Conference on New England Archaeology

NEWSLETTER VOL. 38

39th Annual Meeting

Castleton University, VT

May 4, 2019 / 9am - 5pm

Ceramics: Connecting Pieces & People Across Time & Status

The 2019 Conference on New England Archaeology Meeting aims to fill in some of the knowledge gaps local archaeologists may have when it comes to ceramics. The formal papers will shed light on current archaeological analytical research on both pre- and post-contact sites. The workshops, lead by recognized experts, provide a general primer on pre-contact and historical ceramic identification. The workshops will be followed by a hands-on show-and-tell period with the intent of sharing interesting ceramic artifacts and/or rare finds that are difficult to identify. We invite participants to bring a few ceramic artifacts (not your entire collection) for this discussion.

A selection of regional posters will also be displayed (see page 6).

Registration and memberships dues are payable online or at the door.

$20 for regular membership / $10 for students

VISIT: cnea-web.org **CONTACT**: cneamembership@gmail.com

SCHEDULE

9:00 ***Registration and coffee***
Exhibitor tables include Castleton University and the Vermont Archaeological Society
Breakfast provided by AECOM

9:45 ***Introductory Remarks***
CNEA – Mandy Ranslow
Castleton University – Matthew Moriarty
Vermont Archaeological Society – Angela Labrador, *Vice-President*
Vermont State Archaeologist – Jess Robinson

10:20 Joseph Bagley, Boston City Archaeologist
Staffordshire Who? Digitization and the Future of New England Earthenware Research

10:40 Trevor Lamb, University of New Brunswick
Etoli-Sehtacuwok: Vessel Use at the Middle and Late Woodland Period Reversing Falls Site, Cobscook Bay, Maine

11:00 ***Coffee Break***

11:20 Kimberly Smith, Gray & Pape
Ubiquitous, Yet Peculiar: Redware Recovered from RI 2742

11:40 Jess Robinson, Vermont State Archaeologist
A New Examination of Cordage Twist and Ethnic Difference during the Early Woodland Period in the Eastern Woodlands

12:00 ***Lunch*** *(on your own)*

1:45 ***Business Meeting***

2:00 Eric Johnson
Remarks for UMass Archaeological Services

2:15 Lucianne Lavin and Paul Wegner, Institute for American Indian Studies
Native American Ceramic Analysis: Classification as a Tool in Cultural Interpretation

2:45 Emerson Baker, Salem State University
Historic Ceramic Workshop

3:15 ***Show-and-Tell*** *and* ***Poster Session***
Including continuing discussion of pottery and ceramics from workshops

5:00 ***Close Meeting***

5:30 ***Happy Hour***

POSITION PAPER

Ceramic technology in the archaeological record of New England is evident for approximately the last 3000 years. Within New England, ceramics are a ubiquitous artifact category on historic period archaeological sites. Native American pottery is somewhat more elusive, which is most likely due to a combination of factors, including the friable nature of clay pottery, archaeological sampling strategies, and pre-contact settlement systems. Both pre- and post-contact ceramics yield important information about a variety of aspects on past human life ways, including (but not limited to) diet, economic and/or social status, networks of exchange, and on some sites, manufacturing processes.

Identification and analysis of ceramics is a line of research that is as varied as the types of ceramics that appear in the archaeological record. While some university programs offer classes on material culture, including ceramics, many archaeologists learn about ceramic identification and analysis from peers and mentors in field and lab settings. This type of informal education, while valuable, has resulted in varying levels of knowledge and competency amongst practitioners in both academia and cultural resource management.

The 2019 Conference on New England Archaeology Meeting aims to fill in some of the knowledge gaps local archaeologists may have when it comes to ceramics.

We thank the Vermont Archaeological Society and Castleton University for hosting the 2019 CNEA meeting. We also thank the New York State Museum and POWER Engineers for production assistance.

Staffordshire Who? Digitization and the Future of New England Earthenware Research
Joseph Bagley, joseph.bagley@boston.gov
Boston City Archaeologist

Ongoing exploration of products of 17th-19th century New England potters, especially the work of researchers like Justin Thomas, are allowing for archaeologists to use otherwise common-place earthenwares or redwares as temporal markers and indicators of local trade networks. Redwares will soon provide even better temporal markers for New England sites than our more recognized English ceramics like creamware, pearlware, etc. This paper explores some of the tantalizing results of Thomas' extensive work through an archaeological lens, presents a call to arms for artifact digitization among regional archaeologists, and presents the upcoming work of the Boston Digital Archaeology Program, which will support future study of domestic and international ceramic artifacts.

