



Friends of the Office of State Archaeology

Member Newsletter
Fall 2003

FOSA
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Hartford, CT 06138-0845
<http://www.keegans.com/FOSA>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We delayed this issue of our newsletter to make sure we could tell you about some very significant, positive changes at UCONN which will, for the first time, give OSA a proper curatorial and research facility with at least some of the necessary staff. It took some time for the university administration to commit itself, requiring us to keep quiet a bit longer than we wished. See Nick's News, on this page, for details. FOSA member Leanne Harty, acting director of the Museum of Natural History, deserves enormous credit for quick thinking and initiative in convincing the university to support this program.

It will take a number of months for more details on OSA's new home and FOSA's place in it to emerge. If anything, FOSA will be even more important in helping to support a larger OSA better able to meet all the office's mandates. OSA will gain some administrative staff under the new arrangements, but will still lack any collections managers or professional archaeologists.

We expect a fuller prospectus on OSA's brightening future at the next FOSA annual meeting, scheduled for Saturday, January 24, 2004. Once again, we will have the use of Glastonbury High School's auditorium, thanks to board member Gary Nolf and school superintendent Jacqueline Jacoby. Our speaker will be Prof. Douglas K. Charles of Wesleyan University. After several years of presentations on historical and military archaeology, we will be hearing about some of the most spectacular Native American remains in the United States. Dr. Charles' talk, tentatively entitled "The Meaning of the Mounds: Monumental Earthen Symbols of PreColumbian Hopewell Culture in WestCentral Illinois," will summarize decades of research on Midwestern Middle Woodland sites, and explore conclusions about prehistoric social life based on data from a wide

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**FOSA ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2004
GLASTONBURY HIGH
SCHOOL**

NICK'S NEWS: NEW INITIATIVE FOR THE OSA!!

In the coming year, the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and the Office of State Archaeology at UCONN will have a new focus: the new Connecticut Archaeology Center.

Education and research remain the top priorities in the allocation of the 21st Century funding. To meet these priorities, the University Administration has shifted the planned Museum expansion to a much later time frame than was anticipated. As a result, we have assessed our situation and see this event as a unique opportunity to re-focus our direction in two vital areas. By concentrating the strengths of the Museum of Natural History and OSA, we can create an extremely dynamic environment that will continue to support education and research, and also provide exciting new programs, exhibits, workshops and public outreach opportunities.

This new initiative will result in the creation of an Archaeology Center within the Museum's present organizational structure. Renovation of the existing museum building and utilization of the museum's seasoned, motivated staff will provide solid infrastructure for this new venture, which will function primarily to achieve OSA's many mandates.

The Archaeology Center will provide:

- ▶ **Education:** programs for K-12 school populations, municipal and town officials, professional and avocational archaeologists, families and community groups as well as extended service to the University's academic population, including undergraduate and graduate training.
- ▶ **Research:** salvage field excavations and laboratory analyses of recovered material culture.
- ▶ **Preservation:** expand our abilities to work with federal, state and local governments in the protection of archaeological sites in Connecticut.
- ▶ **Collections:** repository for State of Connecticut archaeological material along with the curation of anthropological collections, and their study and display.
- ▶ **Library Facilities:** expansion and extension of the current 8,000 entries of books, journals, site

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range of scientific disciplines as well as traditional archaeological methods. You will get a complete announcement on this event by early January.

Over the last six months, FOSA volunteers have continued their support of OSA field and laboratory operations, as you can read elsewhere in this newsletter. The FOSA board has been active on a number of fronts. Most recently, a committee led by Roger Thompson planned our second Volunteers Appreciation Picnic, held on a chilly October 5 at Manchester's Wickham Park. Longer-term planning focused on helping OSA start to convert the tattered state archaeological site files into electronic format, and on our seemingly endless quest to secure funding for OSA staff by adding a tiny percentage to building permit fees statewide. The site file question is, fortunately, more one of technology than politics, and can be moved along more quickly than anything involving the Connecticut state legislature. The goal is an expandable digital database in a Geographic Information System (GIS) environment, capable of handling the nearly 5000 sites already reported, thousands more which may be found in the future, and related cultural resource information. FOSA is funding purchase of all the new hardware needed for this effort, and OSA will secure the GIS software at no cost through UCONN's Department of Geography. Database development will hopefully begin this winter, followed by training and actual data entry or conversion. The State Historic Preservation Office and a number of talented FOSA members will collaborate with OSA in this project.

Our committee on the building permit fee initiative completed draft legislation last spring. Before approaching the legislature, however, we need to define the best means of moving money from town clerks to OSA, a path with a number of way stations including UCONN. University administrators are being helpful within the range of their normal experience, but little about OSA is normal and some more out-of-box thinking is in order. We will be working with Leanne Harty on finding the best models of handling these new accounts, and will then work with friendly legislators in crafting more advanced drafts of the needed legal changes. If UCONN sustains its new commitment to OSA, somewhat less money will be needed from the permit fees, which will hopefully make our initiative more politically palatable.

