

CEA Conference on New England Archaeology NEWSLETTER

CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY
Victoria Kenyon
New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301

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D. DIMICHAUZE
DEPT. OF ANTHRO.
UMASS
AMHERST, MA.

01003

CNEA STEERING COMMITTEE

TERM EXPIRES 1986:

DAVID YESNER
Dept. of Anthropology
University of S. Maine
Gorham, ME 04038
207-780-5320

BARBARA LUEDTKE
Dept. of Anthropology
Univ. of Massachusetts, Boston
Boston, MA 02125
617-929-8150

TERM EXPIRES 1985:

VICTORIA KENYON
N.H. Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-5405

KEVIN MCBRIDE
Dept. of Anthropology
Univ. of Connecticut
Storrs, CT 06260
203-486-4264

STEPHEN MROZOWSKI
Dept. of the Environment
City Hall, Room 805
Boston, MA 02201
617-725-3850

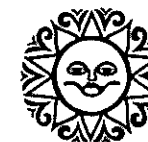
VIRGINIA FITCH
R.I. Historic Preservation Commission
150 Benefit Street
Providence, RI
401-277-2678



Conference on New England Archaeology

NEWSLETTER

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Vol.4 No. 1 June 1984

Current Research

Connecticut

The Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (P.A.S.T.) of the University of Connecticut has a number of projects planned for the 1984 field season. One project involves the excavation of a number of prehistoric sites located in eastern Connecticut which will be impacted by the Department of Transportation Relocation of Route 6 project. P.A.S.T. also plans to conduct a limited amount of fieldwork at Fort Shantok in Montville, Connecticut, a fort occupied by the Mohegan Indians at the time of contact with Europeans and through most of the 17th century. This important site, now a state park, has not been investigated since Bert Salwen ended his excavations in 1972. Salwen was only able to excavate a small portion of the site. To protect the site from erosion and collectors, P.A.S.T. and the Department of Environmental Protection, which manages the park, planned a program of remote sensing to help isolate underground features without damaging them through excavation. A preliminary study was conducted to determine the best remote sensing technique, using ground penetrating radar, a proton magnetometer, and electrical resistivity. This summer a limited amount of subsurface testing will be conducted to test the accuracy of the results of the remote sensing.

This summer also marks the beginning of a five to ten year archaeological and ethnohistorical study of the Mashantucket Pequot Indian reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut. This several hundred acre parcel is the earliest occupied Indian reservation in the United States. Preliminary document and field research have located a number of 17th to 19th century occupations on the reservation, including wigwam remains and stone foundations. The first season will involve developing appropriate methods for locating non-structural remains; sites will be tested in subsequent field seasons.

Other P.A.S.T. projects include excavating a significant Woodland Period midden in Waterford, Connecticut, uncovered by the town during sewer construction, and a prehistoric site in Coventry, Connecticut.

Maine

During summer 1983, a five week field season was undertaken on Upper Flag Island in eastern Casco Bay, southwestern Maine, directed by DAVID YESNER, University of Southern Maine. The site was of interest because of (1) the exposure of numerous hearths in coastal sections, suggesting intensive occupation; (2) the recovery of a number of Archaic as well as Woodland artifacts by amateurs from the inter-tidal zone; and (3) previous records of unusual faunal remains coming from the site. Previous excavations by Amherst College during 1909 significantly disturbed the core of the site, so excavations during 1983 focused on the site peripheries. In these areas, the site had a single component dating to the Middle Woodland-early Late Woodland period. A large sample of dentate and cord-wrapped stick designed ceramics was obtained as well as bone tools although lithic materials were limited, a pattern found in the previous excavations at the site. Similar patterns of unused faunal remains were also uncovered, including high densities of domestic dog, bear, raccoon and sea-mink - all carnivores, as well as beaver, but much less deer and seal remains which characterize other coastal sites in southwestern Maine. Prevalence of sea-mink and beaver are probably related to the existence of a large marsh in close proximity to the sites, but the large amount of domestic dog remains and paucity of lithic materials suggest some type of unusual base camp organization. Historic sources have suggested that Indians utilized this part of the bay as a staging area from which microbands dispersed to utilize other islands.

