



Special points of interest:

- MPMRC Grant
- FOSA/OSA Photos
- Stamford's History
- Write for the newsletter!

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Member Newsletter



President's Letter

The summer of 2008 has not been a digging one for FOSA volunteers! The few requests for site excavation coupled with the cost of gas has meant that opportunities for digging were limited. However, FOSA members were busy with other activities that support the OSA.

Ken and Bonnie Beatrice have kept busy manning exhibits at town and history-related events during the spring, summer and fall. Bruce Greene continues his work on cataloguing OSA collections on the computer, creating a collections database. Jim Hall, a new member, has worked hard creating a FOSA website. As of this writing it is in the prototype stage and the Board will be making a decision as to

whether to maintain it or not at its September meeting. The website would be a great addition as it would help people become aware of FOSA and its activities and thus enlarge the footprint of archaeology in the state. Jim has also been scanning slides of past digs onto opticals. Gary Nolf volunteered at the Field School and demonstrated the atlatl to delighted students. Paul Scannell and Roger Thompson have been donning hard hats and overseeing yet another search for Lt. Bradley's plane crash site at Bradley Field. Pat Reardon, Paul and I have spent a number of hours at Horsebarn Hill cataloguing new books, journals and magazines. We have also been "reading" the shelves, making sure that materials are in the order that they should

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News from the Office of State Archaeology

As I sit and write up the latest news, I am struck by the changing world we live in, and ponder the role of archaeology as we move into the future. Rising gas and oil prices, global warming, political unrest, and financial woes are in the news daily. Can the science of archaeology provide lessons from the past that might put today's crises in perspective, or provide examples of historic responses to environmental impacts that might be applicable today?

In my public presentations around the state, I have argued that the preservation of archaeological and historical sites affects

our quality of life. I have always tried to provide my audiences with a sense that archaeological sites may be the only sources of information we have for understanding the human past prior to the written word, and even into historic times. That is, archaeological resources provide us with a sense of heritage, identity and a physical record of how people lived and interacted with their environment.

I am currently reviewing a book for the Journal of Ethnobiology, *Human Impacts on Ancient Marine Ecosystems*, edited by Torben Rick and John Erlandson. The title may not sound

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Below Ground

The poor state of the national economy in all its sectors appears to have been a boon for the preservation of archaeological sites which has even affected our small state of Connecticut.

Applications for subdivisions that Nick reviews periodically have decreased drastically. Whereas the trend previously was for a 30 to 40 house subdivision, today it is reduced to a 2 to 4 house application at most. Due primarily to the adverse conditions in the state, Nick has had no archaeological emergencies to contend with so far this year. All areas not already slated for development are preserved for the present.

On October 16, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, we will hold a field school for the Glastonbury Middle School at the Tryon

site in South Glastonbury. Approximately 105 students will participate. FOSA volunteers will be needed for this event. Rain date is October 23.

A charcoal sample has been sent out for radiocarbon dating from Feature #1 at the Rogers Site in Lisbon, Connecticut. This feature produced clay pottery shards, two quartz stemmed projectile points and a section of a deer jaw bone. Results from this are pending.

I have a strong feeling that when gasoline prices fall below a dollar a gallon we will be swamped with field work... so get busy and clean that rust off your trowel!!!

Dave Cooke

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

be. John Spaulding has been kept busy with numerous photographic requests by Nick. Jim Trocchi is overseeing the preparations for our Annual Meeting on January 24, 2009, and Bob Martinchek has been busy getting volunteers involved in FOSA activities. There are no doubt other FOSA members who have contributed their time since January and I apologize for not including their names.

The FOSA Annual Meeting will again feature an exciting and interesting archaeologist, James Adovasio, Ph.D., director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute. His presentation, "Early Human Populations in the New World: A Biased Perspective," will feature the work he has done at Meadowcroft, a Paleo-Indian site near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His artifacts have placed human habitation in that area

at 16,000 B.C., a date which remains controversial, but has huge consequences for the peopling of America. I'm confident that the presentation will be of interest to all of you and will call forth a host of questions. There is further information about the Annual Meeting and Dr. Adovasio within this newsletter.

The fall promises to be busy and we have a variety of activities that need volunteer help. So, if you have a particular interest, please contact Bob Martinchek, FOSA's Volunteer Coordinator, at Bobmartinchek@yahoo.com. He will find a place for your help!

I'm looking forward to seeing you at FOSA activities and at the Annual Meeting.

Cynthia Redman
President

News from the Office of State Archaeology

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like exciting summer reading, but the volume's articles put into a global perspective the long-term effects of human exploitation of their immediate environment. Past peoples, utilizing lesser degrees of technology compared to our world, have at times over-exploited the natural resource availability in their area and had to change their behaviors in response. Today, our adaptation is by way of a complex industrial technology. Adaptation is based on extraction of global natural resources. Are there lessons of the past that are applicable today?

