



Special points of interest:

- Remembrances of June Cooke, FOSA Founder
- Rescue Excavation in South Glastonbury
- Trip to the Meadowcroft Rock Shelter
- Historic Preservation of an African-American Cemetery
- Strong-Howard House, New Excavations

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Member Newsletter

President's Letter

Greetings FOSA Members:



Thanks to all of you who made it out to our Annual Meeting on February 22nd. Dr. Doug Owsley gave an excellent presentation on Kennewick Man. We had about 100 people in our audience. Big thanks to Jeremy Pilver, Vice President, who organized the event! And good news-Doug has offered to return in a few years to tell us about his research on the Jamestown remains!

There are a couple changes to the FOSA Board. We thank Paul Scannell for his many years of dedicated service, and we welcome Glenda Rose and Zachary Singer to the Board.

Ken and Bonnie Beatrice are stepping down from leading the Outreach Committee, but don't worry! You will still see their smiling faces at events. Thanks Bonnie and Ken for all your amazing work in teaching the public about the exciting world of CT archaeology!

Even though it's been a tough winter we are looking forward to a field season full of excavation opportunities. And beyond the dirt we will need volunteers to help out with outreach events, historic research, and report writing! Heather Alexson is now the Outreach Committee Chair and Glenda Rose is organizing a team of researchers and writers. Contact Scott Brady, Volunteer Coordinator, at fosa.ct@gmail.com if you want to volunteer. If you have some other ideas about how to contribute please let me know! I can be

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News from the Office of State Archaeology



September already feels like a millennium ago – I guess I've been busy! First, let me start off with some of the big-picture items. In the Fall and Spring semesters, FOSA supported an intern, UConn student Melissa Shongut, to help with the organization of the Norris Bull Collection. This semester, the Department of Anthropology also provided research assistantship funding for Zac Singer to work with us as well. For those of you who don't know it, the Bull Collection is the Office's core collection of artifacts gathered during the early and mid-twentieth century from across the state by Norris Bull. Acquired in 1960, the need for

adequate care of the collection was largely responsible for the hire of Douglas Jordan in 1963. Dr. Jordan was UConn's first archaeologist and Connecticut's first de facto State Archaeologist. The Bull collection is a remarkable tribute to Native American craftsmanship across the state. While many of the artifacts are on display at UConn and on loan to other institutions, one day more of this collection must be made available to the public, as it was originally intended by Bull himself. To help OSA further manage this collection, the Department of Anthropology has approved a new internship course in collections management. This course should appear in the catalog next

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President's Letter

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reached at fosa-ct@archaeologist.com.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 2015 CT Archaeology Fair-October 17th at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain!

FOSA will once again be a co-sponsor, and Bonnie Plourde and the rest of the CCSU gang are planning a great event! Let me know if you want to exhibit at the event.

Mandy Ranslow

FOSA President

News from the Office of State Archaeology

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Fall and it is hoped that five or six students will enroll each semester.

In terms of fieldwork, it was a busy time as well. FOSA volunteers helped with a number of Natural Resources Conservation Services projects in towns across the state, including Guilford, Woodstock, and Southbury. FOSA members also provided necessary support for youth excavation programs at the Horton Farm in South Glastonbury and at the very significant Lewis Walpole Site in Farmington, organized by our own Jeremy Pilver. FOSA members also helped Dr. Bellantoni wrap up his investigation of St. Platon's Church in Danbury. One of the more interesting emergencies I had was a call to a small coffin discovered during waterline work on Farmington Avenue in Hartford. Scott Brady was able to assist in what, luckily, turned out to be a very elaborate dog burial, probably dating back to the eighties. Included inside the padded coffin, lined with white fabric, was a plastic cross, a rosary and two laminated prayer cards. The excavation work was overseen by a representative from the major crimes unit and what appeared to be most of Hartford's detectives.

That field work was quickly overshadowed by a rescue excavation in South Glastonbury, where a large drainage pipe construction inadvertently uncovered a number of Native American cooking hearths and a fire-cracked rock pavement – possibly a portion of a house floor. FOSA members Scott Brady, Lee West, Jerry Cavanaugh, Mike Grant, Brian Meyer, Ed Goodrich, and Glenda Rose volunteered numerous hours at the site. The deep cooking features (or “earth ovens”) were rich in charcoal, but lacked associated artifacts. The fire-cracked rock pavement produced a number of Late Archaic Narrow-Stem points as well as an uncommon paint pot still stained with ocher. One of the cooking features was recently dated to 4230+/-30 radiocarbon years ago, or about 4,800 actual (calibrated) years ago. Negotiations between OSA, the State Historic Preservation Office and the Town of Glastonbury resulted in an agreement to fund the analysis of the site, as well as additional testing closer to Tryon Street. FOSA member

Mike Raber was later awarded the contract to do this work. His work includes a budget for additional radiocarbon dating and identification of plant remains from the features. I expect that the rich charcoal samples will provide a better picture of the types of local plants used in the diet by these early inhabitants of Glastonbury.



Rescue Excavation in South Glastonbury

Photo by Brian Jones

To wrap up the season, Dr. Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian spent two full days on campus evaluating human skeletal remains from the William S. Laughlin collection. During his visit, he was helped by UConn students and members of FOSA. Dr. Laughlin was a physical anthropologist at UConn between 1969 and 1999. The materials were brought to OSA by family members so that they could be appropriately repatriated. That work is ongoing.



Dr. Douglas Owsley (far right) with Nick Bellantoni (center) and FOSA Members

Photo by Brian Jones

Brian Jones, PhD, State Archaeologist

JUNE COOKE 1933 – 2015

When June Cooke was a young girl growing up in South Windsor, she discovered her first “arrowhead” on the family property near their chicken yard, setting into motion a lifelong fascination and participation in archaeology. When she was in her twenties, she joined the Albert Morgan Archaeological Society, which served the Lower Connecticut River Valley, bringing together professional and avocational archaeologists, to conduct summer field excavations. She worked closely with the first Connecticut State Archaeologist, Dr. Douglas Jordan, and together with her husband, Dave Cooke, they excavated many endangered archaeological sites, and for many years conducted research at the Morgan Site in the Rocky Hill floodplain.

