

NEWSLETTER

Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

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**James Ernest Truex
Former S.C.A.A. President,
Dies January 12, Age 85**

Jim Truex, son of noted actor Ernest Truex, was a man of many talents and many careers; among them was active participation on behalf of Long Island archaeology. He served as SCAA President from 1978 to 1982.

Born in Great Neck, he was educated at the Leighton Park School in Reading, England, and the Mohonk School, a Quaker preparatory school then located in Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz, N.Y. This is where a teacher took students to excavate in nearby rock shelters, thus interesting him in archaeology, a life-long avocation and later profession. Jim was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Haverford College.

Jim was a juvenile actor in many Broadway plays, including "Pygmalion." He served as a Navy officer in the Pacific in World War II, moving with his actress wife, Victory Abbott, and daughter Penelope to Middletown, NY in the late 1940s. During this time he wrote historical dramas and early television shows, including the "Hallmark Hall of Fame" and "You are There." His writing skills were utilized by SCAA in editing Vol. V, **The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader**, in 1982 and in co-writing the student booklet, *A Way of Life: Natives of Long Island, Prehistoric Period*, 1985.

He was very involved in publishing the volumes of SCAA's series, **Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory**.

His public service career began as public relations director for the State Department of Public Works during the Harriman administration from 1955-58. He then became press secretary and later deputy county executive for Nassau County Executive Eugene Nickerson from 1962-1971. It was here that he became involved with Nassau County archaeology through Commissioner Edward Patterson's founding of the Garvies Point Museum and its first director, Ronald Wyatt.

Jim assisted with Wyatt's extensive excavation of the Wading River site, Wading River, NY, sites in Glen Cove, etc. After his years in government Jim's major excavation, the Livingston Pond Site and the adjunct Bath House and Big Tree sites, occurred during his years as vice-president of Friends World College in Lloyd Harbor N.Y. In 1983-84 Jim and Donna Ottusch-Kianka had a firm, Bi-County Archaeological Consultants, which carried out surveys in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

In commemoration of the passing of a unique and valuable person, Jim's Bath House Site report is printed herein.

- Gaynell Stone, Donna Ottusch-Kianka

Meetings

Call for Papers, due **March 1: Multicultural Education: Crossing Borders for Equity and Justice**, to be held November 10-14, San Diego, CA. For information, call 619-623-2777.

Call for Papers, due **March 1: New York State Archaeological Association**, to be held **April 30 - May 2**, Eddy Farm Resort Hotel, Sparrowbush, NY. For information, contact Joe Diamond, PO Box 527, Goshen, NY 10924.

Centennial Conference on Nassau County: From Rural Hinterland to Suburban Metropolis, March 18-20, Hofstra University. For information, call 516-463-5669/5670.

The **Society for American Archaeology** annual conference at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel **March 24-28** has a wide variety of presentations, special pre- and post-conference workshops, and archaeology and education sessions. For information, call Elizabeth Foxwell, 202-789-8200.

The **Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference** will be held **April 9-11** at the Harrisburg, PA, Ramada on Market Square. For information, contact Kurt Carr,

Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Museum, PO Box 1026, Harrisburg, PA 17108-1026.

The **Archeological Society of Connecticut** holds its annual meeting at the new Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Ledyard, CT **April 24**, with a number of talks on the Pequot fort, Ft. Shantok, the Dutch fort at Albany, Ft. William Henry, etc. For information, call Lucinda McWeeney, 203-226-4611.

The **American Association of Museums** annual meeting, "Reinventing the Museum: Relevance & Renewal," will be held **April 25-29** at the Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, OH. For information, call 202-289-1818.

The Three Village Historical Society is sponsoring a day bus trip to the **Mashantucket Pequot Museum** on **April 30**. Call 751-3730 for more information.

The **Vernacular Architecture Forum** annual meeting is **May 5-8** at the Hilton Hotel in Columbus, GA, with extensive regional tours. For information, contact Julie Turner, 8A La Grange St., Newnan, GA 30263.

