

Member Newsletter



Special points of interest:

- Volunteer Profiles
- Farmington Students Excavate at Willington
- Connecticut State Parks
- Article: Exploring a Historical Feature

Spring 2013



President's Letter

FOSA Members:

The “State of ...” seems to be a staple for the beginning of each year so I thought it reasonable to speak to the state of FOSA.

We are in good shape! Despite the tough economic times, our membership increases yearly and we continue to receive generous donations. Our list of volunteers has really grown the past year, which is a welcome indicator of a healthy organization. I believe that our success is attributable to a number of things.

Nick Bellantoni, with his passion for archaeology and colorful storytelling, encourages others to join FOSA whenever he makes a presentation. FOSA usually gains at least one member each time he speaks, and often we receive a donation.

The Outreach Program, chaired by Bonnie and Ken Beatrice, is also a strong influence. This couple devotes entire weekends to manning FOSA exhibit tables at local historical and

archaeological events. They do the research, design the exhibits and gather the needed artifacts that attract large numbers of children and adults. Their pictures enliven their reports and the Newsletters. The displays they put together for our Annual Meetings are legendary. In connection with the Outreach Program, we are now being asked to make presentations to groups about archaeology. Fortunately, a number of volunteers provide help at these events.

A vital contributor to our growth is the FOSA website and our presence on social media. Jim Hall put FOSA on this path when he built our website. If you haven't accessed it, go now! www.fosa-ct.org. It contains a trove of information about FOSA, archaeology, our digs, OSA activities, pictures—you'll want to spend some time going through it. In addition, Mandy Ranslow and Sharon Clapp have put us on Facebook and Twitter, and monitor its contents.

(Continued on page 2)



News from the Office of State Archaeology

With winter ending, we've traded out snow shovels for archaeological shovels. Bruce Greene and I will be going over our upcoming field projects soon and FOSA membership will be notified in advance of scheduled digs. Currently, we anticipate fieldwork in Ashford, Windsor, Thompson, New Milford, Preston, Shelton, Manchester, and Glastonbury. A wide tour of the Connecticut landscape! In addition, we are hoping to conduct ground-penetrating surveys around the State with our colleagues at the Natural Resources Conservation Service the week of June 17-21.

Bruce will keep our Volunteer Coordinator informed as to when these projects will be underway.

The first two weeks of April found me in the island paradise of Hawaii! The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) and the National Association of State Archaeologists (NASA) had their annual meeting in Honolulu, and I attended to co-chair an SAA symposium and chair the NASA meeting. Hey, someone has to do it!!!

The exciting part for me (besides being in Hawaii!) is that I was able to pay my respects at the grave of Henry O'pukahaia.

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News from the Archaeological Society of Connecticut

Our latest public program was our annual Spring Meeting at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport on Saturday, April 20. The program focused on archaeology in Southwestern Connecticut and on P.T. Barnum, with an afternoon tour of this under-sung museum which was planned by Barnum and built in 1894, just after his death.

We are also beginning to plan for our semi-annual Fall Meeting, which is scheduled for the last Saturday in Archaeology Awareness week, October 19. Our past two fall meetings have been near archaeology sites such as the Barkhamsted Lighthouse and Gungywamp (Groton) which has allowed for papers on the site in the morning and a tour of the site in the afternoon. This meeting format has been very popular and we hope to continue it by visiting another prominent site this fall. Details will be in coming ASC newsletters and on our web site.

The winner of last year's Lyent Russell Grant was Ken Feder, who used it to obtain C14 dates for the steatite quarry he is excavating in Barkhamsted. They came back in the middle of the Terminal Archaic period and he will be reporting on them in greater detail shortly. Meanwhile we encourage everyone who is a member of ASC to consider taking advantage of this source of funding for archaeology projects. Application forms will be included with our next newsletter, and the date for submission will be on August 1st of this year.

We are still looking for volunteers to help with our web site, the possibility of entering social media, and especially for handling publicity. Anyone who would like to become more involved in the ASC is encouraged to contact its president, Dan Cruson at (203)426-6021 or email at dcruson@charter.net.

Dan Cruson, President, ASC

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

A number of our members say that they found us on the Internet and social media, so we are reaping the benefits.

The opportunity to help catalog artifacts at Horsebarn Hill has attracted a large group of people every Monday during the winter months. Regular faces have been joined by a number of new ones and the boxes of uncataloged artifacts are rapidly disappearing.

The economic situation in the state and at UCONN during the past few years has not allowed the hiring of an assistant for the OSA. FOSA has donated the funds needed for a work-

study student to work in the OSA Library and another assistant to work with the GIS. It isn't the assistant archaeologist that Nick REALLY needs, but it is a big help.

As we move forward into 2013, FOSA is working to create a larger footprint for archaeology in the state. I encourage you to become involved. Digging will shortly begin and I'll look forward to seeing you in the field or at other events where FOSA has an exhibit. We are also planning on sponsoring another Archaeology Day, in the fall. Enjoy the spring!

