

CEA Conference on New England Archaeology NEWSLETTER

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



Robert Millikan

37c
USA

D. DINCAUZE
DEPT. OF ANTHRO.
CMACS
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 02901
401-277-2678

CNEA

Conference on New England Archaeology

CONTENTS NEWSLETTER

FITTING ROUND PEGS INTO SQUARE HOLES: THE USE OF ANALYTICAL UNITS IN NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY By David R. Yesner.....	2
GETTING IN TOUCH WITH THE CONTACT PERIOD: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES AT THE EDGE OF HISTORY By Dena F. Dinacauze.....	6
1985 CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM "What Cheare Ne'top".....	12
CURRENT RESEARCH Connecticut.....	14
Maine.....	18
Masachusetts.....	20
New Hampshire.....	24
Rhode Island.....	27
NOTES.....	31

Vol. 4, No. 2 Dec. 1984

Fitting Round Pegs into Square Holes: The Use of Analytical Units in New England Archaeology

If a general consensus of opinion was achieved at the spring 1984 Conference on New England Archaeology, it was that New England archaeologists have a long way to go before we achieve a common understanding of analytical units, much less an actual common set of units for the purpose of research or cultural resource management. In his seminal paper, Dewar approached the problem head on, calling initially for better definitions of commonly used units: sites, components, occupations, places and neighborhoods. Even here, however, it is worth noting that Dewar's analytical concepts differ strongly in their epistemology: "sites," "components," and "places" clearly have their major references in the archaeological record, while "occupations" and "neighborhoods" (the latter akin to Binford's "foraging radius") just as clearly are properties of the population itself, rather than of the archaeological record. Nevertheless, Dewar raised two extremely important issues in his discussion of analytical units: "spatial congruence" and "temporal continuity" in successive occupations of a site. The issue of spatial congruence is critical to reconstructions of paleodemography (Dewar notes this, saying that "the size of a site or component bears an uncertain relationship to the size of the community which used it") as well as the range of activities undertaken; while the concept of temporal continuity is critical to reconstructions of subsistence and settlement (e.g., how many of our sites with faunal remains suggesting year-round occupation are really confluents of discrete seasonal occupations?)

Two reasons for our failure to deal adequately with such concepts are the incredible intellectual inertia which has previously characterized New England archaeologists, and basic problems of the taphonomy of New England sites. In terms of the question of temporal continuity, however, there are additional problems that derive from our inability to distinguish between stylistic and functional elements in defining cultural periods. Are projectile points, house forms, and hearth dimensions all really equivalent in terms of information about temporal continuity? If not, how do we come to understand what rates of change characterize lithic and ceramic designs, and what they mean? Luedtke, in her conference paper, focused on some of these issues by calling for "flexible tools for reconstruction of the past." Instead of refining categories of spatial and temporal manifestations of site occupation, Luedtke argued for the use of continuous "dimensions" in explicating archaeological phenomena. While not a panacea, it represents a commendable attempt to refine our understanding of variability in the archaeological record. This analysis can in fact be extended to understanding settlement patterns as well as artifact types, and Luedtke uses this to demonstrate that the typological

David R. Yesner
University of Southern Maine

categories of settlement patterns (e.g. the Beardsley or Cleland schemes) might be more usefully replaced with more complex, smaller-scale approaches that take into account a whole range of variables such as spatial and temporal resource distribution, subsistence choice, territory size, population size and density, land tenure and sociopolitical organization. Although Luedtke did not specify what such an approach might look like, one possible source for it might derive from ethnographic analogy.

Thomas' conference paper dealt directly with this last issue. Seeking appropriate ethnographic analogies for New England settlement patterns, he focused on three groups: Nunamiut Eskimos, !Kung Bushmen, and Australian aborigines. One problem with this, of course, is that all three groups are relatively simple hunter-gatherers who tend to leave behind low densities of scatter in the form of relatively discrete occupations. In contrast, during at least part of the past New England was occupied by mixed farmers or complex hunter-gatherers. Nevertheless, by the use of these analogies, Thomas clearly established from empirical data that "occupations" and "neighborhoods" (to use Dewar's terms) are not congruent, and that empty spaces and scatter falloffs exist in records of living communities.

This general point - that any discrete occupational episode may be represented by 50% empty space - was picked up and elaborated by Rubertone's conference paper, on the archaeology of "place" and "space." In her mind, space is clearly not just the antithesis of place; it is an active rather than a passive concept. The interstitial zone "round and between the skeleton of places" may be a consciously designated area whose size and shape is of critical internal importance, reflecting economics, social structure, or cognitive mapping. Although Rubertone's arguments applied to the courtyards and fields of complex Euro-American settlements, they could easily be applied to simpler prehistoric societies as well. Furthermore, Rubertone noted that the interactions between place and space are two-way, so that (for example) decisions on planting crops in "spaces" may have an effect on investment in the architecture of "places," while (conversely) changes in the size or function of settlements may have direct effects on patterns of land use in surrounding hinterlands. Rubertone also showed a contrast between regional and local views of the phenomenon of space; in regional terms, one can trace general economic processes that lead to greater concentrations of farming, forestry, or grazing in different areas, but this tells us little about the actual decision-making process at the local level about the location, extent, and configuration of cleared spaces surrounding settlements.

Stachiw also picked up this contrast in his discussion of the region as a meaningful unit for study in historical archaeology. Stachiw suggested a kind of superorganic definition for the region as a cultural unit which is larger than a single community, and has a high degree of cultural homogeneity, contains certain common characteristics by which it is distinct from other areas, and an awareness of commonality for togetherness among the people in the area.

Common cultural, economic, and political factors were seen to unite such regions. The main problem is operationalizing this unit for archaeological research. Stachwic pointed out that documentary studies tend to focus on local, idiosyncratic phenomena which actually impede the development of regional synthesis. On the other hand, general processes may not be at work in all instances, and thus with an idiosyncratic approach one may not know whether one is the looking at the exception or the rule.

The afternoon papers by McManamon, Robinson, Waldbauer, and Snow all presented illustrations of the above general theoretical points, each in a different way. McManamon, for example, applied a different perspective on definitions of analytical units than that presented by Dewar. "Site" was defined as a "bounded area within which artifacts occur," getting away from the previous problem of sites containing nonoccupation areas; "concentrations" of the artifacts themselves, however, are considered to be the primary analytical units. The advantage of McManamon's approach lies in the elegance and simplicity of his research design; as he notes, the method makes no assumptions about the social or cultural units and the activities responsible for the artifact concentration or that all the remains are contemporaneous.

At this point, however, the concentrations become morphological rather than functional units, and no real behavioral explanation can be assigned to them. As McManamon noted, concentrations may vary from episodic to long-term events, but the use of diagnostic artifacts, radiocarbon dates, and other accessory data is seen as a means to generate data on spatial congruence and temporal continuity from the concentrations.

The papers by Robinson and Waldbauer both focused on questions of place and space. Robinson, in focusing on graves as spatial analytical units, considered the semiotic information that could be derived from such units. This light, the positioning of individuals of different ages in different parts of the site and the degree of separation of burials carry a good deal of cultural meaning. In particular, the closeness of burial placement and the efficiency in the use of space are seen as reflections of an "intensification of mortuary practice," with socioreligious connotations.

Waldbauer also extended the arguments of Rubertone and others on the use of place and space to explore the meaning of occupation and non-occupation areas. He also analyzed the "micro-terrain" between settlement areas, noting evidence for both "boundary maintaining features (e.g. stone walls) and "inter-settlement connecting" features (field roads, paths, livestock trails, bridges, etc.). The location, extent, and configuration of these activities tells us as much about cultural organization as do features in the "core" settlement areas, and Waldbauer is fully justified in his conclusion that analytical units must include both settlement cores and peripheries.

In the final CNEA paper, Snow demonstrated how his research in the Mohawk Valley Project has managed to avoid many of the problems involving analytical units that have beset research designs in other areas of New England. Sites in his "target period" tend to be single-component sites; there are few problems in defining site boundaries, distinguishing individual occupation episodes, or defining living units within sites. Snow made a major contribution in his paper in distinguishing between analytical and "expository" units, and warns us to avoid circular arguments in utilizing units that are predefined by "known" culture histories, rather than letting the prehistoric cultural dynamics themselves define the units. Regional units are considered as a focus of sampling (particularly of the environmentally-stratified variety), and the use of ethnological v. ecological criteria for defining regional boundaries are considered within the context of regional paleodemographic reconstructions.

