

A.S.C. NEWS

Issue No. 254

Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

September 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September 30, 2020

Dear Members,

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, we are hoping you and your families are safe and healthy as the pandemic unfortunately continues. As a Society, we have had to come up with alternative and creative measures to maintain our programs and the quality of our meetings. For example, while we have had to cancel our Fall Meeting due to the state's restrictions on gathering, the board has come up with a series of online presentations by noted archaeologists in our community to provide you with the most up-to-date discoveries and laboratory analyses in our field. So, since we cannot meet as a group, we can all still enjoy the latest in Connecticut archaeology. You will find a full schedule of presentations for your convenience in this Newsletter.

Our board has been working hard and will remain as flexible and imaginative as possible to give our members the archaeological information and experiences you

want as we adjust to a new world. You can do your part by renewing your membership in the ASC. This will help us maintain standards well established by our society and provide the resources to continue to serve you as best we can into the future. We remain committed to serving you so please help us with your support.

Hope you enjoy the latest ASC Newsletter and we truly cannot wait until we can meet in person once again.

Nick Bellantoni
Interim President

FALL MEETING AND VIRTUAL SPEAKER SCHEDULE

This fall, ASC will present virtual talks from the following speakers using Zoom. Links will be sent to ASC and FOSA members a few days before each talk. We will send links to the email addresses used for distribution of this newsletter. **If you receive this newsletter by hard copy, be sure to send your email address ASAP,** to Lee West at lfwest@sbcglobal.net so that we can send you links to these talks. Or check the website for links.

Here is the schedule:

7:00PM, Thursday, October 15
David Leslie - Paleoindian Occupations along the Farmington River at the Brian D. Jones Site: Southern New England's Oldest Archaeological Site.

7:00PM, Wednesday, October 21
Paul Wegner and Sara Regensburger - This Same Sad, Sad Tale of Love: Place Lore and Archaeology at Lovers Leap

7:00PM, Wednesday, October 28
William Farley - Archaeology of the Henry Whitfield House Museum: Continuing on a Half Century of Exploration

7:00PM, Wednesday, Nov. 11
Laurie Weinstein - Borderlands and Connections in Western New England in the late 17th through 18th Centuries

7:00PM, Wednesday, Nov. 18
Nick Bellantoni and Scott Brady - Living Their Enemies; Dying Their Guests: Four Revolutionary War Burials from Ridgefield, Connecticut

See Pages 13-16 for Details!

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NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Greetings ASC members:

Here is a short summary of what we've been up to this year.

Fieldwork: During the second half of the summer OSA field visits and projects picked up a little. At the end of July, I visited Ivoryton for a walkover of Essex Land Trust property that once held the ivory drying houses and factory of the Comstock Cheney Ivory Works. We will be working with the Essex Land Trust and NRCS to do a GPR survey of the area in October, to see if there are any extant subsurface features related to the former company's operations. Scott and I also conducted a walkover of the Franklin Johnson Mansion property in Wallingford, which is home to the American Silver Museum. Some Boy Scouts doing a renovation project on their privy building found a number of artifacts, and Wallingford Historic Preservation Trust became interested in learning more about the archaeological potential of the property. I recommended that they apply for

a State Survey and Planning grant to gather the background information, but OSA will work with them to do a GPR survey of the property sometime later this fall to determine if there are subsurface features in the yard area. We also visited the New London Harbor Lighthouse property to assess the archaeological sensitivity of their (very tiny!) property. Unfortunately, it looks heavily disturbed.

We have done a few small digs this summer. Scott, Joshua Duvall, and I went down to the Stanton-Davis Homestead in Pawcatuck on August 27th to dig a few test pits on the property where they are installing an underground electrical line. The property has a terraced front yard, and two pits we excavated there yielded an interesting array of materials from the 17th-19th centuries. We found ceramics, animal bone, kaolin pipes, glass, nails and other materials. The deposits appear stratified and suggest great potential for 17th and 18th century components. On two separate occasions, we went down to Bridgeport to do some excavation work in the front yard of the Eliza Freeman House, one of the last two remaining structures associated with the 19th century "Little Liberia" neighborhood. Lee West and Joshua Duvall volunteered to help with the fieldwork. The goal was to help the Freeman Center figure out how the original porch was constructed, ahead of upcoming renovation work. We found a few 19th century artifacts in the fill around the porch, including buttons, pipe stems, and some ceramic sherds, but these were mixed a lot of late 20th century materials.

