

## NEWSLETTER

Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties  
John Strong, Editor

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### THE McNALLY-NICHOLS SITE (OLD HOMESTEAD) MT. SINAI, HARBOR, SUFFOLK COUNTY PART I

*Linda E. Barber, Editor*  
*Gaynell Stone, Linda Wicks, James Truex, et al.*

#### INTRODUCTION

The McNally-Nichols site was initially chosen as an interesting one for students to learn the techniques of historical archaeology and gain information on one facet of Long Island colonial life by Dr. Elizabeth Stone, SUSB Anthropology Dept., Project Director. Because the Old Homestead is one of the noteworthy early historic houses in Suffolk County, archaeological findings help to fill in some of the gaps in the incomplete culture history of the area. Urbanization is proceeding at a rapid pace, and possibilities for analyzing complex early historic sites are decreasing rapidly. As the material culture picture of historic Long Island is incomplete, historic artifacts data is welcomed in order to develop a more comprehensive inventory. In addition, the study of Mt. Sinai harbor during the historic period supplements the prehistoric study of the site (Gwynne, 1980), allowing for a lengthy longitudinal analysis of the area.

#### HISTORY

Maps, historic records, and information attest to the fact that during colonial times the land in the Crystal Brook Hollow area was part of a large estate belonging to the Strong family. This early Long Island family acquired land in several parts of the Island. Thompson (1843: ) mentions a Judge Thomas Strong (b. 1765) as owner of the land between Port Jefferson and Old Man's (Mt. Sinai) Harbor. Thomas Strong was the first judge of the county from 1810 to 1823. After completing his term as judge he became involved in agriculture and was president of the agricultural society of the county. On a 1797 survey made of the Town

