



**Special points of interest:**

- Welcome Brian Jones, New State Archaeologist
- Volunteer Profile: Don Rankin and Nick Bellantoni
- Endoscopic Imaging of a Danbury Burial Vault
- Crossing the Connecticut River, Circa 1808

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter

## President's Letter

Greetings FOSA Members:



This summer was a great time of change for the Office of State Archaeology and for us as its Friends. Dr. Brian Jones has begun his tenure as State Archaeologist, and Nick has retired.

Some of you may have had the opportunity to work with Brian in the field this summer, and I hope you are all able to meet him soon. Brian has a great passion for archaeology and working with the public, and we all look forward to supporting his endeavors. We especially wish Nick all the best (and rest) for his retirement!

As fall comes into view, be assured that op-

portunities for FOSA members will continue. Glenda Rose is organizing a Historic Research Workshop for September 27<sup>th</sup>, and plans for a laboratory workshop are in progress. If you have an idea for a workshop or want to organize one please contact me at fosa-ct@archaeologist.com. I would love to hear your ideas! And stay tuned for information about our upcoming lab. work season at UConn.

October is Archaeology Awareness Month. Please be on the lookout for archaeology-related events. Our webmaster, Jim Hall, will be posting event information on the FOSA website so be sure to check the "Upcoming Events" periodically. If you're on Facebook please "like" the "CT Archaeology Awareness Month" page to keep abreast of AAM events.

## News from the Office of State Archaeology



It's hard to believe that nearly six weeks have passed since I started as Connecticut's new State Archaeologist.

During my apprenticeship, Nick has kept me on the move in an attempt to introduce me to as many of his essential statewide contacts as possible. Invariably, Nick is greeted with hugs, kisses, and sometimes tears from his many colleagues. If it seems hard for someone to imagine the devotion granted to this humble state worker, then they clearly haven't met Nick. If there is one remark I've heard again and again it's, "you've sure got some big shoes to fill!" to which Nick responds with typical humility:

"I'm just an eight and a half!"

Before getting too distracted by Nick and my recent adventures, let me briefly introduce myself to FOSA members I haven't had a chance to meet yet. I've been a resident of Connecticut since 1968 when my family moved to Glastonbury. I spent most of my youth exploring the woods up and down Smith Brook, unwittingly walking past many of the town's most significant archaeological sites while looking for snakes and salamanders. I graduated from Glastonbury High in 1982 and headed off to Oberlin College where I received a BA in Anthropology in 1986. Spurred by a youthful need to explore the world, I spent nine months in Southeast Asia, followed by a

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## President's Letter

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I especially encourage you all to attend the Archaeology Fair on October 18<sup>th</sup>. This year it's organized by Dr. Sarah Croucher and sponsored by Wesleyan University.

As always, thanks to all the FOSA members who volunteer countless hours throughout the year. Special thanks to the Excavation Committee and the field volunteers who kept quite busy this summer! Hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in January!

Mandy Ranslow  
FOSA President

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(continued from page 1)*

three year stay at the University of Cologne where I studied European Prehistory. While in Germany I had the opportunity to work on sites spanning the Upper Paleolithic through Medieval periods, from cave sites on the Danube to Roman burials in Cologne.

I eventually found myself interested in the Peopling of the New World, and decided to finish my degree back home at UConn. With a pinch of luck, a pint of determination, and a bucket-full of naiveté, I actually found a late Paleoindian site on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation within six months of my return to the US. With that site under my belt, I finished my dissertation in 1998 and began working as the Supervisor of Field Archaeology at the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation. On the Reservation I had the opportunity to excavate sites dating from the Early Archaic base camp Sandy Hill, through 18th and 19th century Pequot homesteads. After my time as a tribal archaeologist, I worked with AHS/PAST Inc. in Storrs and UMass Archaeological Services in Amherst, Massachusetts, primarily writing Cultural Resource Management site reports while doing some teaching on the side. Some notable recent CRM projects included an Early Archaic quartz-industry site dated to 8600 years ago, and a very rich Snook Kill phase Terminal Archaic site that might have been used as a place to construct a bark canoe. The latter will be the focus of my talk at the upcoming Archaeology Society of Connecticut meeting at Wesleyan.

I've set some goals for the coming year, including the development of a web-based inventory of Connecticut's historical resources. This online database will eventually include open access to information about the state's architectural surveys, as well as state and federal historic districts. I look forward to continuing many of the traditional FOSA programs, such as the annual fall excavation at the Horton Farm in South Glastonbury with Smith Middle School students. Hopefully we can also begin some new traditions, such as a FOSA-member weeklong field school program next summer. Another project I would like to get off the ground next summer is a field school event for special needs kids, and another for underprivileged youth, ideally in their own community. I am therefore confident that FOSA members will continue to have numerous opportunities to help the Office of State Archaeology in many ways: in the field, in the lab, and with the general public.

