Spring 2016

Special points of interest:

- Three New Historic Preservation Sites
- An Excavation Summary: A Middle Archaic Archaeological Site
- A History of Charles Island in coastal Milford Connecticut
- Gems of Connecticut History and Culture

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

Member Newsletter

President's Letter

Greetings FOSA Members:

First, a big thank-you to all the laboratory volunteers this winter! The lab has been packed every Monday, and it's great you're getting so much work done. Now flowers are starting to bloom, and it's time to start thinking about the 2016 field season. Dr. Brian has some exciting digs lined up, so stay tuned to your e-mails to learn about opportunities.

Thank you to those of you who attended the Annual Meeting despite some snow hiccups again this year. The Board discussed the timing of the Annual Meeting in regard to weather, and has decided that the 2017 Annual Meeting will be held in mid- to late-March.

We have some workshops and a fieldtrip coming up as well. These are great ways to learn more about the field of archaeology without getting your hands too dirty. It's also a great way to meet other members. If you have any questions about FOSA or how to get more involved please e-mail me at fosa-ct@archaeologist.com. And please spread the word to your friends and family who may be interested in joining in on the excitement.

Happy Digging,

Mandy
FOSA President

News from the Office of State Archaeology

It has been a busy few months for FOSA volunteers at the Horsebarn Hill lab of the Office of State Archaeology. We have pushed our way through the prepping and cataloging of many of the office's backlogged sites – some dating back many years. This hard work has resulted in a much better organized lab and I am extremely grateful to all of those who have helped out. One of the office's major steps in the past few months was the re-establishment of the computer-based archaeological inventory system. The database had been in use in the early 2000s, but with the loss of some of the office's graduate support staff, its use unfortunately faded from daily practice and for the past decade records went largely back to paper forms. I spent some time cleaning up the new (old) database to increase its ease of use and add some functionality. Now artifacts inventories, ID tags, and reports such as mean ceramic dates and mean pipe-stem dates are again available at the press of a button. Some FOSA members, such as Lori Kessel and Scott Brady have now had a chance to get to know the system, and are currently finalizing the inventory of the 2014 CSMNH Titus Coan field school site, while I continue to pick away at the inventory of the 2015 CSMNH Mason House lot field school site. I am pleased to say the inventory of the 2015 FOSA Windsor Meadows field school site was completed this Fall as our first test case of the new system. *(continued on page 2, bottom)*

Inside this issue:

Events and Announcements

March 17, 2016, 9:15am, Appalachian Mountain Club Hike*:* Western Trails of McLean Game Refuge and Holcomb Farm, Simsbury/Granby
March 22, 2016, 7:30pm, "Connecticut's Earliest European Settlers," Dr. Brian Jones at First Church of Christ Congregational, Glastonbury
March 26, 2016, 2pm, "Stone Cultural Features and Ceremonial Stone Landscapes." Dr. Lucianne Lavin at the White Memorial Conservation Center, Litchfield
April 2, 2016, 9am-4pm, Connecticut Gravestone Network Symposium, East Hartford Senior Center
April 2, 2016 Association for the Study of Connecticut History Meeting, Windham, CT
April 6-10, 2016 Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL
April 9, 2016 ASC Spring Meeting, Derby
April 14, 2016 9th Annual Global Environmental Sustainability Symposium, CCSU, New Britain, CT
April 17, 2016, 1pm, "The Paleoindian Period in Connecticut," Zachary Singer, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Storrs
April 28, 2016, 9:15am, Appalachian Mountain Club Hike: People's State Forest, Barkhamsted
April 23, 2016, 9am-5pm, Conference on New England Archaeology, Bennington, VT
April 24, 2016, 9am-1pm, FOSA Archaeological Science Workshop, Storrs **(See page 14 of Newsletter for details)**
May 1, 2016, 3pm, New England Hebrew Farmers of the Emmanuel Society Meeting, Chesterfield, CT
June 11, 2016, Connecticut Open House Day
August 15-19, 2016, FOSA Field School, Glastonbury
September 23-25, FOSA Bus Trip to Historic Jamestown, VA, (See page 10 of Newsletter for further details)
October 1-2, 2016, Hammonassett Festival, Madison, CT
October 7-9, 2016, Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Conference, Ottawa, Ontario
November 4-6, 2016, Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting, Langhorne, PA