Cynthia Redman, President

News from the Office of State Archaeology

(Continued from page 1)

Henry is historically referred to as the first Christianized Native Hawaiian. He left the Islands as a young man on an American sealing ship and arrived in New Haven in 1809. O'pukaha'ia was given the phonetically spelled name of "Obookiah." He was an intelligent and cheerful individual who committed himself to studying the Bible and deciding that his life goal would be to learn the Gospel, become a missionary, and go back to Hawaii to convert his fellow natives to Christianity. Unfortunately, in February of 1818 at the age of 26, Henry contracted typhus and died before he could go back to the islands of his birth. Near death, he said, "Oh, how I want to see Owhyee!" He was buried in Cornwall Center Cemetery, Cornwall, CT.

In 1993, Henry's clan descendants petitioned the State of Connecticut to have his remains removed for reburial on the

big island of Hawaii at his home village. They felt that his story and return would be inspirational to contemporary Hawaiians who were struggling with issues of sovereignty at that time. As State Archaeologist, I was entrusted with the professional and respectful exhumation of Henry O'pukaha'ia.

Henry returned to Kona, Hawaii, in August, 1993. FOSA members Roger Thompson and Dave Cooke among others wrote an article on Henry in *Connecticut History* (vol. 46, No. 2, 2007). And, now after twenty years I had an opportunity to go and see Henry's gravesite and visit with family members we befriended so long ago.

My trip to Hawaii was only professional, but also very personal!

Nicholas Bellantoni, PhD, State Archaeologist

Volunteer Profiles

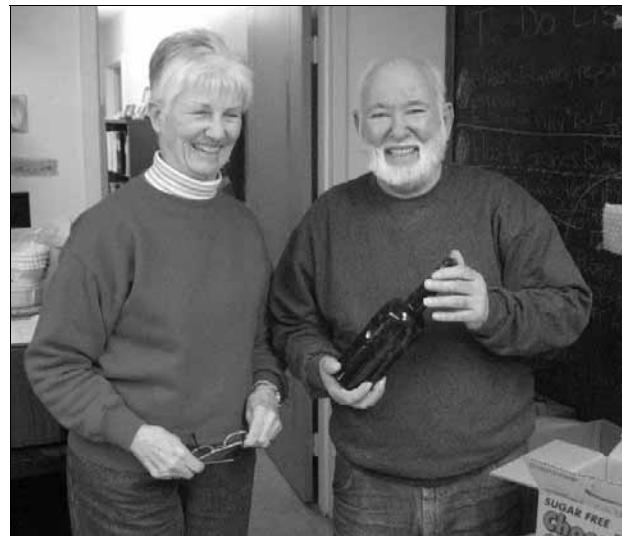
Jack Barclay requested that the Office of State Archaeology conduct an archaeological research investigation and excavation of the ironworks located on his property this past summer. Several of the iron pieces indicated a 19th century carriage or wagon manufacturing shop.



Jack Barclay cataloging iron artifacts from his property. *Photo: Ken Beatrice.*



One of the many Barclay property iron artifacts was a "Step Pedal" with a heart shape cut from the pedal. *Photo: Ken Beatrice.*



Let's POP the CORK !! "All we need now are some cheese and crackers." *Photo: Ken Beatrice.*

In the photo above, Pat Reardon and Jack Rajotte, two of this winter's artifact catalogers, at the OSA Library and Laboratory, are inspecting the bottle's mold seam to determine the manufacturing date. Pat assists in cataloging and Jack is establishing a "Ceramic Comparison Collection" to facilitate the identification of ceramic artifacts.

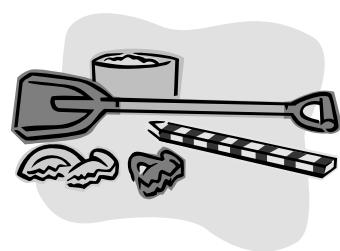
FOSA would like to thank Pat, Jack, and all the many catalogers for their work this past winter. It was an enjoyable experience for me and I hope that it was for you.

Hope to see you in the field this coming dig season!

Ken Beatrice

FOSA Officers and Board

Cynthia Redman – President
Mandy Ranslow – Vice President
Dreda Hendsey – Treasurer
Jim Trocchi – Secretary
Mike Cahill – Board Member
Dick Hughes – Board Member
Jeremy Pilver – Board Member
Mike Raber – Board Member
Paul Scannell – Board Member
Kathy Walburn – New Board Member



FOSA Annual Financial Report

Calendar Year 2012

Beginning Balance 1/1/2012	\$13,761.25
Income	\$8,196.00
Expenses	\$9,270.15
Ending Balance 12/31/2012	<u>\$12,687.10</u>
Dr. Douglas Jordan Radiocarbon Fund	
Beginning Balance 1/1/2012	\$3,552.80
Income	\$186.10
Expenses	\$595.00
Ending Balance 12/31/2012	<u>\$3,143.90</u>

FOSA's Newest Board Member

FOSA welcomes its newest member to the Board of Directors! Kathy Walburn was voted in at the March 10, 2013 Board of Directors meeting to fill a vacancy on the Board. Kathy is a member of FOSA and has served as the President of the Arthur Basto Society. Kathy has expressed an interest in fundraising and organizing events. Welcome Kathy!

