

# Allegheny Chapter #1

of the

## Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

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[http://www.orgsites.com/pa/alleghenychapter/  
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.

**December 2016** – Annual Holiday Party at  
Max's Allegheny Tavern, Pittsburgh, PA at 6:30  
p.m. *Please let Amanda know if you will be  
attending by Monday, November 28th.* We will  
order off the menu as usual.

**January 2016** – No meeting this month.

**February 2016** – To be announced.

*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

How and when did you find your passion for  
archaeology?

For many that first spark was an accidental find, an  
arrowhead in cornfield, or an old bottle along an  
abandoned road. For others, it was something they  
saw on television, or a museum visit, or maybe a  
class they took in school, or a cherished mentor who  
shared his or her passion for the relics of the past.

My interest in archeology began with the finding of  
prehistoric stone tools on my family's farm in  
Somerset County. My father found several nice  
points while working in the fields. Eventually I got  
the eye for them too. The first dig that I worked on  
was at the French and Indian War site of Fort Stony  
Creek, one of the Forbes Road encampments. Soon  
after, I was bumming rides to get to the Somerset  
Chapter's excavation site at the town of Confluence.  
Called the Housing Project Site, chapter members  
identified a Woodland Period camp. At that time, I  
was not old enough to drive.

What really sealed my interest in archaeology was a  
small paperback book that I purchased at a local  
bookstore, "A Beginner's Guide to Archaeology:  
The Modern digger's step-by-step introduction to  
the expert ways of unearthing the past" by Louis A.  
Brennan. The book's cover featured a photo of  
stone tools lying on a topo map. Also on the cover  
is the quote, ". . .clear and concise," from Don  
Dragoo, Curator, Carnegie Museum. Inside, the  
book provides a general prehistoric context, guide  
to artifact identification, a discussion on soil  
stratigraphy and time, how to find and record sites,  
how to build different types of sifting screens, and  
how to lay out and dig excavation squares. All of  
this was good stuff, but the chapter that influenced  
me the most was titled "Writing Good Reports." As  
an example of a good report, Brennan included a  
small report written by Paul and Thomas Weinman

detailing their 1968 excavations of the stratified Moonshine Rockshelter site located near Athens, New York. Reading the Moonshine Rockshelter report made me realize that archaeology is not just about finding stuff. It is really about putting together a well-reasoned story about the artifacts and features and conveying that information to others. This is the moment when I found my passion for archaeology.

How and when did you find your passion for archaeology? This question is fitting for our upcoming holiday dinner meeting. Holidays are a time for reflection. What better to reflect on than the good feelings that drew us into the world of archaeology?

-- Brian L. Fritz

### \*\*\*\*\*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. Form on last page.

## History of Max's Allegheny Tavern

This information taken from the website: <http://www.explorepittsburgh.com/maxs-allegheny-tavern/>. Accessed 11/13/16. Minor edits were done.

It all started in 1820 when the first bridge was built connecting Allegheny City (Now the North Side) with Pittsburgh. From that point on, Allegheny City grew at a rapid pace. By 1880, beautiful mansions lined Ridge Avenue, while down on General Robinson Street a few so-called "sporting houses" were in evidence. From local conversations it appeared that nobody ever visited these houses, but they did seem to survive quite well.

By 1884 Allegheny City was inhabited by a mixture of ethnic cultures. The Scotch and Irish settled to the west towards Manchester while the English gathered within the Commons in the center of Allegheny City. The Germans chose to settle in the

east of Allegheny City in what became known as Dutchtown.

It was in this atmosphere that George Rahn decided to strike out on his own and leave the employ of his uncle, who operated a broom factory on Spring Garden Avenue, to become the proprietor of a saloon at 900 East Ohio Street.

As Allegheny City continued to grow and prosper, so did George Rahn's business. By the turn of the century, George was able to sell his saloon business and purchase the Farmers and Drovers Hotel at 539 Second Street (now Suisomn Street) in the most fashionable section of Dutchtown. The Farmers and Drovers Hotel (now the Allegheny Room at Max's) was a popular overnight stop for the drivers of the wagons coming in from the north with produce and wares for sale in the busy market houses of Allegheny City and Pittsburgh.

