

CNEA

CONFERENCE on NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

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Conference on New England Archaeology

NEWSLETTER

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Peter Frederic Thorbahn 1944-1987

submitted by
Mitchell Mulholland

The Conference on New England Archaeology is saddened by the loss of our friend and colleague Peter Thorbahn. Pete was one of the founding members of CNEA, served on the first steering committee and contributed regularly to the Newsletter. Pete was a creative and active proponent of cultural ecology and environmental archaeology in the region. He received a BA in Anthropology from Brown University in 1966, an MA in Anthropology in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts in 1979. Pete served as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Brown University from 1977 to 1982, as Executive Director of the Public Archaeology Laboratory from 1982 to 1986, and recently helped form and served as President of the Great House Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of archaeological sites in New England.

Over the past year Pete served on the Barnstable Historical and Conservation Commissions and was in the process of developing a site preservation plan for the town of Barnstable. He will be remembered especially for his professional and academic approach to archaeology within the confines of Cultural Resource Management and his contributions to the cause of archaeological and historical site preservation.

In memory of Pete, donations may be made to the Peter Frederic Thorbahn Archaeological Preservation Fund, c/o the Barnstable Historical Commission, Town Hall, Main Street, Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601.

The Board of Directors and the staff of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. remember with gratitude Peter Thorbahn's contribution to the formation of the lab and its research direction. Our personal and professional association with Pete will be remembered with appreciation.

--Deborah Cox
Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

REGIONAL RESEARCH TOPICS AND THE ROLE OF THE CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

submitted by
Mitchell Mulholland
University of Massachusetts

Every archaeological project has a purpose beyond simply satisfying contractual aims or describing artifact finds. Effective archaeology is guided by a theoretical framework and is conducted within the context of regional and national research problems. As these problems are addressed the results are disseminated to the research community for evaluation and discussion.

The purpose of the Conference on New England Archaeology is to strengthen communication and facilitate a continuous interchange of information among archaeologists. This is accomplished through the distribution of a newsletter which contains information relevant to current research, and through an annual conference which focuses on current theoretical and research advances in regional archaeology. The annual meeting has been more successful than the Newsletter and workshops in accomplishing this.

Recently many of the contributions to the CNEA Newsletter have been brief descriptive summaries of archaeological projects but have lacked discussions of the research framework or theoretical issues being addressed. While brevity is not an issue, the absence of a research focus is at odds with the original goals of the Conference.

This lack of a research orientation is not peculiar to the CNEA Newsletter and may be observed in the Current Research sections of many archaeological journals and newsletters. Over the past few years, criticism has been levied at the national level in regard to much of the archaeology conducted under the aegis of Cultural Resource Management (CRM). These criticisms argue that most research issues evaluated today are project-specific, of local-scale, and make a minimal contribution to archaeology. The criticism is also applicable to other non-grant related archaeology.

A partial solution to the national problem has been proposed and is known as "NARTs" (National Archaeological Research Topics). The concept was originally conceived of by Thomas King 1985a:224-228, 1985b) and is designed to enhance the coordination of research efforts of the varied research projects which take place throughout the country. Compiled by the professional research community, NARTs are a series of broad research topics, of national interest, which can be addressed by projects conducted within the Federal archaeological program (Friedman 1985:221). While the formalization of NARTs is aimed at CRM

at the national level, the concept is also applicable to archaeological research at the state and regional level regardless of the sponsor. Evaluation of national and regional research topics is applicable to CRM investigations, field schools and other academic archaeological projects.

While most of the research reported in the CNEA Newsletter has been conducted in compliance with Federal or State historic preservation laws, it is not suggested that CNEA adopt Federal measures designed to correct the shortcomings of CRM projects. Rather CNEA should modify and develop the concept to further its original goal, namely, to enhance the interchange of theoretical research issues in New England.

In order to accomplish this the Steering Committee is introducing a slight change of format for workshop topics and for contributions to the Newsletter. Traditionally, workshops have been conducted following paper presentations at the annual meeting of CNEA. The workshops have either focused on issues related to the theme of the conference, or on important broad regional research topics. To better disseminate the results of the discussions, participants in the workshops are now asked to determine and discuss five important research questions or issues needed to be addressed within an assigned topic, and then to summarize them for presentation in the Newsletter. The purpose of formalizing and publishing the workshop topics is to stimulate discourse among archaeologists researching the same problems and to provide a forum for their discussion in future contributions to the CNEA Newsletter.

In the upcoming Newsletters, contributors are encouraged to address the presented topics and other research issues in their presentations of current research. Of particular interest is the manner in which archaeological data are used to explicitly address research questions. What variables were used to test what questions? Contributors need not be restricted to only those issues published in the Newsletter, and should present any significant research problems, questions, topics and issues appropriate to the research being reported. New topics can then be introduced to workshop sessions in future conferences. Editors of the Newsletter will organize current research by research topic, rather than by geographic area in order to improve the communication of research results.

Any member who is interested in receiving a copy of the NARTs article may write to Mitchell Mulholland using the address inside the front cover.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE WORKSHOPS ON SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND POPULATION STUDIES, AND CLASSIFICATION AND PATTERN RECOGNITION

On March 8, 1987 the annual CNEA Conference was held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The theme for the conference was "Archaeological Interpretation of the Structural Form". Papers presented at the Conference will be published in Man in the Northeast. The presentations were followed by three workshops which addressed the important topics of Social Organization and Population Studies; Classification and Pattern Recognition; and Relations of Inequality in Prehistory and History. The research questions that were compiled by participants in two of the sessions are presented here with a commentary provided by the discussants of each workshop.

