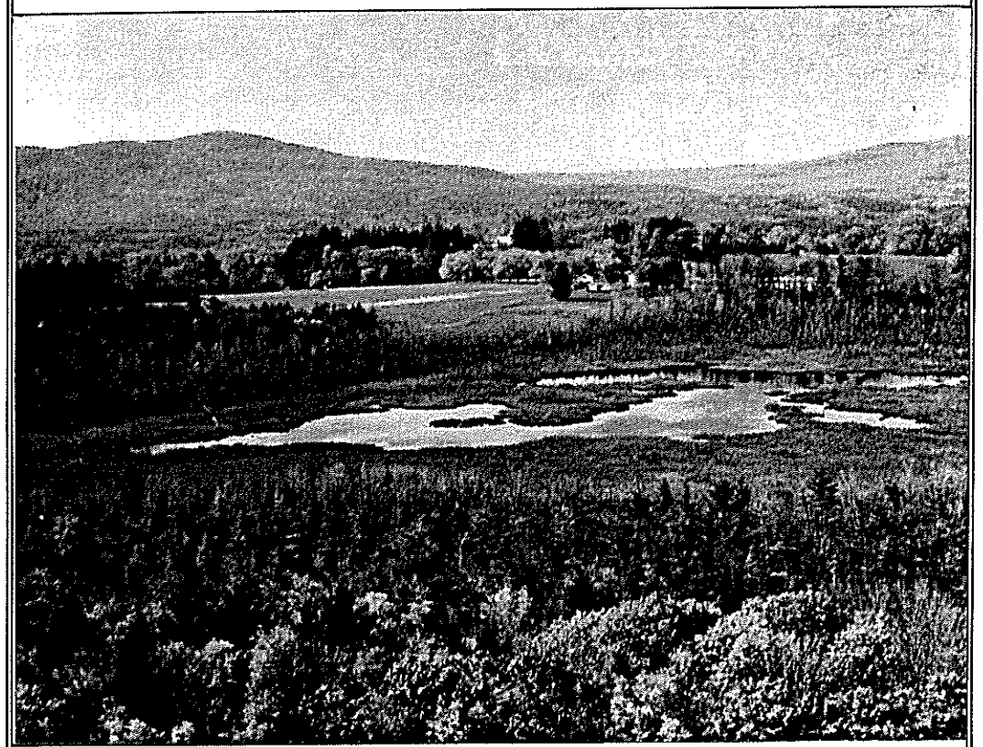
CNEA

Conference on New England Archaeology

NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 April 1997



Kampoosa Bog, Stockbridge, Massachusetts. Photograph by Mitchell Mulholland.

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CNEA

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NEWSLETTER

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CONTENTS

CREATING AND INTERPRETING NEW ENGLAND'S ENVIRONMENTS

Contributed paper by Dena F. Dincauze

The title of this year's conference acknowledges that "environments" are "created," and that these creations must be "interpreted." A question is appropriately implied, and by implication answered in the negative: Are "environments" an objective reality that can be known? If we can begin by agreeing that "environments" are creations, then we can usefully address interesting issues derived from that agreement.

- How are environments created, and by whom?
- How do archaeologists interpret environments?
- What is special about New England's environments?

1) How are environments created, and by whom?

Environment is a concept from geography and ecology, referencing the context within which lives are lived: everything external to an organism or, sometimes, to a community of organisms. There is no requirement in the geographical concept that the externalities influence the quality or conditions of life for the organism specified; there is, however, a realization by ecologists that organisms do influence aspects of their surroundings, and that aspects of their surroundings constrain the conditions of life for organisms.

Environments include physical, climatological, and biological components, whose significance for particular organisms varies in sometimes predictable ways, but which are not themselves independent variables. Biological entities, the flora and fauna of a defined space, are notably active in influencing the states of the physical and climatological variables, although the former may also be considered to be influenced as individuals, and the composition of their communities even determined, by the latter. The dynamism of species interactions is acknowledged by biological ecologists with the metaphor of the Red Queen—Lewis Carroll's character in Through the Looking Glass who explained to young Alice that "it takes all the running you can do to stay in the same place." Each species in an area influences the life conditions of others, in an unbroken circle that involves all life forms sharing a defined space. The behavior, or even the presence, of each organism changes the conditions under which the others seek to maintain life and the health of the species community. Each such change requires some adjustment by other organisms, and so on into infinity. Life is never static; change is an essential quality of life. The relationships and situations of every organism in a place at a given moment sum into the contingencies of that moment; at any other time, some differences will be observable in the relationships and situations. In this sense, organisms shape their own environments, both physical and social, by their relative success in dealing with change.

If we can agree that every "environment" is therefore relative to the perceptions of an individual organism, then we must agree that environments are created by their inhabitants. When archaeologists set out to recreate or reconstruct environments of the past, they must acknowledge a special degree of elusiveness—not only are characteristics of spaces in the past not directly observable, we must construct these unobservable contexts from some point of view. Our understanding will be more responsible if we try to do so from the point of view of the members of a particular human society at a particular time and place. We cannot do this work successfully by appropriating data from other disciplines at high levels of generalization.

2) How do archaeologists interpret environments?

Archaeologists wish to know about environments of the past, where the successes and failures of past lives are no longer in process, but are already completed. The danger here is that completion will be allowed to imply stasis—an erroneous conception of ontology. Seeking to know the details of past environments, in the absence of detailed records, archaeologists turn to analogy, seeking environments in the present that share some of the key conditions of those in the past. The perceived relevance of analogs is based on the reification of assumed stasis—the assumption that no crucial differences distinguish environments of the past from those observable in the present.

The expansion of paleoenvironmental studies in the past two decades has revealed this error for what it is; it is being banished from current research, but it pervades the older literature and some textbooks—exactly those sources most accessible to archaeologists. Modern paleoenvironmental studies are conducted with explicit awareness of the "no-analog" problem, and of the inherent ambiguities, incompleteness, and dynamism that render over-generalization a serious error. Ever finer resolution of the spatial extent of units of environments is characteristic of ecological studies of both modern (neoecology) and past (paleoecology) conditions. Archaeologists utilize paleoenvironmental data produced by biogeographers, paleoclimatologists, and historical geoscientists. Paleoenvironments are properly studied by using as much direct evidence of conditions in the past as can be marshaled, augmented by careful evaluation of contradictions or incongruence among those data and between them and modern models of environments.

When successful, comparative and evaluative study can support recreations of past environments, by means of descriptive research and theoretical expansions of data, in sufficient detail to approach reliable paleoecology. This is not accomplished by arm-waving generalities about the composition of plant or animal communities, or about the relief and elevation of the topography, or about the diversity and complexity of microclimates. It requires data sets observed and collected at scales appropriate to the research goals. In the case of research addressing the environments of human communities, this requires information about environmental variables at sub-regional scales. Fortunately, many archaeological sites offer just such detailed paleoenvironmental data; archaeology can benefit directly from those data, and can offer them reciprocally to the disciplines that provide archaeologists with the basic methods, models, and concepts for paleoenvironmental recreation.

As paleoecologists with special interests in the environments of the human species, archaeologists need to be sensitive to the constraints and opportunities that living space and

neighborhood resources offer human communities. Environmental variables do not define or determine the livelihoods of human communities. The variables of a given space offer a finite range of conditions and material and biota; what humans make of those will always be contingent upon the composition, size, and especially technological complexity of the human communities that occupy that space. Human environments are relative to all the variables of the particular community involved as well as to the interactions of humans with all the external variables and the reciprocal interactions and responses of components of the environment.

What a human group can utilize from a given area is dependent upon the technology of the group. In fact, technology even influences what humans can recognize as a "resource." At first, human awareness of resources for food was probably dependent directly upon observation of the feeding habits of other animals. Technological innovation was likely stimulated by efforts to emulate the resources-gathering specialization of animals—e.g., the toggling harpoon developed in order to do the work of polar bear claws at seal breathing holes. (Once developed and improved upon, the toggling harpoon eventually helped humans surpass the capacity of polar bears to capture large marine game, but that is another story.) Humans learn from other species, and each skill learned changes the relationships of many species in a given area. Animals also learn, some with remarkable speed and insight. Each learned behavior changes environments, reciprocally and extensively.

