



CNEA 2008-2009
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TERM EXPIRES 2009

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Conference on New England Archaeology

Volume 28, 2009

From Space to Place

Charlotte C.W. Taylor,
Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

In the CNEA position paper for 1994, Russ Handsman and Faith Harrington wrote that "the Archaeology of Place in New England seems underdeveloped and often wrong headed." They went on to offer ways in which we might move from an archaeology of place in the Binfordian sense (Binford 1982), to an archaeology of places that includes "the range of class, gender and cultural differences which existed in *every place*," that confronts misrepresentations and silences in the historical accounts (Handsman and Harrington 1994: 3-5).

Fifteen years later, we are once again addressing this topic. Our title, "From Space to Place," is meant to suggest the active role that people in the past and in the present (archaeologists, historians, descendant communities, etc.) have taken in drawing the lines (mental or cartographic) that separate "places" from "spaces." Places require agency to filter them from the surrounding un-place. As Julian Thomas put it, "places emerge *as* places through their involvement in structures of understanding and practices. Places are always already place-like as soon as we are aware of them, use them, and consume them" (Thomas 1998: 83).

There are two particular types of place-making that are of special concern for archaeologists. The first is identifying and understanding what was happening at places where people lived in the past—the basic practice of archaeology. The second is critically reexamining the stories told in the present about particular places and what happened there. In essence, what we are writing today reflects just as clearly our mindsets and prejudices (and efforts to move beyond them) as do the antiquarian histories whose visions of the past we call into question.

Many archaeologists are good at finding places where there is nothing visible to the naked eye, pieces of land that hold the traces of the daily routines of life (what Ingold (1993) has called "taskscape"). These taskscapes—shell middens, surface scatters, features in the soil—are given official site numbers, making them places in our own maps of the past. These maps are, incidentally, sometimes rather skewed by outside constraints on our current archaeological practices, so that sites are most dense where the SHPO's regulatory authority is greatest, resulting in long lines of Native American sites apparently coinciding with the routes of major roads built centuries later. In general, we find sites where we look for them, which can hamper our ability to discern the choices that people made in the past, and the structures of culture within which those choices were made.

Just as we allow artifacts the ability to hold symbolic weight and convey meaning, so too do we allow places to be artifacts of human behavior that can be equally expressive. Simply because a piece of ground is a taskscape, lacking,

perhaps, a dramatic and easily visible presence in the landscape, does not mean it cannot be a place of power, a place where identity is created, where messages are transmitted to those both inside and outside. Space and place are constituted "in social practice and in people's experience" (Shanks, in Mackenzie and Shanks 1994: 2). Symbolic meanings bound up in weighted material choices, particularly those that are readily apparent to outsiders, can make one place different from another. One of this year's speakers, Jonathan Patton, will offer an instance of this, showing in his examination of clothing transactions and an assemblage of artifacts related to clothing how the Eastern Pequot reservation was, materially, a space distinct from the world outside, made so by the choices of its inhabitants.

Sites like the Greene Farm, discussed today by Krysta Ryzewski et al. in one paper, and Caroline Frank in another, have meanings that extend beyond the easily-defined sphere of the practical, quotidian and uninformative labels of "dwelling place" or "foundry" — meanings that are political, charged with social weight and which continue to inform in the present. Likewise, looking at the artifacts from historic homes in Deerfield, Quentin Lewis moves from the particular of the material culture to the "larger capitalist social processes [which] have led to the creation, alteration and destruction of the landscape of the homelot" (Lewis' abstract, this volume).

Places are "arenas of social power" (Mann 1986), power directed both toward the inside of the group and toward the outside. The palisaded space of Fort Ninigret, which I will be talking about today, perhaps served to change the social order of the people living there by organizing production and warehousing of commodities in such a way as to give more power to those who organized the fort's construction. It simultaneously sent a message asserting control over the larger landscape in which it was situated, saying, in effect, that this was the homeland of this people.

Places are more than just arenas where things happen; rather, they constrain and facilitate the *way* things happen. The intentionality that can go into the creation of a place can result in that place itself acquiring agency, actively shaping both the lives of the people in and around the places and the course of events in which these people are taking part. Counterfactual reasoning comes into play here — if Fort Ninigret had not been built, what, in the following 350 years, would not have happened — which is perhaps not the most comfortable way of thinking for an archaeologist, but which can lead to a better understanding of "the past." And to better stories — more accurate, more informed, more nuanced.

In her introduction to the recent anthology *Archaeologies of Placemaking* (Rubertone 2008), Rubertone argues that archaeological sites and built monuments can be "places intended to prompt memory and raise historical consciousness...about pasts most visitors have never experienced firsthand and know little about" (2008: 14). Because monuments, in particular, are so visible in the landscapes — planted firmly on the ground, as so many are, they assume an authority in the mind of the spectator (Lippard 1993:2-3), and in so doing, can displace other histories, written on the land with greater subtlety. Russ Handsman's paper in the same volume, for instance, is a masterful account of the histories contained in the landscapes of the Wampanoag country around Plimoth Plantations, and the very visible and grandiloquent "history-making" efforts of the European-Americans who built their own past in this place.

