CNEA

CNEA STEERING COMMITTEE
2002 - 2003

ELECTED MEMBERS

TERM EXPIRES 2003:

BRIAN D. JONES, PH.D. (chair)
Field Archaeology Supervisor
Research Department
Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center
110 Pequot Trail
Mashantucket, CT 06339-3180
860-396-6935
(f) 860-396-6914
bjones@mptn.org

DEENA DURANLEAU
Department of Anthropology
Peabody Museum
11 Oxford Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
duranl@fas.harvard.edu
978-266-1828

MARGO MUHL DAVIS
781-821-0475
muhl@bu.edu

TERM EXPIRES 2004:

KATHLEEN WHEELE R, PH.D. (Chair Elect)
Director and Principal Archaeologist
Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC
97 Morning Street
Portsmouth, NH 03801
603-431-8397
kwheeler@independentarchaeology.com

CHRISTOPHER DONTA, PH.D.
Project Archaeologist
UMASS Archaeological Services
Blaisdell House
University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413-545-1626
cdonta@tei.umass.edu

RONALD DALTON
Field Supervisor
Timelines, Inc.
410 Great Rd. Littleton MA 01460
978-486-0688
romaldd@msn.com

APPOINTED MEMBERS

CONFERENCE:

ED HOOD
Old Sturbridge Village
Sturbridge, MA 01566
508-347-0300
(f) 508-347-0295
ehood@osv.org

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP:

CHARLOTTE TAYLOR
R.I.H.P.C.
150 Benefit St
Providence, RI 02903
401-222-4140

NEWSLETTER EDITORS:

PATRICIA FRAGOLA
RISD Library
2 College St.
Providence, RI 02903
pfragola@risd.edu

DAVID SCHAFER
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
11 Divinity Ave
Cambridge, MA 02138
617-496-5748
dschafer@fas.harvard.edu
TABLE OF CONTENTS

HEARTH AND HOME IN NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY: PROSPECTS AND PROBLEMS

Contributed commentary by James B. Petersen ................................................................. 1

2003 ANNUAL MEETING ........................................................................................................ 10

ABSTRACTS .......................................................................................................................... 12

CURRENT RESEARCH
Massachusetts ................................................................................................................... 15
General .............................................................................................................................. 20

RECENT PUBLICATIONS ................................................................................................... 22

EVENTS .............................................................................................................................. 23

MISCELLANEOUS ............................................................................................................... 25
Hearth and Home in New England Archaeology: Prospects and Problems

Contributed commentary by James B. Petersen
Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont

When the Italian explorer Giovanni Verrazzano initiated direct contact between the "Old World" and the "New World" on the coast of New England in 1524, one of the few details he recorded about the Native peoples was the size and character of their houses. Verrazano emphasized that the Native houses he saw were circular, covered with transportable "straw" (woven rush) mats, and often large, containing around 25-35 residents in some cases (Quinn 1981:15-16). Verrazano apparently said nothing about the necessary pole construction or about hearths related to what were apparently Narragansett houses. However, like modern New England homes, these Native houses must have had one or more hearths for warmth, light and cooking at the time.

So began the interface between European and Native American lifeways in historic New England almost 500 years ago. Within several hundred years the houses and hearths of Native people converged with those of the European newcomers and Native architecture was ultimately abandoned. Successful European settlement began during the early 1600s and some degree of house convergence seemingly occurred well before the modern era, probably by about 1700-1800 in most, but not all, Native settings across New England.

For example, we presume that the Sokoki Abenaki at the village of Fort Hill on the Connecticut River in New Hampshire employed small bark and pole Native houses ca. 1663-1664, and other such houses were unequivocally represented among the coastal Niantic Natives in Connecticut around 1761 (Conkey et al. 1978:Figure 7; Thomas 1979). However, at least one unequivocal Native "longhouse" was represented at the Norridgewock I (Tracy Farm) village of the Norridgewock Abenaki on the Kennebec River in Maine during the early-mid 1600s based on archaeological evidence, coincidentally situated near an earlier prehistoric round house at the same site (Cowie 2002; Cowie et al. 2000).

In 1705, based on a contemporary description the Norridgewock people still lived in "wigwams" (either small circular houses or longhouses) at the Norridgewock II (Old Point Mission) village across the Kennebec River from Norridgewock I (Tracy Farm). By 1719, the Norridgewock had moved into ground-fast log cabins, which were much like the houses of contemporary European settlers in Maine based on another contemporary description (Cowie 2002; Cowie et al. 2000). So, at least some Natives had abandoned traditional house forms within 100 years or so of European settlement, as demonstrated among the Norridgewock in west central Maine. This process was likely repeated time and again across the region, although the timing must have varied considerably.

Native-American Houses and Hearths

There was an 11,000-year record of Native houses and hearths in New England well the arrival of Europeans and this is the realm of prehistoric (or pre-contact) archaeology. I must emphasize, however, that the full degree of variability for Native architecture, including houses and hearths, remains largely unknown for all periods of New England Native prehistory and early history. This is a very long but poorly understood record in other words. Cumulatively, we only have a handful of known Native architecture forms for New England over this incredibly long period and not many of these are well
understood since they are only reconstructed from “post mold” outlines at best and some related features, including hearths.

The few known Native house forms certainly show some degree of variation across time and presumably at any single point in time within New England and nearby areas, varying with different environmental conditions and habitats, especially during late prehistory. For example, we can surmise that the “straw” mat coverings reported by Verrazzano were not the only type of roofing for Native houses and we have historic/ethnographic evidence of bark coverings in New England. Likewise, skin coverings must have been characteristic in some times and places, for example, in the Paleoindian period and probably later.

Amidst known and suspected variability in Native American New England architecture, common traits also surely pertained. For example, a relatively small circular (oval to round) house form, measuring about 3.5-4.0 m in diameter, was present prehistorically at Norridgewock 1 (Tracy Farm), specifically attributed to the early Middle Woodland (Ceramic) period, ca. 200-100 B.C., as dated. Marking a large degree of continuity, a similar oval to circular house form, about 5.0 m x 3.5 m in diameter, was recorded historically among the Niantic in Connecticut in 1761, as noted above. In fact, this architectural form was likely the most common house type across time and space in New England, perhaps spanning much of the Native occupation before European contact, although the types of roofing and other details varied to some degree.

Closely related but older house forms are known for the Late Archaic period regionally, ranging from oval to rectangular in outline, as at Lamoka Lake in New York State. Directly analogous houses were documented ethnographically, for example, among the Micmac in the Canadian Maritime Provinces during the nineteenth century and among the Ojibwa in the Upper Great Lakes during the twentieth century (cf. Ritchie 1969:Figure 6 and Plate 96; see also Ritchie and Funk 1973:Figures 6, 15, 20; Sanger 1976:Figure 9). Thus, this form of oval to circular house architecture is probably the standard against which all other Native houses in New England should be compared.