The Conference on New England Archaeology, focusing on "**Coastal and Maritime Archaeology in New England**," will be held **May 8** at the Strawberry Banke restoration, Portsmouth, NH. For information, contact Claire Carlson, Anth. Dept., Machmer Hall, U-Mass Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003.

The **International Rock Art Congress** will be held **May 23-28** at Ripon College, Ripon, WI, with rock art and earth mound field trips. For information, contact Donna Gillette, 1642 Tiber Ct., San Jose, CA 95138; Fax 408-223-2248.

Call for Papers, due **June 1**: the **Eastern States Archaeological Federation** and **Ohio Archaeological Federation** annual meeting at King Island Center, OH, with tours to Fort Ancient Earthworks and Museum and Dr. Thomas Dillehay speaking on the early Monte Verde site, to be held **November 17-21**. For info, call Martha P. Otto, 614-297-2641; Fax 614-297-2411.

"Textiles in New England II: Four Centuries of Material Life" is the topic for the **June 18-20** Dublin Seminar, to be held at Deerfield, MA. For information, contact Peter Benes, 978-369-7382.

Resources

Native America is an environmental research organization based on Long Island. Founded in 1995, its mission is the reintroduction of native plant and animal species to their respective places in the American lands through education, research, and

habitat restoration. Among their projects is relocating the bat population from the Blydenburgh County Park gristmill into more appropriate nearby bat houses. Another is supporting the fight to preserve the rare *Grandifolia* Sandhills in Baiting Hollow, now threatened with development. Membership includes handsome newsletters and other special publications; send \$5. dues to Native America, PO Box 5001, Hauppauge, NY 11788.

Discover Archaeology, a new magazine detailing the latest discoveries and the science of archaeology. Many of the field's outstanding scientists are contributors. Premier issue is Jan/Feb. 1999, one year is \$15.95, at PO Box 9473, El Paso, TX 79995.

The National Council on Public History supports a diverse public history community with **The Public Historian** journal, annual conferences (**April 29-May 1** at Lowell, MA), advocacy, collaborative efforts, and special publications. Membership is \$39.95, U. of California Press, Journals Division, 2120 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94720; Fax 510-642-9917.

New and Noteworthy

Oldest U.S. House in Oregon - the remains of a house radiocarbon dated to 9,490 years before the present were found during road widening work near Newberry National Volcanic Monument, south of Bend, Oregon. The post remains show a c. 14' by 18' rough oval with a large hearth; it had been buried in volcanic ash about 7,500 years ago. Blood trace analysis from stone tools showed bison, rabbit, bear, sheep, and deer/elk were killed, and plant remains include chokecherries, hazelnuts, blackberries, and bulrushes. Other hearths and house traces were present, but without structural remains. Sagebrush bark sandals discovered dating to about the same time period were found many years ago at Fort Rock Cave, about 25 miles away. The house inhabitants are felt to be the Windust hunter-gatherers of c. 11,000 years ago.

News of "Kennewick Man" - it is one of the oldest skeletons found in the U.S., and was barely studied by anthropologist James Chatters before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intended to return it to a local Native American group for reburial. Only a lawsuit filed by the leading physical anthropologists of the country prevented that. The courts allowed Dr. Chatters to join Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution to examine the skeleton, using a tape recorder to capture his comments, during a 22 hour session on October 28, 1998. He was able to separate out faunal fragments and reassociate 340 pieces of bone before the skeletal remains were deposited in the Burke Museum,

Seattle, WA. Dr. Owsley and Cleone Hawkins on, the designated note-taker, visited the Kennewick site on the Columbia River where the Corps of Engineers had defied the will of Congress and dumped 2,000 tons of rocks and dirt on the site and planted hundreds of trees, in effect destroying one of the most important sites in the country.