The knowledge we pass on to our children and future generations about human development and our collective pasts will be generated, in part, by archaeological interpreta-

tion. How we plan to protect the environment; how we decide to use natural resources; how we understand the concept of culture change; how we direct our individual and collective responses and actions to overpopulation, shortages of food, and global warming will be predicated on how much we understand the cultural and historical past and, thus, how we have arrived at today's rapidly changing world. Archaeology provides the basis for our knowledge of how people have adapted and changed the world around them for thousands of years. It will be the basis for using that knowledge to make the best decisions for the future.

Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD
State Archaeologist

Spotlight on Volunteers

This month the spotlight is on *all* FOSA members in appreciation of their—*of your*—volunteer time, financial support and dedication.



In the field ~ Helping to uncover Connecticut's past.



Outreach programs ~ Enhancing public awareness of the importance of archaeology in Connecticut.



In the office ~ Student volunteer cataloging artifacts.



Working with students, scout groups and children of all ages ~ Gary Nolf demonstrating the art of using the Atlatl, an ancient spear throwing device.



And ~ yes, even getting dressed up on *rare* occasions. Shown here are Bruce Greene, Bonnie Beatrice and Dr. Nick Bellantoni at the CT Humanities Council's 35th Anniversary.

To all FOSA members ~ Thank you for your support!

Kenneth Beatrice

Laboratory Volunteers Needed

The family of the late Andy and Lottie Kowalsky have recently donated the family's Native American artifacts to the Office of State Archaeology. Andy Kowalsky was one of the foremost amateur archaeologists in Connecticut and a great friend to Dave Cooke, our Dig Director. In fact, Andy taught Dave about controlled archaeological excavations! Andy collected and excavated throughout Connecticut, New York and Maryland from the 1950s through the early 1990s. I had the good fortune of knowing and working with Andy Kowalsky when I was just an "up-and-comer" in the archaeological world! His collection, which consists of hundreds of stone tools and aboriginal pottery, was extensive and each artifact has been numbered and catalogued.

The artifact collection needs to be organized into new bags and re-boxed before Bruce Greene can compile the col-

lection into our computer database. This is a wonderful opportunity for FOSA members to become familiar with a wide range of Indian artifacts from our state and even have the opportunity to reconstruct pottery shards into reassembled bowls.

If you are interested in working with the Kowalsky Collection, please contact Bob Martinchek, Volunteer Coordinator, at Bobmartinchek@yahoo.com, letting him know what days of the week and what hours you can work. Our office is honored to have Andy's collection and we know that FOSA members will learn a great deal about Connecticut artifacts during the laboratory process.

Nick Bellantoni, PhD

MPMRC Receives ABPP Grant

In recognition of the historical and contemporary significance of the Pequot War, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center (MPMRC) has embarked on a multi-year research project funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) to identify and preserve battlefields and historical sites associated with the Pequot War. The primary goal of the project is the identification of prospective battlefield sites and obtaining physical evidence of a battlefield through non-invasive archaeological investigations (i.e., remote sensing).

The MPMRC has partnered with the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology, the Connecticut State Historian and many local historical societies, research centers and museums from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York to undertake a comprehensive study of all aspects of the Pequot War.

The project can only succeed with the cooperation, input and perspectives of individual landowners and the general public. As such, the MPMRC, in conjunction with the Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut State Historian, and local historical societies and public institutions will host a series of public forums and informational meetings this fall to provide information on the project and to answer any questions, but, most importantly, to seek assistance from the general public to better understand the historical and contemporary significance of the Pequot War which continues to be of local, regional and national significance.

For more information or to host a public forum, please contact Kevin McBride, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.

Kevin McBride, PhD
Director of Research, MPMRC

Upcoming Event

Annual Field School for Glastonbury Middle School, Thursday, October 16 (rain date Oct. 23), 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tryon site – the farm field behind the home at 386 Tryon Street, South Glastonbury, CT. Approximately 105 students will participate. FOSA volunteers needed.

Welcome New Members

Diane Arduini, West Haven
John S. Barclay, Ashford
Frank Crohn, Killingworth
Tanya Lane, Lisbon
Emily Lanza, Farmington

Tom McGee, Deep River
David Oat, Preston
Bruce and Janet Wallace, Wethersfield
Paulette Buchanan, Colchester
Meredith Crosbie, Willimantic

David and Judith Kennedy, Berlin
Linne Landgraf, Pleasant Valley
Lorri Lennon, Wethersfield
Emily Trigueros, Farmington



FOSA/OSA Photos at Connecticut Archaeology Center

Since August, 2000, John Spaulding has been photographing FOSA-assisted projects, when requested, for the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology. These photographs have been printed and placed in three ring binders. Over the past six years they have been displayed at the sites and at selected venues to promote the work of FOSA and educate the public about archaeology in Connecticut.

As the projects progressed, a complete file of images has been periodically provided to the Office of State Archaeology for use in reports and slide shows. The books for projects prior to 2006 have been transferred to the Connecticut Archaeology Center facility at Horsebarn Hill in Storrs with the exception of the Pitkin Tomb and Pitkin Glassworks binders.