*Michael Cahill
Chairman, Nomination Committee*

Want to Do More for FOSA?

FOSA's Board of Directors has at least one opening and perhaps more. A few duties of the BOD are: planning the Annual Meeting and various other events throughout the year, producing the Newsletter, and updating the website. The BOD also handles FOSA financial matters and decide where money will be spent to best fulfill FOSA's mission to support the State Archaeologist. If you have organizational skills, computer skills, financial skills, leadership skills, corporate resources, etc. the Board needs you. The BOD meets at least four times a year and has additional meetings as needed. New members of the BOD will be elected at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years. If you are interested please send a short biography, along with any additional questions to MKHIL@aol.com.

Welcome New Members (since September 1, 2012)

Heather Alexson, Willington
Carolyn & Tom Arey, Tolland
Jana Brady, Cheshire
Zachary Critchley, Clinton
Ron Crowcroft, Woodbury
Arianna Diaz, Unionville
Brendan, Christopher, Martin, & Lori Edwards, Glastonbury
Bonnie Ferrero, Bloomfield
Kyle Forrest, East Hartford
Greg Gioia, Cromwell
Fred Gudrian, Meriden
Richard Haase, Haddam
Walter Harris, Hamden
Dana & Kara Heilemann, Brooklyn
Brian D. Jones, Glastonbury
Reinhard & Barbara Kage, Glastonbury
Karl Kaufmann, Ivoryton
Jeffrey Keel, Mansfield
Lori Kessel, East Haddam
Amara Litten, Cromwell
Elizabeth M. Mark, Glastonbury
Bob Neddo, Salem
Jacob Orcutt, Portland
Peter & Barbara Rzasa, Seymour
Christina Michele Sites, North Haven
Niki C. Watson, Windsor
Dan Wilcox, Burlington
Brian Williams, Trumbull
Lynda Williams, Branford
Robert J. Young, Danbury

Donations (since September 1, 2012)

FOSA General Fund:

Art Lundeberg, Manchester
Barbara H. Manstan, Westbrook
Joan McCarthy, South Glastonbury
Patricia Reardon, Windsor
Jim Trocchi, Windsor
Bruce & Janet Wallace, Wethersfield
Phillip & Marilyn Wilsey, Newington

Radiocarbon Dating Fund:

Richard Q. Bourn, Jr., Old Saybrook
Sharon Clapp, Wolcott
Betsy & John Corrigan, Washington
Len Messina, Middletown

FOSA Outreach

FOSA Outreach is excited to announce that plans are already in the works for new opportunities to help enhance public awareness of the importance of archaeology throughout Connecticut.

Volunteers needed! Watch your newsletters and email for more information about these upcoming events and ways you may participate.

In 2012, FOSA Outreach exhibited at the Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium in East Hartford. In celebration of Archaeology Awareness Month, Outreach presented displays at the Hammonasset Jamboree & Atlatl Competition in Madison and the Archaeology Fair in Wethersfield.

The goal of this year's Outreach exhibit is to show that archaeology is so much more than just *digging for artifacts*. Archaeology allows one a glimpse into the past to gain an understanding, appreciation and respect for the technology, people, and way of life hundreds or thousands of years ago. In doing this, one realizes that archaeology encompasses a vastly



diverse array of disciplines. Adults and children alike discover that their wide range of interests can be incorporated into the many facets of archaeology such as Native American, Colonial, Industrial and Marine Archaeology, just to name a few.

The mission of the Outreach volunteer is education, to emphasize the respect with which every archaeological site is handled and to share in the excitement and enthusiasm for the science and art of archaeology. It is wonderful to exchange stories and experiences with people who visit FOSA's exhibits and to witness the excitement in a child's eyes as they are allowed to hold artifacts that are often only available to be viewed under glass.

Thank you to all who help make FOSA Outreach a success!

*Bonnie Beatrice - Outreach Programs
FOSAOutreach@hotmail.com
Photo by Ken Beatrice*

OSA to Assist in Defining Historic Homestead at Sherwood Island

Sherwood Island State Park, composed of 234 acres along the Westport shoreline, was the first designated state park in Connecticut. In anticipation of the 100th Birthday Celebration of Connecticut's State Park system, Nick Bellantoni will assist Sherwood Island State Park Supervisor Jim Beschle with archaeological investigations focused on confirming the site of the original Sherwood family holdings. The Park is named after Daniel Sherwood, who settled in the area in 1761. Daniel and his wife Catherine Burr and their family farmed onions and potatoes and harvested oysters on the site.

As a part of an ongoing, year-long centennial commemoration, the Park plans to analyze and interpret the



archaeological findings for new educational panels on the history of the Sherwood family and their farming activities, as well as earlier Native American occupations.

On May 22nd, Wednesday, Nick will be at Sherwood Island State Park to kick off the archaeological testing. To assist with the day's field investigation, contact Cece Saunders at the Friends of Sherwood Island State Park, 203-226-7654 or cece@historicalperspectives.org.