All told, this group of papers continued the excellent tradition begun in earlier conferences by making important substantive contributions both to our understanding of analytical units and to the methodology of selecting appropriate units for specific archaeological goals. There was much common ground for both prehistorians and historical archaeologists to exchange ideas and models, in spite of vast differences in subject material. It is obvious that no "cookbook" approach to settlement archaeology will be viable for either prehistoric or historic New England, nor should it be that way. "Let a thousand flowers bloom"; there is much fertile material here to sow the seed.

(All of the symposium papers and an expanded version of these remarks are currently being edited for an upcoming number of Man in the Northeast).



Getting In Touch With The Contact Period: Interdisciplinary Perspectives At The Edge of History

Exploration in the shadowy lands where literate civilizations met traditional society had once been the exclusive province of historians, or ethnographers working as ethnohistorians. In the past two decades, the field has opened up to other practitioners of anthropology and to geographers. The benefits have been immediate and obvious, and have accrued to historians as well as to anthropologists of all sorts working the territory.

This was to be expected, as the "limits of inquiry are dictated by the existence of appropriate theory and evidence" (Douglas C. North quoted in Berkhofer 1969:12); an increase in either available theory or evidence will expand perspectives. With anthropology, history, and geography providing bodies of both theory and data, significant advances in knowledge and understanding are to be anticipated.

There is hope, then, that we stand at the border of major new knowledge of the Contact period in New England, which is my topic here (see Soulsby [1982] for selected publications). The umbrella "discipline" for the interdisciplinary undertaking remains ethnohistory, whose integrative methods must be appropriately employed when disparate data sets are brought to a single problem, if we are to avoid compounding the weaknesses inherent in any one of them.

Ethnohistory has been defined many ways, which need not concern us here. For my purposes, ethnohistory is the discipline that combines the methods of historical criticism with the theory and data sets of anthropology, without exclusiveness. Historical source criticism is the key to the approach, requiring rigorous evaluation of the historical context from which data emerged—control of the time, place, observer biases, intended audiences, larger social and political contexts relevant to the event, and so forth (for introductions to historiographic methods see, e.g., Berkhofer [1969], Bloch [1953], Freidel [1974], and Haekel [1970]). Every body of data, textual or other, brought to an historical inquiry has its special set of problems—biases in several senses. That is so because of the time that has passed between the event to be studied (to which the data are deemed relevant) and the time at which the observer deals with the data. Time passing has seen the loss of attrition of classes of data, changes in the historical contexts in which the data exist, changes in languages, values, and ethos. Since we cannot directly observe the past, we must examine minutely the screens through which we observe its remains, to identify the flaws that obscure our vision. We must also examine our own perceptions, for the ethnocentric astigmatism that affects our ability to observe, evaluate, and interpret the remains of past conditions and events.

Dena F. Dincauze
University of Massachusetts

As a result of the problem-orientations expanded by anthropological theory, ethnohistory^{ians} have gone beyond the traditional sources of Contact period history—the journals and letters of such notables as John Smith, John Winthrop, Edward Winslow, and William Bradford—and have begun to seek and to use traders' account books, deeds, word lists, court cases, probate records, and legislative documents. The results have been salutary, as we are enabled to glimpse events of human interaction through fewer intervening screens. The works of Axtell (1981), Day (1972, 1975, 1981), Jennings (1975), Little (1980, 1981), Salisbury (1982), and Thomas (1979) particularly display the strengths conferred by the wider sources. As with the more traditional sources, the fundamental rule for appropriate use of archival data is that documents are artifacts, not authorities. They must be studied, with their contexts of origin and their subsequent histories, closely questioned and subjected to verifying test, before their testimonies can be understood or evaluated. The essence of scholarship here is critical discipline, applied with imagination and rigor.

Maps and other graphics are among the traditional sources for historians of the period; in New England, they are such a limited corpus that little new work has involved them. This is not to say that the available materials have been exhausted; on the contrary, there remain unexplained puzzles even in the best-known map of all, William Wood's. Methods of historical geography could probably help to refine our understanding of mapped data, and to produce a more detailed understanding of the spatial aspects of events in the contact centuries. For example, we don't know yet for certain the location of the infamous Great Swamp Fight.

Historical studies in geology, botany, and zoology have begun to contribute to our knowledge of Contact period landuse and environmental manipulation. It remained for an historian to see what could be done with data already in hand and a judicious application of ecological principles and insights; Cronon's Changes in the Land (1983) is a magisterial consideration of both native land use practices and those of the invaders and colonists. More than any other work of recent times, but not independent of them, Cronon's has abolished the myth of the "untamed wilderness," and opened the door to serious consideration of native manipulation of the land and its resources.

Ecological study will be essential to full utilization of the insights to be expected from the application of the methods of historical demography, paleoepidemiology, and population genetics to the populations of the Contact period (Schindler et al. 1981). The methods available for such studies are increasing at a dizzying rate, as the methods of chemical and physical analysis are expanded on the atomic scale, making possible the investigation of individual diets, and promising more as their application^s to human history are better understood (Bumsted 1981).

Linguistic scholarship has come into its own in the Northeast as a strong contributor to studies of the Contact period and even farther into the past (e.g. Aubin 1975; Day 1975; Goddard 1978). Studies of dialects, loan words, and toponymy have proven more useful than the old great hope, glottochronology, in elucidating the cultural histories of Northeastern populations. Time depths of the various language groups can be roughly estimated, but to date no

congruence between linguistic chronologies and the data of archaeology has been clearly demonstrated. This is not to say that no serious efforts along these lines have been made; Snow's (1980) attempts to match archaeology and linguistic data have been heroic, but unconvincing.

The folklore of New England's native peoples was a focus of anthropological study in the early years of this century, when Frank Speck and Fanny Eckstrom were working the field. Interest has lapsed since, and folklore has even been mourned as a lost aspect of culture, especially in southern New England (by the present author, among others). It is therefore important and exciting news that William Simmons has in press a volume on southern New England Indian folklore that includes over 200 tales (personal communication, 1984). The tales are not to be construed, of course, as "fossils" from the Contact period; they were all recorded much more recently than that. The collection opens up, however, an important new avenue of research that can lead back in time toward that dynamic period, as well as a route to understanding the changes in Indian life, culture, and coping mechanisms in the centuries since then. Folktales and folk history as preserved among communities of Northeastern Indians today can be rich sources of information, not only about events in the past (Day 1972), but also about the ways in which communities have interpreted their relationships with other groups and the dominant society. The extent to which "folk" histories diverge from either scholarly or frankly political histories define a highly informative body of data about boundary-maintenance, self-concepts, and strategies for autonomy (e.g., Bingham 1970; Pierce 1895). Such insights can be turned around, with the mirror focussed on the dominant society, so that the tracts such as Cotton Mather's *Magnalia Christi Americana* (1853) can be read as myths created to justify and solidify relationships of dominance and submission (cf. Simmons 1981). Both sides must be heard, their claims evaluated, and their motives understood insofar as possible, before we can claim any significant advance in insight into the human relations of the Contact period.

The study of material culture is, of course, primarily the province of archaeology and archaeologists. Ethnographers in New England have paid it relatively little attention. That oversight is changing as more ethnohistory is being undertaken by people trained in archaeology (cf. Brenner 1984; Little 1980; Thomas 1979). Old collections of objects retrieved, for the most part, from cemeteries, have begun to contribute strongly to the corpus of descriptive and interpretive literature of the Contact period (Gibson 1980). The interpretation of such collections in the context of well-defined theoretical positions can reveal surprising insights, as Brenner has shown with her brief analysis of the grave goods from the South Natick cemetery. A systematic analysis and comparison of the several sets of cemetery data now available would be extremely worthwhile, especially if it could be done to test the conflicting interpretations of grave good meanings already extant in the anthropological literature. Studies of material objects associated with everyday life can be richly rewarding in revealing social status, economic relationships, and affiliation (e.g., Little 1980; Thomas 1979). The objects in these cases were known from probate lists and archaeological excavation, respectively.

Archaeology, then, is only one set of techniques among many available to recover and interpret data relating to the Contact period. It is a particularly strong potential contributor, as recent scholarship has shown. Archaeologists have emerged as effective scholars and interpreters of the traditional ethnohistory sources (Brenner 1984; Ceci 1977; Salwen 1978; Snow

1980; Thomas 1979). They have mastered the critical methods of history, so closely akin to the contextual analyses of field archaeology, and have gone on to incorporate into their studies the full range of data and techniques available from other disciplines, as they are accustomed to doing in archaeological research. The study of the Contact period, from either side of the cultural interface, is a study in historical archaeology, which benefits greatly from the appropriate use of an eclectic approach to data collection. In this respect, there is a convergence among ethnohistorians, whatever their parent discipline, as the integration of data from documentary sources, bioanthropological research, linguistics, environmental sciences and archaeology becomes characteristic of most practitioners.

