Fall 2016

Special Points of Interest:
- Seasonal Occupations at the Devil's Head Site, Maine
- In Remembrance: Frederic William Warner III and Dr. Henri Robert Coppes
- Dusting of the past at the Mattatuck Museum
- Serendipity at Riverside Cemetery

President’s Letter

Greetings FOSA Members:

It has been quite a busy summer, and I want to thank those of you who were able to help Brian out on some exciting archaeological sites, most especially, the Hollister Site. Walt Woodward, State Historian, interviewed a number of volunteers on site on the last day. If you haven’t heard the podcast episode on Grating the Nutmeg be sure to check it out!

October is Connecticut’s Archaeology Awareness Month, and there are many events already scheduled. Please join us at the Archaeology Fair on October 15th at UConn. You can learn about the exciting archaeological projects going on in the state (and beyond), tour some of UConn’s impressive archaeology labs, and hear talks by local experts. If you know of a group who would like to exhibit at the Fair, send me an e-mail (fosa-cti@archaeologist.com).

As our weather starts to cool and fieldwork starts to draw to a close there may be opportunities for lab work at UConn. Also stay tuned for workshop announcements. As always, feel free to contact me if you have comments about our programs, what to get more involved in FOSA, or have some new ideas.

Mandy

FOSA President

News from the Office of State Archaeology

The Office of State Archaeology has had a busy and exciting few months since the last newsletter went out. A series of tremendous archaeological research opportunities kicked off with two weeks of work at the Templeton Site in Washington, Connecticut supervised by UConn graduate student and FOSA board member Zac Singer. After relocating Roger Moeller’s original excavation grid, control points were set across a large area of the site that had not been previously investigated. Shovel test pits were placed at four-meter intervals and excavated to depths in excess of a meter. Two, two-by-two meter excavation blocks were placed to better sample previously unidentified Paleoindian loci. One block produced additional abundant debitage, while the other was low in flakes, but did include a large probable Paleoindian flake tool and biface fragment. Zac will be busy with the interpretation of the new data for a while, but we look forward to his conclusions and recommendations for future work there. OSA was joined by many FOSA volunteers, as well as members of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut, the Institute for American Indian Studies, and the Litchfield Hills Archaeology Club. Professional archaeologists from AHS, Inc. and PAL, Inc., and even New Hampshire State Archaeologist Dr. Richard Boisvert joined in as well, while Dr. Moeller stopped by often and provided important insights. It was an extraordinary opportunity to examine one of the state’s most

Inside this issue:

- Events & Announcements 3
- In Remembrance: Fred Warner 4
- Devil’s Head Site, Maine 5
- Mattatuck Museum 7
- In Remembrance: Hank Coppes 9
- Serendipity at Riverside Cemetery 10
- Welcome New Members 11
- Officers and Board 11
- Membership Application 12
significant sites and I’d like to thank all of you who were able to lend a hand, job well done!

FOSA volunteers and four UConn graduate students also helped with the important rescue of materials from the off-campus Baker Building. Baker was a former storage space for OSA and records going back to Doug Jordan’s time had been kept there. The building had also been used as overflow storage for some very important archaeological collections. Because Baker has been mothballed by UConn, we had to secure the important documents and site assemblages in a new safe location. Some of the more notable collections recovered were from the Late Archaic Tinkham Site, the Terminal Archaic Schwartz Site, and the Late Woodland Morgan Site. I was recently contacted by UConn about some possible new off-campus storage space, so keep your fingers crossed and be prepared to come help with the move when the time comes!