The Friends of the Sherwood Island State Park will provide coffee/donuts to the public and offer a viewing of their historic Sherwood family materials starting at 9 a.m. at the Park's Nature Center.

Join us for the day!

FOSA T-Shirts

FOSA T-shirts are now available for purchase online at <http://www.zazzle.com/fosact>. Shirts can be purchased in a range of styles, colors, and sizes. If you have any questions about the shirts prior to making your purchase please e-mail Mandy at fosa.ct@gmail.com. A "Merchandise" link is also on the FOSA website (www.fosa-ct.org).

The Board realizes that not every member uses



the internet or computers. We would like to offer an alternative for purchasing shirts for those who do not use a computer. If you are interested in a shirt and do not have computer access please call Mandy at 203-768-0361 and she will coordinate with you.

Farmington Students Excavate in Willington

On October 3, 2012, the Farmington High School Anthropology and Archaeology class began a two-day excavation and field school on the grounds of a colonial-era house in Willington, CT. The house is believed to be the oldest in Willington, built c. 1727 by John Watson, a carpenter and one of the founders of the town.

This was the second field school and excavation led by Social Studies teacher Jeremy Pilver, and included twenty current Anthropology and Archaeology students, as well as six students from his spring 2012 class. Jeremy has an MA in historical archaeology, and currently serves on FOSA's Board of Directors.

Prior to the field school, students learned about the goals, methodology, techniques, and ethical responsibilities of archaeologists. They also conducted research on life in colonial



Students carefully and systematically excavated their units, working together to document all finds. *Photo: Alex James, 2012.*



Unit excavated and set up for photography by FHS students, displaying an assemblage of ceramic pottery, nails, brick, and pipe stems. *Photo: Diana Letniowska, 2012.*

New England, particularly in eastern Connecticut, and generated a series of research questions to guide their investigation, including:

- What was the social, economic, and political status of the occupants of the house?
- What changes throughout time are evident among the artifacts uncovered? What does this tell us about the different periods of occupation?

Students completed all aspects of the archaeological excavation including the cleaning, processing, classifying, and photographing of artifacts. Numerous artifacts were uncovered, including many 18th and 19th century nails, glass, buttons, ceramics, and early pipe stems.

Students from the class displayed artifacts and pictures from

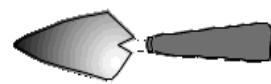
the excavation and communicated their findings to the archaeological community at the 2012 FOSA Archaeology Fair held in October at the Keeney Memorial Center in Wethersfield, CT. This event coincided with National Archaeology Day 2012, and included many local and professional archaeological societies and programs from throughout the state.

Thanks to Bob Johnson, Carl Johnson, and Joel Nick for their support and assistance, as well as students Diana Letniowska and Alex James for their excellent photographic work.

Jeremy Pilver



Students screening excavated material from their units. *Photo: Alex James, 2012.*



New “Special Feature” on the FOSA Website: “Introduction to Archaeology”

With help from State Archaeologist Dr. Nick Bellantoni and FOSA Board member (and archaeologist) Mandy Ranslow, a new section has been added to the “Special Features” link on the FOSA website, titled “Introduction to Archaeology.”

This feature is derived from on-site lectures often given as part of the annual Adult Field School led by Dr. Bellantoni. The lectures are intended to explain the fundamentals of archaeology, giving insight into the techniques, tools, and methods used before, during, and after the excavation is performed.

The lectures are accompanied by a PowerPoint slide show which illustrates the subjects and concepts being discussed, and

from which the Feature has been created.

While the Feature’s collection of images cannot replace the contextual discussions that Dr. Bellantoni provides with each slide, they will hopefully provide the viewer with an appreciation of the wealth of information provided during the course of the Field School.

At a number of places, links are provided to direct the user to other pages in FOSA’s and other websites, where additional information on an image’s subject may be found.

Jim Hall

FOSA Website Committee

Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center Update

Mashantucket Update

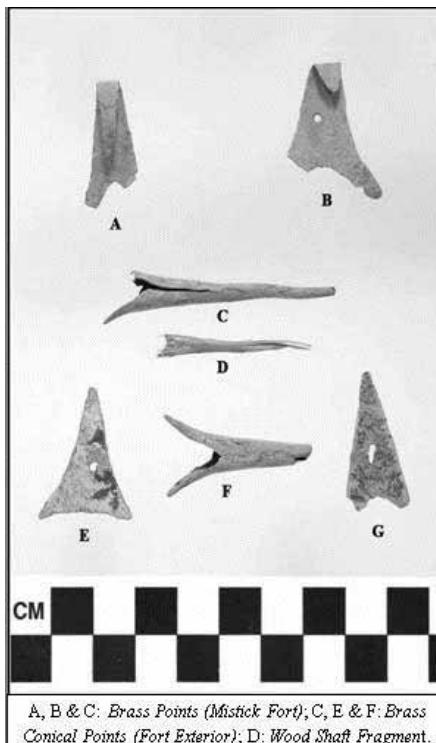
A dedicated crew of archaeologists continue to excavate a multicomponent site with a significant Paleo-Indian component. Recent recoveries include a Vail-Debert fluted point, channel flakes, blades, and a handful of scraping tools of various materials, including Munsungan chert and jasper.