June’s dedication went beyond fieldwork. In the mid-1980s, an economic upswing brought increased housing development to the state, and she realized that many below ground archaeological resources were being inadvertently destroyed because no one was advising the towns in their land use decision-making capabilities. June understood that better preservation mechanisms protecting archaeological and historical properties needed implementation at both the state and local government levels. Working with her state representative, Richard Tulisano, and partnering with Arend-Jan Knuttel of East Windsor, she formed an exploratory committee to petition the state legislature into creating an “Office of Archaeology” to work with municipal governments. In 1987, June saw through the passage of a bill that established the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) within the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History at the University of Connecticut. And, the rest, as they say, is history!

In spite of this accomplishment, June was not through with her creative ideas and dedication. By 1997, she recognized that the OSA was underfunded with no staff other than the state archaeologist, and when it was apparent that no funds would be forthcoming from the state legislature, she developed the concept of a Friends group to support the office. I can remember vividly when she first approached me in her kitchen with the idea of developing a non-profit organization to coordinate volunteers in the field and lab, and assist in creating public outreach and fund-raising opportunities. Needless to say, I was rather skeptical, not that I didn’t see the need, but just couldn’t imagine how it would all be organized and supported, but then again, being familiar with what June had achieved in the past, I simply told her to go for it, though not really expecting much to happen. Well, she took the ball and ran. Soon she organized a small group of individuals, including professional

and amateur archaeologists, and thus was born the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology (FOSA). June served as the first treasurer and on the initial board of directors. As FOSA grew over the years, June was happy to step into the background, allowing new members to develop the organization into the future. And, FOSA continues to expand to this day with a new state archaeologist and an ever-changing, hard working board of directors. June’s conception of what FOSA could be, facilitating the support needed to assist OSA in its mandated responsibilities, has been an amazing success story that is unprecedented in any other state.

As the state archaeologist over the last three decades, I can honestly say that without June Cooke, there would have been no Office of State Archaeology, and without June Cooke and FOSA, OSA could never have accomplished half of the archaeological preservation projects we were entrusted to perform. What is so significant about what June founded is that her efforts have saved many, many archaeological sites in Connecticut, and has created far more visibility, education, support and public awareness for archaeology than had ever materialized before her. It can be said that many people make meaningful differences in living their lives, however, June made “game changing” differences!

She was not only devoted to the science of archaeology, but June generously gave of her time and expertise in so many ways, to so many causes. She volunteered for the Friends of Dinosaur State Park (her inspiration for FOSA), helped raise game birds and rehabilitate wildlife, created natural and cultural trails through Quarry State Park and Dividend Pond, both in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. She helped guide through the State Archaeological Preserve nomination for the Dividend Brook Industrial Archaeological District, protecting stone ruins of some of the most wonderful water-powered mill complexes in the state. And, if you go to Dividend Park today, you can walk along “June’s Green Trail”, named in her honor.

June’s interests spanned the arts and crafts. She was an active member in both the Rocky Hill and South Windsor Historical Societies, and volunteered at the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor. June also loved to hunt, and I remember the times she would go off turkey hunting with the “boys” and was the only one to bring home dinner!

A decade ago, when Dr. Douglas Owsley, forensic anthropologist for the Smithsonian Institution, came to Connecticut to speak at the FOSA annual meeting, he was at that time able to meet June and Dave, spending an evening at their home. Doug returned to Connecticut this year to once again speak at the annual meeting, and he told me the story that on his first visit he was discussing with June his interest in starting to grow berries on his farm. June went through their extensive house library, pulled out a book on berries, and gave it to Doug as a gift. He told me that he

uses that book to this day, and has never forgotten June's generosity and her knowledge of the subject. Once you met her, and she had so many friends, no one could ever forget June Cooke.

On a personal level, we have lost a dear, dear friend. We spent so much time at her house in Rocky Hill that I thought she and Dave would charge me rent. Early in our tenure, she worked with me at the Walton Cemetery Site in Griswold, rescuing a colonial-era child's burial, she assisted at the exhumation and repatriation of Henry Opukaha'ia in Cornwall, and helped us at numerous archeological sites across the state. She was a pleasure to be with in the field, had a wonderful sense of humor, a natural curiosity about the world around her, and was steadfast in her dedication and support of friends and family. She was a real inspiration, and her accomplishments never ceased to amaze me.

June's surviving family includes four children: her son, Benjamin Stulpin and his wife Linda; her daughters, Cynthia Klemyk and her husband Jim, Beverly Martina and her husband Luis, Betty-Jane Lascasse and her husband Lenny; stepdaughters, Brenda Cooke and her husband Peter Marziano, Karen Sears and her husband Bill; grandchildren, Benjamin, Eric, Michael, Jodi, James, Jessica, Nicholas, and Emily; step-grandsons, Ryan and Barry; great-grandchildren, Bethany, Ben, Nathan, Noah, Jillian, Keira, Ryan, Destiny, Gianna and Cohen. We extend our deepest sympathies to them all.

If someone were to write a history of Connecticut archaeology in the second half of the 20th-century, they would be very remiss if they didn't mention June Cooke and her many contributions to the state. Her legacy will continue on with the Office of State Archaeology, the Friend's group, Dividend and Quarry Parks, and she will always remain in the hearts of her family and friends. June Cooke will never be forgotten, but she will be dearly missed.

*Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD
Emeritus State Archaeologist
Military Veteran at UConn
Connecticut Archaeology Center*

JUNE COOKE: REMEMBRANCES

June Cooke was the "quiet leader." Always there with a smile and a kind word, she was able to gently persuade others to take on roles that they may not have been comfortable undertaking. And through it all her support and encouragement were always close behind.

Roger Thompson

June was such a giving individual. She always made room for anyone new to her circle making them feel welcomed and useful right from the start.

She never hesitated to raise a new theory or suggest another way around a difficult situation, or simply just dig in and do what had to be done.

One special memory was visiting and walking around her backyard with her, listening to some old stories and talking about different plants.