In June, FOSA volunteers helped with a week of excavation at the National Register-listed David Humphreys House in Ansonia. The David Humphreys House is home to the Derby Historical Society. It was constructed in 1698 and is the birthplace of David Humphreys, aide-de-camp to George Washington during the American Revolution and the young nation’s first ambassador. Humphreys is also famous for importing the first Merino sheep from Spain which resulted in a transformation of Connecticut’s landscape as the new fine-fleeced flocks soon dotted the countryside. Work was conducted at the site because of proposed drainage improvements that threatened to disturb the buried archaeological record behind the house. The archaeological work conducted here by FOSA volunteers uncovered evidence of a forgotten rear lean-to, as well as the remnants of daily life between ca. 1700 and the 20th century. Among the most interesting finds were children’s toys, including clay marbles, a tin soldier, pencil leads, and an inch-long mid-19th century porcelain doll known as a “Frozen Charlotte.” Because of the significance of the site, FOSA members may have a chance to return for follow-up work this fall, so keep your ears open if you are interested.
Following that excavation, OSA ran its pilot Archaeological Field School for Educators. This program was developed to provide educators with a hands-on experience in archaeology so that they could share their enthusiasm for the past with their students. Work at the site focused on the examination of a filled house cellar in Windsor believed to be that of Captain John Mason. Mason is an historically controversial figure, famous for leading colonial militia in a bloody war against the Pequot tribe in 1636. The house was later occupied by the Marshall family who appear to have abandoned it in the second half of the 18th century, and most of the artifacts and food remains recovered appear to reflect their long use of the property. Some of the finds made here included German Westerwald stoneware, English scratch-blue stoneware, delftware and slip-decorated earthenware, all characteristic of the early to mid 18th century. The landowners and Windsor Historical Society have been very supportive of this research, so we hope to be back in future years with the same program. Special thanks go to FOSA members Lori Kessel and Scott Brady who acted as mentors to the teachers who took part in the program.

Last, but certainly not least, OSA ran the CT State Museum of Natural History’s adult field school at the Lt. John Hollister Site in Glastonbury in August. As mentioned in the last newsletter, we had high hopes that the site would prove to reflect an intact 17th century farming complex and we were not disappointed! Work at the site had previously kicked off with a spring-break magnetometry survey by University of Denver graduate students Maevie Herrick and Jasmine Saxon. This summer, Jasmine and Maevie returned for follow-up ground-penetrating radar studies that expanded on Peter Leach’s original survey last summer. This work will prove invaluable for future excavation planning and site interpretation moving forward.

The excavation season focused primarily on three of the four cellar features identified in the radar surveys. Portions of these cellar features were excavated to their floors at a depth of about 150 cm. The cellar fill proved to have preserved very rich deposits of faunal remains, including both wild and domestic animals, as well as fish bone and scales and abundant shellfish. FOSA member Lori Kessel also identified maize and bean fragments during the excavation. The finds were too numerous to mention, but some highlights included a very uncommon fragment of a north Italian marbleized slipware bowl, numerous decorated delftware sherds, abundant red and white clay pipe fragments, a brass bell, a latten slip top spoon, examples of German stoneware and a variety of English slip-decorated and lead-glazed earthenwares. Of particular significance was the recovery of fragments of a very large Native-made storage vessel. This item is a tangible reflection of the close relationship between the Hollister family and the local Wangunk people suggested by some of the historical accounts of the period.

FOSA volunteers provided tremendous help with two busy public dig days sponsored by the Historical Society of Glastonbury: one for the general public and one for two local scout troops working on their archaeology merit badges. FOSA volunteers completed the excavation season with some time to explore the site on their own and to wrap up all of the loose ends. Special thanks go to the Packard family for their generosity and permission to work at the site and interrupt their summer!

There will be plenty to do this fall for volunteers in the lab, so keep your eyes on the OSA Facebook page and FOSA web page for updates!

Brian Jones, PhD, State Archaeologist

Calendar of Events

October 1-2, 2016, Hammonasset Festival, Guilford Fairgrounds, 111 Lovers Lane, Guilford, CT
October 7-9, 2016, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference, Ottawa, Ontario
October 9, 2016, 9-11:30am, Archaeology Field Workshop – Learning the Basics, hosted by the CT State Museum of Natural History, UConn, Storrs, CT
October 15, 2016, 10am-4pm, CT Archaeology Fair/ASC Fall Meeting, Wilbur Cross Library, UConn, Storrs, CT
October 21, 2016, 1pm, Walktober: Canterbury’s Historic Captain John Clark Property, Canterbury Historical Society
October 27, 2016, 4-6pm, “Ice Age Archaeology of North America: Historical and Current Perspectives on the First Americans” presented by Dr. J. David Kilby at Sacred Heart University
October 28, 2016, 7-9pm, “Ice Age Time Capsules: Clovis Caches and Pleistocene Adaptations in the Northern Hemisphere” presented by Dr. J. David Kilby at Sacred Heart University
October 29, 2016, Native American and Archaeologists Roundtable, Institute for American Indian Studies, Washington, CT
November 3-6, 2016, Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting, Langhorne, PA
November 5, 2016, Association for the Study of Connecticut History Fall Meeting, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT
December 10, 2016, 3pm, “Connecticut’s Early European Settlers – Year 2 Excavations” presented by Dr. Brian Jones at UConn, Storrs, Biology/Physics Building, room 130
December 17, 2016, CT State Museum of Natural History sponsored trip to the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY
January 4-8, 2017, Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Fort Worth, TX