News from the Office of State Archaeology

(continued from page 1)

We are making plans for this summer's field schools, including one aimed at secondary school teachers interested in teaching archaeology to be held the week of July 18th. That will likely take place in Windsor, but the details are still being fleshed out. If you are a teacher, or know one, and want more information about this program, please contact David Colberg at the CSMNH (david.colberg@uconn.edu). The Natural History Museum's adult field school will be held, as usual, during the first week of August (the 1st through 5th). This year we will be following up on last summer's preliminary investigation of the John Hollister site in South Glastonbury, a 17th century fortified farm complex. The goal will be to explore the site's four cellar features discovered during the GPR survey and establish their chronology. Those interested should also contact David Colberg at the museum. FOSA's field school will take place at the same site from August 15th through 19th. Members are welcome to come and help us wrap up this season's investigation for a day or the whole week, as space permits. By this time we should be well into all four cellars, and if all goes as anticipated, we should be examining some very interesting and uncommon 17th century artifacts and features. Stay tuned to the FOSA web page for further information.

In the meantime, FOSA members interested in volunteering for fieldwork should be sure they are on the contact list. I am expecting a number of Natural Resources Conservation Services digs beginning shortly this Spring. Also, anyone with experience in historical document research is welcome to lend a hand with our ongoing examination of the rich history of the families who occupied the John Hollister site between 1650 and about 1715, including the Gilberts and Hollisters. Preliminary investigation of the records at the Wethersfield and Glastonbury clerk's offices, as well as the State Library indicate that there is a wealth of primary information available about these families, including records of numerous land transfers and disputes and other legal documents. My thanks go out already to Kris Keegan who provided the transcription of a particularly challenging probate document. Those interested should contact me to best coordinate our efforts.

The Charcoal Mound Site at People's State Forest, Barkhamsted, Connecticut A New Connecticut Archaeological Preserve

The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. (FOSA) led the way to have five sites located on lands administered by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) surveyed, studied and nominated to the State Register of Historic Places (SR). Funded by grants from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), one of these significant industrial archaeological sites, the Charcoal Mound at People's State Forest, was the first of the five nominated as a SR site and designated as a State Archaeological Preserve. Also the first to become a Preserve in five years!

Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) completed extensive historical documentation and limited subsurface testing at the site. What remains above grade is a partially-burned mound that was an incomplete charcoal making-event (Photograph 1).

Photograph 1: A line of soil core samples was completed at one meter intervals, from the mound out to six meters to the northeast. Charcoal was found in some, but not all, of the cores, and gaps in the recovery of charcoal suggest the possible presence of a former second mound.

Photo By Faline Schneiderman

The mound itself is roughly circular shaped measuring nine meters by eight meters. It was originally a circular mound, but over time has become an oval. Comprised of charcoal and unburned/rotting cord wood, the mound is covered by moss and leaves and several trees are growing from or adjacent to it. Measuring tree diameter at breast height and reviewing average growth-rates for the region provided an approximate age range of 40 to 100 years, suggesting that the mound was created for the production of charcoal in the early 20th century. Unlike most mounds, however, it was abandoned and left in situ without any subsequent dismantling and hauling away of charcoal. The mound is situated in a rocky and wooded section of Peoples State Forest east of the Farmington River, and west of Greenwoods Road, close to Chaugham Lookout.

Roughly 4.5 meters (m) northwest of the mound is a man-made trench with standing water measuring roughly 3.5 m by 8m. It was excavated into a rocky hillside and may have been the source of soil to cap the mound. Alternatively, it may have been created to provide a water source for colliers, the men that tended the charcoal mound around the clock. No evidence of a collier's hut or residence was observed in the area, and no artifacts were evident on the surface.