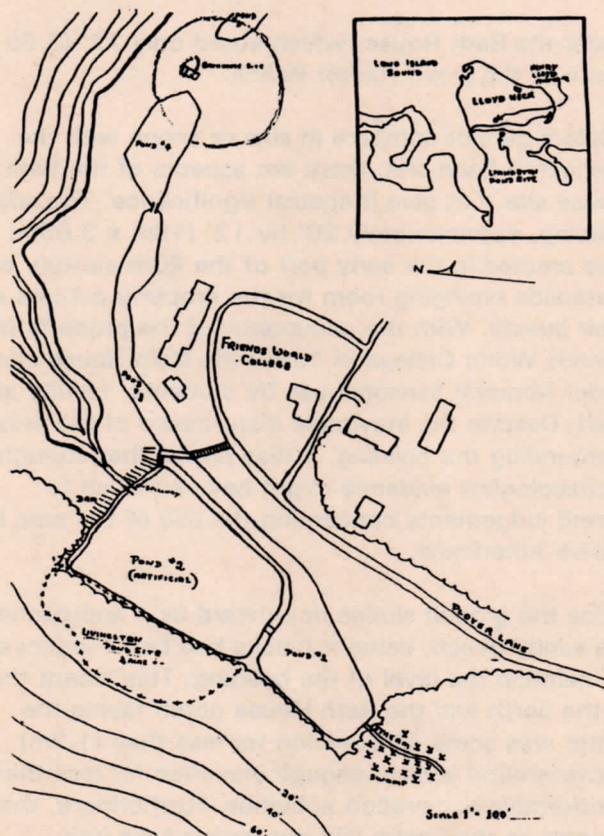
A radiocarbon date of 8780 + 150 years before the present has been obtained from a K-man metacarpal bone. Since his diet may have contained a lot of marine food, this new date allows for that. The scientists at the UC-Riverside Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry urge that the Corps allow further testing, as they believe a minimum of three dates are needed for accuracy.

-American Committee for the Preservation of Archaeological Collections, PO Box 1171, Whittier, CA 90609-1171.

Teaching (Archaeology) with Historic Places is an educational series published by the National Register of Historic Places of the US National Park Service. It consists of 55 lesson plans to help junior and senior high school teachers acquaint students with NR historic sites. Five of the lesson plans deal with archaeological properties: Frederica: 18th century Community (in Georgia); Gran Quivira: A Pueblo Village (Arizona); Knife River: Early Village Life on the Plains (Minnesota); Mammoth Cave (Kentucky); and Saugus Iron Works (Massachusetts).

Nothing from Long Island or New York State, a most populous area of the country? Why not let the National Register know how we feel about this lack. A Teacher's Guide and more information is available from Barbara Little, NPS, National Register, History, and Education, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC 20240; tel: 202-343-9513, Web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/twhp/home.html>

The Many Faces of Lyme Disease is a book that details the stories of those infected with Lyme Disease who have had their lives ruined; some have recovered, some have not. The story behind it was aired on the Lifetime TV Network on May 30th to great acclaim and relief from the many who are infected but who have not been able to get appropriate treatment. **The Faces of Lyme Diseases** is a video produced by Peabody and Emmy-award winner Nancy Smith; among other things, it illustrates how formerly gifted students become intellectually impaired from the effects of Lyme. Both are available for \$15. each from the Lyme Disease Foundation, One Financial Plaza, Hartford, CT 06103; telephone 860-525-2000.



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE BATH HOUSE SITE

Livingston Property, West Neck, Suffolk County, NY

James Truex,
Archaeological Consultant
140 Carpenter Avenue
Sea Cliff, NY 11579

The Bath House Site is located at the south shore of Lloyd Harbor, a narrow body of water which lies between Lloyd and West Neck on the North Shore of Long Island, New York at the western edge of Suffolk County (AMS Lloyd Harbor Quad 5365-NNW). It is at approximately 40 54' 50" by 73 27' 30".

From 1969 to the present, the property has been owned by the New York Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends. This extensive waterfront property functioned for more than a decade as the North American Campus of Friends World College. As a Public Relations Director and then Vice-president of the college -- and as a part-time archaeologist -- I devoted my spare hours to the excavation of an extensive pre-historic Native American site on the west bank of Livingston pond that lies at the western edge of the campus.

