

North Fork Chapter 29

Newsletter

Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

Spring 2018

Volume 14, Issue 1

Chapter 29 Officers

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North Fork Chapter 29

***Meets at 7 pm on the 3rd
Friday of each month
except December, July
and August
at the Heritage House,
4 Sylvania Street
Brookville, PA 15825***

**Meeting is in the
Classroom - enter on the
Right entrance on the
building front**

**The Chapter Newsletter
is published in
January and July**

Submissions should be
directed to Ken Burkett at
kenburket@comcast.net

Note from the President

Our biggest upcoming project is hosting the annual meeting of the Society For Pennsylvania Archaeology the first weekend in April. This meeting is a fantastic opportunity to see what is going on throughout the state and talk first hand with other archaeologists. At the dinner, dinner Michael Gramley will be presenting the newest discoveries relating to Paleoindian use of mammoths in the northeast. Please make your plans now to help make this weekend successful. If you have never attended a state meeting before – you won't be sorry.

The June bus trip to Cahokia and other major mid-western sites is one you won't want to miss. This is an opportunity to visit world heritage sites with the professionals who work there.

Last year our chapter picnic at the Scripture Rocks Park was a nice success and I'm hopeful that everyone wants to do the same again this year.

As for projects, there are several pending including testing to help validate findings of a GPR survey and exploring for additional panels at the Parkers Landing Petroglyphs. If you are interested in helping do a more complete survey of the area surrounding the Chickoree pictograph site, please let me know. We will be returning there early in the spring before the spring foliage greens.

I also have several day hikes planned in the early spring (on Sundays) to visit a few sites in this area that everyone will be interested in. More details at the February and March meetings.

The Annual Antique Rifle and Indian Artifact Show is scheduled for Saturday, September 1st. With our increased marketing approach and the atlatl throw at the Elk Fest in Elk County we should dramatically see an increase in attendance.

Don't forget your 2018 North Fork Chapter 29 Dues
Dues Support fees for non-chapter speakers and meeting room rental

2018 Chapter Meetings and Regional Events Schedule

Chapter Meeting

Friday, Feb. 16, 7:00 pm

Bill Black

Uhler Farm Rockshelter

Saturday, March 10

Military Collectables Show

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

9 am - 4 pm

Chapter Meeting-

Friday, March 17, 7:00 pm

Hanna Harvey

Recording Archaeological Sites

SPA Annual Meeting - April 6,7, 8

Comfort Suites, Dubois PA'

HOSTED by North Fork 29

Chapter Meeting -

Friday, April 20, 7:00 pm

Topic: To Be Announced

Chapter Meeting

Friday, May 18, 7:00 pm

Jonathan Libbon

No Meeting June and July

Saturday, Aug. 4,

French Creek Artifact Show
St. Phillip Catholic Church Hall

401 S. Linesville, PA

Saturday, Sept. 1

**Antique Rifles and Indian
Artifact Show**

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

9 am - 4 pm

We have one of the largest active SPA chapters in the state and are always open to your thoughts or ideas on programs, events, activities or anything that can help make what we do better and more fun. Please send me your thoughts.

Ken Burkett. Chapter President

**4TH ANNUAL
MILITARY
COLLECTIBLES SHOW**

SATURDAY
MARCH 10, 2018
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
RT. 28, 1/4 MILE NORTH OF
INTERSTATE 80, EXIT 81



**FEATURING MILITARIA FOR SALE, SHOW AND
TRADE FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE PRESENT**

ADMISSION: ADULTS - \$7.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16 - FREE

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION: EMAIL: kburkett-jchc@windstream.net
Tele: (814) 849-0077 or VISIT WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG

BENEFITS THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Military Collectibles Show

Join the Jefferson County History Center for their 4th annual Military Collectibles Show! It will be held on Saturday, March 10, 9 AM - 4 PM at the Jefferson County Fair Grounds.

Admission is \$7 for adults and children 16 and under are free.

If you would like to register for a table, go to (jchconline.org) and fill out the registration form in the "Events" section or contact Ken Burkett at (814) 849-0077.