On September 28, we headed down to Old Lyme to dig a few test pits in a proposed parking area at the trail head of some town conservation land. Later this fall, we hope to get back out to the Rochambeau Camp site in Southbury to take another stab at GPR and metal detecting when the tall grass will no longer be an issue.

Databases The staff of the Connecticut Museum of Natural History has been working with OSA and Jackie Veninger-Robert, UCONN's NAGPRA Coordinator to establish a new, comprehensive database for OSA, CSMSH, and NAGPRA Collections. The long-term goal is to have a database that will house all of our information and permit researchers to access aspects of the data online. It will probably take several months to build the database, and then several years to enter all of the data, but in the end, it should provide us with an incredible resource and a new and better way of organizing our vast collections. I'm very excited about it!

In the Lab Things have also been moving along in the new lab. I've organized the library and slides, and I'm working on organizing and finding places to store the comparative collections and re-shelving the CRM reports in Building 5 for now. It is gratifying to finally be getting some lab work done. Joshua Duvall, who is currently a student at UCONN, is volunteering a couple of days a week to wash artifacts, permitting us to process some of the material OSA excavated this summer. Additionally, we have a graduate student Research Assistant, Brianna Rae, who is working

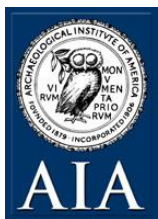
remotely to inventory some of the materials from this summer, as well as continuing to work on the Hills House assemblage from last year. In September, I finally got the remaining Ridgefield individuals to Gary Aronsen, down at Yale, for analysis. Their labs have been basically closed since March, and are now only open on a limited basis, so it is unlikely they will make much progress with Ridgefield in the near future. I have brought some of the collections from Old New-Gate and Gay City into the lab, in the hopes of starting the projects I mentioned at the last meeting this fall/winter.

We also have two slide scanners, and I am hoping someone will volunteer to start digitizing some of the slide library. It is an amazing record of Connecticut archaeology, and it would be great to get the images digitized so they can be more accessible to researchers and to the public. If anyone is interested in working on this at home, please let me or Scott know!

I hope everyone is well!

*Sarah Sportman
State Archaeologist*

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



**American
Institute of
Archaeology**

In response to the coronavirus,
AIA lectures have not been
scheduled until Spring 2021.

2020 ARKHAIOS FILM FESTIVAL

8th Annual Arkhaios Film Festival - Virtual Edition, October 5-11, 2020

The multi-day Arkhaios Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival is an annual juried competition, part of the annual States Archaeology Month. It is free, open to the public, and is an educational event showcasing the discovery of past cultures often gained from archaeological research and illustrated through documentary films.

Jean F Guilleux, Arkhaios Film Festival founder and director is pleased to announce the 2020 Official Selection for the film festival. The eighteen members of the Screening Committee were challenged to choose the best registered films from around the globe offering the audience a rich tapestry of world cultures. The Arkhaios 2020 Official Selection is composed of the top 14 films which will compete for the prizes awarded by the Arkhaios Jury.

Jeffrey McQuillen, chair of the Arkhaios Selection Committee, and Program coordinator for the newly established Film Minor at the University of South Carolina Beaufort, says, "For those who have attended over the last several years, they expect a standard of excellence. It is a huge responsibility to make this selection but I think our committee has done an outstanding job". A member of the Screening Committee adds:" It was a difficult decision, given that there were just too many films with very high scores."

Here is the Arkhaios 2020 Official Selection (*in alphabetical order*):

Haenyeo, *Director Ralph Vituccio, (USA)*

Meeting Neanderthal, *Directors Rob Hope & Pascal Cuissot, (France)*

Mesopotamia: The Season of The Great Empires, *Director Alberto Castellani, (Italy)*

Project Shiphunt, *Director Paul Bozymowski, (USA)*

Riddle of the Bones: Gender Revolution, *Directors Birgit Tanner; Carsten Gutschmidt, (Germany)*

River of Treasures, *Directors Marcin Jamkowski, Konstanty Kulik, (Poland)*

Roman Engineering: Roads, *Director José Antonio Muñoz, (Spain)*

Stout Hearted: George Stout and the Guardians of Art, *Director Kevin Kelley, (USA)*