ROB BONNICHSEN has completed a third and final field season in the Munsungan Lake area of north-central Maine. Additional Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic materials have been retrieved from the area. NSF funding supported additional geological and paleo-ecological work in the area. A travelling display publicizing the work at Munsungan Lake was made possible through support of the Maine Humanities Council and Center for the Study of Early Man.

BRUCE BOURQUE completed an additional field season of survey in Penobscot Bay. This year, an effort was made to concentrate on the southwestern part of the bay. In addition, he and STEVE COX have been involved in planning an NEH-sponsored exhibit on "12,000 Years in Maine" for the Maine State Museum. STEVE COX has done some additional survey work in the Blue Hill Bay area of east coastal Maine.

NATHAN HAMILTON undertook an intensive survey of the Brassua Lake area in conjunction with a proposed project to flood the area, and recovered 20 new sites including 2 Middle Archaic sites.

DAVID SANGER has undertaken recent survey projects in the mid-coastal region, focusing on Damariscotta and the Muscongus and St. George's River Estuaries. He has also undertaken surveys in Washington County, particularly the Big Lake area, following up on site locations reported by a long-time collector in the area.

ARTHUR SPIESS has undertaken additional excavation at the multicomponent Evergreens Site in Solon, Maine on the Kennebec River. Additional test excavations were undertaken in the Merrymeeting Bay area in Topsham, resulting from collector information from that area. A report is expected soon on the Kidder Point excavations.

ROBERT BRADLEY has completed an impact assessment survey at Pemaquid for the Maine Department of Parks and Recreation, in planning for construction of a major visitor center. New reports on the excavations there were recently issued.

TED BRADSTREET and TAD BAKER directed an excavation of Fort Western in Augusta, which resulted in the discovery of "Cushnoc," an early 17th century pilgrim trading post. Footings of the palisade and block houses surrounding the barracks building were also uncovered. Some prehistoric material was also encountered.

NORM BUTTRICK completed excavation of the 19th century farmstead at the Norlands Foundation in Livermore. Results of the excavation were put forth at the fall meeting of the Maine Archaeological Society.

RIC FAULKNER completed a second field season at Fort Pentagouet with NEH funding. Included in the excavations this year were a workshop area and a large area of the barracks at the fort.

The final season at Fort Pentagoet will begin in mid-June 1984 under the direction of ALARIC FAULKNER, University of Maine at Orono. Excavations will focus on the fort's refuse heaps, one located outside the main gate and a second within the fort. Analysis and data base management of artifacts is continuing and spatial distributions of artifacts are being plotted to differentiate activity centers and social stratification within the fort.

Following a partial survey of the Bagaduce River in 1983, sponsored by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, excavation will resume in May 1984 on a site identified on cartographic evidence as Baron Castin's Habitation. Limited testing has produced Bristol pipestems, largely 6/64ths, structural hardware, and English ceramics, but none of the French ceramic types commonly found at Fort Pentagoet. Excavations at Fort Pentagoet have shown conclusively that Baron Castin did not rebuild the fort, but rather that he constructed a truck house further up the Bagaduce River. The "English" assemblage at this site may well be attributed to Baron Castin, who was notorious for his trading connections with the English.

A survey project sponsored by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Wells-Ogunquit Historical Society will concentrate on mapping a number of features dating from the late 17th century to the early 20th century, associated with the King's Highway. Limited testing will be conducted at the site of Jefferd's Tavern, c. 1740-1930.

The Maine Historic Preservation Commission will be funding the following historical archaeology projects in 1984. ROBERT L. BRADLEY of the Commission, collaborating with EMERSON W. BAKER of the College of William and Mary, will be surveying the lower Kennebec River for 17th century Anglo-American sites; they will focus particularly on a post-1640 fishing station at the river's mouth. JAMES LEAMON of Bates College, in cooperation with the City of Augusta's Fort Western Museum, will survey the Augusta area on the upper Kennebec for Anglo-American sites of the resettlement period (1750s on). ALARIC FAULKNER of the University of Maine at Orono will survey mid-18th century Anglo-American sites in Wells and late 17th/early 18th century Acadian sites in the Castine area. NEILL DEPAOLI, on behalf of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine Bureau of Parks and Recreation, will conduct reconnaissance survey on the Pemaquid River drainage to identify farmstead and mill sites that were satellites of the 17th century Anglo-American settlement at Pemaquid.