I loved her practical advice from gardening tips to maintaining the peace while being a minority when working around so many men.

June and Dave were so devoted and passionate about our history, we owe them so much for all they have given to Connecticut and our FOSA circle.

Ruth Shapleigh-Brown

I was always impressed with June's amazing fund of knowledge of archeology and the treasures found in our Connecticut soil. June was a woman who loved history and its preservation. FOSA has lost its' mother.

Henri Coppes

June Cooke was my friend. Since the mid-1980's, I have known her to be a person of limitless curiosity. We have visited dozens, if not hundreds of sites during that time with her husband Dave. She introduced me to a variety of interesting and dedicated people including; Helen and Bud, Dreda, Andy, Dean, Dick, and so many others. She welcomed me into the Albert Morgan Archaeological Society in its heyday. She made it possible for me to meet Lucy. I also remember the cups of coffee in her kitchen and casual chats in her living room over the years. I remember how kind she was to my wife Polly and son Matt, while Dave and I were off to yet another site.

June only asked me for two things that I recall, and I was pleased to respond; a survey of a potential Shear Factory site at Dividend in Rocky Hill, and a founding Board membership for this group she was working on called FOSA. Yes, June was my friend, and I will miss her.

Bruce Greene

June's love of Natural Science was expressed to me by her unhappiness at having to throw away her collection of birds' nests, eggs, rocks, etc., that she had picked up during her walks and hikes because she was moving to Arizona. That led to a long discussion of where her hikes took her. In addition to her active part in archaeology, I'll never forget when she brought a freshly baked pie to a dig - I think it was at the Rogers' site. June always tried to make things possible, such as contacting the Glastonbury Historical Society to ask if FOSA could meet there since she was leav-

ing Rocky Hill, where we had been meeting. She and Dave opened the door at the Rocky Hill Historical Society for us to meet. June and her enthusiasm for life will be missed.

Cynthia Redman

I am very grateful to have known June and all the influence she's given me in getting involved in CT archaeology. She encouraged me to join the FOSA Board of Directors and also write articles for the newsletter. God Bless her.

Jim Trocchi

One of June's many talents was the ability to connect with people, make friends of them, and draw them into projects and organizations that were important to her. So it was with me, first into several of her many projects at the Rocky Hill Historical Society, then into FOSA. June was a very special person, unforgettable really, and I will miss her a lot.

Anne Choquette

I first met June in the spring of 1985 when I began co-directing excavations at the Morgan site in Rocky Hill with her husband Dave. David had invited me to do so because of my expertise in Native American ceramics, of which there were thousands at Morgan. I was a young mother with a five year old and a three year old. I didn't trust baby-sitters, and so I had to bring them to the site with me when their father was at work (We worked Thursday-Sunday at the site). They quickly became bored and cranky. June said "I can solve the problem" and she did -- by taking them fishing in the Connecticut! They caught a sunny and were ecstatic! June always knew how to make their lives interesting while their Mom played in the dirt that first dig year at the Morgan site.

Lucianne Lavin

June Cooke was a generous gardener who was very knowledgeable about wildflowers. She also had an amazing memory. Last summer, at Nick's retirement picnic, she quickly asked my wife Linda how the Horsetail and Soapworts Gentian plants were growing. Many years ago, June and Linda spotted a Horsetail plant thriving in the woods near a dig in Cromwell. Linda wanted one. The following Spring, Dave and June arrived at our home with a surprise, a fine Horsetail, our living mementoes of a wonderful couple.

George Kinsella

June, ever the naturalist. How many birds did she adopt and name from that Hudson River School back yard? The flora there under June's tutelage was beyond Rocky Hill perfect. June always found time to paint colonial scenes and find mud puppies to share from the local streams. She had a

sharp sense and pride in local history and was very community minded. June was quite the silent storm. June and Dave Cooke made quite the pair. They opened their home and their hearts to all. Prime examples of "The Greatest Generation", they will always be missed and remembered. Glad they are finally together.

Len Messina

LEGACY

June was the first,
or certainly among the first,
To see a void,
a need,
where others saw mere nothing.
A need to help keep alive
our yesterdays,
in our todays,
for our tomorrows.

The first
to see the need,
the void,
and to see that it was filled.

Jim Hall

FOSA OUTREACH

With the sad passing of June Cooke, founder of FOSA, I find myself looking back at the past 18 years since our first becoming acquainted, which quickly grew into a lasting friendship.

June often volunteered her time and efforts to Outreach events, particularly those geared toward children. Following her move to Arizona June's support continued with letters and news clippings showing creative suggestions for future exhibits.

June's friendship, inspiration and enthusiasm will truly be missed by all.

Since the inception of FOSA, I have had the pleasure and privilege of heading the Outreach Committee. My sincere gratitude to all past, present and future volunteers, whose dedication and hard work has made FOSA's Outreach a successful program. Thank you!

FOSA's Outreach programs offer outstanding opportunities for volunteers to share with the public their experiences, stories and most importantly their passion of archaeology, as individuals visit FOSA's exhibits. The Outreach's mission is to enhance public awareness of the importance of the Office of State Archaeology and preserving Connecticut's rich past through the science of archaeology.

Among the many programs and events in which Outreach participated throughout 2014 were, the CT Gravestone Network Symposium in Manchester, Bridgeport's 1st Annual Archaeology Fair held at the Beardsley Zoo, Haddam Neck Fair, Haddam, the Annual Festival at Hammonasset State Park, Madison, and the Archaeology Fair hosted by Wesleyan University in Middletown.

2014 brought the exciting news that Dr. Brian Jones was selected and hired as Connecticut's new State Archaeologist. Welcome Brian ! While we will continue working with Dr. Bellantoni on upcoming projects, we are looking forward to supporting Dr. Jones' and his plans for the future of OSA. Along with those plans are his proposals of new opportunities for FOSA's Outreach programs. I am now delighted to announce that FOSA has a new Outreach Chairwoman ~ Welcome Heather Alexson!

For more information, about upcoming events and Outreach volunteer opportunities visit FOSA website www.fosa-ct.org or email Heather at FOSAOutreach@hotmail.com.

