

NEWSLETTER

Representing Nassau & Suffolk Counties

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Mastodons on Plum Island Debunked

Geoffrey Fleming, Director of the Southold Historical Society, is preparing a book on Plum Island for Arcadia Press. When he heard about the mastodon remains purportedly found on the island, he knew it was not accurate when the "lighthouse on the island" was mentioned, as the Plum Island off of Southold Town did not have a lighthouse, while another Plum Island off the Connecticut shore did. Another proof of how useful historical records are.

Archaeological Sites vs. Development

More archaeological sites which served larger numbers of Native people than formerly thought are creating unique development problems. A major prehistoric village, one of the earliest examples of urban planning ever uncovered in North America, housed as many as 2,000 people starting around 500 B.C. The site likely extended a quarter mile along the Miami River, then wrapped around Biscayne Bay. Today it's a vacant lot between hotels in downtown Miami where a series of holes carved into the bedrock form eight circles. Developers plan to construct a movie theater, condos and hotel building, and would like to carve out a section of the limestone and place it on display in a public plaza. Preservationists and the county archaeologist would like to see the village reconstructed and turned into a viable heritage tourism destination. It would cost the city about \$100 million to purchase it for this purpose. This approach worked when a Hohokam mound next to a Phoenix, AZ hospital was purchased by Mesa city, stabilized by a team of archaeologists, and is now a 6 acre cultural park.

As many as 1 million Native Americans may have lived in California. The Native American Heritage Commission received reports about 10 days of Native remains being found. Construction has unearthed burial grounds, artifacts and villages from rural desert areas to downtown Los Angeles, where work is halted while archaeological review is done and a descendant identified. Artifacts and possible burial sites were unearthed at a 250-megawatt solar energy project east of the Coachella Valley in 2011, slated to be one of the largest in the U.S. The findings were deemed "unprecedented." Construction was halted while a mitigation plan that included extensive study and public outreach was developed.

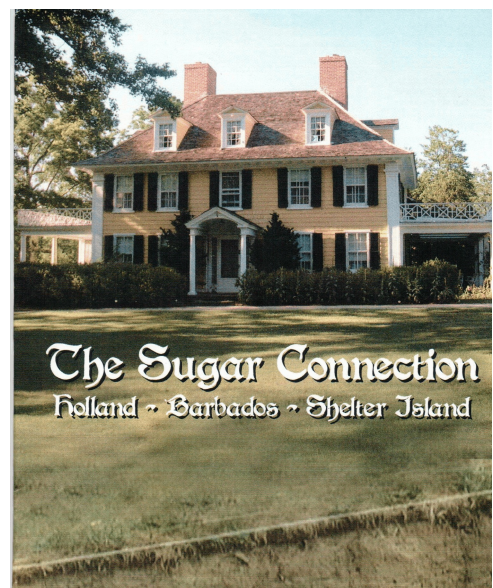
Kent Lightfoot, Ph.D., an archaeologist of Western sites who worked at Stony Brook University before joining U-Cal-Berkeley in 1979, felt that Long Island must have had a very large Native population due to its lush nature and many types of resources. A number of the archaeological

investigations on Long Island sites have been published by SCAA in Vol. I, *Early Papers in Long Island Archaeology*, Vol. II, *The Coastal Archaeology Reader*; Vol. V, *The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader*; Vol. VII, *The Historical Archaeology of Long Island: Part 1 -The Sites*; Vol. VIII, *The Native Forts of Long Island Sound*.

Sylvester Manor Update

Mac Griswold's book, *The Manor: Three Centuries at a Northern Slave Plantation*, which tells the Sylvester Manor story with creative conjecture, has been chosen as the April 'read' for all Long Island libraries. Mac is giving readings from the book at a number of libraries and historical societies. SCAA's film, *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island*, shows how one can experience the beauty of the site, the 8 years of high-tech archaeology, the family's origins in England and flight to Holland for religious tolerance and mercantile advantage, their sugar plantations on Barbados, slavery and sugar production, the Manor's role in 17th century globalization, and how American culture has been influenced by the Dutch and the Quakers. A number of libraries are showing the film, many with SCAA's Director, Dr. Gaynell Stone, telling how it came to be produced.

The film is being shown by the Society for the Preservation of Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture in February at New Paltz, NY. The Helen P. Kenney Trust gave the film its award for its contribution to showing Dutch colonial history, and purchased 20 copies of the film for distribution to all the museums, libraries, and historical societies of the Schenectady region so that the story would be regionally known.



The PaleoAmerican Odyssey Conference

The conference in Santa Fe was organized by the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M (csfa.tamu.edu). This is the organization that Robson Bonnichsen brought to Oregon State University in 1991 before moving it to Texas in 2002. Dr. Bonnichsen had assembled the Clovis and Beyond Conference in 1999, the first significant gathering of scientists specifically for the movement of people into the Americas. The Paleoamerican Odyssey would be the second such gathering 14 years later. What has changed? Where is the science now? It's a great puzzle to pull together accurately and a grand story to begin to understand.

The conference was organized thematically and logistically with skill and care. More than 1000 professionals, students and other interested people attended. There were a great many amateurs also. Over the course of three 12-hour days we listened to 52 featured speakers and studied 193 supplemental poster presentations. The Clovis and Beyond Conference (1999) had taken place just three years after the discovery of Kennewick Man and two years after the surprisingly early date for the Monte Verde Site in Chile had been widely accepted. Monte Verde is an anaerobic peat bog that preserved organic material dating to nearly 15,000 years BP, 1000 years earlier than the oldest widely accepted site in North America at that time. The Clovis First, Ice Free Corridor and East Asian Origin paradigms had only begun to shift. Clovis and Beyond had been a contentious conference. Note that in this account, I will not make the clear distinctions scientists make for various dating techniques, but will simplify dates to Before Present (BP).

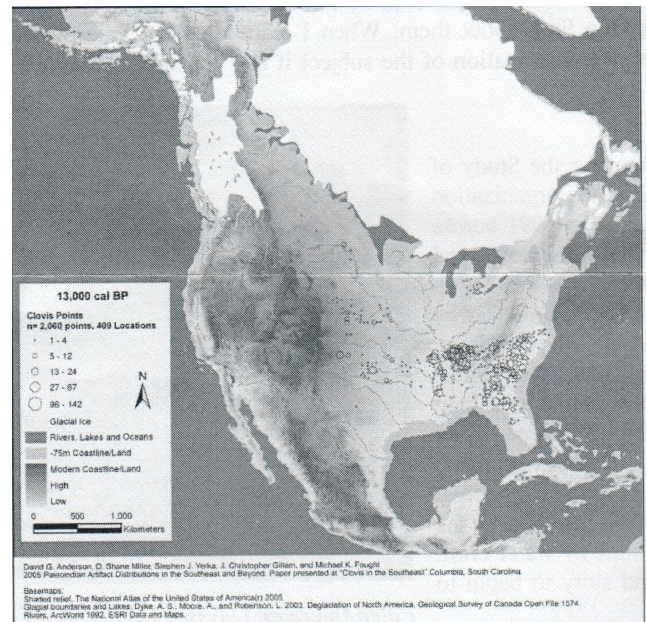


Beringia

The conference began with reports from Beringia in the Pleistocene, a megafaunal steppe landscape from eastern Siberia to Alaska. We learned from Russian archaeologists that they had discovered a site on the Yana River in 2001 that had been inhabited 27,000 BP by people who had solved the challenges of sustaining life through the seasons near the north edge of the Asian continent where it meets the Arctic Seas. The people had developed a considerable technical and spiritual culture nearly 10,000 years before the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM), commonly dated to approximately 20,000 BP. They held their ground as the ice grew over North America, decreasing sea levels to expose the Bering and Chuckchi Sea floors as dry land.

Japanese archaeologists reported that their north island of Hokkaido was connected to the Asian continent during the LGM. It was the southern limit of the Steppe and had the typical large Pleistocene herds and the predators and scavengers that accompanied them. Cultural artifacts indicate those animals were being hunted by 26,000 BP. Homo sapiens had arrived on the Pacific Coast of the Eurasian land mass. Then they had to navigate open sea to acquire obsidian found at their sites.

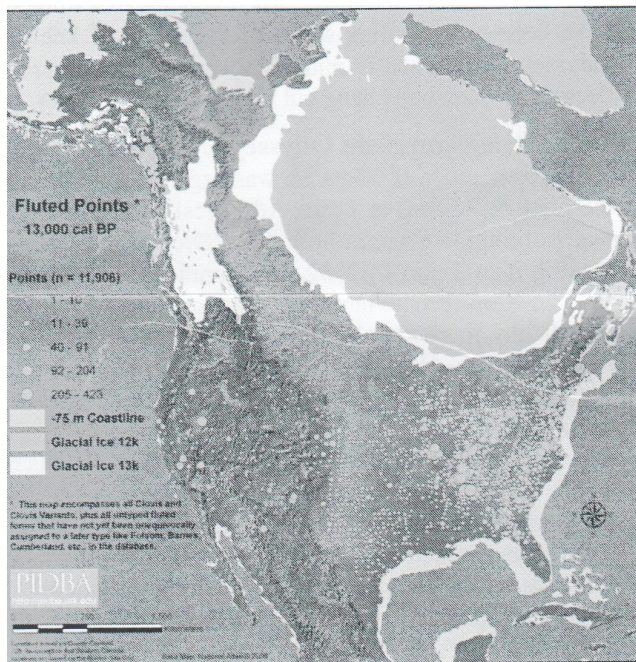
Archaeologists in Central and North Alaska have found sites that push occupation back to 13,000 BP, but the technology of the people was not Clovis. Evidence from the ice-free corridor in Alberta confirms that it was impassable for a time, but life returned well before Clovis. In fact, the pattern of sites indicates that people using Clovis lithic technology may have arrived from the Southeast, rather than the Northwest.



From the University of Tennessee's Paleo Indian Database of the Americas. The image on the above maps all the Clovis typed projectile points recorded in the database. The image below maps all Clovis and Clovis variant plus all untyped fluted points in the database.

Migration

The distinction between First Americans and Clovis culture has grown larger, into separate streams of inquiry. Some now see a pattern of human movement north, into the high latitudes of the Euro-Asian land mass, then continual movement east to the crossing of the 1000 mile wide Bering Land Bridge into Alaska and eventually into the Great Plains of North America. The people had adapted to an ecosystem over thousands of years, and with effective use of bone & ivory, and tailored clothing and shelter from hides and furs, they simply pursued the resources they had learned how to exploit. This is the Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis. These intrepid people were geographically poised to move into North America before the LGM. Did they do so? The evidence has not yet been found within the ice-free corridor.



Undersea Archaeology of Coastal Shelves

Dennis Stanford from the Smithsonian did not dwell on his Across Atlantic Ice hypothesis. The early movement of people into the Americas from the Iberian Peninsula has not been supported by geneticists. He did discuss the Cinmar offshore site and four more sites on the Delmarva Peninsula of Maryland that date to the LGM. The Cinmar was a fishing vessel that caught a mastodon tooth and a hafted biface in 1970 while dredging for sea scallops approximately 50 miles off the coast of Virginia, in sediments dating to 22,000 BP. The biface showed no sign of edge erosion from tumbling or wave action, indicating that it had lain in situ since it was dropped. Stanford told us how he began to pursue more offshore evidence by asking fishermen to review their "hang logs," the records they keep when their dredges hung up on the sea floor so they can prevent another hang up at the same place. Those locations could be productive sites to look for more cultural information. .

The Atlantic coastal shelf is much wider than the Pacific, but the two presentations that proposed models and methods for underwater archaeological exploration of coastal shelves came from scientists on the West Coast, including Quentin Mackie from Victoria, BC and Loren Davis at Oregon State. Two sites on the present coast of NW Washington date to 13,800BP - Ayer Pond on Orcas Island and the Manis Mastodon Site near Sequim. Much more ground, much closer to Pleistocene shores, was available to those people and their ancestors. North American archaeologists will be among the leaders in developing new models and technology, but they will not be alone. Their international colleagues will find applications along coastlines across the globe.

DNA

In 1999, the analysis of human DNA to track the past movements of people had just begun. In 2013, most geneticists working this field agree that the great majority of Native Americans descended from a population that diverged from their ancestors in east-central Asia, in the area of the Altai Mountains and Lake Baikal, approximately 40,000 BP. That population remained separate and stable as it occupied Western Beringia, becoming genetically distinct from its ancestors until it expanded into the Americas approximately 16,000 BP. Divergence from ancestors and entry into the new world were discrete events. Movement within the New World was relatively rapid. New models will even enable geneticists to estimate the size of the founder population - the number of individuals in the first generation of Americans.

Eske Willerslev from Copenhagen gave the most newsworthy presentation at the conference. His team analyzed DNA retrieved from the 24,000 year old arm bone of a young boy excavated at Mal'ta, near Lake Baikal, and stored in a St Petersburg museum for over 60 years. The boy shared a significant percentage of genetic traits with Western Europeans and Native Americans as well as East Asians. The European component was confirmed by another skeleton dated to 17,000 BP. Willerslev concludes that people whose ancestors had originated in Western Europe had traveled as far east as Central Asia prior to the LGM. Perhaps they had originated in Northern

That is among the reasons why the Coastal Migration Hypotheses have become so compelling. Jon Erlandson from the University of Oregon was scheduled to present his work on California's Channel Islands, and his hypothesis for a Pacific Coastal migration route from Asia by way of a "Kelp Highway." Jon couldn't make it but he was able to send his PowerPoint presentation, virtually the same he presented to OAS a year ago. The great room was full. Jon knew the wealth of resources along ocean shores, and recognized that the offshore kelp forests and the rich and diverse life they supported formed an unbroken ecosystem along the Pacific Rim from Japan to Mexico. Once again, Homo sapiens, well adapted to a way of life, could have stretched their daily round of activities from Asia to the Americas with relatively minor adaptations.

Once in coastal North America, the new continent offered few opportunities to enter its interior - the Columbia and Klamath Rivers would have been among the best. The coastal environment was sufficient to sustain people and may have provided the route to South America. Presentations from Patagonia, Peru, Mexico, Costa Rica, and several areas of Brazil. South American archaeologists, with pre-Clovis dated sites, DNA from human skeletons, large "fishtail" projectile points, and a Pleistocene maritime economy have entered this discussion in a big way.

The lithic evidence for North America now suggests a Western Stemmed Tradition native to the west coast, while Clovis dispersed to the western plains from a concentration in the Southeast U.S. The evidence from South America indicates the generation of numerous new adaptations as people spread across that diverse land from the North. David Anderson, Director of the University of Tennessee's Paleoindian Database of the Americas (pidba.utk.edu), surveyed the status of current evidence and theory and supported Erlandson's suggestion to look for evidence that coastal migrants may have crossed the American land mass where it narrows in Central America to populate the East Coast.

Europe and their eastward movement thoroughly adapted them to life in the Northern latitudes. When they reached the large area of Siberia north of Mongolia, they mixed with people who had traveled north from population concentrations in East Asia; both populations had separated from their genetic ancestors and remained in Western Beringia long enough to develop genetic markers specific to their new population. They would carry those genes into the Americas.

Willerslev's report will be published in *Nature* shortly after the conference. Popular media will make much of the notion that "Europeans" had colonized the Americas from the west. But the land we now consider "Europe" was populated by *Homo sapiens* from the East. Early man was on the move then, exploring new terrain. People adapted to local conditions but forced to move, mixing with others they encounter, adapted quite quickly to new conditions, just as they do today. The current assertion of "European" or "Asian" cultural identity is irrelevant.

Pre-Clovis

Everyone agreed that there is now substantial evidence to prove that people were in the Americas *before the efflorescence of Clovis culture*. Specific sites were referred to frequently: Monte Verde in Chile, Meadowcroft Rock Shelter in Pennsylvania, Cactus Hill in Virginia, Page-Ladson in Florida, the Deborah L. Friedkin and Gault sites in Texas, the Schaefer and Hebior sites in Wisconsin, the Topper site in South Carolina. Dennis Jenkins from the University of Oregon presented his analysis of Paisley Cave. It was unchallenged as a valid pre-Clovis site.

The Continuing Significance of Clovis

But old questions remained: how had Clovis appeared so suddenly, spread so widely, and then disappeared? It is a phenomenon that will continue to loom large. Many can see the fine aesthetic sense Clovis had developed and marvel at the person-to-person communications that spread across our land as one taught another how to work stone, even to choose beautiful stone, by a new and complex method that required great care. Many papers were devoted to Clovis - the distribution of reported sites, climatological and biological studies, discussion of regional variability, a hypothesis to explain the phenomenon of Clovis caches, a suggestion that its quick emergence and dispersal was a cultural revitalization movement, and even a well-argued Cosmic Impact Hypothesis to explain its swift disappearance. It remains the first culture with clear definition. Life before Clovis is now real, but vague.

The Story from Australia

The conference concluded with a banquet that featured Peter Hiscock from the University of Sydney, who summarized current understanding of the movement of the first people into Australia and their initial dispersal within that continent. From Africa, ancestral *Homo sapiens* migrated east along the south coast of Asia, rarely exploring the deep interior. From Southeast Asia, the people developed water craft for transport across the open sea, and they found Australia, 50,000 years ago. Archaeologists have the datable bones at the limit of radiocarbon dating, but they don't have the water craft. In

the new land, the people encountered megafauna and substantial barriers of fresh water with swift currents. Nonetheless, subsequent generations dispersed rapidly and adapted to new conditions quickly, occupying every ecological zone, including the harshest landscapes, by 40-45,000 BP; they circumscribed the new land along the shorelines before they ventured into the interior. The people learned quickly. Then they stayed close to their new homes and learned deeply. The megafauna disappeared. So many parallels with our own continent begin to define human behavior generally.

Next Steps

Archaeologists will no longer experience a "Clovis Barrier." Today's graduate students will learn how to work the coastal shelves; they will establish closer connections with their South American and Russian colleagues; they will read the land more effectively to guide their excavations; they will date materials more accurately by a wider variety of techniques; they will listen to new ideas more attentively and respectfully. These conclusions were spoken from the podium by many presenters and represent that generous spirit that prevailed throughout the conference.

Oregon Archaeological Society in Santa Fe

The OAS was well represented. Pat O'Grady and one of his students presented an analysis of tephra layers at Rimrock Draw Rock Shelter. Pat and Scott Thomas displayed a number of Western Stemmed and Clovis projectile points from their surveys and excavations at Sage Hen Gap, Sheep Mountain, and Rimrock Draw. Others included Ken Ames from Portland State University, Donna Tallman from OAS, and Dan Stueber and Terry Ozbun from Archaeological Investigations Northwest. Scott and Pat have been working that boundary where Clovis came from the east and met the Western Stemmed Tradition from the west. Perhaps the people had come up the Klamath River. It's a significant new element in the large story and may find more investment in the future. Many OAS volunteers act as scouts, surveying the surface for the artifacts of Paleo indian cultures that will guide the excavations where more information, including datable materials, will be found.

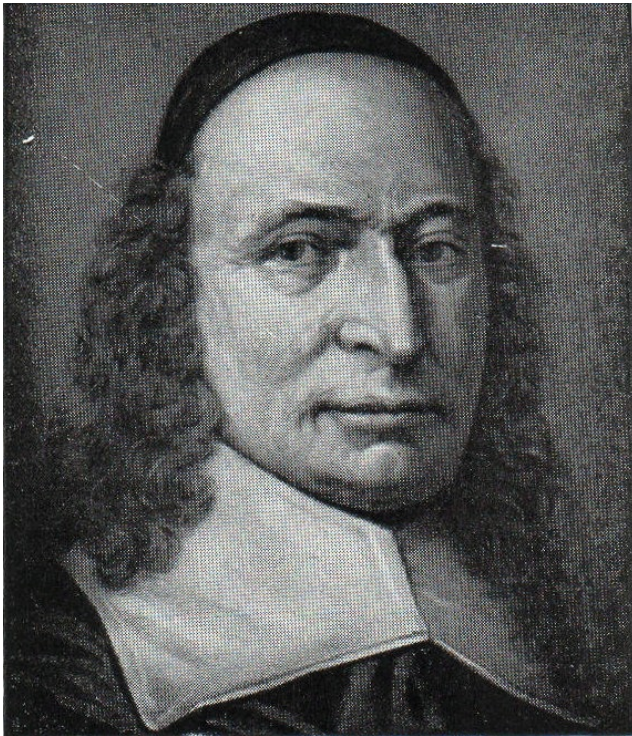
The 550-page compilation of 31 papers from the conference and the large conference program, which provides an abstract of every presentation is available from TAMU. Csfa.tamu.edu

Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference report by Terry Dolan extracted with permission from *Screenings: The Oregon Archaeological Society Newsletter*, Vol. 63 No. 2, February 2014

Further information on this topic is in the PBS film, "Becoming Human," led by the National Geographical Society's Explorer in Residence, Dr. Sumner Wells. Mitochondrial DNA traces the lineage of women; Dr. Wells traveled the world collecting samples from men so the male 't' lineage out of Africa could be traced. The film originates in Astoria, Queens, the most diverse spot in the world. His findings re-write the diaspora of humans out of Africa and complements many of the findings of the Paleoamerican Odyssey Conference_scientists.

Resources

Guide to Dutch Manuscripts in electronic format is now on the New Netherland Institute website. It is an online catalog of primary source material located in repositories throughout the U.S. The materials date from the earliest years of the Dutch West India Company activity in New Netherland to final handover to the English in 1674. There are about 850 manuscripts in 30 repositories; most are in Dutch with some English later notations, etc. See *Searching the Guide to Dutch Manuscripts* for an overview of how to focus your search; also see *List of Repositories* for instructions on how to search or browse the repository. You may access the *Guide* online through the New York State Library/Archives/Museum Catalog – NEWMARC-L@listserv.nysed.gov. Info: Steve McErleane smcerleane@GMAIL.COM.



The latest additions to the NNI's series of digitized publications are two volumes of correspondence: Vol. XI, 1647-1653/ and Vol. XII, 1653-1658. These volumes collect the official correspondence of Petrus Stuyvesant, Director-General of New Netherland. They begin with his arrival in North America in 1647.

www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/research/online-publications/correspondence-1647-1653/ and ditto for 1654-1658/.

A new addition to the NNI Online Publications series is a compilation of the introductions to the *New York Historical Manuscripts: Dutch/New Netherland Documents* series translations. This contains 13 introductions and will allow researchers to quickly acquaint themselves with the content of these publications.

www.newnetherlandinstitute.org/index.php?cID=1213.

The Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York has launched a website featuring the wide range of Dutch cultural activities in the U.S. www.dutchcultureusa.com.

The Dutch Golden Age: Gateway to our Modern World by Hans Goedkoop and Kees Zandvliet. Order at: www.walburgpers.nl.

New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America by Susanah Shaw Romney. Available April at UNC Press, \$45.

A Beautiful and Fruitful Place: Selected Rensselaerswijck Seminar Papers, Vol.3. Edited by Margriet Lacy. Papers from the Seminars from 1998 to 2007. Order online at the NNI website or by check or money order to NNI for \$39.95 + \$4.99 for S&H.

Archaeological Report on the Walt Whitman Birthplace State Historic Site – Excavations in Rooms 105 and 106 provide a detailed study of the material excavated under the floor of a pantry, where artifacts were left dating precisely to the period when the Whitman family lived there (up to 1823). The house was built by the Whitmans about 1816, and Walt Whitman was born there in 1819. Copies of this report are in the collection of the N. Y. State Library; it is possible to download free copies in pdf format from the online catalog of the N.Y. State Library. Paul Huey, Ph.D.



Thinking Like An Archaeologist, a new exhibit at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, U. Of Connecticut, Storrs opened January 12, 2014. It honors the memory of John Spaulding, who as a volunteer, photo-documented almost every excavation the Office of State Archaeologist did in the previous decade –an unprecedented body of work. Info: 860-486-4460.

SCAA's museum education programs - Native Life at Hoyt Farm Park and Colonial Life at Blydenburgh County Park open in March. A few opening still remain; to book a day of interactive authentic activities call Diane Fish at 631-864-0804.

One in four Americans are unaware that the earth circles the sun.

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, *Connecticut State Archeologist*, is retiring from the office this summer. Working in historic preservation, he collaborated with all 169 state municipalities on land-use issues – subdivisions, shopping malls, and other projects that may affect archaeological remains. He works closely with the state medical examiner's office and police departments when human remains are uncovered.. Invited to Europe to investigate Hitler's purported skull, his odyssey resulted in a History Channel documentary. Other exciting projects included exhumation of the Leather Man's grave, the archaeology of "vampires" in Jewett City, and the return of the remains of Alfred Afraid of Hawk (a member of Buffalo Bill' Cody's troupe) to his Lakota descendants.

Dr. Bellantoni also developed the exceptional exhibit explaining archaeology at the University of Connecticut – worth a trip to Storrs to see it. In contrast – besides the New York State archaeologist, there is only one archaeologist left at the NY SHPO and apparently no plans to redress this lack.

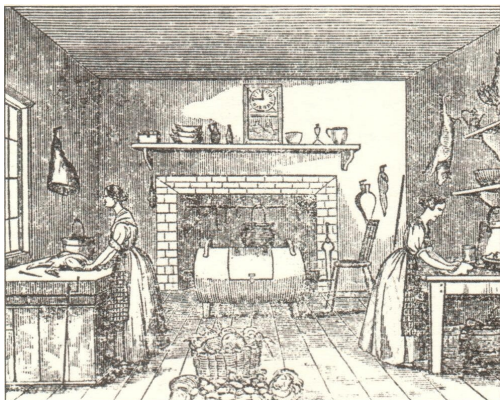


Meetings

March 13-16 – Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, Langhorne, PA

June 12-14 – Conference on New York State History, Marist College, Poughkeepsie. Proposals sere due January 7. Info: historyconference@nysha.org.

June 21-23 – Foodways in the Northeast II: A Second Helping, Historic Deerfield, Deerfield, MA. This is the 38th annual meeting in the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife series. Info: www.dublinseminar.org.



Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory
All volumes are \$40. + \$5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$75. + \$8. Shipping, both plus 8.625% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I, Vol. IV, & VI are out of print.

- I *Early Paper 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 L.I. Sound*
- DVD - *The Sugar Connection: Holland, Barbados, Shelter Island*
- 2 hrs. \$50. + \$4.31 tax + \$6. Shipping = \$60.31

Student Series (Including shipping)

- Booklet: *A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.* \$6.
- Study Pictures: *Coastal Native Americans* 8.
- Wall Chart: *Native Technology* (26x39"-3 colors) 14.
- Map: *Native Long Island* (26x39"-3 colors) 14.

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)	\$15.	Individual	\$25.
Family	35.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		

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Willing to volunteer?

Occupation:

Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,
P.O. Box 1542, Stony Brook, NY 11790 - Tel: 631-929-8725

Programs of the S.C. Archaeological Association are funded in part by public monies from the New York State Council on the Arts - Decentralization, the Suffolk County Office of Cultural Affairs, The Phillips Foundation, The Gerry Charitable Trust, JP Morgan Chase, Harriet Gamper, Stanley Wisniewski, and County and State Legislators.

Douglas DeRenzo, President; Dave Thompson, Vice-President; Elena Eritta, VP Marine Archeology; Laurie Billadello, Corresponding Sec.; Gaynell Stone, Phd., Recording Sec.; Randi Vogt, Treasurer.

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