Second Battle of Nipsachuck

Researchers have completed archaeological and remote sensing studies at a King Philip’s War battlefield site with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, Blackstone Valley Historical Society of Lincoln, RI, and the Narragansett Tribe at Nipsachuck, supported by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program. Although the battle site is not contained in Connecticut’s borders, military forces present at the battle included Connecticut English soldiers accompanied by 100 Mohegans and Pequots. The historical impacts of this battle reverberated through all communities of southern New England during the second half of the seventeenth century.

Battlefields of the Pequot War

Writers and editors have completed the “Battle of Mistick Fort Site Identification and Documentation Public Technical Report,” now available online at www.pequotwar.org. Archaeological work supported by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program will continue this coming summer at the “Retreat from Mistick Fort Site Identification and Documentation.” This site was identified last year using historical documentation with archaeological and remote sensing surveys; it is where English-Allied forces encountered significant Pequot counter-attacks as they



A, B & C: Brass Points (Mistick Fort); C, E & F: Brass Conical Points (Fort Exterior); D: Wood Shaft Fragment.

retreated eight miles west to their waiting ships following the destruction of Mistick Fort. Pequot War researchers are currently working hand-in-hand with the Old Saybrook Historical Society and landholders at Saybrook Point, where field work will begin this summer to define and locate the sites associated with the Pequot War’s “Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort.” During the winter months of 1636-37, the Pequot besieged the fort in retaliation for English attacks at Block Island and near the Thames River. The Pequot attacked the fort and its English inhabitants, commanded by Lieutenant Lion Gardiner.

2013 Field Schools

The University of Connecticut and Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center will offer two field schools this coming summer in both historic battlefield archaeology and pre-Contact archaeology. Students in the battlefield field school will excavate at two Pequot War battlefields, the

“Retreat from Mistick Fort (May 26, 1637)” and the “Siege and Battle of Saybrook Fort (Sept. 1636 – May 1637),” as well as a War of 1812 battlefield, “The British Raid on Essex (April 7-8, 1814).” All three projects are supported by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, and are part of a long-term effort to document the Battlefields of the Pequot War (visit www.pequotwar.org for additional information) and Connecticut’s role during the War of 1812. The pre-Contact field school will include surveys and excavations on landforms associated with two Paleo-Indian sites. The field schools will be based at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center with fieldwork taking place in Connecticut on the Mashantucket Reservation, Mystic, Old Saybrook, and

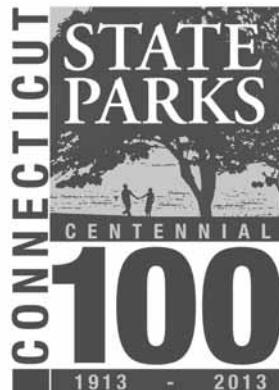
(Continued on page 8)

"Explore, Discover and Celebrate" as Connecticut State Parks Turn 100

A little more than a century ago, as our state began to industrialize, a small group of wise businessmen and naturalists began to become concerned about the changing landscape. They recognized a need to preserve the state's special places before they were lost to development. This group, the Connecticut Park Commission, embarked upon a statewide tour, carefully selecting sites that represented Connecticut's heritage, its natural beauty, and its recreational potential. The State Park Commission first met in September of 1913, and by 1914, the first state parks were available to be enjoyed by the public. Today, the Connecticut State Parks and Forests system has grown to include 107 state parks, 32 state forests, and 121 public boat launches, and hosts 8 million visitors annually.

To celebrate, the Friends of Connecticut State Parks, along with the 22 individual state parks, Friends groups and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, in partnership with the Connecticut State Parks Division, are planning a year-long Centennial celebration beginning in August of 2013 and concluding in September of 2014. Already planned are four statewide events and scores of individual park events which will be held throughout the state parks during the Centennial year.

Governor Malloy will kick off the celebration in August of this year at Dinosaur State Park with an opening ceremony including a proclamation and a reception for the Event Sponsors, Supporters and Friends. This will be followed by the Centennial SOJourn (*Summer Outdoor Journey*), a 169-mile journey across Connecticut beginning at Quaddick State Park in Thompson and concluding at Connecticut's first state park, Sherwood Island. 169 represents 1 mile for every town in Connecticut. Participants will travel through at least 20 state parks, forests, and trails utilizing various modes of travel including bikes, kayaks, horses, and hiking. The Sojourners will participate in daily special programs at each stop and camp out each night. Equipment will be transported to and from each stop/campsite by truck. The public is invited to participate in part or all of the journey.



In 2014, a State Parks Birthday Party will be held. The Birthday Party will include a professional sand castle building demonstration, an amateur sand castle contest, birthday treats and voluntary "Give-Back-to-Parks" events featuring small projects that the public can work on to improve their favorite parks. The finale celebration is entitled "The Sky's the Limit."