One tendency of conquering peoples is to re-write the landscape as a means of asserting power over it. Keegan et al. will be examining this phenomenon as it occurred immediately after King Philip's war, when the English asserted sovereignty over new conquered lands by renaming places. Re-making Indian homelands into a nameless, empty space, open to colonization, was just as powerful a political act of re-writing history as was the creation of 19th-century monuments. Three hundred and fifty years later, it has become clear that this Anglo-European effort to replace a Native American landscape with their own did not erase the places that were there before.

The Native American voice in New England archaeology is much more present today than it was when CNEA began back in 1980. Native Americans are actively "re-Placing" archaeological sites into narratives about the past, collaborating with, and confronting, archaeologists in the process. Federal entities and developers, who pay for so much of the archaeology that takes place in New England, are now required to take their obligations to Native American understandings of place much more seriously. And as a result, there are places throughout our region that are being given identities in the present as part of Native American history.

After 40 years of CRM archaeology in New England, archaeologists have created their own landscape of invisible places. Even after the artifacts are removed, and the land has been built on, a site still exists as a sort of ghost—real on the map, but gone in real life. When giving tours of Rhode Island, I tell my visitors about these places. “The state prison was under that shopping mall.” “This road goes through a settlement 4,000 years old.” “There was a Narragansett Cemetery there, where the miniature golf course used to be.”

This contact period cemetery, assigned the site number RI 1000, is one of the best known archaeological sites in Rhode Island. In the early 1980s, members of the Narragansett Tribe worked with archaeologists in the excavation of fifty-six individuals who had been buried in a place that was about to become a miniature golf course. Now the golf course is gone, and a grocery store has been built, but within the land is a space set aside for the re-burial of those people that will re-place RI 1000.

The most interesting archaeology, in my mind, is that which can make a “site” into a “place” that has story—where we can, by combing the material data at hand with input from descendant communities, people the landscape of the past. The papers presented here today move beyond the physical world of space into the nuanced, meaningful world of place, where story can exist. They will, I hope, show how paying attention to the particular experiences of people at particular places challenges and enlarges our ideas of New England’s history, and at the very least, demonstrates that the archaeology of place in our region is rather well developed, and headed in the right direction.

However, it could always be better. There is one particularly important and germane archaeology of place that is not addressed in this year’s CNEA meeting—the physical place. As the 1997 CNEA conference demonstrated, archaeology is well positioned to examine the choices people made in how they used (and abused) the landscape. Just as we use archaeology to better understand the social past, so to do we use it to understand the physical transformation that humans have brought to the physical world. How often do historical archaeologists address this aspect of place and placemaking? How relevant is this information to those studying environmental change today?

This is just one of many possible “however’s.” CNEA was begun to foster lively dialogue among archaeologists in New England. I hope, therefore, that there will be many other “however’s” forthcoming at the 2009 meeting!

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29th Annual Conference on New England Archaeology

May 31, 2009

Anna Maria College

- 9:00 **Coffee and Registration**
- 9:30 **Welcome**
Ann Marie Mires, 2009 CNEA Chair
- 9:45 **Euroamerican Place-Naming and King Philip's War**
William F. Keegan, Heritage Consultants, Christian A. Tryon, New York University and
Kristen N. Keegan, University of Connecticut
- 10:15 **Spaces of Dwelling in the Lived Landscape of Greene Farm, Warwick, RI**
Krysta Ryzewski, Brown University, Caroline Frank, Brown University and
Kaitlin Deslatte, Greene Farm Archaeological Project
- 10:45 **The Future of CNEA Rountable Discussions**
- 12:00 **Lunch**
- 1:15 **Business Meeting**
- 1:30 **Identifying a Place: Historic Research at the Old House Site in Warwick, Rhode Island**
Caroline Frank, Brown University
- 2:00 **Placemaking at Fort Ninigret**
Charlotte Taylor, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission
- 2:30 **Material Studies of Eastern Pequot Clothing in 18th- and 19th-Century Connecticut:
Issues in Collaborative Indigenous Archaeology**
Jonathan K. Patton, Massachusetts Historical Commission
- 3:00 **Dynamic Places and Spaces in Rural New England**
Quentin Lewis, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 3:30 **Closing Remarks**
Jonathon Patton, 2010 CNEA Chair

Abstracts

Euroamerican Place-Naming and King Philip's War

*William F. Keegan, Heritage Consultants, Christian A. Tryon, New York University and
Kristen N. Keegan, University of Connecticut*

King Philip's War (1675–1676) was a watershed event in the European colonization of New England. After their defeat of the Native American forces arrayed against them, the colonists expanded into large territories over which they had previously had little or no direct control. This expansion was accompanied by significant changes in the colonists' relationship to the landscape in which they lived. After the war, many place names were changed from versions of Native American names to explicitly English ones, and newly established settlements were much less likely to begin their existence with Native American names. This paper explores the naming practices of the New England colonies before and after the war and the dynamics of appropriation, hostility and territorial claims that were involved.