Ken and Bonnie Beatrice

TRIP to the MEADOWCROFT ROCKSHELTER

Meadowcroft, here we come! 39 enthusiastic travelers set out on a 10 hour bus ride to Meadowcroft Rockshelter in southwestern Pennsylvania early on a chilly October 10th morning. The three-day trip was co-sponsored by FOSA and the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (CSMNH). ASC was also represented.

Everyone settled into the comfortable seats of the bus, and Pete, the bus driver, had the driving skills necessary to negotiate the non-highway hilly and twisting roads. Taking advantage of half-hour rest stops morning and afternoon and a lunch break, we kept our leg circulation going while homemade chocolate chip cookies and DVDs helped to dispel boredom. We arrived at our hotel shortly after 5:30 p.m.

After a good night's sleep and a full breakfast, we boarded the bus for the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, now recognized as the site with the longest occupational sequence of humans in the Americas. Dr. James Adovasio, the archaeologist who conducted the excavation between 1973 -1978, discovered human made artifacts dating to 16,000-15,000 years ago. Early peoples had used this south facing rock overhang for shelter, taking advantage of the stream just below. Unfortunately, the over 2000 stone flakes and tools, are not housed at the site.

At the Visitor's Center, Dr. Adovasio described the history of the site, how he became involved, the excavation itself and the dating. He didn't dwell on the furor that erupted within the archaeological community when the early pre-clovis dates were released. However, now that other sites in the southeast also have early dates, Meadowcroft has now come into its own as an early site of human habitation. The Smithsonian magazine has named Meadowcroft one of the "Five Great Places to See Evidence of First Americans."

Our anticipation rose as we boarded the bus after the presentation. In minutes we were at the shelter, easily climbed the 65 steps leading up to it and faced the excavated interior - huge boulders on the right and the left, which had fallen off the roof thousands of years ago. WOW! Dr. Adovasio came with us and answered questions, but couldn't make the stairs due to recent knee replacement surgery. Another archaeologist spoke to the history and pointed out where the pre-clovis artifacts were found. We were able to enter the upper level so that we had a view of the site looking down - tumbled boulders and rocks.



June Cooke and Dr. Nick Bellantoni at the Cheney Homestead Site in the Summer of 2002.

Photo by John Spalding



Viewing the Meadowcroft Rockshelter (screen on upper left displaying a view of the protective structure built around it)

Photo by Cynthia Redman



View of Meadowcroft Rockshelter from Upper Level

Photo by Jerry Tolchin

Knowing that October 12th was Nick's 66th birthday, Carol West wheedled some paper from a restaurant waiter and made a congratulations sign which we all signed. We taped it to his office door at Horsebarn Hill.

The next day we again boarded the bus for the ten-hour drive home. The cookies were gone, but a couple of Word



Dr. James Adovasio at the Meadowcroft Rockshelter

Photo by Cynthia Redman



Happy 66th Birthday Dr. Nick

Photo by Cynthia Redman

Back to the Visitor's Center where we picked up an excellent pre-ordered bag lunch. The bright October sunshine led many of us to eat outside. After lunch we were free to roam the grounds of the Senator John Heinz History Center, a collection of interpretive historic villages; Eastern Woodland Indian Village, two 18th century structures and across a covered bridge, a one room schoolhouse, where at least one of our group so badly misbehaved that he was made to wear a dunce cap! The blacksmith forge was fascinating as the blacksmith spoke about his work which was hot and dirty!

The day ended with another visit to the rockshelter where we viewed an excellent video and a museum guide spoke about the shelter. We again had a chance to enter the upper level and looked down on the site.

Games and DVDs filled in the time along with the rest stops and lunch. Everyone disembarked at his/her pick-up site realizing that although the bus trip was long, we had had a fantastic experience visiting one of America's neolithic sites and having Dr. Adovasio as our guide. It was an experience that few of us will forget.

Cynthia Redman

Historic Preservation of an African-American Cemetery

In 2014 the Town of Greenwich was made aware of an encroachment on a portion of the Byram (or Lyon) Cemetery on Byram Dock Street, which terminates at the Long Island Sound shoreline near the border with New York State. Because of the sensitive nature of the site, the Town of Greenwich contacted the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) for guidance.

The cemetery, CT SHPO Site A89.71, is topographically divided into three sections: an elevated upper section immediately east of Byram Shore Road with numerous headstones, a second relatively smaller section called the Lyon Cemetery, and a third section immediately to the east of and below the main cemetery near Byram Harbor, historically called the “Colored Cemetery.” It was this unmarked lower burial area, now referred to as the Byram African-American Cemetery, which is believed to have been used as a burial ground by enslaved African-Americans and their descendants. Recent land disturbance to this lower Byram African-American Cemetery by an adjacent property owner included grade cutting, retaining wall installation, rock face removal, and soil stockpiling. Brian Jones inspected these disturbances on August 14, 2014.

The Conservation Commission of the Town of Greenwich initiated the municipal acquisition of the entire, tri-level cemetery parcel in order to protect this significant parcel in perpetuity.

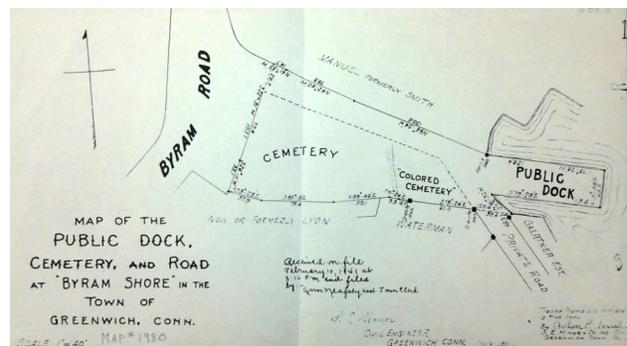
Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) was retained by the town to review the property, monitor the removal of the stockpiled soils, and develop a course of action for investigation and preservation of the entire cemetery, with a focus on specific actions pertaining to the Byram African-American Cemetery. An Archaeology Recommendations Memorandum and more exhaustive documentary study of the cemetery were completed by HPI in consultation with Dr. Brian Jones. No specific deeds directly relating to the ownership of the cemetery were recovered, but there are literally hundreds of Lyon family deeds and many referred to the cemetery as a boundary.