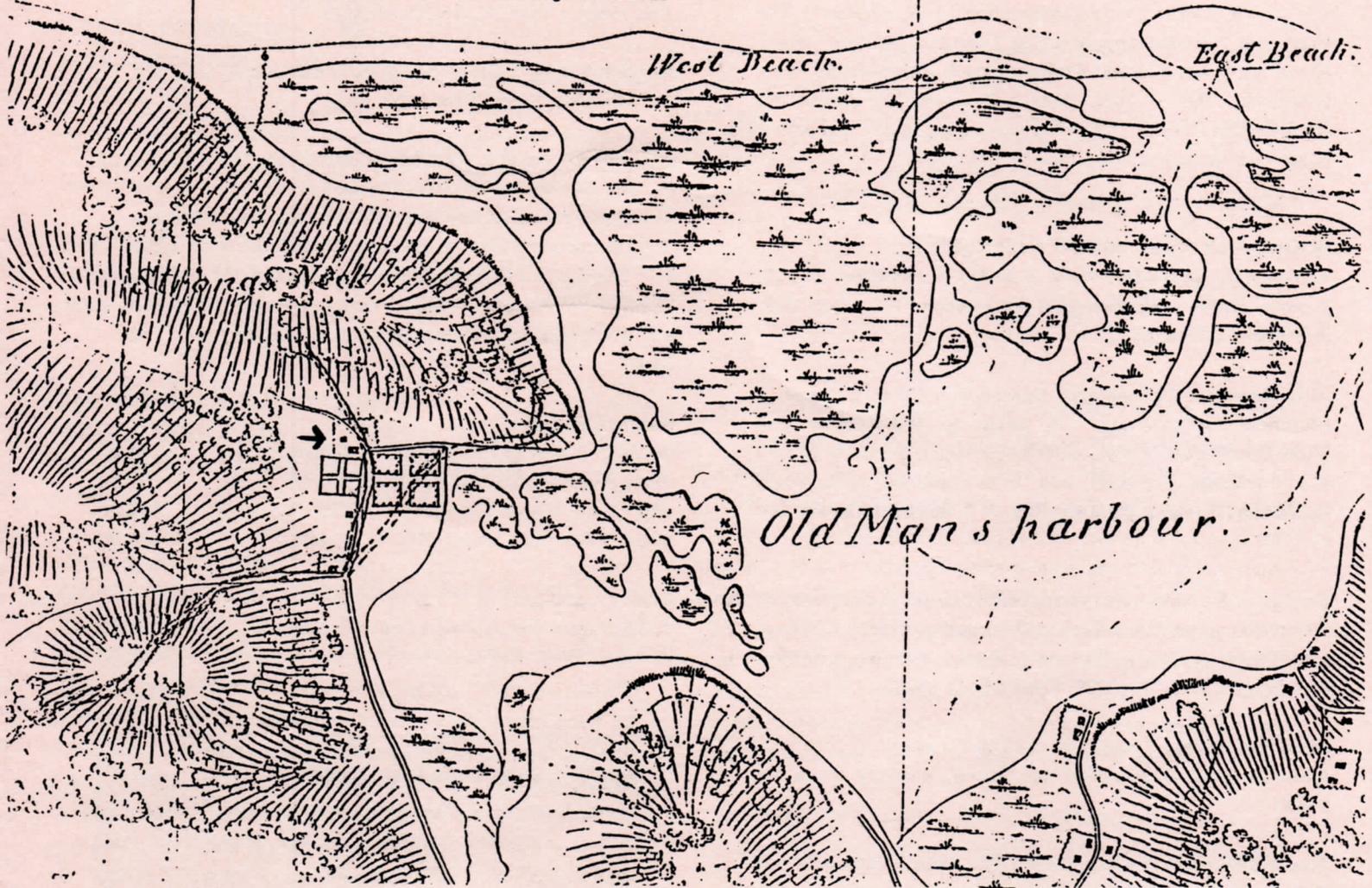
of Brookhaven by Hulse, Justice Strong's estate is located on the west side of Old Man's Harbor and consists of three buildings. The 1838 U.S.G.S. map details the location of various buildings, gardens, and orchards. On an 1855 Chase map the land in question is owned by the Misses Strong. The house and outbuildings are now gone, being destroyed by fire in the 1950's according to the last resident of the house, a Mrs. Heesch. One of the purposes of the field school was to locate the remains of the Strong house referred to as the "Old Homestead", a task made difficult because of the changes in the topography brought about by a new road and construction of homes.

#### SURVEY AND EXCAVATION STRATEGY

Surveying and testing in Spring, 1981 was conducted on the McNally-Nichols plot located on the west side of Mt. Sinai Harbor, Suffolk County, New York; this corresponds to Lots 1 and 2, Block 2, Section 006, District 0206 on maps published by the Suffolk County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Named for the property owners of record, the site is on land that is at present undeveloped. The parcel is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Winston Drive and Crystal Brook Hollow Road and measures approximately 90 by 71 meters. The northern boundary of the parcel is its only natural one, and is a rather sharp rise in elevation to approximately 12 meters above sea level. It lies less than 75m. from the western shore of Mt. Sinai harbor. The survey and excavation work was confined to the southern two-thirds of the parcel, as the sharp incline was considered an unlikely area for human habitation.

There were several indications that the area might possess historic period remains. In July, 1980, Gwynne laid out test pits at intervals of 10 meters searching for prehistoric materials. Although the testing was not successful in fulfilling this goal, evidence of historic remains was uncovered. The pits yielded ceramics, nails, glass, bricks, and other historic artifacts. Three possible features





#### GIFTS TO SCAA

SCAA's Long Island Culture History Lab & Museum was recently given a number of 19th century artifacts by Mrs. Irene Emerson of Old Field to use in its educational programs. They will be especially useful in the blacksmithing and 19th century cooking activities. Her generosity will enhance this experience for thousands of school children each year. Thank you, Irene Emerson!

