

A.S.C. NEWS

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Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

January 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January 16, 2021

Dear Members,

This past year has been a trying time for us all, and the Board of Directors hopes that you and your families are safe and well, as the pandemic continues to plague our society. We hope that the new year will bring an end to this pandemic, as many are already starting to receive vaccines.

The ASC elected a new slate of officers during the virtual Fall Meeting, but before I introduce myself and our newly elected Vice President, I would like to take a moment and thank our Interim President, Nick Bellantoni, for his many years of service to the archaeological community. This past year has been an odd one for so many of us, and Nick not only agreed to preside over our society following his (second!) retirement from the OSA, but he helped guide the ASC through what we can all agree was a tumultuous and trying year. In recognition of his years of service to the ASC, the Board of Directors voted unanimously at our last meeting to award him a

lifetime membership, an award that we can all agree is well deserved.

I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself, as the newly elected President of ASC. I am a Senior Archaeologist at the cultural resource management firm, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc., located in Storrs. I have spent the last five years working in this field full-time, following my graduation from the University of Connecticut. Over my last 15 years of work in the state, I have been lucky to collaborate with many of the Board of Directors, OSA, and FOSA on various research and archaeological projects throughout the state. I am looking forward to serving in a new role in the ASC, and continue to be hopeful for the future of our organization. Please also join me in welcoming our newly elected Vice President, Dr. Bill Farley, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). Bill has been an active researcher in Connecticut historical archaeology throughout his graduate career and is actively leading an

exciting research project on the archaeology of the Henry Whitefield House Museum in Guilford with his students from SCSU. We are also lucky that our remaining officers and Directors-at-large have agreed to continue serving in the current roles.

While 2020 was a difficult year for so many of us personally and professionally, I am happy to report that the ASC successfully rose to the challenge. Our virtual lecture series this past fall was a great success. We had an average attendance of over fifty members for each of our five lectures, and I especially appreciated each of the question and answer sessions,

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which allowed for a more intimate discussion of the topics. If you missed any of these lectures, they are now hosted virtually on our website (ctarchaeology.org), and over 430 people have viewed these lectures since they were posted online! These numbers suggest that the virtual format enabled us to reach a much wider audience. Going forward, we plan to continue hosting periodic virtual programs, even when we can once again meet in person.

All members should have a received a complimentary copy of the Binette Site Monograph, by David Hall Thompson, and edited by many of our Board of Directors. Please also keep an eye out for your 2020 issue of the *ASC Bulletin*, which will be arriving soon. If you have not done so already, please consider renewing your ASC membership for 2021, as this will aid us in our commitment to disseminate new local research.

In collaboration with FOSA, we are pleased to announce our Winter Lecture Series, which will include presentations from Krista Dotzel, Zachary Singer, Megan Willison, and Daniel Zoto. Their work showcases many of the exciting avenues for archaeological research in Connecticut and you can find detailed descriptions of their upcoming lectures in this newsletter. The Winter Series will begin on Wednesday, February 17th, and be held weekly, concluding on March 10th. Each lecture will begin at 7 pm, and a question and answer session will follow. As with our fall series, all lectures will be hosted virtually on the ASC website.

Finally, the society would like to congratulate Bill Farley on his award of the inaugural 2020 Brian D. Jones Grant, to radiocarbon date a potential pre-contact Native American feature uncovered at the Henry Whitefield House Museum. The ASC is also pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the 2021 Brian D. Jones Grant, due September 1st of this year. The application form can be found in this newsletter and on our website.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we hope that you will enjoy this newsletter, will be able to attend our FOSA/ASC Winter Lecture Series, and that you are all able to remain healthy and safe throughout 2021. It is our hope that we can meet together as a society at some point during this year.

David Leslie
President

WINTER VIRTUAL SPEAKER SCHEDULE

Following the well-received fall lecture series, this winter FOSA and ASC will co-sponsor virtual talks from new speakers using Zoom. Scott Brady, President of FOSA has lined up a program of four more Connecticut archaeologists to present their latest research.

As we did in the fall, links will be emailed 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 lwest@sbcglobal.net so that we can send you links to

these talks. Or you can check the [website](#) for links.

See the end of this newsletter for abstracts and speaker biographies.

Here is the schedule:

7:00PM, Wednesday, February 17 - *Megan Willison* - **Settlement and Trade in 17th Century Connecticut**

7:00PM, Wednesday, February 24 - *Daniel Zoto* - **Narrow Stemmed Tradition Points and the Woodland Period in Southern New England: The View from Laurel Beach**

7:00PM, Wednesday, March 3 - *Krista Dotzel* - **Plant Microfossils, Domesticates, and Processing Strategies in Southern New England 2500-500 BP**

7:00PM, Wednesday, March 10 - *Zachary Singer* - **The Templeton Paleoindian Site: Research Update on a 12,000-Year-Old Site in Western Connecticut**

IMPORTANT! The FOSA Annual Meeting will follow Zac's talk on March 10.

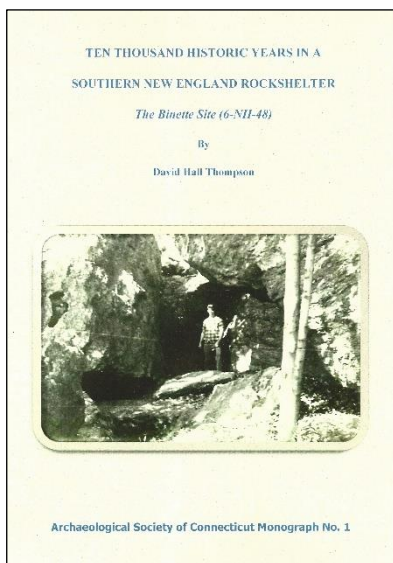
See Pages 26-27 for Details!

BINETTE MONOGRAPH PUBLISHED

ASC members of record in 2020 should have received their copy by now of our very first monograph publication, *Ten Thousand Historic Years in a Southern New England Rockshelter – The Binette Site (6-NH-48)* by David Hall

Thompson. This report represents many years of work by former ASC President Dave Thompson and many others, and it was nearing completion when he passed away in 2015. Your Board decided to honor Dave by shepherding his manuscript through to publication, led by Lucianne Lavin with contributions by Nick Bellantoni, Zach Singer, Cos Sgarlata, Sarah Sportman, Ernie Wiegand, and others. The 204-page monograph is printed in color and is supplemented by an artifact catalog on CD.

There are only a few copies remaining after distribution to 2020 members, and these will be available for sale for \$30 while the supply lasts. Contact Lee West, lfwest@sbcglobal.net if you are interested. We also plan to offer digital copies for sale at a lower price – watch the website for details.



Applications Now Being Accepted for the Brian D. Jones Award

To increase the application window for the Brian D. Jones award, (a grant for archaeological

research which was formerly known as the Lyent Russell Award), the ASC Board has decided to open to applications for this award earlier this year than in the past. A copy of the application has been included with the distribution of this newsletter and has been posted on the website. As in the past, the deadline for this year's grant is September 1.

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY

Greetings ASC Members and Happy New Year!

The fall flew by and it is hard to believe that we are already almost into February! This fall and winter, OSA's fieldwork efforts focused on two projects: our ongoing excavations at the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury, and a pilot project at the Cesar and Sim Peters house site in Hebron. We finished up at the Prudence Crandall Museum and then did some limited testing at the Peters house in December. A brief summary of the results of the excavations at the Crandall House are presented in another section of the newsletter in a short article.

The Peters Home Site, identified in Hebron by local historians through map and land records research, is a domestic site associated with an African-American family who were freed from captivity by the General Assembly in 1789. Cesar and his first wife, Louis, are best known in Connecticut for their attempted abduction by the agent of a South Carolina slave-trader and subsequent rescue by members of the Hebron community in 1787.

Cesar and Louis were enslaved by the Rev. Samuel Peters, an Anglican clergyman and loyalist. Rev. Peters fled Connecticut for England in 1774, leaving behind his property, including Cesar's and Louis's family. To settle debts, the captive Peters family was sold to a man in South Carolina, but by that time, they were well known in the community, and local people in Hebron concocted a story about unpaid debts to keep the Peters family in Connecticut. It is an interesting tale, but one that paints them in a rather passive light. With the help of FOSA and John Baron, a historian from Hebron, OSA is looking to broaden the story of the Peters family to include their years as free members of the Hebron community.

