

**NEWSLETTER**

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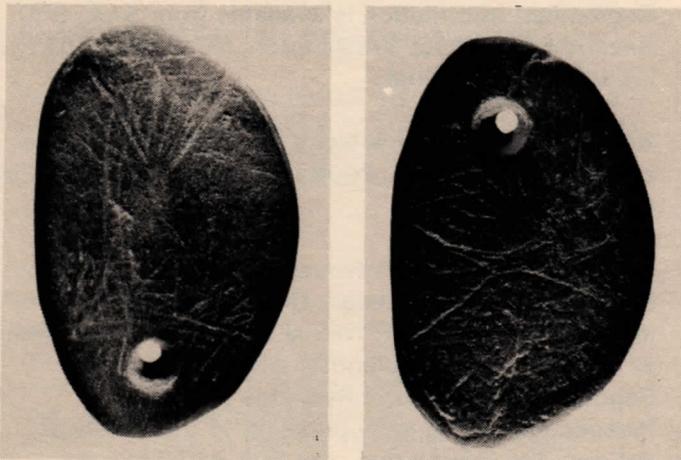
**Fort Corchaug Now  
National Historic Landmark**

The village of Cutchogue now has the distinction of having two National Historic Landmarks in its bounds—the other being the Old House, a 1659 structure of medieval architecture. This is the highest level of recognition the Federal government bestows on its cultural patrimony.

The Fort Corchaug recognition was held September 29 at the Downs Farm Preserve, Main Road, Cutchogue at 2:00 PM. After an introduction by Town Supervisor Jean Cochran, Dr. Ralph Solecki gave a brief history of the fort, and Dr. Robert Grumet, Chief Archaeologist, National Park Service, who shepherded the nomination to completion, spoke on the significance of Fort Corchaug as a National Historic Landmark.

**National Museum of the American Indian  
Groundbreaking on the Mall**

September 28th was the groundbreaking ceremony on the National Mall in Washington, DC for the last museum to be built there, honoring the first inhabitants of this country. Concurrently, curator's talks, panel discussions, open house, and behind-the-scenes tours for charter members were held in Washington, the Cultural Resources Center (the museum's storage facility) in Maryland, and at the Heye Center in New York City.



**New Effigy Pendant Found**

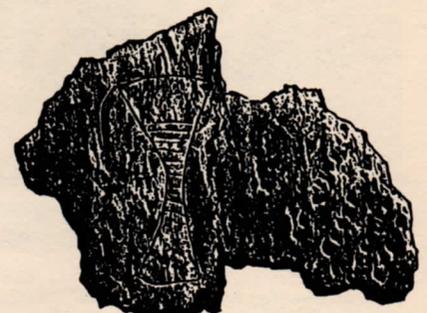
David Thompson of Mt. Sinai was walking around Mt. Sinai harbor recently when he found this incised flat stone (basalt?) (1 15/16" long x 13/16" wide) leaching out of the dirt. He took it to Dr. David Bernstein, archaeologist in the Anthropology Department at SUNY-Stony Brook. Dr. Bernstein had it photographed under high magnification by Mary Lou Stewart of the University Hospital Medical Photography Department. The marks appear to be purposeful and one side may sketchily resemble the Native American thunderbird figure, but rendered more realistically with feathers. What do you think? Suggestions will be appreciated; call 929-8725.

**Sylvester Manor Excavation Update**

This first full-scale field season produced over 20,000 artifacts (including 4,000 bones) which have been shipped to the University of Massachusetts-Boston Anthropology Department for processing and cataloging. Project Director Dr. Steve Mrozowski says many of them are veal (calf) bones, indicating the provisioning plantation was shipping beef in that form to the Sylvester's two sugar plantations in Barbados, which still exist.

Last year's test pits have been expanded into a 6 meter square unit on the Manor's front lawn, which produced a trash midden with artifacts dating to the last half of the seventeenth century. The multi-national artifacts reflect the Manor role in the Colonial global trade networks. Besides the Dutch bricks and pantiles, Irish, English (Charles I), and French coins (and jewelry) have been found, as well as German and English ceramics, pipes, coral (probably ship ballast), etc. Evidence of local interaction is a Native American thunderbird effigy etched on a stone.

Pottery sherd found  
at Sebonac, 1900





R to L: Dr. Garman Harbottle, Brookhaven National Laboratory chemist, whose techniques have been used by many archaeologists and museums and his wife; Dr. Gaynell Stone, SCAA Museum Director and Manor film co-director; Mac Griswold, **New York Times** Garden Editor and Project Archivist conferring on aspects of the excavation. Photo: H. Moeller

The excavation reached the 17th century level, with extensive post holes, post molds (some European, some Native American), trenches, and storage pits. One trench is felt to be for a wattle and daub fence, as there were numerous 17th century artifacts on one side and none on the other.

