

**SUFFOLK COUNTY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

REPRESENTING BOTH SUFFOLK AND NASSAU COUNTIES

NEWSLETTER

P. O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790

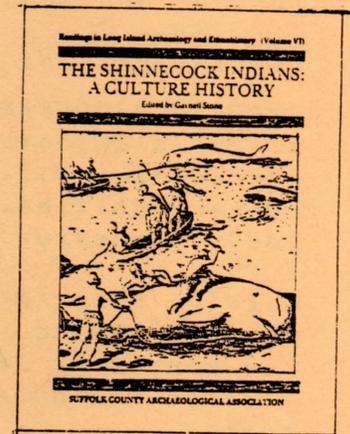
Volume 10, No. 2
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1984

VOLUME VI IS NOW AVAILABLE through SCAA, Suffolk County Historical Society and the Nassau County Museum system. This publication, THE SHINNECOCK INDIANS : A CULTURE HISTORY edited by Gaynell Stone Levine contains over 400 pages of photographs, illustrations, maps and history of the Shinnecocks. A must for any library on Long Island studies. \$30.00

VOLUME VII is currently under preparation on Historical Archaeology. To have a manuscript considered please send it to SCAA at the address listed on the letter-head. The report must be on a historical site located in either Queens, Nassau or Suffolk.

The June 19 SCAA Meeting will be our election meeting. Slate of Officers:

President: Donna Ottusch-Kianka
Vice-President: Dr. Kent Lightfoot
Corresponding Sec.: Lise Rasmussen
Recording Sec.: Julia Clark
Treasurer: Gaynell Stone Levine



SCAA will also be showing the movie BREAKING GROUND at this meeting. Directions to the meeting at Hoyt Farm are on the back of this newsletter. All are welcome.

***** Long Island Archaeology Exhibit opens at the State University of New York at Stony Brook at the University Museum of Anthropology. The display includes the prehistoric artifacts found at Mashomack Preserve under the direction of Dr. Kent G. Lightfoot, as well as the methodology used to locate these cultural remains. The exhibit is open Monday-Thursday 1-4 p.m. for the remainder of 1984. There will be another archaeological field school this summer under the direction of Dr. Lightfoot. For more information about the museum and the summer field school contact Dr. Kent Lightfoot at 516/246-6745.

PUBLICATIONS

Connecticut Archaeology: Past, Present and Future edited by R.E. Dewar, K.L. Feder and D.A. Poirier. Occasional Papers in Anthropology No.1, 1983. Offered through The Department of Anthropology, University of Connecticut, U-176, Storrs, Ct 06268 for \$9.95.

Aspects of Change in Seneca Iroquois Ladles A.D. 1600-1900 by Betty Coit Prisch. Research Records No. 15 1982. Illustrated with 26 Plates, 120 pages. To order send \$10.75 plus NYS sales tax (7%) to: Research Division, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Avenue, Box 1480, Rochester, New York 14603.

New York State has just come out with a report: Toward a Usable Past: Historical Records in the Empire State. This is a report to the Governor and Citizens of New York by the State Historical Records Advisory Board published in January of 1984. Contact the State Archives, State Education Department, Room 10A46, Cultural Education Center, Albany, N.Y. 12230 for information on availability.

Sea Cliff now has a walking tour guide of Victorian houses! A Perambulatorian Guide to Victorian Sea Cliff. by R. Silvestri. This publication is available through Duck Pond Publishing, Inc. 66 Herbill Road, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542 for \$7.45 (includes tax, postage and handling).

CONFERENCES AND LECTURES

TRADE GUN CONFERENCE sponsored by the Arthur C Parker Fund for Iroquois Research at the Rochester Museum and Science Center, Rochester, N.Y. on June 9 and 10. For registration information contact Charles F Hayes III, Rochester Museum, 657 East Avenue, Box 1480, Rochester, N.Y. 14603 (716)271-4320.

