyage (1803–1806). In 1804, the *Neva* became the first Russian ship to call in Hawaii. Later the ship played an instrumental role in the 1804 Battle

of Sitka between the Russians and the Sitka Tlingit, allowing the Russians to reestablish a settlement that served as the capital of Russian America from 1808 to 1867. The London Registry of Foreign Shipping (1803, Entry 61) describes the ship as characterized by 3 masts and 2 decks, an extreme length of 110 ft. 6 in., an extreme breadth of 28 ft., a height between decks of 5 ft. 8 in., a capacity of 372 1/94 burden tons, and a 16 ft. draft when fully loaded. The ship was further described as having a square stern with flush deck and quarter badges, no gallery, and a carved "knac" (knee?).

The *Neva* left for her final voyage in late August, 1812, to deliver supplies and passengers from the Siberian port of Okhotsk to the company's chief settlement at New Archangel (Sitka, Alaska). Among the passengers was Tertii Stepanovich Bornovolokov, who was to replace Alexander Baranov as Chief Manager of the RAC. Archival research has turned up little information on the final voyage of the *Neva* from Okhotsk in August 1812 or the wreck itself in January 1813. The official records of the RAC prior to 1817 were largely destroyed in the 19th century. What we know is derived largely from three published accounts of wreck survivors. Only one of the accounts (Berkh 1979) is detailed, and another account (Bland 2015) is considered to be unreliable. Partly due to a late-season departure, problems plagued the *Neva's* final voyage from the very beginning. Late November found the vessel in Prince William Sound with a weakened crew and little hope of surviving the winter there. Despite uncertain winds and more hardships, the *Neva* came within sight of Sitka Sound in early January 1813. The doomed vessel ran aground off the outer coast of Kruzof Island while sailing the last leg of the journey in fog. All attempts to save the ship failed and she eventually broke apart on the rocks, leaving 26 survivors to await rescue in the harsh Alaskan winter. Thirty-two died in the wreck, and 15 others (13 by some accounts) had died during the voyage. Among those who perished trying to make it to shore was Bornovolokov. In early February, after a Native canoe was spotted and flagged down, the survivors were rescued and taken to Sitka.

Despite initial salvage efforts to gather materials from the beach following the rescue, the location of the wreck site was eventually lost to time. A series of newspaper articles in 1915 claimed that salvage was being planned, but there is no indication that such an effort ever took place or that the vessel had been discovered. Given the high-energy shoreline, the vessel would have broken apart, leaving only heavy items such as cannon to be found in cracks and crevices.

Archaeological Investigations

In 2012, the author (while Alaska State Archaeologist) collaborated with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Sitka Historical Society to search for evidence of the 1813 wreck site and survivor camp of the *Neva* (McMahan 2012). The team narrowed down the possible location for the wreck based on information from survivor accounts, aerial photography, overflights, historic tide data, and oral history. During a metal detector survey at a location predicted to be the site of the *Neva* survival camp, the team discovered caches

of Russian axes and other artifacts. With funding from the U.S. National Science Foundation, the author returned to the site during the summers of 2015 and 2016 with American, Russian, and Canadian scientists to conduct archaeological excavations and underwater surveys. Besides the author (Principal Investigator), senior team members during 2015–2016 included Co-PI Timothy Dilliplane (Massachusetts Maritime Academy), Evguenia Anichtchenko (University of Southampton), Artur Kharinsky (Irkutsk State Technical University), Yury Likhin (Taltsy Museum of Architecture and Ethnography, Irkutsk), Daniel Thompson (archaeological consultant), John Pollock and Sean Adams (Institute for Nautical Archaeology), Brinnen Carter (Sitka National Historical Park), Hal Spackman (Sitka Historical Society), Gleb Mikhalev (videographer / photographer), Chuck Carrig (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service), and Zlata Lunda (Russia travel consultant). The underwater research team included some of the above participants, as well as John Jensen (University of Rhode Island), Travis Shinabarger (archaeological consultant), and Frank Cantelas (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration). A series of block excavations focused on the narrow terrace believed to be the survivor camp location.

Results and Conclusions

While not all of the mysteries surrounding the final days of the *Neva* were solved as a result of the 2015–2016 archaeological work, the findings leave little doubt that the wreck site and survivor camp have been discovered after more than 200 years. The overall flavor of the collection is one of survival and creative adaptation rather than settlement. For example, evidence indicated the use of gunflints for fire starting. It also appeared that musket balls had been whittled down to fit a smaller-caliber weapon such as a pistol. Some of the recovered copper spikes had been broken from shear stress, as in a shipwreck. Copper sheathing had been rolled and hammered to form awls, and a nail had been fashioned into a fishhook. Conversely, there was a general absence of materials such as ceramics and glass that are normally associated with settlements. In 2016, the team discovered additional caches of Russian axes, as well as a stack of copper sheathing, a bundle of iron-bar stock, and trunnion caps from a cannon carriage. These materials, at what would have been the upper edge of the intertidal zone prior to at least 2 m of uplift, indicate caching behavior. They may be a testament to a salvage effort immediately following rescue. Some distance away, wedged between large boulders on the beach, a large hand-wrought drift pin was discovered. Collectively, the cached objects and drift pin provide indisputable evidence of a Russian sailing ship. Finally, archaeological work along one edge of the “survivor camp” revealed an elongate depression covered by soil and hearth ash. During the last few days on-site, the depression was excavated to reveal a rectangular, east-west oriented decayed wood stain punctuated by a linear arrangement of mismatched nails or fasteners around the edge. The size and shape strongly suggests a European-style coffin burial. At the request of the Sitka Tribe, and as a permit condition, the