The Great Maya Aquifer, *Director Victor Marina, (Mexico)*

The Last Tribes, *Director Ebru Cakirkaya, (Turkey)*

The Ring People, *Director Anthony Koelker, (USA)*

Thus speaks Tarām-Kūbi, Assyrian Correspondences, *Director Vanessa Tubiana-Brun (France)*

We, the Voyagers: Our Vaka, *Director Marianne "Mimi" George, (USA)*

We, the Voyagers: Our Moana,
Director Marianne “Mimi”
George, (USA)

The details for the audience
festival registration and on-line
screening will be available on
the Arkhaios website and
Facebook page. The screening
will take place all week long
between Monday October 5,
2020 and Sunday October 11,
2020. The Awards Winners will
be announced on Saturday
October 10, 2020.

*The Arkhaios Cultural Heritage
and Archaeology Events
corporation is a non-profit,
501(c)(3) organization
producing the Arkhaios Film
Festivals in South Carolina, and*

in Pennsylvania.

Information is available at:
<http://www.arkhaiosfilmfestival.org/>

**Farmington River
Watershed Association
Annual Meeting with Dr
David Leslie and Senator
Christopher Murphy**

The upcoming Farmington River
Watershed Association Virtual
Annual Meeting on Wednesday,
October 21, will feature Senator
Christopher Murphy and Dr.
David Leslie, Senior
Archaeologist.

Dr. David Leslie will discuss the
recent findings during last year's

Avon Old Farms Road Bridge
Project (artifacts dating back
12,500 years).

Tickets are available at frwa.org
Tickets available online at
frwa.org.

FRWA will host Senator
Murphy and Dr. Leslie for our
Annual Meeting. Join us! tickets
are available at frwa.org
FRWA ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21,
2020:00—8:30 PM Virtual
Live Event
\$20 per person
\$30 per family
\$10 per student



THE INSTITUTE FOR
AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES
museum & research center

38 Curtis Road, Washington, CT 06793 (860) 868-0518 www.iaismuseum.orgTM

**A Day of Discussion: Indigenous Peoples’ Day Event
October 10 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

For generations, American history has tended to focus on the “View from the Boat”- the perspective of those who have arrived in the past 450 years. More recently, museums, historians, books and movies have begun to promote the “View from the Shore”- the perspective of the Native inhabitants who were already here, and their descendants who still survive throughout the Americas.

Join Education Coordinator Darlene Kascak, of the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, along with IAIS Museum Educators, for a conversation about the traditions, stories, and cultural items of the Native people here in Southern New England, as well as the complicated history of contact with European settlers.

Included in the Price of Museum Admission: IAIS Members Free, \$10 Adults, \$8 Seniors, \$6 Children. **Pre-Registration is recommended.** Please call (860) 868-0518, ext. 103 or email general@iaismuseum.org

The Taínos of the Caribbean in the Age of the First European Conquest Online Presentation

Sunday, October 11, 2:00pm on ZOOM

As we recognize the final weekend of Hispanic Heritage Month, join us in welcoming **Dr. Mary Ann Mahony, Professor of Latin American History at CCSU**, for an online presentation on the Taínos – the Indigenous people of Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and Cuba. In other words, the Taínos were the people who “met Columbus,” in the words of archaeologist Irving Rouse. Dr. Mahony will review what is known about the Island communities at the time of first contact and carry the story through the Taíno revolts of 1511-12, reviewing both repression and resistance. This presentation will allow for a more informed debate about the question of whether Christopher Columbus and his followers were heroes or villains and whether or not the “discovery” of “America” constituted a genocide.



<https://www.iaismuseum.org/event/the-tainos-of-the-caribbean-in-the-age-of-the-first-european-conquest-online-presentation/>

Suggested [Donation](#) of \$5 upon registration.

Martians, Atlanteans, and Judeans: Pseudo-archaeology and Its Impact on Native American Studies

IAIS's 15th Annual Native American-Archaeology Roundtable

Pseudo-archaeology (also known as alternate, fringe, or cult archaeology) is a study that has drawn in not only professionals, but also the American public. Tying in concepts together such as aliens, giants, and Atlanteans with the most visible archaeological sites around the world, its romantic fantasy holds a wider appeal than the boring truth. Yet often, the ideas behind pseudo-archaeology hold racist and even dangerous ideas. This year's roundtable brings together scholars who study this phenomenon to help explain not only the motivations behind these theories, but also why they are so attractive to us.