Etoli-Sehtacuwok: Vessel Use at the Middle and Late Woodland Period Reversing Falls Site, Cobscook Bay, Maine
Trevor Lamb, tlamb@unb.ca
University of New Brunswick, Department of Anthropology

Within the study region of the Maritime Peninsula (the Wabanaki Homeland), the transition between the Early and Middle Woodland is characterized by a significant increase in ceramic abundance, and by ceramic vessels that exhibit increasing decorative and morphological diversity and complexity. Recent research also suggests that there was a significant shift in vessel use during this period, with residue analysis indicating a shift from intensive aquatic processing in the Early Woodland, towards more mixed processing in the Middle Woodland.

My research considers the ceramic assemblage recovered at the Reversing Falls site by researchers and students from the University of New Brunswick and the University of Toronto during the field seasons of 2017 and 2018. The site is a predominantly Middle Woodland shell midden situated on Cobscook Bay, and excavations have yielded sherds associated with at least 17 distinct vessels.

My examination of this assemblage employs both attribute analysis of the ceramics themselves, and residue analysis of adhered and absorbed residues through Isotope Ratio Mass Spectrometry (IRMS) and Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS). I have utilized these data sets to address general trends of vessel use in the Middle Woodland Quoddy Region, to explore evidence for specialized processing events that have analogs in the ethnographic record, and to examine the relationship between changes in vessel use and ceramic complexity.

Ubiquitous, Yet Peculiar: Redware Recovered from RI 2742

Kimberly Smith, ksmith@graypape.com
Gray & Pape Heritage Management

Coarse red earthenware, redware, is frequently found on historical archaeological sites in New England; however, the detailed information from which they may provide is often not extrapolated. Questions such as: What time period do they represent? Where are they manufactured? Who is the potter? Is this representative of a local potter/pottery? are often left unanswered. Furthermore, while many potteries are known within New England, many are not, leaving these foundational questions unanswerable. As such, archaeologists should focus on gathering pertinent information about the ceramics such as glaze, paste, temper, and form to build a comparative database for regional samples. This paper will discuss the redware recovered from site RI 2742 located in Burrillville, Rhode Island and their characteristics likely indicative of a yet to be defined regional potter.

A New Examination of Cordage Twist and Ethnic Difference during the Early Woodland Period in the Eastern Woodlands

Jess Robinson, jess.robinson@vermont.gov
Vermont State Archaeologist

Patterns of cordage twist and spin represented in extant fiber perishables or in fabric impressions preserved in ceramics have been proposed by some researchers to be indicative of ethnic or social differences during particular periods in the past. James Petersen and Nathan Hamilton published an important paper in 1984 that examined preserved Early Woodland fiber perishables and impressions in Vinette I pottery throughout the Eastern Woodlands. They proposed a tentative ethnic boundary between Atlantic coastal populations and those in the interior based upon prevailing differences in cordage twist direction. Petersen and colleagues subsequently expanded on this observation with additional data from sites throughout the Woodland period in the Northeast. Following Webb and Snow, they also proposed that Z-spun cordage "only occur[s] in contexts which are clearly not attributable to classic Adena or Adena-related Middlesex phase contexts."

During research for my Ph.D. dissertation and afterward, I documented additional instances of extant cordage in several Early Woodland artifact assemblages and in negative impressions on pottery. I also recorded mentions of cordage twist direction during a broad literature review. This presentation will combine this data with that previously compiled by Petersen and Hamilton to examine their assertions in a contemporary light and offer additional interpretations as appropriate.