Human influences are typically more complex and potentially more pervasive than those of other species, but not always different in kind. Every environment which humans inhabit is, therefore and to this degree, a "domesticated" environment; each has lost aspects of "wilderness" and has been shaped, willfully or inadvertently (usually both) by human actions. Landscapes, climates, plant and animal communities are all affected by human presences; they are in that way at least partly domesticated. Archaeologists need to be sensitive to the reciprocal influences of creatures cohabiting units of space, so that their reconstructions allow for, and seek evidence of, departures from "wilderness" models whenever the emphasis is on environments of human communities. Domestication of environments is readily recognizable in historical archaeology; the presence of similar processes and results must not be overlooked in prehistory (Dincauze 1993a).

3) What is special about New England's environments?

Are there attributes of New England's environments, past and present, that are uniquely or notably characteristic, that shape a New England quality of place? At least three categories of attributes are important in this place through time: spatial, temporal, and social attributes of environments. Together they help us realize the specialness of New England as a set of habitable places.

Spatial attributes are those characteristics of New England that have been shaped by its location on the Earth. The primary one is the position in temperate latitudes, with all that such a position means in terms of relationship to major climatic forces. The combination of latitude and position on the eastern (leeward) edge of the continent determines a climate pattern of strong seasonality. In addition, New England's landscapes are old, in the sense that their fundamental structures were defined long ago (even on other continents) and worn down by geological forces

over eons, so that most of the region is now characterized by moderate relief and moderate elevation. The environmental "grain" is medium to fine, offering a rich mix of topographical and biological contrasts on the land.

Temporal attributes of New England's environments provide rapid daily weather changes within dynamic seasonal and larger climatic regimes. In this sense, climate is variable rapidly in time as well as across space. Daily weather and seasonal climates are notoriously unpredictable at their separate scales. Additionally, over the past twenty thousand years, the region has seen significant changes in the state of climates, landforms and sea levels, and biotas, as continental glaciers advanced and then melted, and the climate has oscillated between cold, cool, and warm cycles more than once.

Social attributes of the human groups on New England's landscapes retained some characteristic states and scales through many millennia, changing significantly only in the past five centuries, after the immigration of Europeans and others. Typical of the human societies in the region were relatively low population densities, even in comparison with societies at comparable levels of technological complexity in adjacent regions. These low densities, coupled with the human social advantages of nucleation, meant that at most periods of time there were extensive hinterlands (not wilderness) between settled communities. The fine grain of the physical and climatic contrasts is mirrored in this pattern. This situation entailed extensive communication networks, maintained by boat and foot travel. The technological imprint on the land of societies so distributed and linked has not yet been well explored or conceptualized, nor have its social imperatives or consequences. Did space unite as well as separate distinct communities? How did people relate to and interpret aspects of their immediate and distant environments? We have much work ahead of us to understand how human use of fire influenced environments. How much human intervention was there in the distributions or densities of native plants? When, from whence, and by what means were cultivars introduced, and how zealously were they protected from competition by native species? Did the introduction of cultivars lead to significant changes in community interactions, as is often assumed but not yet examined? How have animal densities and distributions been affected by human predation, encouragement, or domestication? How did separate communities of humans relate to each other over time: by means of cooperation, exchange, raiding, or other processes? What circumstances intensified or relaxed the rates of interpersonal aggression that we occasionally glimpse in prehistory?

The future of paleoenvironmental studies in New England

I predict that future reconstructions of northeastern paleoenvironments will increasingly (1) be specific to time and place, (2) utilize evidence drawn from archaeological sites, (3) be described at human scales, and (4) be populated by active agents, both two- and four-legged. These four changes will emerge out of developments in paleoenvironmental studies world wide.

As better reconstructions and more detailed information accumulate, we can look forward to interpretive studies that are able to specify subtle differences among the environments of diverse human communities, regardless of time period and spatial scale.

Northeastern archaeologists interested in pursuing and benefiting from paleoenvironmental studies will increasingly find themselves pressured to keep current with the rapidly changing literatures in the geosciences and biosciences, in order to make the best use of the data they will derive from excavation and regional study.

Such a future may look alien and stressful now, but it will bring with it fresh new interpretations of the human past in New England, and should initiate a time when the full diversity and rich achievements of human societies in the region can be appreciated on their own terms (Dincauze 1993b).

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1993a The Gardeners of Eden. In *Ela' Qua: Essays in Honor of Richard B. Woodbury*, edited by Dorothy S. Krass and R. Brooke Thomas, pp. 41-59. Dept. of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

1993b Centering. *Northeast Anthropology* 46:33-37.

CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

1997 ANNUAL MEETING

❀ ❀ ❀ ❀ APRIL 26, 1997 ❀ ❀ ❀ ❀

CREATING AND INTERPRETING NEW ENGLAND'S ENVIRONMENTS

The 1997 annual meeting of the Conference on New England Archaeology will be held at the Fuller Conference Center Old Sturbridge Village Sturbridge, Massachusetts

This year's annual meeting marks
CNEA's 16th Anniversary

Registration, Coffee, and Socializing
8:30 - 9:00 Saturday morning

The complete program of speakers is outlined on the following pages

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

.....MORNING SESSION.....

8:30 **Coffee and Registration**

9:00 **Opening Remarks**
Ed Bell

9:15 **Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction in Southern New England: The Late-Pleistocene/Holocene Transition**
Lucinda McWeeney

9:45 **Did the "Medieval Warm Period" Occur in New England?**
Tonya Largy

10:15 **BREAK**

10:30 **Forest Management in New England, Archaeological and Paleoenvironmental Evidence from Kampoosa Bog**
Eric S. Johnson

11:00 **When World's Collide: Landscape Perceptions and Archaeology in the New Age**
Alan Leveilee

11:30 **LUNCH** on your own

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

.....AFTERNOON SESSION.....

1:00 **CNEA Business Meeting**

1:15 **Sidewalks and Yardscapes: Landscape and Worker Housing in a Coal Company Town**
Karen Bescherer Metheny

1:45 **Subsistence and Settlement in the 17th-Century Eastern Niantic Polity**
Charlotte Taylor

2:15 **BREAK**

2:30 **Language and Ecology in Native Southern New England**
Kathleen J. Bragdon

3:00 **Commentary**
Dena F. Dincauze, Stephen A. Mrozowski, Paige Newby, Patricia E. Rubertone, John P. Pretola (moderator)

3:20 **Open Discussion**

4:00 **Door Prize Drawing, Informal Discussion, and Socializing**
Cash Bar in Conference Center

ABSTRACTS

Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction in Southern New England: The Late-Pleistocene/Holocene Transition

Lucinda McWeeney
Peabody Museum
Yale University

Archaeologists have long relied on pollen data to describe the paleoenvironments of southern New England. However, the identification of vascular and nonvascular plants along with accelerator mass spectrometer dating of terrestrial plant specimens has made it possible to refine the environmental picture. Moreover, the analysis of diatoms and plant macrofossils from open basin wetlands provides evidence of alkaline water chemistry during the late Pleistocene. Now the question to investigate is, "did the water chemistry in late Pleistocene basins affect pollen preservation and concomitantly our picture of the landscape encountered by Paleoindians?"

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Did the "Medieval Warm Period" Occur in New England?

Tonya Largy
Department of Anthropology
University of Massachusetts-Amherst

The purpose of this paper is to review the literature describing the Medieval Warm period, a period of warmer temperatures which occurred world-wide in northern latitudes around the tenth through twelfth centuries A.D. I will focus on the question of whether such climatic warming occurred in New England by summarizing more recent studies. The occurrence of two separate sets of bioarchaeological data piqued my interest and prompted my research into whether this warming might have taken place: (1) the advent of maize (*Zea mays*) agriculture in New England around the tenth century, and, (2) my (tentative) identification (unpublished) of pelican (*Pelicanus sp.*) nestling/fledgling bones recovered from a feature near the Statue of Liberty in upper New York harbor.

