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NYSAA Newsletter

Summer 2008



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April 2008, Another Successful Annual Meeting

One hundred forty-six individuals registered for the annual meeting in Syracuse, April 18th-20th. Thanks go to Tim Abel (Thousand Islands Chapter) for organizing an outstanding program and to the many presenters who shared their research. Thanks also are due Greg Sohrweide and other hard working members of the Beauchamp Chapter who smoothly handled local arrangements. The Comfort Inn and Suites proved a great venue for our meeting.

The NYSAA Executive Committee Meeting and Annual Business Meeting were held concurrently on Friday evening. Bill Bouchard, NYSAA Corresponding Secretary, reported that membership for 2007 stands at 618, 60 more than in 2006 (558). Fred Stevens, Finance Chair, reported for Carolyn Weatherwax, Treasurer, that NYSAA total assets stand at \$45,955, representing an increase over last year of approximately \$5,000. Sums of \$300 each were voted for the Funk Foundation and the Charles L. Fisher Fund. The Bulletin for 2007 is expected out shortly and Charles Hayes and Dr. Martha Sempowski are working on the Researches and Transactions series which is being revived.

At the Saturday evening banquet, Dr. Ellie McDowell-Loudan presented Heather Cunningham, a student at Union College, with the \$500 Daniel Weiskotten Scholarship. An auxiliary scholarship award went to Angela Johnson of SUNY Cortland. The raffle for a weekend at the Gideon Putnam in Saratoga Springs raised \$540 for the scholarship. The raffle winner was Elise Manning-Sterling (Adirondack Chapter). A total of \$301 was also raised for the scholarship by passing the hat during the banquet. See the NYSAA website, <http://nysaaweb.bfn.org/> for information on how to contribute to this scholarship fund.

Following the banquet speech by historian Dr. José Brandão, Dr. Peter Pratt presented NYSAA awards. Beauchamp Chapter members Vicky Jayne, Barbara De Angelo, and Gordon De Angelo all received Meritorious Service Awards. Gary Bernhardt and Sandra Arnold (Van Epps-Hartley Chapter) also received Meritorious Service Awards after stepping down after 14 years as President and Secretary (respectively) of the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter. Dr. Sherene Baugher (Finger Lakes Chapter/Cornell) was made a Fellow of the Association.

NYSAA Annual Meeting 2008 Photos (all photos courtesy of Greg Sohrweide)



Buffet (l to r) Paul Huey, Wayne Lenig, Ron Kingsley, And Gordon De Angelo.



Charles Hayes presents the Publications Report.



Tim Abel (right), Program Chair and banquet speaker José Brandão.



Peter Pratt presents Fellow Award to Sherene Baugher.

Future Annual Meetings

Chapter hosts for future meetings are as follows: 2009 (Morgan Chapter), 2010 (Incorporated Orange County Chapter), 2011 (Van Epps-Hartley Chapter).

ACTIVITIES OF THE VAN EPPS-HARTLEY CHAPTER, NYSAA

By Fred Stevens

The Van Epps-Hartley Chapter is one of the oldest chapters in the NYSAA and has been active in both fieldwork as well as the curation of archaeological collections. This short report will attempt to highlight some of the Chapter's more recent activities, primarily in the area of collection curation work.

A) Chapter's Friday Night Work Sessions

Over the many years that the Chapter has been in existence, artifacts from Chapter digs as well as many private collections have been received as gifts to the Chapter, and these collections have been stored at our Chapter headquarters at the Kateri Shrine in Fonda, New York. Many of these collections have languished in the storage area for decades without ever having properly been cleaned, inventoried, cataloged and placed into retrievable and secure storage containers. Under the direction of Chapter President Gary Bernhardt and assisted by Trustee John Vallely, the Chapter began to hold work nights on Friday evenings during summer and early fall months to study and properly inventory these collections. Several thousand artifacts have subsequently been curated over the last fifteen years with individual artifact data entered into an Access database. Artifacts from such well-known sites as the Hennessey Site on Ballstown Lake, the VanOrden Site on the Hudson River, the Cold Spring Site at Schoharie Crossing, the Bent Site on the Mohawk River, The Turnbull Site on the Mohawk River plus numerous historic Mohawk village sites in the central Mohawk Valley have been studied to date. Private donated collections from Dr. Kingston Larner, P. Schuyler Miller, Lloyd Brinkman, Henry Wemple, Ken Brate, Moreau Maxwell and others have also been studied during these work nights. This activity has been a good learning experience for many of our newer members as well as a good refresher on artifact typology for the rest of us. Our newly elected chapter president, Wayne Lenig, offered his invaluable experience in assisting the Chapter in characterizing our large ceramic collections.

During these work sessions we have welcomed visitors from the New York State Museum and the Community Archaeology Program (CAP) of the Schenectady County Community College as well as members from the Beauchamp, Auringer-Seeley and Chenango Chapters of the NYSAA. One of our members, Ralph Rataul, who currently works with the NYS Museum, used the Chapter's pottery collection from the Mohawk Barker Site as a basis for writing his undergraduate thesis on pottery seriation.

