

SYLVESTER MANOR EXCAVATION 2000



Several important things happened at this summer's excavations at the unique 17th century provisioning plantation site, directed by Dr. Steve Mrozowski of U-Mass-Boston. Non-invasive geophysical techniques – ground penetrating radar, resistivity, etc. – were conducted by Dr. Ken Kvamme of Arkansas University. The anomalies in the soil detected by the techniques point the excavators to the likeliest spots to find cultural remains. One such locus turned out to be a cobble pavement, with the stones making a

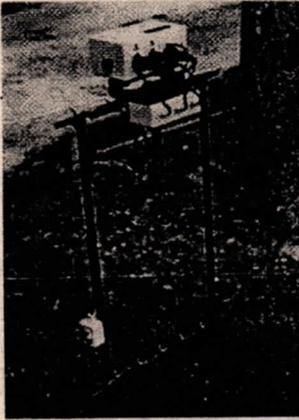


diagonal design—common in Baroque period dooryards in Europe. Is this Grissel Sylvester's dooryard where George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends in England, preached to the Indians? Or part of another function of the plantation? Other cobbled spots have been located, with their use yet to be determined.

It appears that the geophysics maps have pinpointed the outlines of the large warehouse and work yard near the water that Nathaniel Sylvester presumably had for his provisioning activities. Excavation units were begun this year, without significant results, and will continue next summer. Units were opened at the other spots where Dr. Kvamme's maps showed the remains of foundations, fences, etc., remnants of the original plantation. One may prove to be the foundation of the original Manor house (the current one dates from 1734). Excavation continued at the Native American locus first uncovered last year, and a different one was discovered this year; one appears to be pre-European contact and the other was occupied as well after the Sylvesters arrived.

On July 21 the public was invited to the annual Open House, sponsored by the Shelter Island Historical Society, where visitors may view the excavations, and hear interpretations by Dr. Steve Mrozowski, Project Director, and the graduate student excavators. Visitors may also study the most unusual artifacts unearthed this season, as well as a display of important documents and maps



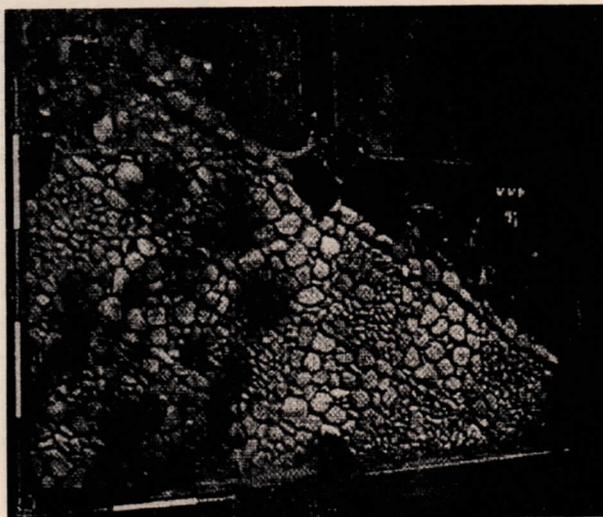


Resistivity Testing

descendants of the original Lord of the Manor, Nathaniel Sylvester, and they have maintained an extensive collection of Manorial records. The interplay of information from the two sources - archaeological and documentary - informs the new

interpretations of manorial, regional, and global history that is evolving. The project team expects to soon have an official U-Mass-Boston web site for the dig; meanwhile informal information can be gathered from a local observer's contribution to the web site, www.shelter-island.org, click on the Manor House.

Some data and photos, courtesy Patricia Shillingburg, Observer, S.I. Historical Society



organized by Project Archivist Mac Griswold and her assistants, Suzan Habib and Barbara Schwartz. To attend this interesting occasion, contact the Shelter Island Historical Society (631-749-0025).

Unique for the Manors of Long Island, Sylvester Manor is still inhabited by



Ground Penetrating Radar

THE SHINNECOCK AND PARISH POND ESTATES

The last issue of this Newsletter reported the handling by Southampton Town of a development, Parish Pond Estates, to be built directly north of the Shinnecock Reservation. Despite depositions by many-archaeologists and the Shinnecock -Judge James Gowan did not halt the development because the Shinnecock had not intervened in the time allotted. He did not address the issue of the quality of the archaeology which was done. State Archaeologist Dr. Robert Kuhn disagrees with the Newsletter's statement that SCAA advised Town planners to send the development's archaeological report to him for review, and "it was returned with a number of omissions and inadequacies noted, among them that the archaeological sensitivity map was so poor that nothing could be told about what areas were sensitive. The Parish Pond developer's environmental firm returned other material to the State Archaeologist, but not what was originally asked for, and BY CLERICAL ERROR, the office approved it. Southampton Town planners, lacking cultural resources expertise, accepted the report and the development was approved."

Dr. Kuhn, in a May 31 letter, requests that this interpretation from his office be provided: "...The SHPO reviewed the initial archaeological survey report and did reject that report based upon its numerous deficiencies; however, these shortcomings did not relate to the amount of testing or the boundaries defined for the archaeologically sensitive area on the property, both of which the SHPO felt were adequate. Consequently, when the developer agreed to an avoidance plan for the archaeologically sensitive area, the SHPO approved the project based upon the condition that this avoidance plan would be implemented. Our approval was in no way a clerical error, as reported in the SCAA article."

Dr. John Strong and Dr. Gaynell Stone of SCAA had both communicated with the Southampton own Planning Board regarding the sensitivity of the site in the beginning of the development process, and had recommended that the site report be sent to State Archaeologist Kuhn for review. These concerns were not forwarded with the report to Dr. Kuhn. Dr. Kuhn, in telephone conversation with Dr. Strong, indicated that he was unaware of these concerns, gave the site report standard scrutiny, and approved it.