FOSA three-ring binders of Photos transferred to Connecticut Archaeology Center on February 5, 2007:

- *Gershom Bulkeley Tomb*, Colchester, May 2002 – August 2002
- *Gershom Bulkeley Tomb*, Colchester, Reconstruction and Reburial, November 2002 – October 2003
- *Gershom Bulkeley Tomb*, Colchester, Coffin Lids and Genealogy, including gravestone markers from the adjacent cemetery, June 2002 – April 2003
- *Ground Penetrating Radar*, March and July 2004: Plainfield, Brookfield, Woodbury Glebe House, Henry Whitfield Museum; Green Cemetery, Glastonbury; Solomon Goffe House, Meriden; Harriett Beecher Stowe House, Hartford.
- *Ground Penetrating Radar*, July, 2005: Glastonbury Historical Society; North Cemetery, Hampton; Bennett Cemetery, Newtown; Crime Scene, Stamford; Merriman Cemetery, Southington; Harriett Beecher Stowe House, Hartford.
- *Mason Island*, Mystic, Photographs by David Cooke, October 2004
- *Bates Tavern*, East Granby, November 2003 – June 2004
- *Old Newgate Prison*, East Granby, June 2004 – September 2004
- *Clinton, Lisbon, Guilford*: Clinton Nursery Site, Clinton, June-July 2003;
- John Bishop House, Lisbon, July 2003; Tanner Marsh Site, Guilford, July 2003.
- *Terry House*, Enfield, August 2002
- *Dina Site*, South Windsor, June – August 2005
- *Day Museum*, Lewis Walpole Library, Farmington, May 2006
- *John Brown Birthplace*, Torrington, August – September 2002
- *Joseph Peters Gravesite*, Exhumation and Reburial, East Hampton, Hebron, December 2001 – October 2002
- *Gates-Throop Tomb*, East Haddam, October 2003
- *Wadsworth House*, East Hartford, September – November 2002
- *Horton Exhumations*, Wolcott, July – November 2002
- *Peter Pond Search*, Milford, August 2002, Photographs by Ruth Brown and John Spaulding
- *FOSA Pictures, Misc.*: Fairfield Library, August 2004; Rock Enclosure, Glastonbury, June 2004; Picking Patch, Simsbury, May 2003; Benton House, Glastonbury, 2004; Asher Wright House, Coventry, June – July 2004; Cheney Homestead, Manchester, June 2002; Gillette Castle, East Haddam, October 2002; Riverside Cemetery, Farmington, Gillette Grave, October 2002; Catholic Cemetery, Portland, June 2004; African Burying Ground, Manhattan, Visit with Warren Perry at CCSU, date not recorded; Berlin School, Berlin, March 2004.
- *FOSA Photographs, 2005*: FOSA Annual Meeting, Doug Owsley, *Hunley*, Glastonbury, January 2005; Red Hill, Glastonbury, Glastonbury Middle School classes, October 2005;
- *Kennedy Cemetery*, Voluntown, September 2005; Todd Street Site aka Eaton Brook, Hamden, September 2005; Beach Street Site, Indian burial, Waterford, 2005; Blanchard Cemetery, Johnston, RI, May 2005; Coventry Proposed Development, July 2004.
- *John Avery House*, Preston, March – April 2005
- *Bison Brook Farm Cemetery*, North Stonington, May – September, 2003
- *Samuel Huntington Tomb*, Norwichtown, October – November 2003
- *Holden-Allen Tomb*, Woodstock, July 2004 – January 2006

FOSA three-ring Binders of Photos transferred to Connecticut Archaeology Center on February 3, 2008:

- *Cove River Site*, West Haven, 2004 – 2006
- *Electro-Magnetic Surveys*, Salem, Simsbury, September 2006
- *Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys*, May 2006: Evergreen Cemetery, Westport; Merritt Parkway, Round Hill Road, Exit 28, Greenwich; Pet Burial, 312 Old Church Road, Greenwich; Bissell Ferry Site, Ferry Road, South Windsor, May and Nov 2006.
- *Kenneway Site*, 14 Little Street, Manchester, September 2006
- *Kiskeo Site*, Canton, July 2006
- *Miscellaneous FOSA Photographs, 2006, Book 1*: Red Hill, Glastonbury, Glastonbury Middle School Students; Hanover Estates, Hanover, CT; Horton Farm, Glastonbury; Bradley Crash Site Investigation, Windsor Locks; David Bushnell Site, Westbrook; East Canaan Cemetery,

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FOSA 2009 Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA) will be holding its Twelfth Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Smith Middle School, 216 Addison Road, in Glastonbury.

Our featured speaker, Dr. James M. Adovasio, is the director of the Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute in Erie, Pennsylvania. Dr. Adovasio specializes in archaeological method and theory, prehistoric technology, and material analysis. Dr. Adovasio received his PhD from the University of Utah and his Doctor of Science degree from Washington and Jefferson University.