In contrast, generally similar but different oval-shaped semi-subterranean houses are known by the time of the Early and Middle Woodland (Ceramic) periods on the central Maine coast and northward into the Canadian Maritime Provinces, ca. 1000 B.C.-A.D. 1000. Semi-subterranean houses also occurred by the Late Woodland (Ceramic) period on the Saco River in western Maine and the Connecticut River in southeastern Vermont, ca. A.D. 1000-1550 in broad terms.

The coastal houses in Maine and the Maritimes were often relatively small, ca. 3-5 m long x 3-5 m wide, and the house pits were apparently reused over time, with new houses constructed roughly on top of older ones. These small houses sometimes were built near the surface with only a shallow pit and other times included deeper, more notable pits, apparently for cold-season occupation. They typically had prepared gravel floors and almost always had central hearths within them. Known and suspected houses on the interior rivers were generally similar and certainly contained central hearths as well (e.g., Belcher 1988; Cowie and Petersen 1990; Heckenberger et al. 1992; Petersen and Cowie 2002; Sanger 1976:Figures 6-8, 1979:148-150). Rather remarkably, semi-subterranean houses were seemingly employed in New England as early as the Early Archaic period, ca. 6500 B.C., in Connecticut (Dan Forest, personal communication 1999), but their connection to later forms remains unknown.

Elsewhere, Native house forms in New England were apparently localized and sometimes idiosyncratic, or confined to one group within a single period. For example, the famous snail-shaped houses of the Late Archaic period at Wapanucket in southeastern Massachusetts remain unique to this site, with doorways in the “mouth” of the snail-like form protected by extension of the outer wall. Central hearths and other features seem related in most or all cases. The snail-shaped houses at Wapanucket aptly demonstrate that some (or perhaps much?) of the variability in Native houses across New England remains unknown (Braun and Braun 1994:Figure 37; Robbins 1980:Figures 27-33, 42-47). Moreover, in spite of broad-scale tendencies toward the common circular house form across the region, local environments must have
affected house architecture in some cases before the arrival of the Europeans. The Wapanucket example should also remind us that ancient Native house forms need to be demonstrated on a case-by-case basis.

Nonetheless, the circular houses, the roughly analogous semi-subterranean ones and the snail-shaped houses all likely served as the homes of small extended nuclear families among New England Natives, likely representing three to four generations of closely related kin in many cases. The small extended nuclear family, generally including 10-25 (+) people, was very likely the primary social unit during the Paleoindian, Archaic and some or all of the Woodland (Ceramic) periods in New England, that is, while Native people were hunter-gatherers.

Native “longhouses,” linear constructions 15 m or more in length with central hearths, are poorly known for the Native record in New England, but they were minimally represented among the Norridgewock Abenaki and likely others by A.D.1600 (Cowie 2002; Cowie et al. 2000). Comparable examples survived ethnographically into the twentieth century among the Ojibwa of the Upper Great Lakes, where they were related to “medicine lodges,” rather than residential usage (Ritchie 1969:Plate 95). However, many other examples of prehistoric longhouses are known beyond New England proper and these clearly predated the historic longhouse at Norridgewock I (Tracy Farm).

Longhouses typically included a central row of discrete hearths (one for each nuclear family), storage racks, sleeping platforms, subsurface storage pits and sometimes double walls for insulation, as cumulatively known. Longhouses were represented prehistorically and historically among the different Iroquois and Iroquoian peoples in New York State, Quebec and Ontario (Chapdelaine 1989; Pendergast 1990). However in all cases, longhouses are dated certainly only to the late prehistoric and early historic periods and no earlier than the middle-late portions of the Late Woodland period, coexisting with round houses in some cases (Ritchie 1969:Figures 9-12; Ritchie and Funk 1973:Figures 17, 20-25, 30). Longhouses were seemingly first developed and then elaborated over time in conjunction with the adoption of farming, settlement nucleation and increased sedentism.

Perhaps most importantly, longhouses were communal house forms and had an important social foundation based on extended kinship and clan structure(s) of some sort, marking them as something quite different than all the houses in New England during the preceding millennia. Perhaps dozens and dozens of people lived in the typical long house wherever they occurred. Both above and below ground storage facilities for food and other goods were inevitably associated with longhouse architecture, given the size of the resident groups and the related economic practices centered on farming.

Euro-American Houses and Hearths

Not to be outdone by the lengthy prehistoric record in New England, I should emphasize that there have been diverse historic house forms and other architecture too over the past 400 years or so, primarily involving non-Native people. The full span of historic occupation has included both European and Native house and hearth forms in the region, beginning at first with a combination of different, co-existent forms for perhaps 100-200 years after initial European settlement began.

Then, European-derived house forms came to completely dominate New England architecture by roughly 1700-1800, if not earlier, depending on the locale and the variable survival of Native people and their architecture. Coastal and near coastal areas, where Europeans first came to settle, saw European house forms overwhelm Native forms and the Natives themselves, sometimes rather early. In contrast, less accessible, interior areas of New England saw survival of “traditional” Native culture and architecture for a lot longer than on the coast. The late survivals occurred in relatively remote areas such as at Moosehead Lake in Maine and in parts of the Maritimes, for example, where Native house forms made in “traditional” ways persisted until the late nineteenth century.
For example, my own time spent in Amerindian longhouses in the Upper Xingu region of the Brazilian Amazon over nearly ten years now has shown that little primary refuse is associated with "Xinguano" longhouses, except perhaps the form and contents of subsurface features, including post molds and other excavated features. The number and scale of activities in and around Xinguano houses is quite considerable and quite complex. Parenthetically, the largest long houses are 25-30 m long and they provide a home for 20 to 30 or more people for six-ten years or so. Such houses are constructed over a considerable period, as long as six months in some cases. Xinguano longhouses clearly represent corporate behavior, involving many more builders than those who will reside in them once they are finished, all of whom are "paid" for their labor in food and commonly available goods.

Xinguano hearths are typically associated with each and every sleeping spot, a hammock in this case, within each house. As in colder climes, hearths provide warmth, light and an area for minor cooking within Xinguano houses. Larger hearths and extensive roasting areas are constructed outside of the house, given the typically warm Amazon climate. Of particular interest, most refuse in and around the houses has been relocated and re-deposited one or more times and even substantial features can be effaced by a vigorous attention to "cleanliness" (in relative terms!). However, the longhouse and other more-or-less substantial features (e.g., drying racks for manioc flour, roasting platforms for fish, etc.) are sometimes preserved over time in spite of many forms of post-depositional disturbance (cultural and natural) in the Upper Xingu and broader Amazonia. I am virtually certain that factors like these were operative in prehistoric and historic New England as well.