Massachusetts

BARBARA LUEDTKE will be conducting a field school this summer on Long Island in Boston Harbor. Though this is the largest of the Harbor islands, it has never been formally surveyed and only one prehistoric site is known. The project will therefore focus on site survey and mapping, with as much additional excavation as time will allow. It is hoped that finds will provide an interesting contrast between the ways Long Island was used by prehistoric peoples and the ways the smaller Harbor Islands are known to have been used.



Work by JAMES P. WHITTALL, (Early Sites Research Society), continues on two projects in 1984; one, at the Wheeler Site, in Salisbury, and two, in Thompson, Connecticut. The Wheeler Site project is continuing research into Late Woodland fishing station and a 1755-80 colonial boil-down saltworks. In Thompson, work continues on a beehive stone chamber site. Last year an unusual feature was partially excavated. This was a stone pavement or platform located to one side of the chamber with extensive fire-burning. Work this Summer will concentrate on this feature which seems to cover a rather extensive area.



LAURIE WEINSTEIN, (Stonehill College), is conducting research on the history and prehistory of Indians in Lowell for the Lowell Heritage Park Museum. She is also examining competition between seventeenth century Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians for fertile farmlands and trade or communication routes. The distribution of seventeenth century Indian settlements in Plymouth colony is examined in relation to colonial settlements. This discusses the consequences of land loss for Indians.

MICHAEL S. NASSANEY, (University of Massachusetts-Amherst), is studying the spatial-temporal attributes of a 17th century native American burial ground in southern New England. He is especially interested in understanding how the composition and configuration (form and content) of a cemetery serves as an ideological legitimization of social power. Related interests include culture contact situations, Narragansett genealogy, seventeenth century strategies of accommodation, and the archaeological correlates of territorial consolidation and tributary relationships.



The Public Archaeology Laboratory has recently completed several survey and excavation projects in Worcester, Holden, Uxbridge, Bedford, and Bridgewater. The results of several of these projects may have interesting implications in terms of regional research problems.

The PAL, Inc. has continued a program of archaeological investigation within the improvement corridor of Route 146 first begun in 1977. The latest investigations, conducted primarily in Uxbridge, consisted of site examination of one historic and three prehistoric sites, and a program of data recovery at a multi-component rockshelter.

The three prehistoric sites were similar in type to those investigated in other sections of the corridor. They are, in general, small, low-density sites with relatively few features or diagnostic artifacts. When analysed as a group, however, they can provide crucial information concerning prehistoric settlement patterns in upland zones in particular and the Narragansett Basin in general. The Pine Grove, Emerson Brook and Copperhead sites conform to a pattern of site composition seen in earlier investigations.



The Hartford Avenue Rockshelter contained a broad range of prehistoric cultural material and well-preserved floral/faunal remains. Four occupational episodes were represented. The earliest may be a Middle Archaic occupation, indicated by a basal fragment of a Neville-like point. This was followed by a substantial increase in use during the Late Archaic, 4,500 to 3,500 years ago. The Late Archaic assemblages consist of Brewerton Eared Triangle and various small stemmed points and bifaces of local quartz, argillite and quartzite. One of the most interesting aspects of this cultural component was a significant amount of chipping debris of non-local volcanic materials. Felsites and rhyolite from several lithic source areas in the Boston Basin were represented. A large sample of calcined bone fragments from the Late Archaic deposit includes some small mammal and bird bone and suggest intensive processing of food resources.

The Terminal Archaic component, after 3,500 BP, was limited in both extent and content. It was represented by two Orient Fishtail points of non-local volcanic material and a damaged, reworked Wayland Notched point found near a hearth. Very few Terminal Archaic depositions or sites have been identified and/or described in any detail from upland, interior locations like the upper Blackstone River drainage.