Project Archivist Mac Griswold, assisted by archaeologist and historical document librarian Sue Habib, have abstracted over 200 documents from the thousands in the Manor's vaults, and the work is continuing. This data is transmitted directly to the UMass-Boston Anthropology Department for immediate use by the researchers. The documents include the original 1666 charter from Charles II, deeds signed with Wyandanch and other local Native leaders, letters to John Winthrop, Jr. (who purchased Fisher's Island as a provisioning place to raise animals for Caribbean export--as the Sylvesters used Robbins Island). This essential work is funded by a private foundation grant; other support of this important research is made possible by Mrs. Alice Fiske, the Shelter Island Historical Society, UMass-Boston, and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.



Project Director Steve Mrozowski checking excavation records with graduate student archaeologists. Photo: H. Moeller

Since there are no films on northeast archaeology, except New York City and Harvard Yard--both atypical of the field in general, SCAA is producing a feature length documentary film of this most unique site and project by Co-directors Ofer Cohen of Rabbit Foot Productions and Dr. Gaynell Stone. Filming of the excavation, the annual "Show and Tell" visitors day, Manor owner Alice Fiske, her extensive gardens, and part of the grounds has been done.



The Sylvester Manor 1999 excavation, looking south from the Manor house. Photo: H. Moeller

## MEETINGS

**Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference** will be held for the first time on Long Island on **November 11-13** at the Wyndham Watch Hotel in Hauppauge. For information, call Greg Hunter, 299-2171.

**Eastern States Archaeological Federation Meeting** will be held **November 18-21** at the Kings Island Conference Center, Kings Island, Ohio. Tom Dillehay of the ancient Mesa Verde site in Chile will be keynote speaker, and there will be a tour of the Hopewell Fort Ancient site and museum. For information, call Martha Otto, 614-297-2641.

**Society for American Archaeology** meets **April 5-6, 2000** in Philadelphia. The Call for Papers was in September; information is available from SAA, 900 Second St. NE #12, Washington, DC 20002-3557, or FAX 1 202-789-0284.

**New York State Archaeology Week** will be held the second week of **May, 2000** rather than the usual Fall date.

**Clovis and Beyond Conference, Oct. 28-31** at the Sante Fe Hilton, held every ten years, presents the archaeology, collector, Native American, Department of Justice, Lawyer/Scientist, and Government Regulatory and Cultural Resource Manager's Perspective on the early peopling of the Americas debate. For information, call 505-987-8461 or access [www.peak.org/csfa/csfa.html](http://www.peak.org/csfa/csfa.html).

## RESOURCES

### FREE Archaeological GIS and Image Analysis

Software available from MicroImages, 201 N. 8th St., Lincoln, NE 68508-1347, phone (402)477-9554; or can be downloaded from their website:

<http://www.microimages.com>; or a CD can be obtained for the cost of shipping (\$25. airmail). The system integrates all types of data: rasters, topological vectors, CAD layers, TINs, relational databases, etc. It requires 16 megabytes of memory and works on most types of computers and all popular workstations. Windows 95 can run on 8 megabytes; the program can be used at a field site on a portable computer. It is free because it is limited in the size project it can handle; a single site-specific project will fit, and many separate site systems can be created and analyzed.

**Friends of America's Past** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and advancing the rights of scientists and the public to learn about America's past. Their mission is to keep the door of scientific inquiry open and to work to maintain the integrity of science in this country. This is doubly important in the light of new evidence that multiple waves of people came to the New World, possibly from multiple areas (Northern Europe and Spain are some of the possibilities).

New techniques--hair analysis, paleobotany, paleozoology, early environments, etc.-- allow the testing of new theories as never before--if the skeletal and other material is available. This group has spearheaded the fight for the scientific study of Kennewick Man, which the Federal government has spent over \$1,000,000. of taxpayer's money denying. F.O.A.P. may be reached at 7410 SW Oleson Rd., Ste. 202, Portland, OR, or at [www:friendsofpast.org](http://www:friendsofpast.org).

### THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LONG ISLAND, III

Following are some of the Suffolk County Stage 2 and 3 projects conducted from 1988-94 and filed with the State Historic Preservation Office. They were printed as NYAC Abstracts, Vol. I, 1995, Lois Feister, compiler (to be continued).

#### Brookhaven Town

**Mt. Sinai**, Court Project Area, Phase I and II, 1988. SUNY-Stony Brook, Josef Muennig, Randolph Donahue.

Mt. Sinai Court Site is a prehistoric multi-component occupation situated on a terrace overlooking Mt. Sinai Harbor. Artifacts represented the Late Archaic and Transitional periods. A high density of lithic artifacts, diagnostic projectile points, intact subsurface features. Point types included Brewerton side notched, Orient fishtail,

Lamoka/Wading River. No prehistoric pottery sherds or shell remains were recovered. Spatially discrete occurrence of cobble features suggests horizontal distribution of prehistoric materials was not significantly disturbed. Give units were excavated; one unit produced over 5,000 lithics. About 95% of lithics were quartz or quartzite.

**Setauket**, Murray site, Stage II, 1990. Clover Archaeological Services.

Trenches were opened within building envelope; over 1,500 artifacts were found, mostly from plowzone. Pit and postmold features. Triangular point associated with fire-cracked rock and charcoal within a pit feature. Stemmed and Brewerton-eared triangular type found in plowzone. Other artifacts included hammerstones, biface flakes, spoke shave, serrated knife, flakes, adze-chopper, fire-cracked rock, shell. Most lithics quartz. Historic ceramics, glass also found. Site judged to be Late Archaic; long-term occupation or repeated seasonal visitation.