This event will include kite demonstrations, hot air balloons, astronomy programs, bird watching, model airplane flying, and other aerial events. The Governor and State Park staff will wrap up the Centennial by announcing their vision for State Parks as their next century begins.

In addition to the aforementioned events, the State Park system will also be celebrating the Centennial year by improving the parks and their infrastructure. A few of the planned projects include:

- 100 camping cabins being built in State Park campgrounds across the state;
- A new nature center at Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison with the support of the Friends of Hammonasset Beach;
- Sherwood Island State Park's historic main pavilion will receive a complete renovation;
- The next phase of development of Silver Sands State Park in Milford will take place (bathhouse and other improvements);
- A new bathhouse at West Beach at Hammonasset Beach State Park in Madison; and
- Other statewide improvements to facilities, such as new picnic pavilions and energy efficient heating and lighting systems.

You are invited to rediscover the natural wonders, outdoor adventures, and inspiring history that can be found waiting for you throughout Connecticut. Come be part of the festivities as we "Explore, Discover and Celebrate" the magic of Connecticut's State Parks!

Pam Adams
Chair, State Park Centennial Committee

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center

(Continued from page 7)
Essex.

These six-week, six-credit field schools include training in standard archaeological field survey and excavation, artifact conservation, cataloguing and analysis, research, and field methods specific to battlefield archaeology including an analysis of primary sources, use of military terrain models, metal detecting surveys, and GPS/GIS applications. The field schools provide a unique opportunity for



Recently recovered Vail-Debert fluted point base.

students to work on a nationally significant collaborative research project alongside tribal members, archaeologists, and military historians. In addition to the field-work, students will participate in training workshops in laboratory and research methods, attend guest lectures, complete assigned readings, and maintain a daily field journal.

Laurie Pasteryak

Exploring a Historical Feature

Here in New England we are blessed with so many interesting historical features standing where they were abandoned. Some examples are old stone walls to demarcate boundaries or breached stone dams with their identifiable raceways, whose waterpower powered mills to manufacture lumber, textiles, and many other items. They are a treat to visit, observe, and reminisce about our past and reconstruct their operation through research.

Close to my home is a historical feature that dates back to 1844. It is the abandoned remains of one of the footings that supported a former wooden railroad bridge. Next to it stands its replacement, a nearly 150-year-old stone arch bridge, which is an active historical feature. It was built in 1867, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the largest of its kind in New England (NPS72001334). Today it carries a daily schedule of Amtrak and freight trains across the Farmington River in Windsor.

The remains of this abandoned footing are shown in Photo 1, below and to the right of its Stone Arch Bridge successor.

The wooden pilings that surround this artificial island have survived because they are submerged below water most of the year, except during the dry summer months. With the absence of oxygen, their decay is greatly delayed. The wooden bridge that once stood here was built by the Hartford and Springfield Rail Road (RR) to join up with the completed Hartford and New Haven RR. The Hartford and New Haven RR was completed in 1841 and the Hartford and Springfield RR was not completed until 1844. They were separate railroads until they merged as one in 1847 to become the Hartford and New Haven RR. In 1872 this RR became the New York, New Haven and Hartford RR until 1959. Thereafter it became the Penn Central, for a few short years, then Conrail and finally today, part of Amtrak (OldRailHistory.com).

Using this historical feature of the former wooden bridge as a stimulus, I would like to take you on an historical trip through the historical archives of the *Hartford Daily Courant* (HDC). I thank those builders of the past who left this feature for us and allow us to quench our historical curiosity and relive

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Volunteers Wanted!

As always, FOSA is looking for volunteers to help out in a number of ways. Our excavation season is about to begin and FOSA is tentatively scheduled to be in New Milford, Preston, Thompson, and Windsor this summer. The FOSA Outreach Committee welcomes new volunteers at their programs so watch your e-mail for opportunities. The Archaeology

Awareness Month Committee will be gearing up this spring to start planning. Members are most welcome to join. Please e-mail Mandy at fosa.ct@gmail.com if you're interested in participating in any of these opportunities. Also e-mail with any questions or ideas you may have!

FOSA's Appreciation Award Goes to Roger Thompson

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. gratefully acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Roger Thompson.

Roger served as FOSA President from 2004 - 2007. Yet his support reaches beyond his years of service on the Board, with much being accomplished "behind the scenes." In his attempt to procure much-needed funding for OSA, he has worked with Connecticut state legislators.

Roger has volunteered his time in research, preparations, and field work for many OSA projects, including, but not limited to, locating the Old New Gate Prison Cemetery, the Bradley Crash Site, the Venture Smith site, the Phelps House, and the Windsor Cemetery Site. All these ventures required countless hours of interviewing witnesses, investigating documents, and often spending hours at the

Connecticut State Library, town halls and historical societies.

Roger has produced many reports on his projects and has collaborated in the writing of several publications, such as "Henry Obookiah and his Delayed Trip Home," which documents the excavation work on the Henry Obookiah project (see News from the OSA on page 1 for details).

Roger demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in bringing about a productive working relationship with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History / Connecticut Archaeology Center. In addition, Roger works in collaboration with many of FOSA's other committees.