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Forest Management in New England: Archaeological and Paleoenvironmental Evidence from Kampoosa Bog

Eric S. Johnson
University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services

Archaeological excavations at two precontact sites adjoining a large upland bog in Stockbridge, Massachusetts and sediment cores extracted from the bog have yielded evidence of forest management through understory burning as early as the fourth millennium B.P. The sites were most intensively utilized during the fifth, fourth, and second millennia B.P. A large lithic workshop area associated with the production of Snook Kill blades and evidence of meat and hide processing, cooking, and refuse disposal date from these periods. During these same periods, bog sediments show peaks in charcoal and certain plant macrofossils indicative of localized burning.

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When World's Collide: Landscape Perceptions and Archaeology in the New Age

Alan Leveillee
The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Archaeological and anthropological research of enigmatic above-ground stone features became an element of a recent reconnaissance survey under my direction. Specifically, a number of stone piles and other landscape features in Carlisle, Massachusetts have become the focal point of public interest and debate. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. provides its contribution to the dialogue.

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Sidewalks and Yardscapes: Landscape and Worker Housing in a Coal Company Town

Karen Bescherer Metheny
Boston University

The issue of social agency is critical to understanding industrial and working-class communities. Using an interpretive, contextual approach to the study of an abandoned coal company town in western Pennsylvania, it is possible to move beyond narrow, externally-derived theoretical models that focus on the exploitative aspects of industrialization and instead consider miners and their families as active social agents, rather than victims. Written, oral, and archaeological evidence indicates that residents of Helvetia actively and creatively shaped the cultural and physical landscape around them. An examination of landscape, artifact, and behavior reveals the ways that miners and their families constructed their sense of community and family, their individual identities, and a sense of place within the landscape of industrial capitalism and corporate paternalism. The manipulation of the physical landscape is particularly evident in recent excavations of a company doublehouse and its surrounding yard.

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Subsistence and Settlement in the 17th-Century Eastern Niantic Polity

Charlotte Taylor
Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Working primarily with the archaeological evidence from Fort Ninigret, located on a salt pond in present-day Charlestown, Rhode Island, this paper examines changes in subsistence and settlement patterns that occurred during the occupation of the site between approximately 1620 and 1680. Over this period, Fort Ninigret was used with increasing intensity, as seen in the number and types of features, the variety of activities carried out at the site such as wampum manufacture and the re-use of European material, and the numbers and types of faunal and plant species used. Reliance on maize, for instance, increased dramatically during the site's occupation, contrasting with precontact evidence that suggests limited consumption of maize in coastal settlements. The changes in subsistence and settlement at Fort Ninigret can be linked both to the development of the Eastern Niantics under the Sachem Ninigret I as powerful players within the regional political economy and to the increasing pressures brought to bear on the Eastern Niantics by the European colonies.

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Language and Ecology in Native Southern New England

Kathleen J. Bragdon
College of William and Mary

This paper reviews the linguistic evidence for varying ecological adaptations and subsistence and land-use practices among the Native peoples of southern New England in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Data from place names, native language documents, and ethnohistorical descriptions will be interpreted in light of archaeological models of settlement and environmental variation. Particular attention will be paid to data pertaining to Native horticulture and its differential distribution in the region.

CURRENT RESEARCH

RHODE ISLAND

Polpis Road Bicycle Path

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Analysis of four prehistoric sites on Nantucket is currently being conducted by Duncan Ritchie and Mary Lynne Rainey. These sites were investigated during a data recovery program for the Polpis Road Bicycle Path. Three of the four sites are located in a coastal pond or estuary/salt marsh setting and have Early, Middle, and/or Late Woodland period components. The other site is a small Late Woodland locus near the eastern end of the terminal moraine ridge zone that appears to be the result of a single occupation event. It has an internal structure typical of small sites located in the terminal moraine zone. Activity areas including a lithic workshop were centered on several shallow hearth features. The workshop has yielded evidence for production of preforms for Levanna points from beach and glacial cobbles. Lithic types include a distinctive, grey-green rhyolite that appears to have been a preferred material for Woodland period groups. This rhyolite is present in glacial outwash and beach gravels on Nantucket and outer Cape Cod.

These sites were expected to contain Late/Terminal Archaic period components; however only two (19-NT-68, Folgers Marsh) have any clear evidence for use before about 2,500 years ago. Sites 19-NT-50 and 19-NT-68 both contained Early to Middle Woodland components with Rossville, Fox Creek-like and other lobate to lanceolate point forms. The most intensive use of these sites appears to have taken place in the Late Woodland period. On both 19-NT-50 and 19-NT-68, black, organic soils with dense cultural materials and faunal remains overlying complex patterns of post molds may mark locations recurrently used for temporary structures. Although 19-NT-50 is located near an important oyster habitat, shellfish remains (oyster, quahog) are limited to small patches suggestive of single collecting/processing events, rather than continuous midden deposits. Faunal remains are dominated by deer and this site may have been used mostly as a staging point for hunting in nearby wetlands and the terminal moraine ridge zone. Dense deposits of shell dominated by quahog and more typical of midden were found only on 19-NT-68, suggesting that there is variation in the internal structure of Woodland period sites near Nantucket's primary shellfish habitats.

Further analysis is expected to yield much more information about Woodland period site formation processes in different settings and use of marine and terrestrial resources on Nantucket. At present, the results of faunal analysis conducted at PAL by Brent Handley indicate that the bone assemblage from these sites contains relatively small amounts of marine fish remains. The predominance of white-tailed deer in the faunal assemblage may point to heavy hunting pressure on this species during the Woodland period. The recovery of charred maize from two sites (19-NT-50, Roadkill) indicates there is also potential to learn more about the role of cultigens in Late Woodland subsistence on the island.

Smithfield Town Farm and Asylum

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Jim Garman and Paul Russo of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. have completed a Phase II site examination of the Smithfield Town Farm and Asylum (RI 1870). The Town of Smithfield established the Town Farm and Asylum at its annual meeting in 1836; in 1870, plagued by accusations of abuse and mistreatment, they closed the facility, transferring its inmates to state institutions. Archaeological investigations identified a 19th-century land surface at consistent elevations across the site. A wide range of features were excavated during the Phase II, including trash pits, dense middens, and buried foundations. Analyses of ceramic assemblages indicated a distinct time lag in the site's material assemblage. Calculations of mean ceramic and *terminus post quem* dates suggested that the material culture of the institution lagged fifty to sixty years behind the site's dates of occupation, suggesting a strong reliance on donated ceramics and glassware. The site has provided and continues to provide important comparative information with the first Rhode Island State Prison (RI 1581). Occupied for almost the same time span as the Town Farm, the prison, as an urban, statewide institution, forms an interesting counterpoint to the small-scale rural facility. Data recovery of the State Prison, which began in March of this year, is the largest urban archaeological project undertaken in Rhode Island.

Garman, James C., Paul A. Russo, and Brent Handley
1997 *Results of a Phase II Site Examination, Smithfield Town Farm and Asylum (RI 1870), Smithfield, Rhode Island.* Submitted to Fidelity Properties, Inc., Boston, MA. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. report no. 785.

1997 Fredrick C. Williamson Professional Service Award

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Alan Leveillee and The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. have been presented the 1997 Fredrick C. Williamson Professional Service Award by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. This award honors contributions to historic preservation by individuals and organizations as well as significant restoration projects. The Commission noted Alan's and PAL Inc.'s contributions to archaeological educational programming for a wide variety of audiences. Alan and David Schafer also presented a poster entitled "Linking the Past and the Present: Public Archaeology in Southern New England" at this year's conference of the Society for American Archaeology.

Narragansett Bay Drainage Basin

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Alan Leveillee of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. is synthesizing the data from several projects conducted within the Narragansett Bay Drainage Basin to refine local models of prehistoric land use. He is applying existing and developing models of historic landscapes, perception studies, cognitive anthropology, and contemporary Native American studies to the archaeological record of the area. The data utilized are from sites including the Joyner Site on Conanicut, the Millbury Cremation Complex, and a series of sites along the Coastal Zone of southern Rhode Island.

Leveillee, Alan and Burr Harrison

1996 An Archaeological Landscape in Narragansett, Rhode Island: Point Judith Upper Pond. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeology Society* Vol. 57(2) 58-63. Fall 1996.