Late Woodland groups, sometime after 1,000 years ago, used the shelter and deposited a distinctive midden stratum of organic refuse, lithic debitage and broken ceramic vessels. Floral and faunal remains are still undergoing analysis, but preliminary identifications indicate that deer and other large and medium sized mammals, such as beaver, were the focus of hunting activities. Floral remains are dominated by nutshells that appear to be hickory. The ceramic sherds are of two different wares, shell tempered and grit/mica tempered, with distinctive surface treatments and decorative elements. These may represent two depositional events within the total Late Woodland of the rockshelter.

Further analysis of the lithic, paleoenvironmental and other data is continuing, and will provide detailed information concerning the prehistoric subsistence base of the upland zone.

Survey and Planning grants from both the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission have been awarded to the PAL, Inc. to conduct studies of prehistoric land use zonation.

In Massachusetts, site files were used to extract data concerning prehistoric site location and composition within the Taunton River Basin. After mapping, a pattern was revealed of very distinct land use zones. Two areas of higher density were found, one within the upper river basin, and one associated with the estuary in the lower portion of the river basin. These variations may be explained by a core-periphery land use model, with the areas of higher density functioning as cores. Significantly, there were no strong differences in terms of time periods in these areas of higher site density. This suggests that the highly structured system operated for a long period of time throughout the region. Zones of variable land use were found to line up with environmental boundaries, rather than within areas of greater resource density. This implies that a strategy of optimization in terms of site location was carried out by prehistoric peoples within the Taunton River Basin.

The preliminary results of the survey of the Sakonnet River in Rhode Island indicate that a different form of site zonation existed in this coastal zone. A continuous distribution of sites was found along the east bank of the river. On the west bank, however, sites were more widely distributed and far fewer in number.

The staff of the Division of Cultural Resources of the North Atlantic Regional Office, National Park Service is continuing the analysis of data from the survey of Cape Cod National Seashore. FRANK MCMANAMON is now editing the first two volumes of reports on the survey. Included are chapters by MCMANAMON, CHRIS BORSTEL, S. TERRY CHILDS, SUSAN CHASE, JOYCE FITZGERALD, MARY HANCOCK and LINDA TOWLE. These describe and analyze prehistoric site survey and excavation data collected between 1979 and 1981. The volumes will be published this summer as one of the Division's Cultural Resources Management Studies.



STEVEN BUTLER, ERIC CLINGER, ALISON DWYER, MARTHA PINELLO, and GEORGE STILLSON have nearly completed sorting a large amount of floatation residues from the project and are now organizing the survey's collections for permanent storage at Salt Pond Visitor's Center, Cape Cod National Seashore.

The survey has received 30 radiocarbon dates from seven sites. The assays range from 4180 ± 115 B.P. (GX-9553: site 19BN323). The dates will be fully reported in the forthcoming volumes on the Seashore survey. Six of the dates are greater than 3000 B.P. and the remaining assays fall later than about 1600 B.P. The absence of dates between 3000 B.P. and 1600 B.P. parallels the low frequency of projectile points diagnostic of the early part of the Woodland period. Many of the 30 samples were shells, and limited data indicate that shell samples provide dates that are too old by 200-400 years. CHRIS BORSTEL is interested in knowing whether other archeologists have unpublished paired charcoal and shell samples from coastal New England.



During September and October, 1983 JOYCE RITZGERALD directed excavations on an intact shell midden at 19BN308 at Fort Hill, Eastham, in the Seashore. Excavations revealed stratified Late Archaic to early Late Woodland deposits. Deposits from the Archaic period are clearly separated from those of the Woodland period by a thin shell-free stratum,. This layer strongly suggests a hiatus in occupation at the site. The Late Archaic component is dated to 4180 ± 90 B.P. (I-13,475: Crassostrea virginica shells) and 3410 ± 80 B.P. (I-13,464: Mya arenaria shells). Four dates between 1150 ± 80 B.P. (I-13,460: Mercenaria mercenaria shells) and 1410 ± 80 B.P. (I-13,463: M. mercenaria shells) provide an age range for the Woodland components. Fitzgerald's analysis of the midden aims to gain insights into the genesis of the midden and the types of activities that took place there. The study is also attempting to document changes in prehistoric subsistence, especially as these relate to the development of Nauset Marsh. TERRY CHILDS is analyzing the ceramics from the excavations, and ALISON DWYER is studying the seasons of site occupancy based on M. mercenaria shells.