Native American Ceramic Analysis: Classification as a Tool in Cultural Interpretation
Lucianne Lavin and Paul Wegner, llavin@iaismuseum.org and pwegner@iaismuseum.org
Institute for American Indian Studies

Native American ceramic identification has, for a number of years, been divided into two schools of thought regarding analysis: Attribute analysis versus Typology. These two methodologies both offer archaeologists insights into ceramic production, use, and distribution, but which method works best for analysis? In this workshop, we will discuss the Rouse- Smith Method of ceramic analysis, that utilizes both attribute analysis and typology to gain a more holistic approach to ceramic analysis. During this workshop, participants will engage with ceramic materials from sites around Connecticut. We will break down a collection using this method. This will be followed by a show and tell portion where participants can interact with sherds and apply this method themselves. In addition, there will be a discussion of how this method can be applied to very large collections on an individual sherd basis, where physical separation into lots of all its sherds may be impractical or unmanageable at one sitting.

Historic Ceramic Workshop
Emerson Baker, ebaker@salemstate.edu
Salem State University

This brief introduction will discuss basic techniques to identifying historic ceramics by examining their principal characteristics: body, glaze, decoration and vessel form. It will focus on popular diagnostic ceramics up to the early nineteenth-century (that is including creamware and pearlware) and includes mostly tablewares. Websites and reference works that are particularly useful will be discussed, and samples of many wares will be brought for examination. Special attention will be paid seventeenth-century ceramics where advances in recent years have allowed identification of some types (such as Portuguese faience), and a refinement in identification of others.

POSTERS

Shell Middens: Lifeways at Dogan Point and Other Hudson River Sites
John Garbellano, jgarbellano@albany.edu
University at Albany

Walking the Line: A Decade of Utility Corridor Identification Survey and Site Evaluations in Southern New England
Jessica H. Horn, jhorn@palinc.com
The Public Archaeology Laboratory

Written in Stone: Lithic Analysis at the Acushnet LNG Site, Acushnet, Massachusetts
Kristen L. Jeremiah, kjeremiah@palinc.com
The Public Archaeology Laboratory

Assessing Impacts of European Contact on Beothuk Projectile Point Technology
Amanda Samuels, asamuels@albany.edu
University at Albany

Between a Rock and a Coastal Place: Analysis of Archaic Raw Material Use at Stock Cove, Newfoundland
Dana Yakabowskas, dyakabowskas@albany.edu
University at Albany

RESEARCH

Patriots, Federalists and Masons, Politically Oriented Artifacts from the Federal Period Occupation of the Anthony Farmstead in Southeastern Massachusetts
Timothy F. Barker, POWER Engineers

Recent excavations of the mid-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century Anthony Farmstead in Somerset, southeastern Massachusetts, yielded over twenty nine thousand artifacts of that period. A handful of these artifacts uniquely reflect the patriotism and political affiliations of the Anthony family and the region as a whole. Several members of the Anthony family were of military age during the American Revolution, and records indicate they had participated in the war for independence, primarily at sea. Brothers Stephan and Samuel later became ships captains. In the decades following the war, and on through the Federal Period, patriotic sentiments and a participation in the popular Masonic Order in the first quarter of the nineteenth century are present at the Anthony home. An analysis of the politically associated artifacts attempts to contribute to the understanding of the founding generation of Americans during this formative period.

The earliest of these artifacts from the Anthony site dates to the Revolutionary War period and is a small blue glass oval cufflink inset inscribed “Wilkes and Liberty”. Two sherds of mended transfer-print pearlware depict a portion of an insignia commemorating the 1802 Treaty of Amiens and represent a period of free trade and economic growth in the young country. Several mended clay pipe bowl fragments depict a patriotic cartouche of thirteen stars, and another pipe fragment from a “UNITED

STATES" embossed Turk's head pipe. A panel shard from a pictorial flask depicts a portion of the Masonic "Farmer's Arms" and the Anthony family's participation in Masonic order in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. A small sherd of transfer-print creamware illustrating a man dressed in period waistcoat and coat may have originated from a plate depicting a facsimile of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. One of the more interesting artifacts with political implications is a Hard Times token depicting Andrew Jackson with derisive images and slogans criticizing the financial Panic of 1837. Finally, three matching sherds of transfer-print pearlware illustrating portions of numbers and letters, and an image of buildings in flames, may commemorate an event in the anti-slavery movement in the decade leading to the American Civil War. Each of these relevant artifacts contains their own story but each is also a tangible clue into the political beliefs, opinions, and involvement of the Anthony family, and of the first generation of Americans, in the emerging United States.