Workshop on Social Organization and Population Studies

submitted by
Kevin McBride
University of Connecticut

Discussants: KEVIN MCBRIDE and PAUL ROBINSON

In the discussion of social organization and population studies the group selected two (of many possible) topics: (1) the emergence of horticulture, and (2) the structure of sites. These two topics enabled the group to discuss issues at multiple scales and to attempt to focus on issues distinctive to New England. The rationale for choosing the topic is that the emergence of horticulture may have had implications for regional social organization and population and these implications would be represented in site structure.

The Emergence of Horticulture

The emergence of horticulture takes various forms in different regions. This topic recalls one of the founding goals of CNEA--that is, to develop the distinctiveness of New England's history as well as its connections to other regions. Models developed in New York, for example, probably describe poorly prehistoric events that occurred in New England. In fact, the evidence for horticulture, specifically the presence of such cultigens as squash, beans and corn, is extremely thin prior to the European Contact period. Recognizing and pursuing the distinctiveness of New England can be extremely advantageous. We have the opportunity to be completely unburdened by old and cumbersome models. Perhaps the familiar triad of corn, squash and beans was not very important in

the region. We could completely abandon labels such as Woodland or Early Horticultural and their associated baggage and instead seek continuous models that are based on locally generated carbon dates and associated data.

The Representation of Social Organization and Population in Site Structure

What are the archaeological indicators of social organization and population, and what is the appropriate sampling strategy to detect them? In this regard the work in Iroquoia is instructive. Many of the important contributions in Iroquoian archaeology have resulted from large-scale excavations of settlements and the exposure of extensive surfaces to reveal house forms, burial areas, other physical structures and the spatial relationships among them. Very little of this kind of excavation has been conducted in New England. Much of New England archaeology (more than 90%) originates from requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. On these so-called Cultural Resource Management (CRM) projects, site detection techniques are almost always artifact-oriented and perhaps function poorly in revealing those features that comprise the architecture of prehistoric sites. Thus the often heard question: Where are the villages? An answer is suggested in Retrospective Assessment of Archaeological Survey Contracts in Massachusetts, 1970-1979 by Dincauze, Wobst, Hasenstab and Lacy. This study which was published in 1980 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has pertinence well beyond the confines of Massachusetts and deserves considerably more attention than it seems to have received. One of its main points: the architectural components of the archaeological sites we seek may lie between our shovel test pits. It is noteworthy and somewhat disconcerting that the debate over site detection waged in the late 1970s and early 1980s has almost completely subsided. The debate needs to be rekindled and perhaps our research questions will better guide and fuel discussion of these important issues.

The workshop discussion concluded that the study of such issues as social organization and population requires the examination of site structure. At present, the manner in which much of Section 106 and hence most of New England archaeology is conducted precludes that possibility. What is required is a commitment to the study of overlapping and sometimes contradictory domains of data. For example, data on house forms and architecture should be contrasted with data on cemetery form. To accomplish this effectively requires better site detection techniques and larger sample sizes at succeeding phases of survey. One might argue that the Phase I site locational survey should be the most labor-intensive phase and that much larger surface areas need to be exposed through hand excavation. In some cases, machine stripping of overburden may be necessary, so that the structure of sites can be observed and the distinctiveness of New England's social organization and population can be understood.

Workshop on Classification and Pattern Recognition

submitted by
Lucianne Lavin
Peabody Museum, Yale University

Discussants: LUCIANNE LAVIN and PETER PAGOULATOS

Because of the theme of this year's conference, the workshop discussion was confined to classification and pattern recognition of settlement structure. The discussion emphasized the importance of clearly defining variables in research designs in order to facilitate intercommunication among archaeologists who may wish to use the results. Different typologies are frequently used to answer different research questions. Classification of archaeological data is a tedious task, but is a necessary step towards the attainment of archaeological and anthropological research goals. Classification facilitates communication with other archaeologists who are researching similar problems and aids in the comparison of intersite and intersurvey data. A stumbling block to operationalizing the criteria for distinguishing site types is the present lack of consensus on the basic archaeological unit of analysis. For example, is the unit the entire site? Specific levels within the site? Activity areas? Or specific features within each activity area (i.e. the problem of contemporaneity)?

Five research questions were compiled during the workshop. It is hoped that the research community will consider these questions and address them in future contributions to the Newsletter.

1. What are the criteria for distinguishing temporal site types? e.g., temporary camps from seasonal habitations and sedentary occupations?
2. How useful are our present techniques in seasonality studies?
3. What is the range of functional site types in New England, and what are the criteria for distinguishing among them?
4. What is the archaeological definition of a village, and what are the criteria for identification?
5. What are the criteria for distinguishing between a single, long-term occupation of a site, as opposed to several discrete, short-term episodes?

During the session, discussion centered on the criteria for distinguishing among archaeological site types and compiled a list of variables useful in identifying sites:

1. Locational data (including ecotonal information, soils, topography, water resources, slope)
2. Use-wear on artifacts
3. Site occupation size (boundaries)
4. Artifact classes and diversity
5. Frequency of artifacts within each class
6. Seasonality (based on organic data)
7. Types and contents of features.