excavation was backfilled without further disturbance. One of the survivor accounts mentions that some of the bodies of shipwreck victims were recovered and buried, but the account only specifically mentions the burial of Bornovolokov. While it is not possible to know who is buried in the grave, one can speculate that it could be Bornovolokov, Baranov’s intended replacement. His was one of two bodies that were recovered by survivors “completely whole,” and he would have been considered of high-enough status to warrant the construction of a coffin under primitive conditions. At the conclusion of archaeological work, representatives of the tribe and Russian Orthodox Church held ceremonies on the site to bless those who perished.

While fieldwork has been completed under the grant, the USFS has been urged to monitor the site on an annual basis to collect eroding artifacts. The site is being severely undercut by storm waves and will likely be lost in another decade. Collections analysis is ongoing, with a final report to be released in 2018. One of the components of the project is the development of a “virtual museum” with photos and 3D-scans of select artifacts. This will allow the results to be shared internationally. The artifacts, while limited in scope, tell a story of survival and provide a unique snapshot-in-time for January, 1813. Stories have grown up around the *Neva* and the rich cargo that some say she carried. Through the multidisciplinary research accomplished under this project, some of the “lore of the sea” can now be replaced with scientific outcomes. Despite close geographic, cultural, and historical links between Russia and Alaska, there have been relatively few collaborative international studies in the historical archaeology of Russian America. This project is a more robust continuation of previous collaborative work by McMahan, Dilliplane, Kharinsky, Tikhonov, Likhin, Anitchenko, and others in Alaska and Russia (NSF Award Numbers ARC-1153209, ARC-0939789, and ARC-0620600). The *Neva* Project broadens our knowledge base of colonial Russian America, as well as of shipwreck survivor camps in the subarctic/arctic regions.

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USA - Midwest

13th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference

(submitted by Natalie Young, Purdue University): In mid-October, Purdue University and the Tippecanoe County Historical Association (TCHA) cohosted the 13th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference. This conference, funded by TCHA, the Peyser Endowment for the Study of New France, and several units within Purdue University, including the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research and Partnerships, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Anthropology, the Department of History, and the School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, brought together academics, practicing professionals, archaeologists and historians, graduate and undergraduate students, and members of the public to evaluate the role of historical archaeology in public education and the potential application of this intersection to specific sites. The theme for this year's conference was "Reconstructing, Representing, and Reenacting: Historical Archaeology and Public Education." Fort Ouiatenon, a local historical and archaeological site, provided a case study of these topics.

Fort Ouiatenon was the first of three French fur trading posts constructed in what would later become Indiana, allowing the French to trade with the Ouia people living along the Wabash River in the 18th century. The fort eventually fell into disuse, and its location was lost for a number of years. In the early 1900s a local Purdue professor and amateur historian had reason to believe he had

rediscovered the location of the fort and reconstructed a blockhouse at the site in commemoration. However, in the 1960s further investigations revealed that the true site of Fort Ouiatenon was located about a mile west of the blockhouse reconstruction.

TCHA and the Tippecanoe County Parks and Recreation Department acquired the land containing both the blockhouse reconstruction and the remains of the fort. The historical association established the Feast of the Hunters' Moon, now one of the largest annual reenactments of the 18th-century fur trade in the United States, to fund further archaeological excavations. Recently, TCHA was able to acquire approximately 200 acres of land surrounding Fort Ouiatenon, paving the way for the creation and development of The Ouiatenon Preserve—a Roy Whistler Foundation Project and Archaeological Conservancy Research Preserve, which seeks to provide protection, restoration, and education for the site's natural and cultural resources. The conference this year coincided not only with the planning stages of the preserve, but also with the 50th anniversary of the feast and with the 300th anniversary of the founding of Fort Ouiatenon.

With the local history of Fort Ouiatenon as a backdrop, the conference kicked off with a Friday evening reception and lecture at TCHA's Community Center and Museum, where TCHA Vice President J. Colby Bartlett offered opening remarks on the historical context of Fort Ouiatenon's founding, his lifelong involvement at the site, excavations, the establishment and growth of the Feast of the Hunters' Moon, and the development of The Ouiatenon Preserve. Following these remarks, keynote speaker J. David McMahan, former Alaska State Archaeologist and founder of McMahan Consulting, presented his lecture titled



FIGURE 1. David Hovde, a TCHA board member, conference organizing committee member, and retired associate professor of the Purdue Archives, presents a history of celebrations at the Fort Ouiatenon site. (Photo by Natalie Young.)



FIGURE 2. A tour at the site of Fort Ouiatenon. (Photo by Lynn Evans.)

“Exploring the Archaeology of Colonial Russian America.”