In the spring of 1976, it was noted that shells and prehistoric artifacts were leaching from a well-worn path leading to the Lloyd Harbor Beach See area map #1). This site appeared to exist both adjacent to and

under the Bath House, which stood only 12' (3.65 m) south of the Lloyd Harbor Beach.

While it cannot compare in size or scope with the Livingston Pond site, there are aspects of the Bath House site that give it special significance. The small building, approximately 20' by 12' (18m x 3.65m) was erected in the early part of the 20th century as a waterside changing room for the property owners and their guests. With the occupancy of the property by Friends World College in 1969, the Bath House came under frequent seasonal use by students, faculty and staff. Despite the inevitable disturbance of the area surrounding the building, it was hoped that enough archaeological evidence might have survived to permit judgements concerning the use of the area by Native Americans.

Since the ground slopes downward as it approaches the sandy beach, cement blocks had been employed to maintain the level of the building. This meant that at the north end the Bath House porch facing the water was some 4' elevation for less than (1.2m) above ground level -- enough elevation for less than comfortable excavation activities. Furthermore, the squares as they were laid out had to take into account the positioning of the cinder block supports. As work progressed southward, headroom inevitably diminished.

A datum point was established cement block supports near the northeast corner of the building at 8.5,' ASL (2. 6m) . The shell midden layer beneath the Bath House was clearly marked by concentrations of shell, including hard and soft shell clam, oyster, scallop and--occasionally--whelk. The midden layer under the building proved better preserved than in adjoining areas.

The first square excavated, S1E2, was on fairly level ground 4"(1.83m) east of the Bath House porch and south of the large oak tree. Layer #1 of this square consisted of brown, loamy soil 3.5" in depth (8.84cm) . The layer yielded 27 very worn hard and soft shell clam fragments. Near the surface were two rusted round nails and two white glazed china sherds. Also in layer #2 there were ninety-nine one quartz and two chert flakes. Artifacts consisted of one smoky quartz, crudely shaped but sharp-edged cutting tool, one 1 broken point of a biface quartz tool or spear point and one narrow-stemmed Wading River type point with the point broken. Layer # 3 was orange soil with pebbles, no shell particles, and no further flakes or artifacts.

The next square chosen for excavation, S1M1, was parallel with S1E2 but located in the crawl space directly beneath the northeast corner of the building and somewhat disturbed in several places by the supporting cinder blocks. Layer #1 consisted of a dry,

powdery brown soil 1" or 2" thick, followed by a darker brown soil with pebbles and a few shells. This time the contemporary debris consisted of two round nails, one 1 small, oval metal ring and two white china fragments. However, also found were one hundred twenty quartz and seven chert flakes. Despite the fact that it was 7" to 9" in depth (17.8cm to 22.9cm) and contained a wealth of lakes, this layer contained very few artifacts. They were four in number: a very small triangular point of quartz (2cm x 2cm x 2.5cm) ; the broken tip of a large quartz point or knife; an unfinished quartz point broken lengthwise (4.5cm tip to base), and a reddish, grit tempered sherd with seven fine incised lines on its exterior. This sherd was found to fit a companion sherd similarly incised but located in the upper part of Layer #2.

Layer #2 contained as well a heavy concentration of oyster, hard and soft clam shells and a few fragments of scallop. ,Also found was the inner column of a whelk. Artifacts consisted of point end of a chert projectile, as well as the basal half of a small, quartz Wading River type point with a narrow stem and weak shoulders. It was broken across the mid-section. There were also four sherds including the one that matched the sherd Layer #1. Two others were much worn but were grit tempered, reddish, and may have been part of the layer #1 vessel. There was also a grit tempered sherd, shell-scraped on its interior. The exterior was firmly incised with four parallel lines and one diagonal. A large grit tempered sherd (5cm at its greatest width) had a fabricmarked exterior and smooth scraped interior. Finally, at the base of the layer a fist-sized hammerstone was found which was pitted in three distinct spots. Again, the midden layer contained no features, no charcoal and no bones. Layer #3 had orange-yellow soil with pebbles but no flakes or artifacts.