Following their emancipation, the Peters family moved first to Colchester, then Tolland, where Louis died in 1793. Cesar soon remarried a woman named Sim. Land records indicate that in 1806, Cesar purchased a parcel of land in Hebron with an existing house and barn. He and Sim lived in the house until their respective deaths in 1814 and 1815. In 1815, the property was sold by one of the Peters children and passed out of the family. The Peters Home Site offers the opportunity to learn about the daily lives of a free African American family in early 19th-century Connecticut. Although the Peters only occupied the site for about a decade, the initial archaeological testing at the site suggests that there is excellent potential for identifying early 19th-century deposits and learning more about the Peters family. We recovered numerous household artifacts, including ceramics, glass, bone, nails, and

kaolin pipe fragments consistent with a late 18th to 19th-century occupation. There is also an exterior door handle that dates to the first quarter of the 19th century, recovered by the property owner while she was gardening near the site. A test pit excavated adjacent to the cellar hole suggests there may have been portion of the house that was built on the ground, with no cellar. That test pit yielded large quantities of burned nails and melted glass, suggesting the house likely burned down. There is no mention of buildings on the property in the land records after 1876, so it probably burned in the late 19th-century. OSA plans to do more work at the site this spring, including mapping the existing cellar hole and excavating a few additional test pits or units. We are hoping that this evolves into a long-term research project involving FOSA, students, Peters family descendants, and the local community.

Now that the field season has settled down, I'm working in the lab to get a handle on the past work done at the Hollister Site in Glastonbury, in the hopes of reviving the fieldwork there this summer. I'm also continuing to work with the staff of the Connecticut Museum of Natural History (CSMNH) on our new database, which will help us to better organize all of the archaeological and anthropological collections under the care of OSA and the Museum at UConn, and eventually enable researchers and the interested public to access information about the collections online.

OSA's graduate research assistant, Brianna Rae, has finished inventorying the material from last year's fieldwork and will begin to work on inventorying some of the older collections at OSA. We plan to start with some of the collections from past work carried out by the Greater New Haven Archaeological Society (GNHAS). The long-term goal is to get the old collections inventoried so they can be integrated into the new database.

I hope you will join us for the next episode of Archaeology in Connecticut on February 2, at 5pm on iCRV radio. Scotty Brady and I will be speaking with Joanie DiMartino, the director of the Prudence Crandall Museum about the history of the site, the archaeology that has been carried out there since the 1970s, and the current renovations and future plans for the museum. In other recent episodes we spoke with Dr. Gary Aronsen about analyses of the New Haven 4 burials (January) and Dr. Bill Farley and Michael McBride about the history and archaeology of the Henry Whitfield House (December). If you missed any past episodes you can listen from iCRV's website (<https://www.icrvradio.com/programs/program/285>) or find them archived on the FOSA website (https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.htm).

As I am also the editor of the *ASC Bulletin*, I'd like to let you know that the 2020 issue will be arriving soon. The new issue contains six articles, including papers on Woodland period

ceramics from Long Island, a new analysis of the 1679 "Genealogy of Uncas" document, ethnohistorical research about Lenopi students at Wheelock's "Indian School," preliminary analyses of faunal remains and phytoliths from the Hollister Site, and archaeological work at the Henry Whitfield House in Guilford.

Best wishes to you all for a healthy and happy New Year!

Sarah Sportman
State Archaeologist

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



American
Institute of
Archaeology

Cents in the City: New Coin Finds from a Hellenistic House in Morgantina, Sicily, D. Alex Walthall, Virtual Event
March 23, 2021, time TBA

Contact: Vincent Tomasso
Vincent.tomasso@trincoll.edu

Feasts of Silver in the Persian Empire, Susanne Ebbinghaus, Virtual Event
March 31, 2021, 5:30PM

Contact: Jessica Lamont
jessica.lamont@yale.edu



THE INSTITUTE FOR
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Sunday Fun Day Craft Workshops:

Beading, January 24 @ 12:00 pm-4:00 pm

For thousands of years, many Native peoples decorated clothing and items with materials found in nature, such as shell, stones, seeds and porcupine quills. In more recent centuries, multi-colored glass beads have become a favorite alternative. This week's workshop will focus on beading basics. Join IAIS Educator Susan Scherf for an introduction into beading techniques and a chance to get started on your very own beading project



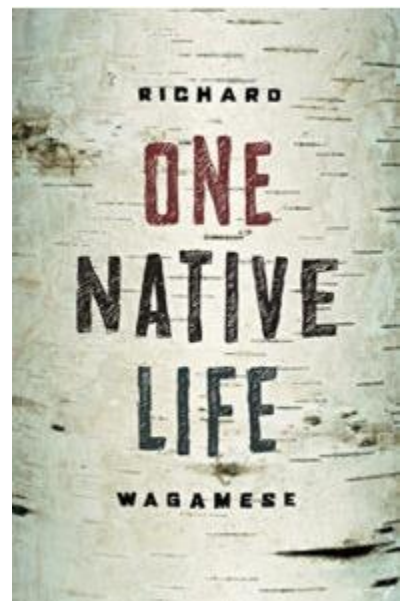
Pre-registration is required. Please email events@iaismuseum.org or call (860) 868-0518 to reserve a space. Cost of participation, including materials: Museum admission plus \$10 per person. Museum admission is \$10 for Adults, \$8 for Seniors, \$6 for children and Free for Members.

As They Speak: Native Voices in Today's Literature – Virtual Book Club

January Title: One Native Life by Richard Wagamese

Wednesday, January 27, 7:00pm

Looking to expand your reading list and discuss a variety of issues and topics important to Native people? If so, please join our new digital book club, As They Speak: Native Voices in Today's Literature. Based on a variety of topics and featuring a range of genres, all of the books we will be reading have been written by contemporary Native authors. This month, we will be reading and discussing One Native Life by Richard Wagamese. This memoir is a look back at the road that Wagamese has traveled in reclaiming his identity as a human being, a man, and an Ojibway. Join the virtual conversation hosted by IAIS Staff on ZOOM.



In order to have a more intimate conversation, space is limited. Please email events@iaismuseum.org to receive the registration link. This is a FREE event, but donations are appreciated.

CURRENT RESEARCH

An Archaeological Investigation at the Prudence Crandall House (22-16) in Canterbury

Sarah P. Sportman
Office of State Archaeology

This fall, the Office of State Archaeology (OSA), with the assistance of volunteers from FOSA, and UCONN graduate student Krista Dotzel, completed a small archaeological excavation at the Prudence Crandall Museum in Canterbury (Site 22-16). We excavated a 9m² area in the yard south of the house in the location of a planned drainage feature that will be installed as part of ongoing renovations (Photograph 1). This work represents the fourth archaeological investigation at the museum. This article provides a brief summary of the history of the property, past excavations, and presents the preliminary results of the current project. To date, the artifacts have not yet been washed or inventoried, so the photographs included here are from the field and do not include scales.



Photograph 1: The Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury, Connecticut, view southwest from Route 169.

A Brief History of the Museum Property

The Prudence Crandall Museum is located on Route 169 in Canterbury. The Museum is a National Historic Landmark and a State Archaeological Preserve. The current house on the property was built ca. 1805 by Luther Paine, but the museum's period of significance relates to the occupancy of Prudence Crandall, a Quaker teacher who ran a school at the house for "young ladies and little misses of color" between 1832 and 1834. Crandall's students came from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and New York, and her school was the first academy for young African-American women in New England (Kozlowski and Poirier 1997). The school faced immediate backlash, and Andrew Judson, a politician from Canterbury, pushed legislation through the Connecticut State Assembly in an attempt to destroy the school. This legislation, known as the "Black Law," was passed in May of 1833 and made it illegal to educate African-American students from out of state. That summer, Crandall was arrested (although the

charges were later dismissed) and over the next several months, local vigilantes terrorized Prudence Crandall and her students with a series of violent attacks. They tried to set fire to the house, fouled the well with horse manure, and attacked the house at night with rocks and tools, breaking over 90 window panes. Although she had the support of prominent abolitionists, the physical threat to Crandall and her students was dire. Finally, in September of 1834, Crandall closed the school and she and her new husband, Calvin Philleo, sold the house. They left Connecticut, and eventually moved out west. The property changed hands several times between 1834 and 1969, when the last private owners of the structure sold it to the state of Connecticut. The house opened as a museum in 1984, a tribute to Connecticut's State Female Hero and brave young women who risked their lives to attend the school.

While the property is best known for its association with Prudence Crandall's school, it had a long occupation history prior to her arrival in the 1830s. Canterbury land records indicate that the first house on the property predates 1754, when Gideon Cobb obtained 1 1/3 acres from his wife's father and grandfather (John Dyer and William Fitch). The deed indicates that at this time, there was already a house on the property "where said Cobb now lives" (CLR 6:169-170). In 1759 Cobb transferred the property to Aaron Cleveland, and deed indicates there was a "dwelling house, shop, and colehouse" (CLR 6:368). During the second half of the 18th century, the property changed hands several times, until it was purchased by Luther Paine around 1796 (CLD 13:15-17). Paine owned the property for more than 30 years and built the existing house.