Within the Xinguano village, individual house posts and what is typically trash within infilled-pit features can easily outlive the house itself and even the family once residing in it, especially where burned. Only substantial features will survive, however, and smaller posts are not always discernable against a background of many subsurface disturbances. Even huge storage facilities that occupy the center of each Xinguano longhouse, holding sometimes over 2500 pounds of manioc flour, an Amazonian staple, occur mostly above ground and have an insubstantial archaeological signature. These manioc four silos, roughly 1.0 m in diameter and 5-6 m tall, are marked by a series of modest to small-sized poles (ca. 10 cm diameter) driven into the ground in a barrel-shaped pattern. Evidence of the silo support poles will not necessarily survive in light of post-depositional disturbances that are common in Amazonia and many other regions as well, including New England. Above ground features and those that are largely above ground such as silos will not be preserved archaeologically within the Upper Xingu region, except where the fine-tuned observer gets lucky.

Xinguano Amerindian villages, typically circular in overall village plan, thus provide cumulative evidence of dozens or more years of house and village occupation, apparently hundreds or more years of village occupation among the prehistoric examples, and the villages are clearly composite records, rather than "instant-in-time" accumulations (Heckenberger et al. 1999). This was almost certainly the case in prehistoric and early historic Native settlements in New England as well, in all but the most temporary and insubstantial settlements. Thus, part of the challenge of doing regional research is sorting out the palimpsest of multiple and/or long-term occupations represented in many prehistoric and historic houses and broader settlements.

Conclusions

In conclusion, this brief paper has attempted to outline a few of the salient details related to Native American and Euro-American houses and hearths in New England, representing a long span of prehistoric and historic occupation in the region. We should assess both the problems and potentials in a sober light, recognizing that there are many obstacles to overcome. On the other hand, there is good reason to be optimistic about these issues through future research, especially for the study of Euro-American patterning through historical archaeology.
The study of prehistoric and early historic Native American patterning in houses and hearths is more problematic, especially when it comes to discerning houses in the regional record in New England. We can more easily identify hearths, many of which must have been intimately associated with Native houses, but the houses themselves are recalcitrant, remaining unseen (rather than hidden) among the welter of archaeological remnants in most regional sites.

Yet, we must learn to look more carefully at the New England record to identify, analyze and interpret the spectrum of houses and hearths for the full span of human occupation in the region. We seem to be doing well for this aspect of the Euro-American historic record, since houses and hearths are often recognizable, sometimes quite recognizable archaeologically, as marked by house foundations and chimney hearths, among other forms of evidence.

For the Native American record, this will require a more concerted effort, perhaps much more concerted. Besides learning to see partially disturbed hearths, we must learn to look very carefully to recognize the even more obscure remnants of Native American houses within the scope of our typically limited excavations. Just as importantly or perhaps more so, we need to open up large, broad area excavations in some cases to fully delineate the extent of fragmentary house remains, as marked by post molds and other features. In this way, we can work toward better establishing the full range of house and hearth types that have characterized the long span of human occupation in New England.

References Cited

Belcher, William R.

Braun, Esther K., and David P. Braun

Candee, Richard M.

Chapdelaine, Claude

Conkey, Laura E., Ethel Boissevain, and Ives Goddard

Cowie, Ellen R.
Cowie, Ellen R., Robert N. Bartone, and James B. Petersen  
2000  
_Archaeological Investigations at the Tracy Farm Site (69-11 ME) in the Central Kennebec River Drainage, Somerset County, Maine._ University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center. Submitted to FPL Maine LLC, Portland.

Cowie, Ellen R., and James B. Petersen  
1990  

Deetz, James  
1996  
_In Small Things Forgotten: An Archaeology of Early American Life._ Anchor Books, New York.

Cranmer, Leon E.  
1990  

Glassie, Henry  
1968  
_Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States._ University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.

Heckenberger, Michael J., James B. Petersen, and Nancy Asch Sidell  
1992  

Heckenberger, Michael J., James B. Petersen, and Eduardo Goes Neves  
1999  

Moran, Geoffrey P., Edward F. Zimmer, and Anne E. Yentsch  
1982  

Mrozowski, Stephen A., Grace H. Ziesing, and Mary C. Beaudry  
1996  
_Living on the Boott: Historical Archaeology at the Boott Mills Boardinghouses, Lowell, Massachusetts._ University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst.

Myers, Denys P.  
1976  
Pendergast, James F.

Petersen, James B., and Ellen R. Cowie

Quinn, David B.

Ritchie, William A.

Ritchie, William A., and Robert E. Funk

Robbins, Maurice

Sanger, David

Thomas, Peter A.
CONFERENCE ON NEW ENGLAND ARCHAEOLOGY

2003 ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2003

Hearth and Home: Foodways and Architecture in the Archaeological Record of New England

The 23rd annual meeting of the Conference on New England Archaeology will be held at the Fuller Conference Center, Old Sturbridge Village

Registration and Coffee
8:30 - 9:00 a.m.
PROGRAM SCHEDULE

8:30   Coffee and registration

9:00   Opening remarks
       Brian Jones, Chair, CNEA Steering Committee

9:25   Looking for Children in the Late Archaic
       Bob Goodby, Franklin Pierce College

9:50   House and Home in Early Holocene southern New England
       Dan Forrest, Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc.

10:15  Break

10:30  Do Hearths Necessarily Mean Homes? A Comparison of Late Archaic Mobility and Settlement
       in Northeastern Massachusetts and Central Rhode Island as Represented at the Pine Hawk
       and Bear Swamp 2 Archaeological Sites.
       Joseph N. Waller Jr. (PAL/UConn) and Duncan Ritchie (PAL)

10:55  Continuity and Change at Contact Period Norridgewock
       Ellen Ruth Cowie, University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center

11:20  Questions and comments

11:45  Lunch

1:00   Business Meeting

1:15   Cellars, Sauce Pits and Hearths: Architecture and Foodways Archaeology in 18th-Century
       Connecticut
       Ross Harper, Mary Harper and Bruce Clouette, Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc.