KENNEWICK MAN AND EARLY PEOPLING OF AMERICA

The June 16, 1997 New Yorker had an article by Douglas Preston, "The Lost Man," which is an excellent overview of the revolution in thinking about the first Americans. The leading forensic anthropologists, archaeologists, stone technologists, early man scholars, and other scientists were interviewed. Soon to be published by Simon & Schuster is the account of Dr. James Chatters, the first scientist to examine Kennewick Man.

Interest in the new interpretations arising from this controversy are spotlighting archaeological finds, many overlooked for years. Five Island Lake, Iowa was the site of mud dumped from dredging, which contained Clovis-style points and bone and antler tools dated to 13,000 years ago. Stone tools and mammoth bones found in association in Wisconsin date 12-14,000 years ago. Virginia: Cactus Hill site contained atlatl spear points dating 15-16,000 years ago, and the Saltville stone and bone tools with mastodon bones, dating around 14,000 years ago. A female skeleton in Belo Horizonte, Brazil has been dated to 11,500 year ago, Alabama's Dust Cave has remains from 10,500 years ago, and South Carolina's Topper Site contains artifacts more than 10,000 years old.

From ACPAC Newsletter, March 2000

RESOURCES

Web Channel for Anthropology Education

The Archaeological Legacy Institute announces that it now offers free on-demand viewing of the first of a series of films on archaeology and indigenous peoples from its Web site (www.archaeologychannel.org). Its first video (at the 56k connection speed in Real Player format) is "Ocmulgee: Mysteries of the Mounds." Contact the Web site to learn more about the institute and its services.

Landscapes of Memories: A Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries - Repairing Tombstones. A fully-illustrated guide with step-by-step

instruction on the cleaning and minor repair of historic monuments. \$10. From Publications Ontario, 416-326-5300. For further information, contact Tamara Anson-Cartwright at Heritage Properties & Museum Programs Unit, Toronto, CA, 416-314-7133.



MEETINGS

"We Are Still Here: the Algonquian Peoples of Long Island Today," a talk by Dr. John Strong at the Shelter Island Historical Society, December 8. Admission \$10. Info: 631-749-0025.

Eastern States Archeological Federation annual meeting, November 2-5, Solomons, MD. There will be a tour of the exceptional Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, a Forensic Anthropology Workshop by Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian, a wide variety of papers presented, and banquet speaker William M. Kelso, currently directing the fort excavation at Jamestown.

Society for Historical Archeology annual meeting, January 9-13, aboard the Queen Mary at Long Beach, CA. "Teach the Mind, Touch the Spirit" conference theme features programs on the educational programs of the LA region, tours to exceptional cultural venues, media presentations, and a wide array of scholarly presentations.



PUBLICATIONS

Who Were the First Americans? Genetic and craniometric studies and what they mean for the initial peopling of the Americas. Robson Bonnicksen, ed. \$28., including postage. From Center for the Study of the First Americans, 355 Weniger Hall, OSU, Corvallis, OR 97331-6510.

Ice Age Peoples of North America: Environments, Origins, and Adaptations of the First Americans, Robson Bonnicksen and K.L. Turnmire, eds. \$53.95, including postage. From CSFA, address above.

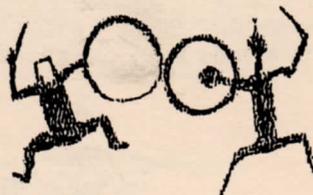
PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade: A Database on CD-ROM, contains 27,233 Trans-Atlantic slaving voyages from 1519-1867 categorized for over 7 variables. The information may be analyzed, mapped, or graphed for each query. The introduction and complimentary teacher's manual may be downloaded from www.cup.org/eltis.html. \$195. from Cambridge University Press, 800-872-7423.

Paleo-Indian Studies in the Northeast: The Sugarloaf Site: Palaeo-Americans on the Connecticut River, R.M. Gramly. \$15.95 + sales tax. And The Lamb Site: A Pioneering Clovis Encampment (near Buffalo), R.M. Gramly. \$17.95 + sales tax. Both from Persimmon Press, 118 Tillinghast Place, Buffalo, NY 14216.

Algonquian Peoples of Long Island, John Strong. Newly issued in paperback for \$20; hardcover is \$40., plus shipping and sales tax. The books are available from the S.C. Historical Society, Garvies Point in Glen Cove, SPLIA Gallery in Cold Spring Harbor, St.James General Store.

Country Road Chronicles - Native American News Celebrating a Natural Alternative of Living Honoring Mother Earth. \$24./year from Van Raper Productions Co., 101 Meadow Ridge Court, RR2, Box 132, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328.



NEWS

Dr. Richard M. Gramly, formerly of the Stony Brook University and the Buffalo Museum of Science, has reached a settlement with State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and the Seneca and Tonowanda Seneca Nation regarding Gramly's excavation of seven Erie skeletons from the Kelis Site, across from the Erie County Fairgrounds. He was sued under a 1990 Federal statute protecting Indian remains and artifacts; it was the first such action taken under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The skeletons were returned to the Tonawanda and reburied on the reservation.

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
- V. The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader
- VI. The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History
- VII. The Historical Archaeology of L.I.: Part 1 - The Sites
- VIII. The Native Forts of Long Island (in press)

Student Series: (including shipping)

- Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I. \$ 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 L.I. - \$ 3.50
- Women's Work: Native & African Americans of L.I. - \$3.50.

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.
Family	\$30.	Sustaining	\$50.
Contributing	\$100.	Patron	\$200.
Life Member	\$400.		

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No. _____

Willing to volunteer? _____

Occupation: _____

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790