CURRENT RESEARCH CONNECTICUT

GEORGE P. NICHOLAS of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and the American Indian Archaeological Institute has received a grant from the Friends of the Environment to initiate a study of long-term wetland ecology in northwestern Connecticut. This research focuses on the relationship between human populations and wetlands over the last 10,000 years in Robbins Swamp and elsewhere in Litchfield County. One goal of this project is to refine aspects of the paleoecological models developed for places like Robbins Swamp, which are viewed as areas of high ecological diversity and resource productivity during the early Holocene period.

RUSSELL HANDSMAN, GEORGE NICHOLAS, and JEFFREY MAYMON (American Indian Archaeological Institute) are currently involved in a survey and testing program at Meeker Swamp in Washington, Connecticut. This study focuses on a series of wetland-associated landforms, which are now threatened by development, as a means of exploring changing land use patterns and processes over time. Archaeological components identified to date range from early to late Holocene. Large-scale stripping of plow zones is being employed at one hunter-gatherer site to identify features and other subsurface spatial and functional patterns that are related to site occupation.

The Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (PAST, Inc.) of Storrs, Connecticut is conducting several research projects in the 1987 field season.

PAST is completing its report on a multi-year archaeological survey of the planned Route I-84/Route 6 Relocation Corridor in northeastern Connecticut.

The archaeological and ethnohistorical research project on the Mashantucket Pequot Indian reservation in Ledyard, Connecticut is continuing. To date, PAST, Inc. has surveyed approximately 1,100 acres of the reservation and has located more than 100 historic period Native American sites. In 1987 a sample of sites will be tested from different periods and of different types. Of particular interest are a group of sites that date to the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries which suggest a fairly dispersed residence pattern. It is unclear whether all of these sites were occupied seasonally or permanently, but all post-1720 sites found on the reservation have been permanent occupations. Also to be tested further are several "communities"--clusters of two to five dwellings, food storage areas, and sweat lodges--which date to the late eighteenth century.

As part of the Mashantucket Pequot research project, PAST, Inc. will also survey the Pequot Hill section of Mystic, Connecticut to locate the site of the Pequot fort destroyed by colonists in the Pequot War of 1637. The consequent defeat of the Pequots shifted the balance of power from Native Americans to

European colonists and opened the way for aggressive colonization of Connecticut. The survey will include aerial survey, remote sensing, and field testing.

In June PAST, Inc. returned to Block Island, RI for a second season of survey, with a particular focus on interior portions of the island. Data gathered in the 1986 survey suggest that wind protection was an important factor in prehistoric site location. The data also suggest intensive winter utilization of the island, but not much warm-weather occupation until the European Contact Period, when there is evidence of year-round use. PAST, Inc. plans to test a sample of Woodland Period sites on the north side of Great Salt Pond. These may be warm-weather sites because they are not sheltered from the wind.

ALAN LEVEILLEE of PAL, Inc., with JOHN MCNIFF and LOUIS SARDELLI, surveyed three reservoir areas for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Western Connecticut. While no significant resources were located within the vicinity of the Northfield Brook Dam in Thomaston, several disturbed prehistoric sites and a nineteenth century saw and grist mill were found near the Thomaston Dam in Thomaston. Three prehistoric and one historic period site, the Bradley Sawmill and Knife Company, were also located near the Hop Brook Dam in Naugatuck, Middlebury and Waterbury.

MAINE

ARTHUR SPIESS of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in Augusta reports that the research and writing effort for the past year has been focused on production of the Michaud (Paleoindian) site report. The 300 page manuscript is now in final form, having survived several reviews and revisions. A publication date in late summer (early September) is anticipated, in the Occasional Publications in Maine Archaeology series.

EMERSON BAKER of the York Institute Museum, Saco, Maine, continues to direct the York County Archaeology Survey. The primary focus of the project, funded by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Old York Historical Society, has been seventeenth and early eighteenth century sites. The early settlement of York County, combined with a set of court records and deeds beginning in 1636, has provided a large documentary base to search for sites. To date, more than 700 seventeenth century sites have been noted in deed research, and documentary work has not yet begun for the northern half of the county. The 1986 season concentrated on York, the shire town which was first settled in 1630. Deed research was used to plot York's 200 seventeenth century sites, then a small sample of these sites were field checked. As a

group, early sites in York were found to be extremely well preserved. Documentary and archaeological research was conducted for municipal and state officials as a part of a cultural resource management plan for the town of York. This information should help safeguard York's sites in an era of unprecedented growth and development.

Work in the summer of 1987 concentrates on the mouth of the Saco River, the location of numerous English homesteads, the occupation of which began in the 1630s. Testing is planned for the site believed to be Choacoet, the palisaded "Almouchiquois" Indian village visited by Samuel de Champlain in 1605 and Richard Vines in 1616.

During May-June 1987, DAVID YESNER and NATHAN HAMILTON of the University of Southern Maine expanded their previous investigation of the Moshier Island burial site in Casco Bay, southwestern Maine, first excavated in 1978. Although no additional burials were recovered, a number of additional grave goods associated with the previously found burials include such items as perforated shark and bear teeth; ceremonial pipe fragments; and projectile points and ceramics appropriate with the late Middle Woodland-early Late Woodland age of the burial site. A large, flat area above the burials contained ceremonial items but little or no midden deposit. This deposit suggests a ceremonial rather than economic function for this important site. The site projects on a bedrock spit into the west-central portion of the bay. Previous analyses of burials from the site, including studies of stable carbon and nitrogen isotopes to reconstruct prehistoric diet, were reported at the CHACMOOL conference on "Subsistence and Diet: Current Archaeological Approaches" at the University of Calgary in November, 1986. A monograph is planned to include both the earlier excavations and the additional 1987 fieldwork at the site.