Saturday’s sessions on Purdue University’s campus were introduced by Purdue University anthropology professor and conference organizer H. Kory Cooper. Session 1 concentrated on “Teaching and Interpreting with Things,” in this case beads and artillery carriages, while Session 2 focused on public involvement at Fort St. Joseph, an 18th-century French fort site in Michigan. One of the speakers in this session was Michael Nassaney of Western Michigan University, founder of the Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference, principal investigator for the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, and one of this year’s conference organizers. These presentations were followed by roundtable discussions with the morning’s speakers.

Session 3 of the conference was dedicated to “Fort Ouiatenon Past and Present,” with speakers such as TCHA board member and conference organizing committee

member David Hovde, as well as Feast of the Hunters’ Moon event manager Leslie Conwell. Additional presentations in this session discussed past excavations at Fort Ouiatenon, and Michael Strezewski of the University of Southern Indiana discussed his current research methods and findings at the site. Following these presentations, Diane Hunter of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma provided an overview of the recently opened Miami Nation Historic Preservation Office in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Tim McGraw of Purdue University introduced his team’s developing work on virtual reality renderings of Fort Ouiatenon and its potential applications.

This third session concluded with a presentation by TCHA Executive Director Craig Hadley on the organization’s vision for The Ouiatenon Preserve, which transitioned into a brainstorming workshop, moderated by Michael Nassaney, on the future of the preserve. Workshop topics included the visions, facilities, programs, and partnerships TCHA could pursue as The Ouiatenon Preserve continues to develop, often citing other similar sites, such as Fort St. Joseph, as examples. Saturday’s activities were capped with an evening reception headlined by Doug Wilson of the National Park Service, who presented his lecture “Interpreting Fur Trade Sites: A View from the Pacific Northwest.”

On Sunday, several conference attendees visited the Fort Ouiatenon site and preserve area, as well as the feast grounds and blockhouse, on a tour led by TCHA Vice President J. Colby Bartlett and Ouiatenon archaeologist Michael Strezewski. Throughout the tour, attendees were able to reference Soil Explorer, an interactive map of the area’s soil features developed by Purdue University agronomy professor Darrell Schulze. The conclusion of this tour brought the 13th Annual Midwest Historical Archaeology Conference to a close.

Michigan

Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project: 2017 Field Season (submitted by Erika K. Loveland): Western Michigan University (WMU) hosted its 42nd annual archaeological field school in July and August under the auspices of the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project. The project is a long-term, multidisciplinary, community-based partnership between the City of Niles and WMU to investigate and interpret colonialism and the fur trade in southwest Michigan. Fort St. Joseph was an important 18th-century French mission, garrison, and trading post complex located in present-day Niles, Michigan. In recognition of the project’s success and its importance to local stakeholders, the collaborative agreement between WMU and the City of Niles was extended for an additional five years until 2022. Given the central role of community participation from the outset of the project in 1998, the 2017 theme, “Community Partnerships: Building Meaningful Connections through Archaeology,”



FIGURE 3. Conference attendees stand on the banks of the Wabash River as TCHA Vice President J. Colby Bartlett leads a tour of the Fort Ouiatenon Historic Park and Blockhouse Museum, where the Feast of the Hunters’ Moon occurs annually. (Photo by Natalie Young.)



FIGURE 1. Field school students participate in daily pit tours. (Photo by Crystal DeRoo.)

highlighted community involvement in public archaeology in Niles, throughout Michigan, and across the globe.

The project's principal investigator, Michael S. Nassaney, and field director, Erika K. Loveland, supervised excavations at Fort St. Joseph this year, which continued to focus on the discovery of architectural remains to gain a better understanding of the fort's built environment. The field crew included 13 undergraduate students from WMU (8), Wayne State University (2), Alma College (1), Kalamazoo College (1), Kellogg Community College (1), and University of Michigan-Dearborn (1), as well as 4 additional staff members: Anne Volpe (Lab and Online Blog Coordinator), Tim Bober (Public Education Instructor), Mallory Moore (Public Outreach and Social Media Coordinator), and Gary Thompson (Field Assistant) (Figure 1).