**13TH ANNUAL
ANTIQUE FIREARMS &
INDIAN ARTIFACT SHOW**


SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2018
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS
RT. 28
1/4 MILE NORTH OF PA

**ANTIQUE FIREARMS THROUGH 1898
PREHISTORIC AND HISTORIC ARTIFACTS**

VENDORS & EXHIBITORS

IDENTIFICATION, FLINT KNAPPING, PRIMITIVE GAMES
ATLATL COMPETITION





RAFFLE FOR A 50 CAL. MUZZLELOADER IN THE STYLE OF
LOCAL GUNSMITH JOHN SHERRY SR. BY RON LUCKENBILL

ADMISSION: ADULTS - \$7.00 CHILDREN UNDER 16 - FREE

FOR TABLE RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION: EMAIL: kburkett-jchc@windstream.net
Tele: (814) 849-0077 or VISIT WWW.JCHCONLINE.ORG

BENEFITS THE JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND
NORTH FORK CHAPTER 29, SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Antique Rifles & Indian Artifact Show

It's not too early to be planning for the 13th Annual Artifact show. With our additional marketing this year, we are hoping to double the attendance and attract more families with kids.

Talk to you friends who have collections, knap or like the atlatl, and have them join us as part of a great annual event.

Stay tuned for more updates closer to the show.

David Alsobrook Visits Scripture Rocks Heritage Park

By Jess Weible

Since it opened in 2016, Scripture Rocks Heritage Park has attracted thousands of visitors from near and far to wander through its trails and admire the landscape, the geology, the birds and the many rock engravings done by one of Brookville's most enigmatic figures, Douglas Stahlman. Recently the park had a very special guest, Douglas Stahlman's great grandson, David Alsobrook.

David grew up in the Atlanta suburbs and has lived there for most of his life. He graduated from Florida State in Tallahassee and married his wife, Debbie, with whom he has four boys. Alsobrook has worked most of his career at Cisco Systems in product management and business development.

Until recently, he knew nothing about the mystery behind his lineage. In fact, it wasn't until Brian Fritz, co author of *The Scripture Rocks: Why Douglas Stahlman Carved His Legacy in Stone*, called David one day offering a manuscript copy of the book, claiming that he was the grandson of a man he never heard of. "I will say it was really cool when Brian called me on the phone," Alsobrook said. "It was completely out of the blue. Most people don't get that kind insight into something like that."



Alsobrook's grandfather was Stahlman's younger son, James. It was shortly after giving birth to James that Stahlman's wife, Marion, died of blood poisoning. According to the local newspaper, Stahlman had dismissed his wife's doctor in favor of the practices of faith healing to cure his wife. He was arrested on charges of being insane and dangerous. His wife's brother, James Alsobrook, ultimately won custody of Stahlman's two sons, Glen and James. It was soon after that Stahlman returned to Brookville and began to formulate his "rock plan."

Today, Scripture Rocks Heritage Park has had thousands of visitors, and in 2017 was recognized with the American Association of State and Local History's 72nd Annual Leadership in History Award. Fritz had told Alsobrook about the plans to build the park and the History Center updated him with its progress, but once he saw his great grandfather's work on a Roadside America's list of travel destinations in Pennsylvania, he decided it was time to take a tour for himself.

The History Center's Director, Ken Burkett and the JCHS Board President, Eric Armstrong, guided Alsobrook and his wife on their tour, explaining their process for uncovering the rocks as well as piecing together from their extensive research the context behind each of Stahlman's engravings in the park. Alsobrook and his wife noted with admiration the size and spacing of the lettering and the beauty of the landscape. "You read about the extent of it, but it's different when you actually see it," he noted. "This was a lot of work. The fact that he did all of this in about two years, it's amazing the amount of intense focus and effort."

Alsobrook added that despite the dismissive language that many people have used in describing Stahlman as "crazy", his commitment and faith in his work and in God was evident. "Most people don't have a masterwork, but you can definitely say this is a masterwork," he said. "I think people appreciate it more now. He is like an awful lot of people throughout history who were not appreciated until after they died."

