

A History of Long Island Archaeology
Gaynell Stone, Ph.D.

(Continuing)

Native Communication

Many prehistoric sites on Long Island have produced various facets of communication – calendrical devices, games/puzzles, pictorial records, effigies, cosmological records, artistic expressions. These are the visual expressions which have disappeared from the Tooker collection (and probably others), from the East Hampton Library, etc. In Edward J. Lenik’s most useful compilation of Native images in stone, *Amulets, Effigies, Fetishes, and Charms: Native American Artifacts and Spirit Stones from the Northeast*, 78 examples of such stone art are illustrated. Three of the 78 are from Long Island – A thunderbird and an anthropomorphic figure on a pebble from the Sylvester Manor excavations, two pebble images of an eye and a bird head from Harrington’s Shinnecock excavations, at the American Museum of Natural History, and an image of a person? carved on a slate pendant from Montauk, housed at the East Hampton Library. The images on a rock at Jericho are noted but not illustrated. Therefore, the following images add to the known record of art, craft, and belief system of Native Long Island.

Calendrical devices have been found at the Pipestave Hollow Mt. Sinai site (Expedition magazine images) by Gwynne and Gramley.

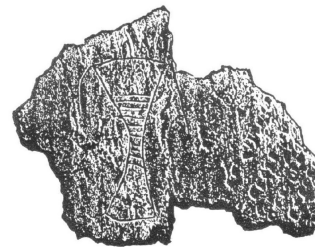
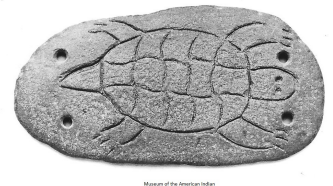


Another large calendrical artifact was found by William Rudge at the Rudge-Breyer site on Mt. Sinai Harbor. Possibly now at the New York State Museum? (See Newsletter Winter 2018)



A similar to Mt. Sinai inscribed bone artifact was found by Ron Wyatt at his Wading River excavation. Probably every Native group would have had such a recording device (Garvies Point Museum).

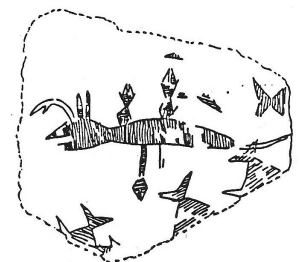
Images revealing the cosmological beliefs of the local Native as well as all Northeastern Algonkian people are the turtle, from whose back the people of the world came into being, found at the St. George Golf Club, Setauket (Museum of the American Indian).

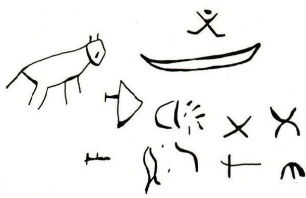


The Spirit of the Upper World was depicted as a thunderbird which circled in the heavens. The flash of its eye was lightning, the flap of its wings was thunder, which brought needed rain, seen here etched on a piece of pottery found at the Sebonac Shinnecock site by Mark R. Harrington, c. 1900. American Museum of Natural History.

Another faint representation of this figure appears on both sides of an etched stone pendant found by David Thompson at Mt. Sinai harbor. (Center of bottom row in group picture).

The Spirit of the Underworld is represented as an underwater serpent etched on a mica slab, found in the Miller Place area, Brookhaven Town, by a local farmer. New York State Museum

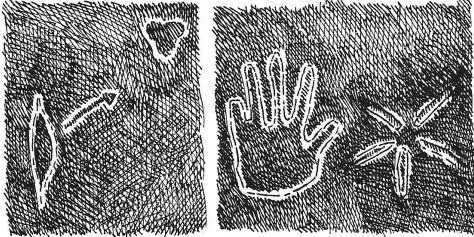




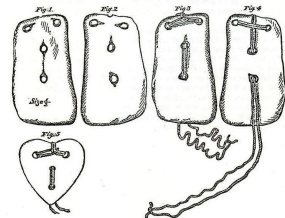
A pictographic record of a hunting trip etched on a slate slab was found at Orient in the 19th century, a plaster copy now is at the Suffolk County Historical Society. Its interpretation is recounted in SCAA's Vol. IV, *Languages &*

Lore of the Long Island Indians, 2d. ed., Masthay and Stone, eds., 2016.

Possibly another record of hunting or other activity is captured on large boulders near Jericho, Nassau County.

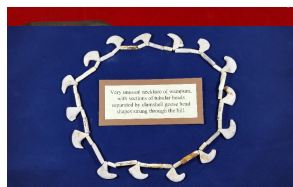


The representation of the human hand is one of the oldest human records/designs in the world.