Spaces of Dwelling in the Lived Landscape of Greene Farm, Warwick, RI

*Krysta Ryzewski, Brown University, Caroline Frank, Brown University and
Kaitlin Deslatte, Greene Farm Archaeological Project*

This paper explores theoretical questions that inform interpretations of the dwelling spaces at Greene Farm, one of the few remaining "Providence Plantations" in Warwick, Rhode Island, and a landscape shaped by millennia of human interactions. Based on recent excavations of a 17th-century settlement area, the "Old House", and excavations of an 18th-century ironworking area, we examine the material culture and other social relationships to discuss how these dwelling spaces, as they exist in the archaeological record and historical memories, extend beyond ideas of places (e.g. the household, industrial landscapes, particular cultural groups), as isolated or easily definable. The discussion will consider the implications for considering the fluidity of dwelling in relation to the long-term histories of this landscape over the past 4,000 years, specific periods of occupation during the 17th and 18th century, and contemporary views of these material pasts and their legacies, as interpreted by descendant communities of the property.

Identifying a Place: Historic Research at the Old House Site in Warwick, Rhode Island

Caroline Frank, Brown University

What does it mean to call a site English or Indian, colonial or Christian, when such labels often overlap? In five seasons of archaeology at the "Old House" site in Warwick, Rhode Island, we have excavated artifacts associated with the Dutch, Native Americans, the English, both women and men, commerce, fine living, warfare and livestock. As project historian for the Greene Farm Archaeology Project, I will discuss historic sources that help us understand what this 17th-century site was, who lived there and how they may have identified it. Would the diversity of people associated with this site have called it the same thing?

Placemaking at Fort Ninigret

Charlotte Taylor, Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission

Fort Ninigret, in southern Rhode Island, is a place where power and identity have been contested for 400 years. When it was built by the Eastern Niantics in the 17th century, the fort not only protected valuable commodities, but perhaps centralized their production. Simultaneously, its visible presence on the landscape would have signified that these lands belonged to the Eastern Niantic. In the 18th century, the fort, in the center of the farmlands of the Niantic royal family, was a space whose use was contested by more traditional members of the tribe. In the 19th century, the state of Rhode Island made the fort a monument to the "extinct" Narragansett tribe, clearing away the past to make the land available for sale in the present. Dismissing the Narragansetts even further, many 19th and 20th century historians have claimed that the fort was built by Europeans. The many uses (both practical and symbolic) to which the Fort Ninigret has been put, and the many meanings that have been attached to it, and that are attached to it today, are the subject of this talk.

Material Studies of Eastern Pequot Clothing in 18th- and 19th-Century Connecticut: Issues in Collaborative Indigenous Archaeology

Jonathan K. Patton, Massachusetts Historical Commission

The Eastern Pequot Reservation and the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation and its descendants must be understood as parts of a whole. In the 18th and 19th centuries the Eastern Pequot were living within an industrializing New England and were economically and socially marginalized under overseers appointed by the Connecticut colonial government, who exerted control over many elements of daily life, including clothing procurements. Analysis of clothing transactions from overseers account books for the Early Industrial Period (1829 to 1859), and an assemblage of clothing-related artifacts from three household areas on the reservation spanning approximately a century of occupation from the 1740s through the 1850s, suggest that these years saw the continuation of a complicated adaptation to colonial domination through clothing, but also suggests that clothing may have been integral to maintaining Eastern Pequot culture through the exchange of clothing knowledge. The Eastern Pequots and their reservation were participants simultaneously in a capitalistic, industrial economy and a dialectical relationship of domination, accommodation, cultural persistence and resistance with their Anglo-American overseers and colonial neighbors, in which clothing reflected many elements simultaneously. They were dressing like their Anglo-American neighbors, but the presence of traditional items such as beads, the elements of choice visible in the accounts, and the presence of sewing hardware, jewelry and mixed styles of buttons and buckles suggest that in the 18th and 19th century those individuals, especially Eastern Pequot women, living on the reservation were neither invisible, nor static. The Eastern Pequot were able to consistently make or acquire their own clothing and to dress within their purchasing power and negotiated identities in a colonial, industrializing world.

Dynamic Places and Spaces in Rural New England

Quentin Lewis, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Rural New England is a place which often appears frozen outside of modern times. This is particularly true in the village of Deerfield, where stately houses transport visitors out of the present and into the past. In contrast, archaeology in the Village has revealed the dynamic nature of rural life in 19th-century New England. I use the archaeology from the E.H. and Anna Williams house to probe the concept of the timeless rural world and show how capitalist social processes have led to the creation, alteration and destruction of the landscape of the homelot.



Site of the Narragansett Fort at Fort Neck.