Out of concern that too much digging beneath the Bath House might affect the stability of the building, only the northernmost 1.5' (45.72cm) of square S1WE were excavated. Like its neighbor to the east, the first layer was composed of dusty, dry, grey-brown soil. This layer, which was 7.1" deep (18cm) contained two modern nails and a 1 small, cylindrical piece of lead containing two holes. It was probably intended as a fishline weight. As with square S1W1, this layer contained many flakes. The total was fifty-two 51 quartz and 1 chert).

Layer #2, the shell midden area, while no more than 4" (10. 16cm) in depth, contained 220 flakes, only five of which were of chert, the rest quartz. Despite this prodigious amount of debitage, the layer held only four unequivocal artifacts: the broken point of an unfinished quartz knife or projectile point: a large, flaked object of quartz, suitable for use as a cutting tool; an oval stone with minor indications of use as a

hammerstone; and a grit tempered sherd. This sherd had a crudely scraped interior and an exterior decorated with four parallel incised lines, and a fifth bordering them at an angle. These incised lines overlay cord-wrapped paddle stamping. In most respects it resembles Bowmans Brook Incised vessel, which would place it chronologically in the early component of the Clasons Point Focus (see Smith, C 1950: 192) .



The Southwest Corner of the Bath House.

Layer #3 of S1W2 consisted of yellow sandy soil with many pebbles. Forty-five flakes were found, all of them quartz, plus a few pieces of shell. And once again the layer contained no features, no charcoal and no bones.

Square N1W2 lies in the northwest corner of the porch. Since a major portion was severely disturbed, only the northern quarter was excavated. Layer #1, approximately 5" (12.9cm) in depth, a dusty grey at the surface, turning brown after the first inches. As the digging progressed, the soil contained a scattering of pebbles and shell fragments. Human debris consisted of a slivers of glass. Near one of the cinder blocks was a small, oblong sherd. it was grit tempered, reddish, very worn and difficult to categorize. The layer also contained eight quartz flakes. Layer #2, 6.5" deep (15.6cm), contained thirty-seven quartz and two chert flakes. Layer #3, dug to a depth of 4.5" (11.4CM) , was brown, pebbly soil with small shell particles and contained no historic or prehistoric artifacts. Square S2E2, immediately south of S1E2 and east of the Bath House path, was the last of the squares to be excavated. The soil texture of Layer #1 was fine sand with some pebbles, and varied from 2" (5.04cm) to 4" 10.08cm, north to south. The western portion was somewhat disturbed by the path. The soil toward the base of the layer was mixed with some gravel. As with S1E2 several modern nails were found. The only evidence of aboriginal occupation consisted of three quartz and one chert flake.

Layer #2 was a loose, dark brown soil with a scattering of broken shell, mostly clam. Since it was

located on a northward slope, the depth of the layer varied between 2" (5.08cm) and 6" (15.24cm) . Found were forty-four quartz flakes and two white glazed china sherds. Also unearthed were one crudely worked quartz cutting tool and one more carefully worked gray chert point, broken at the base.

Layer #3, dug to a depth of 3" (7.6cm) to 4" (10.2cm), paralleled the lowest depth of the path in that area.

Square N1W2 is located toward the northwest corner of the Bath House. The area was so much disturbed by cement blocks and stairs that only a small quarter section at the northwest corner of the Bath House was excavated. Layer #1, approximately 5" (12.9cm) in depth, was dusty gray at the surface, turning brown as digging progressed, and yielding a scattering of pebbles and shell fragments. Modern debris was confined to a few pieces of glass. A single very small prehistoric sherd came from the base of this layer. It was of red clay and grit tempered. The surface treatment could not be determined.