Dr. Adovasio is perhaps best known for his excavation work at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, located 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. While a young professor at the University of Pittsburgh in the mid-1970s, he learned about a rock shelter on the grounds of the Meadowcroft Village in Washington County. His work at the site eventually uncovered evidence, primarily in the form of stone tools and fragments of baskets, indicating the oldest and virtually continuous sequence of human occupation then known in the New

World.

Carbon-14 tests done at the Smithsonian Institute on samples from the Meadowcroft Rockshelter produced ages of roughly 16,000 years ago—a period in time concurrent with the ending of the last Ice Age.

Dr. Adovasio is the author of numerous books and articles covering his findings at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter. Copies of a number of his books will be available for purchase following his presentation. The author will be happy to sign copies of his book at that time.

Dr. Adovasio's presentation will begin promptly at 2:00 pm. We know that you will find this presentation of great interest and look forward to seeing you at the meeting. There is no charge for FOSA members and members of the Connecticut Museum of Natural History. Members of the general public are requested to make a \$10 donation and students are requested to make a \$5 donation.

Roger Thompson

FOSA Photographs

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- Canaan, CT; Walton Cemetery Site, Hopeville Cemetery, Griswold.
- *Miscellaneous FOSA Photographs, 2006, Book 2*: Projectile Points, 190 Hollow Road, Watertown, August 2007; Evarts, March Burials, Salisbury, August 2006; Proposed Archaeological Preserve, Den Road, Easton, August, 2006; Fort Hill, Projectile Points, Thompson, September 2006; Scanned Slides of Adena Site, Hollister Site, Glastonbury, 1971.
- *Sturges Park Burials*, Fairfield, August 2006
- *Documenting Venture Smith*, East Haddam, July 10-25, 2006, Book 1
- *Documenting Venture Smith*, East Haddam, July 26-29, 2006, Book 2
- *Documenting Venture Smith*, East Haddam, July 30 – August 5, 2006, Book 3
- *Documenting Venture Smith*, East Haddam, Miscellaneous Research and Press Reports, Book 4.

The books that are being retained as mentioned above and those assembled this year are:

- *Pitkin Glass Works*, September 2001 thru November 2006
- *Pitkin Glass Works Ground Penetrating Radar*, November 2001
- *Henry Opukaba'ia*, Cornwall Cemetery, being retained

until release of documentary *Native of Owlhybee* by Stone-man Productions

- *Miscellaneous FOSA Photographs 2007*: Annual Meeting; Gondek Site, Ferry Lane, Glastonbury, April 2007; Gardner Site, Brook Street, Rocky Hill, May 2007; Ground Penetrating Radar, June 2007: (a) Main Street, Rocky Hill, (b) Wethersfield Meadows, (c) 15 Farrell Street, Newtown. Tryon Site, Glastonbury, October 2007, Glastonbury Schools; Episcopal-Congregational Church Cemetery, Oxford, March 2007.
- *Rogers Site*, Lisbon, October 2006 thru October 2007
- *Rogers Site*, Lisbon, Book 2, October 2007 thru August 7, 2008 including Ground Penetrating Radar on April 23, 2008
- *Tour of Abandoned Cemeteries with David Leff*, May 2008
- *Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys*, April 2008: Enfield Green, Grant Foundation; Shelton Driveway; Firebacks, Redding; Preston Plains; Main Street, Newington; Pine Island Cemetery, Norwalk.
- *Welles-Shipman-Ward House*, Glastonbury, April 2008 thru August 15, 2008
- *Miscellaneous Photographs 2008*: Annual Meeting, January; Wakeman Cemetery, Fairfield; Bradley Airport, July-August; Vampire Sites in Rhode Island, May.

John Spaulding

Big Timber's Chinatown

Archaeological Dig Reveals Remnants of a Montana Town's Cultural, Historical Past

Buried inches beneath the soil in a downtown Big Timber dirt parking lot are clues to the town's once culturally diverse and bawdy past — pieces of opium pipes, a coin used at a bordello “for amusement only” and an expensive celadon rice bowl imported from China.

Between the 1880s and 1930s, the town had Chinese restaurants, laundries and a house of prostitution on a block between Anderson and McLeod streets, a short distance from the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks. Between 1889 and 1907, the town was home to an estimated 30 to 40 Chinese residents, about 10 percent of the population. In the 2006 census, Big Timber recorded only eight Asian-born residents in the town of 1,658.

“This is history for Big Timber that needs to be documented,” said Justin Moschelle, 27, a University of Montana graduate student who is overseeing the archaeological dig as part of his master's thesis.

Town Connection

Moschelle lived in Big Timber for four years, graduating from high school there in 1999. It was during that time that he heard tales of the Chinese-run businesses and the supposed network of underground tunnels that connected them. But there was little information about the former inhabitants, which piqued his curiosity.