Hope to see many of you on January 24th.

Mike Raber

Nick's News - from Page 1

reports, newsletters and increased access for research.

- ▶ **Public Outreach:** utilization of exhibits, newsletter, workshops and traveling displays, as well as community events and presentations to civic groups.

We are increasingly excited about these new developments. Many details on timing, and financial and institutional support, remain to be worked out. We are currently having discussions with the UCONN administration and we look forward to more opportunities to discuss our plans with all FOSA members. We will update you on our progress as soon as plans develop and additional information becomes available.

As always, we thank you for your continued support and it appears that your efforts will help OSA reach unprecedented growth.

*Nick Bellantoni, State Archaeologist, OSA
Leanne Harty, Interim Director, CSMNH*

BELOW GROUND

Much of the field work this past spring and summer was somewhat curtailed by the wet, humid weather Mother Nature tossed at us. While we didn't get in as many days in the field as we would have liked, at least the rain kept the dust down. The following is a brief run-down on our activities.

Privy Site, Glastonbury, CT

An early three-hole privy was donated to the Glastonbury Historical Society. The original location of the privy was at an early 18th century house on Main Street that became a tavern during the early 19th century. After the privy was moved, we had the opportunity to excavate the area where it stood. Most of the artifacts recovered were from the late 19th century to early 20th century. One small broken flint arrowhead was also recovered. From the evidence we uncovered it appears that the privy was moved to a new location after the tavern period of the property.

C. F. Woodford Farm, Avon, CT

This project consisted of a walk-over of the fields looking for any signs of aboriginal habitation. The farm is located on the east side of the Farmington River and any artifacts we found were plotted on a map using a G.P.S. device. A number of flint and quartz chips were found in the fields and after we returned to the cars that were parked behind a greenhouse Nick looked down in a

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little rain-washed gully by his car and came up with a complete quartz stemmed arrowhead.

Nursery Site, Clinton, CT

Several digs have been carried out on this property in at least four different locations. All areas yield aboriginal material, but very little is undisturbed below the plow zone. We had hoped to locate features such as fire pits, hearths, post molds and refuse pits below the plow zone, but so far this has not materialized. One woodchuck hole produced clay pottery shards, quartz chips and a fragment of a deer antler and we are seriously thinking of signing Mr. Chuck up for the Friends group. I just hope he has enough for the dues.

Carriage House, Lisbon, CT

At this site we assisted the local historical society in excavations around a mid-19th-century carriage house that they hope to resurrect. I believe the archaeology had to be done as a requirement in obtaining grant money for the project. Glass and ceramic material from the late 19th and early 20th centuries was recovered during this project.

Bison Brook Farm, North Stonington, CT

A local sand and gravel operation taking place at this farm led to the discovery of an unmarked and unknown family cemetery plot. When human bones were found in gravel delivered to a home in Griswold, Connecticut, they were quickly traced back to the gravel bank at Bison Brook Farm. After the State Medical Examiner determined the bones were more than fifty years old, he turned the case over to the State Archaeologist.

Subsequent removal of the remaining partial burials in the gravel bank revealed two that contained some fragments of the coffin lids. These lids had the initials and age of the individuals in the graves done in brass tacks. One grave contained three tombac buttons in a small cluster that were probably attached to some form of clothing. Tombac is a variety of brass and buttons of this type date to the late 17th and early 18th century. The last grave we excavated revealed a unique artifact. Near the edge of the coffin Nick uncovered an aboriginal broad spear point similar to a Snook Kill type. We assumed this must have been in the back-fill from the grave shaft.

Tanner's Marsh Road, Guilford, CT

This site area is along the west side of the East River. Several test pits revealed aboriginal material that consisted of one partial projectile point somewhat similar to a Rossville point and numerous debitage of quartz and chert. More work is planned here.

Bulkeley Tomb, Colchester, CT

All human remains have been returned to the tomb and the door-way has been sealed with brick. John Spaulding's article in this issue provides more details.

Dave Cooke

THE SEARCH FOR PETER POND

Earlier this year, the Connecticut State Archeologist was requested by the Peter Pond Society in Milford, Connecticut to examine a possible burial site for the remains of Peter Pond. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) tests adjacent to the tombstone of Peter's mother, Mary Pond, had earlier determined that possibly two unmarked burials lay next to her. In response to that request, Dr. Bellantoni conducted a three-day search at the Milford Cemetery in mid-August of this year.