IAIS is proud to be hosting this event online! A two-day affair, we will have many discussions about different sites in the Americas, and research being done to uncover them.

Please join us October 30 & 31 for this exciting and illuminating conference. Visit iaismuseum.org for details.

The Pennsylvania Archaeological Council Presents

2020 Archaeology Month Speaker Series

Join us on Wednesdays in October for a virtual speaker series that samples PAC member research from around Pennsylvania.

Presentations are free and will be held on Zoom. Please see the links below to register for each talk. Meeting links will be sent you via e-mail.



October 7 – 6:30 PM

Dugout Canoes in Pennsylvania

Kurt Carr, PHMC

[Register Here for Dugout Canoes](#)



October 14 – 6:30 PM

Identity in the Late Woodland Northeast: Interpreting Communities of Practice from Paste Composition at the Thomas/Luckey and the Losey 3 Sites

Doug Riethmuller, Markosky Engineering Group, Inc.

[Register Here for Identity in the Late Woodland Northeast](#)



October 21 – 6:30 PM

Carroll Cabin: Advocating for the House on a Hill

Kate Peresolak, McCormick Taylor

[Register Here for Carroll Cabin](#)



October 28 – 7:00 PM

Expanding the Narrative by Linking the Past to the Present at Pandenarium

Angie Jaillet-Wentling, PennDOT
Sami Taylor, New South Associates, Inc.

[Register Here for Pandenarium](#)

CURRENT RESEARCH

My Pandemic Project – Growing Old in Wethersfield

By Lee West

For many, the pandemic has sadly brought illness, economic hardship and isolation. For the more fortunate among us, the many hours at home have also brought opportunity. Most archaeologists have been kept away from dig sites and labs. But what if your home is a dig site?

My latest round of archaeological research was inspired by the need for a garden shed. New overhead doors on our century-old garage sparked my wife Carol's idea that perhaps, for the first time in 30 years, we might park a car in the garage. Except for all the stuff in there. Even after a good cleanout, there was still too much stuff. And so, we needed a shed.

Our house, officially the c. 1750 Ebenezer Talcott House in Wethersfield - Site #115-11, is known to have had a barn and probably other outbuildings since the 18th century and maybe earlier, though we had found no archaeological evidence of them. The proposed garden shed could possibly wind up on top of some very interesting structural remains. ASC Board Member Dave Leslie generously offered his expertise along with a drone and ground-penetrating radar to see if there were traces of former structures in the back yard. His radar scan, conducted just before the pandemic lockdown, showed an anomaly at 0.8 to 1.5 meters below the surface near the site of the shed that looked vaguely rectangular and suspiciously like a cellar hole. Now working remotely because of COVID-19, he coached me on the best location for a meter-wide trench to find out what it was.



Aerial photo showing the GPR scan on the left at a depth of 1.5m with the trench location in red, and on the right the garage, with the cars waiting patiently outside.

Thus, with time on my hands and a mystery to be solved, I laid out a 1 x 2-meter grid and began my methodical excavation, hoping for evidence of old barnyard surfaces and footings or even a cellar, with the ultimate intent of

going down to 1.5 m if need be. However, there was limited time if the shed was going to arrive and the long-suffering cars gain their shelter in the garage before snow flew.

As often happens in archaeology, you don't find what you were looking for, but if you are lucky you encounter something just as interesting. And so it was here. Right from the surface there was a light scatter of early 20th century artifacts overlying an equally light scatter of 19th century. These petered out toward the A-B horizon at about 45-50 centimeters below the surface. Below this was sterile silty sand, and so the underlying anomaly appeared to be natural. At about 110 cmbs at the edge of the anomaly, I encountered a very hard dry packed natural clay layer and this is perhaps what the GPR had picked up.

However, there was something else on the way down to the sterile subsoil. A trash pit had been dug starting about 10 cmbs and down into the sterile subsoil to about 50 cm. In it was coal ash and clinker, ferrous remains including some intact tin cans, and many broken and intact bottles and ceramics. Based on the density of the debris, the nesting of broken plates and the absence of soil in the pit, it appeared that the trash had been accumulated over an extended period in some container such as an ash or garbage barrel, and then dumped all at once.