The Byram African-American Cemetery has no headstones and none were reported in 1908 when the adjacent Byram Cemetery was surveyed, which is not unusual at burying grounds used by enslaved peoples or their descendants. Indeed many cemeteries in the Northeast lack such headstones. African traditions transported to the New World often involved placing items of importance on graves, but not headstones; this is a European custom that was not often assumed by the enslaved population. Wooden markers may have also been placed at the site, but no evidence of them remains. Furthermore, there is no

assumption of the duration of the active use of the burial ground or that interments were limited to enslaved individuals related to the Lyons and/or Banks family. Free residents of color may have been buried here, too.

The historical record is very clear that the Lyon and Banks families held slaves during the years that they lived in this neighborhood, referred to as Byram Neck, and for the Banks family, this included both African-American and Native-American peoples. It is quite likely that a burial plot was established for this population, which was not an uncommon practice. Thomas Lyon, being a Quaker, and his immediate descendants, may have believed that it was a just and fair thing to do – to provide their slaves with a specific burying ground. Later generations would have likely followed suit.

HPI recommended that the Town permanently protect and commemorate the cemetery. As numerous studies attest to the diminished recollection of slavery as part of the New England historical landscape (e.g., Cruson 2007, Farrow 2014, Mead 1995), the commemoration of the enslaved population and potentially their descendants that lived and died on Byram Neck, is imperative. Further, HPI recommended both fencing and monumentation in a manner that will actively seek to reverse the invisibility on the landscape invoked by the lack of headstones and obvious markers, and to celebrate the lives of so many who worked on the farms and in the houses of Greenwich, and who had a large impact on the creation of the community and the landscape that it is today.



Map of Byram Road Cemetery

Faline Schneiderman

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- Farrow, Anne 2014 *The Logbooks: Connecticut's Slave Ships and Human Memory*. Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, Connecticut.
- Mead, Jeffrey 1995 *Chains Unbound: Slave Emancipations in the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut*. Gate Press, Baltimore.

Strong Howard House: An Interesting Feature Uncovered After Chimney Removal

The Windsor Historical Society has completed Phase 1 and 2 in refurbishing and restoring its circa 1758 Strong Howard House (reference FOSA Newsletter fall 2013). In late November of 2014, Phase 3 (the final phase of restoration) began with the removal of the chimney and fireplace in the keeping room. Windsor Historical Society (WHS) purchased the house in 1925 and erected this fireplace and chimney in 1954. It is now going to be replaced with one that will be accurate to the likeness of the original one that stood on this same spot from about 1800 until 1888, when it was torn down by the owners of the house. Much of the keeping room lies within a part of the house that was added on around 1800 and has only a crawl space below it. Both the WHS campus and this adjoining house are located within the former historic palisade constructed in 1637.

Much to everyone's surprise, upon removal of the 1950's fireplace and the slate base it was erected on, an unusual formation of stone and brick was revealed. It wasn't what most thought to be a normal foundation for a fireplace. Photo #1 shows this formation or feature just after the fireplace was removed. Prominent in the photo is a large flat brownstone slab spanning and perpendicular to what appears to be two rows of large stones, 12 inches apart. You can see in the photo that between the two rows of stone is a trench containing loose construction debris and rubble, mostly bricks. Although there is no doubt that these remains served as the chimney's foundation, to WHS curator Christina Vida and the restoration workers, this unusual feature of the trench and debris didn't look like a normal foundation for a fireplace. Why is this large trench in the middle of the chimney's foundation?



Photo 1: View of Feature Before Digging Began

Photo by: Jim Trocchi

The first thought was that the trench design may have served as an ash pit, but no trace of ash or residue was evident. The trench stretches 53 inches in length from the front of where the hearthstone once stood (bottom of Photo #1) to the house's west exterior wall's wooden sill plate (top of Photo #1). The large flat brownstone slab mentioned above measures approximately 36 in. long, 22 in. wide at its widest point and a varied thickness of 3 in. to 3 ¾ in. Missing from the bottom of Photo #1 is some brick work at the hearthstone end of the trench. It runs between the two rows of stone that line both sides of the trench and demarcates the hearthstone end of the trench and debris.

With the help of my curious and helpful neighbor, Jerry Cavanaugh, the objective of our first visit on December 22 was to find the surface limits of the feature and to determine the extent of the brick work. We began excavation of the trench to determine the depth of the debris and to specifically determine the three dimensional extent of the mortared brick work. On this day we exposed ten layers of the brick wall, measuring 22 inches in depth. To our surprise, upon using a steel wire to probe deeper along the unexcavated portion of the wall, the brick wall continued much farther than the ten layers thus far exposed. In the process of excavating the trench's rubble, numerous bricks were removed and because they weren't modern molded bricks, I assumed at that point that they were deposited in the trench when the original chimney was torn down in 1888. If this is the case, the trench was probably empty before 1888 and then filled with construction debris at that time. Further, the soil was screened and many artifacts were found, the most interesting was plaster with wallpaper patterns. Christina researched the patterns and dated them to the 1830s. There were also a few nails and small glass shards, along with many animal bones. These bones were most likely brought in by rodents due to the rodent nests found around the crawl space.

As we dug deeper to find the depth of the brick wall, the two rows of stone bordering each side of the trench were shaping up to be two opposing walls, perpendicular to the brick wall. We were now seeing a three sided feature being exposed with some depth to it.

During our second visit on December 30th, Connecticut State Archaeologist Brian Jones was on hand. He felt from his experience the feature was put in place as a base for the fireplace. Therefore, with his advice and help we removed the large brownstone that spanned the stone lined trench along with the upper levels of stone. This allowed us more room to easily remove the trench's debris and get to the bottom of the trench and the depth of the brick and stone walls. Before the day was over, we removed much debris from the trench (mostly old bricks), exposed the bottom depth of the brick wall, and screened the soil as we dug. It ended up being 26 layers of brick, and 57 inches in depth.