Leveillee, Alan

1997 When Worlds Collide: Archaeology in the New Age—The Conant Parcel Stone Piles. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeology Society* Vol. 58(1) Spring 1997.

MASSACHUSETTS

Mackin Sand Bank Site Data Recovery, Greenfield

contributed by Timelines, Inc.

From June to September, 1996, Timelines teamed with volunteers from Earthwatch of Watertown, Massachusetts and the Norwottuck Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society to excavate a major prehistoric site that was under ongoing assault by pothunters, as well as under threat of imminent destruction by commercial sanding operations. The site was known from local collections, and had been subjected to previous Phase II examination by Timelines in connection with a commercial development plan that was voted down by the town. The site examination had revealed that although the site was heavily disturbed in some areas, there were intact features and artifactual materials in several localities.

The planned excavation called for a six-week field season, but was actually extended to ten because of a shortage of excavators (not all the Earthwatch team spaces were filled). Procedural delays also resulted from an agreement made with a group of local Native Americans who believed that the site was a burial ground. Because of this agreement, every fragment of bone found resulted in the closing of the unit until the bone could be certified as non-human by one of the project's outside consultants. Despite this, the project maintained cordial relations with the native group, which set up a tipi on the edge of the site in order to secure it from interference by looters and vandals. This group also served a significant public education function for the press (of which there was more than enough) and visitors. Most helpful in resolving the potential conflict between archaeologists and native interests were Chief Paul Pollard (Maliseet) and Ms. Caylah Paffenbach (Mohawk).

Analysis of the results is naturally ongoing, but it is possible to say at this point that the most significant finds were not artifacts but numerous post-hole features and hearths. The nine C-13-corrected radiocarbon dates (all obtained from charcoal samples) clustered in the area of 1350 to 2200 BP, with three others at 2860, 4000, and 5305 BP, thus confirming the site's multicomponent character and long period of use. One especially appealing find was an entire pot that had apparently shattered in the fire and been left in place.

Principal Investigator for this excavation was Elena Décima. Field Director, ever-cheerful volunteer coordinator, and ingenious logistics director was Marty Dudek. The Earthwatch volunteers were generally hard-working and eager to learn. Two became so enthusiastic and accomplished that they returned on their own time and at their own expense to help finish up at the site after their particular expeditions were over. Indispensable also was the able assistance of the Norwottuck Chapter of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, which provided volunteer excavators on some weekdays and all weekends, regardless of weather, protesters, observers, the press, and a local llama. For this help, and for much else, Timelines is forever indebted to the Chapter's Jane McGahan and Janice Weeks. The portions of the excavation not covered by the Earthwatch volunteer contribution (professional supervision, laboratory analysis, specialist

consultants, radiocarbon dates, and the like) were funded by a Federal ISTEA grant obtained by the Town of Greenfield and administered by the Massachusetts Highway Department.

At the moment, and again because of the agreement with the native group, the artifacts are being catalogued and studied in a State facility located near the site, and the issue of reburial on a piece of unthreatened ground overlooking the original location is being studied by the interested parties.

Archaeological Site Examination Investigations, Bates-Randall Homestead Site, Charlton

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Suzanne G. Cherau and Jennifer Macpherson, assisted by Matthew Kierstead, Industrial Historian, of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL Inc.) have completed an archaeological site examination at the Bates-Randall Homestead site within the Millennium Power project area in Charlton, Massachusetts. The archaeological site encompasses an approximately 40,000-square-foot area contained within a 24-acre tract of land determined to be the original historic property. The site contains four structures and associated artifact assemblages related to the occupation of the farmstead from the 1750s to the 1830s. The site's architectural and artifactual components indicate the presence of a mixed domestic-industrial occupation, the industrial aspect focusing on the craft trade of blacksmithing.

The main house (Structure 1) was equipped with a relatively large center chimney constructed of brick and resting on a probable fieldstone footing. The recovery of redware milk-pan sherds and farm animal bone fragments (e.g., cow, pig, sheep), and an iron hoe along with a probable animal pen (Structure 3) within the site area also attests to its use for agricultural purposes. The identified remains of the blacksmith forge (Structure 4) consist of a flagstone flooring, associated oxidized soils, and an associated industrial waste assemblage. Two depressions, designated Structure 2, may have served as a storage area for equipment or a borrow area for sands and other materials needed for the working of iron at the forge.

The very good to excellent physical integrity of archaeological deposits and a high research value contribute to the Bates-Randall Homestead Site's significance under Criteria A and D of the National Register of Historic Places. The combined presence of domestic, agricultural, and industrial-based resources at one site that can be isolated to a relatively brief time span (1750s to 1830s) during the late Colonial and Federal periods makes a unique contribution to the historical and archaeological database of Charlton, Massachusetts.

Cherau, Suzanne G., and Jennifer Macpherson.
1997 *Archaeological Site Examination of the Bates-Randall Homestead Site Within the Millennium Power Project Area, Charlton,. Massachusetts.* Submitted to Earth Tech, Concord, MA. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. report no. 754.

Archaeological Site Examination Investigations, Old Pond and New Pond Dam Sites within the Furnace Village Historic District, Easton

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Suzanne G. Cherau and Holly Herbster, assisted by Matthew Kierstead, Industrial Historian, of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL Inc.) have completed an archaeological site examination at the sites of the Old Pond and New Pond dams in Easton, Massachusetts. These sites are contributing elements in the Furnace Village Historic District, and are significant resources based on their association to the historic ironmaking industry in the town.

The Old Pond dam site was the location of several iron foundry sites that operated on the property from circa 1752 to the 1890s. The archaeological investigations recovered a high volume of ironmaking waste which serves to confirm the historic industrial documentary chronology of the site. The majority of this ironmaking waste was recovered from subsurface strata that had been substantially smeared across the site as a result of 250 years of continuous industrial activities, followed by modern improvements and re-landscaping. However, one area containing possibly intact historic strata and artifactual remains related to the documented industrial use of the site was identified at the Old Pond dam site. These deposits are probably associated with the nineteenth-century Drake foundry operation. They are located in the far eastern portion of the site area, closest to and probably extending into the area behind the adjacent used car lot. Additional archaeological investigations may be warranted in this portion of the site should future improvements be planned by the Town of Easton.

The New Pond dam site functioned historically as a power source for the Old Pond iron industries; it was not included in the center of industrial activity that developed down the road. The archaeological investigations provided documentation that the stone-lined dam structure was filled with relatively clean sandy soils, the majority of which probably came from the edges of Poquanticut Brook when it was dredged circa 1810 to create the reservoir. Several prehistoric artifacts, including a projectile point fragment, were found in the fill soils, further supporting the dredging of sandy knolls and terraces along the nearby brook.

Cherau, Suzanne G., and Holly Herbster
1997 *Archaeological Site Examination of the Old Pond and New Pond Dam, Easton, Massachusetts.* The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. report no. 764.

Beverly Airport Industrial Roadway

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. has carried out an intensive survey of the proposed Beverly Airport Industrial Roadway in Beverly, MA. The archaeological survey, directed by Jennifer Macpherson and Jim Garman, identified a total of four sites in the project area. These included one Native American site (the Fonzo Site), two findspots of Native American artifacts, and one Euroamerican structure. The two findspots, which consist of low-density scatters of prehistoric artifacts, are not considered potentially significant in terms of criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Euroamerican structure, a fieldstone foundation covered by a cement slab, relates to the property's use as a dairy farm and is also not potentially significant.

Investigation of the Fonzo Site, located in the eastern portion of the project area, yielded a wide range of artifacts, including a rim sherd from a steatite vessel and both the midsection and tip of a large projectile point. These artifacts suggest (but in no way establish) an occupation dating to the Susquehanna phase of the Transitional Archaic (3900 to 3200 B.P.). Diversity in the types and sizes of lithic chipping debris may indicate a series of occupations at the site. PAL, Inc. has recommended a site examination survey of the Fonzo Site, which is scheduled for May 1997.