1:40   Castles in the air: Extrapolating the form of 18th century dwellings from archaeological
       remains at Lake of Isles
       Myron Stachiw

2:05   Break

2:20   Archaeological Research and Historical Interpretation of the Willard Farm: 1756-1852
       Mike Volmar, Fruitlands Museum

2:45   Before Old Sturbridge Village: A history and archaeology of its landscape
       Ed Hood, Old Sturbridge Village

3:10   Questions and comments
ABSTRACTS

Looking for Children in the Late Archaic

Bob Goodby

Archaeologists have paid little attention to the role of children in Native American societies and their role in forming the archaeological record. This paper draws on ethnographic, demographic and archaeological data to suggest ways in which the presence of children can be detected archaeologically. Examples from a range of sites indicate that the activities of children at play and while learning basic skills like flintknapping leave distinct patterns in the archaeological record. The ability to recognize the artifacts and activity areas of children enhances our understanding both of Native American societies and of the archaeological sites whose structures typically reflect a variety of age-specific activities.

House and Home in Early Holocene southern New England

Dan Forrest

Very little is known about Early Holocene domestic architecture in the Northeast. In fact, the use of the term “architecture” may seem out of place in a discussion of Early Archaic cultures, given the low density and ephemeral nature of most known sites. However, excavations at the Sandy Hill Site in southeastern Connecticut indicate at least season-long occupation along the margins of Cedar Swamp between 9,000 and 8,500 B.P. and a relatively high level of investment in housing. Data recovery investigations at the site revealed several large pit-house features with rich botanical assemblages and a lithic technology focused on locally available quartz. These data show at least some Early Archaic groups responded to rapidly changing climatic and ecological conditions during the Early Holocene by “settling in” to favorable environments. Architectural, botanical, and lithic evidence all point to an increased reliance on resources available within the Cedar Swamp Basin. Long-term and repeated occupation of the site during this period suggests at least a seasonal contraction of settlement patterns in the area and increased identification of local groups with more circumscribed territories. At a larger scale, the results of these investigations underline the complexity of potential responses to a rapidly evolving cultural and physical environment.

Do Hearths Necessarily Mean Homes? A Comparison of Late Archaic Mobility and Settlement in Northeastern Massachusetts and Central Rhode Island as Represented at the Pine Hawk and Bear Swamp 2 Archaeological Sites.

Joseph N. Waller Jr. and Duncan Ritchie

Archaeological investigations at the Pine Hawk Site (19-MD-793) in Acton, Massachusetts and the Bear Swamp 2 Site (RI-2253) in Exeter, Rhode Island have produced substantial Late Archaic Native American material remains associated with the Laurentian and Small Stemmed Point traditions. Charcoal packed fire pits or hearths investigated at each of the sites date the occupations to between 5330 to 3200 cal B.P. and 5260 to 4090 cal B.P., respectively. Despite similarities in site age, material culture, and the presence
of virtually identical feature types, each of these sites served its own role within their respective settlement systems. This presentation will report on the material records of the Pine Hawk and the Bear Swamp 2 archaeological sites and will conclude by discussing and assessing apparent regional differences in Late Archaic Native American settlement, mobility, and territorial range in northeastern Massachusetts and central Rhode Island.

Continuity and Change at Contact Period Norridgewock

Ellen Ruth Cowie

One of the most notable settlements in northern New England, Norridgewock, provides rich details about one Native American community located on the embattled frontier of English, French and indigenous colonial America. Archaeological and ethnohistoric information from two sequentially occupied villages in terms of settlement, subsistence and interaction patterns will be discussed. Archaeological evidence indicates that modifications to domestic and community space were dramatic and Native material culture changed significantly as well with a pattern suggesting the selective incorporation of European materials within existing craft traditions. Native American interaction became increasingly complex during the later Contact period likely necessitating a broad range of alliances and negotiations at many levels, from the individual to the community and beyond. In contrast, subsistence patterns remained relatively constant over time at Norridgewock on the basis of faunal and floral samples from storage pits investigated at both village sites, indicating that the community sustained itself based on a combination of maize horticulture and hunting and gathering. This research suggests that while some things undoubtedly changed over time at Norridgewock, continuity seems more obvious overall on the basis of available evidence, as Native people sought to sustain themselves in the face of a dramatically new world.

Cellars, Sauce Pits and Hearths: Architecture and Foodways Archaeology in 18th-Century Connecticut

Ross Harper, Mary Harper and Bruce Clouette

Recently PAST, Inc. has conducted excavations of three 18th-century rural household sites in Connecticut. Located in the towns of Andover, Waterford, and North Branford, these sites were found buried under agricultural fields in the course of surveys preceding road improvements for the Connecticut Department of Transportation. As analyses of the data progresses, the sites are providing new and important information concerning colonial Connecticut architecture and foodways. The sites include the Sprague homestead, built c. 1705 and burned in the c. 1750s; the Daniels homestead, built in 1712 and occupied until c. 1770s-1780s; and the Goodsell homestead, constructed c. 1735 and abandoned c. 1797. These contemporaneous sites of Connecticut's "middling sort" are illuminating our understanding of colonial-period animal and plant use, food storage, hearth and foundation construction, ceramic use and repairs, disposal patterns and experiments in agricultural improvement strategies. Discussion will focus on the important interconnection between household structure and organization, food preparation and storage and how they are evident in the archaeological record.
Castles in the Air: Extrapolating the Form of 18th-Century Dwellings from Archaeological Remains at Lake of Isles

Myron Stachiw

The archaeological investigations at Lake of Isles conducted by staff of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center revealed a number of well preserved archaeological remains of historic-period farmsteads established in the 18th century and largely abandoned by the mid-19th century. Recording of these remains and subsequent excavation, combined with historic images and other documentation of historic buildings in the region have allowed conjectural reconstruction of the building types represented. These will be compared and contrasted with what is known about Native American building practices of the period on the nearby Pequot Reservation.

Archaeological Research and Historical Interpretation of the Willard Farm: 1756-1852

Mike Volmar

Within the 210 acre grounds of the Fruitlands Museums are the remains of a farmstead occupied by the Willard family from 1756 to 1852. This once forgotten site was investigated during an archaeological survey in 1998 and excavations in 1999 and 2000. The historical documents and recovered material culture chronicle the shift from yeoman farming of the 18th century to market farming in the 19th century. The site offers a good opportunity to explore the experience of one family in central Massachusetts during this important period in American history. Rich documentary and archeological evidence enabled the museum to create a self-guided interpretive plan for the site. This presentation will review the archaeological and historical evidence associated with the Willard Farm and discuss the ways these materials were developed for presentation to the public.

Before Old Sturbridge Village: A history and archaeology of its landscape.