Minimal subsurface investigations (12/18/14) entailed the completion of a series of seven soil cores (Photograph 1) placed at one meter intervals starting in the mound and continuing northeast. The cores closest to the mound had charcoal in them, but outside the mound no charcoal was recovered from cores taken three and four meters to the northeast. However at five and six meters to the northeast, another two cores contained charcoal at the surface and in alternating levels, suggesting the base of a second mound. Unlike the extant mound, this would have been a fully realized production event and the bulk of the charcoal had been harvested.

The charcoal mound represents the remains of an important industry realized throughout Connecticut's vast timber stands. Long before the town of Barkhamsted was incorporated in 1779, local timber was being harvested by shipbuilders from Hartford and Windsor as masts for their vessels. The forested portion of the Peoples State Forest region was historically known as "Greenwoods" because of the large stands of hemlock and pine, although oak, chestnut, sugar maple, and beech also grew in abundance. Those looking for cord wood cleared thousands of acres of land. Entire hillsides were systematically harvested for wood to produce charcoal for the regional brick, brass, railroad, and iron industries.

Iron ore was identified near the joint boundary of Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts in the early-eighteenth century. By 1731, iron ore was being extracted from the western section of Salisbury at Old Hill (now Ore

Hill). The region's first large-scale blast furnace was constructed in the Lakeville section of Salisbury in 1762 by several entrepreneurs – one of whom was Ethan Allen. Numerous bloomeries and forges sprouted up along virtually every waterway in the area that could be harnessed to provide power.

To the northwest of Barkhamsted, the Richard Smith Forge was built in the Robertsville section of Colebrook in 1771 following the destruction of the ironworks at West Simsbury, now the Collinsville section of Canton. Smith made plans to rebuild and found a site on the Still River in southeastern Colebrook upstream from its junction with Sandy Brook. According to an historical account of Smith's operations, he estimated that 600 to 1,000 cords of wood had to be cut and converted into charcoal to run the forge.

During the American Revolution, 80% of the cannons produced in the colonies were made at the Salisbury Furnace. Over time there were 43 furnaces in operation in what is now designated as the Salisbury Iron District, with 21 located in northwestern Connecticut. While most started as small individual ventures, they eventually grew, and were consolidated by investors. Ultimately the Barnum-Richardson Company gained control of all ironmaking and acres of timber stands in northwestern Connecticut.

Blast furnaces and smaller bloomeries literally burned through thousands of acres of cord wood that had been converted to charcoal. A single blast furnace could go through 350,000 bushels of charcoal a year and an average charcoal hearth of 30 cord of wood created only about 1100 bushels of charcoal, enough to keep the furnace operating for roughly 1 ½ days.

From the mid-18th to early-20th century, colliers were actively working in the surrounding mountains to keep furnaces fueled. Choppers cut all hardwood – particularly oak and chestnut - into four-foot lengths, and the collier would pile the logs into a complexly structured mound that could be as large as 10.5 m (35 ft) in diameter and 4.5 m (15 ft) in height. A crew of four men could build a mound - also called a pit despite the fact that they were above grade - in two days.

Mounds were covered with wet leaves or ferns, and then a layer of sod and twigs. Wood inside was set on fire to burn slowly – never getting above a smolder. Active venting and stirring of the charcoal was required to maintain the ideal temperature. Built far from houses to avoid mishaps, they had to be monitored around the clock to ensure they did not get too much oxygen and completely burn up. Colliers were fined the value of the charcoal if they lost their wood to flames. For optimal production, mounds could smolder for a day, a week, or up to a month depending on the wood species and its moisture content.

Because colliers had to tend the hearths around the clock, some would build temporary huts nearby that they lived in for the entirety of the charcoal season; late winter until the following early winter. They were known to create vegetable gardens and hunt small game to supplement their diet. Although difficult to discern on the landscape, what largely remains of the former charcoal hearths are slightly raised circular beds with a scattering of charcoal at the surface. The ephemeral remains of collier's huts are more difficult to identify, although the remains of at least one are evident near a former hearth in Peoples State Forest on the west side of Greenwoods Road near East River Road (behind what is now the Barkhamsted Historical Society). In most locations, however, only the remnant circles from mounds can be identified; the remains of transient colliers leaving a much less obvious footprint on the landscape.