This year, excavations began just north of Lyne

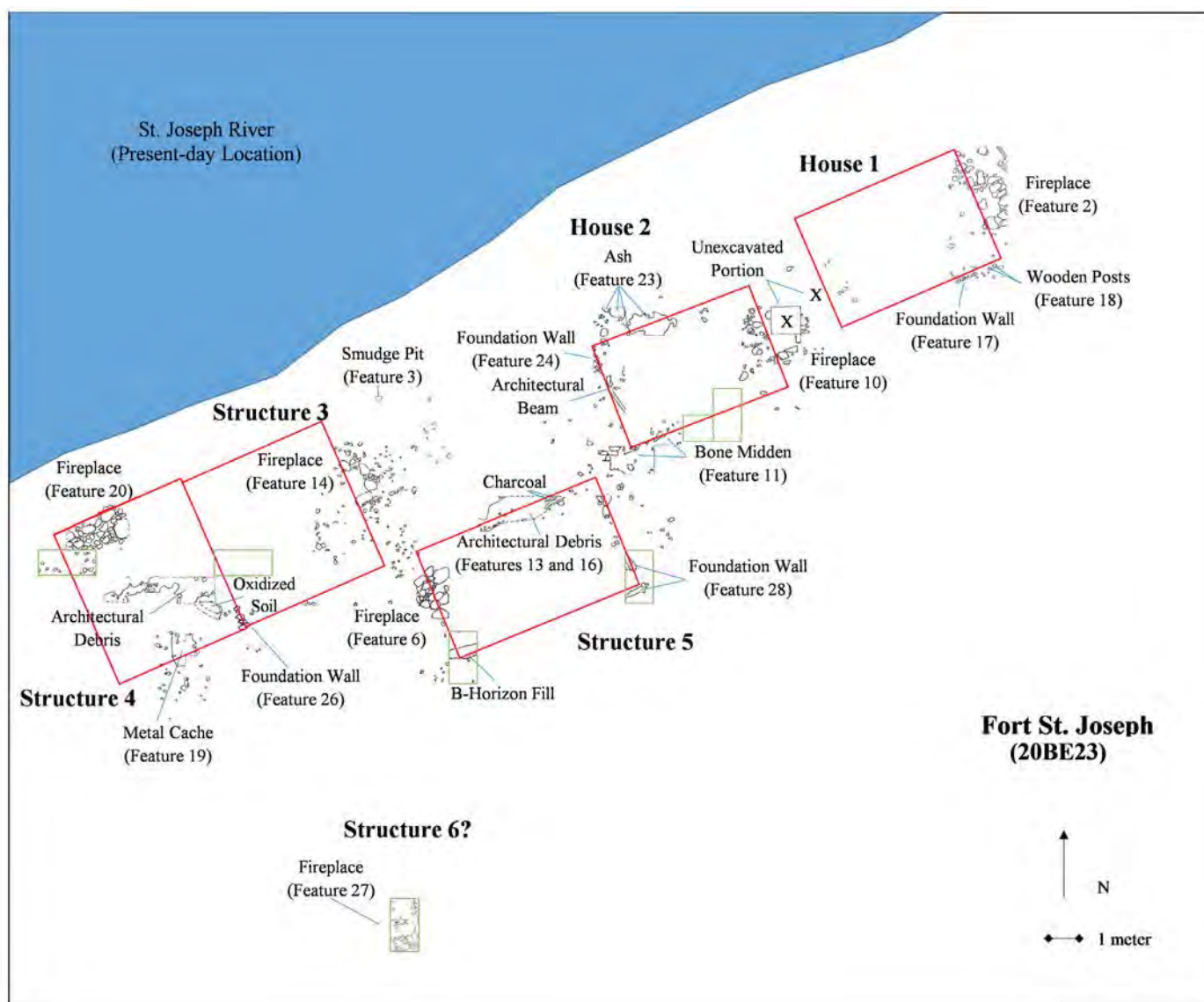


FIGURE 2. Map of architectural features at Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). The red lines denote possible structural outlines and the green lines denote 2017 excavation units. (Illustration by Erika K. Loveland.)

site (20BE10) Locus 2, in an area that has not been subject to archaeological survey since 1998, when the original shovel test pits were excavated in search of the fort. The Lyne site extends across a terrace that overlooks the floodplain area designated as Fort St. Joseph (20BE23). Previous archaeological excavations identified the presence of deposits as old as the Late Archaic period (approximately 3000 years ago). Material remains also date to the 18th century up until the present. In an attempt to better understand the nature of the Lyne site deposits and identify materials that were contemporaneous with the fort, our excavations this year focused on an area at the bottom of the terrace. During the first week of the field school, the Lyne site grid system was extended into this area and 15 shovel test pits were excavated when weather permitted. Our survey led to the recovery of a piece of lead shot and several chert flakes, suggesting the presence of some 18th-century and Native American activity in this area.

Over the following five weeks, excavations were

conducted on the Fort St. Joseph (20BE23) floodplain. Three new and three previously excavated 1 x 1 m units, in addition to four new and one previously excavated 1 x 2 m units, were explored and reopened in locations chosen for their high probability to reveal architectural data (Figure 2) on the size and layout of the buildings that once stood at the fort. We encountered a large stone concentration (Feature 27; Figure 3), which may be an additional fireplace feature at the site, and evidence of the remains for two wall foundations (Feature 28; Figure 4) associated with Structure 5, along with objects related to the religious, domestic, and commercial functions of the site.

Feature 27, a possible fireplace feature, consists of large stones ranging in size from 15 to 35 cm along with oxidized soil, ash, and charcoal. The orientation of this feature remains unknown, though it bears some similarities to the other five fireplaces identified at the site. Feature 28 has been interpreted as the remains of two walls that form the southeast corner of Structure 5. This feature consists of two linear light gray clay soil distinctions (wall foundations) that form a 90-degree angle but do not intersect, associated with dense concentrations of charcoal. There are also three possible postholes found in association with these soils along with a B-horizon fill zone that is located along the outside of the east wall. The fill zone is very similar to the B-horizon fill zone found in another unit located 5 m to the southeast, which appears to align with the Feature 28 south wall foundation.