Thank you, Roger, for your selfless dedication to the support of OSA and



Cynthia Redman presents Roger Thompson with the 2013 Achievement Award. Photo: Ken Beatrice.

FOSA.

Exploring a Historical Feature

(Continued from page 9)

its past and make connections relative to it. Therefore, much of what I will talk about below is not dealing directly with the wooden bridge but relates to the building, operating, and upkeep of the RR of which it was a part. Before the railroad, one could only travel north from Hartford by beast of burden over land, or by boat on the Connecticut River. A regular schedule of steamships came to Hartford daily from New York, but if you wanted to go on upriver to Springfield, for example, it depended on the river's water level, as can be seen in the case when Charles Dickens visited this area in 1842.

"Mr. Dickens, on his first trip through the United States, visited this city ... The river was open, being to a great and unusual freshet, which carried off the ice and enabled the steamboats—stern-wheel affairs—to ply between this city and Springfield, the railroad between the two cities not being in existence" (HDC Feb. 7, 1842). Therefore, the River was usually suitable for transporting people and goods as far as Hartford, but points north were at the mercy of the weather to provide a reliable schedule.

Therefore, the Hartford and Springfield RR was proposed and chartered in 1839; investment in its capital stock opened in 1841. Editorials in the Hartford Daily Courant spoke of the merits of the building of this rail line from Hartford to Springfield. One of them spoke of the estimated cost of \$400,000 being low as compared to other rail road ventures, and said the increased business and enhanced real estate values were motives enough to built the line (HDC Mar. 5, 1841). They were promoting the RR and encouraging people who would buy stock in it. Another editorial, *"Will the proposed road prove a profitable investment to the stockholders?"* signed A

CITIZEN (HDC April 19, 1841) questioned whether the estimated cost of the railroad would repay itself in the additional business it would stimulate. A few days later a response to the above raised a concern from A MERCHANT who felt that in A CITIZEN's editorial the ascent of passenger transportation over freight was a misconception and that one should realize that transportation of goods by rail would be very attractive to business. *"The transportation of freight is therefore of vital importance to the owners of the Hartford and Springfield Rail Road..."* (HDC Apr. 28, 1841). This merchant's views on freight traffic would hold true as seen below.

In late 1844, the rail line opened, and evidently with much fanfare, as seen from the following excerpts. *"On Friday we passed over the road for the first time, and were much pleased with the ride ... The cars were one hour and five minutes on the upward trip, and an hour and ten minutes in returning. The distance is 26-miles... The Company have two new air-spring Passenger Cars on the road... A person may go from this to Springfield in the coldest weather, with as much comfort as it would take in his own parlor...the obstacles to winter travel...have been done away... The road to Springfield is through a beautiful country, and a good part of the way within sight of the Connecticut River... the travel and freight offering being much greater than anticipated"* (HDC Dec. 23, 1841). Thus, unlike other forms of transportation, the RR could still operate on schedule during inclement weather, especially during the winter months, and as A MERCHANT had predicted, the freight business was more than expected.

The speed at which one could travel by rail in those days was very impressive for that period, and faster than any other form of travel. An article described how passengers who took

the steamboat from New York City to Hartford and then embarked onto the 26-mile train trip to Springfield, took only 52 minutes, including stops. This equates to 30 miles an hour (HDC Dec. 21, 1844). It was a remarkable experience for the passengers. An even more impressive speed was recorded in 1848: *"Says the Hartford, Ct. Times: A railroad train with a new engine, having 5 1/2 feet driving wheels, ran from Springfield to Hartford with five passenger cars and 250 passengers, in the short space of 33 minutes. The distance is 26 miles—or a rate of 50 miles an hour"* (1998 Railway Age, p. 66).

By 1854, the Hartford and New Haven RR was one of the few railroads that were essentially double tracked, 56 out of 61½ miles, from New Haven to Springfield (HDC June 10, 1854). With double track they could carry train traffic simultaneously in both directions. However, the wooden bridge over the Far-

