

# Allegheny Chapter #1

of the

## Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

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index.html](http://www.orgsites.com/pa/alleghenychapter/index.html)

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### Officers 2015 - 2017

President: Brian Fritz  
Vice President Bill Johnson  
Secretary/Treasurer: Amanda Valko

### Meeting Information

First Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.,  
February through June and September through  
November. Holiday Dinner is in December at  
an alternate location.

**October 2016** – Dr. William Johnson, Member,  
Allegheny Chapter, will present the program *In  
Defense of James Pendergast: The  
Massawomeck-Monongahela-Antouhonoron  
Connection*

**November 2016** – To be announced.

**December 2016** – Annual Holiday Party.

*Meetings are held at Michael Baker  
International, 100 Airside Drive, Moon  
Township, PA in the first floor presentation  
room. Parking is free. Building is locked so  
please buzz the security guard to get in and  
sign in at the reception desk.*

## President's Letter

October is Pennsylvania's Archaeology Month. It is a good time of the year to get out of doors and enjoy the cooler weather, fewer bugs, and better ground visibility in wooded areas. Go visit that old mill site or iron furnace that you have always wanted to see. Take some photos and maybe some measurements. For the ambitious explorer, visit the county courthouse, or local historical society and do some background research on sites that you visit. Record your discoveries and share what you learn. Fill out and submit a Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey form and take credit for your hard work. You may very well be opening an untrodden path in our trail of history. Small, but persistent steps, often lead to big and important discoveries. As David Hurst Thomas, Archaeologist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, once said, "Archaeology. . . It's not what you find; it's what you find out.

-- Brian L. Fritz

## In Defense of James Pendergast: The Massawomeck-Monongahela- Antouhonoron Connection

John Smith's account of the founding of Jamestown refers to the mysterious Massawomeck. Smith's early writings indicate he had learned that the Massawomeck were powerful enemies of the Powhatan chiefdom as well as the Susquehannocks. On July 31, 1608, during his second voyage up Chesapeake Bay, John Smith and his men encountered seven or eight birch bark canoe loads of Massawomeck off the mouth of the Sassafras River. The next recorded episode of direct contact between the early English colonists and the Massawomeck occurred in 1632 during Henry Fleet's expedition to the Falls of the Potomac River, where he traded for furs with the Massawomeck.

Other than these more detailed references, the historic record associated with early European colonization of Chesapeake Bay provides us with little additional information on the Massawomeck, particularly the tantalizing question regarding their cultural identity. This presentation draws upon ongoing archaeological research and cartographic and historic documentation to argue that the Massawomeck included the Protohistoric Monongahela and Wellsburg phase people of the lower Upper Ohio Valley. Archaeological research also indicates that the terminal Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric Johnston phase Monongahela were most likely Pendergast's Antouhonorons, thus, providing the link between the Massawomeck and a northern, lower Great Lakes homeland. Ceramic and cordage twist direction data and cartographic and historic documentary evidence presented here argue convincingly that the Monongahela were both Iroquoian speakers and the Black Minqua in Dutch and English references

## **Fort Machault Geophysical Survey**

By Brian L. Fritz

Fort Machault (36VE212) is one of only four French forts that were built in Pennsylvania during the French and Indian War (1753-1763). The site of Fort Machault is located in the City of Franklin, Venango County, Pennsylvania along Elk Street and between 6th and 7th Streets. In recent years the Venango Chapter of the SPA has conducted several investigations at the site, confirming the presence of artifacts and features associated with the fort. The archaeology has created a lot of interest in the community, especially among the homeowners who are living amongst the ruins of the fort. The general location of Fort Machault was never lost, but few realized that preserved portions of the fort lied buried under the green lawns between homes.