Ed Hood

As the “home” of the annual meetings of the Conference on New England Archaeology for most of its existence, it is time to give Old Sturbridge Village its due by exploring its history and archaeology. The museum of Old Sturbridge Village interprets life in rural New England during the 1830s through a recreated village and landscape staffed with costumed interpreters, and furnished with real and reproduction artifacts. This representation of the American past originated with the vision of the museum’s founders, the Wells family of Southbridge, Massachusetts, whose wealth came from their ownership of the American Optical Company. The museum is very much an artifact of the 20th century and of the Wells’ vision, but the landscape on which it sits, and even some of its buildings, are in fact artifacts of a much deeper history extending back to the pre-Colonial period. This paper will briefly delve into the history and landscape of Old Sturbridge Village, focusing in particular on the David Wight farm and mills that existed on the property from the 1780s until the early 20th century.
CURRENT RESEARCH

MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources

David Trubey

In 2002, the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources continued to work with its twelve permittees on a wide range of research areas. Among the more extensive projects with which the Board was involved was the survey of approximately 619 acres of the seafloor of Salem Sound, Massachusetts Bay and Boston’s outer harbor for potential archaeological sites. This survey was conducted by PAL, Inc. in support of the proposed Hubline pipeline project. The undertaking was particularly significant in that it incorporated the development of a predictive model to assess the potential for the presence of submerged prehistoric cultural resources in this area in addition to historic shipwreck sites (PAL, Inc. 2000).

The Board worked closely in the early part of the year with the Nipmuc Nation -Tribal Historic Preservation Office in its development of a management plan for three dugout canoes discovered in a central Massachusetts lake by a sport diver in 2000. Documentation of these sites began in 2001 and is expected to continue in the 2003 field season. The Board also assisted in the much-publicized search for Babe Ruth’s piano, which legend contends was lost in 1918 in the waters of Willis Pond in Sudbury. This project is expected to continue into the 2003 field season as well.

The Board participated in a number of outreach activities over the past year including making presentations to sport diving clubs, social and professional organizations and school groups. The Board also co-sponsored an exhibit for Massachusetts Archaeology Week featuring the technology utilized in locating shipwrecks and other submerged cultural resources.

Native American Sites in Amesbury

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

Archaeological testing for athletic fields identified the Lion's Mouth Findspot north of the Great Swamp, and background research resulted in the recording of the Great Swamp Site, located between two drumlins on the northern margin of the extensive wetland. Testing for a residential subdivision recorded the White Tail Site north of the Back River, a tributary of Lake Attitash. Background research recorded the Buttonwood Site, a Native village on the Merrimack River that was occupied during the Contact period (A.D. 1500-1620).

Native American Sites in Belchertown

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

An archaeological survey for a wastewater system identified the Bay Road Site to the south of Metacomet Lake. The site produced chipping debris of rhyolite, quartz and quartzite, and represents a location where people modified and sharpened stone implements in the ancient past, while preparing for hunting and gathering activities at the Metacomet Lake wetlands. During background research it was learned that many Native American artifacts in collections maintained by the Belchertown Historical Society had been found near the lake in the early twentieth century. The collections provide evidence of Native American occupations in Belchertown that began in the Middle Archaic period (7,000 years ago) and continued through the Late Archaic and greater Woodland periods.
The Shawsheen River Native American Site in Billerica

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

A site examination survey for replacement of a gas pipeline was conducted at the Shawsheen River Site (19-MD-875). The testing recovered approximately 600 pieces of rhyolite chipping debris, fire-cracked rock, and an Orient Fishtail projectile point that apparently was broken during the manufacturing process and discarded. A living surface measuring 2.5 meters square was revealed. The evidence suggests that the site was a lithic tool manufacturing station and seasonal campsite occupied approximately 3,000 years ago, during the Transitional Archaic period.

The Williams Street Historic Industrial Complex in Mansfield

C. Donata, UMass Archaeological Services

Repairs to a bridge over the Wading River provided the opportunity to investigate the remains of a historic mill complex on behalf of Mass Highway. Buildings at the site are part of an industrial operation that was begun by 1814 and included two mill buildings that utilized water power from a dam built across the river. The mills processed or produced nails, grain, cotton, lumber, and knives during the nineteenth century. Foundation stones for two buildings were identified, along with intact portions of a raceway with wooden sluice gate. Artifacts from the site included sherds of whiteware, but also pearlware and creamware, architectural items, and several pieces of flatware that may have been manufactured at the site. A nearby cemetery commemorates some of the nineteenth century inhabitants of the village. A residence on Williams Street is also part of the complex and was constructed by Benoni Williams, a direct descendant of Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island.

Early Holocene in Dracut

M. Dudek, Timelines

Research in Dracut at the Whortleberry Hill Site, 19-MD-846, indicates that the site was inhabited during the Early Archaic, with sparse evidence of use in the Middle Archaic and the Transitional Archaic. Excavation of a six-meter wide pipeline corridor at two loci revealed two large Early Archaic pit features, one at each locus. Both pit features were about 3 m. in width and contained reddish earth fill with a dark lens at the base of each pit. The dark lens contained charred nutshell and charcoal and was dated to 7830 +/- 130 (GX-29010; calibrating to 8596 BP) at Locus 1 and to 8110 +/- 90 (GX-29094; calibrating to 9025 BP) at Locus 2. Locus 1 also contained two ground stone adzes within the margins of the large pit floor, carbonized acorn shell and a centrally-located circular stain; a bifacial perforator and a crude bifurcate base point were recovered from units outside. Locus 2 contained several small pockets at the base of the pit feature containing several hundred carbonized hazelnut shell fragments, small quantities of calcined bone, quartz lithics, and several charred seeds (Chenopodium sp., mint family, and possible pokeweed and Rubus). Over 3,000 lithics were recovered from both loci, of which 99% consist of artifacts from quartz core-flake technology geared towards edge tool production and not bifacial tool making. Soil micro morphology of the pit features indicates that the dark lens may be anthropogenic, while the red soil filling the pits differs in composition from the hill itself. The large pit features are interpreted as semi-subterranean dwellings ("pithouses"), with a possible covering of earth suggested. Elsewhere on the site away from the large pit features, a Middle Archaic Neville point and a small pit feature filled with calcined deer bone, AMS dated to 2780 +/- 40 (GX-29011-AMS; calibrated to 2866 BP). Pollen analysis of nearby Althea Lake indicates an open lake environment followed by aquatic vegetation, such as cattail and water lilies, during the early Holocene.
The Neponset Paleoindian Site in Canton

C. Donta, UMass Archaeological Services

Excavations continued at Locus 4 of the Neponset Paleoindian Site (19-NF-70). Another 18 square meters were excavated at the locus, continuing research from the previous field season, when two fluted point fragments and lithic tools consistent with the Michaud-Neponset phase were recovered. This field season has produced another fluted point fragment and several unifacial scrapers of various materials. The majority of the Paleoindian artifacts are made of a light greenish-gray rhyolite that is visually identical to rhyolite found in the Mt. Jefferson area of New Hampshire. Additional analysis of the artifacts is underway, and further excavations will be conducted in 2003.