An ingenious stone puzzle, probably a teaching/problem solving exercise, was found at Montauk. Discover its story in Stone, ed., *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk*, Vol. III, 2d ed., 1991.

Human decoration was popular then as now. There are many gorgets that have been found, similar to these at the Southold Indian Museum.



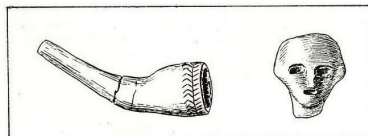
This unique wampum and carved shell goose heads necklace is at the Southold Indian Museum, its provenience not known.

A contact/historic period necklace unearthed at the Amagansett burial site by Foster Saville spans the prehistoric use of copper beads with historic trade beads and metal rings and objects. The National Museum of the American Indian.



A stone pipe shaped in the image of a bird. Southold Indian Museum

A kaolin pipe and effigy or pipe bowl in the shape of a human face, from Port Washington, The American Museum of Natural History, 1947.



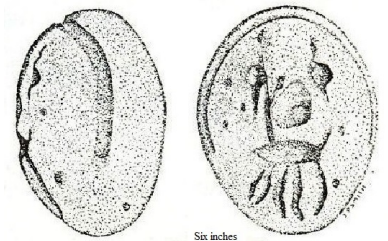
An effigy face pendant. Southold Indian Museum

An effigy face object meant to be laced or have items inserted into it. Southold Indian Museum



A stone face - art object? - from Mattituck. Southold Indian Museum

An effigy face carved into a stone cobble. Found by Calmer Forsander near the Baker Hill site at Great Neck in 1940.



Stone effigy from Long Island.

Drawing of an animal face on a pebble? found at Sebonac Shinnecock site, possibly representing a bird head and an eye. Mark Harrington, American Museum of Natural History



A slate tablet found at Dosoris Beach, Glen Cove in the late 19th century. The top etching shows the now Nassau County North Shore coastline from the Hempstead Harbor deep V to Oyster Bay. The reverse side shows the many food resources – fowl, seals, eels, etc. Possibly the only Native map of the Island. American Museum of Natural History.





An incised clay pipe found in a burial at Suffolk County Indian Island Park, Riverhead.

There are probably hundreds more of these expressive objects in the collections of collectors, unknown.

The care of Native collections varies widely, as can be seen from this report. A major collection was amassed by George Gustav Heye of the Museum of the American Indian: Heye Foundation. Dr. Edmund Carpenter, a noted archaeologist and professor at Adelphi University, Nassau County, Long Island, was the only scholar on the Museum of the American Indian Board. When he found that museum personnel were removing original catalog numbers from artifacts and selling or trading them to collectors, he tried to get them to stop.



When they would not, he reported it to the N.Y.S. Attorney General, Louis Lefkowitz, who removed all of the Board except Dr. Carpenter. The Board then sued Dr. Carpenter without success. The Museum, which also had criticism from Native groups about the insensitive display of sacred artifacts, then regrouped under a new chair,

Julie Johnson Kidd, whose negotiations with the Smithsonian resulted in a storage site in Silver Springs, MD, a New York City branch in the former historic Customs House, and, as a separate entity, the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington.

The New York State Archaeological Association 103rd Annual Conference – April 26 - 28 will be held at the Holiday Inn, in Johnstown, N.Y. Deadline for hotel reservations is April 1 (www.holidayinn.com; 518-762-4686). Banquet Speaker will be David Givens, Director of Archaeology at Jamestown Rediscovery.

There will be two tours: Friday will be to the Old Fort Johnson in Ft. Johnson, NY to the historic limestone building built in 1749 for Sir William Johnson, the British ruler of the area. The Sunday tour will be to the Stockade Historic District of Schenectady's French & Indian War and other sites, with a lunch included.

"Recent Archaeological Finds at the Pilgrims' First Settlement: Burial Hill, Plymouth, MA," presented by the Connecticut Friends of the Office of State Archaeology at Farmington High School Auditorium. Dr. Crista M. Beranek

of the Andrew Fiske Memorial Center for Archaeological Research, University of Massachusetts-Boston, speaker at 2 PM, March 24. [Http://www.fosa-ct.org/](http://www.fosa-ct.org/)

New *NEW YORK HISTORY* to be published by Cornell University Press, working with an editorial team at the New York State Museum. Michael J. McGandy, Senior Editor at Cornell U. Press says "Scholarship is changing in methods and media, while public history is becoming more important. Beginning with volume 100, *New York History* will reflect these changes... and better meet the needs of N.Y.S. citizens." N.Y.S. historian Devin Lander and Chief Curator of History at the Museum Jennifer Lemak say the journal's new focus and unifying the diverse field of State history will meet the needs of a growing historical community.