In May of this year, I lead a one-day geophysical survey on a small portion of the Fort Machault site. Venango Chapter members Bill Black and Susette Jolley assisted in the survey. We used a geophysical method known as ground resistivity to measure the electrical properties of the ground

across an area encompassing 170 square meters. A measurement was taken for every meter along nine east-west transects. The technique passes an electrical current through the ground between copper probes spaced one meter apart. Different types of soil and differences in soil moisture result in more or less resistance to the flow of electricity. Variations in resistivity are what interest archaeologists. Electrical current passing through a stone wall typically registers a high resistivity value. A buried water-logged trench may yield a low resistivity. When plotted on a map, variations in resistivity measurements may delineate buried features and structures. At least this is what we hope to find when we target specific high or low anomalies in follow up archaeological excavations.

The resistivity survey map of Fort Machault shows three interesting anomalies labeled A through C (Figure 1). Anomaly A corresponds to a cellar hole or subsurface chamber that was part of the internal structure of Fort Machault. This deep feature was identified and investigated during excavations conducted by the Venango Chapter in 2010. Anomalies B and C have not been archaeologically investigated. Both show high peaks in resistivity (Red). Anomaly C also shows two low resistivity (Green) points with a higher peak in between. These anomalies could represent features associated with Fort Machault or they could relate to ground disturbances created during the long residential era of the property.

As part of Archaeology Month 2016 celebrations, the Venango Chapter will be investigating Anomalies B and C during the week of October 3rd through 7th. Test trenches will be excavated across the anomalies. We are hoping that the features represented by the anomalies are part of the northwest bastion of the fort, but who knows?? They could be something completely unexpected and unrelated to the Fort. Geophysical surveys can provide useful information for archaeologists, but the interpretations are only a best guess. We really do not know what the geophysical data is telling us until we dig it up and see what is there.