Previous Archaeological Investigations

The first archaeological investigations on the Prudence Crandall property were carried out in the late 1970s and early 1980s as the state renovated the property for the new museum. Dave Poirier, Robert Gradie, and a number of students carried out extensive excavations around the house foundations, in the location of the existing access ramp, and in the cellar. The excavations around the foundation resulted in the recovery of domestic and architectural materials, including ceramics, glass, slate pencil fragments, machine-cut nails, and large quantities of window glass. The artifacts were assumed to represent domestic refuse, but the quantities of recovered window glass were unusually high and were interpreted as the result of the 1834 attack that smashed 90 window panes at the school. Identified features included an ash pit (found under one of the windows) and a concentration of rubble and liquor bottle fragments found under the north stairs that appear to have been placed there as a footing when the stairs were built. A series of large drip-stones laid against the exterior cellar walls to facilitate drainage were also identified. In the cellar, an excavation unit near the base of the cellar fireplace contained intact, old flooring timbers, a layer of gray clay, and ceramics and animal bone, suggesting the cellar fireplace was used for cooking in the early 19th century (Poirier et al 1981). Finally, excavation of a large trench in the access ramp area in the back yard revealed a deep midden feature that was interpreted as a possible privy. The feature contained large quantities of ceramics, bottle glass, table glass, and kaolin pipe stems, but almost no food remains or architectural materials. Analysis of the midden assemblage by Ross Harper (2008) indicates that it was dominated by large ceramic fragments dating to the late 18th- and early 19th-century. He interpreted the assemblage as an intentional deposit, laid down to facilitate percolation or leaching in the privy, and determined that most of the material likely dates to Luther Paine's occupation of the house.

In 1985 Robert Gradie conducted a resistivity survey of the south yard along the access ramp. In a letter to the Connecticut Historical Commission, he outlined the results, which indicated a regular pattern of areas high resistance, consistent with packed gravel (Gradie 1985). He interpreted these areas as possible garden paths, although the results were never "ground-truthed" through archaeological investigation.

Finally, in 2014, with AHS, Inc., I ran a small project near the rear door of the house for installation of a dry well. We excavated five test pits and a 1m-x-1m excavation unit. One test pit, which was expanded into the one-meter unit, contained historic ceramics, window and vessel glass, personal items, architectural materials, coal, and metal fragments, and a mean ceramic date (MCD) of 1833.7. This unit contained a sizeable assemblage of slate board (n=32) and pencil (n=8) fragments, a brass thimble, two buttons, and a kaolin pipe stem fragment. No slate board or slate pencil fragments were recovered from any of the other test pits in this part of the yard, suggesting that the fill from the unit contained materials from Prudence Crandall's School. Review of old photographs showed that this area had actually been filled in since the 1970s, but it is unknown where fill material originated. The concentration of 19th-century materials in the fill suggests it came from the property; it may have come from the 100-foot-long by

8-foot-wide trench that was created when the access ramp was built in 1981. The excavations also revealed a stone paving or drip stones next to the cellar wall and a 20th-century well (Sportman 2014).

2020 Archaeological Investigation

With the help of volunteers from FOSA, OSA excavated a 9m² block south of the existing house between October and December (Photograph 2). We also conducted a ground-penetrating radar survey of the south and rear yards. The GPR indicated the presence of complex historic stratigraphic sequences, and while a number of possible archaeological features were identified in the survey, none were present in the area where we excavated.



Photograph 2: OSA/FOSA 9m² excavation block in the side yard of the Crandall house, view south.

In general, the soils in the excavation block were very gravelly, with large quantities of angular rocks. The presence of these soils sheds some doubt on Gradie's (1985) interpretation of the resistivity data. The machine may have simply picked up the gravelly soils rather than the remains of garden paths. The yard of the house has been extensively landscaped over the years and that was reflected in the upper soil layers, where we found a mix of 18th-20th century artifacts in the topsoil/upper fill, including whiteware, pearlware, creamware, redware, machine-cut and wire nails, window and bottle glass, coal, and other materials. We also identified a 20th-century planting feature in the northwest corner of the block, and a trench containing an old electrical wire that extended north-south through the block to a depth of 30cm. The top of the trench appeared to start at about 10cmbs (centimeters below surface), suggesting the topsoil layer had been added or disturbed in this part of the yard in the years since the wire was installed. On the west wall of the block, near the old access ramp, we found a large feature that extended from about 10 to 60 cmbs. This feature appeared to be a large post hole that was filled with cobbles and dark, organic soil, brick

fragments, and small fragments of ceramics and glass. The rounded cobbles were notably different from the angular rocks and gravels encountered throughout most of the excavation block.

Below the topsoil/Fill 1 stratum, we designated a Fill 2 layer that was found throughout much of the block. Fill 2 consisted of dark brown sandy loam and extended from about 10-20 cmbs. In the eastern and central part of the excavation, this soil layer produced a moderate quantity of mostly 19th-century artifacts, including pearlware. The strata below this layer varied across the block. There were several layers of fill below Fill 2 in the eastern part of the block, including a thin layer of dark yellowish brown fine silty sandy with gravel, and a lens of what appeared to be mixed B and C horizon soils. The latter materials appear to have been excavated from another location on site (perhaps the existing house cellar). Below this layer, extending to a depth of about 50-60cmbs was a layer of reddish (strong brown) soil with gravel and angular rocks that we labeled Fill 3. In the eastern part of the block this stratum sat atop what appeared to be bedrock. Moving west through the block, however, this soil was encountered a much shallower depth, directly below Fill 2. Fill 3 contained a moderate density of cultural materials including whiteware, pearlware, creamware, redware, window and bottle glass, nails, and several slate pencil fragments. The pencils may have been associated with Prudence Crandall's school or they may have been used by the children of later occupants of the house.



Photograph 3: 18th-century artifacts from the ashy soil layer in the western part of the excavation block. A: red earthenware, hand wrought nails, window glass, bottle glass, and kaolin pipe fragments. B and C: Whieldon ware tortoise shell pattern ceramic sherds. D: Large kaolin pipe stem fragment and sherd of debased scratch blue English White salt-glazed stone ware.

In the southwest portion of the block, reddish Fill 3 soil sat atop an irregular deposit of grayish brown silty soil with ash and charcoal flecks throughout. The ashy gray soil was encountered at about 30cmbs below surface in the western corner of the block, but dipped down to the east, petering out at about 60-70cmbs in the middle of block atop the bedrock. The ashy layer was rich in artifacts, most of which date to the 18th century (Photograph 3). The recovered materials included English white salt-glazed stoneware (c. 1720-1770) and debased scratch blue stone ware (c. 1760-1795), Whieldon ware (c. 1740-1775), creamware (1762-1820), hand-wrought nails, glass, an English half penny from 1749, and an exceptionally large number of kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments; over 80 stem and bowl fragments were recovered from this stratum in one 1m-x-1m unit. Many of the ceramic sherds recovered from the ashy layer appeared to have been burnt. This soil may represent a fire-place cleaning episode or the result of a dismantled chimney, perhaps from the demolition of the 18th-century house that stood on the property before Luther Paine built the existing structure.

All of the materials from the excavation are now back in the lab, ready to wash and analyze. When that work is completed, OSA will submit a report outlining the results of the archaeological work to the Prudence Crandall Museum and to SHPO to aid in their understanding of the property and future planning.

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A Possible Paleoindian Encampment along the Farmington River in Avon, Connecticut

David E. Leslie (AHS, Inc.), William B. Ouimet (UConn Geosciences),
and Sarah P. Sportman (OSA)

Introduction

The Farmington River Valley has long been associated with Paleoindian activity by archaeologists in Connecticut. To date, five Paleoindian findspots (isolated projectile points) and one site have been identified in the valley, along with one Pleistocene paleontological discovery. Here, we announce a second (potential) Paleoindian site (as part of a multicomponent site), based on preliminary archaeological excavations and geomorphological work (the study of landforms, processes, and sediments on the earth's surface) (Figure 1). Recent work in the Farmington River Valley provides mounting evidence that this geographic area was either particularly important for Paleoindians, or particularly conducive to preservation of Pleistocene sites, or both.

Background

The earliest evidence of late Pleistocene activity comes not from archaeology in the valley, but the paleontological record, which includes the Pope Mastodon that was unearthed in 1913 on the Hill-Stead estate in Farmington. The mastodon was recently radiocarbon dated to 12,430 ± 40 (uncalibrated years before present [BP]), which is calibrated (using InterCal20) to 14,903 to 14,292 years BP (Boulanger and

Jones 2015). While the calibrated age range of the mastodon lies outside the currently known range for human settlement in New England (see Lothrop et al. 2016 for a detailed discussion), it provides tantalizing evidence of Pleistocene environments in the Farmington River that would have been hospitable to humans.

In the 1960s, archaeological excavations at the Lewis-Walpole Site in Farmington uncovered evidence of primarily Middle Archaic occupations, although many other time periods were represented as well (Starbuck 1980). The initial publication of the excavations by Wilcox (1967) mentions the recovery of a partially fluted point. While the preliminary report provides no diagram of the point, and Starbuck later focused his efforts on untangling the Middle Archaic occupation, this represents the earliest published reference to Paleoindian activity in the Farmington River Valley.