The results of all this discovery, experimentation, theoretical risk-taking and cross-disciplinary fertilization is a salutary recognition of human beings in the Contact period, replacing the faceless, inexorable historical forces that were once the explanatory vogue. The social, cultural, and political effects of the epidemic diseases of the seventeenth century are now better understood; the loss of leaders, healers, and historians (in a word, knowledgeable individuals) can be evaluated more poignantly and more insightfully than can the simple, shocking, figures of populations decimation. It is not numbers, which are ultimately replaceable, but the human depositories of cultural knowledge whose loss dooms a people. The very human, individual and collective, efforts to regain community life, a measure of autonomy, and some control over destiny are clearer now that ethnohistorians can begin to follow the development of networks along which flowed goods, mates, and information (Bowden and Rhonda 1980; Salisbury 1981; Simmons 1976). The Indian uses of literacy, of the English courts, of wage labor are seen as complexly motivated strategies, not simple reactions to dwindling options. The complex and shifting social organizations, at all scales, can be appreciated also as strategies, not the churning of confused and leaderless people. This humanization of the record, long overdue, is the first gift of interdisciplinary ethnohistory, a humanistic discipline benefitting from both scholarly historiography and advanced molecular science.

REFERENCES CITED

- Aubin, G.F.
1975 *A Proto-Algonquian Dictionary*. National Museum of Man, Mercury Series, *Canadian Ethnology Service Paper* 29, Ottawa.
- Axtell, J.
1981 *The European and the Indian: Essays in the Ethnohistory of Colonial North America*. Oxford, New York.
- Berkhofer, R. F., Jr.
1969 *A Behavioral Approach to Historical Analysis*. Free Press Paperback, New York.
- Bingham, A.G.
1970 *Mashpee: Land of the Wampanoags*. Mashpee Historical Commission.
- Bloch, M.
1953 *The Historian's Craft*. Vintage Books, New York.
- Bowden, H., and J. Rhonda, editors
1980 *John Eliot's Indian Dialogues: A Study in Cultural Interaction*. Greenwood, Westport, Conn.

Brenner, E.

- 1984 Strategies for Autonomy: An Analysis of Ethnic Mobilization in Seventeenth-Century Southern New England. Ph. D. dissertation, Dept. of Anthropology, U. Mass./Amherst.

Bumsted, M. P.

- 1981 The potential of stable carbon isotopes in bioarchaeological anthropology. In Biocultural Adaptation--Comprehensive Approaches to Skeletal Analyses, edited by D. L. Martin and M. P. Bumsted. Department of Anthropology Research Reports #20:108-126. Dept. of Anthropology, UMass/Amherst.

Ceci, L.

- 1977 The Effect of European Contact and Trade on the Settlement Pattern of Indians in Coastal New York, 1524-1665. Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. of Anthropology, CUNY Grad. Ctr.

Cronon, W.

- 1983 Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England. Hill and Wang, New York.

Day, G. M.

- 1972 Oral tradition as complement. Ethnohistory 19:99-108.
1975 The Mots Loups of Father Mathevet. National Museums of Canada, Publications in Ethnology #8, Ottawa.
1981 The identity of the Saint Francis Indians. National Museum of Man Mercury Series. Canadian Ethnology Service Paper 71 Ottawa.

Freidel, F., editor

- 1974 Harvard Guide to American History. Belknap Press. Cambridge.

Gibson, S. G., editor

- 1980 Burr's Hill. A 17th Century Wampanoag Burial Ground in Warren, Rhode Island. Haffenreffer Museum, Brown Univ. Studies in Anthropology and Material Culture. Providence.

Goddard, I.

- 1978 Eastern Algonquian languages. In Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 15. Northeast, B.G. Trigger, ed. Smithsonian Inst., Washington, D.C. pp 70-77.

Hakel, J.

- 1970 Source criticism in anthropology. In Handbook of Method in Cultural Anthropology. edited by R. Naroll and R. Cohen. Columbia Univ. Press, New York. pp 147-164.

Jennings, F.

- 1975 The Invasion of America. Indians, Colonialism, and the Cant of Conquest. Chapel Hill.

Little, E.A.

- 1980 Probate records of Nantucket Indians. Nantucket Algonquian Studies #2. Nantucket.
1981 The writings of Nantucket Indians. Nantucket Algonquian Studies #3. Nantucket.

Mather, Cotton

- 1853 Magnalia Christi Americana. Silum Andrus & Son, Hartford.

Pierce, E.W.

- 1895 Indian History and Genealogy, North Abington, Mass.

Salisbury, N.

- 1981 Squanto: last of the Patuxets. In Survival and Struggle in Colonial America. D. Sweet and G. B. Nash, editors. Berkeley. pp 228-246.
1982 Manitou and Providence. Indians, Europeans, and the Making of New England, 1500-1643. Oxford, New York.

Salwen, B.

- 1978 Indians of southern New England and Long Island: early period. In Handbook of North American Indians, vol. 15. Northeast. edited by B. G. Trigger. Smithsonian Inst., Washington, D.C. pp 160-176.

Schindler, D.L., G. J. Armelagos, and M. P. Bumsted

- 1981 Biocultural adaptation: new directions in Northeastern anthropology. In Foundations of Northeast Archaeology. edited by D. R. Snow. Academic Press, New York. pp 229-259

Simmons, W.S.

- 1976 Southern New England shamanism: an ethnographic reconstruction. Papers of the Seventh Algonquian Conference. Edited by W. Cowan. Carlton College, Ottawa. pp 217-257.
1981 Cultural Bias in the New England Puritans' Perception of Indians. William and Mary Quarterly 38:56-72.

Snow, D. R.

- 1980 The Archaeology of New England. Academic Press, New York.

Soulsby, M.G.

- 1982 Indian-European contact in Southern New England--a selected bibliography. Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut 45:65-74.

Thomas, P.A.

- 1979 In the Maelstrom of Change: The Indian Trade and Cultural Process in the Middle Connecticut River Valley: 1635-1665. Ph.D. dissertation, Dept. of Anthropology, UMass./Amherst.



1985 CONFERENCE

The 1985 CNEA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23, 1985 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts. The conference, entitled "What Cheare Ne'top: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Contact Period," will follow a new format. A series of 20 minute theoretical and case study papers addressing interdisciplinary approaches to the Contact Period will be presented in the morning. There will be time for questions between each paper. Following the lunch break the Annual Business meeting will be held for election of new officers and yearly reports. In the afternoon, four round table discussions on a variety of pertinent topics will be held. This will encourage exchange of ideas and lively discussion.



PROGRAM 1985 ANNUAL MEETING

"What Cheare Ne'top"

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Contact Period

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1985

- 8:30 - 9:30 Registration
- 9:30 - 12:30 Presentations
- 12:30 - 2:00 Lunch, on your own
- 2:00 - 2:30 Business Meeting
- 2:30 - 4:00 Round Table Discussions

CASH BAR FOLLOWING ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Morning Presentations

- | | |
|--|---|
| DAN RUFF | UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA |
| Impact of Old World Diseases During the Protohistoric Period | |
| KATIE BRAGDON | COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG |
| "Emphaticall Speech and Great Action" Southern New England Native Speech Events Described in Seventeenth Century Sources | |
| JOHN ALLEN | UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT |
| The Illeymelling Sea! Indian Information and the Early Search for the Northwest Passage | |
| NEIL SALISBURY | SMITH COLLEGE |
| Social Relations on a Moving Frontier: Natives and Settlers in Southern New England, 1638-1675. | |
| BRUCE BOURQUE & HAROLD PRINS | UNIVERSITY OF MAINE |
| Norridgewock on the Kennebec: Translocation of an Indian Village on the Colonial Frontier between New England and Acadia | |
| PAUL ROBINSON | RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION |
| PATRICIA RUBERTONE | BROWN UNIVERSITY |
| The Scared and Profane: Processes of Adaptation in the Seventeenth Century. | |

Business Meeting

- o Annual Report
- o Election of 1985 Steering Committee

Round Table Discussions

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| ART KEENE & BOB PAYNTER | U-MASS, AMHERST |
| Social Patterns | |
| ARTHUR SPEISS | MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION |
| Disease | |
| BETTY LITTLE | MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY |
| Archival Resources | |
| JAMES BRADLEY | MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION |
| Material Culture | |

Current Research

CONNECTICUT

The Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (P.A.S.T.) has completed the excavation of ten prehistoric sites as part of the I-84 Project in eastern Connecticut. The excavated sites were located in Bolton Notch, which served as a natural "gateway" between the Connecticut and Thames drainages and also formed the boundary between the Mohegan/Pequots and Connecticut River Indians during the Contact Period. The Bolton Notch area is also characterized by a number of extensive wetlands which form the headwaters of the Hop River, a major drainage in the area.