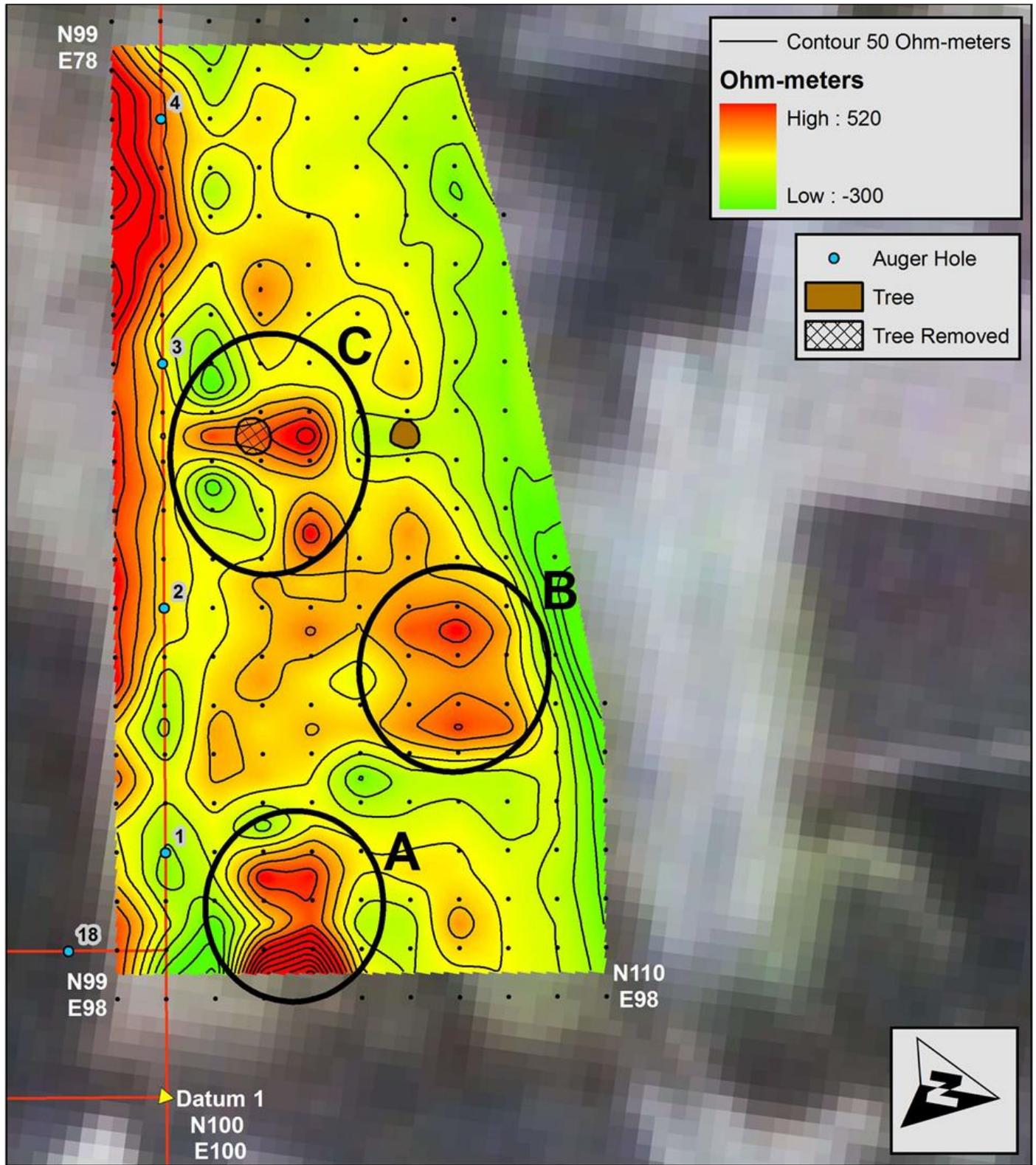


Figure 1. Map showing the results of the ground resistivity survey. Red represents high resistivity and green represents low resistivity.

**Eastern States  
Archeological Federation  
83rd Annual Meeting  
November 4 - 6, 2016**

The ESAF annual meeting is being held at the Sheraton Bucks County, 400 Oxford Valley Rd, Langhorne, PA 19047, (215) 547-4100. Be sure you make reservations at the hotel by October 18, 2016 and say you are with ESAF to get the \$99 room rate. A tour will be conducted on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at two New Jersey Paleoindian localities. The tour runs from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Dr. Roger Moeller, is the banquet speaker. He will present *A Return to the Templeton Site After 40 Years*.

Individuals are invited to submit abstracts for papers, posters, and workshops on any topic related to archaeology in the Eastern United States Archeological Federation (ESAF). Thematic sessions, prehistoric or historic archaeology, northeastern Paleo-Indian, and lithic sourcing, are especially welcomed. Students are encouraged to submit papers for the Best Student Paper Prize.

For more information go to <http://esaf-archeology.org/meetings.htm>

**Adventures in Archival Archaeology  
53: Digitally Reconstructing and  
then Digitally Breaking an 18th  
Century Plate**

by Bernard K. Means

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that I was creating material for outreach for a new exhibit at the National Constitution Center (NCC) that features late 18th century artifacts found at the location of the NCC itself. One of these objects was a green-glazed refined earthenware with a molded design that included a floral motif. More than half of the mended ceramic was available and, because the design was symmetrical, I was able to mirror the complete half that was present to create a “whole” digital plate.



*Students with original vessel.*

I then “broke” the digital plate into several pieces. Why do this? The basic reason was to create an interactive element for the teaching cart that will accompany the new NCC archaeology exhibit.



*3D printed version of digitally reconstructed vessel that was then "digitally" broken.*

A “broken” but mendable 3D printed “ceramic” plate is safer for use with smaller children, and, unlike a thriftstore purchase, these children can look from the mending activity to the real plate that is on display. These and other interactive elements are possible through 3D scanning of the real objects, and then 3D printing.

## Archaeology Month 2016

### Calendar of Events

#### Frances Dorrance Chapter 11, SPA

The Frances Dorrance Chapter is having an open house at the Conrail site on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Conrail site is located in the Coxton Yards near Duryea, PA. For more information or directions contact Ted Baird at [tedbaird@verison.net](mailto:tedbaird@verison.net) or calling him at 570-842-2708.