The latter part of the twentieth century witnessed an explosion of cultural resource management (CRM) archaeology in Connecticut, as well as much of the country. Countless town-wide surveys and local and regional development archaeological surveys were conducted during this time period in the Farmington River Valley. These surveys were made possible primarily by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which mandated archaeological surveys of projects with federal involvement. In the 1970s, Fred Warner founded the first CRM firm in the state, The Connecticut Archaeological Survey, through which he and his team conducted many archaeological surveys across the region. He also conducted a statewide inventory of the state's archaeological sites (through a grant from the Department of the Interior), which included inventorying previous archaeological surveys and interviewing local collectors about their findspots. One of these findspots, found by a collector and reported to Warner, is a fluted projectile point recovered at the (now) Blue Fox Run golf course in Avon, adjacent to the Farmington River (Site 4-1).

Other important archaeological work was carried out in the valley by Kenneth Feder, who initiated the Farmington River Archaeology Project, a long-term research project that has resulted in the discovery of more than 250 archaeological sites in the valley. Still more important work has been conducted in the region by Marc Banks, who along with Warner and Feder, through CRM and research-based archaeology, uncovered archaeological evidence from most archaeological time periods in the Farmington River Valley, although Paleoindian sites were notably absent. Bellantoni (1995) in his survey of fluted point finds across the state, reported three additional Paleoindian findspots, each located adjacent to or very near the Farmington River, in East Granby, New Hartford, and Simsbury. Bouchard (2014) updated this inventory for the state of Connecticut, but no new sites were identified along the Farmington River.

In the winter of 2019, as part of a Connecticut Department of Transportation Project, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc., uncovered the Brian D. Jones Site (4-10B), a deeply buried Paleoindian site directly adjacent to the Farmington River in Avon. Excavations at this site documented the earliest evidence for human occupation in southern New England ($10,520 \pm 30$ uncalibrated BP; calibrated BP 12,665 – 12,475), with repeated Paleoindian occupations present (Leslie et al. 2020). Analysis of this site is ongoing, but the site discovery represents a watershed moment in Paleoindian archaeology in the region; following the Templeton Site in Washington, the Jones Site marked the second deeply buried Paleoindian site found adjacent to a river in Southern New England. The identification of these sites suggest that other deeply buried sites likely await discovery.

Following the discovery and publication of the Brian D. Jones Site, we were approached by a landowner in Avon, who had found a projectile point artifact many years ago while working in her garden. This projectile point is a thin, parallel-sided lanceolate blade, with clear collateral pressure flaking, made from Normanskill chert (from the Hudson River Valley, New York) (Figure 2). It is unfluted, although the base is missing and the tip is broken (possibly through impact damage). It is remarkably well made, and the craftsmanship is consistent with Paleoindian stone tool production. With the landowner's permission, OSA, members of ASC and FOSA, and UConn Geosciences began to investigate the landforms at the site for additional evidence of Paleoindian activity in the spring of 2020.

Results

After speaking with the landowner in detail about the projectile point, we determined that it most likely was recovered from cellar ejecta feathered across the lawn (for landscaping) when her house was

constructed in the 1970s. The point was found in the upper five to ten centimeters of the topsoil, as she was conducting small scale planting and landscaping. A series of 15 judgmental shovel test pits (STPs) were placed throughout the property to maximize both the documentation of soils across the property and the recovery of artifacts (Figure 3). The house is located on a river terrace composed of glacio-fluvial sediments. This river terrace is elevated above the current Farmington River and is situated between the existing channel to the south and a potential ancient, abandoned channel of the river to the north (Figure 4). The age of the wetland ecosystem that currently exists within the abandoned channel is unknown. The incision and river reorganization responsible for abandonment occurred either in late-Pleistocene time, or sometime in the Holocene. We documented intact upland soils in most of the STPs (including a plowzone [A_P], subsoil [B₁ and B₂], and glacial [C] soil horizons), with the exception of two STPs near the house (J7 and J8), which contained fill comprised of cellar ejecta and intact soils sequences beneath the fill layers. The soil profile of J8 is particularly important because it was located adjacent to the lanceolate projectile point findspot and indicates that the point most likely came from the cellar of the existing house.

A total of 119 artifacts were recovered in 13 of the 15 STPs, including 106 lithic artifacts, one historic ceramic sherd (whiteware), and 12 charcoal fragments, and the site was designated Site 4-15. Raw materials recovered from the site are dominated by quartz (n=76; 72%), although chert (n=11; 10%), accounts for a significant percentage. The remaining 18% of the assemblage is made up of a diverse range of raw materials, including argillite, basalt, granite (groundstone), hornfels (from East Granby), Hardyston jasper (from Pennsylvania), quartzite, rhyolite, sandstone, and slate. This wide range of exotic raw materials may indicate multiple occupations at the site. The jasper is particularly important, as it is most commonly found at Paleoindian, Terminal Archaic, and Middle Woodland sites in Connecticut. The majority of the artifacts were recovered from subsoil contexts (n=52; 49%), with a significant minority from the plowzone (n=36; 34%) and surface (n=9; 8%); six artifacts were recovered from the interface between the plowzone and the subsoil and one was recovered from cellar ejecta fill. All of the charred botanicals were recovered from the subsoil and the whiteware sherd from the plowzone.

Preliminary analysis of the lithic artifacts indicates that the site (4-15) is a multi-component archaeological site. A Brewerton Eared Triangle projectile point made from hornfels was recovered from J1, indicating at least a Laurentian (Late Archaic) occupation of the site (Figure 5). While we were investigating the site, the landowner showed us a groundstone granite celt that her abutting neighbor found, indicating a second occupation that most likely dates to the Terminal Archaic or Woodland period. Similar to this celt, we recovered a large bifacially worked basalt blank in the plowzone of J4, probably roughed out for woodworking, but never formally finished (Figure 5). The chert lithic assemblage seems focused on micro-reduction and pressure flaking of formal tools, with three microflakes, three bifacial retouch flakes, and two biface thinning flakes among the diagnostic debitage recovered. This type of expert flaking with chert is generally confined to the Paleoindian and Middle Woodland archaeological time periods. The single jasper artifact is an exhausted core, and it is reddened, indicating possible heat treatment of the artifact.

Finally, the quartz assemblage seems to be focused on two main goals, which may have occurred in separate occupations: biface production and manufacture, as well as flake and core technology or producing flakes for expedient tool use. The biface production is evident from three biface thinning flakes, as well as 26 bifacial retouch flakes; no formal bifacial tools were recovered. Two quartz cores were also recovered, one of which is a centripetal or prepared core (useful for preparing flake blanks, see Figure 5), as well as five primary reduction flakes, one core rejuvenation flake, one utilized flake, and 20 nondescript flakes. A quartz micro-core, possibly indicative of an Early Archaic Gulf of Maine Archaic Tradition (GMAT) occupation at the site, was also recovered in the subsoil of J15, directly adjacent to the existing wetland that fills the abandoned channel of the Farmington River (Figure 5). The juxtaposition of the flake and core technology and the biface-focused technology of quartz teamed with the possibility of a GMAT artifact is jarring. Most Late Archaic quartz industries are singly focused on producing bifaces (narrow stem projectile points) and not on other types of reduction, while GMAT occupations are notoriously biface-free assemblages, focused instead on informal flake and core technology (Forrest 1999; Jones and Leslie 2018).

These two separate reduction strategies likely indicate an Early Archaic occupation and a younger, possibly Late Archaic, occupation.

With these multiple time periods possibly represented at the site, Paleoindian, Early Archaic, Late Archaic (Laurentian), and as yet indeterminate other time periods, we set out to better understand the geomorphology of the site. This is particularly interesting to us, because the uplands soil setting is so different from the setting of the recently discovered Brian D. Jones Site, and yet both are located very near to the Farmington River. To further investigate the landforms, sediments, and incision history at the site, we collected four soil-sediment cores adjacent to the existing Farmington River and within the abandoned channel (named ANR1, ANR2, etc.) (Figure 6). To recover these cores, we employed a method known as vibracoring. We used an electric or gas-powered vibrating head (from a concrete mixer) to vibrate and drive a core barrel into surface soil and sediments beneath. This method is generally used in underwater or saturated settings such as wetlands, swamps, and marshes but can also be used terrestrially, after manually saturating the core collection area. Vibracoring reduces frictional and compressive disturbances to sediments and provides continuous sample recovery of the stratigraphy at the site. This method allowed us to collect the cores with a small group of people (four), providing a low-tech but high reward method for describing the soil and sediment sequences at the site. We also conducted seven transect Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys of these landforms to determine if we could isolate and identify the soil and sediment sequences that typify the Pleistocene and Holocene deposits near the site (Figure 6).