The sites included Laurentian, Early Woodland and Late Woodland Period occupations. Recent excavation of two Early Woodland occupations dating to 700 B.C. indicated seasonal use of the wetlands by relatively small groups. Also associated with the Early Woodland occupations were cremation burials. No grave goods were associated with the burials, and they appear to be associated with structures. The Archaic and Early Woodland sites all appear to be seasonal camps ranging between 700 and 1500 m² and are associated with a wide range of activities. Five Late Woodland components dating between A.D. 1200 and 1500 have also been excavated, and these occupations indicated that significant changes occurred in the way the area was used. All of the Late Woodland sites appear to be special purpose sites associated with hunting or plant processing. All were low density and appear to have been occupied for very short periods of time. Excavations of the remaining fifteen prehistoric and two historic sites within the project will continue in the spring of 1985.

P.A.S.T. has also completed the first season of work on the Mashantucket Pequot Indian reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut. The first season's work consisted of extensive archival and document research and preliminary survey and testing of the current reservation of 200 acres, which has been occupied since 1667. Several small Late Woodland sites indicate that prior to 1667, the area had been used for hunting. A total of fifteen historic aboriginal occupations were located during the survey: one 17th century, two 18th century, ten 19th century and two 20th century occupations have been tested.

Both the documents and archaeological remains suggest that important socioeconomic changes occurred on the reservations in the early 18th and mid-19th centuries, associated with the successive loss of land from the original 2000 acres to 200 acres. For example, the earliest remains located appear to be "wigwams," associated with a small field system and 3-5 acres of land. Settlement patterns are very dispersed, associated with good agricultural lands. When the reservation was reduced in size from 1000 to 200 acres in 1856, more permanent structures were built.

Future work will concentrate on surveying the remainder of the original 2000 acre reservation, which the Pequots recently re-acquired in a land settlement suit, and locating and testing of contemporary European farmsteads in the area.

GEORGE NICHOLAS (UMass-Amherst; AIAI) has completed the second year of the early postglacial phase of the Robbins Swamp Project, which is under the direction of RUSSELL HANDSMAN (AIAI). The focus of the 1984 season was the systematic, problem-directed survey of late Pleistocene-early Holocene landforms associated with an extensive lake/wetland sequence within former glacial lake basins in northern Litchfield County of northwestern Connecticut. Over 300 new sites were located, with at least 30 having Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic components based on the recovery of fluted, bifurcated, Kirk/Palmer, and Hardaway Sidenotched points, pieces esquillee, scrapers and other tools. Early Site/landform associations included lake shorelines, upper river terraces, wetlands, and upland springs. Surficial geological mapping and wetland coring was continued to provide greater resolution in paleoenvironmental reconstructions. Testing at eight early sites revealed intact cultural deposits below plowzone, including numerous hearths, features and artifact concentrations, and a stratified rockshelter site with excellent bone preservation. In addition, a jasperoid lithic processing station was identified at one Early Archaic site where large boulders of silicified sandstone were reduced by fire, with the exposed high quality jasper-like pieces further heat-treated. Analysis of the 1984 materials is currently underway. The 1985 field season will concentrate on the excavation of a number of Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic sites to approach questions of inter- and intra-site associations, subsistence patterns, lithic technology, and short- and long-term landuse patterns, in addition to continued survey and testing of early landforms.

In the field season of 1984 KEN FEDER (Farmington River Archaeological Project) (FRAP) continued a survey in Peoples State Forest in Barkhamstead, Connecticut in the northwest section of the state. Peoples is located in an area of high topographic relief and complex drainage. A large number of small sites was found on flat bedrock controlled terraces overlooking small streams draining the mountain top. These streams directly or indirectly all serve as tributaries to the Farmington River.

One of the typical sites located in survey areas excavated artifact scatter covered an area of 100 m². Material consisted primarily of quartz debitage, with some flint, basalt and slate. Diagnostic artifacts included a number of Brewerton Eared, Small Stemmed quartz, and apparent Lamoka points. Organic material from the site is currently being processed.

The complex of upland sites located in 1984, in particular its relationship to larger Farmington River floodplain sites investigated previously by FRAP, will be the focus of research in 1985.

Recent excavations by PETER PAGOULATOS (U-Conn, Storrs) of three riverine Susquehanna/Broad-spear sites in Glastonbury and East Haddam promise to yield pertinent information regarding terminal Archaic settlement and subsistence in the lower Connecticut River Valley. Preliminary analysis indicates that these occupations represent habitation sites, indicating a wide range of activities. Furthermore, the recovery of several trash pits, calcined animal bone, and a high degree of thermally altered flake debris may also imply processing locales in association

with habitation areas. Botanical and faunal remains recovered from these Susquehanna/Broad-spear occupations indicate summer-fall occupation. Plant remains include chenopodium, wal-nuts, and hickory nuts; animal remains include species such as white-tailed deer, turtle, beaver, bird, and possible fish remains. These resources indicate a riverine exploitation, at least during the summer and fall. Field research this summer will be under taken in floodplain and upland locales in the lower valley.

BARBARA CALOGERO (U-Conn) initiated an upland survey in order to determine if our current models of limited, temporary use for hunting could be supported archaeologically. The summer field season began with a mail survey of the present landowners on the Avon Mountain ridgeline which separates the Connecticut and Farmington River Valleys.

Quartz and basalt debitage were found at two of the four locations tested thus far. One site was between a swamp and ridgeline precipice while the other was on a drumlin overlooking extensive wetlands.

Field excavation was continued at the upland small-stream Bugbee-Hathaway Site in West Hart-ford. The limited assemblage of projectile points, utilized debitage as knives and scrapers, hammer-stones, and fire-cracked rock suggest a hunting site reused over thousands of years.

The C^{14} dates from the site are the following:

690 \pm 95 years B.P. (Q.C.-1053) from a large hearth at 25cm below surface datum

3750 \pm 230 years B.P. (Beta 6446) from charcoal scatter at 40cm B.S.D.

5970 \pm 250 years B.P. (Q.C.-940) from charcoal scatter at 80cm B.S.D. in association with two asymmetric narrow-stemmed points of slate and basalt. A clear quartz flake with marked pat-terns of use wear as a scraper was excavated in the same unit at 106cm B.S.D.

In addition to a variety of projectile point types with a predominance of asymmetric narrow, Small Stemmed quartz, basalt, and slate points excavated at the site, an argillite Brewerton Eared triangle type point was excavated at 100cm B.S.D.

The excavations carried out this past summer by JOHN PFEIFFER of SUNY Albany were coordinated with Wesleyan University's Graduate Liberal Studies Program and Old Lyme's Summer School. Five sites in southeastern Connecticut were excavated.

In Old Lyme, a multi-component site was excavated just west of the previously excavated Bliss Site, adjacent to the Black River. The Funnell Site included a quartz cobble/narrow point component, (possibly Woodland) a Broadspear/River Plain component (characterized by quartzite assemblages, yellow-orange jasper chips and broadspear point) and a Lake Forest/Laurentian component with a workshop area and eared triangular quartz points.

The Klinck Site, to the south and east of the Funnel Site, showed a similar cultural strati-graphy. Of particular interest was a hearth within the Broadspear component, which included felsite, ledite, green slate and quartzite. Testing with a post hole digger showed the concen-tration of cultural materials to be closest to the present water's edge. In 1982 we found Boats blade fragments, ledite and a fire pit between the water's edge and our 1984 excavation.

At the Arbucci Site, which lies north of previous excavations, conducted in the Old Lyme Estates area, a single component was found containing finely flaked quartz triangles. Twenty meters of excavation revealed two large features, copious charcoal and three points. The points are very similar to a quartz projectile point found in Feature A of the Bliss Site and interpreted to be intrusive and to represent a more recent use of the area. We estimate that this site will probably date to around 4300 - 4200 B.P. and will help us to understand better Late Archaic culture change.