In addition to learning field and lab procedures, students participated in community service learning and public outreach activities by assisting and taking part in the project's public lecture series, archaeology summer camps, local events and programs (e.g., Optimist Club, radio appearances, Air Zoo summer camp), community meals, and the Archaeology Open House weekend (Figure 5). Daily blog and social media postings also provided students with the opportunity to connect with the public and report on findings, interpretations, and other events of interest to the community.



FIGURE 3. Plan view of Feature 27, the newly uncovered fireplace feature. (Photo by Crystal DeRoo.)



FIGURE 4. Plan view of Feature 28, the remains of two walls forming the corner of Structure 5. (Photo by Crystal DeRoo.)



FIGURE 5. People of all ages visit the site during our Archaeology Open House to learn more about the history and discovery of Fort S. Joseph. (Photo by Crystal DeRoo.)

Many staff and student participants are continuing their involvement in the offseason by processing artifacts, presenting results to professional audiences, and disseminating information about the history and archaeology of the fort to followers everywhere. If you would like to keep updated with the project, please like us on Facebook, follow our blog at fortstjosepharchaeology.blogspot.com, and search “fsjarchaeology” on Instagram! 📷

USA - Northeast

Connecticut

Seventeenth-Century Sites in Connecticut (*submitted by Brian Jones, Connecticut State Archaeologist*): This past summer, the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology (OSA) conducted public outreach excavations at two 17th-century house sites: the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead in Windsor and the Lt. John Hollister site in Glastonbury. Both excavations reflect the office’s ongoing effort to document early English settlement in the Connecticut River Valley. In coordination with the DAR, which owns and manages the Ellsworth National Historic Landmark Site, OSA conducted its Archaeology Field School for Educators, followed by an open-house week where the public was encouraged to drop by and help with the excavation. Work at the site focused on two areas of 17th-century occupation identified in 1990 by Robert Gradie. The Ellsworth site was first owned by one of Windsor’s most important early settlers, Francis Stiles. Stiles may have unloaded his vessel here as early as 1635 to prepare the property and construct houses for the “Lords and Gentlemen” who claimed rights to the land. The property was subdivided in 1640 and the north half occupied by the Gaylord family. The Ellsworths first occupied the Stiles parcel in 1665.

Ground-penetrating radar was undertaken by Debbie Surabian of Natural Resources Conservation Services of the USDA (NRCS) and two cellar-like features were identified where the Gaylord and Stiles houses were thought to exist. The Gaylord “cellar” unfortunately proved to be disturbance associated with an early-20th-century septic system, but the large (ca. 6 x 8 m) Stiles lot cellar produced period-appropriate ceramics and clay pipe fragments. Excavation along the north wall of the filled cellar established that the original dry-laid foundation had been robbed out to the bottom course of stone. The archaeology suggests a major episode of demolition at the site sometime before approximately 1740 (since the cellar fill lacked English white saltglazed stoneware and later ceramic types). The data raise new questions about the construction of the nearby Ellsworth mansion. Early interpretations of the house suggested a ca. 1740 date, matching the recent archaeology, but a later architectural assessment from the 1980s concluded the house was not built until the early 1780s. Perhaps both interpretations will prove to be true, with an initial construction about 1740 as the Ellsworth family was coming into its prosperity, and a later major renovation and expansion conducted when Oliver came into possession of the home in the 1780s.

Our second research-oriented public excavation took place in August at the 17th-century Lt. John Hollister Site in Glastonbury. This year we returned to the site to focus on two research questions raised by prior radar imagery. The first explored a series of large post-like features in the space between the three main cellars of the farmstead. Excavation units were carefully placed to identify the soil anomalies to great effect; 19 large (ca. 1 m diameter) features were identified. It soon became evident that some of these pits contained a central mortared post setting. The spacing of these turned out to be very close to the traditional 16-foot “bent” that tobacco shed sections are still based on. In fact, a GIS overlay of the mortared post remains was a perfect match to a tobacco shed visible on the 1934 Fairchild aerial photograph. It is hoped that examination of the organization of the “non-mortared” features may yet yield data on the 17th-century architectural organization of the site.

The second area examined was identified by University of Denver student Maeve Herrick in her recent master’s thesis on the ground-penetrating-radar analysis she and Jasmine Saxon conducted last year. Maeve identified a fifth rectangular cellar feature at the south end of the Hollister site, while three large nearby oval features were interpreted as possible Native American house floors. We examined the contents and stratigraphy of the new cellar and one of the possible wigwam features. Both contained artifacts contemporaneous with the main household to the north. While the possible wigwam did produce a large antler fragment still attached to a portion of the cranium, nothing distinctively Native American was found there. The nearby cellar, however, produced two white wampum beads and a decorative “Crusader and Huntress” pipe (aka “Pikeman and Minerva”). While these are well-documented at the French military outpost at Pentagoet in Penobscot Bay,

it is equally possible that this King Philip's War-era artifact represents an item picked up during a northern military campaign—but whether by an Englishman or local Wangunk ally remains to be seen. 🏴☠️

USA - Pacific West

California

Finding Solace: Recovering Human Cremations from the Ashes of a Firestorm (submitted by Alex DeGeorgey, Alta Archaeological Consulting; Lynne Engelbert, Institute for Canine Forensics; Michael Newland, ESA; and Kimberly Wooten, Caltrans)

Introduction

On 9 October 2017 a firestorm swept through Northern California. Eventually reaching over 180,000 acres, the fire destroyed more than 8,400 buildings and killed 42 people. Thousands of families lost their homes and all their material possessions. In many instances, the cremated remains or remains of previously deceased family members were stored within the home. A canine forensic team and volunteer crew of archaeologists banded together in an attempt to recover remains lost during the firestorm. Here we tell the story of our recovery effort and describe how canine teams and archaeologists worked together to help those affected by a significant natural disaster.