(continued from page 2)
FREDERIC WILLIAM WARNER III
(1927-2016)

In Remembrance

A legend in Connecticut archaeology died this summer. Fred Warner passed away on August 7, 2016 at the age of 89. Memories of Fred conjure many deep feelings, including his dedication to archaeology and his unstoppable energy that was a part of him until the end. His death comes as a shock to most of us since he never seemed to age. Physically strong, mentally alert, bounding down the staircase of DiLoreto Hall, two and three steps at a time leaving students half his age struggling to keep up. Witnessing him skip around a classroom, barely able to contain his enthusiasm, was infectious. It was hard for a student not to become engrossed in archaeology. I was. And, Fred brought that same energy to the field. He was never indifferent about his work.

He completed his undergraduate training at Yale University and received his doctorate from Hartford Seminary, where upon he was hired to teach anthropology at Central Connecticut State College and was already its department head when I enrolled there in 1974. Fred was President of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut at that time, a position he held from 1972 to 1978, and the year prior to my arrival, he had founded the Connecticut Archaeological Survey (CAS), the first cultural resource management firm in the state, so at Central there were field opportunities along with classroom training. So much was swirling around Fred during the 1970s that the college seemed to us the epicenter of archaeology. Meetings were held, archaeologists visited, projects planned and a library developed. It was a wonderful environment for a young, hopeful archaeologist. He was my first professor of archaeology and CAS provided my initial field experience. His influence on me was immense.

As was his influence on all of Connecticut archaeology. In 1979, Fred received funding from the Department of the Interior administered through the CT State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to conduct a statewide inventory of archaeological sites. Through that initiative, Fred compiled a comprehensive database synthesizing known sites and listing new ones that represents today much of what is catalogued within the Connecticut Archaeological Site Files and Maps maintained by the Office of State Archaeology and SHPO. That contribution should not be underestimated, his tenacity in searching out what was known at that time, coordinating with amateurs and professionals, casting his net to all corners of Connecticut, has helped us manage and preserve hundreds of archaeological sites across the state.

Fred Warner’s research interests eventually gravitated toward industrial archaeology. He was always hands-on, loved his machines and understanding how they worked, so his passion in historical industrial technologies is of no wonder. He even used a backhoe when appropriate at his sites. In particular, he specialized in the study of early transportation mechanisms, including canals and railroads, as well as historic sources of energy (i.e., water, steam and electricity). Even after his official retirement from Central, he devoted time and effort to researching and preserving the Beckley Iron Furnace in Canaan, a state-owned park listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As a member of the Beckley Friends organization, Fred served as their resident archaeologist, providing tours, developing exhibits and educating the general public on the iron industry and the early mechanisms of the blast furnace. He served in a similar capacity with the Barkhamsted Historical Society, remaining a passionate teacher to the very end. In addition, he served on the board of directors for the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology for many years. Fred could never quit.

And, Fred could be controversial at times. He was strong-minded in whatever he thought was right, never afraid to buck horns if he needed to. Yet, he could always disarm a competitor with his quick wit, endearing smile and lusty laugh. Working with Fred was never boring!

Fred Warner stories abound and writing this brings back so many memories of my early development as an archaeologist and a realization of the debt I owe him. In this regard, I am not alone. He inspired many students with his energy, knowledge and personality and was often warmly referred to as “Uncle Fred.” He leaves behind three generations of family and two generations of students that deeply loved him.

Along with the academic side of archaeology, Fred taught us that our science demanded hard labor in the field and he provided example by keeping himself in good physical condition. Many years later, as state archaeologist at UConn, I was walking with a couple of my students across campus. When we arrived at our destination, the undergraduates were gasping for breath as they attempted to keep up with me. We all laughed about it, but that’s when I realized I had become Fred Warner! I will always love him.