Outside of the Old Lyme Estates area two Middle Archaic sites were excavated to test the hypothesis that the Late Archaic "Laurentian" was somehow related to earlier preexisting local cultures. At Leffingwell Pond we excavated nearly 60 meters and found several features, quartzite flakes, and Neville and Brewerton/Vosburg points. Twelve other Neville points in a local collection were recovered from the area. This Middle Archaic component was situated on a well drained till deposit on the lip of a glacial kettle. North of this lip, overlying silt deposits deepened, and no Middle Archaic material was found; however, Late Archaic points and amorphous Woodland features were present. No reliable feature and charcoal sample association was available.

In East Haddam we tested Locus 2 and 3 at the Dill Farm Site, and found three Neville points, a purple chert scraper and a Late Archaic eared quartz point. One Neville point was associated with a feature from below the plowzone, from which charcoal was collected and will be radiocar-bon dated. Over the years many bifurcated, Neville and Vosburg/Brewerton points have been found by the Dill family and others at the site. We hope to concentrate on Locus 2 next summer.

BETYS KERNS and CECE KIRKORIAN of Historical Perspectives have received a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund of the Department of Interior administered by the Connecticut His-torical Commission to research local government legislative options for the protection of archaeological resources. This investigation will culminate in a handbook for Connecticut local communities to use as they institute protective legislation such as zoning regulations, easement options, or the creation of protected archaeological districts. We would like to receive input from any interested person or organization. Historical Perspectives, P.O. Box 331, Riverside, CT, 06878.



MAINE

This summer a crew of 16 spent 8 weeks at the Todd Site, a stratified shell midden in Medomak on the central Maine coast under the direction of DAVID SANGER, (University of Maine). Although the lowest levels are Susquehanna related, the bulk of the shell midden (over 1m.) dates from the Ceramic period. Especially well represented is the earlier part of the sequence. Faunal preservation is excellent from top to bottom. Deer predominates according to ARTHUR SPEISS. Shell species change from Mya domination at the top to Mercenaria at the bottom. No breeding population of Mercenaria survives in the area. Particular attention was paid to understanding depositional and post depositional events in shell middens.

Associated with the Todd site project is an attempt to reconstruct the paleomarine environments with the assistance of sediment cores directly by geologist, DANIEL BELKNAP. A pollen diagram from a nearby pond should give us for the first time a view of the coastal vegetational history. PhD candidate DOUG KELLOG will integrate the results of the terrestrial and marine paleoenvironmental studies. These will be tied to the regional archaeological record seen at the Todd site and many other local shell midden sites.

On the Penobscot River, excavations for CRM purposes took place at the well known Eddington Bend site and other localities from Bangor to Old Town. Sediments over 1m are commonly associated with rapids on the river and contain artifacts of mid-Holocene age. Depending upon permits, etc., nearly a decade of work in the lower Penobscot seems possible.

The 1984 season was split between two major survey/research projects and dozens of short fieldchecks under the direction of ARTHUR SPEISS (Maine Historic Preservation Commission).

STUART ELDRIDGE (Northfield-Mount Hermon) and ARTHUR SPEISS spent a month testing a complex shell and gravel midden on Allen's Island St. George estuary. It was habitual practice of the site's residents to use local beach gravel to prepare living floors on the rocky and damp substrait of the site, making it possible to differentiate superimposed living floors. The main occupation at the site consists of multiple elliptical (?) floors of the Middle Woodland (denate-stamped, denate rocker-stamped, etc. ceramics). A later Indian occupation occurred as late as 1650 to 1700 A.D. (two 6/64" pipes) accompanied by flaked stone and Iroquoian (Lake Woodland) potsherds. Seasonality and subsistence for both occupations seem very similar: summer, with a concentration on codfish and birds.

A second focus has been survey work in the Kennebec Valley approximately 100 miles inland to the ocean, including Merrymeeting Bay. We have located about a dozen sites on river terraces or perched delta landforms, ranging in age from probable lake Paleoindian to Ceramic (Woodland). One site complex is a 70 by 1000 yard Susquehanna Tradition series of occupations. Much of it is unplowed, and preliminary survey data suggest linear arrays of regularly-spaced hearths. Postmolds are preserved. Perhaps the most exciting find is a river terrace with Brewerton and Vergennes-like stone tools mixed with Small Stemmed points similar to Turner Farm Occupation I. One pit feature has yielded datable charcoal and calcined bone, including sturgeon and large codfish. The site is on Merrymeeting Bay and would have been 10 miles from the nearest salt water for codfishing at 5,000-6,000 B.P. We are interpreting a seasonal marine fishing activity important enough to result in preservation and/or long-distance transport of codfish.

JAMES B. PETERSEN and NATHAN D. HAMILTON conducted five CRM surveys and a month long spell of research, the latter having been funded by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. During the month of research we conducted a limited test excavation (8m²) at the Brigham site (ME 90-2C), documented several large artifact collections and field checked several previously known sites, all in the greater Moosehead Lake Region of north central Maine (see Spring, 1984 Maine Archaeological Society Bulletin for background research). Work at the Brigham site on the Piscatagis River in Milo proved to be particularly promising in that we found the site to contain a well stratified cultural sequence, some 2m deep with 12 natural macrostrata evident. Of these, nine or 10 contain in-situ cultural remains and the deepest has been dated (on the basis of a previous test pit) to about 10,300 B.P. (See Current Research, p.643, in the July, 1984, issue of American Antiquity). Ground stone tools and quartz scrapers, much akin to those from the Weirs Beach site, as well as cultural features and associated faunal remains are present in the two basal components. Subsequent occupations include a clear "Laurentain" component with several Otter Creek-like points, a Middle to Late Woodland component with varied remains and other components which currently lack diagnostic artifacts. As with faunal remains and features, charcoal is well represented throughout the cultural deposits. Dr. Robert Stuckenrath of the Smithsonian Institution has kindly agreed to provide 10-20 radiocarbon dates, which should be available in winter, 1985.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARBARA LUEDTKE'S (UMASS-BOSTON) field school on Long Island in Boston Harbor located and tested 2 shell midden sites and 4 sites without shell midden. Several of the latter were found in unexpected locations, given our previous understandings of settlement patterns on the Boston Harbor Islands. This suggests that many of the other islands should be re-examined, with an emphasis on locating non-midden sites. Artifacts from the Long Island survey range in age from Early Archaic to Late Woodland, and the bulk of the assemblages are Middle and Late Woodland in age. This is an agreement with previous findings from the islands.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute continued excavations at Hancock Shaker Village for 4 weeks during the summer of 1984 under the direction of PAULA ZITZLER and OWEN KEATLEY. The group excavated the site of a slaughterhouse located just east of the famous "Round Barn" in the village's "Church Family" area. Large quantities of animal bones were recovered, along with scattered architectural debris from the slaughterhouse.

Old Sturbridge Village has recently embarked upon a program of research into the everyday economic lives of rural, 19th-century, central New Englanders. A significant component of this research is the long-term investigation of the domestic, work, and community life of Emerson Bixby, an early 19th-century farmer and black-smith who lived in a busy agricultural/crafts neighborhood in the far north corner of Barre, Mass. The small, vernacular cape which he purchased in 1826, together with many of the house's furnishings, the undisturbed house on shop lots, and Emerson Bixby's account book (1824-55) are among the rich resources available for study. During the summer of 1984, DAVID SIMMONS and JOHN WORRELL directed the sixth O.S.V. Field School in Historical Archaeology, initiating the first of three seasons of excavations at the Bixby site. The focus of the archaeological work this season was Bixby's domestic sphere.

Following a program of intensive surface surveying and selective test probing of the Bixby house lot, in which some 15 structural/functional areas were delineated, major excavations were undertaken in the yard spaces adjacent to three facades of the house. There, we found evidence for an impermanent feature related to or pre-dating the construction of the house, an initial burn-off of vegetation preparatory to house building, the construction (in phases) itself,

landscaping, and the occupational uses of the yard spaces. A most intriguing feature, discovered in the front yard under more than four feet of trench fill, was an early dressed stone-covered drain, built to alleviate severe cellar flooding. Almost 5 meters of the drain were excavated, its extent yet unknown. A large deposit of early 19th century British ceramics, found under an early addition to the house, together with the material culture recovered from the yard spaces, the features, and stratigraphy will help us to reconstruct the use history of the site. Archaeological research is complemented by concurrent documentary, material culture, architectural history, and doral history studies undertaken by O.S.V. Research Historian, MYRON STACHIW and other members of the Research Department. Together, this research will provide a better understanding of the hitherto poorly documented everyday lives of early 19th-century, rural New England black-smiths and their world. Work on this project will continue throughout the year with another archaeological field school in the Summer of 1985.