So last year, he and fellow UM graduate students Chris Merritt and Brent Rowley used ground penetrating radar in the parking lot to mark out possible dig sites and excavated a 1-foot by 2-foot test pit that turned up 437 artifacts. Then this spring, Merritt recruited 10 students for the field work that started on May 25 and ended on June 13, 2008.

As of June 10 the dig had produced 25,000 artifacts. Among the more fascinating finds for Moschelle was an intact bluing ball, a marble-sized piece of blue cobalt used in a Chinese laundry to brighten clothes. The balls were also believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck when gambling.

“They're really delicate,” Moschelle said gently pouring the ball out of a plastic bag to show it. “I'm surprised we've got it intact.”

The other surprising find was uncovered June 9 — the remnants of charred floorboards that may have formed the stoop of the Chinese-run OK Restaurant. The burnt boards could be evidence of a 1908 fire that destroyed the whole

block causing \$400,000 in damage. The fire was ignited by a spark from the Northern Pacific Railroad, which paid for the damages. Atop the burned restaurant, Sam Lee's Chinese laundry was later built, according to historical documents.

“We never even expected to find that,” an excited Moschelle said of the boards.

Other exciting finds included a 1902 Indian head penny, an intact glass salt or pepper shaker with a lead screw-on lid, an intact medicine bottle with Chinese characters on it, a pressed clay or bone charm with Chinese characters on it, remnants of paper that may have been wrapped around an opium tin, a cartouche with Chinese characters that read “source of beauty” and a button with a red cross on it.

Railroad's Influence

Like many Montana settlements, the railroad played a large role in Big Timber's founding. In 1883, the Northern Pacific relocated an Irish settlement called Dornix (Gaelic for large, smooth stones) that was located near the confluence of the Boulder and Yellowstone rivers. Moving the settlement to more level ground the railroad renamed the community Big Timber, in honor of explorer William Clark's 1806 naming of nearby Big Timber Creek, for the large cottonwood trees growing there.

The railroad also brought in Chinese laborers, many of whom were farmers that had fled civil strife in their own country in the mid 1800s and were seeking wealth in America. Moschelle said many laborers who left the railroad set up laundries and restaurants to “mine the miners” in cities such as Butte and Helena, which had larger Chinese populations.

Merritt, who is focusing his studies on Chinese heritage across Montana, said the state's Chinese population peaked at about 2,500 men during the 1890s railroad-building boom. Despite the integral role they played in laying track for the state's railroads, Merritt said the culture is largely overlooked in history books.

“They were instrumental in building the railroad which helped spur Montana's economy,” Merritt said. “The Chinese came to Montana for the same reason as all of our ancestors — seeking an opportunity for a better life. But we made it about as difficult for them as we could,” citing taxes leveled specifically against Chinese laundries and the raiding of opium dens, even though opium was not an illegal drug to possess at the time.

“The Chinese didn't merge easily with American soci-

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Thank You for Your Donations (Since March 1, 2008)

FOSA General Fund

David Bingham, MD, Salem
Smith Middle School, Glastonbury

Radiocarbon Dating Fund

Luella Bartes, Torrington

Big Timber, Montana

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ety,” he said. “They were an easy scapegoat.”

Chinatowns were often located next to saloons and brothels, essentially the low-rent districts in towns. Big Timber’s “female boarding house” is mentioned in a 1900 census as being run by a French madam named Leona Lea. Four to five single-white females lived at the residence. By the 1920s, the brothel was closed.

Merritt said he’s often asked if he sees resemblances between America’s stance toward the Chinese in the late 1800s and the nation’s current attitudes toward Mexicans who illegally immigrate into the U.S. to work and send money back to their families. His response: “Yeah, they’re almost the same experience.”

By the 1930s, the last Chinese residents left Big Timber.

“We figure they left because they were getting old, missing family or running out of business since the economy wasn’t booming enough for them,” Moschelle said.

Immigration laws initially prevented Chinese women from coming to the U.S. and later laws prevented laborers from immigrating, allowing only professionals such as doctors and acrobats, Merritt said.

Hard Labor of Love

Sarah Erwin, 18, of Billings is one of the students who paid to help out at the Big Timber dig site while earning college credit. Without the students, the work wouldn’t have been funded. Other students came from across the country, including Michigan and Missouri. A Montana State University Billings student, Erwin heard about the dig from her history professor and quickly signed up.

“It’s always been my dream to work at a dig,” Erwin said. “I love it so much. You never know what you’re going to find and learn about the people who lived there.”

The 14 workers at the site have been camping in tents at Gray Bear fishing access site along the Yellowstone River throughout the event, constantly being inundated by rain and weathering cooler-than-usual temperatures. But none of it dampened Erwin’s spirits.

“Camping out in the rain and snow doesn’t bother me,” she said.

Although her professor warned her that the work would be “forced slave labor” that she paid for, she said the 8 to 10 hour days haven’t been too physically demanding. She enjoyed the camaraderie of the crew so much that she’s plan-

ning on transferring to UM this fall.