Secretary Charlene Lenig and Trustee Harold Zoch working on collection during Friday evening work sessions



B) Preservation of the Snook Kill Artifact Collection

The Chapter also took on the responsibility of "rescuing" a very important collection of artifacts excavated from the Snook Kill Site in the Town of Northumberland, Saratoga County. This collection of Transitional Period artifacts was the result of excavations conducted by Herbert and Beulah Rice, and the projectile points found became the basis for Dr. William Ritchie's Snook Kill point typology. (1,2)

This collection of artifacts was brought to the Chapter's attention by members of the Auringer-Seeley Chapter who wanted to see the collection preserved, but had no place to properly curate and store this collection. Members of both the Van Epps-Hartley Chapter and the Auringer-Seeley Chapter and Dr. Robert Funk met with the late Beula Rice at her home in Gansevoort to review this collection and prepare it for transport to the Chapter headquarters in Fonda.



Fred Stevens and Beulah Rice viewing the Snook Kill artifact collection .



Typical Snook Kill Projectile point

Members of the Chapter then curated the entire collection, which is now ready to donate to the New York State Museum. The collection is complete and contains many additional artifacts not mentioned in Ritchie's book (1). In recognition of the Rice's work in bringing this important site to Dr. William Ritchie's attention and their careful conservation of the collection, the NYSAA awarded the "Certificate of Merit" to Beulah Rice at the 2006 annual meeting. Subsequent to this award, Beulah passed on and the remainder of her collection of artifacts has been donated to the New York State Museum. Most of this particular portion of their collection is from the Whitehall and Fort Edward areas. A complete semi-lunar knife found near Whitehall by the Rices is now on display at the New York State Museum in the exhibit highlighting recent donations to the Museum.

C) Future Chapter Activities Planned:

Under the direction of our new Chapter President, Wayne Lenig, the Chapter will continue to hold our work sessions in Fonda every third Friday evening from 7:00-10:00PM. We will hold yearly winter meetings with the New York State Museum staff, meet for our annual summer picnic at the Shrine in Fonda, conduct tours of area points of interest such as museums and archaeological/geological locales, and hold our annual general meeting in the fall.

References:

Ritchie, William A.

1958 An Introduction to Hudson Valley Prehistory, NYS Museum Bulletin 367, pgs. 91-98, Albany, New York.

1971 New York Projectile Points, A Typology and Nomenclature, NYS Museum Bulletin 384, pgs.47-48, Albany, New York.

News Items, continued

SAA Book Award

Congratulations to James Bradley for receiving the Society for American Archaeology's book award in the Public Audience category. Notice of this book, *Before Albany: An Archaeology of Native Dutch Relations in the Capital Region, 1600-1664*, appeared in our Fall 2007 newsletter. The award states: "...this volume epitomizes what a book written and designed for the public should achieve." For more on the award, see [The SAA Archaeological Record](#), May 2008, vol. 8, No. 3.

News Items

Charles E. Gillette, 1920-2008 (from the *Albany Times Union*, 5/5/08)

The former senior scientist of archaeology for the New York State Museum passed away May 4, 2008 at the Hoosick Falls Health Center after a long illness. He is survived by his wife Gwyneth Young Gillette, also a resident of the Health Center. He is also survived by a daughter and her husband, Caroline and Noel Ashton of Cambridge, a son, David Charles Gillette of Albany, a brother, Philip Roger Gillette of Salem, Oregon, a sister-in-law, Rema Joan Gillette of Silver Springs, MD, and several nieces and nephews. Charles graduated from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa with a B.A. in history and then entered the U.S. army in 1942, the year he married Gwyneth. After being discharged from the army, he entered graduate school at the University of Chicago, receiving an M.A. in 1949. In 1950 he began work at the New York State Museum, retiring in 1983. He was an authority on the Iroquois and was involved in the establishment of the Iroquois Museum at Howe Caverns. He was a past president of the NYSAA. The family suggests memorial donations be made to either the New York State Archaeological Association, Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, Fonda, NY 12068, attn: Wayne Lenig; Cornell College, 600 First Street West, Mount Vernon, IA 52314-1098, or to the Hoosick Falls Health Center, 21 Danforth Street, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090.

New Curator at State Museum Charles E. Orser, Jr.

I came to the New York State Museum in February 2008 after 24 years of university teaching (at Louisiana State University and Illinois State University). I received my Ph.D. in 1980 from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and when leaving the university setting I held the position of Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Illinois State University.



I gained my archaeological experience excavating historic sites first in the Midwest and then in the South, working mostly at forts and slave plantations. My research at Millwood Plantation in South Carolina is well known by archaeologists, but my experience that attracts the most attention outside archaeology occurred in south Louisiana at the first site of the manufacture of Tabasco Brand Pepper Sauce and in northeast Brazil at the famous 17th-century fugitive slave kingdom of Palmares. I spent the past 14 summers excavating in the Republic of Ireland at the cabin sites of families evicted during the Great Famine. This research involved working with over 250 students from all over the US and Canada at sites in counties Roscommon, Sligo, and Donegal. Some of the students were direct descendants of the evictees. I am the author of several books on historical archaeology, including *A Historical Archaeology of the Modern World* and *Historical Archaeology*, and my most recent book is *The Archaeology of Race and Racialization in Historic America* (which concerns the archaeological study of race in regard to immigrant Irish in New York and Chinese in California). I am also the founder of the *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* and the book series *Contributions to Global Historical Archaeology*.