CNEA News

The History of CNEA: What It Was and What It Might Become

The first issue of the *Newsletter of the Conference on New England Archaeology* describes how the organization was born, back in the fall of 1979, when Geoff Moran and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission gathered some thirty archaeologists active in Rhode Island to discuss methodological and theoretical issues. At that meeting it became clear that discussions between various sets of specialists (prehistoric, historic, and industrial archaeologists) might well prove very useful to all involved. No way to rapidly share information existed at that time, and so CNEA was born.

In the words of Paul Robinson (RIHPC archaeologist), who was one of the Founders:

"CNEA was formed to provide an annual conference to discuss theoretical issues in New England archaeology. It was intended as a place for people to present ideas for informal and vigorous (non-threatening!) discussion—a sounding board for ideas. Each conference was to be organized around a single theoretical topic or group of closely-related topics. Active discussion, rather than a series of slide shows in a dark room, was the goal. A small steering committee was charged with developing the conference topic and the program."

And so from 1980 to the present day, six steering committee members from New England's community of archaeologists (elected or appointed to 2-year terms), and adjunct members (Newsletter Editor, Treasurer, and Conference Hosts) have been running annual meetings on a wide variety of topics, held at a number of venues throughout the region.

In recent years, despite overcoming past funding problems and growing our bank account, it has become progressively more difficult to find individuals willing to serve on the steering committee. If CNEA is to continue, we need to revitalize the interest of New England's archaeologists in this meeting and its newsletter. Is CNEA still useful in the way in which our founders intended? What steps can

we take to make it relevant, engaging and sustainable? At the May 31st meeting we will have a group discussion where we will talk about these questions, and chart CNEA's future

CNEA Opportunities: Treasurer Needed

CNEA is searching for a new treasurer/corresponding secretary. The time commitment is minimal, however, the rewards are great. As the initial face of CNEA, the treasurer/corresponding secretary is the person charged with ensuring that the conference news is received by a wide audience. Duties include:

- managing the CNEA bank account
- participating in steering committee meetings and discussions
- updating the CNEA mailing list
- initiating the conference mailing and keeping track of member dues
- reimbursing committee members for expenses
- composing the annual treasurer's report

For more details, or if you are interested in the position, please contact Charlotte Taylor at 401-222-4140 or at ctaylor@preservation.ri.gov. Charlotte's service and dedication over the last decade has kept CNEA's light burning through lean and flush years and is greatly appreciated by all of the steering committee members and conference participants she has served. Help her pass the torch and keep CNEA's mission alive.

Volmar to be New CNEA Newsletter Editor

Contributed by Margo Muhl-Davis, CNEA Newsletter Editor

Mike Volmar, Fruitlands Museum, will be taking over as the new *CNEA Newsletter* editor for the 2009/2010 CNEA season. Mike will work with the CNEA officers and steering committee members to enhance our new website and continue the tradition of sharing "grey" literature and excavation news from around the region. He can be reached at mvolmar@fruitlands.org. Please welcome him at the May meeting.

As outgoing newsletter editor, I would like to thank you all—especially those of you who regularly submit news articles—for helping make the *CNEA*

Newsletter a valuable resource for New England archaeologists. Although I am leaving New England for a new job in Denver, I will continue to be a CNEA member and can be reached at Margo_Davis@nps.gov.

Current Research

MASSACHUSETTS

**Concord Rotary Project,
Acton & Concord**
*Contributed by Martin Dudek,
John Milner Associates*

Archaeologists from John Milner Associates, Littleton conducting an intensive survey for the reconstruction of the Concord rotary at Route 2 identified four historic archeological sites, including three sites with dry-laid stone foundations situated near the old Union Turnpike (now Route 2) and an early 20th-century midden situated near former worker housing for the Massachusetts Reformatory. At the reformatory cemetery, ground-penetrating radar was used to map out the locations of anomalies consistent with grave shafts. While most anomalies were associated with grave markers, four unassociated anomalies were identified or explained through documentary research and interviews with prison workers.

Site Examination, Gill
*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

A site examination survey was conducted at the Mariamante Native American Site (19-FR-268) to assist the town in management planning. The artifact assemblage consisted mainly of chipping debris of chert, rhyolite, quartzite and quartz. Projectile points included Orient and Small Stemmed varieties, and stone tools, pottery fragments and cores were recovered. The most notable subsurface feature was a large, deep pit, only a portion of which was viewed. It may be as wide as 3 m across, and it has a depth of at least 1 meter, with artifacts including pottery fragments and chipping debris. A radiocarbon assay provided a conventional radiocarbon age of 2120 +/- 40 B.P., indicating a site occupation during the Early Woodland period.