Lower part of trash pit feature



Sampling of the intact bottles from the trash pit feature

I have only just begun the detailed analysis of the contents of the trash pit feature, focusing on the intact glass bottles. The number which have survived intact is quite remarkable. At least two have traces of their original contents and one still has a readable paper label.

The feature contains 37 intact glass bottles as detailed in Table 1. Of these 32 were embossed or labeled revealing their contents. Of the total, 27 (73%) were medicine or health-related, and some of the unmarked bottles in addition may have contained medicine. The types of medicine are detailed in the table and most were for headache and upset stomach. Furthermore, most bottles could be dated based on the manufacturer and type from the late 19th and early 20th century.

My current working *terminus post quem* (earliest possible date) is 1914, but based on a variety of factors, the pit was not likely to be filled much later than 1920. So, this snapshot of life in the Ebenezer Talcott House falls into a fairly narrow window. Based on family research and confirmed by the 1910 and 1920 censuses, only one person lived in the house at that time, Sarah Isabella "Belle" Robbins, who was age 79 in 1920. So, in all probability, this trash represents consumption by one person over a limited span of time. Archaeologists normally study debris of the past. To be able to assign material to one person and date is unusual.

Type	Name on Bottle	n	Notes
1	Bromo-Seltzer, Emerson Drug Co. Baltimore, MD	7	Patent medicine for headache and upset stomach. Emerson Drug Co. began bottling of this product in blue glass about 1888 and continued through the late 20 th century. There are faint circular and oval scars on the bottle bottoms and these appear to be marks from the Owens bottlemaking machine. If that is correct, the largest Bromo-Seltzer bottle maker, Maryland Glass Co., which was owned by Emerson Drug, converted to machine made bottles about 1914, so the terminus post quem of the trash feature would be 1914.
2	Bromated Pepsin Humphreys Chemical Co. New York	4	Estimated date of 1910 and is described as a headache remedy, advertised in American Druggist in 1910 and 1911.
3	Wyeth	2	Wyeth and Brother began production of many different drugs in Philadelphia in 1860 and continued under that name through the 20 th century.
4	Williams & Carleton Druggists, Hartford, Conn	2	This company operated on State St. Hartford from 1890 to 1926 and produced drugs and flavor extracts.
5	Resinol Chemical Co., Balto MD	2	In business making ointments and skin creams from 1895 to 1950, for much of that time producing this style of jar.
6	Keasbey Mattison Co. Ambler PA	2	Chemists noted for bromo-caffeine, a headache cure which was advertised from 1881 to 1937
7	CN Disinfectant, West Disinfecting Co. NY	2	CN was short for Chloro-Naphtholeum, marketed as a home disinfectant, produced 1880s to mid-20 th C.
8	Vaseline, Chesebrough, NY	2	Petroleum jelly, screw-top jars from 20 th C.
9	Larkin & Co., Buffalo	1	Clear glass jar with intact zinc screw lid. Larkin Soap Co. was a mail order firm, 1875-1942. Similar jars on eBay described as containing cold cream. A smear of what could be original contents remains inside.
10	Frostilla, Holmes Fragrant, Elmira, N.Y	1	Frostilla was described as a pink, fragrant lotion marketed to women for relief of chapped hands, produced 1886-1949
11	Burt Olney Canning Co., Oneida, NY	1	This large farm and industrial food processing plant was in business from 1902 until at least 1925 and sold a variety of foods but was best known for ketchup
12	Schenck's, Pulmonic Syrup, Phila.	1	Produced 1836-1948, pulmonic syrup was touted as a remedy for consumption, cough, colds, hoarseness.
13	CH Talcott Co., Hartford, CT	1	Charles Hooker Talcott, 1870-1928, operated a wholesale drug and chemist business at 273-279 Asylum St, Hartford, noted in Geers Business Directory and in ads 1903-1912
14	Pat. 1903	1	Clear glass bottle, with just the patent date.
15	Henry K. Wampole, Philadelphia	1	In business from 1870 to 1957, best known for cod liver oil extracts blended with various flavorings such as cherry extract and alcohol
16	Furniture Polish	1	Traces of paper label, no other details
17	Foss	1	Flavor extract
18	Unmarked-clear	3	One retains blue dye contents
19	Unmarked-amber	1	Unknown contents
20	Unmarked-aqua	1	Unknown contents
		37	