The decline of the charcoaling industry paralleled the rise of the coal industry in Pennsylvania. By the 1880s, many of the works in the surrounding area had been closed due to competition from larger firms. By the beginning of the 20th century, coal was making serious inroads at Connecticut's furnaces. Pennsylvania steelmakers were producing stronger solid-steel and the demand for iron products waned, particularly cast-iron railroad car wheels that previously had created much demand. Capitalizing on the fact that new markets were being developed for the byproducts of charcoal production (acetate of lime and alcohol), charcoal kilns that were enclosed and could harvest the byproducts were established. By 1914, Barnum-Richardson had built the Connecticut Chemical Plant to make charcoal at a wood distillation plant in East Canaan where they could process 21,000 cords of wood a year, significantly contributing to the demise of the collier's profession.

Photograph 2: The Charcoal Mound site at People's State Forest once looked much like this mound that is ready to be burned. Note the colliers (charcoal burners) next to their temporary hut to the left of the mound. (Photograph courtesy of the Barkhamsted Historical Society).

What remains to be learned about the Charcoal Mound at People's State Forest is why it was abandoned *in situ*. Did the Colliers have to abandon the site due to treacherous weather or a full scale forest fire? Did they get called to war? Future testing may provide the answer to why the site was abandoned.

Faline Schneiderman, RPA
Historical Perspectives, Inc.

The Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry Site, at People's State Forest in Barkhamsted, Connecticut

A Native American soapstone quarry had remained hidden in the southeast corner of People's State Forest in Barkhamsted for nearly 3000 years until 1996 when Walter Landgraf and Andrea Rand exploring the heavily wooded area near the Ragged Mountain Rockshelter noticed that rock visible in the leaf cover looked like steatite (soapstone).

Ragged Mountain Rockshelter, view to the east.

Photo by: Marc Banks

Lifting away the root mass they uncovered two unfinished stone bowls still attached to the parent rock. In 2010, Andrea and her husband Gary located a third stone bowl attached to a large boulder a short distance to the west. These finds were brought to the attention of archaeologist Dr. Kenneth Feder of Central Connecticut State University (CCSU).

CCSU excavation at the Walter Landgraf Soapstone Quarry at Peoples State Forest.

Photo by: Kenny Feder

Subsequently, excavations by CCSU's archaeological field school under Feder's direction in 2011 and 2013 have uncovered undisturbed activity areas associated with Native American procurement and manufacture of soapstone vessels during the Terminal Archaic period (c.1800-800 BC).

Bowl blanks found by Landgraf and Rand in 1996; measuring tape oriented North (left) –South.

Photo by: Marc Banks

Quarry tools recovered during excavations by CCSU at the Walt Landgraf Quarry.

Photo by: Kenny Feder

Quarry tool recovered during excavations by CCSU at the Walt Landgraf Quarry.

Photo by: Kenny Feder

CCSU's investigations indicate the very specific nature of the activities at the Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry and the almost certain connection to the earlier cultural component at the Ragged Mountain Rockshelter excavated by Yale in 1948. It is the first site where evidence of quarrying and processing activities are associated with a habitation locus. The quarry offers a unique opportunity to add to our knowledge not only of Connecticut's first prehistoric industry, but other important aspects of the Terminal Archaic Period as well. Feder and the CCSU archaeological field school will return to the quarry this summer to expand their investigations.

The quarry, appropriately named the Walt Landgraf Soapstone Quarry in memory of this respected educator, was placed on the State Register of Historic Places and designated as an Archaeological Preserve in April of 2015. The preserve encompasses approximately 26 acres.