#### John Shrader Chapter 21, SPA

Chapter meeting on Wednesday, October 5 at 7 PM in the mule stable of Joanna Furnace, 1250 Furnace Road, Geigertown, PA 19523, in Berks County. Guest speaker is Dr. Heather Wholey from West Chester University who will discuss the Steatite Quarries in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

Members of John Shrader Chapter 21 will have an exhibit on archaeology and on SPA at the Apple Festival at Joanna Furnace, 1250 Furnace Road, Geigertown, Berks County, on Friday and Saturday October 8 and 9. Chapter members will be digging at the Mouns Jones House in Berks County every Wednesday and Saturday of October from 9 AM to 12 noon. Students from Montgomery County Community College will participate in the dig every Saturday in October. The Mouns Jones House, also known as Old Swede’s House, was built in 1716 and is the oldest surviving house in Berks County and one of the few remaining examples of a Swedish settler’s dwelling. The house was restored by the Historic Preservation Trust of Berks County. The Chapter has been digging here to try to locate any outbuildings which are no longer extant and any artifacts and features associated with this historic

structure. For more information contact Cathy Spohn at [cspohn@pa.gov](mailto:cspohn@pa.gov).

#### Slippery Rock University

Third annual Archaeology Day at the Old Stone House, 2865 William Flynn Hwy, Slippery Rock, PA on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Learn about local history and archaeology. Free event open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Aksel Casson at 724-738-4632.

#### Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Archaeology Open House, Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. in McElhaney Hall, ground floor. Get a glimpse at what archaeologists do! There will be artifact displays, technology demonstrations, stone tool making, geophysical demos, student research, and kid's activities plus archaeology themed snacks.

### Archaeology Day

**Saturday, October 1, 2016 • 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**  
**Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village**



Ever wonder how archaeologists learn about everyday life for prehistoric people? Do you have an Indian artifact you want professionally identified? As part of Pennsylvania Archaeology Month, archaeologists from the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will visit Meadowcroft to present lectures and identify your artifacts. The program for Archaeology Day includes:

\*An archaeologist available to identify Indian artifacts brought by visitors. Please note that this

does not include appraisals but rather the archaeologist will identify the object as well as provide context and information about which cultural period it represents.

\*Three lectures that will discuss a theme of adaptation & change as it relates to prehistoric diet, agriculture, and technology.

\*Demonstrations of prehistoric technology in Meadowcroft's recreated 16th century Indian Village

Also, visitors can enjoy all of Meadowcroft's hands-on and interpretive areas, including the 18th century village, blacksmith forge, one-room school house, and Meadowcroft Rockshelter. Lectures and events during Archaeology Day are included in regular admission to Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. For more information: <http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events/archaeology-day-meadowcroft>.

## **2016 Workshops in Archaeology**

The State Museum of Pennsylvania, 300 North Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania along with its cosponsors, the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Pennsylvania Archaeological Council and the PA State Historic Preservation Office presents the 2016 Workshops in Archaeology, Saturday, October 29, 2016.

Anthropologists have long examined symbols created by past cultures as a way of interpreting and understanding social, political or individual expression. These take the form of abstract designs and depictions of animal, human and supernatural figures, frequently in stone and clay. The arrangement of earthworks and mounds also had meaning to people in the past.

Some of these symbols had religious connotations. Others represented clans or depicted supernatural beings that required appeasement. Although rarely found at archaeological sites, symbols on baskets or beadwork on clothing are also expressions of religious and cultural beliefs. Some designs may have been simply decorative art. Whatever the case, they are reflections of how people perceived and

organized their world. Symbolic artifacts recovered from the archaeological record provide a unique resource for examining past cultural behavior. The presenters will examine the archaeological evidence of symbolism in Native American cultures and offer insights into their interpretations.

In addition to the presentations, attendees can share their archaeological discoveries with staff from the State Historic Preservation Office who will provide assistance with identifying artifacts and recording archaeological sites, essential tasks for protecting and preserving our archaeological heritage. An additional offering includes a demonstration by a master flintknapper who will make stone tools using Native American techniques. A reception at the close of the sessions will provide an opportunity for the attendees to meet with the presenters and staff in the Anthropology and Archaeology Gallery of The State Museum.