Garvies Point Museum now offers archaeological programs for the general public. There will be eight themed presentations during the months of July and August 1984 on Saturdays from 1:30 - 3:30. Contact the Museum at 671-0300 for additional information and topics.

EXHIBITS

The Museum of Our National Heritage will have an exhibit: UN-EARTHING NEW ENGLAND'S PAST until January 13, 1985. This exhibit is an introduction to the historical archaeology of New England and the ceramics found on ten sites dating from the 17th to the 19th Centuries. In conjunction with this presentation is a series of June archaeology programs. Contact the Museum at 617/861-6560 for additional information.

The Suffolk County Historical Society has scheduled a new exhibit on "Lighting Devices from the Society's Collection" until July of 1984. For additional information call 516/727-2881. The Museum is open Monday through Saturday 12:30 to 4:30. There is no admission charge.

THE SMOKING POINT SITE (STD J4-3)
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK

Annette Silver

New York University

The Smoking Point site is a multicomponent site located on the western shore of Staten Island. The site is of interest both for the historical archaeologist and for those archaeologists studying Coastal New York prehistory. Smoking Point is located in Rossville, Richmond County, New York (40° 33' 15"N, 74° 13' 45"W) (U.S.G.S. 1966). It is bounded by Chemical Lane on the east and by the Arthur Kill on the north and west (Figure 1). The site extends over the inland edge of the Arthur Kill beach and east onto a wooded knoll (elevation 10-20 ft) 150 foot inland from the Arthur Kill. Geologic history indicates that the site location in respect to distance from Arthur Kill and accessibility

to the present New Jersey mainland has varied throughout the 13,000 years of potential human occupation. Furthermore, pollen studies show that the immediate environment of the site has changed greatly over the 5,000 year period of datable human occupation. From an upland inland locale in a region of oak and pine forest and grassy areas, it was transformed into a coastal lowland area in which marine resources were added to those resources supported by the oak-forest biome (Sirkin 1981).

The first systematic archaeological investigation of the site was initiated by Dr. Bert Salwen of New York University in the spring of 1967. Over the following year and a half, three excavation units were opened by field crews from the Brooklyn Childrens Museum, Adelphi University, and New York University under the direction of Ellen Richardson, John Vetter and Dr. Bert Salwen respectively. Units I and II covered an area of approximately 8,500 sq ft and Unit III, approximately 65 sq ft. Stratification varied across the site (Figure 2). There are two brief preliminary reports on some of the materials recovered from Unit I excavation (Rutch (1968) and Vetter as cited by Lavin (1980)), but a complete examination of the entire assemblage was not undertaken until 1981. This is a summary of the site report (Silver, in press).

Identified components at Smoking Point are a Late Archaic Normanskill/Poplar Island component, another Late Archaic Bare Island Component, a Transitional Orient phase component and a nineteenth century (Cole-Dissosway families) historic component. For an undefined early period preceding the above occupations the site was visited by small groups.

There are no diagnostic artifacts associated with the lowest Tan Sand levels (24-28 in). At depths of between 30 and 42 inches into the Tan Sand there is ample lithic debitage. A cluster (50%) of the tool wedges, graters,