One of the summer's highlights was the adult field school offered by the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Nick decided to examine the Titus Coan birthplace, largely because of his recent connections to Hawaii through the repatriation of the remains of Henry Opukahaia.

Titus Coan (b. 1801) was an important Christian missionary in Hawaii, but had rather humble beginnings in Killingworth, Connecticut. The field school spent a week at the site, now a jumbled cellar ruin. Background research by FOSA member Roger Thompson suggested the house was constructed after 1785. While Titus had moved out by 1826, Gaylord Coan, Titus' father, remained in the small home until his death in 1857. The fieldschool tested areas around and within the house and recovered numerous artifacts dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, particularly creamware (ca. 1791) and shell-edged and transfer-printed pearlwares (ca. 1805 and 1818).

These finds generally supported the known age of the house, but the archaeology also produced some surprises. The first was the near absence of whiteware (ca. 1845), and the second was the consistent, if uncommon, presence of comb-decorated earthenwares and English white salt-glazed stoneware, both more typical of pre-Revolutionary War assemblages. These observations suggested two things. First, Titus' father Gaylord, appears to have been a pretty thrifty Yankee who resisted the purchase of new table wares until his death. Second, the presence of unexpectedly early ceramics raises the possibility that the house was actually constructed sometime in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century rather than after the Revolutionary War. Alternatively, Titus' parents brought some rather old heirloom serving dishes with them when they moved in. In addition, the broadcast discard pattern of the recovered artifacts exemplified a very 18<sup>th</sup>-century

approach to yard maintenance: artifacts were not concentrated in a single midden area, rather, they appear to have been discarded haphazardly out the doors and windows of the house. Overall, the archaeological data correspond well with Titus' description of his father as "a thoughtful, quiet and modest farmer, industrious, frugal and temperate... avoiding debts, abhorring extravagance and profligacy..." (Life in Hawaii, by Titus Coan 1882).

I can't express enough how privileged I feel to have been selected for a job that is associated with such an energetic, helpful and skillful group of people. If it weren't for FOSA, the Office of State Archaeology would be a pale reflection of the vibrant institution it has become. I look forward to working closely with FOSA and getting to know each of you better over the coming years. I'm sure we have some great archaeological adventures ahead of us!

*Brian Jones, PhD, State Archaeologist*

## Welcome New Members (Since March 2014)

Kerry Brown  
Catherine Crawford  
Dean Gorton  
Glenn Hart  
Todd Singer  
Elizabeth Van Liew  
Kathleen von Jena  
Robert & Lindsay Wallace  
Emily Zepp

## FOSA Officers and Board

Mandy Ranslow - President  
Jeremy Pilver - Vice-President  
Mike Cahill - Secretary  
Dreda Hendsey - Treasurer  
Heather Alexson - Board Member  
Scott Brady - Board Member  
Dick Hughes - Board Member  
Brian Meyer - Board Member  
Mike Raber - Board Member  
Cynthia Redman - Board Member  
Paul Scannell - Board Member  
Jim Trocchi - Board Member  
Kathy Walburn - Board Member

***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.



## Events and Announcements

**September 22, 2014 “Trade and Civilization in Medieval East Africa”** AIA Hartford Lecture; Trinity College, Hartford, CT

**September 27, 2014 FOSA Historic Research Workshop,** 10-11:30am at the South End Senior Center at 70 Canterbury Street in East Hartford.

**October 4-5, 2014 Hammonasset Festival;** Hammonasset Beach State Park, Madison, CT

**October 4, 2014 Lantern Hill Hike,** sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Mashantucket, CT

**October 11, 2014 Monhantic Fort Tour,** sponsored by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum; Mashantucket, CT

**October 12-14, 2014 Bus Tour to Meadowcroft Rock-shelter;** Avella, PA

**October 18, 2014 Archaeology Fair & Archaeological Society of Connecticut Fall Meeting;** Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

**October 25, 2014 Archaeology Field Workshop,** sponsored by CT State Museum of Natural History; Storrs, CT

**October 30-November 2, 2014 Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting;** Solomons, MD

**November 6-9, 2014 Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Conference;** Long Beach, NJ

**November 8, 2014 Native American and Archaeologist Roundtable; Institute for American Indian Studies,** Washington, CT

**January 6-11, 2015 Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting;** Seattle, WA

**January 8-11, 2015 Archaeological Institute of America & Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting;** New Orleans, LA

**January 24, 2015 FOSA Annual Meeting;** Farmington High School, Farmington, CT

**April 13, 2015 “Cultural Heritage and Global Climate Change: What Can the Past Tell Us About the Future?”** AIA Hartford Lecture; Trinity College, Hartford, CT

**April 15-19, 2015 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting;** San Francisco, CA

## FOSA Historic Research Workshop

We are pleased to announce the third workshop in our continuing series of educational opportunities available to FOSA members.