Other than the evidence that she was sickly, what else do we know about Belle? She moved into the house about 1849 with her parents, Henry and Celia (Talcott) Robbins, when she was about 8 years old. The only photo I have found probably including Belle was taken about 1862 when she and her parents are believed to be pictured in front of the house. Henry died about 1870 and her mother Celia in 1886. Belle never married. She may have had occasional boarders including some cousins, though they never show up in census records. Otherwise, she lived alone in the house from 1886 until 1925, when at age 84, she sold the house and went to live with relatives. Belle's solitary life as an elderly woman is certainly a situation that resonates with us today.



Ebenezer Talcott House c.1862, from Stiles History of Ancient Wethersfield

What else do these remains tell us of Belle's lifestyle? There are ceramics which I have not yet evaluated, though at first glance they are consistent with this time period. There are remains of many tin cans, none with identifiable labels, but a few with surviving shapes that we would today associate with ham and evaporated milk.

Also of interest is what is NOT in the trash feature. There are very few food-related bottles, although some broken mason jars were noted. There is one ketchup bottle and several which might have contained flavoring extracts. There are no liquor, wine or beer bottles. Belle Robbins could well have been a teetotaler; during this era the temperance movement and Prohibition were at a height. Of course, some patent medicines contained a considerable amount of alcohol.

There is no dark soil indicative of food scraps or other organic waste, and no bones. The lack of potentially smelly food waste supports my theory that this was an accumulation of non-perishable waste and ashes, perhaps kept in a barrel not too far from the coal stove which was documented to once be in the kitchen.

There was one bone nearby, located in its own feature close to the trash feature, buried in the subsoil with its own stain of darker soil surrounding it. This is a neatly sawn humerus of a cow. Its presence here could well be the work of a family dog. While we have no evidence that Belle Robbins kept a dog, we do know that the next occupant of the house, Frances Welles had a dog.

In a story with strong parallels to Belle Robbins, Frances Welles at the age of about 31 moved into the house when her father bought the place in 1925. When her father died in 1929, she inherited the house and with the exception of a few boarders, she lived alone there until she reached the age of 88, at which time she sold the property just a year before she died.

A photo taken during Frances' occupancy shows a grainy picture of a terrier-like dog labeled Geoff dated 1940. We found further evidence of Geoff in the basement. When we first moved into the house in 1990, we found a 44" x 33" x 20" slatted wood shipping crate, padlocked closed with key missing, and with an enameled steel water dish on a rope still inside. Penciled on the top was "To Miss F. S. Welles, Hartford, CT, My name is Geoff, I am only a dog – please be kind". Geoff was likely shipped to Miss Welles by rail, and one wonders how long a journey it was for him.

I could not bring myself to break-up Geoff's box, and so in true Yankee fashion, we have turned it into a work table and so it remains today, as a reminder of another occupant of this house. Now, when my pandemic project has uncovered a long-buried bone, it's fun to think that this might be another gift from Geoff.

With thanks to David Leslie for his site scanning and expert remote coaching, I have been fortunate to find an opportunity despite COVID-19 to use archaeology to tell an otherwise lost story of the past.



Geoff's shipping crate, still with the water dish

CALENDAR

To help members plan their calendars, we post the dates of meetings of interest in Connecticut and neighboring states, not mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Please contact the editor with any meetings you are aware of which you feel would be of interest to the membership.

November 6-8, 2020, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), [Virtual Meeting](https://cneha.org/conference.htm), <https://cneha.org/conference.htm>!

January 6-9, 2021, Society for Historical Archaeology, [Virtual Conference](#)

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ASC Now Accepts Online Payments! Go to the website at www.ctarchaeology.org

ASC ON-LINE RESOURCES

ASC Website

<https://www.ctarchaeology.org/>

ASC Bulletins & Newsletters

CT Digital Archive, UConn

<https://collections.ctdigitalarchive.org/islandora/object/20002%3AArchSocCT>

2020 DUES NOW PAYABLE

It's time to renew your membership for 2020. Check your mailing label if you are unsure if you are current. (The label may not reflect payments received in the last month.) If it reads 19 or earlier, please fill out the form and mail it back with your check or complete and pay online. Thanks!