CHRIS BORSTEL supervised excavations at 19BN281, a single component Late Archaic site in Truro in October and November, 1983. The assemblage is about 94% quartz. Lithics and fire-cracked rock were the main categories of material recovered. The site is buried beneath a sheet of historic period aeolian sand. The site is of special interest because plow-disturbance appears to be much less intense compared to many other sites on the Outer Cape. Analysis of the excavations should be complete by late summer, and the results of the 1983 fieldwork of the Seashore survey will be reported in a future volume published by the Division of Cultural Resources.

CHRIS BORSTEL, JOYCE FITZGERALD, and SUSAN CHASE continue to analyze the results of the 1982 excavations at Coast Guard Beach (19BN374) in Eastham. Analysis is now focusing on the reasons for differences between Coast Guard Beach and other prehistoric sites around Nauset in lithic assemblages and shellfish use. SUSAN CHASE (now in the Department of Archaeology at U.C.L.A.) also completed a study of land use at the site during the historic period. The Park Service will conduct additional excavations at the site during late 1984, prior to the construction of a new roadway through the site.

FRANK MCMANAMON completed his dissertation, entitled Prehistoric Cultural Adaptations on Cape Cod: Ecological Niches, Adaptive States and Temporal Variation, at Binghamton early in 1984. The study synthesizes the results of the Seashore survey using three dimensions of cultural adaptation. These dimensions, economic activities, spatial and seasonal organization, and external cultural contact, are analogous to the dimensions of habitat, timing, and food widely employed in natural ecology. Changes from the late Archaic through the Woodland period along all three dimensions can be seen in the archeological record of the Seashore.

During the summer of 1983, LINDA TOWLE, (National Park Service), supervised the survey and excavation of a prehistoric site at the Old North Bridge in Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts. The excavation was required prior to the construction of a new rest room facility. A Late Archaic and a Late Woodland component were identified in spatially distinct portions of the site. The assemblage included a Neville, a Stark, a Brewerton eared triangle, a Levanna triangle, Small Stemmed points, scrapers, chipping debris, pottery, and turtle carapice and bone. The report of this excavation should be available in the spring of 1984.



The Eastern Archeological Field Laboratory Collections Management Project under the direction of ALAN SYNEKI is continuing to research the archeological collections at the Minute Man National Historic Park, Concord, Massachusetts. The reports for historic sites on Fiske Hill including the Ebenezer Fiske site, the David Fiske site, Bull Tavern, and the route of Battle Road are being written by LINDA TOWLE. SHEILA CHARLES is writing the reports on the historic sites in the North Bridge area including the David Brown site, Ephraim and Willard Buttrick site, Elisha Jones site, and the roadways west of North Bridge. JOHN CHENEY is assisting in the analysis of the artifacts from these sites. This research involves an analysis of the previous archeological investigative work and a reinventory of the collections. All data are being stored on computer files. This is part of an ongoing project in preparation for a Park-wide survey to identify both historic and prehistoric resources.

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Archeological Collections Management Program also reports on the archeological collections at Salem Maritime National Historic Site and Morristown National Historical Park are being printed and will be available this fall. The Great Island Tavern project is continuing with some faunal analysis and the report writing yet to be completed. A publication of that collection and the analysis is scheduled for next spring. The archeological collections at Minute Man National

Historical Park are being reorganized and recataloged at the present time. In addition, the site reports on past archeological work there are being evaluated and maps prepared to identify locations where excavations were done. The intent is to have the collections management project at Minute Man serve as a background study for the parkwide survey that is planned there to commence in a couple of years as well as for the collections themselves.

The Eastern Archeological Field Laboratory, Division of Cultural Resources, National Park Service is conducting archeological studies for development projects for historic structure rehabilitation. Reports on three projects are in various states of production at this time: the report on archeological monitoring and investigations at Adams Birthplaces in Quincy, the report on archeological investigations for the development of comfort facilities at the North Bridge area in Minute Man National Historical Park, Concord, and report on the archeological investigations and monitoring for the rehabilitation of the Smith House in Minute Man National Historical Park in Lincoln.