In the summer of 1986 zooarchaeological research on prehistoric fishing strategies in the Boothbay region of Maine was completed by CATHERINE CARLSON of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for an MS thesis in Quaternary Studies at the University of Maine at Orono. Twenty-one coastal shell middens were analyzed for fish remains in an effort to understand problems of seasonality and subsistence on the Maine coast. This research was part of a larger archaeological project in Boothbay under the direction of David Sanger. Research was funded by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the Maine Sea Grant (NOAA), the University of Maine at Orono, and Sigma Xi. The title of this thesis is "Maritime Catchment Areas: An Analysis of Prehistoric Fishing Strategies in the Boothbay Region of Maine." A journal article entitled "An evaluation of fish growth annuli for the determination of seasonality in archaeological sites", in Recent Developments in Environmental Analysis in Old

and New World Archaeology, edited by R. Esmee Webb BAR International Series 1987 (June), is forthcoming.

In December 1986 the identification of historic faunal remains including fish, birds, and mammals from the historic Sherbourne site in New Hampshire was completed by CATHERINE CARLSON for Faith Harrington, and funded by the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Fish remains from a site on Long Island in Boston Harbor were also identified by CATHERINE CARLSON for Barbara Luedtke, and consisted primarily of cod and tomcod.

A field survey to locate and document prehistoric archaeological sites in York, Maine was conducted during 1986 by RICHARD WILL and REBECCA COLE-WILL. This work was completed as part of a multi-resource-use survey of the area developed by ANN REISS-COLE (Old York Historical Society, York) and EMERSON BAKER (York Institute, Saco). Supported by the Maine Historical Preservation Commission and the Old York Historical Society, the archaeological research was a continuation of work initially begun by Dr. Baker in 1985.

Survey methods involved limited shovel-testing, inspection of water-eroded surfaces, interviews with local residents, and library research. Survey was not random; primary emphasis was concentrated on those geographic areas known to correlate with prehistoric land use: confluences of rivers and streams; mouths of rivers and streams; protected coastal locations with substrate conditions suitable for shellfish beds; ponds and streams distinguished as productive fishing locations; prominent points and peninsulas that offer easy access and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape; and relict topographic features, such as high river terraces or extinct river drainages.

A surprisingly small number of sites (three) was discovered, and several hypotheses may account for the meager survey findings. First, prehistoric site destruction may be high. York is experiencing unprecedented development that has resulted in many modifications to the recent landscape, the majority of which have taken place without inspection for archaeological resources. Natural erosion along the York River and coastal margin has exacted a tremendous toll. Most of the York River shell midden sites reported by Mercer (1897) have been destroyed by erosion during the last ninety years.

Second, site sampling methods may have been inadequate. Acceptance of this explanation would indicate that prehistoric land use practices in York were much different than elsewhere in the state. Interestingly, the York museum contains only a handful of artifacts found locally--they are all Late Archaic in origin. No private collections were located, nor did any of the interviewed landowners have relevant information or artifacts in their possession.

Third, site density (and presumably population density) may have been traditionally low in this area. Aside from the negative evidence, there are no corroborative data to support this hypothesis, even though it is perhaps the most intriguing. Additional research with historical documents and regionally

collected prehistoric archaeological materials may provide a useful avenue of inquiry for examining this tentative explanation.

These hypotheses are not mutually exclusive, but a more serious evaluation of them must await additional research funding. In the nineteenth century, Henry Mercer collected from the York River shell middens, and the materials were reported sent to the University of Pennsylvania. A study of this collection should yield additional insights into the prehistory of the York area.

JOHN CROSS of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst is analyzing Susquehanna Tradition bifaces from four Maine sites: Turner Farm, Hirundo, Young, and Eddington Bend, in an effort to clarify production within the Susquehanna Tradition. By examining biface manufacture, standardization, and variation, he hopes to arrive at insights into the issue of craft specialization in non-stratified society.

MASSACHUSETTS

ROBERT HASENSTAB of UMASS Archaeological Services is conducting an archaeological locational survey at Turners Falls Airport on the Connecticut River. The survey area encompasses the Hannemann Site--a large, low-density, dune-top Paleoindian camp which contains Pennsylvania jasper as the predominant lithic raw material. The site is expected to be impacted by development several years from now, but has been protected in the meantime from erosion and vandalism.

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst continued its archaeological excavations in Historic Deerfield during the summer 1987 field season under the direction of ROBERT PAYNTER, RITA REINKE and EDWARD HOOD. These excavations constitute the fifth year of archaeological research into the changing landscape of this rural New England town and its individual house lots. The goals of this fieldwork entail assessing the nature of archaeological resources at Deerfield, and offering some preliminary reconstructions and interpretations of past landscapes.

Excavations were carried out by the UMASS Archaeological Field School directed by ROBERT PAYNTER, and by a smaller team directed by RITA REINKE and funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. A sample of six of the original 52 house lots (ranging from .3 to .5 hectares in size) which were chosen for analysis reflect a cross-section of Deerfield's socioeconomic classes and various land uses through time. Remote sensing methods of electrical resistivity and proton magnetometry were employed to provide a complete survey of the house lots. Currently, correlation of remote sensing data and initial excavation results with documentary information will identify areas for further excavation as the season progresses.