I want to apply/renew membership in the Archaeological Society of Connecticut (ASC) to promote archaeological research, conservation and service. Enclosed are my dues for the membership category: (circle one)

<i>Individual</i>	\$25.00
<i>Student*</i>	\$10.00
<i>Institutional</i>	\$40.00
<i>Life</i>	\$300.00

Today's Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Affiliation: _____

(for students)

The newsletter will be sent to you electronically unless you indicate otherwise below:

I wish to receive ASC News by mail instead of electronic delivery

*Student Membership includes electronic newsletters, hard copy bulletins, and for each new member one back issue of the bulletin of your choice subject to availability.

Send payment to Lee West, ASC Membership Chair, 366 Main St., Wethersfield, CT 06109 or online at [ASC website](http://www.ctarchaeology.org/)
Starting in 2020, membership cards will no longer be issued.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT 2020 FALL VIRTUAL MEETINGS

This fall, ASC will not be holding an in-person meeting due to COVID-19. Instead, we will present free virtual talks on current research by Connecticut archaeologists via Zoom. Links will be sent to ASC and FOSA members a few days before each talk. For ASC members, we will send these links to the email addresses used for distribution of this newsletter. If you receive this newsletter only by hard copy, we may not have your email address on file. **Be sure to send your email address ASAP to Lee West at lfwest@sbcglobal.net so that we can send you links to these talks.** We will also post links on the website, but the only reminders for each presentation other than this newsletter will be the emails.

Here is the schedule. Be sure to check the website for possible changes.

7:00 PM, Thursday, October 15, 2020

David Leslie - *Paleoindian Occupations along the Farmington River at the Brian D. Jones Site: Southern New England's Oldest Archaeological Site.*

In the winter of 2019, AHS, Inc., under contract to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, discovered the oldest occupied site in Connecticut and the only site with stratified Paleoindian deposits in New England. The excavations revealed a rich dataset of lithic and botanical artifacts, as well as 27 cultural features, which include hearths and posts and may be indicative of living areas. Lithic raw materials recovered from the site include Normanskill chert, Hardyston jasper, Mount Jasper/Jefferson rhyolite, local chalcedonies and siltstones, high quality quartz, and possible Munsungun chert. Analyses



An artistic reconstruction of life at the Brian D. Jones site by Julie Looman

are ongoing, but suggest highly specialized activity areas within the site in each occupational level, including the production of fluted points and animal and plant processing using the typical Paleoindian toolkit (pièces esquillées, endscrapers, sidescrapers, bifaces, utilized flakes, and graters) and non-typical tools (grinding stones). To date, only two deeply buried Paleoindian sites adjacent to rivers have been discovered in the region, both in Connecticut. This discovery presents an important opportunity for archaeologists to better understand the daily lives of the first people to inhabit Connecticut and better predict the locations of undiscovered archaeological sites from this early time period.

SPEAKER: David Leslie is a Senior Archaeologist at Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc., who received his PhD from the University of Connecticut in 2016. He has over 15 years of geoarchaeological and environmental archaeological experience, collaborating on archaeological projects in the Northeastern United States, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe.

7:00 PM, Wednesday, October 21, 2020st

Paul Wegner and Sara Regensburger - *This Same Sad, Sad Tale of Love: Place Lore and Archaeology at Lovers Leap*



The 1895 iron bridge at Lover's Leap, New Milford, photo by Timothy Stobierski

Place names do more than give a name to a place. Like monuments, they act as markers of the past, intrinsically linked to how we identify with the local landscape, and in many instances are associated with local legends. Often, however, these legends can be disparaging towards certain groups of people- Native Americans in particular. The perpetuation of the Lover's Leap story across the United States is an example of this, romanticizing stereotypes about local indigenous populations. Using Lovers Leap State Park in Connecticut as a case study, we talk about why this legend endures, spreads, and what it means with how we interact with archaeological sites around the country.

SPEAKER: Paul Wegner has been working in the field of archaeology for over 15 years. In recent years he has transitioned from the cultural resource management field to museums, still working primarily with archaeological collections. Currently, Mr. Wegner is the Research and Collections Assistant at the Institute for American Indian Studies located in Washington, CT. His research interests are ceramics, particularly those from the Woodland period, and representations of indigenous people in media, both historically and contemporary. Mr. Wegner holds a BA from Franklin Pierce College, and a MA from the University of Exeter. When not knee deep in ceramics, Paul likes to watch and write about film, and spend time with his wife and young daughter.

