

**Canton Historical Society Lecture Series Presents:
Scott Warnasch – “Woman in the Iron Coffin Investigation”
May 19, 2019 at 2 pm**

All ages are invited to the **Canton Historical Museum, 11 Front Street, Collinsville, CT** to experience a holistic glimpse into the investigation surrounding the identity of a woman found inside a Fisk iron coffin that was disturbed by construction crews in New York City. Through forensic investigation with archaeology, biology and history, our lecturer **Scott Warnasch** identified the woman as a domestic servant who had died of smallpox in the early 1850s.

Mr. Warnasch has been a professional archaeologist for over 25 years, working and teaching archaeological methodology in Europe and the Americas. From 2005 through 2015, he was a member of the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner's (OCME) Forensic Anthropology Unit and was Senior Anthropologist of the OCME's World Trade Center Operations. During his tenure, his primary duties involved directing the extensive victims' remains recovery excavations conducted at the World Trade Center site between 2006 and 2014. He also conducted and supervised several crime scene recoveries and mass fatality incidents within the five boroughs.

Since leaving the OCME in 2015, Mr. Warnasch has become a consultant and is dedicating most of his time to writing his first book, *American Mummies: The Industrial Birth of the Eternal Dead*, about his research into the lives of three mid-19th century iron coffin mummies he has discovered, including the subject of the PBS series *Secrets of the Dead* episode, “The Woman in the Iron Coffin.”

A rare surviving Fisk Iron Coffin is on display at the Canton Historical Museum. Visitors are welcome to check out the Burial Case, located across from the Blacksmith Shop, during museum hours: Friday through Sunday, 1-4 pm.