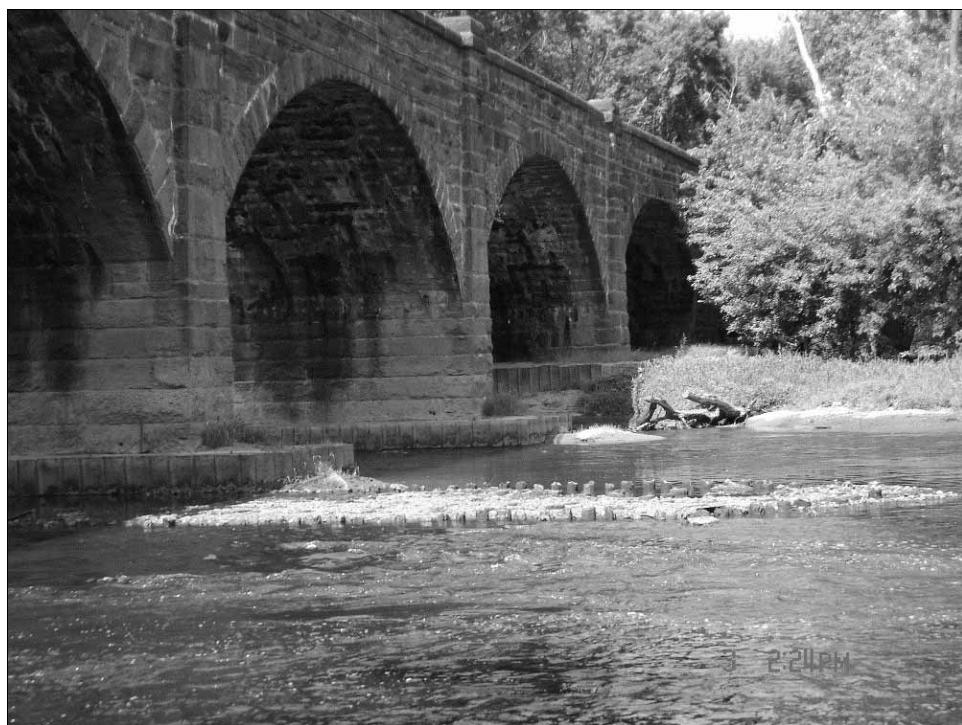


Photo 1.

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Meetings and Announcements

Sherwood Island Archaeology, May 22, 2013, Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, CT.

Hammonasset Festival, October 5-6, 2013, Hammonasset State Park, Madison, CT.

17th Century Warfare, Diplomacy, & Society in the American Northeast, October 17-19, 2013, Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center, Mashantucket, CT.

Eastern States Archaeological Federation 80th Annual Meeting, October 31-November 3, 2013, South Portland, ME.

Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Conference, November 8-10, 2013, Newark, DE.

Archaeological Institute of America Annual Meeting, January 2-5, 2014, Chicago, IL

Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, January 8-12, 2014, Quebec City, Canada.

FOSA Annual Meeting, January 25, 2014, Smith Middle School, Glastonbury, CT.

Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

Don't miss out on a number of natural history and cultural history day trips, workshops, field learning programs, and presentations this summer with the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History and Connecticut Archaeology Center, part of CLAS at UConn. For a full listing of summer programs and registration information, visit www.cac.uconn.edu/mnhcurrentcalendar or call 860.486.4460 beginning in May.

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.

Exploring a Historical Feature

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mington River was a single track and wouldn't be double until the 1867 Stone Arch Bridge was built.

Finally, it was announced in 1866 that the wooden Farmington River Bridge would be replaced by a stone bridge, erected a few feet away. The article goes on to say that the New Haven Railroad Co. "...seem determined to have the bridges on this road bear the wear and tear of travel, and resist the ravages of time and fire" (HDC Feb. 12, 1866). "It will be the largest stone railroad bridge in New England, consisting of 7 broad arches, and will open for (illegible) in the autumn" (HDC Apr. 1867). But building the new stone arch bridge didn't come without tragedy. Sadly, a laborer, Tom Fox, was killed when one of the two-ton stone components of the bridge fell on him. His wife and three children were dependent upon his support. (HDC June 28, 1866).

I am surprised not to find a formal announcement or dedication of the bridge's opening in the newspaper. But this replacement stone arch bridge has certainly survived wear and tear; it is nearly 150 years old, and a dramatic improvement to its predecessor. From Photo 1 you can see four of its seven beautiful and well-structured arches. It has stood up not only to the weight of the many trains that have crossed but also to the many floods that have occurred under it. One last note, in 1876 the RR tried to recover money it paid in taxes to the U.S. Government, contending that they were unfairly and incorrectly taxed on the building of the new Farmington River Bridge. "The company contended below that the expenditures were not for 'construction' but for repairs, as the bridge was to replace an old

unsafe structure." The RR lost; the court ruled that the bridge was an entirely new structure, making the property more valuable (HDC Nov.17, 1876).

I am sure that you share the same feelings I do when you encounter a historical artifact or feature. The feature and some research can take you on a wonderful visit to the past. Though some of your researches on the subject may drift from its direct purpose - as mine have - they still relate and connect to its history. These connections add background and a better understanding of the period when this feature was a functioning piece of the past.

Further, I encourage all of you to share with us any historical artifacts and features you may come across in Connecticut or anywhere else. There is always room and interest in our Newsletter to read about them.

Jim Trocchi

References:

Hartford Courant. ICONE.org - Newspapers – Hartford Courant – Historical (1764-1922) (Provided by ProQuest).

"150 Years Ago in American Railroad Journal," *Railway Age* (Oct. 1, 1998): 66.

Improvement In Railroad Speed (October 1848).

ICONE.org – Gale Power Search – *National Park Service National Register* form 72001334 "Farmington River Railroad Bridge."

OldRailHistory.com.

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We would like to hear from YOU! Please send your comments and ideas related to FOSA or the FOSA Newsletter to Mae Johnson at mpjohnson@snet.net.

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Newsletter Committee: Mae Johnson, Kristen Keegan, Mandy Ranslow, and Jim Trocchi.