Part of the dig is taking place directly behind the Shear Chaos boutique, hair and nail salon. Salon co-owner Sara Hunt said when she was growing up in Big Timber, she heard stories about the former Chinese settlement in town.

“I think it’s interesting,” she said. “You know, you never know what the history is until someone digs it up. It will be interesting to find out what they found out... We’re in little China over here.”

Moschelle enjoys revealing the history of the community where he went to high school.

“It’s a neat thing to get the public involved and show them that in their backyard, they have 100 years of history,” he said. “It will be nice to give back to the community, not necessarily a lost history, but a better view of the past.”



Chinese Characters for “prosperity.”

Sidebar: Underground Mystery

In the basement of Big Timber’s Homesteaders Furniture store are some puzzling architectural remnants.

Below ground level of the sandstone block building, constructed in 1896, are a boarded up doorway and framed windows, one with the glass and sash still intact.

“Big Timber has a myth of Chinese tunnels here and how the Chinese used to smuggle people and opium off of the Northern Pacific Railroad,” said Justin Moschelle, a University of Montana graduate student doing archaeological research on Chinese in the town.

“Some people have told us they ran around in the tunnels as kids.”

Further proof of the possibility that the area had tunnels came during a recent cave-in in a lot across the street from Homesteaders, possibly an old tunnel that finally collapsed. And an old manhole cover in front of what used to be the Blakeslee Hotel next door also leads into what appears to be an underground passageway.

“The history and mysteriousness that Big Timber has is neat,” Moschelle said.

He postulated that the windows may have been next to underground cribs for prostitutes surrounding a basement bar.

“It would be typical to find this type of setup for underground prostitution,” he said. “But it’s just rumor and speculation.”

Reprinted with the permission of Brett French, The Billings Gazette

Celebrating Stamford's History

Much of Stamford, Connecticut's industrial history can be told through the locks, latches, knobs, and keys that were produced in the former Yale & Towne Lock (Y&T) complex in the City's South End. Linus Yale, Jr., a Massachusetts-born inventor, and Henry R. Towne, a Philadelphia engineer, came to Stamford in the late 1860s, attracted by the ample labor supply, proximity to railroad lines, and good harbors for schooners and flatboats. The partners built a small factory to manufacture Linus Yale's revolutionary invention: a mass-produceable tumbler cylinder lock with a flat key.

Although Yale died during construction of their first building, Towne led the company to success as one of the world's largest hardware manufacturers. The complex eventually covered 21 acres and one million square feet, including brass and iron foundries, sawtooth-monitor production centers, and later, multi-story loft buildings. At one time, Y&T employed 4,000 people, close to 25% of the city's population; Stamford became known as Lock City.

In the late 1960s, Y&T gradually closed down its operations in Stamford, leaving behind an industrial wasteland of 30 buildings. Although a portion of the buildings were demolished in the early 1980s, the remaining industrial spaces began to fill up with painters, sculptors, musicians, and photographers attracted by low rent and vast work spaces. By the year 2000, most of the complex was rented to artists, while antique shops took over the one-story foundry buildings.

The lofts were especially attractive to photographers, not just because of the economics, but because of the special quality of light. They say that artists love Paris because of its silvery light; Y&T appealed to photographers for a similar reason: the beautiful, warm light reflected off the nearby waters of a 19th century canal and Long Island Sound poured in through oversized windows. But the light was only one factor. The complex was visually exciting, with looming, prison-like loft buildings, a giant smokestack, the jagged, saw tooth roofs of the courtyard factories, the multi-paned windows

that reflected the skyline of Stamford, the surprise-filled passages between buildings, the views of city and Sound from the rooftop, the signs still posted on brick walls, advertising long-departed occupants – all contributed to an exciting visual kaleidoscope, a photographer's paradise.

The remaining Y&T structures are now slated for demolition or adaptation for a residential enclave. The artists have moved to other city lofts; the antique shops have closed. In a tribute to both Y&T and the artists who followed, the current site developer, Antares Real Estate, sponsored an exhibit, *Yale and Towne: Portraits Locked in Time*. This exhibit included works of 15 photographers, most of whom rented Y&T loft space at one time or another. The evocative photographic portraits of the twisted and rusted skeleton of Y&T's past constitute a tribute to the photographer's eye and how it can turn drab into visual gold.

Although the exhibit gallery recently closed in June, the photographic collection has been shifted to the halls of the Antares office complex at 333 Ludlow Street, Stamford, CT. If interested in viewing the Y&T images, contact Elizabeth Marks, EMARKS@elliman.com, or Craig Dececchis, CDececchis@antaresrealestate.com, and arrange a viewing time in the Antares complex.

The photographic exhibit, coordinated jointly by the Historic Neighborhood Preservation Program (HNPP) and Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI), is only one component of Antares' efforts to celebrate the history of the South End. An educational packet for public distribution, as well as interpretive signage for the proposed waterfront esplanade, which is required by the City's Zoning Board, will also be developed over the next year by HNPP and HPI. Both of these outreach programs will cover thousands of years of activities in southwest CT, beginning with the archaeological evidence of the Native American occupation of the marshes and hillocks bordering Long Island Sound.