Collaborative Volunteer Recovery Effort

Following the North Bay fires, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USCOE), as part of their response, began removal of debris and toxic substances within the area affected by wildfire. The steel carcasses of burnt cars and whole buildings reduced to just a few inches of ash were loaded into trucks and hauled away to a landfill. For many affected by the fires, the thought that their loved ones could end up in a toxic waste dump added grief to an already awful situation. Desperately needing help, families reached out to local archaeologists to see if anything could be done. Knowing that specially trained dogs are capable of recognizing the scent of human remains, including cremated remains, we contacted a canine forensic team to solicit their input and petition them for help.

The Institute for Canine Forensics (ICF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of using dogs to detect human remains. This team has been deployed to national disaster sites throughout the country, including the 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, the World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2011, and the 2003 explosion of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

On 18 November 2017, six weeks after the firestorm, our volunteer group assembled within the surreal and



FIGURE 1. Research request: cuprous trade token of unknown type and date associated with the Ellsworth cellar, with fleur-de-lis and a cross with triangular terminations. If you recognize this trade token and/or design, please let me know! (email: brian.jones@uconn.edu)

Maine, they have not yet, to my knowledge, been found in southern New England or New York (though interestingly they do show up at the Catholic settlement of St. Mary's City in Maryland). The occurrence of this uncommon pipe in Connecticut raises a number of questions. While perhaps an item acquired through black-market trade connections,

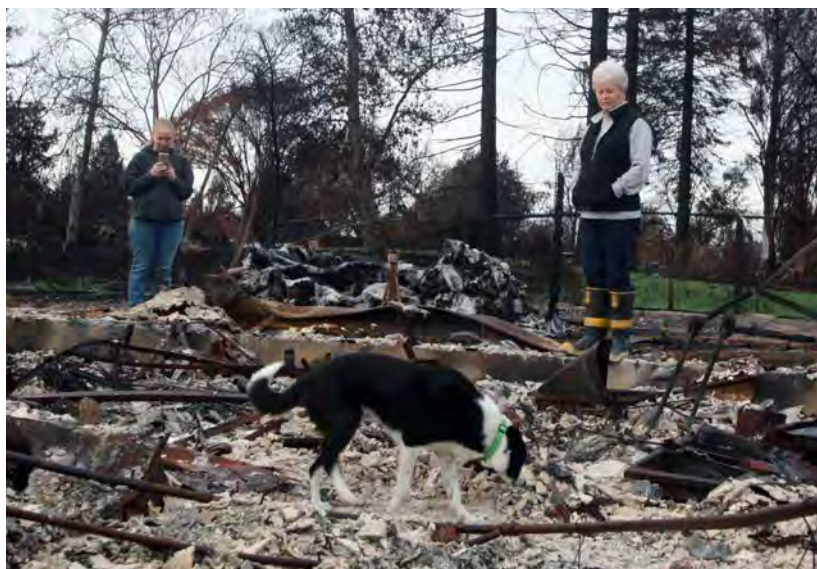


FIGURE 1. Forensic canine, Piper, searching the Santa Rosa fire rubble for cremains.

toxic landscape of a devastated residential neighborhood in Santa Rosa, California. Among us were 6 forensic canine crews (dog and handler), 15 professional archaeologists, and numerous support members. Our task was to search the ruins of two dozen homes to recover cremated remains that were lost in the fire. The group separated into six teams, each consisting of a forensic dog and handler and at least two archaeologists. Search sites were divided among the teams. Once the dog had investigated the scene and alerted in the area, then the archaeologists went to work excavating through rubble to identify and recover cremains (Figure 1).

Distinguishing Human Cremains from Ordinary Ashes

At first, attempting to recover a small amount of human cremains from the expansive ashes of a burnt building may seem futile. However, human cremains have distinguishing traits that are markedly different from ordinary ash. Understanding the cremation processes provides some important clues that can help in their identification. At the crematorium the body is placed in a retort and incinerated at 2,000°F. Following this, any remaining bone is put into a mechanical grinder, pulverized, and processed down into tiny pieces and powder. Small bits of calcine bone and fragments of teeth will be present within the ashes. The average person results in about 10 pounds of ash, a volume of approximately 220 cubic inches. No sand or other substance is added to the ashes. Human cremains often have a distinctive tan-orange hue, possibly due to the high calcium or iron content found in bone, blood, and tissue (Figure 2). By law, each cremation is accompanied by a stainless steel disk that is embossed with a unique two-part code. The first part of the binomial denotes the

crematorium and the second part the individual. This steel disk accompanies the body throughout this process and is included with the ashes when placed in an urn or other vessel by the mortician. During a house fire, when the temperatures are especially hot, the metal disk can melt and be lost. The ash, however, having had most of its burnable components removed, can survive.