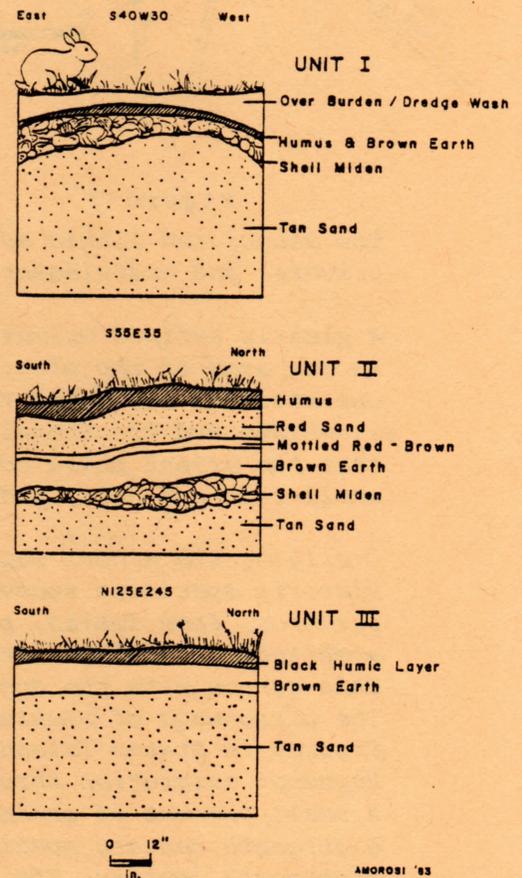


Figure 2. Representative Stratigraphic Profiles.

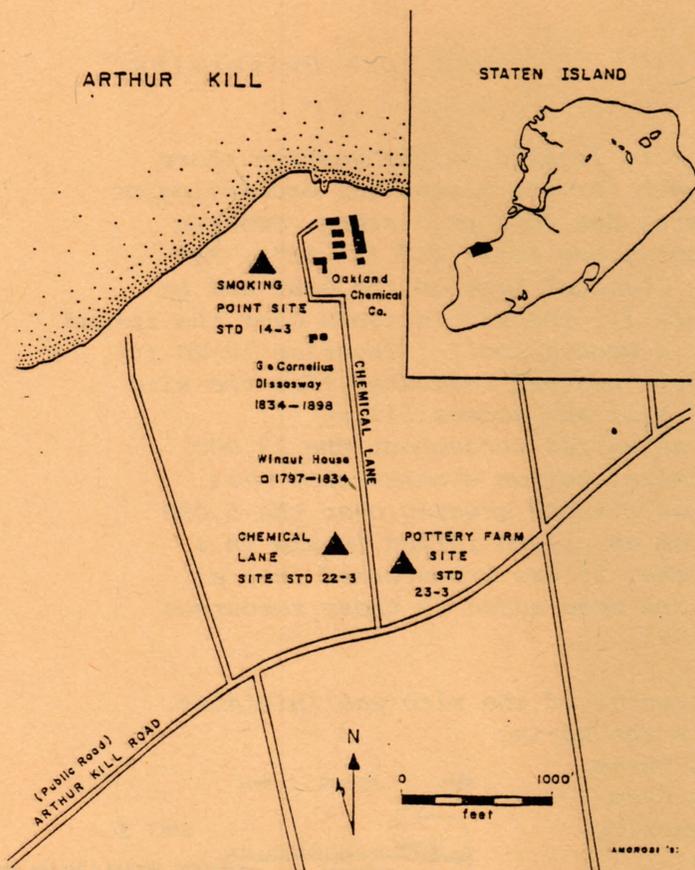


Figure 1

The associated lithic assemblage consists of bifaces, unifaces, knives, drill/gravers, and end/sidescrapers, cores, utilized flakes, spalls and cobbles.

A clearly defined Orient shell-midden component overlies the Tan Sand Stratum in one area of the site. Diagnostic artifacts recovered from the midden were one steatite sherd and five Orient Fishtail pointed bifaces. Analysis of the lithic assemblage and the floral and faunal specimens recovered from the midden suggests that the Orient phase occupants were hunting deer and turkey, gathering shell-fish and nuts, and engaged in food-processing and tool maintenance.

Overlying the midden was a Brown Earth stratum and above that a Red Earth Stratum. Historic specimens recovered from these strata represent a range of domestic ceramics, food debris, personal and clothing items, riding tack, and architectural debris. Attributable dates are predominantly nineteenth century. This agrees with the documentation of Dissosway ownership from 1834 to 1905. The Dissosways of Smoking Point and members of their family are prominent figures in Staten Island history from the seventeenth century French Huguenot emigration through the nineteenth century. With the exceptions of a small percent of ceramics having date ranges of 1790-1830, there are no eighteenth century specimens, nor indications of historic landuse prior to the nineteenth century. The limited number (10%) of late-eighteenth century ceramics are suggested to be heirlooms owned by the Dissosway families.