Article submissions should be sent to NYHJ@nysed.gov; subscriptions are at nyhj@cornell.edu.

The first in a series of 2019 Peter Gansevoort Ten Eyck Lectures throughout the state will be given by acclaimed historian of Dutch New York Russell Shorto at the Brooklyn Historical Society on April 16. It will be a travelogue identifying place names, old barns, bits of left over language, street patterns, and Dutch customs...

Long Islanders generally have no idea how much evidence of Dutch culture still exists on the Island. There are clusters of the Dutch H-frame houses all over the Island, especially in port towns like Jamesport, Sag Harbor, Port Jefferson, Huntington, etc. These houses exist along many of the old roads between villages. If one views the SCAA films, "The Manors of Long Island" you will see many examples of this unique building style which still exist unrecognized.

Contact the Historical Society or New Netherland Institute – www.newnetherlandinstitute.org for information.

Studies noted in "**Decolonizing New England Archaeology and Museum Studies**," a recent program of the Institute for American Indian Studies organized by Dr. Lucianne Lavin and Paul Wegner are Amy Den Ouden, *Beyond Conquest: Native Peoples and the Struggle for History in New England*, U. Of Nebraska Press, 2005; Jean M. O'Brien, *Firsting and Lasting; Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England*, U. Of Minnesota Press, 2010;

J. Kehaulani Kauanui, "Challenging Settler Colonialism in the Recovery of Wangunk Tribal History," *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 79:37-40, 2017.



Why Alexander the Great May Have Been Declared Dead Prematurely

According to accounts left by ancient historians, the king after a night of drinking, gradually

became less and less able to move until he could no longer speak. One account claims that his body didn't decay for more than seven days after he was declared dead and embalmers were hesitant to work on his body. Many people believed that he was poisoned. In 2014 a research team found that the medicinal plant white hellebore could have been used to poison Alexander.

Senior lecturer Katherine Hall of the Department of General Practice and Rural Health, University of Otago, New Zealand, believes he may actually have died of Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which is an autoimmune disorder where the patient's own immune system becomes confused differentiating between an invading organism and the patient's own body, recently published in the journal *Ancient History Bulletin*. The incidence rate is higher in Iraq during Spring and Summer; Alexander died in Babylon, Iraq in June. Several scholars found it a theory worth floating with continued research. *Live Science*, February 4, 2019

New from the New Netherland Institute

The fourth episode of the podcast "A New York Minute in History" features Russell Shorto and Charles Gehring, detailing Henry Hudson's exploration of what would become the Empire State and how his journey up the Hudson River lead to the Dutch Settlement of New Netherland, now New York.

It explores how the Dutch Colony differed from its counterparts in New England and Virginia via relative tolerance, its multi-ethnic population and free trade. Co-hosts, Devin Lander and Don Wildman also discuss the impact of Peter Stuyvesant, arguably New Netherlands most notable citizen, and that of Adriaen vander Donck (who wrote a marvelous History of Long Island) who has largely been forgotten by history. This episode also explains how slavery existed in a society often celebrated for its tolerance.

Long Island still contains hundreds of Dutch H-frame houses throughout the Island, mostly very small one or two bay houses with eye-brow windows, sometimes with a gambrel roof.



Publications of the Suffolk County Archaeological Association

Readings in Long Island Archaeology & Ethnohistory
 All volumes are \$30. + \$5. Shipping, except Vol. III, 2d ed., which is \$50. + \$8. Shipping, both plus sales tax in N.Y. State for individuals. Vol. I is out of print (soon to be e-book).

- 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, 2d ed.
- 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: Sylvester Manor, Gardiners Island Manor, Fishers Island Manor, Manor of St. George, Smithtown Manor, Lloyd Manor, Manors of Islip Town - \$250. Per set, incl. tax and shipping; single DVD \$60 inc. tax & shipping.

Student Series (Including shipping)

- Booklet: A Way of Life: Prehistoric Natives of L.I. \$10.
- Study Pictures: Coastal Native Americans \$10.
- Wall Chart: Native Technology (26x39"-3 colors) \$14.
- Map: Native Long Island (11x17"-2 colors) \$ 5.

Past newsletters available on our web site

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.
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Contributing	100.	Patron	100.
Life Member	400.		

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Send check to: Suffolk County Archaeological Association,
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