Recovery Story 1 (Alex DeGeorgey)

Somewhere within the twisted mass of debris and ruins of Lenore Hanson's home were the remains of her 30-year-old daughter Erin, who died of cancer leaving behind two sons. Lenore kept her daughter Erin's ashes in a wooden box in the bedroom closet. There was no time to grab the box when the firestorm bore down on Lenore's Creekside home. The fire destroyed Lenore's home and now Erin's ashes were mixed in the mass of collapsed walls, broken furniture, and layers of debris. "Just the thought of her ashes winding up in a toxic waste dump were more than I could handle," said Lenore.

She pointed to the part of the devastated house where Erin's ashes were kept. Lynne Engelbert called her dog, Piper, a black border collie, to come search the scene. Cautiously stepping through the ruins, Piper keenly searched over the area adjacent broken cinder block walls and around deformed metal objects, periodically testing the air for faint odors. Piper's careful gait abruptly stiffened. Having picked up the scent she immediately laid down, alerting Lynne that she smelled human remains. We carefully troweled through the loose ash and rubble, exposing the ground where the dog signaled, then progressing inward in an effort to identify, isolate, and expose the cremated remains. After minutes of searching we found a discrete pocket of faint red-colored gritty ash. Picking through the deposit we recognized small



FIGURE 2. Distinct cremains coloring.



FIGURE 3. Debbie, Nick, and Pam Rasmussen, left, with the cremains of their brother, Ray, along with the volunteer archaeological team.

bits of bone. We'd found Erin's ashes.

Recovery Story 2 (Lynne Engelbert)

Debbie had raced to get her mother, Patricia, and dog, Lilly, out of the house as the wind-blown flames spread toward them. Without Debbie's help her mother may have died. Nonetheless, Debbie sobbed from guilt knowing she'd left the urns of her father and brother in the home. "We would have been trapped and probably died," she said. Nick and Debbie Rasmussen were desperate to find the cremains. Debbie asked if we could help before the authorities cleared their property. Ordinarily the green lawn in front of the Rasmussens' home would be unremarkable among the colorful trees and manicured hedges of the residential subdivision. Now, the fresh grass was perplexing in an otherwise incinerated gray landscape. The cremains of their brother, Ray, who was just 23 years old when he was murdered, were kept in a small metal box in his mother's bedroom. Piper searched the area where the bedroom had been located, now reduced to ashes and the bare wire of a box spring mattress. Troweling through the debris we soon found the metal box, completely intact, buried underneath nearly a foot of ash and roof tiles. When the Rasmussens saw the box their knees buckled. Both Debbie and her older brother Nick were completely astonished. In addition, Piper was also able to identify the general location of the cremains of Debbie and Nick's father, whose remains had been in a wooden urn, allowing archaeologists to recover a portion of his remains. "In a matter of seconds, Piper closed a wound that no one else could," said Nick's wife, Pam (Figure 3).

Recovery Story 3 (Michael Newland)

Lisa Siebert's situation was problematic. The

house was a split-level residence and the ashes of her father-in-law were kept on the upper level, on top of a metal file cabinet, in a black ceramic urn. We found the steel body of the file cabinet. It was knocked over with the top facing the lower level. Nearby was a concrete retaining wall and behind that a narrow trench. It was completely unknown whether the walls of the upper story had collapsed downward, pulling everything with it into the lower level, or if materials on the upper floor had fallen further away into the trench. Dirt slumped down into the trench, obscuring our view and making the search difficult. Further complicating matters was the spaghetti bowl of distorted steel piping and wires in this portion of the house. While searching the lower-level home, Kris Black's dog, Annie, a Belgian Malinois, cut her foot, began bleeding and was removed for treatment.

Without a dog, we archaeologists were flying blind. We talked it over with the dog trainer, and looking at the angle of the fallen filing cabinet, it seemed probable that the urn collapsed into the trench and was perhaps buried under layers of debris and dirt. Our team started shoveling the earth and rubble out. Before long we found a crushed metal container. Below that, still deeper into the trench, we exposed the broken urn, its two pieces pressed together holding the ashes carefully like two hands in prayer.

Recovery Story 4 (Kimberly Wooten)

When you watch a disaster like the fires in Northern California play out across your television, you sit in your own home, hundreds of miles away, knowing there is no possible way to help these communities, to help your friends waiting to find out if their homes remain intact. When the



FIGURE 4. Volunteer archaeologists working to recover the cremains of a loved one.



FIGURE 5. *The volunteer team, including dogs, handlers, and archaeologists.*

opportunity came to work with canine units in the attempt to recover cremated remains of loved ones, my husband and I, both archaeologists, knew it was a way to help—not just the people in Santa Rosa who had lost literally everything, but a way to help ourselves deal with the devastation.

