

**NEWSLETTER**

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**THE BOWMANS BROOK PHASE AND THE  
MINGUANNAN CULTURAL COMPLEX**

Scott F. Kostiw

The influences which gave rise to the Bowmans Brook Phase arrived in the New York City/Long Island region from New Jersey, according to Carlyle Smith (1950:153). The earlier Windsor tradition was replaced with the arrival of this new culture (109, 148).

Bowmans Brook traits were part of an expanding tradition whose influence spread from a cultural area located southwest of the New York City area. This tradition has been named Minguannan by Custer (1987), and its related pottery types are found across New Jersey to southeastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, and northeastern Maryland. The pottery types are known as Bowmans Brook, Minguannan, Overpect, and Townsend (Custer, 1987:20).

An important step in regard to understanding the Late Woodland prehistory of our area has been taken with the description of this culture. Minguannan people did not practice horticulture; they are described as being semi-sedentary and a band-level social organization has been proposed. Within the greater Minguannan geographic area the culture persisted until the Contact Period, although some sites show evidence of contact with Iroquoian groups late in the prehistoric period.

The native language spoken in the greater Minguannan area in the historic period is known to have been Algonkian. There is no reason to doubt that the earlier Minguannan people had also spoken Algonkian.

These interpretations allow us to take a new look at the Late Woodland period in the New York City area. That Minguannan groups did not practice horticulture provides more evidence for the conclusion made by some archaeologists (Ceci, 1977, etc.) that agriculture was not practiced here in the prehistoric period.

It also brings into question whether or not the Clasons Point Phase was a fully developed entity until the historic period. This phase is associated with village life and horticulture, which is usually associated with the historic period along the coast.

It is possible that Bowmans Brook people made contact with Europeans first and that the Clasons Point Phase developed after this event.

**References:**

Ceci, Lynn

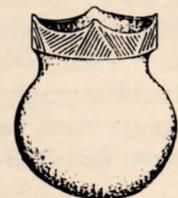
1977 **The Effect of European Contact and Trade on the Settlement Pattern of Indians in Coastal New York, 1524-1665.** Ph.D. dissertation, City University of New York Graduate Center.

Custer, Jay F.

1987 "Late Woodland Ceramics and Social Boundaries in Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Northern Delmarva Peninsula." **Archaeology of Eastern North America**, Eastern State Archaeological Federation, Vol. 15:13-27.

Smith, Carlyle S.

1950 **The Archaeology of Coastal New York.** Anthropological Papers of the American Museum of Natural History, Vol. 43:2.



**Bowmans Brook**

**Clasons Point**

**Traveling Public Archaeology Exhibit**, produced by the SAA's Public Education Committee, focuses on the objectives of public archaeology, and is available free for the cost of shipping. Info: KC Smith, 850-487-1902; kcsmith@mail.dos.state.fl.us.

**American Indian** is the new quarterly publication of the National Museum of the American Indian and a benefit of membership at the \$35. and up level. It replaces **Native Peoples** as the Museum's magazine and **NMAI Runner**, its Newsletter, and will be devoted entirely to the Museum's mission. The Museum's Cultural Resources Center in Maryland has been completed, and the Mall Museum groundbreaking was held recently.

**Health and Safety for Archaeologists and CRM Professionals** is a manual to heighten awareness of the hazards of archaeological work and to provide guidelines and procedures to reduce or eliminate the potential for substances or activities that may cause injury or illness. It was funded by the N.Y.S. Department of Labor and is available to appropriate professionals gratis. Info: Peter Gorton, Panamerican Environmental, 36 Brunswick Rd., Depew, NY 14043.

**Traveling Exhibit - Time and Tradition: Native American Prehistory** is available from SUNY-Binghamton Community Archaeology Program. Info: Nina Versaggi, <http://cap.binghamton.edu>.

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOLS

**S.C. Community College**, Dr. Linda Barber, and **Dowling College**, Dr. Toni Silver, will conduct a field school in central Suffolk County May 30-June 15. Information: Dr. Silver, 516-295-0250; TAS-archaeo@msn.com; Dr. Barber, 451-4701.