shredders, and side/endscrapers were recovered from this lower Tan Sand level. Some of the flakes and chunks used as scrapers resemble the stereotypical Paleo-Indian side/endscraper, although neither the quality of workmanship nor the chert raw material is exactly comparable (Marshall 1984). The presence of Paleo-Indian peoples in the eastern Arthur Kill Valley directly north and south of Smoking Point is well documented. These finds at the lowest depths excavated at the Smoking Point site suggest consideration of Paleo-Indian presence here as well.

Overlying these finds is a zone of relatively low artifact density (Tan Sand 24-30 in). Then at depths of between 6-to-12 and 18-to-24 inches into the Tan Sand three Normanskill-like pointed bifaces were recovered. Similar point types have been dated at between 2000 and 1400 B.C. in the upper Delaware River Valley and 1760 B.C. in the upper Hudson River Valley (Funk 1976; Kinsey 1972). The presence of eight Bare Island and Poplar Island-like pointed bifaces in the upper foot of the Tan Sand stratum provides evidence of one or more Late Archaic Lackawaxen/Bare Island/Poplar Island complex occupations at Smoking Point.

Although the Smoking Point site was excavated some thirteen years prior to this analysis the assemblage is proving to be a rich research resource, both for the historical archaeologist interested in small households of the nineteenth century and for the student of Coastal New York prehistory. The forthcoming site report and microwear analysis of the scraper-type tools (Silver, in press) and analysis of the vertebrate assemblage (Amorosi, in press) are expected to be only the first of new studies based upon the materials recovered during the 1967-68 excavations at Smoking Point.

Footnotes

1. This summary is derived from a paper presented at the January 28, 1984 meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association, Metropolitan Chapter.

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SUFFOLK COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS available for purchase are:

- Volume I - Early Papers in Archaeology - \$10.00
- Volume II - The Coastal Archaeology Reader - \$20.00
- Volume III - The History and Archaeology of the Montauk Indians - \$20.00
- Volume IV - Languages and Lore of the Long Island Indians - \$20.00
- Volume V - The Second Coastal Archaeology Reader - \$22.50
- Volume VI - The Shinnecock Indians: A Culture History - \$30.00

Suffolk County Cultural Resources Inventory, 1978 - \$4.00

Now available! Back issues of the SCAA Newsletter for \$5.00 per year. Contact SCAA at the address below to place an order.

All publications can be purchased through SCAA at the prices listed above or at the following Museum giftshops: The Weathervane Shop, Suffolk County Historical Society, 300 West Main Street, Riverhead, N.Y. 11901 or The Old Bethpage Restoration Giftshop, Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage, N.Y. 11804. Contact these institutions for postage and handling fees and price differences.

SCAA Meetings are held at the Hoyt Farm, New Highway, Commack at 8:00 P.M.. Location of Hoyt Farm: Just west of the Happaug County Center. At the light, turn west off Veterans Memorial Highway onto New Highway-1.5 miles on the left, at the light, turn and go through the parking lot to the Manor House. There will be no meetings during the months of July and August. Meetings will be held September, October, November and December of 1984.

The next newsletter publication is October 1984. Material for inclusion should be forwarded to Donna I Ottusch-Kianka, 9 Tanglewood Lane, Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579. Please send all submissions for the October Newsletter before September 15, 1984.

*****MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION*****

This newsletter along with reduced rates to workshops and publications (20%) come with membership. Fees as of April 1982 are: All contributions are tax deductible.

_____ Life	\$200.00	_____ Family	\$15.00
_____ Patron	\$100.00	_____ Individual	\$10.00
_____ Contributing	\$ 50.00	_____ Student	\$ 5.00
_____ Sustaining	\$ 25.00		(up to age 18)

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____ Telephone #: _____

Send check to Suffolk County Archaeological Association, P.O. Drawer AR, Stony Brook, New York 11790.