Nick Bellantoni
Emeritus State Archaeologist
Seasonal Occupations at the Devil’s Head Site, Maine

Establishing the seasonality of archaeological sites is critically important for understanding the life ways of pre-Contact peoples. In Connecticut, Katherine Brandon, Kevin McBride, and others have suggested that variability in Woodland period settlement-subsistence is not fully understood. As a result, our understanding of pre-Contact settlement subsistence and the effect of European colonialism on Native life ways is impaired. Throughout the entire Northeast it would be valuable to develop techniques for considering seasonality at coastal sites in particular for several reasons: (1) as sea levels rise, these sites are rapidly vanishing, and with them valuable information that may never be recovered, (2) these sites may be among the most archaeologically visible, (3) the relationships of interior and coastal populations and their mobility remains enigmatic and may have been affected by European contact, (4) coastal sites often contain well-preserved faunal remains (bone and shell) that may be especially sensitive environmental indicators, (5) these analyses can be performed on shell from archival collections. In 2015, we were awarded a grant from the Douglas Jordan Testing, Dating, and Conservation Fund that was useful for establishing season of occupation at the Devil’s Head Site, a Middle Woodland site in the Quoddy Region of northeastern Maine, Figure 1. Below is a brief description of our methodology and results.

Figure 1. Topographic map of the Devil’s Head site showing the Devil’s Head site. The inset shows the location of the Devil’s Head site within the state of Maine.

Live Mya arenaria were collected and sampled to develop an accurate record of seasonal differences in modern soft-shelled clam, based on δ¹⁸O values. These modern clams were obtained from beds that are directly adjacent to the Devil’s Head archaeological site. Water samples were also collected, including salinity and temperature, at both high and low tide on the day modern clams were collected (July 4, 2014). Salinity was measured using a Salinity Refractometer, accurate to ±0.10% and salinity is measured in parts per thousand (ppt), and temperature was measured using a digital thermometer, accurate to ±0.1°C, at 1m below sea level. Archaeological Mya arenaria shells suitable for analysis (with the terminal growth band preserved on the ventral margin) were selected from collections provided from 2013 excavations (Hrynick and Webb 2014).

Both modern and archaeological shells were investigated to determine the structural composition of the shells using a Nicollet Thermo-Scientific iS5-FT-IR spectrometer (Figure 2). Samples were processed using the iD5 Diamond ATR setting. Samples of modern and archaeological shell were contrasted with known spectra of calcite and aragonite, to determine if the shells were susceptible to diagenetic alteration (Budd 1988; Brand 1989). The reference library used for FTIR analysis was made available by the Kimmel Center for Archaeological Science Infrared Standards Library, Weizmann Institute of Science and infrared spectra methods followed Weiner (2010).

Figure 2: Infrared spectra of pure calcite and aragonite contrasted with modern and archaeological shell.

Modern and archaeological shells were collected and sampled along their terminal growth bands of the ventral margin for the most recent δ¹⁸O values. Shells were incased in epoxy resin and then cut using a precision saw (Buehler Isomet 1000), cutting perpendicular to the chon-
drophore and ventral margin. The samples were then ground and polished with a Buehler Ecomet 3, providing a finely polished cross-section (Figure 3) for sampling.

Modern and archaeological shells were sampled at the terminal growth band of the ventral margin, and were first inspected to make sure that the margin was relatively intact. These shells were drilled sequentially using a hand held drill (Vogue 6000 Pro) using a 1 mm diamond drill bit, following the terminal growth band along the ventral margin and sampled at an approximate interval of 0.5 mm. Powdered carbonate samples were processed at the University of Arizona Environmental Isotope Laboratory, using a Thermo Finnigan MAT 252 coupled to a Kiel IV carbonate device. High-resolution digital images shells were obtained with a Nikon AZ100M Con-Focal Microscope, using a Digital Sight DSFI-1 camera with reflected light, with NIS Elements software. Shell preparation, FT-IR analysis, and image analysis were conducted at the Stable Isotope Laboratory and the Archaeobotany and Microphotography Laboratory, both at the University of Connecticut.