This workshop will present the basics of historic report preparation, land research and genealogy research. It will be held on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00- 11:30 am at the South End Senior Center at 70 Canterbury Street in East Hartford.

Presenters will be: Sarah Sportman, Roger Thompson and Ken Buckbee. The facilitator will be Glenda Rose.

Please RSVP to Glenda Rose at [rosegm2001@yahoo.com](mailto:rosegm2001@yahoo.com)

## FOSA Website Update

1. Updated the "Upcoming Events" and "Newspaper Articles" pages as appropriate, the "Upcoming Events" page now including all activities where Brian Jones and/or Nick Bellantoni, and our Outreach table, will be that are open to the public.
2. As I think I neglected to mention it in my last Report, the Spring 2014 Newsletter has been added to the web site and a link to it added to our "Newsletters" page; along with additions to the "Selected Reprints" index and pages.
3. Attached is an update to the Session Counts for 2014, thru July (the last full month available at this writing).
4. Replaced "Nick Bellantoni" with "Brian Jones" as being the CT State Archaeologist, on the Home page, and on various other pages where the wording now doesn't include the person's name. Reproductions of the announcement of Brian's replacement of Nick have been added to the "Reprints" page; and a link to the biography of Brian from academia.edu, showing his publications and talks, has also been made. A short biography has also been added to the "About Us" page, though I've also retained Nick's biographical sketch.
5. Added a link to an article on Ground Penetrating Radar to the Introduction to Archaeology's page where GPR is discussed.

*James Hall*

## Volunteer Profile

### Dr. Don Rankin and Dr. Nick Bellantoni

#### *A Dynamic Duo*

If you know one, you probably know them both ~ Dr. Don Rankin and Dr. Nick Bellantoni. Both have served this country, one Air Force and one Navy, and BOTH are “One Man Armies.” They bring creativity, inspiration and ingenuity to all who come within the grasp of their spirit.

Dr. Don Rankin received his undergraduate degree from Colgate University in Chemistry and continued on to receive his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Before joining the U.S. Air Force he received surgical training at Yale New Haven Hospital. Don spent two years at Castle Air Force Base in California as a general surgeon with the rank of Captain. Having transitioned from surgery to emergency medicine early in his career, Don retired several years ago from Bridgeport Hospital.

Don became interested in FOSA after meeting “The Atlatl Guy” Gary Nolf. Together they now present the “Connecticut Archaeology Road Show” to museums, historical societies and libraries to promote an understanding and respect for Connecticut archaeology.

Dr. Nick Bellantoni is originally from Port Chester, New York. The Bellantoni family came to Hartford when he was four years old. Nick attended East Catholic High School in Manchester, served aboard the USS Wasp as a signalman and was Honorably Discharged from the U. S. Navy in 1971. After his career in the Navy Nick attended the University of Connecticut where he received his undergraduate degree in Anthropology in 1979 and earned his Doctorate Degree in 1987.

1987 was a “Good Year” for Connecticut, as that was the year Dr. Nick became the Connecticut State Archaeologist - now retired.

Both Dr. Nick and Dr. Don are educators in their own way, instructing through lectures and “Field Work”.

Don has worked with “Youth at Risk” in New Haven and Bridgeport, as well as “Habitat for Humanity.” His enthusiasm is obvious while giving talks on particle physics and the evolution of the universe. Don also devotes countless hours with Friends of Hammonasset and is co-organizer of Hammonasset’s Native American Festivals.

Dr. Nick shares his experience and passion for archaeology with us through his publications and his frequent public lectures throughout the state and to archaeological and historical organizations. And YES, Nick has appeared on the history channel with subjects including: “Vampires of New England” and “The Skull of Adolph Hitler” (both are a must see events).

Though neither Don nor Nick personally have Native American ancestry or family ties but both have great re-