The 18th century pottery production site of a previously undocumented rural craftsman named John Hinds has been discovered in Holland, Mass. JOHN WORRELL and Old Sturbridge Village are coordinating the investigation of the site and its proprietor. The team of local residents, museum staff and trained archaeology volunteers projects a long-term investigation of the documents and of the site in order to acquire data to add to that previously gained from other rural ceramic production sites by the Village. Although local and ceramics histories do not mention Hinds, considerable documentary research by DOUG LYON and MIKE FORAND is piecing together a career of nearly forty years in the second half of the 18th century for him. Unlike other farmer-potters that O.S.V. has researched, Hinds is identified as a potter in property records. The area of his shop reconverted to forest very early in the 19th century, allowing excellent preservation of the entire production area. Initial excavations have revealed the location of the kiln and placement of loading area and firebox as well as suggesting probable locations for other functional features.

A brief archaeological investigation at the Oliver Wight House in Sturbridge, Mass., was conducted by a team led by MYRON STACHIW and JOHN WORRELL. Owned by Old Sturbridge Village and listed on the National Register, the structure is being restored and an ell is being added in the vicinity of one that was dismantled early in this century. Although much of the site had

been disturbed, the location of the kitchen ell and other functional structures were ascertained and domestic artifacts were retrieved which will assist in understanding more about the Wight family who contributed significantly to the early settlement and industrial development of Sturbridge.

MICHAEL ROBERTS has recently completed the management of development of six historic and/or archaeological sites through Micronesia. His task as consultant to Trust Territories of the Pacific Island was for management for the 1983 Emergency Jobs Act Funds in Micronesia. This includes selecting projects, preparing sub-grant proposals, managing the program to completion, preparing completion reports and financial documentation. The program has reawakened a sense of the importance of the cultural resources and traditional heritage not importance of cultural resources and traditional heritage not only to the peoples of the Micronesian Islands but to their governments who perceive historic preservation as a positive component for the economic development of the emerging nations of the Pacific.

He is also presently completing a contract for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management to provide management recommendations and interpretative guidelines for the forests and parks of Massachusetts. Among a number of smaller reports generated for the project, the principle report is in three volumes. A description of the contents of these volumes follows:

Volume I, "Threats to Archaeological Historic Resources of the State Forest and Park System" describes the sources of archaeological and historical data in New England, discusses the fragile nature of these sources, identifies manmade and natural threats to these resources, and provides examples of typical threats, along with some currently occurring impacts within the Forest and Park System.

Volume II, "Management Recommendations for Archaeological and Historic Resources of the State Forest and Park System" recommends management strategies on a System-wide basis. That volume describes our recommendations for integrating the Department's individual needs into the ongoing cultural resource management planning of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The volume also analyzes the baseline inventory of resources that was made as part of this initiative and gives detailed recommendations regarding the appropriate strategies for conserving the archaeological and historic resource base of the System, while continuing to meet the goals of park and forest managers.

Volume III, "Guidelines for Interpreting the Archaeological and Historic Resources of the State Forest and Park System," is designed to function as a resource document for the interpretive staff of the parks and forests. Drawing on the analysis of the baseline inventory and the accompanying interviews, that volume develops statewide, regional, and local interpretive themes and other material that the interpreter will find useful. Interpretation is an integral part of the management and wise use of archaeological and historic resources. As has been pointed out by the U.S. National Park Service, "Through interpretation understanding, through understanding protection."

Early Sites continued its investigation of a Woodland midden and the Colonial salt works at Morrill's Point in Salisbury, Massachusetts. Further work was conducted on a stone chamber site in Northeastern Connecticut in the Thames River drainage. A feature not encountered before in excavations at stone chambers was a laidup stone platform of cobbles just outside the entrance to the corbelled beehive structure. This feature built up on a level 35 centimeters below the current surface was heavily fireburned with a fair amount of charcoal present. A radiocarbon dating of charcoal recovered in this feature produced a date of 705 ± 145 BP (GX-10300). No artifacts dating the colonial or post-colonial period were found within the chamber excavation or the 52 square meters excavated in front of the entrance. A preliminary report is currently being prepared and will be published in the Early Sites BULLETIN. Further work is planned at the site in 1985.

The seventh O.S.V. Field School in Historical Archaeology will be conducted from June 24 - August 9 at Old Sturbridge Village and at the home and work site of an early 19th-century, Barre, Massachusetts blacksmith and farmer named Emerson Bixby. Following a week of intensive orientation to the historical and material culture of early 19th century New England, students will spend six weeks learning the methods and techniques of field archaeology, working at the Bixby site. This is the second season of a three-year project to develop new historical information for exhibits and interpretation at Old Sturbridge Village. Last season's excavations of the Bixby house yard provided much information on the family's domestic life. During the 1985 seasons, work will continue at several features in the house lot, and we will begin intensive excavation of the Bixby's blacksmith shop. The Field School will involve students in excavation, survey, measured drawing, conservation, and other field, lab, and recording activities. Lectures, workshops, and informal seminars will complement the work in field and lab. The Field School is designed as the equivalent of a two-semester course at either the graduate or undergraduate level, with optional credit (8 semester hours) available through Clark University in Worcester, Mass., for \$100. A program fee of \$475 covers all materials and fees and includes complimentary admission to Old Sturbridge Village during the program. Local room and board for the duration of the Field School is also available for an additional fee. Participation is limited to 20 students. Applications will be processed as received. For further information and application forms, please contact: David Simmons, Archaeology Field School, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass. 01566, (617) 347-3362.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Throughout the summer of 1984 DAVID STARBUCK (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and MARY DUPRE (New Hampshire Historical Society) directed a group of avocationalists at the site of Sewall's Falls on the Merrimack River in Concord, N.H. This was the third field season at the site, under the auspices of the N.H. State Cooperative Regional Archaeology Plan, and this season saw the completion of survey work on the east bank of the river, as well as the beginning of field work on the west bank. The 1984 work included the excavation of an additional 35 shovel test pits and 35 1/2 X 1x1-meter test pits, revealing 10 stone-lined hearths, 1 large "roasting platform," nearly a complete early Middle Woodland pottery vessel, several large, incised Late Woodland or Contact Period rim sherds, several Late Archaic projectile points (of various types), and moderate numbers of body sherds and debitage. Survey and excavations at Sewall's Falls since 1981 have now recorded a total of 25 hearths and 2 "roasting platforms" (ca. 5-6 feet in diameter) spanning the Late Archaic through Late Woodland Periods. Survey work will continue on the west bank in either 1985 or 1986.

DAVID STARBUCK (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and MARY DUPRE (New Hampshire Historical Society) continued excavation in the summer of 1984 at Joseph Hazeltine's pottery (ca. 1825-1880) in Concord. The excavation of a second kiln and kiln house was completed, together with 14 test pits on either side of a line of foundation stones which strongly appear to be the remains of Hazeltine's pot shop. Excavation in the possible pot shop resulted in the recovery of much window glass, several gunflints, kaolin pipe fragments, coins (dated 1853 and 1865), buttons, nails, and only a few redware waster sherds. Nearly all of these were found within a thick lens of gray clay which may have been the floor of the pot shop. Excavations at the site have now revealed nearly all of two kiln houses (1 kiln was round and the other square), possibly the pot shop, and many concentrations of redware wasters and kiln furniture.

VICTORIA KENYON (New Hampshire Historical Society) directed excavation at the Rodonis Field site on the Merrimack River in Litchfield, N.H. Here a clean-up mission was completed where an untrained individual had destroyed a Woodland component. Fortunately, sampling revealed that much of the site remained intact. Deep testing also revealed an intact Middle Woodland occupation stratum under ca. 90 cm of flood soils. Salvage excavation was completed at the Lodge Site in Lochmere, N.H., on the Winnepesaukee River. The site is multi-component reflecting continued use of the riverine setting in the Lakes Region of the state.