Native American Sites in Deerfield

C. Donta, UMass Archaeological Services

Two separate projects in Deerfield produced evidence of Native American occupations. A proposed Children's Center in Old Deerfield led to the identification of the Thunder Run Site, which did not produce any temporally diagnostic artifacts, but did contain lithic debitage, mostly of a dark gray chert. This finding enhances our understanding of the distribution of Native American sites within the area that was later occupied by European American settlers. Testing for a proposed boathouse overlooking the Connecticut River led to the identification of the Pole Swamp Brook Site near previously recorded Site 19-FR-264. The Pole Swamp Brook Site produced pottery sherds and chipping debris of quartzite and quartz. The artifact distribution indicates a probable habitation site concentrated near the confluence of Pole Swamp Brook and the Connecticut River, in an area that has received little attention to date.

Native American Sites on Route 3 in Duxbury and Pembroke

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

An archaeological survey conducted on behalf of MassHighway for proposed improvements to Route 3 south of Boston led to the recording of the Rumbling Oak Site in Duxbury and the Sideline Pine Site in Pembroke. Both sites are located within feet of the northbound lane of the highway, and produced small assemblages of quartz and rhyolite chipping debris. Presently hemmed in by the highway and commercial development, the sites provide further evidence of Native American land use near the wetlands of coastal southeastern Massachusetts.

Historic Industrial Sites on Kettle Brook in Worcester

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

An archaeological survey for MassHighway encountered a series of three historic dams in the densely vegetated Kettle Brook ravine in western Worcester. Centrally located on the brook, the B. James Shoddy Mill and Old Dam Site contains the earliest of the dams, which is of earthen construction with some stone masonry. The dam once supported a mill that produced textiles in the Civil War period. (“Shoddy” was a low-grade textile made from reclaimed wool.) Located upstream is the Hunt-Pfaffman Woolen Mill Dam Site, which featured a textile mill in the nineteenth century. Further downstream, at the B. James New Mill and Stone Dam Site, is a looming dam remnant constructed of massive, stepped cut granite blocks and a huge volume of earth. In March, 1876, a catastrophic flood known as the Lynde Brook Disaster charged down Kettle Brook and destroyed the B. James Shoddy Mill and the New Mill. An eyewitness recorded that “bridges, dams, roads and dwellings were swept away” by the high water. The effects of the flood on the dams on Kettle Brook were severe, and the threat of flooding prevented the industrial sites from being rebuilt.
The Bowed Birch Native American Site in Erving

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

The town of Erving is located on the north side of the Millers River, a tributary of the Connecticut River that has headwaters in north-central Massachusetts. In the pre-Contact period, an ancient Native American path called the Mohawk Trail followed the north side of the Millers River. The east-west trail enabled travel and the transport of lithic materials between the Hudson River valley and eastern Massachusetts. While large, multi-component sites in the Millers River basin have been recorded at the Connecticut River confluence and the intersection with a major north-south trail in Athol, the great majority of sites recorded in the basin to date are small, short-term campsites where stone implements were modified and sharpened. Intriguingly, the sites tend to be located on the north side of the river, near the trail, and frequently contain varieties of chert sourced to New York. The sites may represent brief stopovers by Native people who followed the trail through the region. A recent survey on behalf of MassHighway for the relocation of Route 2 in Erving identified the Bowed Birch Site on the north bank of the river. Situated on a terrace overlooking rapids, the site produced base fragments of Small Stemmed quartz projectile points, scrapers, choppers, edge tools, and tabular grinding stones, in addition to a hammerstone, an anvil stone and a spokeshave. Chipping debris included varieties of black, brown and gray chert, some of which had been heat-treated, as well as quartz and rhyolite. A rim sherd from an unusual granitic stone vessel was recovered. The evidence suggests that some tools made from imported chert were modified at the site, while many expedient edge tools were manufactured on-site from locally available quartz. The site apparently represents a medium-term occupation where a wide variety of subsistence activities were carried out by ancient travelers on the Mohawk Trail.

The River Terrace Historic Site in Erving

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

The town of Erving is located in Franklin County, eight miles from the point where Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts meet. Tradition holds that the first European to build a house in Erving was Esaph White, a shareholder in the Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike, who built a log cabin shortly after 1800. Intriguingly, excavations conducted on behalf of MassHighway for the relocation of Route 2 have identified the stone foundation of a small house that may have been occupied as early as 1760, shortly after the conclusion of the French and Indian War. Originally a one-room dwelling with a single hearth, the house later featured a small addition. The assemblage of historic artifacts recovered from the River Terrace Site is high in volume and virtually devoid of artifacts post-dating 1840, with deposits effectively "sealed" since the abandonment of the site. Although the house was small, its occupants apparently lived well: The dominant ceramic types are green and blue shell-edged pearlware, creamware (including Wedgwood, annular, transfer-printed and hand-painted polychrome varieties), forms of lead-glazed redware, and salt-glazed stoneware. Several pieces from a cutlery set were recovered, including two-tined forks and knives with decorative handles of incised bone. A large, copper alloy spun-back button and a silver-plated button were recovered, as well as a copper-alloy embossed knee buckle, a ferrous heel cleat, a scissor handle, and a cufflink inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Excavations produced two prismatic English gunflints and a third gunflint of a Dutch style commonly used in the mid-eighteenth century. Faunal materials include fish vertebrae and fragments of cow and pig bone. Ongoing archival research seeks to identify the first occupants of the site, and the motivations that led them to establish this lonely outpost overlooking the Millers River.
Native American Sites at Alum Pond in Sturbridge

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

Subsurface testing for wastewater system improvements resulted in the discovery of Native American sites on the shores of Alum Pond. Although the locale was a focal area of Nipmuc settlement, and numerous pre-Contact sites have been reported near the rivers and wetlands in the Sturbridge area, no Native American sites had been recorded at Alum Pond prior to the recent survey. On the east side of the pond, the Morgan Site produced a Small Stemmed projectile point and chipping debris of argillite. The Mt. Dan Road Findspot provided evidence of Native occupation that occurred on the west side of the pond.

Native American Sites in Taunton

C. Donta, UMass Archaeological Services

Seven Native American sites were identified along the Snake River drainage during an intensive (locational) survey for a proposed retail park. Three of the sites were further investigated at the site examination level, producing evidence of occupations that occurred mainly in the Late Archaic period, 3,000 to 5,000 years ago. The Dead Pine Site is a small remnant of a camp site that has been disturbed by previous construction, and included mostly quartz debitage, along with a single Small Triangle projectile point. The Northwoods Site is a large habitation site that produced eight Small Stemmed points, two Small Triangle points, one Brewerton Corner Notched point, two grooved axes, one ground stone pestle, and more than 1,100 other artifacts. The Kestrel Site is another large site, consisting of multiple activity areas and including at least three hearths and one concentrated lithic midden. Over 1,600 artifacts were recovered from the site in association with the features and the surrounding area, and are consistent with a Late Archaic date for the occupations. Analysis of the data from these sites is underway, and will enable comparison with other sites in the Taunton area.