Cece Saunders
Historical Perspectives, Inc.

Thoughts on Who Were the First Americans

When the last glacier was at its peak some 20,000 years ago, present day Canada and some northern parts of the U.S. were covered by two ice masses one or more miles in height. These two glaciers are known as the Laurentide and the Cordilleran Ice Sheets, one located in the east and the other in the west, respectively. It's generally accepted that any passage by humans or fauna through this region during this time was impossible. However, as the glaciers were receding, it is universally accepted that humans, following megafauna, crossed over from Siberia into North America and began

populating the Western Hemisphere some 12,000 years ago. A human gateway into North America was created where these two ice sheets parted and provided an ice free zone, east of the Rockies. This is the well-known Beringia paradigm, named after the large exposed isthmus of land commonly called the Bering Land Bridge.

Numerous archaeological sites in North America have been dated and verified that a Clovis and/or Llano culture was here around 10,000 years ago and hence what we call

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the Paleo-Indian period. I interject the term Llano alongside Clovis because the term Llano not only includes the beautiful fluted points we all adore and associate with the paleo period but the whole tool kit used by the Paleo-Indian culture, including not only lithics, but also tools made from materials such as bone, wood and antler.

But, could there have been humans in the Western Hemisphere before Clovis? There are sites found in the Western Hemisphere that may have evidence of human habitation before the Clovis or Llano period. These early sites are referred to by archaeologists as the pre-Clovis or pre-Llano period and have artifact evidence dating older than 11,000 to 12,000 years ago. The following are just a few sites and unlike Clovis and later sites, they break from the above paradigm and are controversial.

In the vicinity of **Old Crow Village** in northern Yukon Territory, Canada, numerous bone artifacts have been discovered that have been dated as far back as 20,000 years ago. Along the banks of the Old Crow River, bones of various mammals have been exposed, some of which appear to be artifacts. Researchers have indicated that these bone artifacts are tools flaked from bone cores in the same fashion as they are from lithic cores. If radiocarbon dates from these artifacts hold up to scrutiny, it will show that humans were in this part of North America when the last glacier was at its maximum. Early human occupation in this part of Canada may not be that surprising because this area of the Bering Land Bridge is thought to be ice free, so humans may have been venturing here from Siberia before the recession of the glacier.

At the southern extremity of the Western Hemisphere from Old Crow is the **Monte Verde Site** in Chile. Its researchers put the dates of this site at least 11,000 years ago. It is the site of a village that was buried under a peat bog and preserved for centuries. Numerous features and artifacts have been found, such as wooden house foundations and walls covered with animal skins, stone and wood tools, cultivated plants, grinding implements and even a child-sized footprint. It gained some pre-Llano acceptance after a visit by prominent archaeologists. Also, unlike the earliest Clovis sites, which are kill sites occupied by wandering hunters, Monte Verde was a permanent settlement. Therefore, adhering to strictly a Beringia paradigm, how could

these people have reached this extreme end of the Western Hemisphere so quickly? Perhaps instead they migrated across the Pacific when El Nino weather cycles may have provided favorable winds allowing humans to cross the South Pacific and colonize parts of South America. "Archaeologists in Chile recently found ancient chicken bones containing DNA that matches early Polynesian fowl" (*National Geographic Society*, March 2008, pg. 123.)

Another interesting site is **Cactus Hill** on the Nottaway River, 45 miles southwest of Richmond, Virginia. It's a multi-component site with artifacts found in April 2000 dating back to 17,000 years ago. A stratum below Clovis has yielded calcined animal bone and numerous pre-Clovis lithics of points, blades and cores. Some researchers believe the lithics are precursors to Clovis, with typological features relating to both Clovis and Western European Solitarian. This further raises the hypothesis by its researchers that early inhabitants to eastern North America may have come from Europe crossing the North Atlantic ice pack during the last glacier when it was at its maximum. Needless to say, this hypothesis is very controversial.

A prominent site called **Meadowcroft Rockshelter** is located 36 miles southwest of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It overlooks Cross Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River. This site was excavated from 1973 to 1978, and is a designated National Historic Landmark. This site is only 30 miles from the farthest extent of the last glacier and has evidence of occupation from the paleo to the woodland period. Most interesting is that its researchers have found fire pits below the Paleolithic level with radiocarbon dates of 16,000 to 19,000 years ago.

Here are examples of other possible pre-Clovis sites. The **Paiseley Cave Site** in the Summer Lake Basin of Oregon has revealed 14,300-year-old human DNA found in human feces (*Science Daily*, April 2008). Southeast of Mexico City at the **Tlapacoya** site on the shore of former Lake Chalco, an obsidian blade was found in a feature in association with a radiocarbon date of 21,000 years ago. Finally, at the **Topper** site on the Savannah River, near Allendale, South Carolina, micro blades and thousands of waste flakes were found many centimeters below the strata of Clovis preforms with unbelievable dates back as far as 50,000 years ago.