Macpherson, Jennifer, and James C. Garman
1996 *Results of an Intensive (Locational) Archaeological Survey, Beverly Airport Industrial Roadway, Beverly, Massachusetts.* Submitted to Alexander, Femino and Lauranzano and Fonzo Realty Trust, Beverly, MA. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. report no. 767.

Wing Island Archaeological Survey

contributed by Fred Dunford

The Archaeology Department at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History is entering the third year of field work at Wing Island in Brewster. Wing Island is a 40-acre parcel of upland situated in an extensive salt marsh on the shore of Cape Cod Bay. The goal of field work is to collect information concerning both the paleoecology of the Island and salt marsh and to explore prehistoric and historic period patterns of land use in the project area. To date, more than 500 50 by 50 cm. shovel test pits have been excavated at five meter intervals on transects which cross the Island from the south to the north. Preliminary results indicate the presence of an extensive, multi-component Archaic Period site in the southeastern section of the Island. The 1997 field season will begin on Monday, July 14 and will end on Friday, August 22, 1997.

Intensive Survey and Site Examination of the Mattaquason Purchase Site, Cape Cod

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

David Schafer and Holly Herbster of The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. are analyzing data from an Intensive Survey and Site Examination of the Mattaquason Purchase site in Chatham, MA. This multicomponent site in Cape Cod was partially excavated in 1974 by the Cape Cod Chapter of the MAS. Nine subsurface features, including four refuse pits that had diameters of more than 1.5 m, were identified. These features contained shell, a large number of mammal and shark bones, ceramic sherds, Levanna and Small Stemmed points, and a single kernel of charred maize. The maize was submitted for radiometric dating; results are pending. The 1-acre site was recommended for eligibility on the National Register. Four additional Native American sites were located during the survey. These sites are adjacent to and in a similar environment to the central core of the Mattaquason Purchase site. They are considered to be peripheral habitational components within the Mattaquason Purchase site occupational landscape, and represent habitational events that are part of a larger, possibly perennial, local settlement pattern. David is also analyzing faunal data from a 1970s excavation on Peddocks Island in the Boston Harbor.

Schafer, David and Holly Herbster
1997 *Intensive (Locational) Archaeological Survey and Archaeological Site Examination of the MCI International Site Subdivision, Chatham, Massachusetts.* Submitted to MCI International, Piscataway, NJ. The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. report no. 802.

Cape Cod National Seashore Prehistoric Survey Cataloging Project

contributed by Thomas Doyle and Carolanne Brown

Greetings from Cape Cod National Seashore. The CACO Prehistoric Survey cataloging project is entering its seventh year and nearing completion. The 200 plus archaeological sites represented in our collection were excavated during a comprehensive interdisciplinary survey of the Seashore that took place between 1979 and 1984. The results of this survey are reported in the *Chapters in the Archeology of Cape Cod* series, edited by Frank McManamon.

At year's end our database will contain about 48,000 records, listing 175,000 counted artifacts and 2,000,000 grams of weighed material. The collection includes the following classes of artifacts: diagnostic lithics, faunal and floral remains identified according to species, prehistoric pottery, shell, charcoal, and unanalyzed soil samples. The collection is easily linked with the original survey maps, field records and laboratory records and is available for research at the Seashore. Those interested in research should call CCNS curator Hope Morrill at 508-255-8925.

UMass-Amherst Field School in Historical Archaeology, Summer 1996

contributed by Susan Hautaniemi

The University of Massachusetts-Amherst Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology continued investigations at the Moors Homelot in Deerfield Village, Massachusetts, in conjunction with the staff of Historic Deerfield, Inc. during June and July of 1996. The general goal of this ongoing project is to investigate the historical landscapes of the homelot to better understand spatial and material features reflecting changing organizations of rural work associated with the growth of the middle class in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Our immediate research goals were to look at the role of women and women's work in the household by looking at the spatial organization of work areas. We excavated areas in and around the house that were associated with women's work: dooryards, sideyards, and the cellar. The field school's excavations identified several features which helped clarify the initial construction of the house and homelot and to date a later addition to the house. The features also yielded information about women's work on this late nineteenth-century farm.

Domestic servants and farm laborers lived at the Moors homelot throughout its history. Additional living space was added to the house in the late nineteenth century when it was a working farm owned by the Ball family. Oral history asserts that additional ell rooms were added for the working-class members of the household. We were able to date the ell expansion to the early 1870s, based on the makers's mark on a whiteware plate sherd in the builder's trench for the ell foundation. We will use this information to tie changes in the physical structure of the house to changes in household composition.

We also found features that relate directly to women's work. Two wooden box drains that were part of the original (1848) house construction were uncovered. One most likely drained the kitchen sink; the other runs out of the back room of the house, possibly draining a workroom sink or laundry tubs. Drains relieved household members of the arduous task of carrying waste water out of the house. They also imply that the house had running water, which was fairly common in Deerfield Village. Cooking, cleaning, and laundry would have been much easier without the necessity of carrying buckets of water from an outdoor well. These two features, as well as the Gothic style of the house, suggest that the Moors (who built the house) were paying attention to popular domestic manuals, such as Catherine Beecher's *A Treatise on Domestic Economy*, and may have adopted other aspects of new ideologies concerning class, gender, and ethnicity.

Visitors toured the site with student guides, observed the ongoing excavations, learned about aspects of the material world of a New England village, and gained insight into the material dimensions of class, gender, and ethnicity in historical New England. More than 600 visitors came to the site during the eight-week period of the field school. The tourists were given an architectural overview of the house and were shown the excavation areas in the back room, pantry, and cellar.

In the fall of 1996 we continued the artifact and stratigraphic analyses and worked on the excavation of the second box drain feature. Several field school students worked on independent studies with the materials from the site.

Archaeological and Architectural Research at the Alden House, Duxbury

contributed by Mitchell Mulholland

UMASS Archaeological Services, in conjunction with the Alden Kindred of America, Inc., has been conducting a multidisciplinary study on the property once owned by Mayflower cooper John Alden and Priscilla Mullins (they met on the Mayflower). The study involves two historic houses, one of which is still standing. The early John Alden house (c. 1632) was a narrow 38 x 11-foot structure believed to have been inhabited by the Alden family until c. 1653, when a larger structure that is now the Alden House Museum was built. The early house was excavated in the 1960s by Roland Wells Robbins, and the collection was stored in the Alden House Museum. The study involves archaeological surveys of the property surrounding the 1653 house and a new look at the well-provenienced Robbins collection.

With the participation of Ellen Hagny, Director of the Alden House Museum, an archaeological survey of the property was conducted by Paul Mullins. The study resulted in the discovery of a prehistoric Late Woodland component and a historic component dating from c. 1700 to the 1890s. Little evidence was found of seventeenth-century materials. An independent study by Mitchell Mulholland of the architectural features in the house and of probate and deed records suggests that the main improvements to the house (if not the actual construction) occurred toward the end of the seventeenth century, corroborating the evidence from the archaeological survey.

Mitchell Mulholland recently received a grant from the Public Service Endowment Grant from the University of Massachusetts, to stabilize and reanalyze the collection, using information from the study to contribute to the study of history and archaeology in local schools. The collection consists of well-provenienced materials including clay pipes and pipe stems, metal ware (including an intact mechanism from a snaphaunce musket), cutlery, nails, ceramics, and an abundance of redware. Analysts of the collection are Claire Carlson, Richard Colton, Eric Johnson, Tonya Largy, Angèle Smith, and Rita Reinke. Several questions are being addressed. What were the environmental and economic conditions under which the seventeenth-century Aldens lived? Why was the original house abandoned? Does the artifact assemblage reflect a tenure of 1627-1653 at the early house? Were structural elements of the original house incorporated into the 1653 house? Is there evidence of interaction between the European inhabitants of the house and the Native Americans who lived in the area?

Lithic Sourcing Studies of Felsitic Rocks in Eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island

contributed by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Duncan Ritchie, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., and O. Don Hermes, University of Rhode Island, have been conducting lithic sourcing studies involving felsitic rocks from the major volcanic complexes present in eastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. An aspect of this research has been the development of a non-destructive method for obtaining trace element data from felsite debitage and artifacts. Results of analysis of both source area samples and debitage indicate that felsite can be assigned to a parent volcanic suite or complex based on differences in geochemistry, petrography, and visual/macroscopic characteristics.