Who was Peter Pond and why are people looking for the site of his burial? Peter Pond, the eldest child of Peter Pond (hereinafter referred to as Peter Pond the elder) and Mary (Hubbard) Pond, was born January 18, 1740 in Milford, Connecticut. His paternal ancestors included early settlers of Charlestown, Watertown, Newton, Boston and Dorchester, Massachusetts, and Windsor, Connecticut. His younger brother, Charles (1744-1832) was a trader, soldier, and privateersman. On one of his 1776 exploits, Charles commanded the sloop *Schuyler* which ferried Nathan Hale across Long Island Sound on the secret mission that ended in Hale's execution as a spy.

Peter Pond married Susannah Newell some time around 1762. They had three known children. A son Peter was born about 1763 and died at age 50 in the West Indies. A daughter Elizabeth was born in 1764 and a second daughter Susanna was born in 1766. Peter's wife Susannah died March 8, 1795 at age 52.

Peter served in the French and Indian Wars and in 1761 he tried his fortunes at sea. However, his mother died that year while his father was in Detroit on a fur trading trip, and Peter, in his own words, had to "take charge of a young fammaley til my father returnd after which I bent my mind aftor different objects and tared in Milford three years which was the onday three years of my life I was three years in one plase sins I was sixteen years old up to sixty." At the end of the three years (about 1765) Peter began a fur trading career in the Detroit area. This subsequently led to the upper Mississippi and from then until 1788 his career evolved into fur trading and exploration. He was also known as

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quite an adventurer and became famous as an explorer of Western Canada. Peter was well-known in Canada and was knighted for his explorations and maps of the western Canadian area.

Peter was the first white man into the Athabasca country in 1778 where he founded Fort Chipewyan, near Old Fort Bay. In 1782 he spent the winter at Lac La Ronge near the camp of Etienne Wadden. Food was short and a quarrel developed between Wadden and Pond. Wadden was killed and Pond later wrote, "We met the next morning early and discharged pistols in which the poor fellow was unfortunate." Peter was not prosecuted.

It was during the winter of 1787-88 that the Scottish explorer Alexander Mackenzie was also in Athabasca and received much of his information regarding this territory. He spent the winter with Pond who taught him all he knew of the area. (Later Mackenzie was to receive much of the credit for discovery of the Northwest Passage.) It was about this same time that Pond was involved in a second death, the murder of trader John Ross. Pond was later acquitted of the murder but was treated badly thereafter and before long returned to the United States.

Upon his return to the United States, Peter Pond was commissioned a captain in the Army and served some time as a special agent for Secretary of War Henry Knox. He was also sent to Niagara and Detroit to spy upon the Indians while pretending to be a fur trader. He retired back to New England in 1790 or 1791 where he died in poverty in about 1807. There is no indication as to where Peter Pond or many other members of his family are buried.

What were the results of the search? Working in conjunction with members from the Peter Pond Society, FOSA volunteers assisted Dr. Bellantoni in uncovering a large plot next to the grave of Peter's mother Mary Pond, who is buried in the old burying ground at Milford Cemetery at Gulf Street. This three-day project did not uncover any adult remains and hence there is no evidence that Peter Pond was buried next to his mother's grave. This would also serve to confirm that Peter Pond's father, Peter Pond the elder, who died within a few years of his wife, is not buried in the area that was searched.

However, the effort did uncover the traces of three possible children's graves. The most predominant skeletal remains uncovered were that of a child buried close to Mary Pond. These remains are possibly those of Jede-

diah Pond, the youngest brother of Peter Pond, who was known to have been baptized in 1761 - the same year his mother died. The assumption was expressed that the mother and child may have died during childbirth. What skeletal remains there were gave evidence of a very young, or premature, baby. The burial was unusual insofar as there were 21 shroud pins found in the grave.

The two other remains were also possibly those of children. Skeletal evidence in the second grave gave some credence to the body being that of a child three to four years of age. The third grave showed evidence only of a coffin outline with one or two coffin nails. Again, the coffin outline was consistent with that of a young child. An examination of the Pond family genealogy records reveals no children associated with the family in this age range dying around this time.

The excavation and recovering of the graves was completed and now the search must continue for the final burial site of Peter Pond. Nonetheless, it is exciting to discover and gather information about an early Canadian explorer and his connections with Connecticut.

Roger Thompson



Mentor students Brennan and "Sam" conducting a Floatation Test

ARCHAEOLOGY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Brennan Gauthier and Samantha Cox are high school students who were participants in the University of Connecticut three-week "Mentorship Program." They both have a strong interest in archaeology, therefore, they enrolled with Dr. Nick Bellantoni. During the three weeks they conducted field work at the Nursery

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Site, Clinton; Pitkin Glass Works, Manchester; Lisbon Carriage House, Lisbon; and the Tanner Marsh Site, Guilford. This provided them with the opportunity to work on both historic and prehistoric sites.