Also the two opposing walls of the trench get wider apart to as much as 37 inches as we dug deeper, revealing the stone work was stacked closer together as they were laid near the top (Photo #2). After closer examination, the 26 course brick wall was finished only on one side. By this I mean the mortar on the west facing side was dressed, but not on the opposite side. Photo #5 shows the undressed east side of the brick wall that terminates this end of the two stone walls. Therefore, the bricklayer had to have constructed this wall from the west side to face off the mortar.



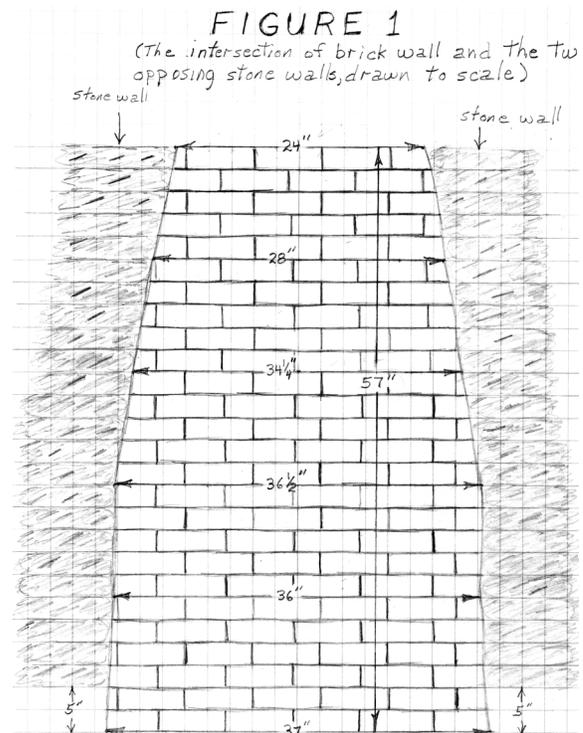
Photo 2: Complete Brick Wall Revealed

Photo by: Jim Trocchi

The bricks dimensions, that we have been encountering in the trench's rubble and the 26 layers mentioned above, are 8 in. long by 2 in. high and 4 in wide. This brick dimension and manufactured appearance matches up to the circa late 1760's bricks of the Chaffee House across the street.

At this point, this extraordinary depth for a foundation and the symmetrical curving and closing together of the top stones, adds fuel to our belief that is an odd construction for a chimney foundation. Again going back to Photo #2, you see the two stone walls are not vertically straight. They are symmetrically wider apart at the bottom and middle depths and come closer as they reach the top. This creates a honey comb or dome design. Figure 1 is a drawing with scaled measurements of the two parallel stone walls, view looking east at the finished side of the brick wall. It appears to me that this honey comb design could have been made so its top opening would be smaller and could be capped with flat brownstones, such as the large one noted above. The 57 inch depth is far deeper than a standard footing. The mason who is rebuilding the new chimney agreed. It evidently served as the chimney's base but appears from its construc-

tion to have had an earlier purpose, possibly before the keeping room addition of 1800 and perhaps even before the house was built. Therefore, its construction, depth and shape seems too odd to many of us to have been originally designed as a chimney base.



Drawing by: Jim Trocchi

One very interesting artifact found in the trench during our second visit was the shoe buckle shown in Photo #7. It has a silvered frame and its steel tines have rusted away. It would have come from a dress shoe not a work boot. Buckles like this date back to the late 18th century (Hume 1991:p85). It is very elegant and rather out of place with all the other debris. It makes you wonder how it ended to be deposited here. Unfortunately we'll probably never know. AHS (Archaeological and Historical Services Inc.) volunteered to conserve the buckle for the Society.



Photo 7: 18th Century Buckle

Photo courtesy of AHS, Inc.

Following the brick wall's lateral extremes (Photo #3), where it intersects the two opposing stone walls, it is further observed that the brick is mortared to the two stone walls and was built to conform with the outline



Photo 3: Mortared Joint Between Brick and Stone Wall

Photo by: Jim Trocchi

of the stonewalls. This construction indicates that the stone walls were constructed first and the brick wall was built sometime after. Also, it looks as though the brick wall was built to seal or terminate what appears to be a subterranean cavern. Note in Figure 1, that for some unexplained reason, the brick wall is 5 inches deeper in the ground than the adjacent stone walls. This raises another question, why did the bricklayer go deeper than needed to close off this end of the trench or enclosure? In Photo #2, notice the quality of the stone and brick work. The bricks were laid in an American Bond fashion (Hume 1969:p123) and were done by a skilled crafts person. Comparing it to the stone work of the foundation in the center of Photo #4, it is far superior.



Photo 4: Demarcation of Stonewalls and House Foundation

Photo by: Jim Trocchi

On January 10th, excavation continued along the west side of the trench, where the two opposing walls meet the house's foundation. To our surprise, this re-

vealed a clear demarcation of the house's exterior foundation in the center of Photo #4 and both of the trench walls, pointers A and B. They are indeed two distinct features with the two opposing trench stone walls extending under the house's sill plate and possibly going beyond the house and into the yard. This was confirmed by troweling through the seam at every point between these two features without meeting any obstruction. Thus, the laying of the feature's stonework and the house's foundation stonework are two separate events. When the soil thaws, excavation in the yard can begin. This could prove very exciting and help determine what other purpose this feature might have served, other than a chimney foundation.

Finally on January 17th, Photo #6 shows the final excavation of our feature. Arrows B, C, D, and E give you the overhead view and limits of this feature uncovered so far. You can see many more old bricks have been dumped between the two walls on the west end and haven't been removed because it may weaken the foundation. Exposing this side will not offer any new information to justify potentially compromising the integrity of the foundation. In the center of the photo, at the bottom of the trench, is a mass of mortared bricks that are most likely more of the 1800 fire-place and chimney.



Photo 6: Excavation at Completion of Work

Photo by: Jim Trocchi

At this point, I am thinking and feeling that this structure was used for underground storage, such as a root cellar. Other people have additionally suggested that it may have been used for dairy or ice storage. In the spring when we continue our excavation outside the house, we hope this feature continues and has more information to offer.