MICHAEL NASSANEY, ALAN MCARDLE and PETER STOTT (UMASS Archaeological Services) recently began historical and archaeological investigations at the site of the nineteenth century Russell Cutlery, the first industry in the planned industrial village of Turners Falls in Montague, Massachusetts. The site under study is situated within two National Register Historic Districts. When construction of the cutlery was completed in 1870, the complex of buildings comprised the largest cutlery factory in the world. Capable of employing 1,200 workers and boasting 160,000 square feet of floor space for manufacturing processes, the factory was organized so that goods that were produced traveled efficiently and logically between manufacturing steps.

Few surface traces remain of the buildings that once stood on the site. Most surface debris consists of architectural remains and not artifacts discarded in the production process. However, large quantities of waste

products such as dies, blanks, discarded tools and spoiled production items have been recovered along the bank of the Connecticut River. Furthermore, excavations indicate that significant subsurface architectural remains still exist including a portion of the machine shop and the water power system. These data will contribute to research regarding the early application of the "American system" of manufacture to the production of cutlery, the changing labor processes involved, and the technology of an early industrial water power system.

DENA F. DINCAUZE of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst reports that fieldwork at the 500 Boylston Street site of the Fishweir exposure ended on May 25, with the expectable last-minute exciting finds. Good weather and the absence of the construction crews on that day (neither a condition of the dig up to then) permitted excavators to observe fine detail in the silts. Stakes and brush-work exposed near the Boylston Street side of the pit more closely resembled the observations made at the New England Life site than anything encountered so far in the 1987 dig. The new investigations show a greater diversity of structure than was observed earlier. The new work has had the advantage of access to more sampling spots than was the case earlier, permitting observation of the diversity. Laboratory analysis of the recovered materials is now under way. Research and analysis is currently being conducted by CATHERINE CARLSON on fish and shellfish samples recovered at the fishweir site. Research at the site is being funded by G.D. Hines Interests who are undertaking a large development project in the Back Bay district of Boston.

CATHERINE CARLSON of UMASS Archaeological Services has completed documentary research and limited archaeological field testing in Marlboro and Ashland, Massachusetts on the location and configuration of the seven original seventeenth century Praying Indian towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The project was conducted in conjunction with a Survey and Planning grant awarded by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in the fall of 1986 with funding provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The report is titled "Archival and Archaeological Research Report on the Configuration of the Seven Original Seventeenth Century Praying Indian Towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony". Further research is being undertaken as a dissertation topic at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

An Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) archaeology team led by JOHN WORRELL recently completed the excavation of the John Hinds Pottery kiln site of eighteenth century earthenware potter John Hinds in Holland, Massachusetts.

Deed research identified the previously unknown craftsman who was listed as a potter on property transactions in 1750 and 1768 when the town was still a part of Brimfield. Few other remote rural potters researched in this region have been identified by their craft in public records.

Although the kiln had been dismantled, probably a full two centuries ago, its flagstone founding pad was intact, even retaining a few of the lowest course bricks and mortar coating. Heat discoloration was nevertheless sufficiently distinct to identify the interior space of the kiln, and the shadow of the brick superstructure surrounding it was clearly evident at several points, allowing the dimensions and primary features to be determined. The kiln was slightly oval, having interior dimensions ca. 9' X 10'. Its thick walls appear to have been two rows of brick laid end to end on the stone pad. This is similar size, shape and construction to Hervey Brook's kiln previously excavated by this team in Goshen, Connecticut. Brook's kiln, however, had two opposing fireboxes, while Hinds's had only one, located off-center at one end. In that and other features it resembled the kiln of James Moore which the same team excavated in nearby Brimfield. Moore's kiln differed, however, in being rectangular. All three of these kilns as well as one excavated in Woodstock, Connecticut, had separate loading areas on one side, away from the firing area. Postholes located around and against the kiln suggest the presence of a roof or impermanent shed covering at least the primary activity areas.

Thousands of artifacts were excavated and recorded stratigraphically from the Hinds site, the bulk of them being vessel sherds and stacking furniture. Once processed in the OSV Archaeology Lab, they will join those from the other sites in being analyzed comparatively in the investigation of the processes and products of the rural craftsmen. Hinds's vessels display more variation, especially in decoration, than do the other potters whose sites have been thus far investigated by Worrell and OSV. In addition to the usual undecorated utilitarian wares, Hinds was producing various slipped wares (painted, trailed, dipped), and some very thin-walled, etched holloware having a metallic black glaze.

Eventually, OSV potters hope to reproduce a type study collection based on the excavated materials from these sites. The Hinds Site investigation may later continue with excavation of the suspected production shop location and another outbuilding that seems to have housed quantities of prepared charcoal.

(Note: If anyone has evidence of potters burning charcoal, or, perhaps more likely, making charcoal in their kiln between firings, please notify JOHN WORRELL at OSV).

During the 1987 field season, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL, Inc.) located and exposed a section of the Town Dock/Dry Dock during excavation of the Town Dock Pottery site in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The fieldwork was conducted as part of the ongoing data recovery phase of the Central Artery North Reconstruction Project, on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of

Public Works. This excavation confirmed the historically documented alignment of the wharving, and provided valuable dating information for this section of the waterfront facilities. Cultural material found within artificial fill from the wharf also included pottery-related artifacts, which will be subject to ongoing analysis. An unexpected prehistoric component was located intact beneath a level of peat adjacent to the wharf. Its dimensions and potential significance are currently being evaluated.