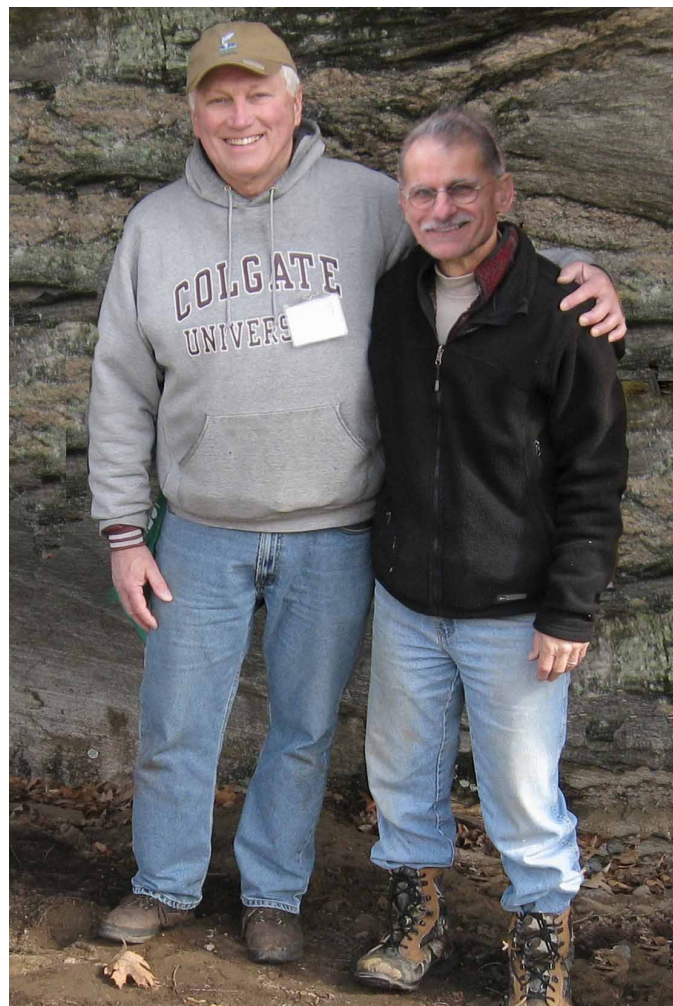
spect for the Native American culture and traditions. This is exceedingly evident in their lectures and while excavating Native American sites.

For those who have not attended one of their fascinating presentations such as; “Albert Afraid-of-Hawk,” or “The Evolution of the Universe” or “H. L. Hunley with the Northern I.D. Tag of Ezra Chamberlain found aboard,” you can check your local newspaper listings for future lectures by Dr. Nick Bellantoni or Dr. Don Rankin.

The Best to you Nick and Don and your families...and Thank You both for all that you have contributed to the study of archaeology in Connecticut and to FOSA. You are both truly a “Dynamic Duo.”

We are now pleased to welcome aboard as our new Connecticut State Archaeologist, Dr. Brian Jones. We are all looking forward to working with you in the field.

*Ken Beatrice*



**Don Rankin with Nick Bellantoni**

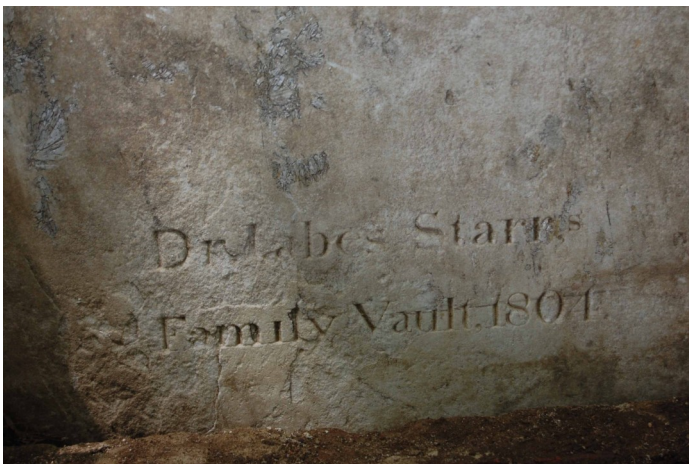
## Technology “Starrs” In Tomb Investigation

When hillside erosion at the Old North Main Cemetery in Danbury revealed a stone structure that did not appear in cemetery records, Dr. Nick Bellantoni utilized technology to conduct a non-destructive field investigation.

USDA-NRCS soil scientist Debbie Surabian used ground penetrating radar (GPR) technology to survey the location. GPR works by transmitting electromagnetic pulses into the ground and detecting reflected signals from the subsurface. When used in archaeology, GPR can note areas of high reflectivity, which can often be associated

This information prompted a minor excavation, revealing a mortared brick wall. As the first course of brick was removed, “Dr. Jabez Starr’s” appeared engraved on the marble door. Smart phone technology allowed us to almost instantly determine that Dr. Jabez Starr (1755-1840) was a prominent Revolutionist, physician and tavern owner whose daughter Mariah died in 1804. As the second and third course of brick were peeled away “Family Vault, 1804” was unearthed and the pieces fell into place. Dr. Starr must have built the vault after the death of his daughter, Mariah, in 1804!