7:00 PM, Wednesday, October 28, 2020

William Farley – *Archaeology of the Henry Whitfield House Museum: Continuing on a Half Century of Exploration*

The Henry Whitfield House, built in 1639, is the oldest standing house in Connecticut and among the oldest Euroamerican houses in America. As such, it has attracted archaeologists for at least the last fifty years. The SCSU field school has been excavating at the site for two years. This mixed-media talk will include a short lecture on these recent excavations and the fascinating history of this Connecticut landmark. We'll also have a short digital walkthrough of the Whitfield House property and the areas of archaeological interest, some short interviews, and a live question and answer session with Dr. Farley.



SPEAKER: William Farley is an archaeologist who specializes in the study of Native New England in the colonial period, especially in the 17th century. He is a specialist in archaeobotany, which is the study of the intersection of people and plants. His research has focused on the early colonial interactions of Native Americans and Euroamericans in southern New England, especially in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Dr. Farley is particularly interested in the complex ways that both groups adopted and reimagined new goods and ideas gained through colonial interaction. After receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 2017, Dr. Farley joined the faculty at Southern Connecticut State University where he is currently an Assistant Professor.

7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Laurie Weinstein, *Borderlands and Connections in Western New England in the late 17th through 18th Centuries*

This presentation will focus on the work that Dr. Lavin and I are conducting about western New England peoples. We have been trying to trace tribal nations, communities, people and places, as well as trying to get a handle on the pre epidemic populations and languages of the peoples. We will discuss Native strategies for survival during this crucial time.

SPEAKER: Dr. Laurie Weinstein is a Professor emeritus of Anthropology at Western Connecticut State University where she still teaches classes. She received her Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University. She is the General Editor of *Native Peoples of the Americas* from the University of Arizona Press, a series that covers the western hemisphere. She has also edited or written many books and articles on such diverse topics as New England Indians and Indians of the Southwest to women in the military, including, *The Wampanoag* (Chelsea House Press), *Enduring Traditions, Native Peoples of New England* (Praeger Press), *Native Peoples of the Southwest* (Praeger Press), *Women and the Military in the United States and Canada* (Praeger Press), and *Gender Camouflage* (New York University Press). She is writing a book with Dr. Lucianne Lavin entitled, “Between Two Rivers and Two Wars: Western New England in the 18th Century” for her series

in the University of Arizona Press. She has also published on Middle Encampment, a Revolutionary War site in Redding, CT with the University of Florida Press with Cosimo Sgarlata and Bethany Morrison. She is the grant writer and organizer behind the Jane Goodall Center Permaculture Garden at WCSU. When she is not handling the garden, writing or teaching, she is herding bunnies and cats in her house.

7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Nick Bellantoni and Scott Brady, *Living Their Enemies; Dying Their Guests: Four Revolutionary War Burials from Ridgefield, Connecticut*

Construction activities working to lower the dirt grade under a house basement dating to 1790 uncovered human skeletal remains in Ridgefield, CT. In compliance with state statutes, the state archaeologist was notified to assume the enquiry. Subsequent excavations yielded four skeletons of young, robust adult males, all of which were hastily buried together in a common shallow grave where the bodies are commingled with overlapping arms and legs. The discovered burials are located in the area of the Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield (April 27, 1777). Our working hypothesis is that the burials found under the basement were victims of this historic battle. This presentation will discuss the discovery, excavation and analysis of human skeletal remains and material culture recovered from the burial site and their archaeological and historical implications.



Ridgefield Burials #1 and #2, Drawing by Barbara Calogero

SPEAKERS: Dr. Nicholas F. Bellantoni serves as the emeritus state archaeologist with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at the University of Connecticut. He received his doctorate in anthropology from UConn in 1987 and was shortly thereafter appointed state archaeologist. His duties primarily included the preservation of archaeological sites in the state. He serves as an Adjunct Associate Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at UConn, is currently Interim President of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut and formerly President of the National Association of State Archeologists. His research background includes the analysis of skeletal remains from eastern North America. He has been excavating in Connecticut for almost 40 years.

Scott Brady is President of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.