The hospitality business proved good to George and in 1903 the Hotel Rahn was erected on a vacant lot on the corner of Middle and Second Streets. This building now houses the main bar and dining room at Max's. From the elegant hand carved back bar with the beveled glass mirrors that was brought to Allegheny City from the St. Louis Exposition to the white ceramic tile walls and five colored patterned tile floors, no cost was spared. Brass chandeliers that featured a combination of both gas and electric lamps provided the illumination for the bar and dining rooms. Solid oak ice boxes stocked the many beers produced by Allegheny City breweries. As popular then as it still is today is the Dutch Club Beer brewed by the Eberhardt and Ober Brewing Company on Troy Hill Road.

George's wife Katherine's good food became well known throughout all of Allegheny City. The smell of fresh baked apple pies coming from the second floor kitchen greeted the early riser at the Hotel Rahn. A dumbwaiter from the second floor kitchen carried the popular "Dutch" influenced meals to the dining rooms on the first floor of the hotel.

In 1907, after a bitter fight, the City of Pittsburgh annexed Allegheny City and the grandeur of Allegheny began to diminish. Seven years later, on New Year's Eve in 1914, tragedy struck the Rahn Family. A guest at the hotel, having too much to

drink, became rowdy and George Rahn was forced to expel this inebriated patron from the bar. In the process of doing so, one of the swinging doors at the entrance hit George on the head, causing a severe concussion. George died New Year's Day at Allegheny General Hospital at the age of 61. A cousin, Harry Rahn, helped Katherine operate the hotel until her death in 1920. The Rahn estate was liquidated and the hotel sold.

During prohibition, the former Rahn Hotel was a well-known speakeasy. An outside visitor to the North Side during prohibition would have been surprised because beer, wine and bootleg liquor flowed so well here. After prohibition, the bar and hotel were operated by Joe Miller whose grandson, Gene Miller, operates an insurance agency on East Ohio Street. In 1944, the business was sold to Charley Niederst, who operated the bar and hotel until 1970 when the business was purchased by Jennie and Lou Lardo. In 1977, the business and real estate was purchased by the present owners who changed the name to Max and Erma's Allegheny Tavern. A dispute with the large food chain from Columbus, Ohio over the name caused the name Erma to be dropped several years ago.

Extensive work was done on the physical plant to restore it to the grandeur of earlier years. In the Allegheny Room is a color lithograph of the Eberhardt and Ober Brewery. The framed opening in the ceiling of Erma's Dining Room is all that remains of the dumbwaiter that carried the food from the second floor kitchens to the first floor dining rooms. The ice box in the bar has been keeping beer cold since 1903 and the wooden beer cooler in the basement has stored the draft beer that flows from the taps at the main bar for over eighty years. The wine cooler in the Allegheny Room and the cast iron stove in the Ratskeller once graced the second floor kitchen at the Hotel Rahn. A picture of the bar taken shortly after the hotel opened in 1903 is displayed in the main dining area.

## Fort Machault Geophysics, Post Excavation

By Brian L. Fritz

In May of this year, I led 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. The resistivity map was first published on our October newsletter (Figure 1).

During October, the Venango Chapter completed four days of archaeological testing with the goal testing the three anomalies identified on the resistivity map (Figure 2). Anomaly A was confirmed as a stone foundation and cellar. However, the presence of this feature was already confirmed by previous excavations. The October excavations identified the northern limit of this feature. Test units placed in Anomalies B and C found no evidence of stone foundations or features that would explain the high resistance values recorded in those areas. It is possible that the maple tree at the center of the survey had removed enough soil moisture to cause these high readings.

Archaeology almost always yields some surprises. This case is no exception. The resistivity map shows a slight rise in values two meters north of Anomaly A. Excavations in this area revealed an unusual U-shaped stone foundation resting at the top of the subsoil. The stone walls are about 25 inches wide. A dense clay-like soil occupied the area within the wall. The preliminary interpretation holds that this stone feature was contemporary to the French occupation of the fort, but its purpose and function is uncertain. Study of the recent findings will continue.