Testing at the George D. Harlow Airport, Marshfield

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

Intensive (locational) testing was completed for proposed runway improvements. The entire airport is located within a previously recorded Native American site area (19-PL-426) identified in the 1960s when a collector found many artifacts during airport construction. A variety of Native American artifacts were recovered by recent testing. Well preserved deposits were identified at some locations, but in most cases, artifacts came from modern fill deposits formed during airport construction, when large volumes of earth were bulldozed to the airport periphery. Clearly, a very large, complex archaeological site once existed at the current location of the runway, between the Green Harbor River, the Green Harbor Marsh and Bass Creek.

Harvard Forest Tannery, Petersham

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

The interpretation of coupled human-natural systems is a topic of growing interest. Increasingly, recognition is given to the importance of current, future and historical dynamics between people and their environments, and the need to better understand their interactions and interdependencies. A recent research project involved detailed mapping and documentary research at the 19th-century Sanderson Tannery Site at the Harvard Forest. The study recorded the various dams, races, and foundations at the site. A tannery can be seen as an integrator of landscape and ecology; during the historical period a tannery drew from, impacted and integrated most elements of the landscape. Woodlots were used to obtain tanbark and building materials; pastures and fields were needed for cattle and other sources of hides; streams were diverted, dammed, channelized and polluted; and downstream impacts to wetlands and ponds were incurred by pollution and hydrological modification. Building from the baseline provided by this study, future archaeological investigations at the site may advance understanding of the dynamics of coupled human-natural systems on both a local and regional scale.

The South Hadley Canal and Holyoke Dam, South Hadley

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

A survey for the proposed Lower Riverside Park in South Hadley Falls led to research into the South Hadley Canal (an intact section of which is located next to the park) and the Holyoke Dam (which is directly upriver from the park). The canal, which opened in 1795, was the first navigable waterway of its kind in the United States, and prior to the introduction of canal locks, it utilized a massive inclined plane to haul canal boats past the rapids. At the time of its construction in 1849, the dam was considered the world's largest single harnessing of hydropower. It enabled the construction of the planned industrial city of Holyoke and became an icon of the Industrial Revolution in America. Both features were emblematic of the hubris, ingenuity and economic imperatives of the age and resulted in major technological advances.

Power Line Survey, Springfield

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

Archaeological predictive model studies were conducted for alternative electrical power transmission upgrades in the Springfield area. Subsequent testing in existing power line corridors identified 15 Native American sites in Agawam, Chicopee, Ludlow and West Springfield. The sites range in size and complexity from isolated find-spots to large, multi-component settlement locations. The largest, located near the confluence of the Westfield and Connecticut rivers, contains a complex of features, including lithic workshops, possible habitation surfaces, burn episodes/hearths and post molds. Projectile points included Brewerton and Otter Creek varieties. Steatite vessel fragments, tools and utilized flakes were recovered in addition to chipping debris of chert, chalcedony and rhyolite. The discovery of 15 sites within the narrow confines of the power line corridor demonstrates that preservation in such settings may be better than previously thought, and indicates that many sites await discovery if broader areas could be similarly tested.

Discoveries at Springfield Armory Building 11, Springfield

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

Testing outside the oldest building in the Armory complex resulted in the discovery of hundreds of gunflints, gunflint fragments and flint shatter, evidence that flintlock mechanisms were tested at the building during the early 19th century. Key attributes of the assemblage are seen in the shape of the gunflints, many of which were manufactured in the "French" blade style, while some are in the "British" prismatic blade style. Some flints appear too large to have been used with Brown Bess muskets, suggesting that mechanisms for artillery may have been worked on at the Armory. One especially large gunflint was not made for use with muskets, but for a type of maritime cannon that the Armory is not known to have produced. Investigations within the basement of the building found an historical brick floor preserved underneath the modern concrete slab. Several round grinding stones also were found. Apparently, after the end of their use-life in the 19th century, these objects were used as footings for support columns. The investigations have demonstrated how archaeology can complement the documentary record, adding new dimension to received or conventional histories, and suggesting the potential for future research at one of the United States' most important military sites.

Native American Sites, Tewksbury

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

Testing for municipal sewer improvements identified five Native American sites. The largest and most complex was the Town Well Road Site, where artifacts were recovered from ten discrete locations within an area of 50 x 180 meters. One pit feature was encountered. Artifacts included pottery, a Brewerton eared-notched point, a chert scraper and a large volume of rhyolite chipping debris, with smaller amounts of quartz, quartzite, chert and jasper. In combination with previous surveys completed for other portions of the town sewer project, a total of nine previously unrecorded Native American sites have been identified in various sections of Tewksbury. Impacts to significant sites

have been avoided through the use of local design alternatives. The identification of multiple well preserved sites, even within densely settled residential areas, suggests a diversity of sites await discovery by systematic survey of broader areas in the town.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Boulder-Ringed Fire Pit Discovered at the Garvins Falls Site, Concord