In summary, questions we hope to answer this coming spring and summer are: was this feature undoubtedly more than just a chimney foundation and if so what was its original purpose? Additionally, if it had another purpose other than a chimney foundation, does it predate the house's addi-

-tion or even the house? This area dates back to the 1630s and there are some exciting possibilities. Hopefully the archaeological evidence will have something to offer. We have more Phase 3 work to do that will require FOSA involvement in this project along with the investigation of the rest of the crawl space under the keeping room, when the floor boards are removed in the spring.

Jim Trocchi

Bibliography:

- Hume, Ivor Noel 1969 *Historical Archaeology*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York
- Hume, Ivor Noel 1991 *A Guide to Artifacts of Colonial America* Vintage Books, a division of Random House, Inc. New York

What's New on the FOSA Web Site?

1. For those of you who may not have taken the opportunity to check out the "Special Features" section of the FOSA web site recently, I'd like to suggest you do so, as there are a number of items that should be of interest to all of you.

a. Introduction to Archaeology

Shortly after joining FOSA I attended a PowerPoint presentation given by Nick Bellantoni going over a number of subjects relating to archaeology in general. I found it a fascinating presentation then; and once the "Special Features" section got underway, including the presentation in this new section seemed a natural thing to do. The format consists of images and text that you can navigate through. Further, as time has gone by I've added several images to it, including links to the FOSA Facebook page, "Burial Site" pages taken from one of our Outreach displays, and reference to the "CT Archaeology Road Show" presentations given by FOSA members Gary Nolf and Don Rankin.

b. Other Groups' Flyers

From time to time, members of FOSA will participate in events with outside organizations who, as part of their activities, will distribute flyers or similar handouts in order to enhance their presentations. These are generally intended to provide an historical context within which the materials being presented can be more effectively visualized. This section will provide links to the groups' "Flyers" sections, so you can preview and/or print them for your own use. If you know of other groups which should be included here, please contact me (see below)!

c. Archaeology Awareness Month (info and history)

Since 2012, FOSA has been coordinating Archaeology Awareness Month (AAM) events in Connecticut, and this section has been created to store information on past such events. This should help peoples' awareness of the Month itself, as well as be a historic record for future Months, as

past flyers, AAM Calendars of Events, and images taken from the Archaeology Fair are to be found there.

d. Nick Bellantoni's Retirement Picnic

On September 6, 2014, FOSA held a retirement picnic for Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, in honor of his service as CT State Archaeologist from 1987-2014 and his relationship with FOSA from its founding. The picnic was held at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT and the food was provided by the Marco Polo Restaurant in East Hartford. There are 52 pictures taken at the picnic; but no captions, as we all felt they'd be self-explanatory. If you were there, you should enjoy the pictures; if you weren't, well, you can see what you missed out on!

e. Meadowcroft Rockshelter Trip

On October 10-12, 2014, members of FOSA participated in a trip to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a site where archeologists have found evidence of human life that dates back nearly 16,000 years. In June, 1973, Dr. James Adovasio of Mercyhurst College and his team of University of Pittsburgh students began excavating and studying the site; and at the FOSA Annual Meeting in 2009, Dr. Adovasio spoke about the excavations as the featured speaker. As a result of this, following her tenure as FOSA President in 2013, Cynthia Redman proposed a trip to Meadowcroft, to expand on what Dr. Adovasio spoke about. From that visit, the section's 77 photographs were taken. (You can also check the 2009 portion of the "Annual Meetings" page of the web site for more info on his talk and pictures shown then, as well as links to the Meadowcroft Rockshelter web site.)

2. NEW HELP WANTED SECTION

The "Volunteer Opportunities" page, which gives definitions of the various Interest Categories found on the "Join Us" page, has been modified to include a new Help Wanted section at the top of the page. The items, colored maroon, describe the positions, which at this writing include Event and Field Photographers, Field Assistants, and Outreach and OSA Mentoring.

3. REVISED INTEREST INVENTORY ITEMS and DESCRIPTIONS

If you've happened to pick up a FOSA brochure recently, one with pictures of Dr. Jones on it, you may have noticed that the Interest Inventory categories have changed a little. This reflects updates made by the Board of Directors this past December. The web site's Join Us page has been modified to reflect these changes, as has the "Volunteer Opportunities" page where descriptions of each of the Inventory items are provided.

4. EARLIEST NEWSLETTERS RESCANNED For those of you who've looked at our Newsletters, you may have noticed that the first 7 of them couldn't be searched ... that they were essentially pictures of the Newsletters. Thanks to FOSA Board member Mike Raber, those newsletters have been re-scanned, and they can now be searched using the Adobe PDF Search facility. Thanks Mike!

5. NEWSLETTER INCLUSION DELAY

Until recently, the latest Newsletter would be incorporated into the web site's "Newsletters & Reprints" page 2-3 weeks from when it was received in the mail. However, the Board has requested this delay be changed, to hold off incorporation until 3 months after receipt. The rationale is that the Newsletter is a unique asset to members, and should remain so by waiting longer before making it available to everyone. This is a compromise, as any number of groups wait for over a year before incorporating theirs into their web sites. So, if you wonder why you're not seeing the Newsletters or reprints of selected articles from it for so long, that's the reason.

6. CT ARCHAEOLOGY ROAD SHOW VIDEO

The Fall 2014 Newsletter mentioned the existence of the CT Archaeology Road Show which was developed by FOSA members Don Rankin and Gary Nolf. On our "YouTube Videos" page you'll find a video presented by Branford Public Television. It's titled "...1 of 2" but, unfortunately their website doesn't include the second part. Still, it's worth spending the half-hour viewing it. (As well as the other 10 videos available on the page!)

7. NEW BRIAN JONES VIDEO

If you check out the "YouTube Videos" page, at the bottom you'll find a new video (number 11), of Brian Jones being interviewed by Jan Doyle, for an episode of the Branford Public Television's "Classroom Connections" show, discussing the history of Connecticut and Native American artifacts found during his excavations.