Marc Banks

Portland Nike Missile Site Becomes a Connecticut Archaeological Preserve

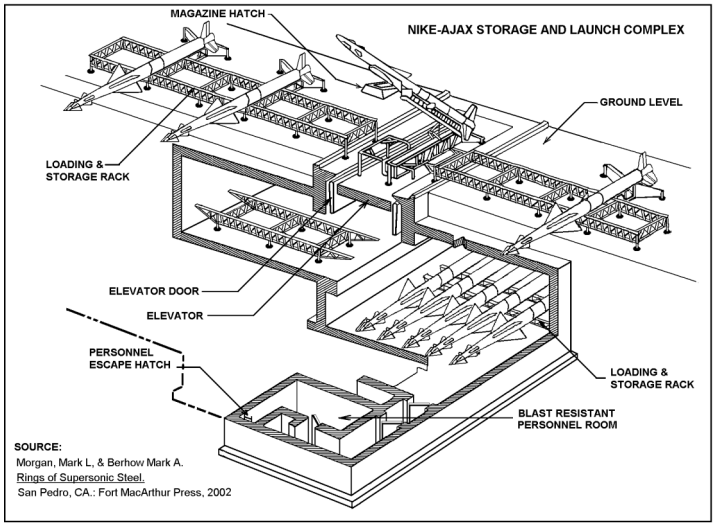
Supported by FOSA, Connecticut's last remaining undeveloped Nike Missile has been named a State Archaeological Preserve. Originally named Nike Base HA-36, it is located in Meshomasic State Forest in Portland. The site was one of six emplacements that protected Hartford industrial targets.

Currently considered to be within the sphere of industrial archeology, the Nike ground-to-air missile system was a mid-twentieth technological upgrade of older defense systems. It supplanted 19th century coastal artillery and earlier 20th century anti-aircraft gunnery. To defend against air attacks many of the Army's antiaircraft units had been converted to guided missile battalions by 1957.

Named after the ancient Greek goddess who personified victory, there were three versions in the Nike group; Nike Ajax, Hercules and Zeus. Only Nike Ajax missiles were deployed at Portland. Nike Ajax missiles were two-stage rockets with solid fuel booster stages and liquid fueled second stages. The Nike missile had a range of 25 miles (40 km). It could reach altitude of 70,000 feet (21 km) and achieve a maximum speed of 1,000-mph (1,600 km/h). Because of its short range Nike bases with stored explosive warheads and toxic fuels had to be placed close to protected industrial and residential sites.

The theory of Nike missile defense centered on destruction of enemy aircraft or ballistic missiles in space, preventing damage to civilians, infrastructure and the environment.

The Nike sites had much in common; they used the same radar equipment, analog computers, standard launchers, procedures and missile maintenance systems. Although the buildings at the Portland base are gone, floor slabs, concrete support structures and steel tanks remain. A useful reconstruction of the site's layout was developed by referring to the Portland assessor's maps. Additional site layout, obtained from the preserved Nike site in Sausalito, California was integrated into the study of the Portland site.



A typical Nike missile storage vault and launch complex. All loading and storage racks have been removed from the Portland Nike site. The concrete vault is extant and is filled with about four feet of earth. The ground level platform is partially buried under three feet of wood chips.

Many of the components of the tracking and launch system were either trailer mounted or transportable and were removed from the site when it was de-commissioned in 1961.

Former Nike sites have been repurposed as schools, military training or maintenance facilities, parks and residential facilities. However, many of the underground vaults for missile storage were simply filled in with earth and covered with soil. The Portland site is the only Connecticut Nike base that has not been adaptively redeveloped.

The Portland Nike missile base was comprised of three areas, two of which were contiguous. Living accommodations for personnel existed in barracks located in the administrative area... The barracks were simple wooden structures with the lowest ranks sleeping dormitory style in rooms that slept 20 to 60 men. Non-commissioned officers sometimes shared a two-man room or possibly an individual room. Generally, there were individual officers' quarters or they lived off site.

Adjacent to the administrative area were the Integrated Fire Control (IFC) radar systems. Their function was to detect, acquire and track incoming targets. Analog computers then directed and followed the trajectory of the Nike defensive missiles to their interception point.

Construction requirements dictated that the launch area be separated by at least 1,000 yards from the other areas. At the Portland, Connecticut site the launch area was about 1,672 yards from the remainder of the site. The forty-acre launch site in a remote state forest provided protection to the local community in the event of a missile malfunction. Typically, a crew of 109 officers and enlisted personnel staffed a Nike Base.