But why was the vault bricked up and buried? Were any remains removed and the vault abandoned, or did the



**Marker on Face of Starr Family Vault**

*Photo by Scott Brady*



**Dr. Nick Bellantoni with Dr. Ronald Beckett employing an endoscope to view contents of the Starr Vault**

*Photo by Scott Brady*



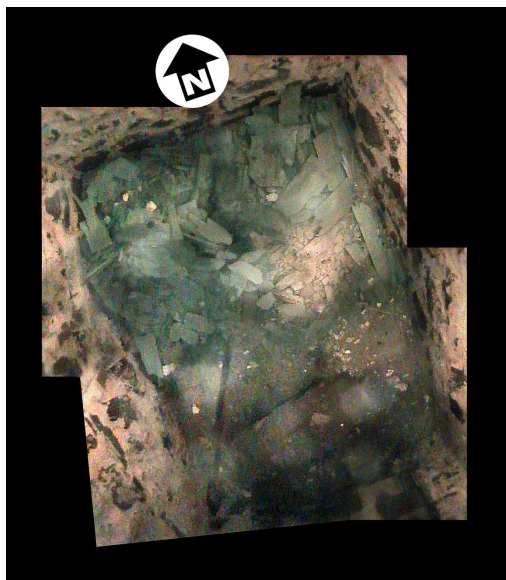
**Dr Nick exploring with an endoscopic to probe in the Starr Vault Interior**

*Photo by Mary-Jo Young*

with human activity. Her survey located a ten by twelve foot “anomaly” in the soil profile.

vault still contain the remains of the Starr family and how could we answer these questions?

Enter Dr. Ronald Beckett, Professor Emeritus from Quinnipiac University, and one half of the Mummy Road Show cast. Dr. Beckett generously agreed to utilize endoscopic technology to explore the Starr Family Vault. The endoscope is a small lens connected by a flexible fiber optic cable to a handheld monitor. It was originally designed to examine the interior of the human body and archaeologists have employed the technology to examine mummies ever since. The endoscope can also be used to examine voids with limited access points, the perfect tool for the Starr vault. A hammer drill was used to create a one inch diameter hole in the vault ceiling and the endoscope was inserted but the camera’s single LED light was insufficient to light such a large open space. Now, I must admit I was a bit awed at meeting Dr. Beckett as he and Professor Jerry Conlogue’s show was one of the best science shows on television but what transpired next was the best of the Mummy Road Show and MacGyver combined! A quick



Composite Image of Contents of Starr Vault Showing Between 4 and 6 Decomposed Coffins.

*Images by Ron Beckett and Compiled by Colin Harty*

trip to the hardware store and Dr. Beckett was back with a cheap extension cord, incandescent chandelier bulb, lamp fixture and a roll of electrical tape. Five minutes later we had a jury rigged, indirect lighting source capable of fitting through the one inch hole in the vault's roof and providing sufficient illumination to view and record images of the vault's interior.

One difficulty with interpreting the images was the narrow field of vision of the endoscope. This made it difficult to fully analyze the images from the interior of the vault. At this point Dr. Bellantoni turned to Collin Harty, the exhibit and communication designer for the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, who was able to use graphic design software to overlay the endoscope images into a single overview of the vault. With this composite image, Drs. Beckett and Bellantoni confirmed their initial assessment. The Starr family vault contained the remains of four to six decomposed coffins.

It seems likely that Doctor Jabez Starr constructed the vault after the death of his daughter, Mariah, in 1804. As of this date, graves for his wife and two sons have not been located, indicating they may be interred in the vault along with Dr. Starr and Mariah. The reason the vault was sealed and then buried is not readily apparent. Perhaps vandalism or a lack of funds for maintenance and upkeep drove the decision that sealed and buried the vault. What is clear is the Starr Family Vault and its occupants were lost for over 100 years and were found through the use of technology in the field.

*Scott Brady*

## When Less is More

It has been just about a century and a half since Heinrich Schliemann more or less blasted and bull-dozed his way through the seven cities of Troy and along the way, arguably destroyed nearly as much of the archaeological record as he uncovered.

In recent issues of this newsletter we have published reports about archaeological field investigations that have made use of technologies that have only recently become available. See for example Todd Kmetz's article about ground penetrating radar in the Fall 2013 issue and Scott Brady's article in the present issue that reports on the use of endoscopic equipment to examine the contents of the Starr family vault in Danbury. Others have conducted soil analyses from core samples where features are suspected below ground. These techniques represent part of a larger trend - the attempt to do as little physical harm as possible to our archaeological sites with imaging devices replacing the more traditional trowels and shovels. They also have the added benefit (where possible) of preserving these sites in situ for future generations of researchers with yet to be discovered tools at their disposal. Some have called this "minimally invasive" or even "surgical archaeology" or to borrow a phrase from the architecture of modernism that: "Less is More."

To be sure, it would be naive to assume that such techniques of preservation are always or even generally possible. Salvage archaeology will always have a place where development is occurring or where there is a risk of sites being located and looted. And as we are well aware, even farming activity can place sites at risk.

How then do we go about protecting our important sites for future archaeologists? States have vastly different policies for doing this. In Connecticut there is a two step process. A site must first be listed on either the National or the State Registry by the Historic Preservation Council. Then, once listed, it may be designated for conservation as a State Archaeological Preserve. A list of currently protected preserves can be found at this link. Just copy and paste it into the address bar.