FREDERICK GORMAN assisted by LESLIE SHAW of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst is directing excavation of Harvard University's earliest college complex. This multi-season project is sponsored by the Harvard Summer Field School of Archaeology and the Peabody Museum. Excavation of the buried remains of the "Old College: (1642-1677)" and the "Indian College" (1655-1692) in Harvard Yard is designed to evaluate the archaeological manifestations of documented trends in economic, social and ideological aspects of seventeenth-century student life. Subsurface radar survey of the Yard has located the buried remnants of both colleges, probable deposits of associated refuse and other features.



PAULA ZITZLER and OWEN KEATLEY of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute will be directing a 4-week excavation at Hancock Shaker Village during the summer of 1984. RPI's research at HSV began in 1983, and this summer excavations will focus upon better understanding the "Church Family," that part of the village which is currently open to the public.



The Peabody Museum, Harvard University, is currently completing laboratory analysis and preparation of final reports on Phase III excavations of several prehistoric and historic period sites in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The archaeological fieldwork at Charlestown was conducted by the Institute for Conservation Archaeology before it was closed down in June, 1983. LESLIE SHAW, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, directed excavations at the Water Street Prehistoric Site, a multi-component site that miraculously survived near the Charlestown Navy Yard. STEVEN PENDERY, Harvard University, directed excavations at two historic period residential districts located near Wapping and Maudlin Streets. These districts contained well-preserved evidence of occupations by documented high and low status households, respectively, during the colonial period. The research design for these archaeological districts called for investigating artifact and spatial patterning that may be correlated with the documented differences in household occupation and status. One of the earliest Maudlin Street sites consisted of a filled cellar with well-preserved structural and artifactual remains from the period 1630-1660. The well preserved faunal remains from the historic period sites are being analyzed by DR. PETER BOQUCKI, Princeton University. Final reports will be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Works in the summer of 1984.

New Hampshire

The fifth season on the prehistoric component of the Russell's Inn Site, (NH29-1) George's Mills, NH, will begin on May 21 and is expected to continue through the summer under the direction of HOWARD SARGENT (Franklin Pierce College). Present plans include the excavation of a broad test series across the area to further delineate the site parameters and to evaluate the integrity of the B and C zones in which Paleo-Indian and Middle to Late Archaic materials have occurred. Depending upon personnel, excavation of the primary test area will be expanded.



During the summer of 1984 DAVID STARBUCK (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and MARY DUPRE (New Hampshire Historical Society) will resume their archaeological testing along the Merrimack River in Concord, N.H. Since 1981 they have been documenting the locations of Late Archaic through Late Woodland sites while looking for the site of one of Passaconaway's 17th century forts. Research in 1984 will focus upon both banks of the river at Sewall's Falls, just north of Concord.



VICTORIA KENYON (New Hampshire Historical Society) will conduct archeological excavation at several New Hampshire sites during the summer of 1984. Included are prehistoric sites on Spofford Lake, Keene; the confluence of the Nashua and Merrimack rivers; special activity components in Litchfield, on the Merrimack River; and a contact period component on Lake Ossipee, Ossipee, N.H.

Discovered in 1982, a wreck site in Hart's Cove, New Castle, NH was the scene of a three week underwater survey and reconnaissance carried out by under the direction of DAVID SWITZER in July 1983. The survey was funded by a matching grant from the New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Office. During the course of the survey, test excavations--grid controlled--were conducted in order to ascertain the amount of structure that lay hidden beneath the seabed. Structure exposed through excavation was documented. The vessel (type at the present unknown) is not intact; structural remnants include the keel, remains of frames, a mast step, and elements of internal sheathing as well as the outer hull. Not a large vessel, the Hart's Cove wreck probably did not exceed 50'/15.2m in original length. Structural characteristics suggest the possibility of 18th century construction or earlier. Ceramic material recovered on the seabed surface adjacent to the wreck is dateable from the late 17th century. Sherds found within the context of the wreck structure are 18th century. Whether this material can be definitely associated with the wreck is a perplexing question; possibly further investigations will provide an answer. Unfortunately "pot hunters" have seriously disturbed the seabed of the site area. At the termination of season, exposed structure was back-filled to insure against deterioration.