Most archaeologists are familiar with dead people—I have excavated the skeletons of both children and adults—and we are attuned to even the smallest bits of human bone or a tooth. But those are the remains of long-dead people with no known family, or whose families are also long dead. Being an archaeologist does not prepare you for the emotional toll of reuniting living loved ones with the remains of a parent, a child, a sibling, or a spouse. Handing someone the ashes of their father, while covered in the ash of their former homes and surrounded by the charred and broken remains of their lives, is utterly overwhelming. And as an archaeologist, you cannot just look for the cremated remains and trowel through an entire home now compacted into six inches of ash without seeing the rest of the destruction: a small ceramic elephant; a record collection; handmade pottery masks; melted Christmas decorations; grandma's porcelain collection. You want to gather it all, return all of it to the owners. Archaeologists are used to broken bits of peoples' lives, but not like this, not on such a scale, not with living people connected to those artifacts.

In the end, the most impactful moment for me was watching another crew recover the remains of a 40-year-old woman who had died earlier that year. Watching her mother hold her daughter's remains broke every barrier that had kept me from crying with the previous homeowners. I don't know how her daughter died, but having faced aggressive breast cancer myself, I knew that woman could have easily been my mother. After a day both physically and emotionally exhausting, it was too hard to see this mother's

pain. I tried to be discreet and cry away from the family, but I still caught someone's attention. The human remains detection dog we'd been working with all day, Piper, came over and lay down next to me, putting her head in my lap and demanding I pet her. It was an amazing, healing moment on every level (Figure 4).

Some Closing Thoughts

Families who have suffered the loss of their homes will remark that what they will miss most are the irreplaceable objects such as cherished heirlooms and old family portraits. Perhaps even more so, cremains are endowed with significant meaning and hold great sentimental and emotional worth. So far, the team of archaeologists and dogs has recovered the cremains of loved ones for nearly 40 families in the Santa Rosa area. The recovery of human cremains fulfills an important and previously unrecognized need. Under the right conditions, archaeologists can play a role in recovering important heritage artifacts from a fire, as well as cremains. Even damaged, these artifacts remain important links to a family's pre-fire life. We learned that human cremains have key characteristics that make it possible to distinguish them from ordinary ash and that specially trained dogs are instrumental in locating cremains within the ruins of burned-out buildings. Archaeologists and canine forensics teams working in concert are more effective in recovering remains than either acting individually. Archaeologists and canine teams can assist people when they are in great need of help (Figure 5).

For further assistance with or information about methods involved in the recovery of cremains, please contact Alex DeGeorgey of Alta Archaeological Consulting at Alex@AltaAC.com or Lynne Engelbert of Institute for Canine Forensics at lengelbert@comcast.net. 🐾



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Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology

The Maryland Archaeological Conservation (MAC) Laboratory is pleased to accept applications for its sixth year of the Gloria S. King Research Fellowship in Archaeology. The MAC Lab is an archaeological research, conservation, and curation facility located at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, the State Museum of Archaeology, in southern Maryland. The MAC Lab serves as a clearinghouse for archaeological collections recovered from land-based and underwater projects conducted by state and federal agencies and other researchers throughout Maryland and is currently home to 8.5 million artifacts representing over 12,000 years of human occupation in Maryland. All of these collections are available for research, education, and exhibit purposes to students, scholars, museum curators, and educators, and the purpose of the fellowship is to encourage research in the collections.

Eligibility: Students, academics, or professionals are eligible (however, employees of the Maryland Historical Trust and St. Mary's College of Maryland are not); the research may be on any subject in Maryland archaeology; fellows must use collections at the MAC Lab; fellows must be in residence full-time in the MAC Lab; and fellows must provide a presentation of research to museum staff members at the end of the fellowship.

Application process: A 1000-word proposal (no more than 4 typed pages, double spaced) outlining the problem and the collections in the MAC Lab to be used, plus a CV and a letter of recommendation. Applicants are **strongly** encouraged to contact the lab during proposal preparation to ensure that the lab has collections appropriate for contributing to the proposed research. Applicants may also wish to look at the Maryland Unearthed website, which provides access to many of the important archaeological collections maintained by the lab: <http://jefpat.org/mdunearth/index.aspx>.

Stipend: Stipend is to be \$700 a week, with a minimum two-week and maximum five-week stay. Stipend to be paid upon completion of fellowship for stay of two weeks; a fellowship of greater length will be paid in two installments: 50% at the midway point of the fellowship and 50% upon completion of fellowship. On-site housing may be available for fellows, dependent on scheduling of fellowship.

Gloria Shafer was born on January 6, 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland. She spent summers as a child on her family's farm near Chestertown, Maryland and attended Washington College. In 1955, she and her husband, George M. King, started a small excavating construction business in Anne Arundel County. She had a lifelong interest in Maryland history and archaeology and contributed funds and services to individuals and organizations supporting this interest. Mrs. King died on May 31, 2004 and this fellowship in her memory recognizes her many contributions to the preservation of the past. Applications must be received at the address below by March 1, 2018. Projects awarded a fellowship can begin as early as April 1. Please direct any questions to Patricia Samford at patricia.samford@maryland.gov and send application materials to:

Patricia Samford, Director
Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
10515 Mackall Road
St. Leonard, Maryland 20685



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