The Institute for Long Island Archaeology, Anthropology Dept., **SUNY-Stony Brook**, will hold a field school in Suffolk County July 10-August 11. Info: Dr. David Bernstein, 631-632-7615.

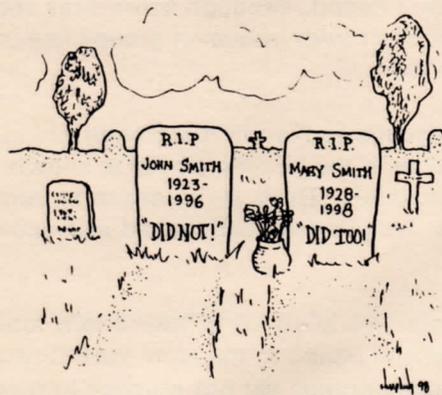
**SCAA Summer Field Schools for Students** will be held June 16-30 for the Nassau BOCES G&T Program (contact Carolyn Yohanis, 516-826-4114) and July 17-20; 24-27 for the Suffolk BOCES Enrichment Program (contact Dr. Robert Bedford, 631-244-4269). A **Field School for Teachers** is proposed July 6-7, 10-14 through SCOPE, the teacher training institute (contact Betty Westcott, 631-360-0800), or Dr. Stone, 631-929-8725.



AnthroNotes, 20:2

**Ross School Archaeology Society's** high school students have been learning the techniques of archaeology this Spring from SCAA's museum education staff. Dr. Clement Kuehn, who specializes in Middle Eastern archaeology, is the school's classics and archaeology instructor. Students in the program will spend two weeks studying archaeology in the Greek Islands in May. The students are assisting SCAA's programs by computer cataloging Blydenburgh site artifacts, up-dating SCAA's **Cultural Resources Survey--1978** publication (long out of print), and developing other archaeology-related projects.

The **Archaeological Conservancy** acquired its first archaeological site in New York State--the Tram Site, a Seneca site near Livonia, Livingston County, dating before 1600. The 8 acre area has been disturbed only by a 1986 Rochester Museum field school to find the location of the palisade, making it one of the best preserved sites in the country.



AnthroNotes, 20:2

## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

**Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference**, March 23-26, Princess Royale Hotel, Ocean City, MD. Information: Roger Moeller, PO Box 386, Bethlehem, CT 06751; email: [alchemy@wtco.net](mailto:alchemy@wtco.net), or call 717-783-9926.

**New York State Archaeological Assn. Annual Meeting**, usually April at Eddy Farm Resort Hotel, Sparrowbush, NY. Program information: 201-492-8525.

**Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting**, April 5-9, Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia. Info: 202-789-8200.

**Native Technology Workshop** - Sunday, April 16, 1-4 PM, Hoyt Farm Park, New Highway, Commack, will be SCAA's celebration of **New York State Archaeology Week**. Primal technology specialists will demonstrate stone-knapping; there will be basket-making, hearth cooking, and other Native skills. If weather is inclement, activities will be held in the L.I. Culture History Museum at the site.

**Professional Archaeologists of New York Annual Public Program**, April 16, Museum of the City of New York. Contact Linda Stone, Tel. or Fax: 212-888-3130.

**Early American Industries Association Annual Meeting**, May 11-13, Old Sturbridge Village, MA. Info: Kathy Fox, 908-277-6922, e-mail: [foxeaia@worldnet.att.net](mailto:foxeaia@worldnet.att.net).

**Field School in Building Archaeology**, Roger Williams University, Session I: May 22-June 6; Session II: June 12-June 30. Info: Myron Stachiw, 860-928-9190 or e-mail: [myron@compsol.net](mailto:myron@compsol.net).

**Vernacular Architecture Forum Annual Meeting** June 7-10, Duluth, MN. Info: Michael Koop, Minnesota Hist. Soc., 651-296-5451.