Documentary research is currently underway for this summer's archeological investigation at Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, NH, co-sponsored by SCRAP and the The Center for Monadnock Regional Studies at Keene State College under the direction of FAITH HARRINGTON. The original Fort No. 4 was built about 1743 at a time of political instability between the French and English, economic uncertainty, and military danger. Located on the Connecticut River in a position very susceptible to an enemy invasion from Canada, the early settlers erected a fort around several standing cabins and enclosed it on three sides with a 10' high palisado.



A reconstruction of the original fortified village of Charlestown was built in 1960 a few miles from the original site and now operates as an outdoor museum representing life along the northwest frontier of New England prior to, and during, the French and Indian War era. FAITH HARRINGTON will direct an archaeological survey and test excavations at the original fort site for 6 weeks in late May and June, 1984.



Laboratory analysis is continuing on the artifacts from the Broad Brook site, a 19th-century logging community and industrial site in Pisgah State Park in southwestern New Hampshire. Students at Keene State College are also continuing deed research on the hundreds of parcels of logging land purchased by Ansel Dickinson, a local entrepreneur who operated numerous businesses including the Broad Brook Steam Lumber Mills, the New England Box Company, the Ashuelot Warp Company, and several other business partnerships. A report on the 1983 field season will be published by the New Hampshire Archaeology Society in the spring issue of the New Hampshire Archaeologist.



DAVID STARBUCK and MARY DUPRE will return to the site of Joseph Hazeltine's pottery in Concord (c.1825-1880) in order to locate the site of his pottery shop. Previous excavations in 1982 and 1983 have already exposed two kiln houses, and the 1984 work should conclude the testing of all functional areas within this complex.



At Strawbery Banke museum, test excavations were conducted behind the Sherburne House (1695) last June and will be continued this July. Located on the former tidal inlet known as Puddle Dock, the backyard of this late 17th-century house yielded many interesting features including a western ell built around 1728 and used for storing millinery goods; and eastern ell; fence postholes; and possible evidence of the garden and pathway. An abundant variety of artifacts dating from the late 17th to the mid-20th centuries was found--many of which have been analyzed--and several large redware and stoneware vessels that have been reconstructed. This summer's excavation will focus on delineating the 1728 addition. A field report is on file at Strawbery Banke museum and at the State Cooperative Regional Archaeology Plan, Ward Avenue, Concord, NH 03301. A summary report by STEVEN PENDERY, co-director, will be available soon.



Rhode Island

Site recognition in Rhode Island has been characteristically artifact oriented. Through the use of shovel testing during site surveys, locations where chipping debris, shell or charcoal has been found are then subject to more intensive study during later stages of field investigation. Data recovery is therefore ultimately directed toward those places where numerous artifacts have been discovered. Implicit in this approach are several assumptions: features (pits, hearths, surfaces...) are more likely to be found in areas where artifacts occur and the range of information (activities, temporal sequences, subsistence behavior...) is greatest in areas where artifact densities are highest.

A site in North Kingstown, Rhode Island which has been studied as part of the Route 4 Extension Project by Rhode Island College, under the direction of PIERRE MORENON, is a strong counterpose to these assumptions. Sixteen features, including eight large (one to two cubic meter) storage pits and several roasting pits, were identified at PD-1. This is a site which is characterized by few artifacts. Less than a quarter of the several hundred test pits completed contained any lithic debris, and the most dense lithic concentration consisted of six flakes in one .25 x .25 meter shovel test pit.

Eighteen Carbon-14 samples have been submitted from the features at PD-1, providing a unique opportunity to examine not only the processes by which these features were created and filled, but also the timing of activities over the surface of this site. One available date, 2050 BP, as well as the spatial organization of the features and the homogeneity of the artifact assemblage suggests that this site may have been created during a single season of plant processing and storage during the Early Woodland.