<http://www.cultureandtourism.org/cct/cwp/view.asp?a=2127&q=293854>

And, readers of our Newsletter will be familiar with many of them through the tireless activities of Dr. Nick, the staff at OSA and our FOSA volunteers.

*Jerry Tolchin*  
Editor

## Crossing the Connecticut River

Where did the first English settlers from Massachusetts Bay cross the Connecticut River? This is a question no one knows for certain. We know they had to ford it at some convenient place and were possibly assisted by the Native Americans, for there were no ferries or bridges. Today, within our state, the Connecticut River can be crossed by eleven highway bridges, four railroad bridges and two ferries.

The first bridge across the River in Connecticut was built from Enfield to Suffield in 1808. Some of the remains of this bridge (or its replacement) that once crossed here can be seen today. As shown in Photo 1, the three islands you see in the middle of the river are the remains of the pier footings of the bridge. They line up with Bridge Street in Suffield on the west side of the river and Bridge Lane in Enfield on the east side. The present Connecticut Route 190 bridge can also be seen in the far background of Photo 1.

Construction for the Enfield Bridge began in 1796 and



**Remains of Footings of the Enfield-Suffield Bridge**

*Photo by James Trocchi*

was completed in 1808. A newspaper article stated:

“The General Assembly of 1796 gave to John Reynolds and his associates a charter to build a bridge to be completed in 1805 and all rights to the bridge were given with the charter, which was one of the kind known as close between the Massachusetts state line and the north line of the town of Windsor. The bridge was not built at once, but in May, 1805 the time was extended for three years and in 1806 extended for three years more.”  
(3)

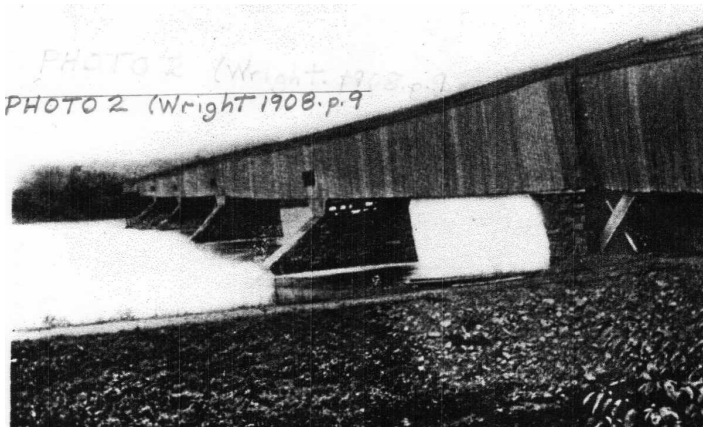
Another article gives the north line of Hartford instead of Windsor as the southern border of the charter. (1) The owners and their heirs of this charter were allowed “to collect tolls for either a period of 100 year or until they collected the cost of the bridge plus 12 percent” (Miller 1998:p14). Furthermore, owners of this charter had the rights to prevent anyone else from building another bridge, between the close area as stated above, without considerations. The charter was tested when the Hartford and Springfield Railroad constructed a bridge across the river at Warehouse Point. The courts ruled in favor of the Enfield Bridge Company, thus they had to pay \$10,000 to the charter owners to build their bridge at this location. Additionally, when the bridge at Thompsonville was built, they paid \$1200 to the charter owners and when the public bridge at Warehouse Point was built they had to pay \$3,000 to the charter owners (3).

The original 1808 bridge was not covered, “built without roof or walls to protect it from the harsh New England weather, it quickly deteriorated and had to be replaced after it collapsed in 1821” (Miller 1998:p14). The 1808 bridge was made from unseasoned timber and lasted only a short time before it fell into the river. A replacement was authorized in the late 1820's and finally completed in 1832-33 at the same location. (3) The replacement was a 1000 foot long, 30 foot wide wooden covered bridge (Wright 1908:p9). This article further mentions the building of a replacement bridge at Warehouse Point but lack of funds prevented this, and it was eventually built in 1808 at the same location as the original. In order to raise money to build this bridge a lottery was formed, “At that time a lottery was formed at a cost of a dollar a ticket, and the lucky holder of the winning ticket was to have the bridge.” (2) A U.S. Senator Dickson from Connecticut held the winning ticket and became owner of the bridge and the charter. He and his heirs were the bridge owners until it's final days.

Other than by ferry, the bridge enabled farmers from Suffield to bring their produce to the village of Thompsonville, “which is a market of great share of their produce”. (2) Photo 2 shows the 1832-33 bridge taken from the Suffield side and the towpath of the Windsor Locks Canal can be seen in the foreground. The Enfield side can be seen in the far distance with the toll house jutting out from the bridge. In this photo you can also see the four piers in the water where today we usually only see the remains of three. Depending on the height of the river, the remains of the fourth pier may be visible at times of low water.