Sale of garden loam and discovery of projectile points in it, prompted investigation of a location on the west bank of the Merrimack River below Amoskeag Falls by VICTORIA KENYON. A garden business, P.K. Landscaping, had begun borrowing of a site known as the Eddy site. The landowner has generously agreed to halt excavations until archaeological study is completed during the spring of 1985. The site consists of 170 cm of cultural deposits which mirror those excavated across the river at the Smyth and Neville sites. Research strategy is currently being developed.

Excavation of the Russell's Inn site (NH 29-1) by HOWARD SARGENT (Franklin Pierce College) continued to focus on the prehistoric data. An alignment of three hearths was found at the end of the 1984 season. The complex will be examined in 1985, but it is presently regarded as a single, multi-family house. Lake Woodland pottery was found in one hearth and numerous incised sherds as well as Levanna and Madison-like triangular bifaces have been recovered from the plowzone that truncates each of the features. The structure was placed approximately at a 90° angle with the prevailing summer storm systems.

Additional Paleo-Indian data were recovered in the form of two graters and scrapers. Distribution of the artifacts suggests that the Paleo-Indian campsite was located above an interim shoreline of Glacial Lake Newbury as it slowly drained to the modern configuration of Lake Sunapee.

A training excavation has been initiated on an 18th-19th century house and mill complex (NH42-3) in Rindge as part of a program in historic site archaeology at Franklin Pierce College. It must be noted that a small amount of prehistoric lithic debitage has been encountered in the plowzone adjacent to the cellarhole. The temporal provenience of the lithics has not been determined. Historic period artifacts range from Jackfield wares through various 19th century pottery types to 20th century whiskey and beer bottles and remnants of an early vintage automobile (or truck?)

DAVID YESNER of the University of Southern Maine, in conjunction with the Cornell University summer archaeological program under ROBERT FARRELL, undertook a survey of potential prehistoric and historic sites in the Isles of Shoals, ca. 17th century historic materials (primarily on the basis of ceramic styles) were recorded on Star Island (New Hampshire) Smuttynose Island (Maine), and Appledore Island (Maine), the last being the base for the Isles of Shoals Marine Laboratory (Cornell-UNH). Test excavations at the Appledore site, which may represent the original location of Gospat Village before it moved across the channel to Star Island, demonstrated that a relatively deep midden containing abundant Mya clam shells as well as birdbone, was associated with the numerous early stone foundations. Although the site is apparently poorly stratified, the discovery of grit-tempered cord-wrapped stick decorated ceramics suggests an Indian presence on the islands that was previously unrecorded. Future excavations will focus on the relationship between these materials and the midden deposit.

A five week archaeological survey was conducted during the summer of 1984 in Charlestown, NH at the proposed location of the original Fort No. 4 (c. 1743-1763). The project was offered through Keene State College and the State Cooperative Regional Archaeology Plan, directed by FAITH HARRINGTON, (NH SCRAP) and supervised by PAULA ZITZLER (RPI). An undisturbed deposit containing significant artifacts dating to the early 18th c. was excavated and may be related to activities at the fort. However, no structural evidence for the palisaded fort was encountered during the five-week season, therefore further research is planned to determine the exact location and configuration of the fort and the nature of activities which took place here.

FAITH HARRINGTON (New Hampshire Historical Society) is completing a doctoral dissertation for University of California at Berkley, Anthro. Dept. on coastal settlement in northern New England c. 1600-1630, with focus on 1.) European Native American interaction in sphere of marine resources and 2.) development of coastal cod fisheries in New England and the part they played in European settlement.

BILLEE HOORNBECK of the White Mountain and Green Mountain National Forests reports that: JUSTINE GENGRAS has accepted a contract to prepare the National Register nomination for George House, in the last example of an early 19th century cape in Passaconaway Valley;

LOUIS CAUGHILL and ARCHIE DAVIES have inventoried and mapped all of the farmsteads in Thornton Gore which is a 19th century rural community settled by Freewill Baptists from southern NH. It was the example used by the NE Farmstead tabloid to expose the evils of exploitations of the mountains by timber barons;

RICHARD WALDBAUER has completed research on White Mountain farmstead and is now writing his dissertation;

DAVID LACY has completed his first year of work on the Green Mountains of Vermont where he is addressing prehistoric travelways and high altitude sites; and investigation is ongoing for archaeological potential of logging camps and saw mills in the National Forest with particular focus on the role of the camp blacksmith.

A series of lecture/workshops in archaeological techniques and analyses will be offered this year by the staff of the State Cooperative Regional Archaeology Plan in Concord, NH. The workshops are free and open to the general public and professional communities. Telephone registration is recommended; please call the Lab at 603-224-5405 for details. The Fall workshop on "Analysis of Prehistoric Pottery", was presented by VICTORIA KENYON in October. The Winter workshop on "Archaeological Cartography and Illustration" will be presented by FAITH HARRINGTON beginning on Feb. 9, 1985 with two 'hands-on' workshops scheduled for Thursday nights in Feb. The Spring workshop on "Turning, Leading, and Burning: Redware Pottery Making" will be presented by MARY DUPRE beginning on May 5, 1985 with 2 workshops following on Thursday nights. Write the Lab at SCRAP, Ward Ave., Concord, NH 03301, or call and a flyer will be sent to you describing the series and schedule.

RHODE ISLAND

The PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY SURVEY TEAM, UCONN, has completed a survey of the Oneco and Coventry quads in Western R.I. with the aid of a survey and planning grant awarded by the RIHPC. The survey consisted of a 2% sample of a 100 km² area. Survey methods consisted of excavating 50cm test units at 2-5 meter intervals along randomly selected 2 km transects. A total of 25 prehistoric sites were located ranging in age from Middle Archaic to Woodland. A radiocarbon date of 5000 B.P. was associated with a Middle Archaic 'Stark' complex in Coventry, Rhode Island. The results indicate a much higher than expected site density in interior Rhode Island. Previous models that suggested interior sites are less complex and locationally lower in density, appear to be in error. P.A.S.T.'s survey indicates a wide range of site types in interior Rhode Island at a density in excess of 40 sites/km².

Carbon-14 dates from a prehistoric site in North Kingstown, analyzed by RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE, have demonstrated the existence of large scale storage of food 2000 years ago. Eight large pits, individually able to store from 1 to 2 cubic yards of food, were constructed and used for a brief period. This site clearly indicates the capacity to store food surplus. What is particularly interesting is that there is no evidence that agricultural products were being stored. It implies that hunting, gathering and maritime resources were sufficient in Rhode Island to support sedentary populations.

Work is continuing on an archaeological site by RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE which is thought to be a Contact Period Narragansett Indian village. Posts dating to c. 1620, as well as a range of traditional and colonial artifacts suggest that several houses and other facilities (hearths, trash pits, etc.) are present. This site will undoubtedly provide us with information on the organization of villages, the nature of interaction between Narragansett and Colonial groups as well as data on diet and technology. What is particularly significant is that this site was discovered on the basis of very few material objects (less than 20) on a highway survey project. It appears that villages from this period may actually be characterized by a few non-perishable items. Furthermore, most of the items recovered were stone artifacts, not Colonial goods. Archaeologists in this region may well be overestimating the effects of a European technology on Native Americans during this period of early contact. These estimates have been largely drawn from cemetery studies. This is our first opportunity to look at this process of culture exchange from the point-of-view of a village.

This spring, the PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM at RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE will be undertaking a survey of Block Island for the Historical Preservation Commission. It is very likely that this island contains a wealth of archaeological resources. Our first step will be to examine private collections as well as to complete a small testing survey. This work will be used to help design a management plan for the archaeology of this important location. We hope to continue work on Block Island over several years.

In July of 1984, ALAN LEVEILLE (Public Archaeology Lab, Inc.) completed a survey of the Sakonnet River, a project funded by a survey and planning grant from the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission. During the survey 60 site locations were investigated and zones of particular archaeological intensity were defined. As part of the survey six C14 dates were processed and produced dates ranging from 4000 to 500 B.P. Intensity of utilization of the area appears to have been dependant on zones of diverse environmental variation. Results of the survey tend to reinforce the idea that there was a sporadic utilization of the area from 5000 to 3000 B.P. There was relatively little utilization between 3000 to 2000 B.P. After 1500 B.P. the coastal zone was intensively used. The sites are predominately Woodland with artifacts made from local materials, predominately beach cobbles.

Field work was completed recently by the PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY LAB., INC. on the Bourchard site in Usquepaug as part of a Phase III data recovery program. Fieldwork included the investigation of a fire-related feature containing calcined bone. Vosburg projectile points were found elsewhere on the site along with Small Stemmed points. Analysis of the findings is ongoing and will be completed by early next year (1985).