Although Stahlman seemed to be very troubled, David says he connected with his great grandfather's ability to find spiritual understanding through the contemplation of the natural world. "I'm a Christian and have usually felt my strongest connection to God when I'm out in nature," Alsobrook revealed. "So I certainly appreciated and enjoyed taking advantage of the opportunity my great grandfather wanted to create for me and many others this week in Brookville."

Continued

David and his family enjoy travelling across the country and around the world. Every time they visit an area, he likes to find museums or hiking trails to learn about the geography and history of the area. However, he admitted that he'd never seen anything quite like Scripture Rocks Heritage Park. "This is unique," he said. "I've been around the U.S a lot and many other places in the world and this is pretty unique. And it's even more incredible when the history is also connected to you."

His experience visiting the park sparked his curiosity to know the rest of the story, particularly how Stahlman lived out the rest of his days at the Dixmont Hospital and how Ella Alsobrook raised Alsobrook's grandfather, James, and his older brother, Glen, on her own after the passing of her husband in 1909. "How did she end up going to Nashville and then Atlanta?" he wondered. "I assume part of it was trying to get away. How did she do that? I would love to hear that part of the story. A lot of people have their bootstrap stories. They, effectively, start a new life. My grandfather and great uncle both did well for themselves. So, it struck me, how did they do that?"

Though Alsobrook wishes he had the opportunity to ask his grandfather these questions, he remains grateful for the information he has gotten due to the efforts of Ken Burkett, Brian Fritz, Eric Armstrong, and many others who made Scripture Rocks Heritage Park possible. "Most of the time when you see a big park like this, you think the state runs it."

Society for Pennsylvania Annual Meeting Schedule

Friday, April 6

9:30am - 12:00 pm PAC Board Meeting

12:00 - 4:00 pm SPA Registration

12:00 - 4:00 pm Book Room and Exhibits

1:00 - 5:00 pm PAC Symposium (Open to everyone)

6:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting

8:00 - 12:00 pm Hospitality (Hosted by NF 29)

9:00 am - 3:00 pm Book Room

8:00 am SPA Annual Meeting

8:30 am - 12:00 pm Morning Paper Sessions

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Afternoon Paper Sessions

6:00 - 6:30 pm Hospitality/Cash Bar

6:30 pm Dinner/Awards/Speaker/Auction

8:00 pm - 12:00 am Hospitality (Hosted by NF 29)

Saturday, April 7

8:00 am - 1:00 pm Registration

Sunday, April 8

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Morning Paper Sessions

A complete listing of individual presentations will be emailed to chapter members prior to the meeting date.

North Fork Chapter members are responsible for the registration, Book Room, Hospitality Suite, Program sessions chairs and all audio visual setup/equipment.

Cheryl Burkett is in charge of the Registration and Kim Williams the book room. Additional help is needed to work with these people throughout the day. Many of you have already signed up—thanks!

All attending Chapter members are also required to register for the conference.

Donated items are needed for the annual SPA Auction.



REGISTRATION
89th Annual Meeting
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology
April 6 - 8, 2018

"Of the Past, For the Future: Current Contributions to Pennsylvania Archaeology"
Hosted by, The North Fork Chapter 29 of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

Location: Comfort Suites, 10 Lakeside Avenue, Dubois, PA, 15801

Accommodations: Identify yourself as being with the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology. Single room rate is \$79.00 plus tax. ****PLEASE NOTE** - This rate is in effect only until March 3, 2018.** Make your reservations directly with the hotel at (814) 375-6028 for this discounted rate. A complimentary hot/cold buffet breakfast is served daily.

Program Chair: Ken Burkett (814) 849-0077 E-mail kburkett-jchc@windstream.net

Student Poster Session Chair: Tom Glover: tomnglover@comcast.net

Book/Exhibit Room Chair: Dave Sorg, (814) 834-7663 or djsorg@windstream.net

Saturday Banquet Buffet: The banquet speaker will be Dr. Michael Gramly presenting: ***Ritual Hunting of Proboscideans in the New World: Its Character, Inception and Disappearance.***

Auction: Items for the auction should be brought to the bookroom for display. We are asking that each chapter consider annually providing a special auction item to help support the Erb Permanent Fund.