From the above sites we can come up with at least three hypotheses of how the Western Hemisphere was populated other than the Beringia Paradigm. Humans could have ven-



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tured here by way of skirting the Pacific Rim coastline from East Asia, using small watercraft and exposed areas of the ancient shoreline to hunt and fish for sustenance. Another route could have been across the South Pacific during favorable climatic conditions. And last, by way of the North Atlantic ice pack similar to the skirting the Pacific coast method.

This is a brief and shallow article on a topic about which volumes could be written. I have mentioned only a few of the possible pre-Clovis sites, where many exist. How do we define the First Americans? Were they the first humans who occupied the Western Hemisphere but survived for only a few generations? Or are they measured by how long they

existed and the culture they established here into the European contact period? In any case, this is a very interesting topic and an investigation that is great food for our thoughts.

Bibliography and References:

Patrusky, Ben. "FIRST AMERICANS: Who Were They and When Did They Arrive?" Article from Whitten, Phillip and Hunter, David. *Anthropology, Contemporary Perspectives*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston Toronto: 1987.
National Geographic: December 2000 and March 2008.

Jim Trocchi

Oops! Did you forget to renew your membership? Memberships are renewable annually in January. Single \$25.00, Family \$35.00. Make check payable to **Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.**, P.O. Box 380845, East Hartford, CT 06138-0845.

We Are Grateful to June Cooke

In the summer of 1996, while a small group of volunteer diggers for the OSA worked at a prehistoric site in Westbrook, June Cooke told everyone present of her idea to start a nonprofit Friends group to support the Office of State Archaeology. Over the next few months June contacted many Connecticut people who were supportive in this endeavor, and in January 1997 she presided over a meeting held in Westbrook to establish the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, complete with a Board of Directors and Officers. Board meetings were held monthly that year to establish the Mission of FOSA, By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and to obtain nonprofit corporation status. Committees were formed to develop a FOSA brochure, increase membership, plan annual meetings and create a FOSA newsletter.

June Cooke remained actively involved in FOSA affairs.

She has led the Newsletter Committee for ten years. Through her keen awareness of archaeological news and contacts, June consistently delivered timely news of interest for FOSA members. Over time the FOSA newsletter grew to twelve pages.

After ten years of inspired leadership and dedicated service, June Cooke resigned from the Newsletter Committee in September 2008. "It's time for new ideas," she said, after completing this issue. We have been most fortunate and grateful to work with June on the FOSA newsletters for such a long time. We applaud her performance and thank her for her service. June has other missions to pursue and we know she will be successful in accomplishing them.

Mae Johnson

Meetings and Announcements

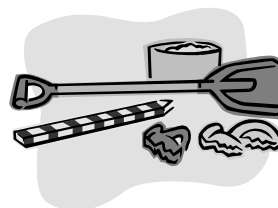
Saturday, October 4, 2008 – 10 am to 3 pm: The Institute for American Indian Studies, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, CT, off Rte. 199. **3rd Annual Archaeology-Native American Round Table: "Peopling of the New World."** Public welcome.

Saturday, October 11, 2008 - 10 am to 4 pm: **New England Atlatl Day (Spear Throwing) Competition.** Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT. Free. Co-Sponsored by the Friends of Hammonasset and the CT State Museum of Natural History/Archaeology Center. Activities for all levels of ability. International Standard Accuracy Contest (ISAC), Woolly Mammoth Hunt, Ancient Technologies Demonstrations and Exhibits. For more information contact Gary Nolf gnolf@comcast.net.

Saturday, October 18, 2008 – 9 am to 4 pm: Archaeological Society of Connecticut Fall Meeting to be held at The Fairfield Museum and History Center, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT. For details and directions see www.fairfieldhs.org. Theme: **Aqua Archaeology and Current Research.** Admission: general public \$10, members \$8, students \$5. For more information call Program Chair Dawn Brown at 203-335-8745.

Saturday, October 18, 2008 - 1 pm: Henry Whitfield Museum, Old Whitfield Street, Guilford, CT. 2 pm to 4 pm: **"The Archaeology of Connecticut's Oldest House"** a talk on recent site excavations by Yale University with an interactive archaeological learning experience. Begun in 1639 the Henry Whitfield House is the oldest remaining house in Connecticut and is New England's oldest stone house.

Sunday, October 26, 2008 – 1 pm: The Prudence Crandall Museum, Canterbury, CT. 2 pm to 4 pm: **"Who's trash? Analysis of artifacts from the Prudence Crandall Museum"** by Ross Harper, Archaeological Consulting Service with an interactive archaeological learning experience. The Prudence Crandall Museum is located on the Canterbury Green, the site of New England's first Academy for black girls established by Prudence Crandall.



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Newsletter Committee: June Cooke, Mae Johnson, Kristen Keegan, and Jim Trocchi.