This work has been instrumental in our understanding of seasonal occupation at the Devil’s Head Site. We have been able to estimate the season of occupation as either Fall or Spring, based on the stable isotope results and co-verified faunal analyses, which include identified taxa with cold season preferences. The results of this work have been presented at meetings of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation and Conference on New England Archaeology, and shared with FOSA members at a stable isotope workshop last year. The methods developed above are also currently being applied to Woodland archaeological sites on Block Island, RI with Kevin McBride, and are returning promising results that will be presented at the annual meetings for the Society for American Archaeology in 2017. We are also interested in applying these techniques to Connecticut pre-contact sites in the future. Our goal is to build a database of the region specific life-history and growth patterns of Mya arenaria, eventually establishing a high resolution record of paleoecologic data for New England. Stable isotope studies of archaeological shell middens offer a powerful way forward for archaeologists to identify seasonal occupation of sites, provides complimentary information for traditional faunal analyses, and valuable data about the paleoecological setting of archaeological sites.

David E. Leslie, PhD
M. Gabriel Hrynick, PhD

What’s New on the FOSA Web Site?

1. As a result of the “Web Site Usage” survey taken last summer, I’ve made two changes to the Home page, adding a 7-slide repeating-image sequence next to the Quick Links; and a 31-slide repeating-image sequence titled “Did You Know” next to Dr. Brian’s picture. While the first will cycle through rather quickly once you hit the “Start” button, the second will only change images when the day of the month changes. Each image has a link to the page in the web site where the image is discussed. If you want to see all 31 images, click a small “DYK” icon at the bottom of the display.

2. We’re still in need of a backup person to help in the maintenance of the web site and to take over in the event I’m no longer able to do it. Please check the “Help Wanted” section at the top of the “Volunteer Opportunities” page to see what’s involved.

3. To reiterate from above and from previous “What’s New…” articles: While the web site has many things on it, it’s very possible that there are dozens of possible things which 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 for layout changes, or new features, or changes to existing ones, or things we should drop, please let me know! You can email me at jamesh52@comcast.net with your suggestions. Or if you prefer, contact Mandy at: fossa-ct@archaeologist.com

Jim Hall
Dusting Off the Past: Native American Artifacts at Mattatuck Museum

Going through collections in museum storage is a daunting task, especially when those objects have lacked the attention to detail and organization that they deserve due to time and staffing constraints. The situation becomes more complicated the longer the objects sit untouched, and as documentation and identification become separated and even lost from the objects to which they pertain. Such is the case of the Native American collection found in storage at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT. The ultimate goal of the organization effort was to find how much of our collection was relevant to the museum’s mission of displaying Connecticut art and artifacts, which objects had the most exhibition value, and what our collection comprised of in terms of age and types of artifacts.

One of the first problems encountered as the project began was that the majority of Native American stone tools collected by the museum were scattered and stored in several locations. The artifacts were likely collected around the time of the museum’s founding in 1877 and into the 20th century, and since then have been widely spread across three storage spaces in the museum. The first task was to assess what was moveable, and gather it all together. Whatever was not moveable was measured, photographed, and catalogued in a basic object record by type of artifact and dimensions. The majority of the larger artifacts were stone mortars, and other grinding stones.

Once the larger objects were documented, our next step was to attempt to separate unlabeled from labeled artifacts. We pulled everything out and organized the artifacts by basic shape: axes, adzes, celts, pestles, hammerstones, stone points and drills. We then subdivided by origin location, putting unmarked artifacts off to the side. For the stone points, we organized by shape and notch style: center notched, side notched, stemmed and triangular. Others, which were likely blades or preforms, were also separated. Through this process we discovered that a large part of the labelled artifacts indicated origins in Tennessee and Ohio. There had previously been some organization of the collection in years prior, in which artifacts found outside of Connecticut had been sorted out and placed in archival boxes, but the project was not completed. We sorted out artifacts which had locations indicated in ink from all over the country, including the states of Arizona, New York, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia, among others, and even from far-off places like Central America and Nova Scotia.

About a third of the collection seemed to be originate from Connecticut, another third from locations outside of the Northeast, and the other third unmarked.

We photographed all objects that claimed to be from Connecticut, and any unmarked artifacts that could be from Connecticut, recording the types of tools and their dimensions to begin a record. The extensive amount of material led us to the conclusion that we needed an expert to examine the collection, and we contacted Dr. Brian Jones, the Connecticut State Archaeologist. With his expertise, we hoped to learn what has the best exhibition value for the museum, to determine the age and typology of the artifacts in our collection, and to obtain insight into other, more bewildering objects.