During an intensive survey of a wastewater pipeline in Danvers, ANN DAVIN and ELIZABETH HOLSTEIN located portions of the extensive Bernard Friedman and Company Fancy Leather Goods factory complex. The plant was in operation between 1889 and 1899, and was a pioneer in the production of exotic and dyed leathers, supplying the U.S. Army with most of its footwear.

An historic (ca. 1908 - 1949) cemetery within the Deer Island prison in Winthrop was investigated by MARSHA KING. The results of her documentary research suggested that as many as 4,000 individuals were reinterred within the prison grounds after the military acquisition of most of Deer Island in 1908. The most active use as an inmate burial ground continued until the 1940s. Subsurface testing to evaluate the extent and integrity of the cemetery was completed in July.

A team directed by ANN DAVIN located three prehistoric and one historic site within the Locust Valley development in Attleboro. These sites, Speedway Brook, Locust Valley and Oak Hill North, were recommended for site examination, along with the ca. 1830s Thacher farmstead site. Of special interest is the preservation of a European Contact period trail, which the developer intends to set aside as open space.

An intensive survey in Milford/Bellingham conducted under the direction of ALAN LEVEILLEE located three small but potentially significant prehistoric sites: MB II, Windy Shore and Andrew's Knoll. While Andrew's Knoll may date to the Middle Woodland period, the occupation dates of the other small campsites has yet to be determined.

An undocumented early historic farmstead (ca. 1690 - 1775) was located during DUNCAN RITCHIE's survey of the Burlington Arboretum development in Burlington. This site, designated Arboretum 4, also contains a prehistoric component. A site examination will be conducted this season.

Further investigation of the Stoughtonham Furnace and the associated Fairbanks complex in Sharon was conducted by MARSHA KING and DENISE MOWCHAN, with the assistance and cooperation of members of the Sharon Historical Society. The subsurface testing and documentary research was carried out to define the boundaries between the Furnace and the Fairbanks Farmstead. It enlarges on the research and excavation program conducted by NANCY DOLAN and MARY BEAUDRY of Boston University, which placed the Furnace site on the National Register. The Furnace is significant for its role in making cannons for the American forces during the Revolution.

During an intensive survey of the Forge Hill development in Franklin in 1985, a team directed by ALAN LEVEILLEE located the Late Archaic Split Rock prehistoric site, and two historic sites: the nineteenth century Ray's Pond

Industrial Complex and an eighteenth century domestic site.

One of the most significant prehistoric sites in Plymouth, the Nook Farm site, was assessed by ALAN LEVEILLEE at the request of the developers of the Leeland Estates. The results of the survey indicate that a complex of significant prehistoric sites exists upon and surrounding a knoll within the proposed development. With more than 12,000 fragments of prehistoric cultural material and a variety of subsurface features, evidence exists of stone tool manufacture and maintenance, food procurement, and human burials on the site.

Since the passage of the Massachusetts Unmarked Burial Law in 1983, the MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION (MHC) has conducted field investigations of more than a dozen unexpected discoveries of human skeletal remains. Skeletal remains recovered from these investigations have been systematically analyzed and recorded, thus increasing the data base on prehistoric Native American and historic populations of southern New England. In addition, through negotiations with landowners and developers, the MHC has arranged for the archaeological investigation of several known or expected burial sites by archaeological consulting firms, in order to identify and protect burials from future development impacts.

Most recently, the MHC has completed preliminary archaeological investigations of two prehistoric burials which were impacted during residential construction in Nantucket. On two separate occasions in the past year, the MHC was contacted upon the accidental discovery of a prehistoric burial at the Wauwinet Burial Site (MHC No. 19-NT-153) and the Polpis Road Burial Site (19-NT-154). Under the Massachusetts Unmarked Burial Law, the State Archaeologist, BRONA SIMON, and MHC staff, in coordination with the Commission on Indian Affairs, conducted a field investigation of the sites. The goals of the preliminary investigations at both burial sites were to assess the extent of disturbance to the single burials, and to determine whether any additional skeletal remains would be affected by construction activities.

At the Wauwinet Burial Site, BRONA SIMON, JORDAN KERBER, and THOMAS MAHLSTEDT, completed subsurface testing and sifted through the back dirt pile created by prior mechanical excavation which impacted a Native American burial. The burial was analyzed by MARC KELLEY at the University of Rhode Island who identified it as a 28-30 year old male, 5'7" tall. Analysis also detected widespread periostitis in long bones (non-specific hematogenous infection) and one dental cary. A sample of bone submitted for radiocarbon analysis by the accelerator (AMS technique) resulted in a C-13 corrected date of 940 +/- 105 BP (Beta-18835). This date is consistent with the diagnostic Late Woodland archaeological materials recovered during the testing. Although the investigation did not identify the occurrence of additional burials, dense deposits of chipping debris and faunal remains were recovered, indicative of stone tool manufacture and maintenance, as well as food preparation dating to at least the Late Archaic and Late Woodland Periods.

Subsurface testing at the Polpis Road Burial Site, completed by BRONA SIMON and JORDAN KERBER, did not recover any artifacts or cultural material other than skeletal remains. Surface collection in the vicinity of the burial, however, identified Late Archaic and Woodland diagnostic artifacts. Human skeletal remains recovered from the burial and backdirt pile created by previous machine excavation were identified as a 40-45 year old female. MARC KELLEY's analysis also detected a healed fracture of the left radius, no dental caries and large parturition scars in the dorsal pubis and preauricular region indicative of numerous births. The Polpis Road Burial probably represents an isolated Native American burial located within or adjacent to a prehistoric habitation site. Although the date of the burial is presently unknown, a radiocarbon sample has been submitted for accelerator assay (AMS technique).