#### MUSEUM NEWS

The L.I. Culture History Lab & Museum staff are conducting afterschool enrichment programs in Archaeology for the gifted students of the William Floyd School District. Students in all four elementary schools participate two days a week for three weeks in artifact study, survey and mapping, context exercises, conservation, measurement, simulated excavation, etc. The experience culminates in field trips to the Colonial Life & Technology program at Blydenburgh County Park, which includes historical archaeology.

#### SCAA SPRING MEETING SPEAKERS

Blydenburgh County Park

New Mill Road, Smithtown

(516)929-8725 8 PM

April 21

Dr. Linda Barber, Suffolk Community College,  
"Historic Settlement Patterns at Old Mans, LI"

May 18

Jo-Ann McLean, Archaeological Consultant,  
"Hurtin House, Yaphank, LI"

Send Newsletter Articles to:

Editor: Dr. John Strong

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Southampton, NY 11968

## SCAA PUBLICATIONS

The papers of each of the various authors in Vol. VII, Part 1: **The Historical Archaeology of Long Island** of SCAA's series, **Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory**, have been listed in the Fall, 1992 Bibliography issue of the **Vernacular Architecture Forum**. This listing gives Long Island research a wider national audience.

## BOOKS AND JOURNALS OF INTEREST

*Archaeology of Eastern North America*, Subscription \$23.00, Eastern States Archaeological Foundation, P.O. Box 386, Bethlehem, CT 06751

*North American Archaeologist*, Subscription \$36.00 per year  
**Historical Archaeology: A guide to Substantive and Theoretical Contributions**. Edited by Robert L. Schuyler. \$24.95 + 2.50 postage. (800)638-7819 Both published by Baywood Publishing Company, 26 Austin Ave., P.O. Box 33, Amityville, NY 11701

*Society of Primitive Technology Bulletin*. This journal features articles on ethnobotany, flintknapping, pottery making, weaving, primitive technology workshops and environmental concerns. SPT Bulletin, P.O. Box 3226, Flagstaff, AZ 86003

*Akwe:kon Journal*, Subscription \$15.00 per year, Akwe:kon Press, 400 Caldwell Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853

**The Montgomery Focus: A Late Woodland Potomac River Culture**, Richard Slattery and Douglas Woodward, editors. 191 pgs. Archaeological Society of Maryland, ASM Inc. Publications, 4302 Crow Rock Rd., Myersville, Maryland 21773

**Guidelines for Arrangement and Description of Archives**, Free Publication. Documentary Heritage Program, Statewide Historical Records Services, Room 9B44, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230, (518)474-4372

## CONFERENCES AND FIELD SCHOOLS

**April 3-5** Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference., Sheraton Fountainbleau Inn, Ocean City, Maryland

**May 5-6** 6th Annual International Conference on Lyme Disease, Bally's Park Place Hotel, Atlantic City, NJ  
(203)871-2900

**June 4-5** Conference on NYS Hist, Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, NY

**June 21 - July 30** Boston University Summer Term Archaeological Field School, Newbury, MA, Director: Mary C. Beaudry, Boston University, Dept. of Archaeology, 675 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, MA 02215 (617)353-3415

## PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

**Readings in LI Archaeology & Ethnohistory**: All volumes are \$35. Vols. I and VI are out of print.

- ~~I. Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology~~
- II. The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III. The History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2nd Edition
- IV. Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
- V. The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
- ~~VI. The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History~~
- VII. The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part I: The Sites

### Student Series:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of LI | \$5.50  |
| Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans          | \$7.50  |
| Wall Chart: Native Technology (26X39" 3 colors)   | \$13.00 |
| Map: Native Long Island (26X39" 3 colors)         | \$13.00 |

### Exhibit Catalogs:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| The Montauk: Native Americans of Eastern LI    | \$3.50 |
| Women's Work: Native & African Americans of LI | \$3.50 |

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 20% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Student (to age 18) \$10 | Individual \$20 |
| Family \$30              | Sustaining \$50 |
| Contributing \$100       | Patron \$200    |
| Life \$400               |                 |

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Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Willing to volunteer? \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, NY 11790