**Mt. Sinai**, John Kline Subdivision, portions Lot A, 1993. Robert Kalin, Archaeological Services, Inc.

A subsurface survey of southern part of parcel revealed presence and location of buried prehistoric cultural materials; included stone chips and flakes of quartz from tool manufacture, fire-cracked rocks, pebble cores, marine shell. Historic materials were charcoal, coal, brick, glass, etc. Materials found within shallow subsurface in two discrete irregularly-shaped areas which comprise total of about .3 to .5 acre. Includes analysis and cartographic display of the dispersal of these cultural materials. Soil removal or partial removal has altered the patterns and boundaries of subsurface cultural distribution. Existing archaeological data have revealed no buried cultural features or cultural soil stratification.

**Mt. Sinai**, Van Der Kolk Site, 1993. David Bernstein, SUNY Institute for L.I. Archaeology.

Property overlooks harbor. Two loci were subjected to Stage II investigations: a midden area along the access from shore and the knoll area on the main property. Midden area: C-14 dates place entire midden in Late Woodland period. While shellfish dominate, evidence of deer, elk, small mammals, fish, birds, reptiles were found. Flotation of midden deposits yielded much carbonized wood. Carbonized seeds thought to be non-cultural. Projectile points, bifaces, unifaces, cores, preforms, and debitage found in a variety of materials with quartz predominating. Ceramics and fire-cracked rock present. Site thought to be year-round occupation with many activities occurring. A pit-like feature with whole shell and large fragments examined. Knoll had no features and vertical mixing prevented isolation of discrete occupations. Horizontal spatial differences found. Artifact mix included projectile points from Archaic and Woodland periods and Woodland ceramics. Euro-American artifacts appeared at both the midden and knoll areas.

**Mt. Sinai**, Eagles Nest site, 1993, David Bernstein, SUNY Institute for Long Island Archaeology.

Eagles Nest was occupied by Native Americans for at least 4,000 to 5,000 years. Utilization of site varied in magnitude but was most intense during Late Archaic,

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as supported by both ten radiocarbon dates run on wood charcoal and by the artifact types recovered. Native American utilization ceased some time during the final centuries prior to European arrival. Features excavated: hearths, charcoal concentrations, lithics and/or fire-cracked rocks, stains, pits, postmolds. Features were dense in many parts of the site, indicating a very intense and sizable prehistoric occupation. Lithic artifacts very abundant with over 50,000 fragments recovered. Vast majority are finished tools made from locally available quartz cobbles. Over 150 projectile points classified, including Archaic, Transition, and Woodland types. A sample of over 100 small pottery sherds also recovered. Permanent occupation, not seasonal or transient.

**PIN 0327.78, Recharge Basins, Area G, 1994.** Mark Lorusso, N.Y. State Museum.

Area G site examinations involved two adjacent areas, an artifact scatter, and a stone work feature. The scatter was explored with shovel test and units. Stonework feature investigated by probes, shovel tests, units. Artifacts from the stonework feature and scatter included kitchen group items: ceramics, shell, and glass; and an architectural group of window glass, brick, nails. Other materials included unidentified metal, charcoal, and prehistoric lithic debitage. Ceramics included Chinese export porcelain, Westerwald stoneware, engine-turned unglazed redware, ironstone. Mean ceramic date of 1798 was determined. A range of 1775-1830 was determined by other means. Site to be interpreted in relation to nearby Site D (not included here). Both thought to be free black households.

**Coram, Rt. 112, PIN 0016.17, 1994.** David Bernstein, SUNY Institute for L.I. Archaeology.

Route 112 site investigated by shovel tests and large block excavations. Two loci, A and B, investigated. Over 12,500 artifacts collected. Organic remains recovered. Projectile points include corner-notched, eared-notched, side-notched types associated with Late Archaic Brewerton complex. All but one were quartz. Other lithics included bifaces, unifaces, cores, cobbles, hammerstones, retouched flakes, debitage, fire-cracked rock. Historic and prehistoric materials were mixed in the plowzone and overlying soils. Prehistoric materials in B2 horizon. Site represents narrow range of activities, with hunting and creation of hunting implements the most important. Represents short-term occupation.

**East Patchogue, Sir Charles Estates Project, Stage Ia,Ib,II, 1988.** William Roberts, Greenhouse Consultants.

Housing development. Shovel tests by natural stratigraphic levels. Stage II done at decreased intervals where 2 locations contained prehistoric remains. No concentrations historic materials found. Shovel tests and excavation units for Stage II. Fire-cracked rock, charcoal, hammerstones, flakes, hearth. Hunting camp, but no diagnostics.

**To be continued....**

**Readings in LI Archaeology & Ethnohistory:**

All volumes are \$35 + \$5 postage. except Vol. III which is \$75 + tax and shipping. Vol.s I & VI are out of print.

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- 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

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

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Contributing \$100	Patron \$200
	Life \$400

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