Three such objects were a stone bust of head and shoulders, four copper axe heads that were indicated as being recovered from a mound, and two copper hoe shaped implements which had holes in their stems. Each of these were of particular interest to Dr. Jones, as they are rarely seen in museum collections. The hoe shaped implements were reminiscent of axe-money which may be found in Aztec culture in Mexico but the holes in the objects are problematic; they do not appear to be appropriate placement for the utilization of the object as a tool. Three of the four copper axe heads are rounded on one end, and narrower and squared off on the other. On the final axe head, there are small projecting ear-like forms on the wider end while the other end tapers and is squared off. These are likely from a burial context as they are very well made and don’t indicate clear signs of usage. Furthermore, they appear to have textural imperfections that could possibly be imprints of fabric fiber weave or other material. The copper content in these objects indicates that if in a burial context, the person was of high social status (Thomas 1994:162).

The last intriguing object was that of a carved stone anthropomorphic bust, which was, according to Dr. Jones, reminiscent of Etowah stone statues. These sculptures are from the Mississippian tradition, and found in Northwest Georgia, following the Etowah River (Power 2004:78).
The Etowah sculptures are sometimes found in pairs, one of a man and one of a woman, and might “portray individuals no longer among the living, or perhaps they memorialize the ancestral pair” (Power 2004:83-4). The seemingly unfinished bust found in the museum’s collection is by no means as elaborate as those found in Etowah, but it is made out of a light-colored stone and has on its back that it was found in Ohio. No other documentation on the object can be found.

Such artifacts provide insight into the past as well as context for present Native American cultures, and may be collected together to tell the story of the Native American in New England. An upcoming exhibition at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury, CT will present a curated collection of artifacts to tell the history of the Native American’s time in Connecticut. An assortment of different stone tools and other Native American artifacts will be displayed to establish an understanding of Native American history, and will center on how archaeology plays an important role in the understanding of their culture and lifeways. Artifacts displayed will be mainly derived from Connecticut, but will also include a selection of Mid-Western artifacts to compare and contrast the tool types and styles of the period and locality. The exhibition works to make the science of archaeology accessible to the public, while providing visibility of the Native American people and their history in a local context.

Chelsea Garth is Curatorial Assistant at the Mattatuck Museum and studied Art History at the University of Connecticut. She also worked as a Collections Intern at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History. Special thanks to Summer 2016 Curatorial Intern Elizabeth Correia, currently an Anthropology student at Central Connecticut State University, for being an integral part of the endeavor to organize the collection and in assisting in the development of the upcoming exhibit at the Mattatuck Museum.

References
DR. HENRI “HANK” ROBERT COPPES  
(1927-2016)

Whenever Dr. Henri Coppes arrived on site, carrying his field equipment in a pail, wearing his FOSA tee-shirt and a shade hat, the first thing you noticed was his smile. Invariably, he would be walking side-by-side toward the excavation units with this “digging partner” George Kinsella. The two were inseparable, hard workers and such a pleasure to have as part of the field crew. We all called him “Hank” and it took a while before any of us realized he was a highly respected Chief of Medicine at Milford Hospital, primarily because Dr. Coppes was soft-spoken, personable and never boasted about his life or career. Hank was there to participate in archaeology and spend time with the FOSA gang, not talk about himself. Yet, there was always something special about him that led us all to appreciate his intelligence and worldly experiences.

For the record, he was born in Enschede, Netherlands, one of ten children. He grew up with many hardships, including Nazi occupation of his country during World War II. After the war, he attended medical school in Amsterdam, immigrating to America in 1957. Completing residencies at hospitals in Meriden and Waterbury, CT, as well as Rochester, NY, Hank settled at Milford Hospital, remaining there for 35 years providing medical care for hundreds of patients and founding the Internal Medicine of Milford P.C. He passed away this summer on July 7, 2016 at the age 88.

Hank was an early participant in FOSA, joining the volunteer organization with a family membership in 2000 and remaining loyal ever since. He assisted in many field expeditions and attended all of the annual meetings. Accompanied by George Kinsella, together they made many contributions to the research, educational programs and rescue archaeology conducted by our office. Even in death Hank’s influence continues with FOSA receiving considerable contributions in his memory. The Rives Site was the last FOSA “dig” Hank assisted with three years ago, helping us mitigate archaeological resources threatened by a proposed condominium project in Westbrook, his hometown.