The development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) made the Nike air defense system obsolete and the remaining Nike Ajax batteries were closed down starting in 1963. The Portland Nike Site HA-36, was deactivated in 1964.

A Nike Hercules Missile brought up from the vault on the launcher at the restored Nike base SF-88 in Sausalito, California

In the 1960's, the site's enlisted barracks were used by the Connecticut Department of Corrections and in the 1970's by the Young Adult Conservation Corp. All wood structures at the Portland Nike site were abandoned and have disintegrated. There are no remaining above ground buildings.

The exceptional artifact at the launch site is the vault in which missiles were stored and elevated for deployment. The vault has been covered with several feet of wood chips. A manhole and ladder descend into the vault but access is partially blocked by bricks in the lower portion of the door. The vault itself is filled to half its height with earth. Racist graffiti has been painted on the visible portion of the walls. The vault at the Portland Nike helps to document a critical aspect of the early cold-war years. It is a tribute to the veterans who kept watch and protected the nation during a period of declining foreign relations with the USSR and China. Many who served during that period are not eligible for full veteran's benefits as they did not serve during a "hot war". However, the very existence of the ground-to-air missiles could well have been a powerful deterrent to enemies. The Air Force was increasingly tasked with long range defense and the Army's role phased out. Nike missiles faded into technological obscurity with their appellation now most familiar on a line of athletic shoes and sporting goods.

Bob Stewart

FOSA Outreach in 2016

I step in the shoes of some very wonderful people who have chaired the FOSA Outreach Program, and its mission to enhance the public's awareness of the importance of archaeology. I hope to continue the Outreach assignments as faithfully as Heather, Ken and Bonnie have successfully done in the past. I look forward to working with other FOSA volunteers this season at the CT Gravestone Network Symposium, the Hammonasset Festival and the Archaeology Fair at UCONN, as well as all the other events to be organized this year.

Please enjoy the photographs that Jerry Tolchin took on Feb. 20th at Meigs Nature Center with Dr. Don Rankin discussing and demonstrating the art of atlatl.

Kathy Walburn

Don Rankin Discussing the Use and History of the Atlatl

Photo by: Jerry Tolchin

THE 2016 UMASS SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL IN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

In 2016 Archaeological Services at the University of Massachusetts will again offer a Summer Field School in Historical Archaeology at the Emily Dickinson Museum, home of the renowned poet in Amherst, Massachusetts. The upcoming Field School will continue investigation in the conservatory location where 18th- century delftware, other ceramics, and numerous clay pipes were found. This deposit is likely associated with occupants of a house that predated the 1813 Dickinson dwelling.

Essential Information: Field School students earn 6 academic credits. Cost of the Field School is $3,000. This is a very reasonable price for a field school. The course runs for five weeks, from May 17 through June 18. This schedule allows students the remainder of the summer for work, travel, etc.

Class begins at 8AM and ends at 4:00 Tuesday through Saturday. The Dickinson Museum is within easy walking distance of much of Amherst. Students are responsible for their own meals and housing. Student summer housing is widely available in Amherst, and the University also offers dormitory housing to students registered for summer classes. The field school is open to any interested person 18 years of age or older. Field School Registration is through the UMass Division of Continuing and Professional Education.

Application to the Field School is through UMass Archaeological Services. Contact Eric Johnson, Director, at ericjohnson@anthro.umass.edu

Finding A Lost Mill: Vernon's Granite Mills

Early mills were common in Vernon as in numerous Connecticut towns, but the location of many have been lost. Tolland researcher Richard Symonds, Jr. published books on the lost mills of Tolland, Willington, Union and Coventry (LostMillSites.info). Next on his list was Vernon, prompting us to fill in the missing pieces.

I gather and post information on the Tankerhoosen River Valley covering the southern half of Vernon. There are references to 'Granite Mills;' sometimes located in Vernon Depot and sometimes in Talcottville. Early maps show a paper mill on the Hockanum River near Talcottville, but Vernon Depot is on the Tankerhoosen River. Thus the mystery.