Quartz, Quartz, and More Quartz: Lithic Cultural Traditions in Southeastern Massachusetts
Jill Zuckerman, POWER Engineers

Recent excavations at the Grand Army Site in Somerset, Massachusetts yielded an 18th-19th century farming complex, the Anthony Farmstead. Underlying this historic farmstead was evidence of Native American lifeways in the form of thousands of pieces of chipping debris, or debitage, from the lithic reduction process, as well as cores, preforms, expedient edge tools and projectile points. Two distinct areas of Native American occupation were of particular interest, yielding elevated amounts of predominantly quartz chipping debris in the North Locus, and a wider variety of materials as well as tools in the South Locus.

The North Locus, located on the northern margin of the project area, produced 1,855 lithics, 1,848 (99.6%) of which were quartz. The overwhelming amount of quartz and the distinct lack of diagnostics initially seemed to represent the Gulf of Maine Archaic Tradition. This area, as in much of New England, has a rich agricultural history and includes deeply plowed soils. Unfortunately, following analysis, it was determined that over 70% of the debitage was recovered from this plow zone, which is considered a disturbed context. This disturbance eliminates any GMAT eligibility, yet much information can still be obtained from the remaining primary, secondary, and tertiary flakes, twelve cores, six expedient edge tools, and two preforms. The presence of such debris may possibly indicate quarrying, early stages of the lithic reduction process, or wetland plant gathering/ processing.

The South Locus, located on the southern extent of the project area, yielded only 318 lithics, 206 (64.8%) of which were quartz and the remaining 35.2% consisted of quartzite, argillite, and unidentified materials, a stark difference from the North Locus. In addition to a larger variety of materials, projectile points were recovered, although they had been analyzed as untyped due to the lack of stems or notching. Once again, the majority of lithics yielded, over 60%, was recovered from plowed soils, or disturbed contexts. The presence of three preforms, seven expedient edge tools, and six projectile points, and the lack of early lithic reduction evidence, may indicate that this locus could have perhaps been occupied during more hunting related activities as opposed to gathering or processing activities as in the North Locus.

Interestingly, both loci consisted of 100% local materials, barring one chert flake, indicating a shift towards a more sedentary lifestyle and less long distance trade. The opportunity to acquire exotic materials, such as cherts from New York, would lessen as contact with other regions became less frequent producing a greater reliance on local material.

Always Changed But Never Gone: A Century of Farming in Southeastern Massachusetts
Jaime M. Donta, POWER Engineers

The Anthony Farmstead historic site (SOM.HA.4) in Somerset, Bristol County, Massachusetts, was excavated by POWER Engineers archaeologists through the data recovery level in anticipation of the construction of an electrical substation on the property. The site included remnants of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmstead, including a cellar hole, well, outbuildings, field system, and burial ground. As a part of the data recovery efforts, extensive documentary research was conducted into the property's ownership and residential history, as well as the family histories of the people who once inhabited the land. The ongoing research will compare evidence of changes in the productive and domestic use of the property to the documentary results, particularly related to how these observable changes correlate with property transfers. The economic and productive histories of the various owners and tenants will be examined through the analysis of recovered cultural materials, and through the lens of Massachusetts' history of pre-Revolutionary European colonization and later waves of immigration connected to the Industrial period, as well as the general trend across the region of a shift from subsistence to commercial farming. Documentary evidence will be used to shed light on the possible identities of the burial population within the cemetery, which includes 38 unmarked stones. Artifactual and documentary evidence of the presence of slaves on site will also be explored.