*Contributed by Martin Dudek,
John Milner Associates*

In 2008 John Milner Associates, Littleton conducted a data recovery at the Garvin Falls Site (27-MR-0078), a major Native American fish and eel fishing station. Excavation within a ring of boulders uncovered a deep stone fire pit filled with burnt rocks and probably used for roasting meat. Several pieces of cord-marked pottery and debitage were recovered from inside it, with numerous small pieces of burned animal bone recovered outside the perimeter. The stone fire pit measured 153 x 146 cm (5 ft x 4.8 ft) across and 39 cm deep (1.3 ft). The outer ring was carefully constructed of boulders, the largest weighing 245 pounds, set into a bowl-shaped pit that Native Americans had dug into the subsoil. Within the stone ring, soil was black, with bits of charcoal and crumbling burnt rock sitting on a base of cobble to small boulder-sized fire-affected rocks, interspersed in places with large chunks of charcoal. Radiocarbon dates obtained from two samples of charcoal date the stone fire pit to AD 1040 to 1230 (1 sigma calibrated range).

The 245-pound boulder anchored the fire pit and was located at the magnetic north end of the boulder ring. Artifacts recovered from below this boulder indicate that it was intentionally placed and not naturally occurring. The rest of the boulders in the outer ring were set in place after this stone, with a final flat stone placed vertically like a plug in the east-southeast end of the stone circle. Cobbles and small boulders were then placed across the base of the pit and may have been periodically removed and replaced, as suggested by log-like chunks of charcoal found between and below some of these stones. The careful construction of the stone fire pit suggests that intentional planning was involved in the selection and positioning of the stones. The time

involved in preparing the stone fire pit also suggests that the fire pit was built to last and be reused and not for a one-day cookout.

The Garvins Falls Site is significant as one of a handful of archeological sites in New Hampshire where falls on a major river attracted Native Americans for over six thousand years. Changes in Native American adaptations to the environment, in their tools and technology and in trade and communication can be studied in depth from the Garvins Falls Site. The stone fire pit is a 900-year-old example of rock roasting platforms (there are others from the Garvins Falls Site that date several thousand years older) with an innovative design that incorporated a boulder-ringed pit with a reusable structure. The results of specialist analyses will enhance our understanding of Native Americans lifeways just centuries prior to the arrival of the first Europeans.

NEW YORK

Continental Army Supply Depot, Fishkill

*Contributed by Timothy Binzen,
UMass Archaeological Services*

Though obscure in modern memory, the Fishkill Supply Depot was critical to the success of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. Documents show that its importance to General Washington in the period between 1776 and 1778 cannot be overestimated. At its peak, the 70-acre depot complex included the Van Wyck House, a cemetery, barracks and huts for thousands of Continental soldiers, storage buildings, a blacksmith's shop, stables, a jail and many other features. Had events played out differently, the depot might have become a national historic site in the tradition of Valley Forge and Morristown, and its role in the Revolution would be widely known. However, the site was forgotten and during the 20th century, dense commercial and other development consumed nearly all of the original 70 acres. The remaining undeveloped land is currently endangered by proposed construction despite the recent discovery of an extensive Continental Army burial ground. To assist in preservation efforts, regional archaeologists are encouraged to visit the website of Fishkill Historical Focus.

Announcements

Chapter 91 Mapping Project Receives Award

In March, the BSC Group and project partners Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) were presented with the 2009 American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Gold Award for outstanding professional design excellence for the Massachusetts Chapter 91/Historical Shoreline Mapping Project. The Engineering Excellence Awards annually recognize innovation, expertise, and achievements of member firms from throughout the nation. The goal of this four-year project was to develop a GIS-based mapping product grounded in the best available historical plans and shoreline information that would facilitate accurate depictions of historical tidal boundaries as defined by the Waterways Regulations (310 CMR 9.00), also known as Chapter 91. The completed project provides Mass DEP's Waterways Program, which is authorized by the Legislature to regulate activities on public trust lands and waters, with a comprehensive and searchable digital database of over 2,500 historical plans and maps produced as early as the late-17th century. These plans and maps can be used by Mass DEP and the public to determine if Chapter 91 jurisdiction applies to a particular property. In addition to providing greater predictability, efficiency, and consistency in the determination of tidelands jurisdiction for landowners participating in a Chapter 91 licensing process, the cartographic database and digital scans will provide a valuable source of historical information for scientists, historians, archeologists, engineers, and other professionals working along the coasts. For further information on the project and how it will be used, contact Alex Strysky of the Waterways Program at email: alexander.strysky@state.ma.us.

This information was reprinted from CZ-Mail, the monthly electronic newsletter of the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management. To get on the mailing list for CZ-Mail, email CZ-Mail@state.ma.us.

SAA Public Education Coordinator Needed for Massachusetts

The Public Education Committee (PEC) for the Society for American Archaeology maintains a list of volunteer PEC coordinators for each state to answer general questions from the public and educators on resources available in that state. The time commitment is minimal, although a PEC Coordinator could mold the position to be more or less active. Inquiries generally include questions about colleges and universities for inspiring archaeologists, field trip options, volunteer opportunities and speaker requests. The PEC Coordinator must be an SAA member and may attend (although attendance is not required) PEC meetings at the SAA Annual Meeting. For more information, please contact Margo Muhl Davis at Margo_Davis@nps.gov.