Hermes, O. Don and Duncan Ritchie
1997 Application of Petrographic and Geochemical Methods to Sourcing Felsitic Archaeological Materials in Southeastern New England. *Geoarchaeology* 21(1):1-30.

1997 Nondestructive Trace Element Analysis of Archaeological Felsite by Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy. *Geoarchaeology* 21(1):31-40.

High-Tech Fingerprinting of 17th-Century Iron Made at Saugus, Massachusetts

contributed by Chandrika Narayan

A non-destructive analysis of 17th-century iron samples from the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, Saugus, Massachusetts, identified a diagnostic, metallurgical "fingerprint" for cast iron items manufactured at the site. Based on this study, archaeologists may be able to determine whether cast iron objects from other 17th-century sites are from Saugus or some other source. The use of gabbro (an igneous rock with a source in Nahant, Massachusetts) as a fluxing agent at the Saugus Iron Works resulted in a characteristic chemical composition of cast iron made at the site, detectable using an external beam proton induced x-ray emission (PIXE) device. The results of the study by Chandrika Narayan, et al., "PIXE studies on artifacts from Saugus Iron Works," will be published in *Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physical Research.* For further information, contact Chandrika Narayan, Radiation Laboratory, University of Massachusetts Lowell, 1 University Avenue, Lowell, MA 01854.

The Massachusetts Archaeological Society Celebrates the Receipt of a Temporary Occupancy Permit for the READ Building in Middleborough

contributed by Ruth Warfield, Director/Coordinator of the Robbins Museum

Last fall the Massachusetts Archaeological Society received a temporary occupancy permit for the READ Building on Jackson Street in Middleborough. This building houses the Society's corporate headquarters and the Robbins Museum. In November, thanks to a grant from the Middleborough Cultural Council, the museum sponsored a three part program on "The Role of Storytelling in Native Culture." This year's exhibit in the Massachusetts State House in celebration of Native American Heritage Month featured the work of David Wagner. The exhibit, dedicated to Nanepashemet, advisor to the Robbins Museum, matched his words with David's paintings of precolonial New England and was designed to encourage the viewer to begin to think about history as seen through the eyes of a Native person. A still continuing brick project raised funds needed to help open the doors; it is still possible to purchase a brick for our memorial walk and have your name engraved in it. This spring we have three programs for the Friends of the Robbins Museum and hope to be able to participate in a town wide celebration in June. Plans for the fall and spring of 1998 include an artist-in-residence program to introduce the public to contemporary Native artists and programs for the Friends and the public. Work on the exhibits is moving forward; the public is welcome to stop in and see the work in progress when the building is open. Many people involved in exhibit planning wear several hats in the organization; more volunteers would be most welcome. Considerable fundraising, building improvements, and exhibit construction remain to be done. CNEA members who have time and talent to volunteer are urged to contact the museum at 508-947-9005.

The museum's Native advisors have asked the trustees to formulate a repatriation policy. The museum is not federally funded and has already returned all human remains known to be in its collection to the state archaeologist for return to the Commission on Indian Affairs. The Board of Trustees will be meeting on March 22, 1997 to vote on a repatriation policy. In 1994 and 1995, the museum's Native advisors, trustees and archaeological advisors participated in Talking Stick Discussions to share views on this and other issues of concern to both communities. For many involved in the planning of the Robbins, it was the first opportunity to hear the views of Native people in this area. This sharing of views developed a bond among those participating. As a result many, who five years ago knew little about repatriation, are supporting the Native advisors' request.

Update on the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Boston Chapter

contributed by Ellen P. Berkland

- Chapter meetings meet on the third Wednesday of any month on the second floor of Harvard's Van Serg Hall at 7:30 PM. New members are welcome!

- The meeting held on November 20, 1996, featured Program Chair, Dave Treemarcki, who presented a slide-illustrated talk on **Old Railroad Stations in New England.** Michael Gibbons of UMass-Boston presented a program on **Forensic Evidence from Human Burials,** December 18, 1996. On January 15, 1997, Jim Garman of the Public Archaeology Lab presented **The Providence Place Mall Site.** Summaries of these presentations can be found in the monthly *Newsletter of the Boston Chapter, Massachusetts Archaeological Society,* which is available to members. For membership information contact Toni Wallace at 617-965-4431, or Polly Stevens at 617-623-0953. If you would like to present a talk to the Boston Chapter, please call David Treemarcki at 617-289-5607.

Boston City Archaeology Program

contributed by Ellen P. Berkland

- The City Archaeology Laboratory, Education and Curation Center, 152 North Street, Boston, has been upgraded and stabilized. The lab contains activity stations including a simulated dig, a type collection exhibit with visual aides, and an artifact processing table. It is open for tours and field trips Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM, by appointment, and on week-ends for special occasions. Call Ellen Berkland at 617-635-3850.

- Many new projects are underway at the City Archaeology Program (CAP). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for the program please contact Ellen at the number listed above. Exhibits are being planned and projects developed for a **Preservation Week** (May 11-May 17). An open house is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 1997 at the North End lab. Plans are also underway for a City Archaeology Program web page as well as a virtual museum. The CAP is also responsible for the management of the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative, Parks and Recreation Department. The Initiative documents gravestones collected from historic cemeteries in Boston. Volunteers are presently documenting recently collected stone markers. Other ongoing projects involve entering the 26 collections that are curated at the lab, onto a data base system, and the development of a teaching unit for the Boston school system. If you have a special interest or are an expert in any of these areas and would like to volunteer, please call the number above.

Central Artery Project

contributed by Karen Bescherer Metheny

Artifacts from the Central Artery Project are being transferred to the University of Massachusetts-Boston for permanent curation and storage. According to Steve Mrozowski, Associate Professor of Anthropology at UMass-Boston, the collections will be jointly curated by the State Archaeologist, Massachusetts Historical Commission, and by UMass-Boston at the Massachusetts State Archives and Commonwealth Museum. The collections contain materials dating from the 17th to 19th centuries, as well as prehistoric materials from the Harbor Islands. A conservation lab will be established at UMass, and the collections will eventually be developed for research purposes and for the benefit of graduate and undergraduate students in the historical archaeology program at UMass-Boston.

Overseer's Block, Lawrence Manufacturing Company, Lowell

contributed by Karen Bescherer Metheny

The Overseer's Block of the Lawrence Manufacturing Company was investigated last summer by the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) and Stephen Mrozowski of UMass-Boston. The data recovery project was conducted for the City of Lowell in preparation for construction of a hockey rink. Archaeologists uncovered intact landscape and architectural features spanning the period 1845-1920, as well as intact prehistoric remains beneath 19th-century fill layers brought in by the company for landscaping prior to the construction of the boarding house.

Massachusetts Archaeology Week

contributed by Ed Bell

Massachusetts Archaeology Week will be held October 4 through October 13, 1997. This statewide series of events includes open digs, lectures, exhibits, and demonstrations. To sponsor an event or to receive a free calendar by mail, send a request to Mass. Archaeology Week, MHC, Mass. Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or call 617-727-8470. The calendar of events will also be posted on MHC's web site: WWW.STATE.MA.US/SEC/MHC.

MAINE

Archaeological Research in Central Maine

contributed by Karen Mack

During the past year the Robert MacKay Archaeology Lab at the University of Maine, Orono has focused its attention on CRM projects in central Maine, in cooperation with Bangor Hydro-Electric. In August of 1996 we completed Phase I and began Phase II investigations of the Howland Reservoir located at the confluence of the Piscataquis River and the Penobscot River. The Reservoir extends 4.7 miles up the Piscataquis River from the confluence encompassing approximately 35 km of shoreline. Thirty-eight prehistoric archaeological sites were identified during the survey. Phase II excavations have been completed on eight sites in the Reservoir. Evidence of Native American use of this area extends from the Archaic period through the Ceramic (Woodland) period. The incorporation of a geoarchaeological model for predicting the presence and preservation of archaeological site in the lower Piscataquis River, developed by Alice R. Kelley (geologist, University of Maine), Karen E. Mack (archaeologist, University of Maine) and David Sanger (archaeologist, University of Maine), proved an effective and cost efficient method of conducting this survey. This model was recently presented at the Northeast Geologic Society of America Conference by Alice Kelley.