Native American Sites on Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

Intensive (locational) testing and site examination surveys were conducted for a proposed MassHighway recreational trail on upper Sconticut Neck, a peninsular coastal promontory that projects into Buzzards Bay. The trail route passes near several previously recorded pre-Contact sites. Excavations investigated newly discovered concentrations of chipping debris and shell at the Nasketucket River Site (19-BR-348) and the Taber's Brook Site (19-BR-481), where evidence had previously been recorded for Native American occupations that occurred during the Woodland period (500 to 3,000 years ago). The Little Bay Site was recorded during the survey, and included a variety of subsurface features such as post molds and refuse pits containing shell, botanical remains and animal bone fragments. The base of a triangular quartz projectile point was recovered from the Little Bay Site, as well as edge tools and a large assemblage of quartz and rhyolite chipping debris. The high density of pre-Contact sites on Sconticut Neck provide evidence of numerous long-term, seasonal occupations that took place in close proximity to resources for fishing, hunting and the gathering.

The Mansfield Airport Native American Site in Mansfield

T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services

An archaeological survey for proposed airport improvements at the Mansfield Airport provided an opportunity to conduct systematic testing in part of 19-BR-1, the first Native American site ever recorded in Bristol County. A variety of Native American artifacts were recovered across a broad area, and included one Neville Variant projectile point, two Small Stemmed points, one small ulu, edge tools, and chipping debris of quartz and rhyolite. This assemblage provides evidence of Native American occupations that occurred at the site during the Middle and Late Archaic periods, between 3,000 and 7,000 years ago.
and processing of wild plant foods. The rate of Native American settlement of the locale appears to have been highest during the Woodland period, beginning about 3,000 years ago.

**The Saville Street Native American Site in Tewksbury**

*T. Binzen, UMass Archaeological Services*

A site examination survey for a gas pipeline replacement was conducted at the Saville Street Site (19-MD-878), which overlooks a wetland near Long Pond. The testing resulted in the recovery of a Small Stemmed point, two Levanna points, two Triangular points, pottery fragments and fire-cracked rock. An assemblage of 370 pieces of rhyolite, chert and quartzite chipping debris was recovered from stratified deposits. The evidence suggests that the site was occupied repeatedly between the Late Archaic period and the Late Woodland period, and likely served as a base for subsistence activities that included hunting and the gathering of wild plant foods.

**The Gillette Street Native American Site in Southwick**

*C. Donta, UMass Archaeological Services*

A proposed bike path route along a former railroad grade includes a diversion that leads along an undisturbed terrace west of the Congamond Lakes. Intensive (locational) testing produced Native American chipping debris from three test pits, along with a burn feature. Subsequent site examination excavations exposed two burned soils, surrounded by a scatter of chert debitage. No temporally diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the site, but a sample of charcoal from the feature was dated to 1,270 +/ - 40 conventional radiocarbon years, with a calibrated 1-sigma date of AD 685-780. The site may be related to several others recorded around the southern part of the Congamond Lakes.

**General**

**Early New England Redware Research Website**

*Harley Erickson*


The site is in its infancy, but will continually be expanded. I am hoping that it will useful to archaeologists, potters, historians, and other interested parties. The site includes sections on redware production, kilns and kiln furniture, and various New England redware pottery sites. It also has an extensive research bibliography, and contains numerous vessel and sherd photos from sites around New England. The site will also contain information gathered from various redware research projects that I'm involved in as an historical archaeologist.

Submissions, comments and encouragement are welcomed to the site, and would be most appreciated. If interested, please email neredware@yahoo.com.

**Native Gender Relations in Southeastern New England**

*Michael Nassaney*

Research into the changes in gender roles and relations experienced by Native peoples in their interactions with 17th-century Europeans is nearing completion. Funded in part by the John Nicholas Brown Center, this research explores the ways in which Native Americans were active agents who made their own histories as they confronted colonialism on a daily basis. He explores the ways in which Native men and women challenged and transformed pre-Contact gender roles and responsibilities in southeastern New England in the context of mid-seventeenth century population decline and increased commodity exchange. His study builds on a limited and ambiguous documentary record, and uses oral accounts and archaeological evidence of pipes, pestles, pots, and peage
(wampum) to understand how new economic, social, and religious conditions influenced Native American daily life.

A chapter summarizing some aspects of this research, entitled "Lithic Artifacts in Seventeenth Century Native New England," is written by Michael S. Nassaney and Michael Volmar and will appear in Stone Tool Traditions After Contact (Charles Cobb, ed., University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 2003). An expanded version of a paper recently presented at the annual meeting of the Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology in Providence entitled "Native American Gender Relations and Material Culture in Seventeenth-Century Southeastern New England" is currently under review with the journal Ethnohistory. Correspondence from other scholars interested in this topic is welcomed.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.
2003 *Native American Archaeology in Rhode Island.* RIHPHC, Providence, RI.

(This book will be available for sale at the CNEA meeting.)

Cremeens, D. L. and J. P. Hart (editors).

Hart, J. P.

Cremeens, D. L. and J. P. Hart (editors).


Kerber, Jordan, ed.
*A Lasting Impression (in memory of Barb Luedtke): Coastal, Lithic, and Ceramic Research in New England Archaeology.* Greenwood Publishing Group, Westport, CT.

Elizabeth A. Little

Sixteen AMS dates taken directly on prehistoric maize fragments from New England permit several archaeological inferences. First, a cluster of dates between AD 1250 and 1450 that are temporally concentrated but spatially widespread suggests a relatively sudden increase in the archaeological visibility of maize in New England at this time. The increase roughly coincides with an increase in maize consumption in the mid-continent. Second, and even more striking, is that the increase in maize is simultaneous with an increase in the archaeological visibility of beans. Finally, preliminary evidence suggests that these increases may be related to the fertilization of soils by alluvial limestone or shell midden material.