M.A.S. Update

Contributed by Tonya Largy, Past President

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society's 70th Spring Meeting and Conference was held on Saturday, April 18th at the historic New Bedford Free Public Library, a Greek and Egyptian Revival granite structure located in the heart of the downtown. Members and the public were welcomed by new M.A.S. President, Fredericka Dimmick and Program Chair, Diane Pereira. Gray and Pape graciously provided funding for refreshments for the meeting. The New Bedford Free Public Library generously provided the third floor meeting room for the daylong conference.

The Society recently was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant by the Massachusetts Humanities Foundation for a new education program entitled, "We, the People" developed by Museum Educator, Mary Concannon. The Development Committee is hard at work looking for new sources of funding in order to maintain the Robbins Museum. The Robbins continues to develop exhibits, education programs and visitor services, as well as catalog collections, including a newly acquired large collection from southeastern Massachusetts which promises to

provide important new information about sites in the area.

The M.A.S. *Bulletin* has a new editor. Dr. James Bradley was editor of the *Bulletin* for six years. As we bid him farewell with appreciation for the fine job he did, we welcome the new editor, Dr. Curtiss Hoffman. The Trustees of the Society look forward to publishing your articles!

The M.A.S. maintains a non-circulating library which is open to members and the public for reading and research. We are presently expanding the space and plan on providing a comfortable work area for visitors.

And be sure to visit our web site: www.massarchaeology.net for information on programs. The website also features our online store which sells books and jewelry made by local Native Americans.

Museum hours are Wednesday from 9 am to 4 pm and Thursday and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. We invite you to visit us or to use our collections for research.

NEW BOOKS & ARTICLES

Cultural Resources on the New England Coast and Continental Shelf: Research, Regulatory, and Ethical Considerations from a Massachusetts Perspective

Bell, Edward L. (2009) *Coastal Management: The international journal of marine environment, resources, law and society* 37(1):17-53.

This article summarizes the region's ancient and historical period cultural resources in environmental contexts, examines potential effects of coastal and near-shore developments in light of environmental impact review and global climate change, and advocates

synthetic, local and regional scientific and historical narratives as parts of plans of action to implement coastal management goals. Copies may be purchased online at <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/tf/08920753.html>.

A New England Typology of Native American Projectile Points, Handbook Edition

Jeff Boudreau (2008) Freedom Digital, Ashland.

A New England Typology of Native American Projectile Points, Handbook Edition, by Jeff Boudreau features more than 375 color photos of projectile points shown actual size in a spiral-bound handbook. The points are grouped in 48 full-color plates with 52 referenced type descriptions. The handbook is a quick reference guide for the avocational and the professional archaeologist alike. It is available for \$40 (plus 5% sales tax for Massachusetts residents) from the Massachusetts Archaeological Society web store at: <http://www.shop.massarchaeology.org/main.sc>.

PASSINGS

George H. (Terry) Stillson

The archaeological community mourns the loss of George Stillson, professor of Anthropology and Archaeology at Cape Cod Community College, who passed away at his home in Hyannis, Massachusetts on March 25, 2009. Stillson did contract archaeology for both UMass and the National Park Service, most notably working on the excavations at Coast Guard Beach. He is survived by his wife Nancy, his children and grandchildren.

CNEA Thanks:

- ♦ Anna Maria College for hosting CNEA
- ♦ Outgoing members of the Steering Committee for their time and energy.

Conference Directions

Anna Maria College
50 Sunset Lane
Paxton, MA 01612

The Conference will be held in the Zecco Auditorium. See campus map for the location of the auditorium.