The stratigraphy within the features indicates that each one was used and filled. There is no indication of multiple occupation and reuse of features. The large storage pits, for example, contain no bone, shell and very low numbers of lithic debris; they were not used as trash pits by later occupants of the site. On the other hand, carbonized seeds have been recovered through flotation and wet screening extraction procedures. Ongoing seed identification should yield a detailed description of the plant material stored in the large pits and roasted in the smaller hearth features.

A prehistoric site type, the isolated artifact or low density lithic scatter, which is very common in Rhode Island and generally not intensely studied or "mitigated" has become an ideal laboratory for reconstructing subsistence behavior and diet in this region. Numerous features which are morphologically identical can be well dated. The data available from these features are nearly entirely limited to carbonized seeds which represent a single use and event. The reason this type of knowledge has not been generated in the past probably measures the effectiveness of current methodology and the status of existing information about site formation processes.

Although we may question data recovery programs which focus on areas with few artifacts, it may be through such studies (involving costly heavy equipment or time consuming extraction procedures) that quality information demanded by the complexity of current research problems will be generated. We need to rethink how "sites" are discovered and which locations warrant data recovery. We also need to reexamine the various phases of fieldwork and consider investing more time and money in techniques which are not dependant upon artifact discovery.



Recent Reports

CT

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Norwalk Community College

MA

DAVIN, ANN, PETER THORBAHN and DUNCAN RITCHIE

1983 Archaeological Investigations of the Robin Hill
Development, Marlborough, Massachusetts.

GALLAGHER, JOAN and ANN DAVIS

1983 Intensive Survey of the New England Energy Park
and Access Corridor, Fall River, Massachusetts

GALLAGHER, JOAN

1983 An Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Wordell
Farm/Riverview Corporate Park

1983 The South Cape Beach, Mashpee, Massachusetts.
An Intensive Survey of the Proposed Parking Area, Phase 1(A)

1983 The South Cape Beach, Mashpee, Massachusetts.
An Intensive Survey of the Balance of the Park, Phase 1(B)

MROZOWSKI, STEPHEN

1983 An Intensive Examination of the Proposed Oxford Industrial
Park Roadway, Oxford, Massachusetts

MROZOWSKI, STEPHEN and PETER THORBAHN

1983 Intensive Survey of the Shamray Property,
Raynham, Massachusetts.

RITCHIE, DUNCAN

- 1983 A Site Examination Survey of the Meadowlands Trust Property,
Canton, Massachusetts.

THORBAHN, PETER

- 1983 Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the Barnet Boulevard
Extension, Dartmouth and New Bedford, Massachusetts
- 1983 Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Barnet Boulevard
Extension, Dartmouth and New Bedford, Massachusetts
- 1983 Phase II Archaeological Investigations at the Swift Sites,
Acushnet, Massachusetts.
- 1983 Archaeological Investigations at the G.B. Crane Site,
Norton, Massachusetts: the Data Recovery Program.

THORBAHN, PETER and JORDAN KERBER

- 1983 Emerson, Brook Reservoir, Middleton, Massachusetts:
Intensive Archaeological Survey.

NH

KENYON, VICTORIA

- 1983 The Smolt Site: Seasonal Occupation in the Merrimack Valley.
The New Hampshire Archeologist 24.

PINELLO, MARTHA

- 1983 Re-examination of the Harrisville Rural District. New
Hampshire Department of Public Works and Highways,
Concord, New Hampshire.

STARBUCK, DAVID

- 1983 The New England Glassworks, Temple New Hampshire. Public
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RI

DAVIN, ANN

- 1983 Archaeological Site Examination at the Kenyon Site (RI-964)
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- 1983 An Intensive Survey of the Rhode Island Veterans Cemetery,
Expansion and Development Project.

DAVIN, ANN and PETER THORBAHN

- 1983 Phase II Examination of the Bouchard Prehistoric
Archaeological site, Usquepaug, Rhode Island

DAVIN, ANN and PETER THORBAHN

- 1983 Intensive Survey of the Proposed Orr's Pond Rehabilitation
Project, Attleboro, Massachusetts.

RITCHIE, DUNCAN

- 1983 Phase II Archaeological Survey of the East Providence
Industrial Highway.

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