SPA Board of Directors Meeting: Friday evening at 6:00 pm.

Friday Afternoon PAC Symposium at 1:00 pm: ***Archaeologists Have History Too: Oral History of Pennsylvania's Archaeology Site Survey.***

Registration Form:

Name _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Chapter/Institution: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Registration: \$30.00 x _____ Student Registration: \$20.00 x _____

After 3/31/18: \$35.00 x _____ After 3/31/17: \$25.00 x _____

Dinner Buffet: \$32.00 x _____ dinners Vegetarian dinners x _____

Total Enclosed _____

Registration is available via PayPal at <http://pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com>
or by check payable to: North Fork Chapter 29 and mailed to:
Ken Burkett, SPA, P.O. Box 213, New Bethlehem, PA 16242.

2018 SPA FIELD TRIP

The Middle Mississippians and Their Neighbors

MARK YOR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 12-17, 2018



We've decided to be ambitious about the 2018 field trip and make a trip to Illinois and back in order to focus on the Middle Mississippians and their neighbors. This will be a trip not to miss although we will need 5 days instead of our normal 3. We also will have to rent a bus for the sake of comfort given the distance, so please encourage friends and family to consider this trip. If we fill the bus, we can still keep the at cost members' price low. With this in mind we are opening this trip to members of other archaeological societies that are part of ESAF.

John Nass and Sarah Neusius are still at work making specific plans for our visits and our evening activities, but stops will include Sunwatch Indian Village in Dayton Ohio, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, Illinois, Wickliffe Mounds State Historic Site in Wickliffe, Kentucky, Angel Mounds State Historic Site in Evansville, Indiana and the Ohio History Connection in Columbus, Ohio. See descriptions for each of these places below. The trip will begin on the evening of June 12 at California University in California, PA and participants will return to California by late afternoon on Sunday June 17.

SunWatch Indian Village / Archaeological Park is a reconstructed [Fort Ancient Native American](#) village next to the [Great Miami River](#) in [Dayton, Ohio](#). The dwellings and site plan of the 3-acre site are based on lengthy archeological excavations sponsored by the Dayton Society of Natural History, which owns and operates the site as an [open-air museum](#). This site has two distinct periods of use from 1150-1300 CE and from 1300-1450 CE. Fort Ancient people were contemporaneous neighbors to various Mississippian groups and Mississippian influences are particularly evident during the latter occupation at Sunwatch. This site is one of the best preserved Fort Ancient sites and archaeological studies have revealed much about the original people's dwellings, social organization, diets, burial practices and other aspects of their lives at the site. Originally called the Incinerator site, it got the name Sun Watch from the complex of posts in the plaza believed to be related to astronomical measurements. Recent studies also have examined evidence for the ritual use of dogs at this site.

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is the site of a pre-Columbian Native American city (c. 1000 - 1400 CE) directly across the Mississippi River from modern St. Louis, Missouri. It is a World Heritage site recognized internationally by UNESCO for its cultural significance. This historic park is located in the Mississippi floodplain east of modern day St. Louis. The park covers 2,200 acres (890 ha), or about 3.5 square miles (9 km²), and contains about 80 mounds, but the ancient city was much larger. The largest mound, known as Monks Mound, is approximately 13 acres at its base and 100 meters high. This construction is larger than any Pre-Columbian structure north of Mexico. In its heyday, Cahokia covered about 6 square miles (16 km²) and included about 120 manmade earthen mounds in a wide range of sizes, shapes, and functions. It is believed that in AD 1250 Cahokia was larger than contemporary London, but by the end of the 1300s it was largely abandoned. Other important aspects of Cahokia are its woodhenges, one of which is reconstructed today, it's large man-made central plaza, it's 2 mile long wooden stockade, and Mound 72, which contained an elaborate burial complex. Cahokia was the largest and most influential urban settlement of the Mississippian tradition, which developed advanced societies across much of what is now the central and southeastern United States, beginning more than 1000 years before European contact.