Lenik, Edward J.

http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upne/1-58465-197-0.html

*Picture Rocks* documents all known permanent petroglyph and pictograph sites from the Canadian provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, the six New England states, New York, and New Jersey. Some sites are subject to disputes over their origins—Indian or Portuguese? Some are ancient, and others, such as the work of the Mi'kmaq, were executed in the past 200 years. Many of these sites are little known; others, like those at Bellows Falls, Vermont, are sources of great local pride and appear on city walking tours.
**EVENTS**

**Strawberry Banke Summer Youth Archaeology Day Camp**

Strawberry Banke Museum, in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is inviting youths, ages 10 to 14, to join in discovering history first-hand and in helping to preserve the past for the future in a week-long archaeology day camp. The camp will be held at the Museum Monday July 28 through Friday, August 1, 2003, 10:00am - 3:00pm daily.

Participants will explore the techniques, methods and theories used by historical archaeologists. This summer the camp will be held in conjunction with the Museum's Archaeology Field School at the Joshua Jackson House, where adult excavators will be uncovering information about the families who lived here and how the adjacent yards were used. The Jackson House was built around 1790 near the western bank of the Piscataqua River and on the northern edge of a tidal inlet known as Puddle Dock. Young archaeologists will visit the Jackson House excavations and laboratories daily to keep abreast of the most recent finds. Later in the week they will have an opportunity to partner with the archaeological teams. They will also share in field trips, discussions and behind-the-scenes tours.

Working from artifacts, archaeological and archival records, youth archaeologists will discover new ways to better understand the once-bustling, noisy, aromatic life along Puddle Dock, and vicariously share in the lives of those who, for over 4000 years—from Native Americans to the present—have made the area home. Like the professional archaeologist, participants will report their findings and relate the information gained through their work to modern issues.

The program will be directed by Martha Pinello, Chief Archaeologist at Strawberry Banke, who is recognized for her twenty-years experience in the field. The fee is $175 for members of the Museum and $210 for non-members. Because of the hands-on, in-depth nature of this program, the camp will be limited to 12 participants who will be accepted in order of registration. To register or to receive more information on the Youth or Adult summer 2003 archaeology programs, please call Bekki Coppola at (603) 422-7541.

**Strawberry Banke Museum Adult Archaeology Field School**

Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, will hold its Summer 2003 Archaeology Field School Monday, July 21 through Friday, August 1. The field school will run for those two weeks, Monday through Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm.

This two-week intensive experience in urban historical archaeology is open to adults with or without prior archaeological experience. Participants will work in small groups excavating, recording and mapping field data. Laboratory work will be conducted simultaneously with the fieldwork as participants process and prepare the collection for detailed analysis while receiving instruction in field and laboratory methods. Lunch-time lectures and discussions, field trips and behind-the-scenes tours will complement this in-depth and multi-faceted learning experience.

Strawberry Banke Museum encompasses 10 acres that offer a unique laboratory of in-situ historic structures, streetscapes and buried archaeological sites. Of the Museum's 42 historic buildings, 37 are on their original sites. This summer's research and excavations will focus on one of these, the Joshua Jackson House, and its adjacent yards to glean information about the families who once lived here and how the yards were used.

The Jackson house was built around 1790 on the site of an earlier seventeenth-century house near the western bank of the Piscataqua River, and on the northern edge of a bustling tidal inlet known as Puddle Dock. Over the years the site has been home to mariners, a blacksmith, several joiners,
a cordwainer, a sparmaker, merchants, a baker and their families. Previous years of field schools and research have found the lots surrounding this modest clapboard dwelling to be rich in archaeological information dating back to Native American times some 4000 years ago. This summer’s archaeological excavations are a crucial step in gathering information for much-needed repairs to the foundation and subsequent restoration of the building. An exhibition inside the house documents the historic preservation movement of which Strawbery Banke and the Jackson House are a major part.

Martha Pinello will direct the program, Chief Archaeologist at Strawbery Banke, who is recognized for her twenty-years experience in Native American and historic site excavations in New England. She has conducted over ten seasons of public archaeological field schools which have successfully provided avocational and professional training while collecting data for furnished house exhibits, historic landscapes and building restorations.

The nominal fee for this two-week field school is $165. To apply please send a letter of interest and two letters of recommendation to Martha Pinello, Strawbery Banke Museum, P.O. Box 300, Portsmouth, NH 03802-0300. Academic credit may be given through prior arrangement with home academic institution. For more information call (603) 422-7521 or email mpinello@strawberybanke.org.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission has awarded two Certified Local Government Grants to archaeology projects. $4,600 has been granted to the Narrow River Land Trust for an archaeological investigation of the Coojoot graphite mine site in South Kingstown. Identified in the Pettaquamscutt purchase deed of 1657, and presumably used by Narragansett Indians before the arrival of Europeans, the site was a source of graphite from pre-colonial times into the 19th century. Features including the foundations of residential and industrial buildings, the bed of small rail line and an abandoned mining shaft will be mapped and researched to assist in the preparation of a plan for archaeological study and public interpretation.

A grant of about $7,500 will allow the Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project to continue its underwater survey of Revolutionary War shipwreck sites. This phase of work will investigate the Sakonnet River area, where RIMAP knows three British vessels were burned in a 1778 encounter with American and French vessels.
MISCELLANEOUS

For the second year in a row, a new contender appeared for the coveted accolade for the earliest newsletter submission, Jordan Kerber earns this year's laurels. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter.

CNEA would like to extend a thank you to Old Sturbridge Village and Ed Hood for their support and sponsorship of this year’s meeting.

Cover images:
Prehistoric New England dwellings photo courtesy of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University.

We look forward to seeing everyone on May 10th!
CNEA CONFERENCE TITLES

2003  Hearth and Home: Foodways and Architecture in the Archaeological Record of New England
2002  Materializing Anthropology: In Memory of Barbara Luedtke
2001  Looking Back – Looking Ahead: Celebrating 20 Years of CNEA
2000  The Settling and Unsettling of New England
1999  Maritime and Coastal Archaeology in New England
1998  The Archaeology of Race and Ethnicity: The Making of Social and Historical Categories
1997  Creating and Interpreting New England’s Environments
1996  Creating and Interpreting Cultural Identity
1995  Archaeology and History: Constructing New England’s Pasts
1994  Archaeology of Place
1993  Commonality and Diversity in Archaeological New England
1992  Uses of the Past: Community History and Archaeology in New England
1991  Presenting Archaeology to the Public; Retrospective and Prospective Look at New England Archaeology
1990  Marginal Environments
1989  Human Burials
1988  Cores and Peripheries
1987  Archaeological Interpretation of the Structural Form
1986  Trade, Communication, and Transportation Networks
1985  What Cheer Netop?
1984  Constructing the Past
1983  Households
1982  Social Systems
1981  Uplands and Lowlands
Conference on New England Archaeology
Newsletter Editors

Patricia Fragola
RISD Library
2 College St.
Providence, RI 02903

David Schafer
Peabody Museum
Harvard University
11 Divinity Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138