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission recently conducted preliminary investigations at a prehistoric site (MHC No. 19-PL-520) identified during construction of a soccer field on town land in Middleboro. The soccer field project was not supported by any state or federal funding. The MHC was notified by the Middleboro Historical Commission that prehistoric archaeological materials, including bone fragments, were disturbed by topsoil stripping over an approximately four acre area at the site.

Working in close cooperation and under the direction of BRONA SIMON, MHC Staff members JORDAN KERBER, TOM MAHLSTEDT and LEONARD LOPARTO and BRADY FITTS, TOM LUX and PHIL BRADY of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, as well as members of the Middleboro Historical Commission, inspected and mapped the site area. Archaeological materials identified on the surface of the disturbance and from the topsoil piles included Neville, Squibnocket, Susquehanna and untyped projectile points, several possible hearths containing burned rock and charcoal, a gouge, atlatl fragment, dense deposits of quartz chipping debris, felsite, quartzite, and Saugus red jasper flakes. Bone fragments were also found and are mammalian, but not human.

On the basis of the preliminary investigations, the archaeological site has been largely destroyed or disturbed by the topsoil removal. While it is difficult to interpret and reconstruct the site's boundaries, internal configuration and functions, the valuable assistance provided by MAS members enabled the MHC to document and record the site in the state inventory. The MHC was also able to alert Middleboro town officials of the archaeological sensitivity of future projects generated by the town.

As a result of the soccer field salvage experience, the town of Middleboro has taken positive steps towards protecting its important archaeological sites from damage resulting from subdivision development. The town Planning Board now requires a review of subdivision applications by the Middleboro Historical Commission for potential impacts to historic and archaeological properties.

The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) has announced the addition to its staff of MDC Chief Archaeologist THOMAS MAHLSTEDT. Archaeologists have

often speculated about the high potential for the survival of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources on the several thousand acres of undeveloped land which the MDC maintains in the Greater Boston area and in the vicinity of the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs. Some of its properties are already known to contain prehistoric sites ranging in age from Paleoindian to European Contact Period, as well as historic farmsteads; mills and even the remains of an entire mill village; prehistoric and historic quarries; and military installations which span this country's history. These resources notwithstanding, during MDC's 94-year history there was never any formal mechanism, no clearly defined program or policy, by which cultural resources were managed within the MDC system.

With the hiring of a Chief Archaeologist, the MDC has shown that it recognizes its responsibility to the fragile cultural resources of the Commonwealth and it is about to enter the field of professional Cultural Resource Management. A comprehensive Cultural Resource Management Program is currently being designed. The framework and internal structure by which issues concerning cultural resources will be addressed by the MDC are being defined and established. A major focus of the Program will be to reduce, and where possible, eliminate further attrition of those cultural resources which are under the MDC's care. To date a series of Action Plans have been formulated: Data Gathering Plan, Review and Compliance Plan, Scientific Research Plan, Curatorial Plan, Educational and Interpretive Plan, and Acquisition Assessment Plan.

RHODE ISLAND

VIRGINIA FITCH of the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL, Inc.) is preparing National Register nominations for the Providence Preservation Society in the new Arch Street National Register District and adjacent to the Parkis Comstock National Register District.

During a survey of the proposed 77-acre Harbor View development on Warwick Neck, a team directed by ANN DAVIN located two areas of prehistoric occupation along the coast of Greenwich Bay. Material that was recovered dates to the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods and includes two features, a post mold and a lithic concentration area.

Archaeological site examination conducted by ALAN LEVEILLEE on the Hoskins Park and South Wind sites on Calf Neck, North Kingstown, Rhode Island have resulted in the identification of prehistoric utilization spanning a 9,000 year range. On the Hoskins Park site (RI 1006) Late Woodland/European Contact period aboriginal groups processed shellfish during short term occupations. Radiocarbon dates from the site are 560 +/- 70 (Beta 16715) and 590 +/- 50 (Beta 16716).

The South Wind site (RI 1007) was utilized several times with a 7,000 year hiatus between components. Evidence recovered to date (a bifurcate base projectile point) suggests that this site contains the earliest known in situ deposition in Rhode Island (ca. 8,500 years). During the Late Woodland and European Contact periods short term utilizations are represented by pit features where shellfish were processed. Radiocarbon dates from these features resulted in two dates: 340 +/- 70 (Beta 16718) and 450 +/- 40 (Beta 16717).

A data recovery program at the Wilcox site (RI-35) in Coventry conducted by ANN DAVIN of PAL, Inc. resulted in the excavation of a small lithic workshop area, and a resource processing feature. A variety of lithics representing the full range of the reduction sequence were recovered. The site is of special interest as a single component Brewerton site located in the interior uplands of western Rhode Island.

A reconnaissance level survey of the cultural resources within the corridor of the New England Power Transmission Line from Warwick to Burrillville identified eight prehistoric and 26 historic sites along with 33 sensitive areas. The project was coordinated by ALAN LEVEILLEE, while MARSHA KING served as Principal Investigator, working with ELIZABETH HOLSTEIN, RENEE VAN COUGYHEN, DENISE MOWCHAN, LOUIS SARDELLI and TIMOTHY KENNEDY.