By the mid 1890's the bridge revenue and usage declined. “Mr. Keach, the present toll keeper, says that the bridge is very lightly patronized.” (2) By this time, this bridge, the one in Thompsonville and the one in Windsor





Locks were three of the seven remaining toll bridges in the state (6). “One thing is for certain, that the next Legislature will be asked to take control of the three remaining toll bridges of the state, of which this is one.” (2) This article goes on to say that the owner of the historic bridge was anxious to abolish the tolls and sell it. Finally, around 1897 the bridge's entrances were boarded up but “Pedestrians and bicyclists loosened enough boards to allow passage and that was all the travel upon the bridge for over three years.” (3)

The most interesting tale about this bridge occurred on February 16, 1900, when a freshet carried three of its spans away. On the Enfield side of the bridge was a toll house and the Enfield bridge station of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. The station agent and bridge tender was a man named Hosea Keach and he nearly lost his life that day. (5) An article reported Keach:

“had orders since the rise of the Connecticut River this week to keep a close watch on the bridge and inform the authorities whenever he thought there was imminent danger of its breaking away from its piers, that proper precautions might be taken for the protection of the railroad bridge at Warehouse Point, two and a half miles below. Mr. Keach had been upon the bridge several times during the day yesterday and had given such inspection as he thought necessary. Shortly after 2 o'clock he made a trip to it that he will never forget...” (3).

In Mr. Keach's own words:

“I was about two thirds of the way to the first pier on the eastern span of the bridge, when I heard a crash like falling timber and without stopping to look in the direction I knew the central span of the bridge had gone into the water. I turned and made for the shore end of the bridge as fast as I could run, but before I could make it, although I

was within eight or ten feet of land, the span shut up like a jackknife, the timbers of the bridge in front of me rising in the air, apparently getting ready to fall upon top of me” (3).

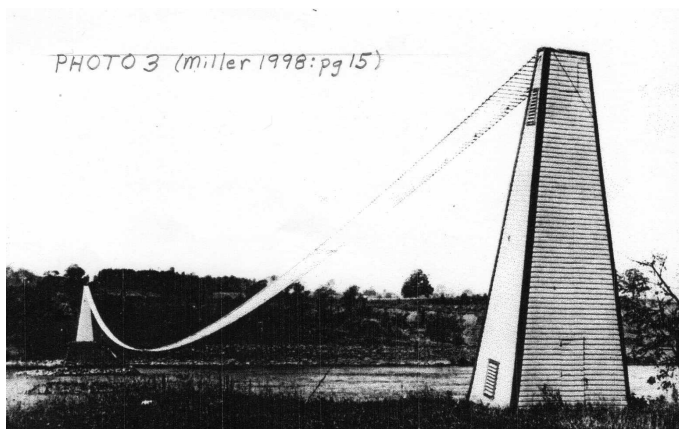
At this point Keach said he was in an unconscious state and couldn't remember for how long, but when he became conscious he found himself sitting on a cross-piece of the upper section of the bridge, 'high and dry'. (3) He went on to tell of being trapped in the bridge span with roaring water below. Although trapped inside he tenaciously found an opening and pried it open enough to get his head out and find his bearings. The current and wind were in favor of taking him downstream, perhaps to Long Island Sound. Keach managed to dislodge an old sign, that read Walk Your Horses Across This Bridge, and crawled onto the bridge's roof and began to shout for help. Two railroad workers at the Warehouse Point Station heard his cries and recognized him. They ran to the store house and gathered up a rope. They next went out on the railroad bridge and as the “ark of ruin” floated by, they dropped the rope over Keach and pulled him 12 to 14 feet to the safety of the bridge. (3)

During the February 1900 freshet, three spans were destroyed and only the two on the Suffield or west side remained. (Photo 4) The three span wreckages were a concern for the safety of bridges to the south and to river traffic. One span hit a pier and was torn up between the railroad bridge at Warehouse point and the travel bridge in Windsor Locks. The other spans passed Windsor Locks and one was finally secured at Bissell Ferry in East Windsor. (3) Two spans were reported lodged on the bank in East Hartford. (4). What may have been reported as spans, may have been partial spans and hence more than the actual three.



**Wreckage of the Enfield-Suffield Bridge in 1900**

This bridge also carried the telephone cables across the river to Enfield and beyond, therefore communication service was lost to this area as a result of the February 1900 freshet. (3) By 1901, the Southern New England Telephone Co. bought the bridge and charter rights and had the two remaining spans dynamited. They reported that in a short time they will build a passenger footbridge that will also carry its telephone wires (5). During the demolition it was realized that the lumber was reusable. "The pine lumber in the bridge is practically as good as new when it was put in and Superintendent Sperry estimates that from 20,000 to 40,000 feet of pine lumber will be saved and used again." (5) From the Enfield side, Photo 3 shows the two telephone towers and the cable strung across the river but no foot bridge. For comparison, I also looked at a 1934 aerial photo, under full zoom, and the remains of four pier footings are clearly visible but no evidence of a footbridge or the telephone towers and cable crossing the river. Therefore, sometime after 1901 and before 1934, the towers and cable arrangement were eliminated.