In East Providence an intensive survey and site examination of two prehistoric site areas near the Barrington River was also completed by the PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY LAB, INC. in September 1984. The A. Woods site contained material from the Late Archaic to Woodland Periods. The artifacts included one sherd of Vinette ceramics, a Greene point variant along with Small Stemmed and Squibnocket projectile points. The Pear Tree site consisted of primarily a low density of chipping debris. These sites appear to represent small field camps, or portions thereof, with short term occupations.

The Phase III investigations of RI 711 in Jamestown were completed earlier this year. Field work and subsequent analysis of cultural material and C14 dates revealed that there were actually two site areas. The first site had a date of 3300 B.P. and therefore contemporaneous with the nearby West Ferry site. The second area had a C14 date of 2300 B.P. Lithic materials included New York cherts, argillite and quartz. There were also a number of bifaces made from Attleboro Red felsite. The sites appear to have been hunting and processing camps located along Narragansett Bay.

JORDAN KERBER has been teaching a field methods course in archeology at Brown University during the first semester. The project for the course is a continuation of prehistoric archaeological research into coastal adaptation on Potowomut Neck in Warwick.

One interesting find made by the class is a dog burial discovered in a prehistoric shell midden that dates to between 1400 and 1700 B.P. The burial pit is intrusive into midden, and Kerber believes that the burial may be historic. Since the excavation unit in the midden contained only half of the burial, the remainder of the burial will be excavated at a later date due to time constraints. The lower jaw is currently being analyzed and at present the precise age and species of the dog are unknown. Once the entire burial has been excavated and analysis completed, some of the bone will be sent out for a radiocarbon date.

Analysis of the recovered data suggests an association between periods of prehistoric human occupation and the presence of a well established estuary along the southern portion of Potowomut Neck. Eleven of the 14 total radiocarbon samples taken from 10 excavation units across the project area date to between the end of the Late Archaic to the end of the Late Woodland periods, approximately 2,700 to 400 B.P.; three radiocarbon samples, possibly contaminated, yielded "Modern" dates. Similarly, the cultural periods represented by the diagnostic styles of all 69 recovered tools suggest occupation between the same range of periods, with the majority of typed artifacts representing a Late Woodland cultural affiliation. Other materials excavated on the peninsula but not diagnostic to specific time periods included stone knives, scrapers, flakes and fire-cracked rock.

Two radiocarbon samples of peat in two cores taken from a salt marsh along the Potowomut River date to between the Early and Late Woodland periods, approximately 2,000 and 900 B.P. Assuming an average rate of lateral accretion of 17mm/year, it is possible that the salt marsh and mature estuarine ecosystem were present 1,000 years earlier in the Late Archaic and have been present for the past 3,000 years.

The food remains covered on Potowomut Neck were examined to determine the extent to which the estuary created an opportunity for an increase in prehistoric human land use. Relatively large quantities of estuarine resources, ranging from shellfish, turtles, mammals and possibly waterfowl, were retrieved from several excavation units across the peninsula. Abundant fish remains, however, were notably absent; the only identifiable fragment was a vertebral process of an adult white perch (*Morone americana*).

Additional analysis of faunal material involved reconstructing the seasonality of the settlement. A study of 30 specimens of quahog shells recovered from three middens indicated that the seasons of death for all of the specimens were between mid-summer and late fall (about June to November). Only eight identifiable bone fragments of deer could be used to suggest seasonality; the seasons of kill for two individuals were between summer and fall. Admittedly, the results of the seasonality analysis are limited due to the small sample size, but nevertheless one may infer that prehistoric settlement within the southern half of the Potowomut Neck occurred at least during the summer and fall seasons.

Finally, differential use of the peninsula was supported by the recovered data. Spatially distinct areas yielding remains of lithic manufacture and/or maintenance activities, varying degrees of food preparation and discard and possibly pottery production were distributed across the project area. Between these locations were relatively large areas in which significantly fewer materials were encountered, implying sparse land use or at least the occurrence of

activities that resulted in less remains. In particular, the following statements can be made based on the survey data: 1) areas containing a high density of lithics (chipping debris and stone tools) were situated generally closer to the Potowomut River than areas containing lesser densities of lithics; 2) only areas containing a low density of lithics were situated on poorly drained soil and 3) no significant association between lithic density and proximity to fresh-water sources were detected.

Kerber is also working with geologists from the University of Rhode Island and the University of Florida who are studying the effects of pollution in Narragansett Bay. Prehistoric specimens of quahog shells recovered from Potowomut were being analyzed by these geologists in order to obtain a "baseline" sample which predates the presence of pollution and can be compared to the properties of shellfish currently collected from the Bay.

The RHODE ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL (RIAC) held its introductory meeting on April 7, 1984, and 45 new members joined the Council at that time. Presentations treated a variety of subjects as follows: MARY ELLEN CONAWAY (The Park Museum) on artifact collections; PIERRE MORENON (Rhode Island College) on student involvement in archaeology; ALAN LEVEILLEE (Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.) on contract archaeology; TERRY GENTIS (Haffenreffer Museum) on the Burr's Hill site; SARA TURNBAUGH (Museum of Primitive Culture) on collections; MORRIS MITCHELL (Narragansett Archaeological Society) on avocational archeologists; GIL WOODSIDE (St. Raphael Academy) on archaeology in secondary education; PAUL ROBINSON (Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission) on current research in Rhode Island; JOHN BROWN (Narragansett Indian Tribe) on the educational benefits of archaeology; JOAN GALLAGHER FLEMING (Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.) on the Providence Waterfront; ALEXANDRA ALLARDT and BETTY SEIFERT on artifact conservation; BOB CEMBROLA, JIM JENNY, BILL CAMPBELL and BOB VINCENT, on various nautical sites. The next meeting of RIAC is May 18, 1985, at the Haffenreffer Museum and Roger Williams College, Bristol, R.I.

The RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION reports that during the past year, the following archaeological sites were listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

The Meadows Archaeological District, RI 253, Warwick. A series of sites along the Potowomut River dating from around 2000 B.P. to the 17th century. Shell middens, lithic workshops, and food processing stations were included.

The Lambert Farm Site, RI 269, Warwick. An inland shell and midden associated activity areas. Most materials date to after 3000 B.P. and include lithics, ceramics, shellfish and bone.

The Trafalgar Site, RI 639, East Greenwich. A coastal shell midden with associated lithic concentrations. Artifacts include a Squibnocket triangle, bifacial scrapers, bone, and bone tools.

The Pine Hill Site, RI 653, Portsmouth. A coastal shell midden with Late Woodland projectile points, ceramics, bone and lithics.

The Jireh Bull Blockhouse Site, RI 926, South Kingstown. A garrison house and trading post burned by Narragansett Indians during King Phillips War on December 16, 1675.

NOTES

ELECTION OF 1985 STEERING COMMITTEE

Four new Steering Committee members will be elected at the Spring Meeting. Barbara Luedtke and David Yesner will serve one additional term, until 1986.

Nominations for the new positions are as follows:

DEBRA COX	Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission
RICARDO ELIA	Office of Public Archaeology, Boston University
VIRGINIA FITCH	Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission
FAITH HARRINGTON	New Hampshire Historical Society
TOM MAHLSTEDT	Massachusetts Historic Commission
MITCH MULHOLLAND	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Additional nominations may be sent to Kevin McBride and write-in candidates will be accepted during the election on March 23.

REVISION OF BY-LAWS

The motion to revise Article IV Section 1 will be voted at the Annual Meeting.

The provision now reads:

"The Annual Meeting shall be held in February of each year."

The changed provision will read:

"The Annual Meeting shall be held in March of each year."

The rationale for this change is to avoid scheduling changes due to bad weather and hazardous driving conditions.

CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHEOLOGY

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION and MEMBERSHIP DUES 1985

Membership dues for 1985 are \$7.50. Membership covers the period from March 1, 1985, through the end of February, 1986, and includes two issues of the Newsletter.

Pre-registration for the Conference is \$12.50. This covers registration and one year's membership.

Conference registration at the door is \$6.00 for non-members and \$13.00 for members.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

1985 Membership @ \$7.50 \$ _____

1985 Conference Pre-registration @ \$5.00 \$ _____
(if mailed before March 1, 1985)

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHEOLOGY

Mail to:

Kevin McBride
Treasurer/CNEA
Department of Anthropology
University of Connecticut
Storrs, Connecticut 06260