Analysis of the cores and GPR at the site is ongoing, but preliminarily indicates that the wetland does indeed lie within an abandoned channel of the Farmington River. Deep wetland soil sequences were noted in ANR3 and ANR4, underlain by sand and gravels deposits clearly indicative of a river environment (Figure 7). The GPR transect line that overlaps with ANR 4 (Figure 7) also displays the deep stratigraphy at the site. We are currently working to temporally constrain the vibracore sediments with radiocarbon dating, so we can better understand the sequence of the Farmington River abandonment in this channel, and the later succession of the wetland. The timing of the wetland is particularly important to the potential GMAT and Paleoindian occupations of the site; the wetland was no doubt important for later occupations as well, but it would have been well established by the Late Archaic, and its association with the later components is not in doubt.

Conclusions

Preliminary archaeological and geomorphological investigations along this section of the Farmington River provide evidence of a multi-component archaeological site, situated between the active Farmington River and a wetland within the confines of an ancient, abandoned channel of the river. Archaeological evidence to date is limited to a series of judgmental STPs and surface artifacts, but so far has been very illuminating, indicating several potential occupations of the site, including Paleoindian, Early Archaic, Laurentian, and a nondescript (as yet) later occupation. Geomorphological investigations support the interpretation of the relict feature as an abandoned channel of the Farmington River, and suggest that the wetland was likely established immediately following the abandonment of this channel. GPR data similarly suggest that the landform preserves a complicated stratigraphic sequence of these events, (older to younger: glacial sediments, active river channel, wetland succession), providing possible locations for future archaeological testing. Radiocarbon dating of the vibracores may also help to constrain the sequence of Pleistocene and Holocene archaeological occupations as well as changes in sedimentary regimes. Our work at the site is ongoing, and we hope to open up larger-scale excavations at the site to better understand Pleistocene and Holocene occupations in this area and situate them within the broader regional context of the Farmington River Valley.

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Figure 1: Location of Pleistocene sites found along the Farmington River to date. From left to right, along the course of the Farmington River, untyped point mentioned in Bellantoni (1995), Site 4-15 (with the biface and a photograph of vibracoring), the Lewis-Walpole Site, Pope Mastodon, Brian D. Jones Site (with a photograph of a suite of tools), Site 4-1 (with a photograph of the point), and two untyped points mentioned in Bellantoni (1995).



Figure 2: Large parallel sided, collaterally flaked Normanskill chert lanceolate biface with broken tip and missing base with obverse side shown as well. The left image of the biface indicates possible impact fractures, while the right suggests that the tip was broken through a hinging motion.

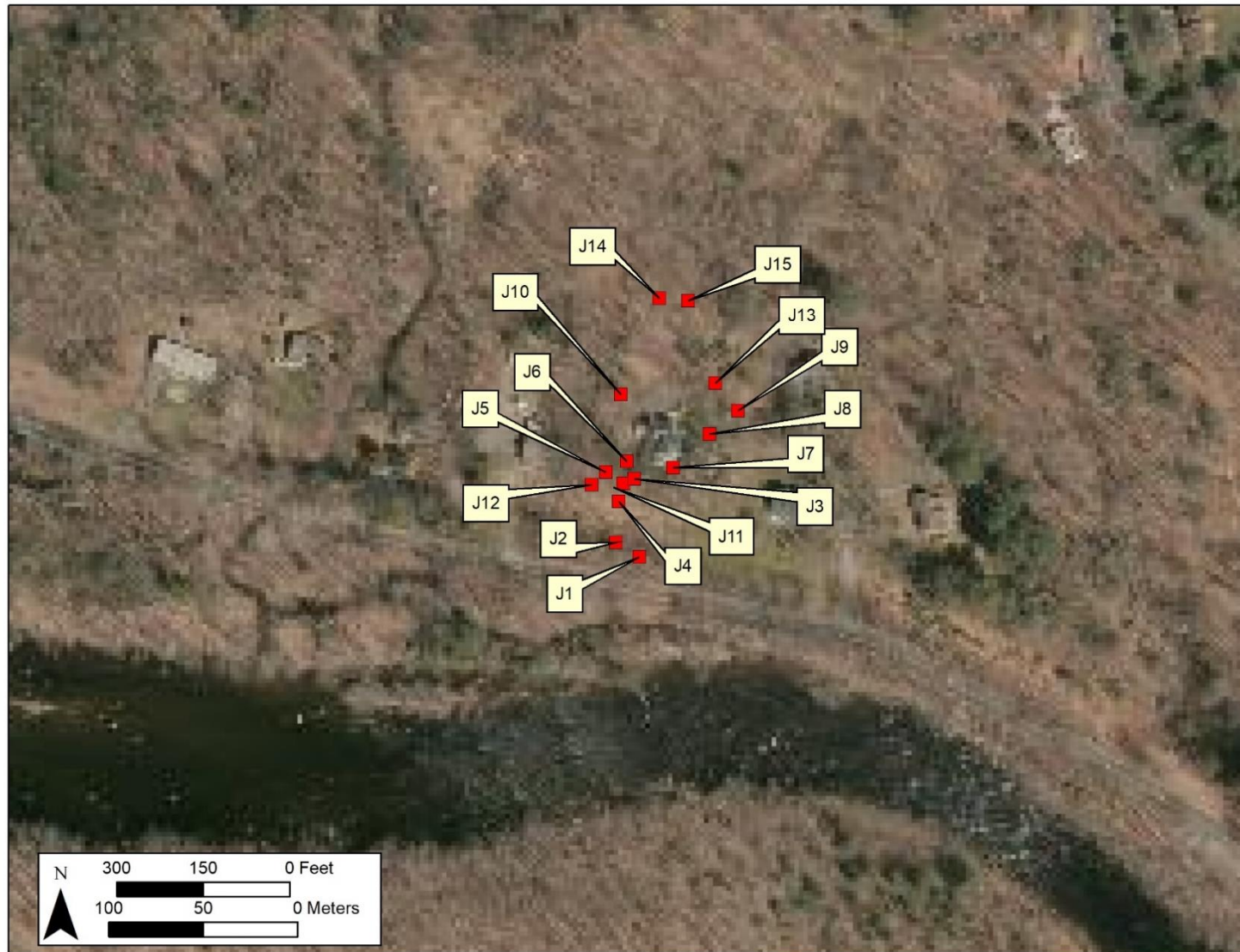


Figure 3: Locations of initial archaeological testing of Site 4-15, shown on satellite imagery. All STPs contained cultural materials, except for J7 and J14.