In addition to the contract work, the Lab has provided a number of public education presentations at local schools. These presentations usually focus on archaeological excavation techniques, Maine prehistory, and archaeology as a career. This spring Karen Mack and Bonnie Newsom, a member of the Penobscot Nation and a current graduate student in the Institute for Quaternary Studies, have submitted a proposal to participate in the Wabanaki Education Conference. We plan to present educators of Native American students with ideas of how to incorporate archaeology and Native American prehistory into existing curricula.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Strawberry Banke Museum

contributed by Martha Pinello

The Archaeology Division of Strawberry Banke Museum has undertaken the archaeology component of the Shapiro Project. Becoming American places emphasis on the adaptation and acculturation of a Russian Jewish immigrant family at the beginning of this century. The Shapiros lived in a house located on Strawberry Banke ground during the years 1908 to 1928, a time period when Puddle Dock was occupied by a vibrant Jewish Community. The team excavated during the 1995 and 1996 seasons, and has used the finds to research the ways that the family adjusted to their new country and home. Examples of artifacts found relate to leisure time, such as game pieces and toys, and to furnishings of the house such as food service and table wares. The Shapiros kept a Kosher kitchen, educated their child, Mollie, in the ways of the Jewish people, and physically placed mezuzahs (one found in the house) on each door frame to constantly remind them of their culture. They also incorporated western education, clothing, and other traditions into their lives. The house, interpreted to the year 1919, opens July 4, 1997.

The Warner Project will be led by archaeologists Martha Pinello, of Strawberry Banke and Rick Morris, of the University of Maine Orono. The Warner House, located near the center of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, was built in 1716. The house was occupied from 1742 to 1814 by members of the mercantile and political elite, which included Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth and Merchant Warner. The work that began in 1996 will continue with this year's field school from July 21 to August 1, 1997. The project continues to investigate 18th- and 19th-century landscapes as well as to help solve the moisture problem in the building. Carl L. Crossman has been able to match sherds found at the site to whole and reconstructed vessels, which adds great dimension to the knowledge of the ceramics used by the residents of the house and the larger community of Portsmouth. Carl Crossman and Louise Richardson are Co-Curators of the ceramics exhibit, Treasures to Trash, which will incorporate all of the historic houses in Portsmouth. This exhibit will open June 18, 1997. For more information on these projects and Treasures to Trash, contact the Archaeology Division, PO Box 300, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, or call 603-422-7521, or visit our web site at http://wwwsc.library.unh.edu/specoll/Sbanke/homepagec.htm

The Sargent Museum

contributed by Wesley Stinson

The Sargent Museum began offering consulting services in archaeology in 1996. Our first project was survey, testing, and mitigation of a proposed nursing home site in Bedford, New Hampshire. A small Transitional Late Archaic site (27Hb163) was discovered on the second terrace of the Merrimack River. One Wayland-like point base of basalt was recovered from a small, short-term knapping station. A local basalt was the only material utilized at the site. The vast majority of the artifacts recovered were from the plowzone but a truncated feature was encountered and a carbon sample was collected.

The Sargent Museum also conducted an archaeological survey of a timber sale along the Little Pine River in Ossippee, New Hampshire. No resources were discovered during the shovel testing.

The Sargent Museum will have Howard Sargent's collection and library legally transferred to it by the beginning of April 1997. All Sargent's materials will then be transferred to the N.H. Division of Historical Resources Archaeology Facility in Concord for storage until the Museum has a facility to house them. This will make access to specific portions of the collection and library difficult but not impossible. If you would like access to the Sargent collection please contact museum President Wesley Stinson and allow for plenty of lead time.

The physical transfer of the collection will provide an opportunity for the rather extensive processing work needed before cataloging, conservation, and exhibit development can go forward. Of particular importance will be extensive work with the Smyth Site (at Amoskeag, Manchester, New Hampshire) and Hunter Site (Claremont, New Hampshire) collections. Volunteers and students are welcome to participate in our research into these important New England sites. Contact Wesley Stinson, President, Board of Trustees, The Sargent Museum, P.O. Box 4212, Concord, New Hampshire 03302, or call 603-229-0379.

GENERAL

Report on the symposium "Following the Slip Trail: An Investigation of New England Redware Pottery", hosted at Old Sturbridge Village, November 16, 1996.

contributed by Ed Hood

Archaeologists, collectors, and others interested in New England redware pottery gathered at Old Sturbridge Village last November for a day-long program featuring speakers and presentations on various aspects of this common historic household artifact. **Malcolm Watkins** provided an illustrated lecture drawing on his extensive research on, and collecting of, New England redware pottery. He also highlighted the extensive research of his mother, Lura Woodside Watkins, whose book, *Early New England Potters and their Wares*, remains today as a landmark study. Part of Ms. Watkins' research into redware included archaeological excavation and/or the examination of kiln sites that were being destroyed by construction. This part of Malcolm's lecture was particularly illuminating for archaeologists in the audience since so little of this aspect of Ms. Watkin's work has been published. Malcolm is Curator Emeritus of the Department of Cultural History, Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, and was also the first curator at Old Sturbridge Village. **John Worrell**, who was for many years the Director of Research, and staff archaeologist, at Old Sturbridge Village, made a presentation on one of his centerpiece projects at OSV: the re-creation of the Hervey Brooks redware pottery shop and kiln. His lecture illustrated how, by drawing on an anthropological scrutiny of documents, archaeological artifacts, comparative research and experimental redware production, he and a team of OSV staff were able to recreate many of the details of a redware potter's work environment and bring it to life under the auspices of costumed interpreters at the Village. The curator of Historical Collections at the Maine State Museum in Augusta, **Douglas Hawes**, presented his research on the potter Joseph Philbrick, who plied his trade in the rural community of Skowhegan, Maine from 1830 to 1860. Using Philbrick's daybook as a guide, Doug provided an excellent documentation of the economic relationships within the community, and showed how the specifics of Philbrick's production practices fit into them. The forms of redware Philbrick created closely reflected changes in dairying practices, changes in attitude about the use of redware versus tinware and saltglaze, as well as the endurance of traditional redware forms (such as milk pans) into the mid 19th century. Other presentations included a close look at a sampling of redware vessels in the collections of OSV, with discussion provided by OSV curators **Nan Franklin** and **Frank White**; a demonstration of slip trailing by OSV Museum Interpreter **Mary Ellen Radziewicz**; and a close look at materials excavated at several redware pottery sites by OSV staff, led by **John Worrell**, and by OSV Archaeologist and Director of Visitor Services, **David Simmons**. To top off the day's program, costumed OSV Museum interpreters fired up the reproduction redware kiln at the Hervey Brooks pottery exhibit, and turned pots in the Brooks shop.

Archaeology in the Classroom

contributed by Claire C. Carlson and Amy Gazin-Schwartz

We are the public archaeology coordinators for the Education/Outreach Program here at University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services. Working as part of the Five College Public School Partnership we match archaeologists with public schools in the Five College Area. The archaeologists come to the classroom (K-12) and give presentations, hands-on workshops, and lead discussions about archaeology. When a teacher calls the Program, we try to match up their needs from our pool of archaeologists. For example, a ninth-grade class from Pioneer Valley Regional High School in Northfield was studying Ancient Eygypt during archaeology week. We matched up one of the graduate teaching assistants for Ancient Civilizations with the class. She went up to the school and had the class make a mummy (using a student volunteer). The Program is growing and we're getting more calls every week. For more information, call us at 413-545-1552.

Archaeology for Educators at CCSU

contributed by Elena Filios

Archaeology, the scientific study of the past, involves integrated learning and can be used in social science, physical science, and language arts curricula to capture student's attention and to promote problem solving and cooperative learning. Designed as a hands-on course, course material will use locally available resources and lesson plans to address pre-collegiate educators, especially those teaching grades 4-8. Content will include the scientific methods archaeologists use to understand the past and an overview of the cultures of southern New England (Native American, European, and African). The program runs from June 30 to July 11.