**Shelter Island Historical Society Lecture Series**, monthly talks include several on archaeology or Native Americans: June 9 - Dr. Steve Mrozowski, U-Mass Boston, **The Sylvester Manor Dig--Update on the Archaeological exploration of the Most Significant Plantation in Northern America**; Nov. 10 - Matthew Paulus, U. Maryland, **The Archaeology of Local History: Making the Past Matter**; December 8 - Dr. John Strong, Southampton College emeritus, **We are Still Here: the Algonquian Peoples of Long Island Today**. Info: 631-749-0025.

**Texts of Imagination and Empire: the Founding of Jamestown in Its Atlantic Context**, June 19-July 28,

NEH summer institute for college and university teachers directed by Dr. Karen O. Kupperman. Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. Info: 202-675-0333.



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## RESOURCES

**Archaeology at Rock Hall** is a new exhibit at the Rock Hall Museum in Lawrence developed from extensive work there by Dr. Antoinette Silver and Jo-Ann McLean. The museum is open 10-4 Wednesday through Saturday and 12-4 Sundays. Info: 516-239-1157.

**Archaeology Speakers at SUNY-Stony Brook** will be-- April 13 - Dr. Vincas Steponaitis, U. of North Carolina, on the **Moundville Chiefdom**; May 2 - Dr. Steven Mrozowski, U-Mass Boston, on **Historical Archaeology on Shelter Island and the Study of Plantation Life**. Both are in the Javits Lecture Hall, Room 109, at 4:00 PM. Info: 631-632-7615.

**Archaeological Fieldwork Here and Abroad** may be located on UCLA's [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/foa/afs/testpit.html](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/foa/afs/testpit.html) or on UC-Santa Barbara's list, [www.anth.ucsb.edu/netinfo.html](http://www.anth.ucsb.edu/netinfo.html). (**SAA Bulletin**, Jan. 2000).

**The Artifact**: Official Newsletter of the Institute for Marine Archaeology, P.O. Box 770, Deer Park, NY 11726. Vol. 2, No. 1 contains an article on HMS Culloden, a National Register Historic Site, by Daria Merwin. Much of the scientific research on this site was done by SCAA President, Dr. Henry Moeller, in the 1980s. The IMA provides NAS SCUBA training for those interested; membership is \$35.00.

**Teaching with Archaeology**, a new series produced by the Society for American Archaeology Public Education Committee, will present its first project, **History Beneath the Sea: Nautical Archaeology in the Classroom**, at the April SAA meeting in Philadelphia. A second publication on African-American archaeology will also be available this year. Cost is \$8.95 + \$5. shipping. For info: Amy Douglass, 480-350-5105.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Ancient Voices** is a Time-Life/BBC video series recreating ancient sites throughout the world archaeologically with photography, dramatization, and virtual reality. **The Secret of Stonehenge** is the first offering. Contact Time-Life, 1450 E. Parham Rd., Richmond, VA 23280.

**Sharing the Past with Kids: The Archaeology Education Handbook**, Karolyn Smardz and Shelley Smith, eds., AltaMira Press. This compilation of 27 papers by teachers and archaeology educators was produced by SAA Public Education Committee members to show archaeologists how to effectively reach K-12 students and teachers.

**Lithic Technology**, \$25./year from the Anthropology Dept., c/o George Odell, U. of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 74104.

**Native Voices Public Television** produces films and videos made by Native Americans about Native American life, as well as training aspiring film-makers. For the current listing, contact them at 405-994-6218.

**New York State Preservationist** is the interesting new publication of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, informing residents of the varied and extensive preservation activities of the Office. As usual, there is not much emphasis on Long Island. Subscriptions are \$25. and up.

**Archaeology of Eastern North America**, Vol. 16, 1998 contains articles of comparative interest to Long Islanders. Contact Roger Moeller, Box 368, Bethlehem, CT 06751.



*"I've had to be both hunter and gatherer."*

**PUBLICATIONS OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

**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