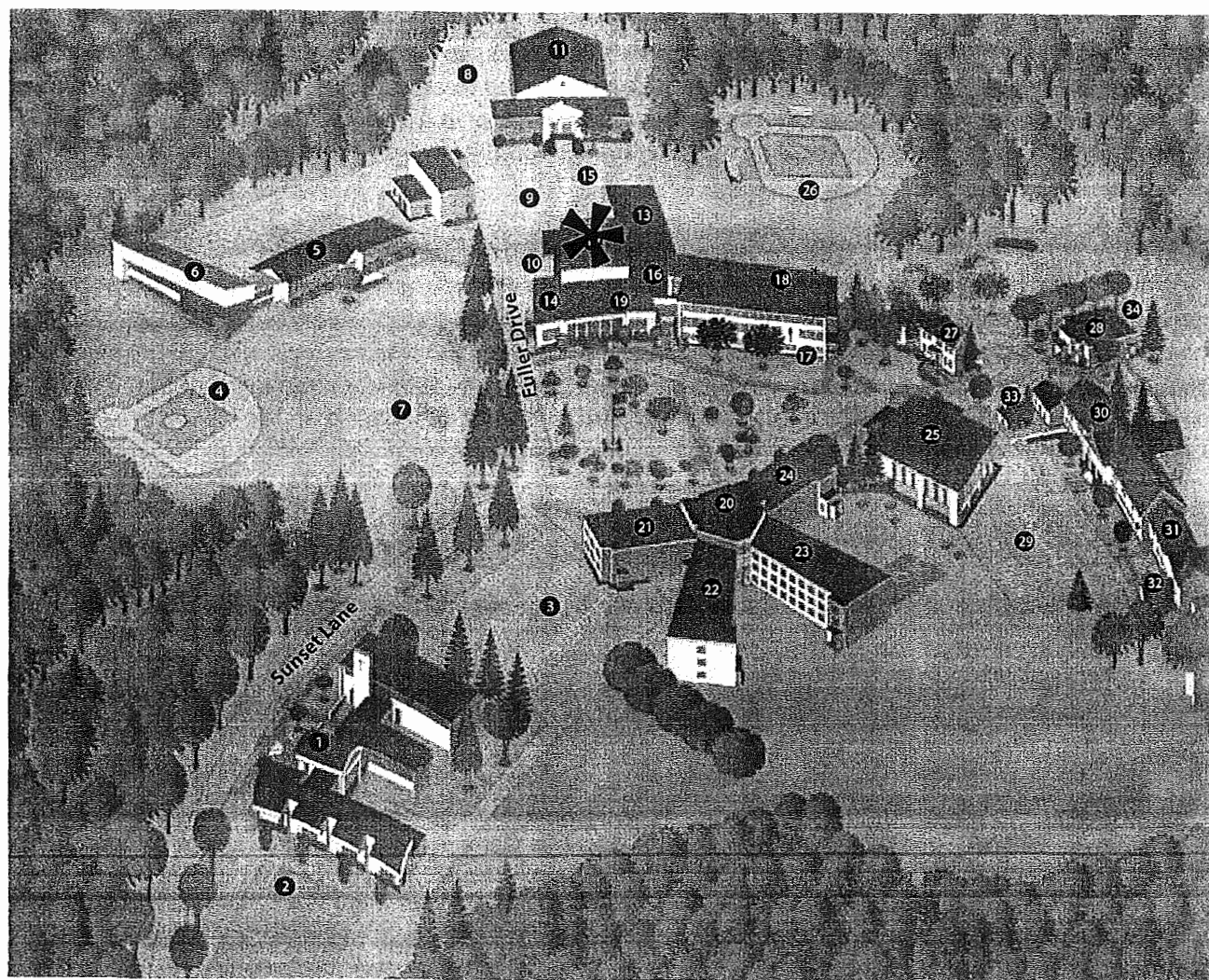
Directions to Paxton Campus:

From Rhode Island (Route 146): Follow Route 146 North onto Route I-290 East in Worcester to Exit 17 (Route 9). Turn left on Route 9 West (Belmont Street which later becomes Highland Ave). Route 9 turns left at Elm Park, (the intersection with Park Ave) but stay straight on Highland Ave. Continue straight through rotary (becomes Pleasant Street) and into Paxton (becomes Route 122). Turn right on Grove Street. Campus is two miles down on the left.

From South or West (I-190 or I-84): Take Route I-90 East (Mass Pike) or I-84 to Route 20 East. Take left onto Route 49 North. Turn right onto Route 9 East. In Spencer, take left at McDonald's onto Route 31 connector to Route 31 North into Paxton. Follow signs to College, which is off of Grove Street on left.

Alternate: Take Route I-90 (Mass Pike) East to Route 290 East in Auburn (Exit 10). Take Route 290 East to exit 17 (Route 9). Turn Left onto Route 9 West (Belmont Street which later becomes Highland Ave) and follow it to the intersection with Park Ave. Route 9 goes left, but stay straight on Highland Ave through the Rotary where Highland now becomes Pleasant St. Follow Pleasant St (becomes Route 122) into Paxton. Turn right onto Grove Street. Campus is two miles down on the left.

From Boston (I-90): Take Mass Pike West (I-90) to Auburn. At Auburn, take I-290 East to Exit 17 (Route 9). Turn left on Route 9 West (Belmont Street which later turns into Highland Ave). Route 9 turns left at Elm Park the intersection with Park Ave, but stay straight on Highland Ave. Continue straight through rotary (Highland becomes Pleasant Street) and into Paxton (becomes Route 122). Turn right onto Grove Street. Campus is two miles down on the left.





Conference on New England Archaeology

29th Annual Meeting

Sunday May 31, 2009

Anna Maria College

9:30–3:30; registration begins at 9:00

From Space to Place

C N E A

The Conference on New England Archaeology was formed in 1979 to strengthen communication and facilitate a continuous interchange of information among archaeologists who work in New England. CNEA publishes an annual newsletter highlighting relevant current research and sponsors an annual conference on a current topic in New England archaeology. Member benefits include the newsletter and conference admission.

\$15 in advance
\$20 at the door

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