Dr. “Hank” Coppes was a truly caring and kind man. All FOSA members having the pleasure of working with him will miss him dearly. He was a true “amateur” archaeologist, referring the word to its Latin meaning as a person who “loves doing something.” He loved being in the field, taking part in discoveries and we loved having Hank as a part of the FOSA family. To be acquainted with Hank on a personal level, made it easy to understand how he would have been a most compassionate and respected doctor. He was a great supporter of our work and his death is a loss for the entire FOSA community. Our heavy hearts go out to his family and to George, his “dig partner.”

Nick Bellantoni  
Emeritus State Archaeologist
Serendipity at Riverside Cemetery

Ten years ago I wrote a book about Riverside Cemetery, also known as Macdonough Cemetery in Middletown Ct., named for Commander Thomas Macdonough who in 1825 was declared the “Hero of Lake Champlain”. In my work I photo-document all the gravestones in a cemetery and then create a map indicating where each stone is located.

Recently, I revisited Riverside in order to see what changes might have occurred during the last decade. When I first arrived I noticed a number of individuals shading themselves under the trees and they gathered around and asked questions as I began to work. I first found that a stone that I couldn’t identify in 2006 has been restored and I could now identify it as the grave of William Z. Hall. I had named the stone “Dunno 7” since at the time I “Dunno who the person was”. But now I do.

Right next to Mr. William Hall were two stones that substantiated all of my work. The stones for Susannah Loveland and Capt. John Loveland were in very good shape in 2006. Now, only ten years later, the stones are in ruins. Here are the before and after pictures, of the Susannah Loveland stone taken in 2006 and then in 2016. See photos 1 and 2 below.

If you look at the Susannah Loveland stone closely you can see that someone in the past had made a repair on the stone using cement. The two lines of cement in the left picture are still there in the right picture. But the face of the stone has completely separated away and slid to the ground perhaps caused by the freezing and thawing of moisture finding its way in along the seams of the cement similar to what occurs in frost heave.

As I was photographing the Susannah Loveland stone two men entered the cemetery. They told me they were from Minnesota and they were looking for a particular relative. So we checked my Riverside Cemetery Book and found their relative, Rev. Noahdiah Russell. It was a tablestone near the very back of the cemetery. We located it on the map and a moment later they were tickled pink to find themselves standing at the grave of their relative Noahdiah, who was buried in Middletown in 1713, over three centuries ago! How is that for serendipity? From out of the blue, two people in need from way out there in Minnesota show up at an obscure cemetery the very moment that perhaps the only person who might be able to show them where their ancestor was buried also happens to shows up!

Dave Shortell

Announcement of Upcoming Events:

Sacred Heart University

The Human Journey Colloquia Series Presents:

ICE AGE ARCHAEOLOGY OF NORTH AMERICA: HISTORICAL AND CURRENT PERSPECTIVES ON THE FIRST AMERICANS

PRESENTER:
Dr. J. David Kilby, Associate Professor
Texas State University

DATE/TIME/LOCATION
Thursday, October 27
4 pm – 6 pm
Curtis Hall
Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, Connecticut

Sponsored and funded by: The Human Journey Colloquia series, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Department of History, Department of Biology

Susannah Loveland Stone
In 2006
Photo by Dave Shortell

Susannah Loveland Stone
in 2016
Photo by Dave Shortell

The Human Journey Colloquia Series Presents:

ICE AGE TIME CAPSULES: CLOVIS CacheS AND PLEISTOCENE ADAPTATIONS IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE

PRESENTER:
Dr. J. David Kilby, Associate Professor
Texas State University

DATE/TIME/LOCATION
Friday, October 28
7 pm – 9 pm
Schine Auditorium
Sacred Heart University
5151 Park Avenue
Fairfield, Connecticut

Sponsored and funded by: The Human Journey Colloquia series, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Department of History, Department of Biology
FOSA Officers and Board

Mandy Ranslow - President
Jeremy Pilver - Vice President
Mike Cahill - Secretary
Dreda Hendsey - Treasurer
Scott Brady - Board Member
Richard Hughes - Board Member
Lori Kessel - New Board Member
Mike Raber - Board Member
Cynthia Redman - Board Member
Glenda Rose - Board Member
Zachary Singer - 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 March 16, 2016)

Jody Bishel
Donald L. Bosques
Michael Cavanaugh
Tiege Christiano
Joyce Carpenter
Laureen Corazzini
Sandy DiStefano
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