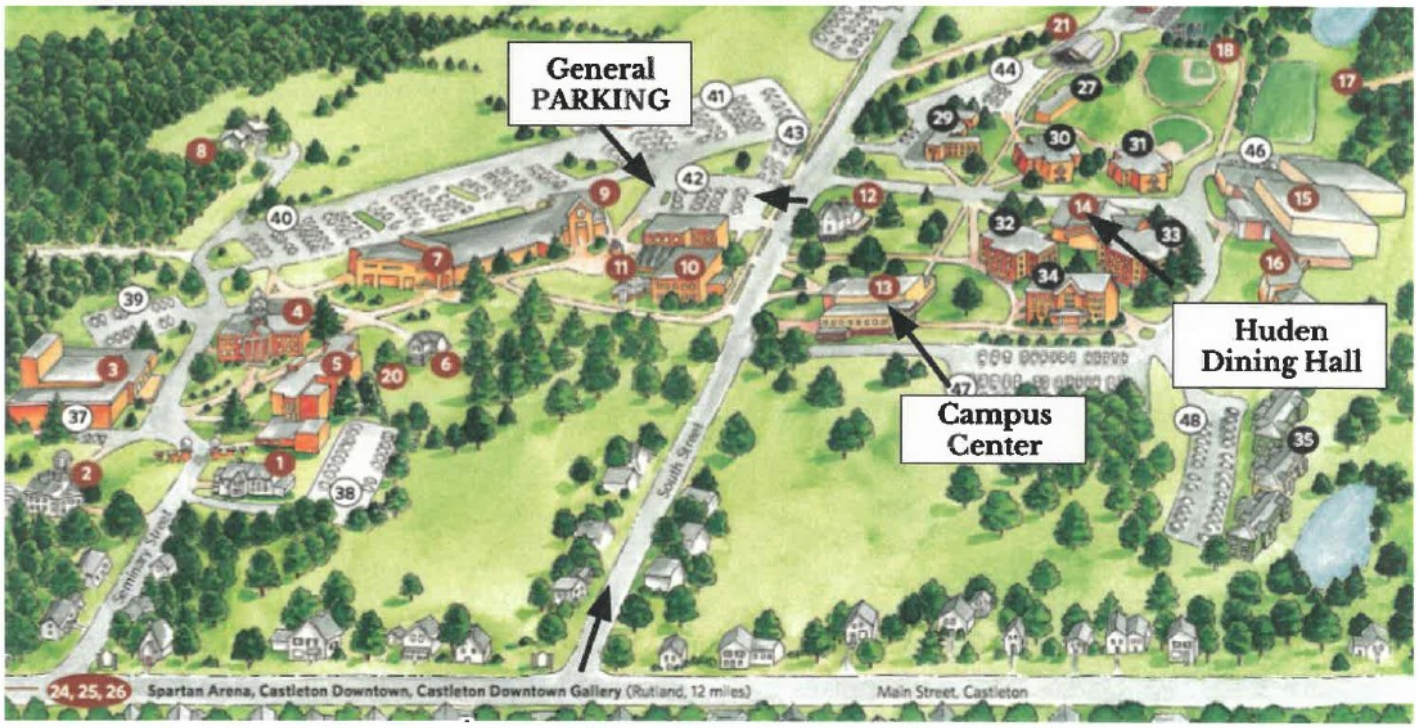
19-BK-1: The Fife Brook Sites
Christopher Donta, SWCA Environmental Consultants

A cluster of Native American sites was first identified in the early 1970s at the junction of Fife Brook and the Deerfield River in western Massachusetts, and was further examined 15 years ago. Recent additional work has expanded knowledge of site distribution on this portion of the Deerfield and added to the inventory of material culture from sites near Fife Brook. The sites in this cluster range from the Middle Archaic to the Woodland Period, and include intact features, fire-cracked rock, lithic tools, and pottery. New data gathered in 2018 were used to compare with other known sites along the Deerfield, including the nearby cluster of sites at the junction of the Deerfield and the Cold River. The Fife Brook sites were located along a major transportation corridor between both New York State and southern Vermont and the Connecticut River, which was used for many millennia following glacial retreat. The Fife Brook sites and those along the wider Deerfield River were examined to look at how Native material culture has changed over the past thousands of years.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: CNEA will be electing three new steering committee members during the **Business Meeting**. If you are interested in serving on the steering committee or would like to nominate someone, submit a nomination at the registration desk.

CALL FOR CURRENT RESEARCH: Professional research abstracts are included in each year's newsletter. If you have current research you would like to share, please email a brief abstract and any images to **cnea.membership@gmail.com** to be added to next year's newsletter. Multiple inclusions are welcome. These will be available online at **cnea-web.org**.

Castleton University



WiFi Information for Guests:
Connect to Network: CU-C&E **Password: Fall2018**

2018-2019 Sponsors

AECOM