8. YOUR IDEAS WANTED

While the web site has many things on it, it's very possible that there are dozens of possible things that haven't crossed either my mind or that of the Board which might be included. This is where you come in: If you have ideas or suggestions on new features, or enhancements to existing ones, (or even some to drop), please let me know about them. As with most new pages I'll check with either Mandy or the Board and, presuming they see no potential issues, I'll keep you posted on their progress.

So, please: Don't keep it a secret. Let me know! You can email me at jamesh52@comcast.net.

Jim Hall

Survey and Planning Grant

FOSA applied for and received a Survey and Planning Grant from the State Historic Preservation Office in October 2014. The purpose of the grant is to nominate five industrial archaeological sites as State Archaeological Preserves. Designation as an Archaeological Preserve affords a site protection for in situ conservation.

Three consultants were chosen to survey the sites and fill out the paperwork necessary to nominate the sites to the State Register of Historic Places and then as State Archaeological Preserves. Historical Perspectives, Inc. has already

submitted paperwork to nominate the Charcoal Mound in Peoples State Forest, Barkhamsted and the Gail Borden Condensed Milk Factory Site in Torrington. Once the weather improves they will also survey the Midway Railroad Roundhouse in Bluff Point State Park, Groton. Marc Banks surveyed and documented the Soapstone Quarry in Barkhamsted. Historical Technologies has documented a Nike Missile Site in Portland. FOSA members will have the opportunity to visit all of these sites once the weather improves. Stay tuned to your e-mail for notices. If you do not use e-mail, but are interested in attending one of these events, give Mandy a call (203-768-0361), and she will be sure to call you when the visits are scheduled.

FOSA is really excited to be working with Dave Poirier, the consultants, and SHPO staff to ensure protection of these significant archaeological sites!

Calendar of Events

April 7, 2015 "A Sicilian Greek Agora" AIA New Haven Lecture; Yale University, New Haven, CT

April 11, 2015 Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium 9am-4pm, East Hartford, 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

May 2, 2015 Conference on New England Archaeology, Sturbridge, MA

May 3, 2015 New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emanuel Society Meeting 1pm, Chesterfield, CT

May 13-15, 2015 Cultural Landscapes & Heritage Values, UMass Amherst

May 22-24, 2015 North American Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference, NYU

May 31, 2015 Society for Industrial Archaeology Conference, Albany, NY

June 1, 2015 Connecticut League of History Organizations Conference, Meriden, CT

October 17, 2015 CT Archaeology Fair, CCSU, New Britain, CT

Thank You Don Rankin!

FOSA recently received a very generous donation of \$5000 from the Rankin Family Fund. FOSA Member Don Rankin has made this donation in recognition of all the public outreach work of Gary Nolf and Nick Bellantoni. Gary, Nick, and Don have presented countless programs all over the state. Many of you have likely seen the Archaeology Road Show. Many thanks to the Rankin Family Fund for this amazing donation to FOSA!

FOSA's Newest Board Members

Glenda Rose and Zachary Singer were recently elected by the FOSA Board of Directors to serve as members of its Board.

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

Richard Hughes - Board Member

Brian Meyer - Board Member

Mike Raber - Board Member

Cynthia Redman - Board Member

Glenda Rose - New Board Member

Zachary Singer - New Board Member

Jim Trocchi - Board Member

Kathy Walburn - Board Member

Ex Officio Members:

Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni

Dan Cruson (ASC)

Leanne Kennedy Harty

Dr. Brian D. Jones

Welcome New Members

(Since September 1, 2014)

Paula A. Atwood

Sally F. Baumer & Rosemary Bleyer

Mark Bodian

Catherine Cremé

Gabe Hrynick

Denis Jones

Quentin & Margaret Kessel

David Kinney

Kara LaBella

Bill Lane

Lucianne Lavin

David Leslie

Nancy Najarian

Alyssa Potter

John Roe

Colleen Swift

FOSA Annual Financial Report

Calendar Year 2013

Beginning Balance 1/1/14	11,423.84
Income	24248.45
Expenses	22098.04
Ending Balance 12/31/14	13,574.25

An Archaeological Field School in the Litchfield Hills

The Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club, sponsored by the Institute for American Indian Studies (IAIS), is announcing an Archaeology Field School to be held at an active excavation site in Litchfield County during the week of July 13-17. Students under age 13 are welcome to participate with adult supervision.

The field school will take place Monday through Friday from 10am-3pm and costs \$100.00 for IAIS members or \$150.00 for nonmembers.

The field school site, which has been excavated for the past several years under the leadership of archaeologist Dr. Lucianne Lavin (Director of Research and Collections at the IAIS Museum) and several other experts in the field, is producing artifacts that date as early as 4,200 years ago. For anyone with an interest in Connecticut's prehistoric archaeology, this non-accredited field school will teach the basics of mapping, excavation techniques, artifact identification, and the documentation process.

Call the IAIS Museum at 860-868-0518 to make a reservation. Registration is limited to 15 persons.



Seymour Historical Society Early 18th Century Lime Kiln and Marble Quarries In Little Laurel Lime Park

Seymour, Connecticut
2:00 pm, Sunday, April 26, 2015
Peter and Barbara Rzasa



An early 18th century lime kiln, several marble quarries and ancient mining roads can be found in Seymour's Little Laurel Lime Park. Two hundred million years ago, the marble was part of a large coral reef that surrounded a volcanic island in an ancient ocean. Eventually, the reef metamorphosed into the marble that can be seen today. Local farmers in the late 17th and early 18th centuries made use of this marble to "sweeten" their crop fields and enhance plant growth by lowering soil acidity. But first they had to burn the marble in a kiln for six to seven days to drive off carbon dioxide and produce "burnt lime". Two local lime kilns were constructed for this purpose, with one remaining in Seymour.

Peter and Barbara Rzasa will describe the lime kiln, the burning process, the quarries and mining roads. They will also highlight the park's natural features – its overlooks of the Housatonic River, and its native wildflowers, trees, and birds.

The program is free to Seymour Historical Society members and \$5 for non-members. Doors open at 1 p.m. for those who wish to view the museum's exhibits. The building is located at 59 West Street, Seymour, CT.

For more information: email pjrzasa@comcast.net or call 203-888-0358.