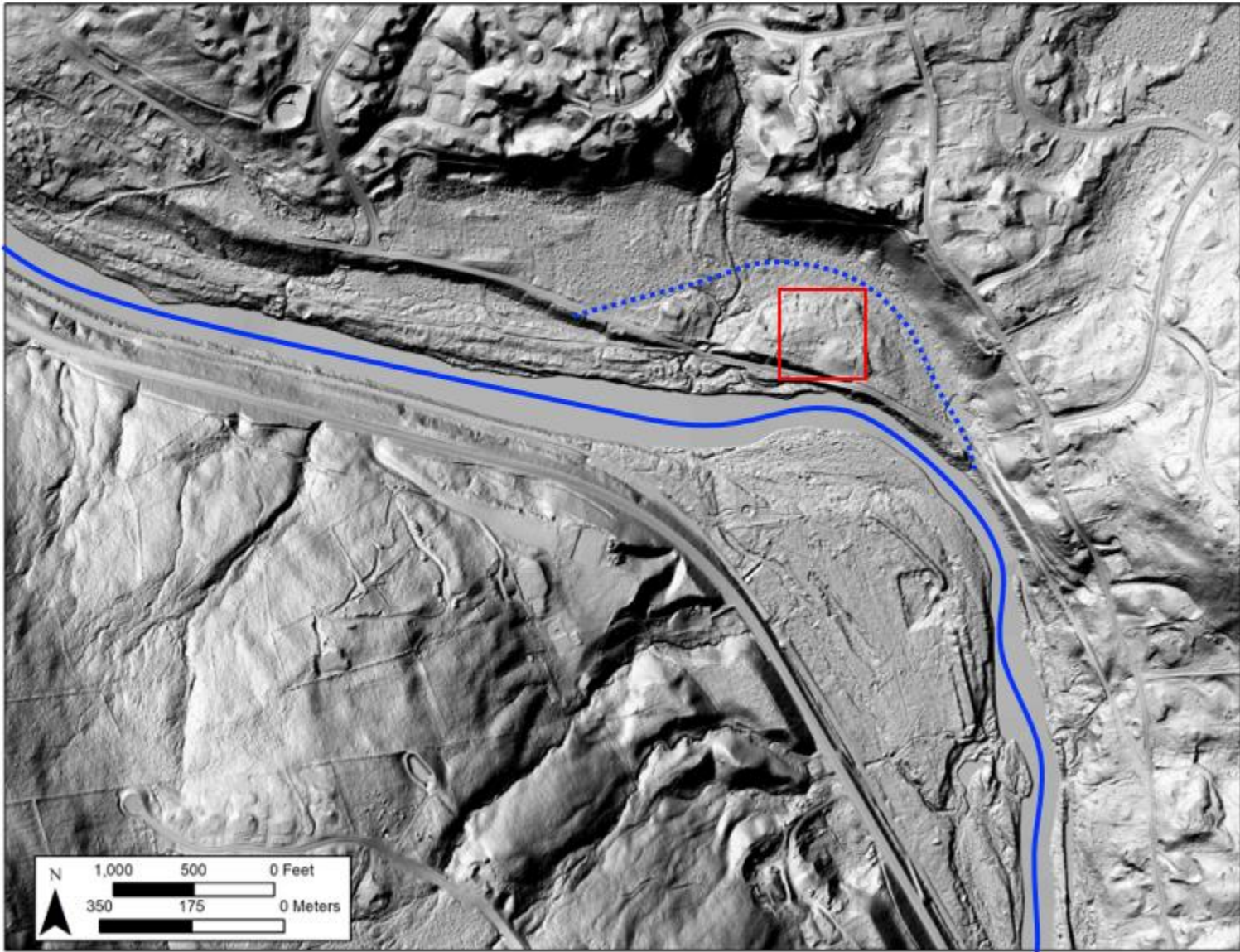


Figure 4: Lidar image of general area, with existing Farmington River indicated by the bold blue line, the potential relict Farmington River channel indicated by the dashed blue line, and red box showing the location of Site 4-15.

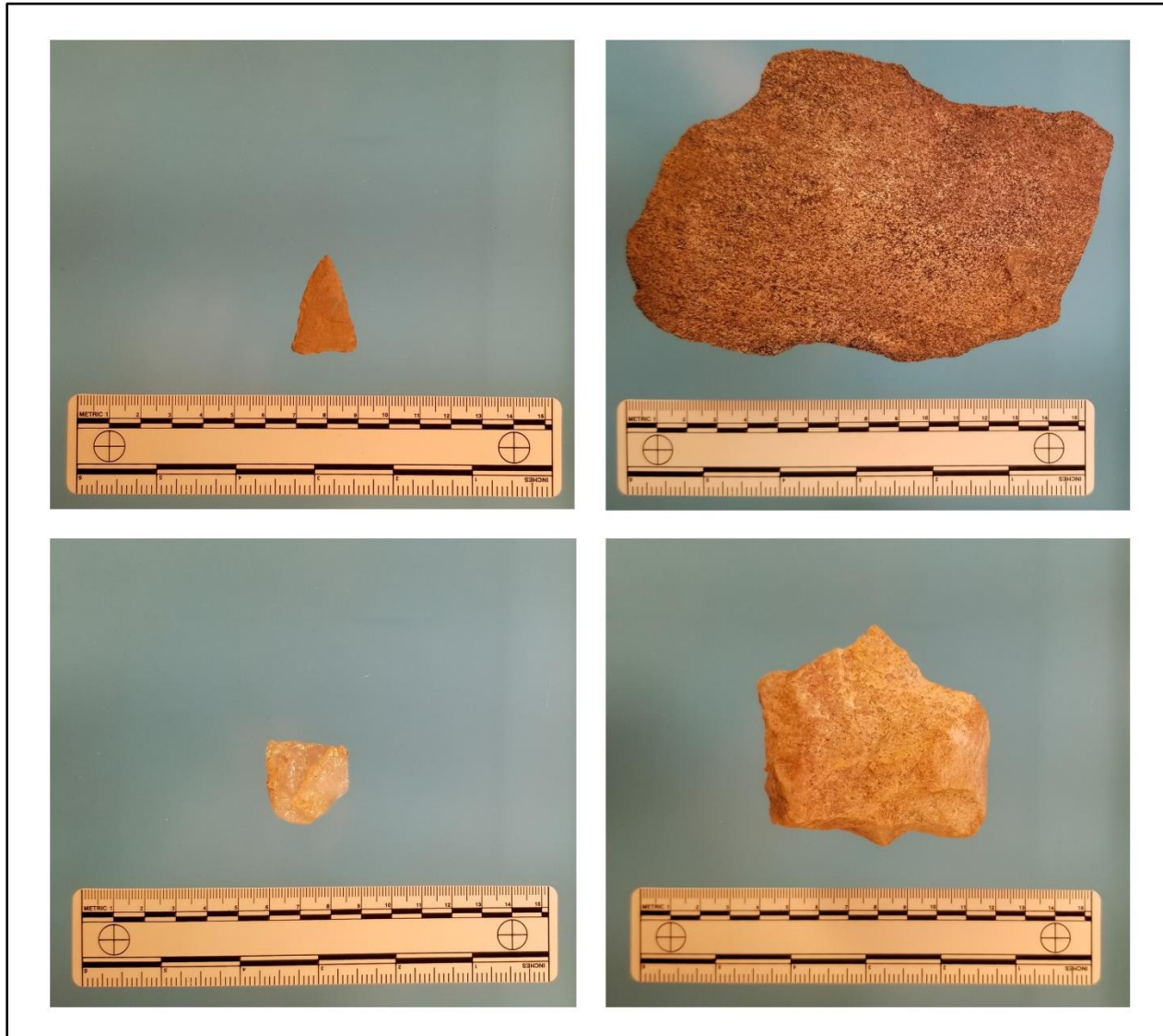


Figure 5: Diagnostic and important artifacts recovered from excavations at Site 4-15, from left to right, top to bottom: hornfels Brewerton Eared Triangle projectile point, a basalt biface blank, a possible GMAT quartz microcore, and a centripetal quartz core.

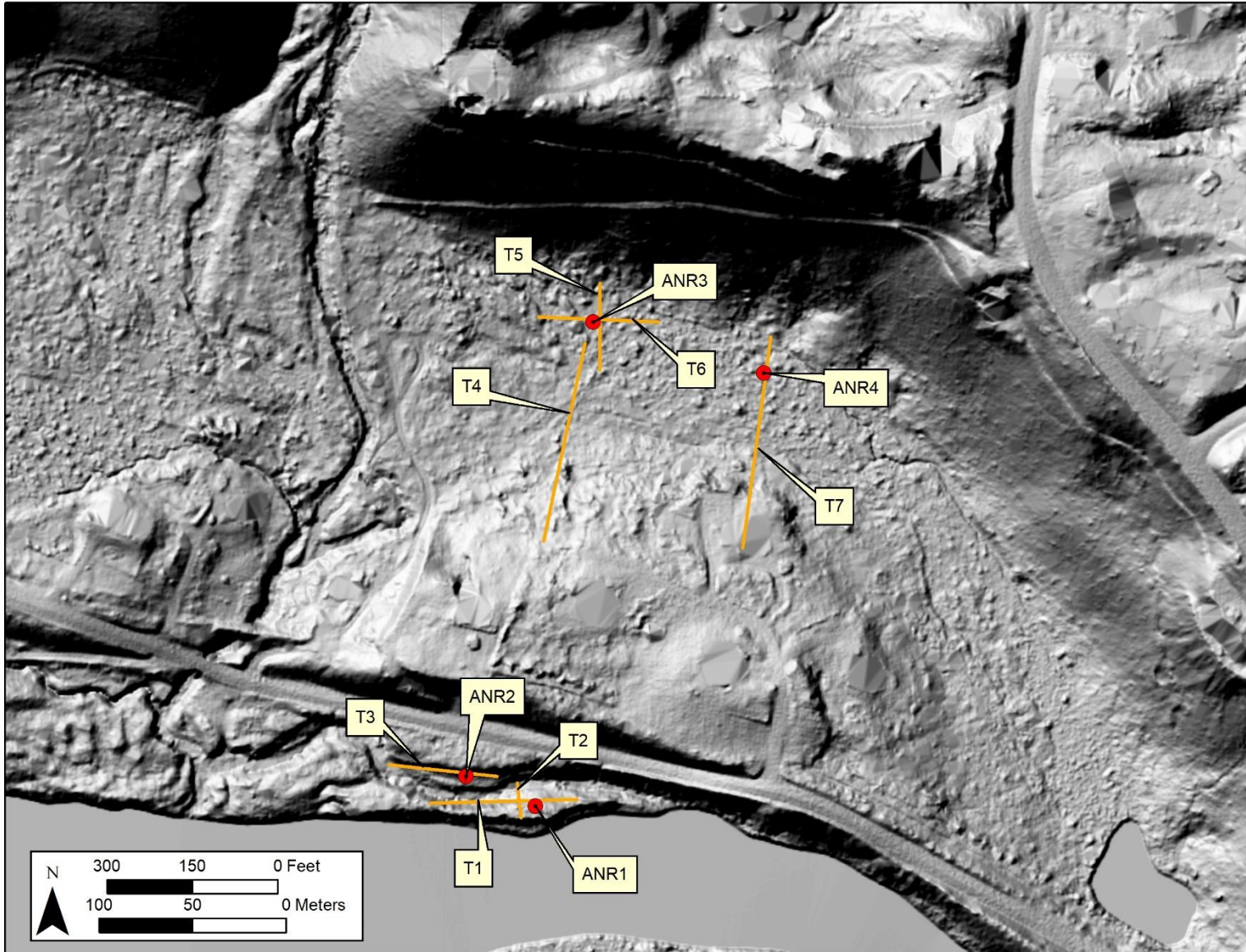


Figure 6: Lidar image showing location of vibracores (red) and GPR transects (orange)