VERMONT

DAVID LACY of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the Green Mountain National Forest is continuing with his research and survey projects in the Green Mountains in conjunction with general CRM/compliance work for the forest. Primary goals for 1987 are to enhance the data base on the distribution of prehistoric quartzite quarrying loci along the western flank of the range, and to investigate more fully the internal organization of the extensive quarry discovered in 1985. There is, simultaneously, an effort to initiate interpretive studies on historic sites as one aspect of the Forest's educational public outreach program. Individuals or institutions with an interest in initiating archaeological or historical studies employing Forest-owned and managed cultural resources are encouraged to contact Dave via the Forest's Rutland headquarters (P.O. Box 519, Rutland, VT 05701).

ROBERT HASENSTAB of UMASS Archaeological Services is conducting an archaeological locational survey as a part of the Vermont Route 346 Improvement project in Pownal, Vermont on behalf of the Vermont Agency of Transportation. This five-mile right-of-way which runs through the upper reaches of the Hoosic River Valley has yielded 16 prehistoric sites. Diagnostic material recovered from several sites include Susquehanna and Jack's Reef projectile points. Of particular interest is the absence of Native American ceramics. The unusual aspect of this survey area is that despite its location in the interior uplands, traditionally assumed to have very low prehistoric site densities, there is a high density of prehistoric occupation. Nearly every survey locus exhibited some evidence of prehistoric habitation.

GENERAL NEW ENGLAND

MARIEBOURASSA succeeds JOHN WILSON as New England Division Archaeologist for the Army Corps of Engineers. JOHN WILSON is now the Region 5 Archaeologist for the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The Corps has some regulatory jurisdiction over wetlands and navigable waterways. Some projects that the Corps will be involved with are: The pirate ship Whydah (MA), Big River Reservoir (RI), Cultural Resource Management Studies for Corps Reservoirs at Westville, East Brimfield and West Hill (MA) and a Historic Preservation Plan for Camp Edwards (MA). Topics of relevance to Corps projects include: Offshore prehistoric and historic archaeology, "wet site" archaeology, industrial archaeology (especially small industrial complexes, rural mills and hydro-energy sites), rural farmstead archaeology, and nautical archaeology.

Anyone desiring information about Corps projects or procedures, or who has information about certain site types that are often over-looked, may call Marie at (617) 647-8140.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Over the past few years, Newsletters have been mailed late on occasion. There are several reasons for this, but the most significant are 1) difficulties in production editing associated with continual short-term turn-over in editors and formats, 2) too few editors and 3) late submittals by contributors. All of these are being remedied.

The first problem reflects the present structure of CNEA in which Steering Committee members serve one or two-year terms. If the editor is a Steering Committee member, by the time he or she is familiar with the routine and the format, it is time to break in a new editor. Similar problems occur with the treasurer and keeper of the membership list. As a result of concerns expressed at the last Conference, the issue of restructuring the Steering Committee will be discussed in the next issue of the Newsletter and at the annual meeting. We request suggestions from the membership. The second problem has been remedied by instituting a larger Editorial Committee to assist the editor. Committee members will be recognized in the the Newsletter. The third problem can be solved by earlier submittals by Newsletter contributors. Furthermore, judging from the variety of dot-matrix and daisy wheel copies that we have received, many members are using computer-based word processors to compose their contributions. The Editorial Committee requests that whenever possible, contributors submit their material on floppy disks (with paper copy attached). We can handle most IBM or compatible formats, Macintosh, and Kaypro as long as you tell us what word processor is being used. If you are using an IBM or similar machine, please use your word processor to save the file in DOS (ASCII) format. Please state which computer model, word processor and operating system you used to create the file. The Committee will return your diskette shortly after receiving it.

If possible, compose your contribution as you wish to have it included in the Newsletter. Please avoid sending copies of other newsletters or lengthy site descriptions for the editors to summarize. We plan to publish the next Newsletter in January, so please submit your material as soon as possible. Use the attached form if you find it convenient. Any comments that you may have that would improve the format and content of the Newsletter will be greatly appreciated.

CNEA - FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1986 - 1987

submitted by
Deborah Cox

5/1/87 BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 1,185.04
Revenue		
Membership dues 1986 & 1987		
and		
Conference Registration	1,030.50	
Sale of CNEA back issues	15.00	
		\$ 1,045.50
Expenses		
Bank Charges	47.31	
Postage	234.55	
Misc. Copying (flyers)	43.30	
Misc. Supplies	90.95	
Typing -mailing lists	30.00	
Meetings	124.59	
Newsletters Vol 6 No. 1	603.00	
Vol 6 No. 2	417.25	
(includes typing, layout, printing)		
		\$ 1,590.95
ENDING BALANCE		\$ 639.59

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Gumaer, D. Richard and Ronald Johnson

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Hasenstab, Robert J., and Alan McArdle

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CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

CURRENT RESEARCH

Please submit a brief paragraph on your current New England Archaeological research for inclusion in the next CNEA Newsletter. Also submit any new bibliographic titles for books, articles, reports, etc. in American Anthropologist format. Thank you.

Please return by December 18, 1987 to:

Mitchell Mulholland
UMASS Archaeological Services
University of Massachusetts
Blaisdell House
Amherst, MA 01003

or to your local CNEA Steering Committee representative. If possible send your contribution on a computer diskette (with paper copy) on IBM or compatible, Apple, McIntosh, or Kaypro. Please specify the computer model, word processor and operating system used to create your file. Your diskette will be returned to you.

Name _____

Institution _____

Mailing Address _____

Bibliographic entry _____

Research

Research topic _____

Current research _____

PLEASE MAIL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE