

**S. C. A. A. Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 29**

**Blydenburgh County Park**

**New Mill Rd., Smithtown**

**6:00 PM - Pot Luck Dinner**  
\*Colonial Dishes  
\*Strawberry Shortcake

**8:00 PM - Program:**  
**Discussion of Archaeological  
Initiatives in Suffolk County**  
\*S.C.A.A. Board

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

**Suffolk County Environmental Education Center  
Meeting Held**

On June 9<sup>th</sup> representatives of environmental groups, educational groups, county legislators, county parks department, etc. met to form a consortium to plan the proposed new County Environmental Education Center. \$2M was designated in the past by the County Legislature to develop such a Center. The Scully Estate in Islip, purchased with Community Greenways Funds, is one possibility for the Center, though much work to rehab it will be required. SCAA has requested that it or another County building be designated a repository for archaeological artifacts unearthed in Suffolk.

**Dr. Robson Bonnichsen, 1940-2004**, died Dec. 15, 2004, a distinguished archaeologist who was a pioneer in the field of the peopling of the Americas. He established the Center for the Study of the First Americans, now at the Texas A&M University Anthropology Department. He was instrumental in the fight by American scientists to examine the remains of the ancient Kennewick Man fossil, which has been upheld by the courts. The Center has published 19 volumes on *Current Research in the Pleistocene* and many other reference volumes, as well as their journal, *Mammoth Trumpet*. The Center's ground-breaking work will continue under the direction of geoarchaeologist Michael Waters.

**David Detrich, 1938-2005**, died March 7, 2005, a graduate of Brown University and a teacher in the Southold School District for 33 years. He was the Bulletin Editor of the Long Island Archaeological Institute of America chapter for 6 years, vice-president for activities, and creator and maintainer of the chapter web site, as well as a world traveler.

**The New York State Encyclopedia**, published by Syracuse University Press after years of research, is now available. The Suffolk County section is composed of a four page overview written by the late Dr. Roger Wunderlich, editor of the *Long Island Historical Journal*. It contains a few errors. An extensive References section lists the various Long Island histories and many local histories, but does not mention SCAA's series, *Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory*, the major reference volumes on that aspect of Long Island history.

Dr. John Strong and Dr. Gaynell Stone wrote entries on the Montaukett and Shinnecock Native people and the Native Forts of Long Island (soon to be published by SCAA as *Native Forts of the Long Island Sound Area*). Ed Smits wrote the overview of Nassau County History, with contributions on special topics by Dr. Natalie Naylor. The volume is a notable contribution to State history, but one must have keen eyes to read the small type and be fit to heft it (it weighs more than 10 pounds).

## National Archaeological Database, Reports

The NADB-R is a publicly accessible, national bibliographical database of reports on archaeological investigations across the U.S. and its territories. It focuses on reports from public projects, called the 'gray literature' because they are of limited distribution. The National Park Service & Ethnography Program has partnered with the State Historic Preservation Offices and the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies at the U. of Arkansas to provide access to the database, adding 110,000+ records. The NADB-R now includes over 350,000 records and is a first step in archaeological project planning, reducing redundancy and increasing efficiency in cultural resource management work. It may be reached at <http://web.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nadb/nadb.mul.html>. For further information contact Terry Childs at 202-354-2125 or [terry\\_childs@nps.gov](mailto:terry_childs@nps.gov).

## New Protection for Sunken Military Vessels & Aircraft

President George W. Bush signed the FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act on 28 Oct. 2004. Title XIV of the Act (Public Law 108-375) preserves permanent U.S. ownership of sunken U.S. Military Craft regardless of the passage of time. The Act contains sections on the preservation of title, prohibitions on disturbance, permits, penalties, liability for damages, relationship to other laws, encouragement of agreements with foreign countries, and definitions. Information is available at [www.history.navy.mil](http://www.history.navy.mil), using the Underwater Archaeology Branch. Current application guidelines for archaeological research permits on wrecks under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Navy are located in 32 Code of Regulations Chapter VI, Part 767.

## Native Americans and the American Revolution

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center (110 Pequot Trail, Mashantucket, CT 06338) is holding a conference on the topic celebrating the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution. Scholars will address topics such as Native military service, tribal diplomacy, and the social, political, geographical, and economic effects of the war on Indian communities. Contact Research Director Dr. Kevin McBride at 860-396-6814 or [kmcbride@mpntn-nsn.gov](mailto:kmcbride@mpntn-nsn.gov) or Head Archivist Jon Ault at 860-396-6811 or [jault@mpntn-nsn.gov](mailto:jault@mpntn-nsn.gov)

## Geophysics for Archaeology

Tutorials on geophysical exploration for archaeology are available on a free CD. It has over 1200 pages of reports in PDF. For a free copy contact: Bruce Bevan, Geosight, 356 Waddy Dr., Weems, VA 22576-2004.

## N.Y. State Archaeologists Honored

Paul Huey and Lois Feister, archaeologists at the N.Y.S. Historic Sites Bureau for many years, were honored by a Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology-sponsored special symposium at the recent Society for Historical Archaeology annual meeting. Their extensive body of work has illuminated Dutch sites in the state, military sites, Ft. Orange in Albany, the archaeological story at many State historic sites, charitable institutions, urban and rural sites, farmsteads, mansions, church sites, ceramics analysis. Paul has fostered Dutch and American scholarly interaction, and Lois has published on the fascinating life of Mohawk Molly Brant. They have done much more than this brief outline and continue their research so important for New York history. CNEHA Newsletter, No. 60, 3/05.

## PRESERVED COLLECTIONS YIELD NEW RESEARCH & INFORMATION

State Scientist (Archaeology) Paul Huey re-examined an archaeological collection, more than 20 years after it was unearthed from excavations for new electrical conduits under the streets of Albany. As the inventory of the collection was entered into a database, a coin dated 1736 that had not been identified was noted. With the resources of today's Internet searches, the coin was identified as a 10 reis piece from Brazil. It had been pierced to wear as a pendant, with the X on one side facing out.

A search of maps indicated who had owned the property where it was found. Only a few individuals of Spanish or Portuguese origin were in 18<sup>th</sup> century Albany, but there were trade voyages for cocoa, coffee, sugar, and tobacco between Albany, England, Brazil and Barbados, crops heavily dependent on enslaved labor. Slaves were known to wear pierced coin pendants, and the 1800 owner of the plot where it was found owned one slave. So the preservation of this artifact and the current research techniques of the digital age make this important information much more accessible.

CNEHA Newsletter, No. 60, March 2005  
(Small type)

## RESOURCES

*Perishable Material Culture in the Northeast*, Penelope Drooker, ed. N.Y. State Museum, Rm. 3140, C.E.C., Albany, NY 12230. \$29.95. A chapter on "Cordage, Fabrics, and Their Use in the Manufacture of Early Late Prehistoric Ceramic Vessels in New York" is of particular interest. The chapters provide information on cordage and fabrics, with bark, wood, and leather objects also included.

*The Science and Art of the Facial Reconstruction Process*, Gay Malin. 1 hr. 15 mins. DVD or VHS.

N.Y.S. Museum, as above. \$9.95. This visual presentation compares the two major methodologies used in facial reconstructions.

*The Long Island Sound: A History of Its People, Places, and Environment.* Marilyn Weigold, New York University Press, 2005.

*Journal of Marine Archaeology & Technology*, a new on-line journal published twice a year by the Marine Archaeology Committee of the Marine Technology Society. Edited by Ayse Devrim Atauz, Dept. of Oceanography, Geological Section, Texas A&M University. Info at [www.mtsociety.org/procommittees/marine-archaeology/JMAT.html](http://www.mtsociety.org/procommittees/marine-archaeology/JMAT.html).

### Recent Excavations in New York State

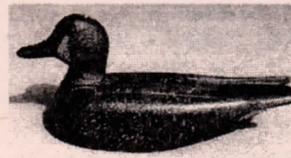
Elmendorph Tavern, Dutchess County – Phase III mitigation by Dr. Christopher Lindner. Many features and 18th-20th c. artifacts. Abraham Hasbrouck House, New Paltz, NY. Area around the 17<sup>th</sup> century house will be disturbed, so whole area is being mitigated by Joe Cohen. Log Cabin Sites, Chemung County. Possible 1791 cabin and possible 19<sup>th</sup> c. midden found by Public Archaeology Facility at SUNY-Bringhamton. Farm Complex near Beekman, Dutchess County, Many structural remains and personal items dating to c. 1876, by Dr. Joseph Diamond of SUNY-New Paltz. McClumpha House, above the Mohawk River, archaeology revealed earlier occupation than the documentary record and the family as successful market farmers by Dr. Edward Curtin and faunal analysis by Marie-Lorraine Pipes.



W.H. Bennett, shore birds & wood cock from Robert LeForte Collection, E. Hampton Private Collection Dave Bennett photo

### Research into the True Makers of the Decoys Formerly Attributed to Eugene Cuffee and William Bowman

Writing an article on the Bennett-Cuffee-Bowman decoys and folk art carvings has been very difficult because there is so much information to fit into the format of a newsletter. Another difficulty is explaining the value historically to Native culture and the contribution to Long Island traditions that the decoy has made, especially now that the monetary value for a decoy at auction is \$800,000.+ (a Bunn sold as a 'Bowman' for \$464,500. at Sotheby's in 2000).



W.H. Bennett, blue-wing Teal est. 1920-30s, just like working decoys Mike & Melanie Ross Collection Dave Bennett photo

In 2000, spurred on by East Hampton resident David Bennett's belief that some of the decoys that were selling as 'Cuffees' (Eugene "Chief" Cuffee, Shinnecock Indian, 1866-1941) were in fact made by a Bonacker relative, William Henry Bennett, known as Uncle Henry. A Bonacker is an Anglo East Hampton resident from the Three Mile Harbor maritime community. His belief has turned out to be true

Dave Bennett's research led to that first discovery, which led to my discovery of Charles Bunn (Shinnecock, 1865-1952) as the maker of the decoys that had for 37 years been attributed to 'Bill Bowman' from Maine or Queens or Brooklyn (see the Museums at Stony Brook's book, *Gunner's Paradise*, for these attributions). Our research led to three articles published in *Decoy Magazine*, devoted to antique decoys and their history. These articles were "Solving the Mystery of the Chief Cuffee Decoys," (Nov.-Dec. 2003); "Charles Sumner Bunn, the True Maker of the Bowman Decoys," (Jan.-Feb. 2004), and "William Henry Bennett, Folk Artist and Decoy Maker from Three Mile Harbor," (Jul.-Aug. 2004).



C.S. Bunn, worn shorebird, life-like decoy, est. c.1910 Mike & Melanie Ross Collection Dave Bennett photo

The last article was held up for two additional issues because an article promised by Robert Gerard, challenging our research, had not arrived, and the magazine editor wanted to run Gerard's article with our last article in the series. When Gerard's article arrived, it was rejected as unfounded. It was Gerard who first announced Eugene Cuffee as the maker of the Bennett decoys, published in *The Shinnecock Indians: a Culture History*, Dr. Gaynell Stone, ed., S.C. Archaeological Assn., 1983. For 20 years this attribution was unchallenged by decoy museums, auction houses, collectors, dealers, authors (including myself), until Dave Bennett's research began questioning the attributions of makers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Long Island decoys.

This situation is probably true for decoys produced in other areas of the country, especially for the older birds. If the legends of the alleged makers are examined, we find very little true research has been done on these great pieces of American folk art. None of the supposed research is scholarly, but generally consists of someone saying they were made by 'John Doe,' with no follow-up research, and this becomes fact in the decoy collecting community. Sometimes it is pure

fabrication, and this probably applies to decoys attributed to Valentine Watts, Obediah Verity, William Southard, Henry Ellison and others on L.I. The attributions generally have come from prominent early L.I. collectors in the 1960-70s who wanted names to go with the unknown decoys in their collection, such as the Cuffee attribution by Gerard.

It was after our conclusion that all the Cuffee carvings were really made by Bennett that we attempted to find the decoys actually made by Cuffee, for there is an oral tradition on the Shinnecock Reservation that Cuffee, like his first cousin Charles Sumner Bunn, made decoys. This would be consistent with the other materials, like baskets and scrubs, which were made by the Shinnecock people. The late Norman Smith, who was a decoy carver himself, had informed me that Eugene Cuffee and Joshua Kellis (also a basket maker) also made decoys, and there were probably others also.



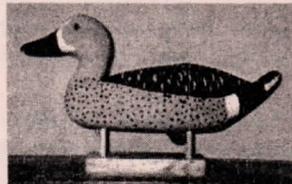
**C.S. Bunn**, solid cedar Mallard duck  
c. 1920-30s Dave Bennett photo  
Steve Mikle Collection

Our quest led to Dr. John Strong's book, *the Algonquian Peoples on Long Island: from*

*Earliest Times to 1700*, which is noted in our first two articles in *Decoy Magazine*. In the book there was a photo of Charles Bunn with a pile of decoys; analysis showed that they were the decoys attributed by the Herrick family to 'Old Bill Bowman,' a market gunner from Maine or Brooklyn or Queens, or a mill worker or cabinetmaker in Maine, or a wheelwright in Queens. It appears that any male named Bill Bowman in the Northeast from 1820 -1906 was possibly Bill Bowman the carver, without any proof.

Bill Mackey, an extensive New Jersey decoy collector, was told by the Herrick family that Bill Bowman was the carver, as well as many of the stories of Old Bill Bowman. They donated 20 shorebirds and 2 black duck decoys to the Museums at Stony Brook, with the attribution of Bowman as the maker. In *Gunner's Paradise*, it is stated that "The identity of William Bowman the carver has not been firmly established." They then list below the background "that research has produced" three possible Bill Bownmans, yet with no proof any of them ever carved.

**C.S. Bunn**, cedar blue wing Teal  
c. 1940s, 'CSB' brand on bottom  
Steve Mikle Collection  
Dave Bennett photo



The Herricks family also stated that Grandpa Herrick bought the decoys directly from Old Bill, yet most of the decoys donated have the brand "T.F. Norton" on them. This would indicate Herrick was not the first owner of the decoys. Also the family says grandpa paid the marsh dweller Bill \$5 - 8.00 apiece for the decoys when the going rate for other carvers at the time was between \$ .10 - .50 apiece. No matter how colorful the Bowman

stories may be, they contain no facts and are just stories embellished over the years.

For Bunn the carver we have the photographic evidence that he is the duck decoy maker. Many contemporary collectors says that whoever made the duck decoys made the shorebird decoys said to have been made by Bowman. We have built layers of evidence based on facts that have been corroborated from independent sources, much of which was published in our three articles in *Decoy Magazine*. There has been no rebuttal of evidence from any quarter in support of Cuffee or Bowman.



**W.H. Bennett**, decorative Curlew, 3-piece, est. 1940-45,  
Dave Bennett Collection  
Dave Bennett photo

Based on our research, I believe we have proved the case for the reattribution of Bunn and Bennett as the true carvers, and have also shown why Cuffee and Bowman never should have been seriously considered as the carvers.

#### **Evidence in Support of Eugene Cuffee as the Carver**

\*Robert Gerard said he made them, c. 1981

#### **Evidence in Support of William Henry Bennett as the Carver**

\*Interviews with people who actually purchased carvings from Bennett that would be identified by all in the field as Cuffees

\*Carvings with a traceable provenance from Bennett's hand, such as a Merganser decoy that never left the Bennett home, that any in the field would call a classic 'Cuffee,' and is in the collection of Bennett's nephew, Dave Newton

\*Carvings in the East Hampton Historical Society collection, donated in 1990 as William Henry Bennets.

\*A classic 'Cuffee' folk art standing duck with "Henry Bennett" carved in the base, which has been in the East Hampton Historical Society collection since 1980, purchased at Clinton Academy, a venue listed in one of two articles on Bennett in the *East Hampton Star* as a place where he exhibited.

\*Additional evidence can be found in our articles in *Decoy Magazine*

#### **Evidence for Bill Bowman as the Carver**

\*The Newbold Herrick family's oral tradition that Bowman made them, c. 1966

#### **Evidence for Charles Sumner Bunn as the Carver**

\*Photo of Charles Bunn with his decoys at the 1906

## Madison Square Garden All Island Exhibit

\*Accompanying pamphlet sold by Bunn at the same show, which describes him as a carver of fancy decoys

\*A decoy first sold at auction in 1973 with 'Bunn' carved in the bottom, which later sold in the 1990s as a 'Bowman' redhead.

\*In our possession, a classic 'Bowman' hollow black duck body identical to the decoys in the photo of Bunn with them. N.Y.S. Parks Dept. historical restoration staff date an original nail used to fasten the two halves of the decoy body to 1920-1950.

\*Bowman's death dates, early 1900s, 1906(?) from the Herrick family and *Gunner's Paradise*.

\*Transcript of tapes of Alice Osceola Bunn Martinez, daughter of Charles Bunn (made by grandson David Martine and other grandchildren). Much of the information in this manuscript has been corroborated by other sources, such as *Discovering The Past*, Jeanette Edwards Rattray (1893-1974).

\**The Waterfowl Family*, Leonard C. Sanford, 1903, which recounts Bunn setting our decoys and guiding hunters on a shorebird (snipe) hunt.

\*Interviews with Orson Munn, Jr. of Southampton who bought decoys directly from Mr. Bunn and had shore birds purchased from Bunn by his father, Orson Munn, Sr.

\*A newspaper article in the *News Review*, April 1952, in which Mr. Bunn is referred to as the "Dean of the Suffolk County decoy carvers."

\*Charles Sumner Bunn's obituary describes him as a carver and guide.

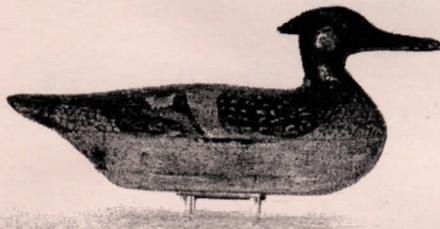
\*Later carvings made by Bunn in his 80s that show a clear relationship to the early Bunn ('Bowman') decoys, with a 'CSB' brand in the bottom, as well as lead weights stamped 'C.S. Bunn.'

As with Bennett, we have much more evidence for Bunn as the carver in our published articles.

Written by Jamie Reason

Research by Jamie Reason and David Bennett

**W.H. Bennett,**  
Merganser hen, cork &  
wood, 3-piece  
construction  
Dave Newton  
Collection  
Dave Bennett photo



**C.S. Bunn, hollow Bafflehead drake**  
(rare for L.I. decoys)  
late period  
'CSB' bottom and weight stamped  
Dave Bennett photo

## 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 8.50% sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print; a few copies of Vols. IV and VI remain.

- 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 (in press).

### Student Series (Including shipping)

<i>Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I.</i>	\$6.
<i>Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans</i>	8.
<i>Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	14.
<i>Map: Native Long Island (26x39"-3 colors)</i>	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)	\$10.	Individual	\$20.
Family	30.	Sustaining	50.
Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
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 - 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, and County and State Legislators.



**HUDSON VALLEY VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE**  
**BOX 202, West Hurley, New York 12491**

March 10, 2005

Re: Survey of Dutch influenced Farms and Farm Buildings in the former New Netherland

Dear County Historian:

There is a visual bond that connects New York State's Hudson, Mohawk, and Schoharie Valleys, with western Long Island, and with the northern counties of New Jersey. Our oldest buildings, what we now call our vernacular architecture, have a characteristic look, and elements of style, not found anywhere else in the United States. These buildings are vestiges from our region's shared cultural heritage, from the time when we were all part of the Dutch Colony of New Netherland.

In name, New Netherland ended in the 1660's, but Dutch influences on building styles . lasted well into the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Surprisingly, while we now recognize the value of these early structures, and some have been preserved, we have neither an accurate inventory, nor even an accurate count of how many survive.

**Your group could help by:**

1. Providing references to existing surveys and documentation in your area
2. Help us locate existing buildings and farms that might qualify for the survey.
3. Helping us locate historians and volunteers in your County who could help us in both research and survey work

**We will help you by:**

1. Providing training for those interested in helping to carry out the survey; in general, our thought is to have the surveys conducted by two person teams, so could pair experienced and new historians together.
2. Developing materials discussing how to recognize Dutch Barns and Buildings showing Dutch Cultural influence
3. Developing the forms for the initial survey
4. Providing your group an opportunity to participate in this international effort.

**Will you help us on this project?** If you'd like to help, or just learn more, send an e-mail, write, or give us a call. [Since most of us work, e-mail is preferred] Give us a contact at your organization, and we will follow up.

Peter Sinclair, Hudson Valley Vernacular Architecture (HVVA), Box 202, West Hurley, NY 12491, <hvvernar@netstep.net>

DBPS: c/o the Mabee Farm, 1080 Main Street, Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150, or Keith Cramer, President: <cramerkeith@msn.com>, 95 Hurst Avenue, Albany, NY 12208

Ned Pratt, Vice President DBPS <nedpratt66@aol.com>  
46 First Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2534