For tuition and registration information, contact Dr. Filios at 860-832-2612 or the Division of Continuing Education at CCSU 860-832-2255.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

KATHLEEN J. BRAGDON

1996 *Native People of Southern New England, 1500-1650.* University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

(from the publisher) This is the first comprehensive study of American Indians of southern New England from 1500 to 1650. Focusing on Natives in their own right, rather than on their relationship with Europeans, anthropologist Kathleen J. Bragdon portrays a unique people who maintained and developed their own culture despite the advancement of colonization.

Ninnimissinuok is the term Bragdon uses to designate the Natives of southern New England. Bragdon discusses the common features of these groups as well as their significant differences. To draw such a complex portrait, she makes frequent reference to the writings of European observers but balances that perspective with important evidence, some of it entirely new, from archaeology and linguistics. As a result, she corrects stereotypes of American Indians, both negative and positive, that originated from outsiders and persist to the present day. Although she acknowledges the impact of the Europeans, Bragdon shows how internally developed customs and values were the primary determinants in the development of Native culture.

Employing current theory in anthropology and ethnohistory, Bragdon illuminates various aspects of Ninnimissinuok life, such as diet, farming and hunting, trade, diplomacy, politics, language, and spirituality. Of particular interest is her analysis of the role of Ninnimissinuok women, who contributed enormously to the economy of the region yet whose status was not commensurate with that of men.

ALFRED A. CAVE

1996 *The Pequot War.* University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, MA.

(from the publisher) This book offers the first full-scale analysis of the Pequot War (1636-37), a pivotal event in New England colonial history. Through an innovative rereading of Puritan sources, Alfred A. Cave, professor of history at the University of Toledo, refutes claims that settlers acted defensively to counter a Pequot conspiracy to exterminate Europeans. Drawing on archaeological, linguistic, and anthropological evidence to trace the evolution of the conflict, he sheds new light on the motivations of the Pequots and their Indian allies. He also provides a reappraisal of the interaction of ideology and self interest as motivating factors in the Puritan attack on the Pequots. The conflicts that led to war, he concludes, originated in Native American disputes over access to European trade, but were transformed through English intervention—first into a struggle to establish Puritan hegemony in southern New England and finally into a mythic conflict between civilization and savagery.

JORDAN KERBER

1997 *Lambert Farm: Public Archaeology and Canine Burials Along Narragansett Bay*. Harcourt Brace, Fort Worth, TX.
Jordan Kerber's new book, *Lambert Farm: Public Archaeology and Canine Burials Along Narragansett Bay,* has just been published as part of Harcourt Brace College Publisher's series, Case Studies in Archaeology (Jeffrey Quilter, Series Editor). Kerber writes about his work at the Lambert Farm site and public involvement in archaeology. In addition to his discussion of the public component, he interprets the evidence for dogs in the New World and discusses their importance to the economies and ideology of Native American groups in precontact Narragansett Bay. To order call: 1-800-237-2665.

ELIZABETH A. LITTLE

1996 Daniel Spotso: A Sachem at Nantucket Island, Massachusetts, circa 1691-1741. In *Northeastern Indian Lives, 1632-1816*, Robert S. Grumet, editor, pp. 193-207. Native Americans of the Northeast: Culture, History, and the Contemporary, Series editors Colin G. Calloway and Barry O'Connell. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.

1995 Apples and Oranges: Radiocarbon Dates on Shell and Charcoal at Dogan Point on the Lower Hudson River. In *Dogan Point: A Shell Matrix Site in the Lower Hudson Valley*, edited by C. Claassen, pp. 121-128. Occasional Papers in Northeastern Anthropology, No. 14, Roger W. Moeller, general editor.

1994 Radiocarbon Ages of Shell and Charcoal in a Pit Feature at Myrick's Pond, Brewster, MA. *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* 55:74-77.

STEPHEN A. MROZOWSKI, GRACE H. ZEISING, AND MARY C. BEAUDRY

1996 *Living on the Boott: Historical Archaeology at the Boott Mills Boarding Houses of Lowell, Massachusetts*. University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.
(from the publisher) This book provides an excellent introduction to the field of historical archaeology. Using a single case study to demonstrate the power of their interdisciplinary approach, the authors create a fresh portrait of nineteenth-century domestic life in the company-owned boardinghouses of the Boott Cotton Mills of Lowell, Massachusetts.

From a compendious three-volume site report the authors have distilled the essence of their findings. They discuss the methods and theory of historical archaeology and demonstrate its strengths and limitations in the examination of Lowell. Combining documentary evidence, oral and architectural history, and environmental and material culture studies, they trace the deterioration of living conditions for mill workers and their families as owners began replacing native-born

employees with immigrant laborers. The detection of environmental decay and its implications for the health and well-being of the boardinghouse populations offer a compelling illustration of how information deduced from historical archaeology can augment and modify findings based on conventional historical documents.

DAVID A. POIRIER AND NICHOLAS F. BELLANTONI (editors)

1997 *In Remembrance: Archaeology and Death*. Bergin and Garvey, Westport, CT.
(from the publisher) In recent years, federal and state governments have recognized their responsibility for the protection of unmarked ancient burial grounds that may be threatened by modern land use activities and natural disasters. The editors have compiled case studies that reflect effective answers to removal, analysis, and reburial of human remains by archaeologists. Each study provides fascinating research from the excavation of historic cemeteries, which has added considerable knowledge to our understanding of factors relating to health, disease, and trauma, and the social histories of the diverse human communities occupying North America during the last three centuries.

The Introduction highlights recent examples of the way osteological analysis of burials contributes to our knowledge of past histories. Part I examines several socially disenfranchised groups that are underrepresented in historic records. These analyses demonstrate how archaeological and anthropological research can contribute to a better understanding of cultural conditions and life ways of important social groups. Part II consists of articles that illustrate where past and recent traumas and desecration have affected human burials. Part II represents the only technical section, providing a resource guide on professional standards in conducting documentary research as well as fieldwork in the location and excavation of historic burials.

REBECCA YAMIN AND KAREN BESCHERER METHENY (editors)

1997 *Landscape Archaeology: Reading and Interpreting the American Historical Landscape*. University of Tennessee Press.
(from the publisher) The essays presented in this volume represent new directions in the study of America's landscapes. Written from a post-processualist viewpoint, these analyses go beyond directly observable phenomena to explain the particular significance that people have attached to the environments they create for themselves. As the editors note, "This volume includes many searching looks at the landscape, not just to understand ourselves, but to understand the context for other peoples' lives in other times, to unravel the landscapes they created and explain the meanings embedded in them."

The book's overall approach is interpretive and interdisciplinary, drawing not simply on archaeological evidence but on oral history, written sources, ethnographic data, and human experience. The contributors examine a variety of questions and methods for recovering and interpreting past landscapes. How, for example, did an elite family in eighteenth-century New

Jersey express its status and values through its manipulation of the landscape and how, indeed, do archaeologists derive that information from remains in the ground? What do the ruins left standing in a rural landscape say about the attitudes toward time and family? How do the fields and yards of small farms reveal sociopolitical forces affecting the society at large?

The essays in Part I study gardens belonging to elite men and women, while the essays in Part II look beyond the confines of single properties to reveal broader patterns in the historical landscape. The preface and introductory essay provide a theoretical framework for the volume and an overview of the current state of research in the field.

REQUEST FOR CURRENT RESEARCH

Please submit a brief paragraph or two describing your current New England archaeological research for inclusion in the next *CNEA Newsletter*. Also submit any new bibliographic titles for books, articles, reports, etc.

Send this material to any CNEA steering committee member or directly to the Newsletter editor (addresses inside front cover). If possible send your contribution on a computer diskette with paper copy. Please specify the word processor system used to create your file.

Our thanks to all who contributed to this issue of the *CNEA Newsletter.*
Special thanks are due to Mitchell Mulholland, director of UMass Archaeological Services, who graciously contributed space and use of equipment to produce this and several previous volumes of the *CNEA Newsletter*.

Claire

Claire C. Carlson and Eric Johnson
editors