In the field, Dave Cooke shared his excavation experiences throughout Connecticut and New England. While Dave talked, he identified artifacts as they popped up in the screen, explaining the material and/or their place of origin. Of course, none of us will forget the Pitkin Glass Works, where the students exposed the skeletal remains of a pig. Dave jokingly said, "What are you digging that up for, you're supposed to be finding glass stuff." No one expected to find this type of artifact at an historic glass works. While at the Clinton Nursery Site, Brennan and Sam, with all of their persistence, exposed a beautiful quartz, "Levanna" style projectile point.

With smiling faces in the field, Brennan and Sam found laboratory work in Dr. Nick's office a new and unexpected experience. If you have been to Dr. Nick's office while the Bulkeley family remains were being cataloged and analyzed, with approximately thirty-one human remains you would know it's an experience for anyone. Paul Scannell assigned them cataloging of artifacts from past excavations and instructed them on the importance of documentation and archaeological survey reports.

I am pretty sure that by the end of their three-week mentorship of both Field and Office work, Dr. Nick had physically worn them out. On the last day of their mentorship, I asked both to share their experience with Dr. Nick.

In almost identical words, both Brennan and Sam expressed the following: "My favorite part of my mentorship with Dr. Nick was working in the field with all the volunteers. Sifting through the dirt, wondering what we might uncover. All the friendly people with their unique knowledge of the vast variety of artifacts that we found. I have learned more in the past three weeks about archaeology than in my whole life. It has convinced me that this is the field I would really enjoy pursuing."

Samantha Cox is from New Jersey and attends West Morris Mendham High School.

Brennan Gauthier is from Massachusetts and attends Pomfret School, Connecticut.

Your participation could not have been more exuberant.

Ken Beatrice

THE BULKELEY SAGA CONTINUES

Removal of the Bulkeley remains from the tomb of Gershom Bulkeley and his descendants concluded on August 22, 2002, but that was not the end of this FOSA project. Over the past winter the remains were cataloged and studied. In July 2003 the majority of the remains were packaged, inventoried, and packed into six Ziegler cases (zinc boxes with a removable cover). The remains that were to be x-rayed were held out until that phase of the investigation was completed in September 2003.

In November 2002 the front of the Bulkeley Tomb was re-built. It was not until August 22, 2003 that the back end of the tomb was excavated. Since the brick exposure on the back was about 36 inches high and in good condition, it was decided to completely remove the pile of dirt on the east end. We found that the roof arch was covered with a thin layer of dirt and loose two-inch thick stone slabs so the dirt was left in place and replanted with grass.



Stanley Moroch, Colchester municipal historian, places the last brick to reseal the Gershom Bulkeley Tomb on September 5, 2003.

On September 4, 2003, the lone zinc-lined coffin was finally opened to reveal a five-year-old child with remains of a shroud still in place. Hair samples were taken for future study. The next day the remains were returned to the tomb and the doorway sealed. Stanley Moroch, Colchester municipal historian, had the honor of placing the last brick. Soon after, a four-inch thick slab was engraved with the names of thirty members of the Bulkeley family who are believed to be in the tomb, and was placed over the stairway to complete the sealing of the reconstructed tomb.

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Bulkeley Tomb - from Page 5

The tomb was rededicated by the Bulkeley family on Saturday, October 11, 2003, followed by a gathering at the Bulkeley Room in the new home of the Colchester Historical Society nearby to see the exhibits that have been prepared to herald the role of the Bulkeleys in the history of Colchester.

John Spaulding

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Student \$15
- Classroom \$20
- Affiliated Non-Profit \$100
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- Corporate \$1000
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INTEREST INVENTORY

Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

- Work with OSA Art Work
- Committee and Board of Directors Work
- Computers Education
- Exhibit Planning Fund Raising
- Grant Writing Newsletter
- Office / Field Work Photography
- Typing/Word Processing Writing

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Richard & Luella Bartes, Torrington
- Dorothy Breiss, Bolton
- Brennan Gauthier, Southbridge, MA
- David Gorman & Family, Windsor
- Grade 5 Roger Sherman School Rm. 227, Meriden
- Dr. Harold Juli, New London
- Arend-Jan Knuttel, East Windsor
- Kathleen Nolan, Norwalk
- William Schultz, Salem
- Michele Slater, Meriden

MEETINGS

FOSA annual meeting, Saturday, January 24, 2004.
 Glastonbury High School auditorium.

MAAC meeting, March 12-14, 2004, Rehoboth Beach, DE. Call for papers: <http://www.siftings.com/maac2004.html>

Roger Moeller

VOLUNTEER!



**Friends of the
 Office of State
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