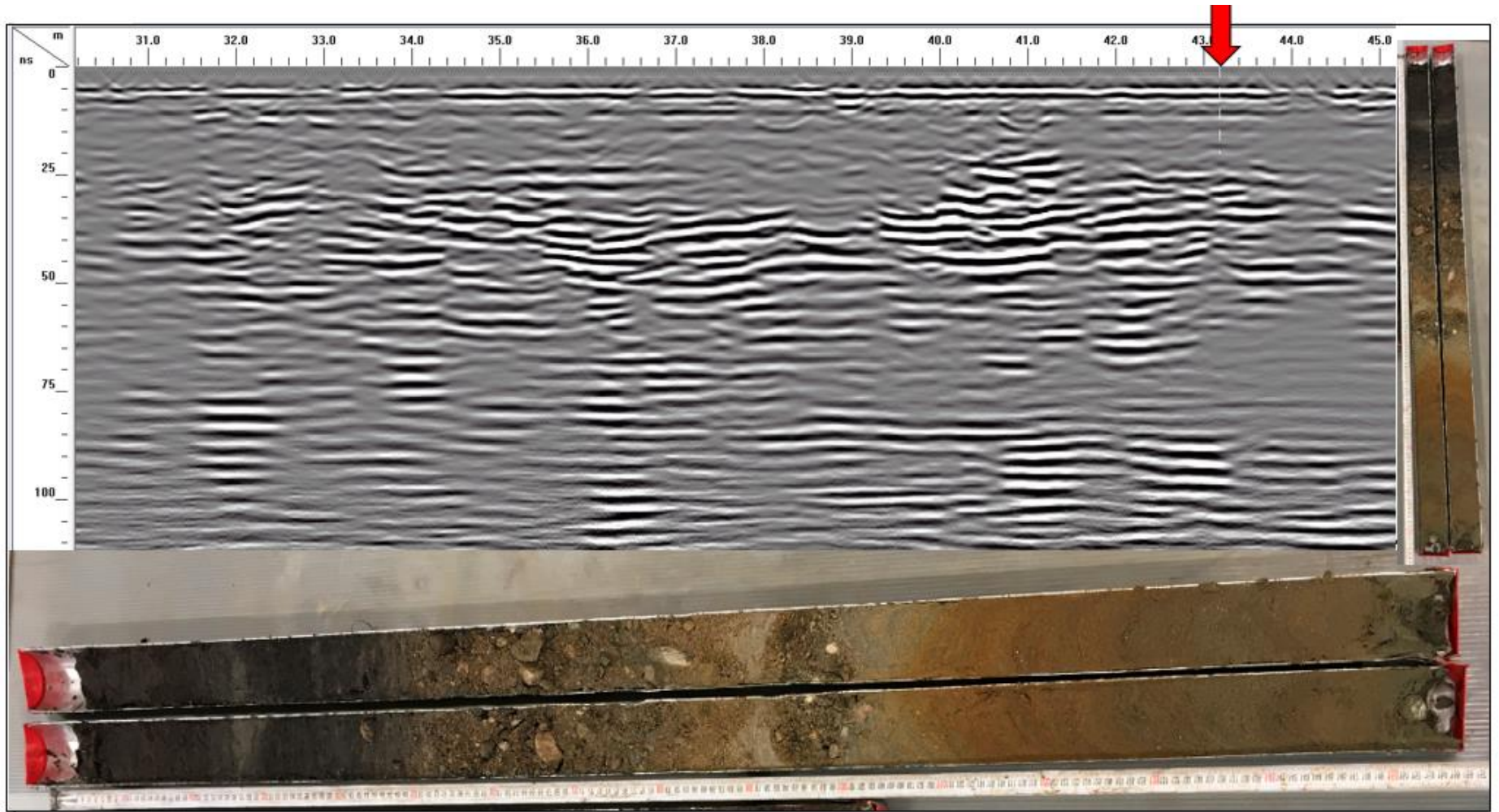


Figure 7: GPR Transect 7, displaying location of ANR 4 (red arrow). Image of ANR 4 is shown to scale adjacent to GPR transect profile and displayed at a larger scale below the transect for easier viewing. Note, depth is of GPR is shown in nanoseconds (the time delay between the firing and receiving the radar signal from the GPR unit), not meters, along the GPR transect. The ANR4 core clearly shows a developed wetland lying atop fluvial activity, and possible glacial or fine-grained alluvial soils beneath the fluvial layers.

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Chapter 1: The Squire Elisha Pitkin Family Tomb (ca. 1770s to 1880s), Center Cemetery, East Hartford

Chapter 2: The Tomb of Gershom Bulkeley and His Descendants (ca. 1770s to 1830s), The Ancient Burying Ground, Colchester

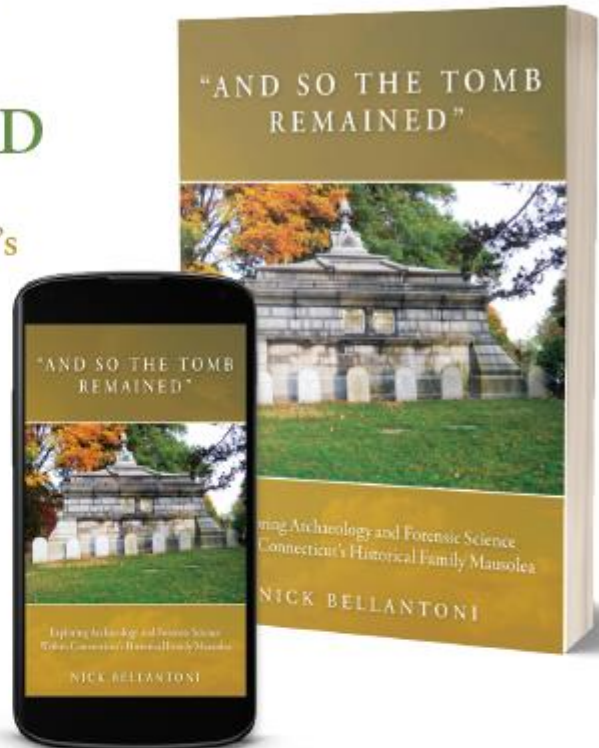
Chapter 3: The Tomb of Samuel and Martha Huntington (ca. 1790s), Norwichtown Cemetery, Norwich

Part II: *Tomb Vandalisms and Crime Scene Investigations:*

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Chapter 6: Summary and Conclusions



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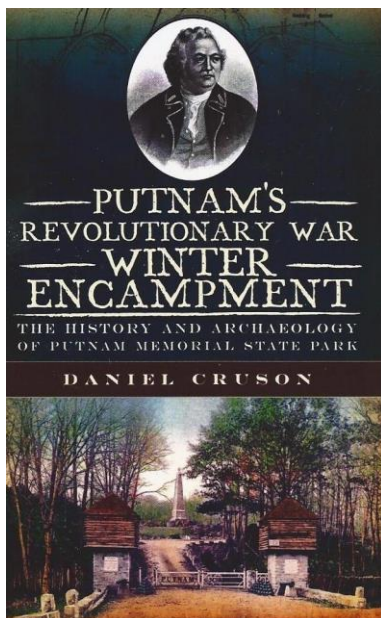
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Nick's book was released on January 21st and is available at all the major book outlets, including online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble in both ebook and paperback versions. Or, it can be ordered directly through the U.S. distributor: www.casemateacademic.com or casemate@casematepublishers.com

BOOK REVIEW

Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment: The History and Archaeology of Putnam Memorial State Park by Dan Cruson.



Drawing on past and present archaeological research, personal diaries as well as some local folklore, *Putnam's Revolutionary War Winter Encampment* by Dan Cruson offers a compelling journey into the archaeology, history and development of Connecticut's first state park.

Cruson is widely known and respected in the Connecticut archaeological community as a high school teacher (now retired), avocational archaeologist, avid local historian and former president of the ASC. Under Cruson's direction, high-school students from the anthropology program he designed and taught for many years carried out much of the field work described in the book.

While less well known than Washington's first winter army at

Valley Forge, the Redding encampment played a vital role in securing the region following the Danbury Raid and Battle of Ridgefield. With a vulnerable military supply depot and hospital located in nearby Danbury, the presence of 3,000 troops provided a powerful and necessary deterrent to future British attack.