Layer #2 of N1W2 consisted of pebbly brown soil and frequent shell. In addition to twenty-one quartz flakes, a small, rectangular hammerstone was unearthed. Layer #3, dug to a depth of 4.511 (11.4cm) held brown, pebbly soil with few shell particles and no artifacts. The base of the layer displayed no pits, hearths, post mold patterns, or other indication of aboriginal settlement.

The last of the squares to be excavated, S2E2, was east of the Bath House path and 2' south of S1E2. The texture of layer #1 was fine sand with some pebbles. The depth varied from 2" (5.04cm) to 4" (10.08cm). The western portion was disturbed by the path to the beach. As with S1E2, several round nails were found. The only evidence of aboriginal occupation were three quartz and one chert flake.

Layer #2 was a dark brown soil with a scattering of broken shells, mostly clam. The depth of the layer varied between 2"(5.04cm) and 5" (25.40cm) . Found were forty-four quartz flakes and two white china sherds. Also found were one crudely worked quartz cutting tool and one neatly made blue-gray chert point broken across the mid-section. Layer #3 consisting of yellow-brown soil and pebbles, contained few shell fragments, no flakes and no artifacts.

A total of only eleven sherds were found in the various layers of the five squares excavated. All of them were grit tempered, all but one were small, and only one bore an incised decoration on its exterior. This sherd may well have been part of the shoulder of a Bowmans Brook Incised vessel.

Following a severe thunder storm, a number of sherds were found to be leaching from the east wall of the path as it reached the oak tree. Within this narrow strip of soil there were eighty-three sherds in all. Though there were no rims, there were fourteen exteriors near-rims. These sherds had smoothed interiors and exteriors decorated with horizontal rows of cord-wrapped stick impressions. The remaining sixty-nine sherds, quite evidently from the main body of the vessel, were impressed with a cord-wrapped paddle. This combination of attributes strongly resembles Carlyle Smith's East River Cord marked category, a vessel type that is "fairly common on all sites of the East River Aspect" (Smith 1950, p.193).

DISCUSSION

The Bath House site, lacking as it does hearths, charcoal, post holes and storage pits, and yielding a very limited assortment of potsherds, is not likely to have served as an aboriginal habitation site. What purpose, then, did it serve?

While seventeen quartz and chert cutting tools or points were found, all of them were broken or unfinished. Where it was unusually well endowed, was in the number of quartz and chert flakes yielded by five excavated squares.

The site's major function appears to have been the manufacture of tools, knives, projectiles and other stone objects for use by Native Americans whose actual habitation sites were elsewhere. The leading candidate for this role is the Livingston Pond site, which is less than 700' west of the Bath House. This large site has all the characteristics of extended occupation. Carbon 14 tests from charcoal found at this much larger and complex site indicated occupation as early as 325 A.D., and as late as 1450 A.D. This lengthy time period is of little help in determining when the Bath House site may have been in actual use. However, the potsherds a single vessel found in the Bath House path offers a clue to period during which the site was in use. The parallel horizontal lines of stamping encircling the rim and neck areas, together with the cord marking of the body exterior, identify the vessel as Bowmans Brook Stamped. This vessel type, according to Carlyle Smith, makes its appearance in the Bowmans Brook focus of the East River aspect, and dies out during the Clasons Point focus.

Several vessels found at the Livingston Pond site have been identified as belonging to the same classification. Thus, this small, special purpose Bath House site probably was in use as a stone tool manufactory and shell fish gathering place during a considerable portion of the late Woodland period.

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory:

All volumes are \$35. + \$5. shipping, except Vol. III, 2d d., which is \$75. + \$6. shipping; both plus 8.25 sales tax in N.Y. State. Vols. I, IV, VI are out of print.

- I. Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology
- II. The Coastal Archaeology Reader
- III. History & Archaeology of the Montauk, 2d ed.
- IV. Languages & Lore of the Long Island Indians
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in SCAA includes 3 Newsletters per year and a 10% reduction in workshop and publication costs. All contributions are tax deductible.

Student (to 18)	\$10.	Individual	\$20.
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