2009 Annual Meeting

The Morgan Chapter is pleased to announce plans for the 2009 NYSAA Annual Meeting. It will be held on April 17-19th at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa, located high up in the hills near Victor, with spectacular views of the Rochester skyline and the surrounding countryside. We envision this as a very special "destination" meeting at competitive prices, thanks to our off-season dates. Wonderful food, luxurious accommodations, and ample meeting space are the highlights! Woodcliff also has a wealth of appealing options for those free moments—indoor heated pool, regulation 9-hole golf course, three walking trails (including one to the Erie Canal), spa, health and fitness center, live music in the cocktail lounge on Friday and Saturday evenings, extensive shopping opportunities minutes away at Eastview Mall, Casa Larga Vineyard and Ganandogan close by, and high speed in-room internet access. And did I mention—the most magnificent views in the Rochester area? Go to www.woodcliffhotelspa.com. Martha Sempowski

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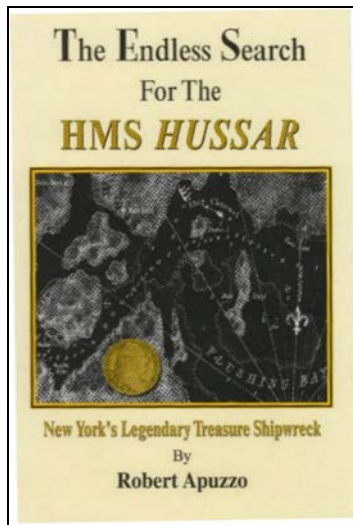
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New Publication by Robert Apuzzo



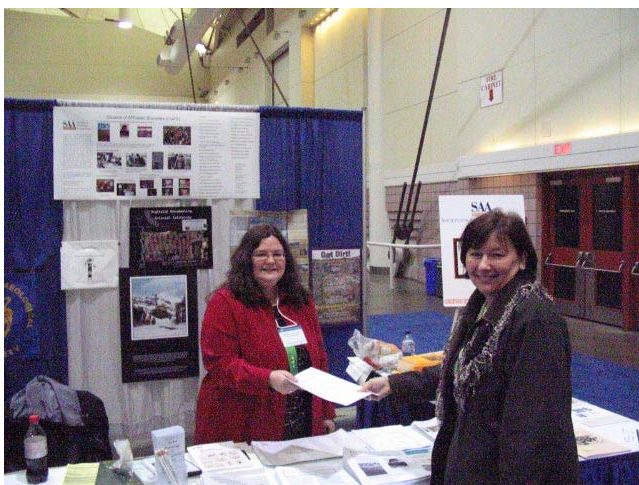
In the fall of 1780 the H.M.S. Hussar, purportedly loaded with 14 chests of gold and silver, was swept onto Pot Rock in New York's East River. The damaged ship then drifted toward the shoreline of the Bronx. Robert Appuzzo attempts to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge surrounding this wreck and in doing so has arranged a journey that will delight and enlighten

The Endless Search For The HMS Hussar is Robert Apuzzo's third book. It is soft cover, 152 pages containing 32 photos and illustrations. It may be purchased directly from R&L Publishing for \$24.95, 130 Church St. #259, New York, NY 10007, (718) 292-8589.

Eastern States Archeological Federation Meeting Tours

The 75th annual meeting will be held Nov. 6-9, 2008 at the Holiday Inn (\$79 per night) in Lockport, NY, (716) 434-6151. It will feature a free geology tour of the Niagara Gorge on Thursday morning, led by Joe Sullivan, Joe-Sul1262@aol.com, NYSAA member and Vice-President of the Buffalo Geological Society. Those interested should assemble at 9:30 A.M. in the Holiday Inn parking lot and be prepared to car pool. The tour will end around noon in Lewiston, NY, where there are a variety of restaurants. There will be a tour of Fort Niagara in the afternoon led by Dr. Sue Maguire who has been excavating there along with Dr. Elizabeth Peña. Those interested should assemble at 1:30 P.M. in the Fort's Museum and Visitor's Center. The fee is \$8 for the group rate, to be paid at the Visitor Center.

For more information on the meeting, visit the ESAF web site at <http://esaf-archeology.org/>. NYSAA members wishing to volunteer for two hours in exchange for free registration should contact Bill Engelbrecht, engelbwe@buffalostate.edu.



Lisa Marie Anselmi on the left (Houghton Chapter, NY-SAA) and Kathy Ehrhardt (Illinois State Museum) at the Council of Affiliated Societies booth at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in Vancouver. Photo courtesy of Cathy Poetschat, CoAS Vice Chair.

Council of Affiliated Societies