**Enfield-Suffield Bridge Carrying Telephone Cables**

The bridge remains can be viewed from both sides of the Connecticut River. On the west side they can be reached by heading south at the intersection of the Connecticut Route 190 bridge and Route 159, take your first left onto Canal Road and follow it to the end. Park at the state parking lot and follow the canal path south for about three-fourths of a mile. On the east side they can be viewed by going south from the Connecticut Route 190 bridge on US Route 5 for about a mile. Take a right onto Bridge Lane and follow Bridge Lane, across the railroad tracks and park by the side of the road. The best view of these remains is from the Suffield side when the foliage is off the trees and the water level is low.

*Jim Trocchi*

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(Provided by ProQuest)

- (1) 18 Jan. 1882
- (2) 17 Dec. 1894
- (3) 16 Feb. 1900
- (4) 17 Feb. 1900
- (5) 21 Aug. 1901
- (6) 3 May 1887

CT Digital Collections. ICONN.org – Aerial Survey of CT 1934 photo 07821

## FOSA T-Shirts

FOSA T-shirts are now available for purchase online at <http://www.zazzle.com/fosact>. Shirts can be purchased in a wide range of styles, colors, and sizes.



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**In addition to the obvious FOSA activities of participating in field work, there are a number of area interest where participation is available. A brief discussion of each of these follows.**

### FOSA MEMBERS: HELP WANTED

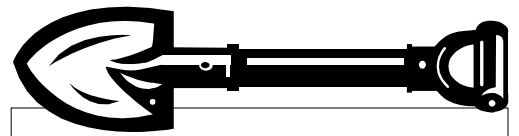
In addition to the volunteer opportunities below, and in an effort to provide opportunities to FOSA members, we are currently seeking volunteers for several position.

- FOSA Event Photographer(s) – Provide photographic documentation of FOSA events (i.e., workshops, outreach efforts, annual meeting, etc.).
- FOSA Field Photographer(s) – Provide photographic documentation of FOSA excavations and other field activities. Responsibilities include photographing the site, excavation units, features and artifacts. No experience required as we will assist in training volunteers.
- FOSA Field Assistant(s) – Provide organizational and administrative support of FOSA excavations and other field activities. Responsibilities include ensuring proper documentation of the site, units, and features, organizing collected artifacts and additional documentation and organizational tasks as required. No experience needed as we will assist in training volunteers. This position will be less physically demanding than most fieldwork and does not require extended kneeling or standing.
- Mentoring Opportunity - FOSA Outreach Committee - Ken and Bonnie Beatrice have led the Outreach Committee since FOSA was founded. They continue to create and display educational and engaging exhibits at events throughout the state. Mentees will be given the opportunity to learn how to share with the public the exciting work FOSA does and to teach the public about archaeology. Volunteers will ultimately be encouraged to organize exhibits and represent FOSA at events in the future. If you're already a member of the Outreach Team and you're looking to take on more responsibility you are especially encouraged to become a mentee!
- Mentoring Opportunity - Office of State Archaeology Library - Cynthia Redman has been diligently organizing and cataloging the library of the Office of State Archaeology located in the lab. at Horsebarn Hill Road at UConn, Storrs. She is looking to train a couple of volunteers who will become knowledgeable in how the library is organized, how to accession new materials, and to be able to assist researchers using the library.

For additional information on any of these items, or if you're interested in one of these opportunities, please e-mail FOSA Volunteer Coordinator Scott Brady, at [sbrady@hartfordfire.org](mailto:sbrady@hartfordfire.org).



### FOSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



### INTEREST INVENTORY

- Individual ..... \$25        Corporate/Institution .....\$100
- Family ..... \$35        Patron Benefactor.....\$150
- Student.....\$5        Dr. Jordan Radiocarbon Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Classroom ..... \$20        General Fund Donation ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to:*

**Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 380845**

**East Hartford, CT 06138-0845**

*FOSA has 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.*

Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

- Field Work
- Artifact Curation
- Public Events
- Fund Raising
- Newsletter
- OSA Library
- Web Site
- Laboratory Analysis/Cataloging
- Board of Directors & Committees
- Exhibit Planning/Art Work
- Grant Writing
- Photography
- Writing Site Forms & Reports
- CT Archaeology Center/Museum



**We would like to hear from YOU! Please send your comments and ideas related to FOSA or the FOSA Newsletter to the Editor: Jerry Tolchin, at [jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net)**

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<http://www.fosa-ct.org>

Newsletter Committee: Heather Alexson, Jerry Tolchin & Jim Trocchi