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.



Figure 2. Venango Chapter members excavating a stone foundation at Fort Machault.



Figure 3. The U-shaped stone foundation discovered at the Fort Machault site.

## 300 Years of Iron Making in Pennsylvania

By Brian Fritz

The year 2016 is the 300th celebration of the manufacture of iron in Pennsylvania. In 1716, Thomas Rutter built the Pine Forge along the banks of Manatawny Creek in Berks County. This early type of forge, known as a bloomery forge, made

iron directly from ore by repeatedly heating and hammering the ore to expel the silica and other impurities. Soon after, stone blast furnaces were built, which were more efficient at smelting larger quantities of iron. Iron making spread westward across Pennsylvania and the capacity to produce iron was an enabling factor in the success of the American Revolution. More iron furnaces, forges, and rolling mills were built in Pennsylvania than any other state. In western Pennsylvania, innovation and invention ushered in the age of coal, steel, and railroads. The cities of Johnstown and Pittsburgh became that iron and steel capitals of the world. Western Pennsylvania was the late nineteenth century version of Silicon Valley. The region was the hub of technological innovation and the making of unimaginable fortunes.

## Eastern States Archeological Federation Update

The 83<sup>rd</sup> ESAF annual meeting was held at the Sheraton Bucks County, in Langhorne, PA this year from November 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup>. A total of 169 people attended. A tour was conducted on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at two New Jersey Paleoindian localities, the Snyder Paleoindian Complex and the Plenge Paleoindian site. The program consisted of organized sessions and contributed papers plus a poster session. ESAF conducts a student paper contest each year. This year, three students contributed papers for the contest. They were Justin Reamer, University of Pennsylvania, Mallory Moran, The College of William and Mary, and Stephanie Coding, Monmouth University, with the paper given by Mallory Moran, *"In the Main Their Course is Kept:" Indigenous Travel Networks in Maine and New Brunswick Across the Historical Divide*, chosen as the winner. The winner received a certificate and a cash award, a 1 year membership in ESAF, and publication of their paper in the ESAF journal AENA. The annual Canadian-American party was held Friday evening. Dr. Roger Moeller, was the banquet speaker. He presented *A Return to the Templeton Site After 40 Years*. This was a really interesting program documenting the work that Roger completed at the Templeton site many years ago. Chapter attendees at the meeting were Bill Johnson, Brian Fritz and Amanda Valko.

## Adventures in Archival Archaeology 54: Curating the Greatest Generation

by Bernard K. Means

We don't just deal with archaeology in the Virtual Curation Laboratory. One of the projects on which we are working is creating 3D printed replicas to acknowledge the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into World War II. These include a variety of American, German, and Japanese items—and one American veteran. Over a year ago, I 3D scanned World War II veteran Russell Scott. I then 3D printed Russell and one of my students painted the replica of Russell so that it could be placed on an airplane hanging in the Virginia War Memorial (Figure 1).



*Figure 1: B-25 Mitchell bomber. The feet of the 3D printed replica of Russell can be seen over the airplane's tail.*

One of my students recently painted another replica of Russell for our own internal display of World War II replicas. She expressed interest in meeting and interviewing Russell, and yesterday (November 16) we headed over to the Virginia War Memorial as it was a day that Russell volunteered. Russell was quite gracious and consented to the interview by VCU student Brittany Blanchard.



*Figure 2: Left to right: Russell Scott, mini-Russell Scott, and VCU student Brittany Blanchard.*

Back in the lab, I 3D printed a smaller model of Russell's B-25 Mitchell bomber (Figure 3). We are quite happy to work with Russell, the Virginia War Memorial, and the Virginia World War I and World War II Commission to highlight this important period in American history.



*Figure 3: VCU student Diana Salazar cleans a 3D print of a B-25 Mitchell bomber*

## 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

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