Wickliffe Mounds is a prehistoric [archaeological site](#) located in [Ballard County, Kentucky](#), just outside the town of [Wickliffe](#), about 3 miles (4.8 km) from the confluence of the [Ohio](#) and [Mississippi](#) rivers. It was inhabited from about 1100-1350 CE. This site provides a good example of small Mississippian centers, of which there were many. Archaeological investigations have linked the site with others along the Ohio River in Illinois and Kentucky as part of the [Angel Phase](#) of Mississippian culture. Wickliffe Mounds also has an interesting more recent history as archaeological excavations in the 1930s led to its development as a tourist attraction under the name “Ancient Buried City” and this attraction included partially exposed human burials as well as other questionable interpretations. Today Wickliffe Mounds is controlled by the Kentucky State Parks Service, and is listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) and as a Kentucky Archeological Landmark and State Historic Site.

Angel Mounds State Historic Site is at the site of a large Mississippian town located on the Ohio River in the southwestern corner of Indiana. It was occupied from 1050-1450 CE and originally covered 103 acres and had approximately 1000 inhabitants. Just upriver of the confluence of the Green and Ohio rivers, it is located 8 miles (13 km) southeast of present-day Evansville. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Indiana State Museums and Historic Sites maintains an interpretive center, and reconstructions of Mississippian buildings associated with its 11 platform mounds as well as nature and hiking trails in the 600 acre site. This major complex of earthworks was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1964 because of its significance. Exhibits at the site also cover the importance of WPA archaeology.

The **Ohio History Connection, Ohio Historical Center** in Columbus, Ohio is the home of what once was the Ohio Historical Society. Among the exhibits at this museum is “Following in Ancient Footsteps” which covers 15,000 years of Native American heritage and displays many of Ohio’s most significant archaeological objects.

Please stay tuned for more details, pricing and deadlines for registration for this once in a lifetime chance to visit Mississippian and Fort Ancient sites, learn from experts, and enjoy the company of other SPA members. Information will be distributed to chapters and at the Annual Meeting in early April. In the meantime if you have questions, please contact Sarah Neusius at sraahneusius@gmail.com, or John Nass at nass@calu.edu.

SAVE THE DATES

The date for the 2018 The tentative theme for the Third Annual Workshop in Archaeology for Western Pennsylvania at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter will be held on Saturday, October 13th. The theme will be *Advances in Technologies used in Archaeology*.

The date for next year’s Workshops in Archaeology at the Pennsylvania State Museum is Saturday, November 10, 2018

Dr. Roger Moeller is the new editor of *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. Roger brings years of experience publishing scholarly material, and is actively working on updating the journal format and producing the next issue. As many of you have noticed, the journal has fallen behind, but we are working hard to catch up. The first issue in the new format will be 87(1), which was originally due in January of 2017, but because of the lack of manuscripts, will now be printed in Early Spring 2018. We are actively trying to catch up on the missed issues.

The North Fork Chapter 29 is a recognized 501(c)3 organization formed in 2006. The chapter is a member organization of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology which was organized in 1929 to: Promote the study of the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources of Pennsylvania and neighboring states; Encourage scientific research and discourage exploration which is unscientific or irresponsible in intent or practice; Promote the conservation of archaeological sites, artifacts, and information; Encourage the establishment and maintenance of sources of archaeological information such as museums, societies, and educational programs; Promote the dissemination of archaeological knowledge by means of publications and forums; Foster the exchange of information between the professional and the avocational archaeologists.

Application for 2017 - North Fork Chapter 29 Membership

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone No. _____ Email address: _____

Are You a member of the SPA ? Yes _____ NO _____ DUES: Individual: \$10.00 _____ Family: \$12.00 _____
Student: \$6.00 _____ Life: \$100.00 _____

Mail to Cheryl Burkett
2717 Brookville Street
Fairmount City, PA 16224

Chapter Membership
Does NOT include membership in the State
Society For Pennsylvania Archaeology



**North Fork Chapter 29
of the Society for
Pennsylvania
Archaeology**

**Cheryl Burkett
2717 Brookville Street
Fairmount City, PA
16224**

PROBLEMS
WITH YOUR
NEWSLETTER
MAILING!
LET US KNOW
AND WE'LL
MAKE IT RIGHT