The Redding encampments housed three brigades of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Canadian soldiers each separated into three different camps across the Town. While huts built in the West Redding location for the Connecticut brigades sadly have been lost to development, partial huts remain in the second location where archaeological research conducted by Dr. Laurie Weinstein (WCSU) is currently underway. The New Hampshire and Canadian brigade occupied what is now Putnam Park and this is where Cruson and his students focused their attention.

The commanding officers lived separately from the soldiers in houses scattered throughout the Town. This included General Israel Putnam who was the overall commander of the brigades and occupied a farmhouse together with his aides somewhere along modern day Umpawaug Hill. As Cruson notes, only a few of these headquarters locations are known.

The common enlisted men occupied far cruder accommodations - stone huts laid out in two rows with 8 feet between. The ruins of these structures remain today in the form of collapsed chimneys which line the area known at the

time of the encampment as "Company Street." While the stone piles have been landscaped for the benefit of visitors as Cruson notes, earlier archaeology carried out by David Poirier in the 1970s confirmed that these stone remains are roughly in their original locations.

Cruson and his team cleverly determined the dimensions of these huts by plotting the bone fragments littering the dirt floors - remnants of former meals - which consistently ended neatly along each outer wall.

The regimental officers lodged above Company Street, in an area referred to as the upper Town or City which provided an unobstructed view of the entire encampment below. The upper Town contained all the other structures at well, including a monument and a series of stanchions presumably marking the boundaries of a cemetery.

Subsequent excavations confirmed that the cemetery was actually a two-room officer's hut. Cruson speculates that it was probably occupied by Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn and his servant as indicated by his personal journal entries and the muster rolls confirming his presence at the camp. Though their bones lie elsewhere, the monument still stands as testament to those who died while on assignment at the camp.

Cruson also explores what daily life was like for both enlisted men and officers in an 18th century winter encampment. For the ordinary soldier, it clearly offered little in the way of excitement as indicted by this description:

Awakened at dawn to the boom of the morning gun. Stand in knee

high snow for roll call. Hear the days assignments. Eat a meager breakfast, cooked by a hut mate. Police the camp ground, clean out the latrines or dig new ones, serve officers...

As Cruson notes, while most activity does not leave much archaeological evidence, there is still much to discover including the latrines which have never been located.

But the encampments were not without drama, including a mutiny and two executions. In 1779 the Continental dollar dropped a disastrous 229 percent making paper money virtually worthless. This spurred a large group of Connecticut men from the West Redding encampment to pour into the parade grounds in late December, fully armed and determined to march on Hartford to redress their grievances.

Upon learning of the mutiny, General Putnam rode quickly into camp. He managed to defuse the situation by delivering a stirring speech reminding the men of their duty. They laid down their arms and returned to their quarters.

From the earliest days, General Putnam had to deal with two serious, and all too common, problems in camp: desertion and spying. And he intended to deal with them harshly. Intelligence on troop strength leaking back to the British in New York was a chronic problem exacerbated by loose defense around the camp.

This culminated in the trials of Edward Jones and John Smith who were found guilty of being spies, court-martialed and sentenced to death.



Ernie Wiegand checks fallen tree

The two were executed on February 16th serving as a moral lesson on the consequences of spying and desertion. The place of execution is still remembered today as Gallows Hill.

Cruson concludes by tracing the founding and development of the state park beginning with Charles Burr Todd who was the prime force behind its creation and preservation in the late 19th century. This is a fascinating look at the many cultural and economic events that impacted the Park's development over the centuries.

This November a fallen tree at the southern edge of the Officer's Quarter Site (what was thought to be the cemetery site) prompted swift test excavations and metal detecting scans by Professor Ernie Wiegand and members of the NCC Archaeology Club. No artifacts were recovered at the time, but much remains yet to be discovered (or reinterpreted).

To get a feel for what life was like in an 18th century Winter Club volunteer encampment, this might be the best time of year to delve into Cruson's book combined with a visit to one of our region's archaeological treasures.

*Jeff Zaino
January 2021*

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.

April 15-17, 2021, Society for American Archaeology (SAA), Virtual Meeting

November 4-7, 2021, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA), St. Mary's City, MD

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ASC and FOSA Present

2021 WINTER VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Here is the schedule abstracts and speaker biographies for the Winter Lecture Series. Be sure to check the ASC website for possible changes.

7:00PM, Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Megan Willison, *Settlement and Trade in 17th Century Connecticut*

This presentation will explore three seventeenth century Pequot domestic sites found through a combined use of metal detecting and traditional archaeological survey techniques. These sites, along with two others nearby, represent the “largest assemblage of early seventeenth century indigenous sites associated with a single Native group ever identified in southern New England” (McBride et al. 2016:20) and are dated, based upon their material signature, to between 1611 (the arrival of the Dutch) and 1637 (the conclusion of the Pequot War of 1636-1637). This presentation will discuss the diagnostic artifacts recovered from each site and the spatial organization of these artifacts. This research has implications for better understanding early 17th century indigenous settlement patterns and early trade interactions in southern New England.



Megan Willison is a doctoral candidate at the University of Connecticut and an archaeologist with the National Park Service at Dinosaur National Monument. She is currently writing her dissertation, which has been aided through funds from FOSA.

7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Daniel Zoto, *Narrow Stemmed Tradition Points and the Woodland Period in Southern New England: The View from Laurel Beach*

Evidence from recent excavations of a shell midden near the Housatonic River estuary in Milford, Connecticut supports the inclusion of Narrow Stemmed Tradition points in Early, Middle, and Late Woodland Period toolkits. Comparative analysis with sites in the Housatonic and Connecticut River valleys, Narragansett Bay, and Cape Cod suggest that the continued use of Narrow Stemmed points from Late Archaic times may have been related to decreases in the size of group territories and the ubiquity of quartz cobbles as a source of raw material.

Daniel Zoto received a Bachelor’s Degree in Anthropology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a Master’s Degree in Anthropology from the University of Connecticut. Dan works as a Principal Investigator-Archaeology at Gray and Pape, Inc. in Providence, Rhode Island. He has worked as an archaeologist in cultural resource management for the last ten years and has done extensive public outreach with the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. Dan’s research interests include the archaeology of New England, stone tool technology, lithic sourcing, coastal archaeology, and cultural resource management



7:00 PM Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Krista Dotzel *Plant Microfossils, Domesticates, and Processing Strategies in Southern New England 2500-500 BP*

The history of maize, squash, and bean in the Eastern Woodlands and the role of these cultigens in New England societies have been hotly debated topics in local archaeology. This talk will present results from a phytolith and accelerator mass spectrometer dating analysis of carbonized food residues and sediment soils from sites in southern New England (Connecticut and Rhode Island) dating 2500–500 BP. Phytolith analyses of carbonized food residues from sites across northeastern North America outside of southern New England demonstrate that maize (*Zea mays* L.) was introduced to the region as early as 2300 BP, hundreds of years before major shifts in settlement strategies became widespread. Phytolith evidence for maize in eastern North America likewise appears hundreds of years earlier than most maize macroremains, such as kernels, cobs, and cupules, appear. This has puzzled researchers attempting to piece together how maize was first circulated and used in the Eastern Woodlands.



Phytolith analysis of 135 samples of carbonized food residues from thirteen sites from Connecticut and Rhode Island indicates that, consistent with research outside the study area, at least some groups in southern New England cooked maize as early as 2300 BP, that squash was relatively widespread, and found no phytolith evidence for common bean. The results also indicate that maize cooking practices varied in ways that likely reflect both seasonality and broader subsistence strategies and that may explain the temporal gap between maize phytoliths and maize macroremains. This research also demonstrates that plant microfossil analysis is best paired with good macrobotanical analysis and that future phytolith work in this area should focus on sampling feature and site sediments for improving our understanding of plant-use and plant processing.

Krista Dotzel is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut. She has 14 years of archaeological field experience and has worked at sites in Germany, France, Syria, Armenia, Iowa, Illinois, and New England. She received her BA from the University of Iowa and an MA from Tübingen University, Germany, where she studied Upper Palaeolithic bone tools. Her current research interests focus on people-plant interactions, particularly in plant cooking and processing strategies, in southern New England.

7:00PM, Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Zachary Singer *The Templeton Paleoindian Site: Research Update on a 12,000 Year Old Site in Western Connecticut*

Templeton was first excavated in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Dr. Roger Moeller. Since 2016, renewed excavations at Templeton have investigated site formation processes and Paleoindian spatial patterning at the site. In this presentation, we report the results of the ongoing fieldwork at Templeton including the discovery of new Paleoindian activity areas, new radiocarbon dates, and recent geological investigations into the deep burial of the Paleoindian component.



Zachary Singer received his Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in 2017. Zac is the Research Archaeologist for the Maryland Historical Trust. His research interests include eastern North American archaeology, Paleoindian lithic technology, three-dimensional digital modeling of artifacts, and geophysical remote sensing.

After this presentation, FOSA will hold its virtual Annual Meeting.