### **Understanding Symbols of the Past Objects, Landscapes and Native American Beliefs**

What is the meaning behind petroglyphs, effigy mounds, beadwork, and images on pottery and smoking pipes? The Archaeology Section of The State Museum of Pennsylvania invites you to attend the annual Workshops in Archaeology on Saturday, October 29, 2016. This program is designed to provide the general public with an overview of archaeological discoveries and research being conducted in the region. This year's theme will focus on Indian symbolism in artifacts and on the cultural landscape.

#### **Workshops in Archaeology Program**

8:30-9:00 Registration

9:00-9:10 Opening Remarks by Beth Hagar

#### ***Images on the Landscape***

9:10 - 9:50 Session 1 – **Petroglyphs** by Ken Burkett/Paul Nevin

9:50 - 10:20 Session 2 – **Stone Landscapes in the Northeast** by Daniel Cassidy, Jesse Bergevin & Christopher Bergman

10:20 - 10:40 Break

10:40 - 11:20 Session 3 – **Ohio Hopewell** by Paul Pacheco

11:20 – 12:00 Session 4 – **Sugar Run Mound Burial Ceremonialism** by Mark McConaughy

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch

### *Material Culture*

1:15 - 1:55 Session 5 - **Shell Effigies and Animal Symbolism** by Dustin Cushman

1:55 - 2:35 Session 6 – **Effigies of the Susquehannock** by Janet Johnson

2:35 - 3:15 Session 7 - **Powerful Pipes** by Rich Veit

3:15 - 3:30 Break

3:30 - 4:10 Session 8 - **Beadwork Designs** by Rosemary Hill

4:10 - 4:50 **Conclusions/Closing Summary** by William Engelbrecht

4:50 - 5:00 **Questions and Discussion**

5:00 - 6:00 **Reception** in the Hall of Anthropology and Archaeology

### *Additional Programming*

**Site Recording in Cultural Resources Geographic Information System** - Noel Strattan

**Flint Knapping Demonstration** – Steve Nissly

**Artifact Identification** – Doug McLearen & Kira Heinrich

**Early Registration** (By October 21):

\$25 Early Registration

\$15 Student

\$15 PA Heritage Foundation, SPA and PAC members

**Registration at Door** - \$35

## **Archaeology at Fort Hunter**

The Section of Archaeology at the State Museum will be conducting their excavation at Fort Hunter between September 7 and October 7, 2016. The public is welcome to visit and archaeologists will be on site, weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. This year at Fort Hunter we will be focusing our work in two areas. We will continue our work identifying and excavating features around the smoke house foundation in order to better understand this structure. In addition, we will focus our attention near the back porch where we found an increase in Indian trade goods last year. Visitors at Fort Hunter Mansion and Park enjoy learning about the archaeological investigation and often stop by several times a week to check on our progress. This is a great opportunity to visit an archaeological site and experienced volunteers are always appreciated. Please contact Kurt Carr at 727-783-9926 or [kcarr@pa.gov](mailto:kcarr@pa.gov) for additional information or to volunteer.



### **\*\*\*\*\*2017 DUES\*\*\*\*\***

Hello all! Your 2017 membership dues are now due and payable. You can pay your dues at a chapter meeting or by sending a check via snail mail. Dues amounts have not changed. Please contact Amanda at [amanda@quemahoning.com](mailto:amanda@quemahoning.com) if you have any questions.

## 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

To become a member of Allegheny Chapter #1, SPA, complete this form and send it to Amanda Valko, Secretary, Allegheny Chapter #1. Thank you!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PRESENT CHAPTER AFFILIATION (IF ANY) \_\_\_\_\_ STATE MEMBER? \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CHECK ONE):

<input type="checkbox"/> LIFE	\$150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE HUSBAND/WIFE	\$16.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING	\$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT	\$ 8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL	\$ 10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL	\$16.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ALLEGHENY CHAPTER NO. 1, SPA

RETURN TO: Amanda Valko  
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