In a casual conversation with another researcher I learned of mill remains on the lower Hockanum. The site is on a dead end lane behind a shopping plaza, long hidden from view. A visit in 2014 confirmed the mill's existence; but what mill? Local history books, town directories and 19th century maps offered clues leading to other documents. Combining bits of information the story of the Granite Mills gradually emerged.

Before the Civil War Samuel Smith Talcott built a paper mill on the lower Hockanum in 1853 mill but it burned in about 1863. When rebuilt it specialized in albums, binders and press papers. Burning again in 1871 a larger mill was constructed on the site, while a neighborhood of tenements and supporting buildings grew nearby. Business thrived until yet another fire in 1912.

Underinsured, the site was abandoned and foliage returned. Located near a major intersection. the area drew shopping plazas in the 1960's and the Granite Mills were soon lost to memory. Untouched since 1912 it is a promising site for an archeological study.

There is still work to be done here, but for now a lost mill has been found and we can begin to tell part of its story.

For details, maps and references visit Tankerhoosen.info/history/mill_granite. And at http://www.tankerhoosen.info/index.htm

Jon Roe

Middle Archaic Archaeological Site (Site 9-10) in Bethel, CT An Excavation Summary:

Archaeological and Historical Services (AHS), under contract to the Connecticut Department of Transportation, recently completed the excavation of a Middle Archaic Site (Site 9-10) in Bethel, CT*. This project was completed prior to the planned expansion of the parking lot at the Bethel Train Station. A total of 51 shovel test pits and 27m^2 units were excavated.

Site 9-10 is located on a small knoll to the east of Sympaug Brook. The site is estimated to encompass about 10x15 square meters, and likely functioned as a hunting camp. The site was likely occupied once or possibly a few times. A small, but diverse lithic assemblage characterizes the site. Diagnostic artifacts include a crystal quartz Neville-like projectile point and a complete quartzite Neville point that date to 8000-7000 radiocarbon years ago. Debitage was composed of quartz, quartzite, chert, mudstone, and siltstone. Other tools included an untyped chalcedony projectile point, three untyped point fragments, utilized quartz and chert flakes, quartz and chert scrapers, a quartzite pestle, and quartz and quartzite cobble tools. Three quahog shell fragments and eight calcined bone fragments were also recovered. No features were identified during excavation.

Previously discovered sites dating to the Middle Archaic in Connecticut generally appear to be short-term hunting camps. The people occupying these camps would have moved frequently to hunt game and collect plants. The artifact assemblage recovered from Site 9-10 is largely composed of tool production and resharpening debris, which are evidence of tool manufacture and maintenance. Cobble and core fragments indicate primary reduction activities took place on site. Broken projectile point fragments were likely discarded after hunting events when broken points were removed from hafts and animal hides. Food preparation activities that took place on site are evidenced in the recovery of chopping, cutting, and scraping tools as well as the calcined bone and shell.

The variety of lithic material is notable, as many are from non-local sources, and suggest a complex pattern of material acquisition. The chert is macroscopically similar to Normanskill chert from the Hudson River valley in New York, and the chalcedony is comparable to chalcedonies reported from the West Rock area near present New Haven. No primary reduction debris of non-local materials was recovered indicating that the tools made of non-local stone were made prior to transportation to Site 9-10. These non-local lithics typically tend to be associated with Late Archaic-Early Woodland occupations, though, with no diagnostic chert or chalcedony points, they may be associated with the Middle Archaic occupation or the site may have been reoccupied in later periods.

Photo 1: Sample of Tools Recovered During Phase I and II investigations of Site 9-10. Top row left to right: Brown chert sidescraper fragment; Green chert utilized flake; Crystal quartz end scraper; Crystal quartz scraper.

Photo: Archaeological and Historical Services

Photo 2: Chalcedony projectile point fragment, crystal quartz Neville-like stemmed point, Chert projectile point fragment; Chert projectile point fragment; Quartzite Neville Point, Quartzite projectile point fragment.

Photo: Archaeological and Historical Services

Photo 3: Cobble Tools. Three Quartzite cobble tools; Quartz cobble tool.

Photo: Archaeological and Historical Services

Site 9-10 is significant because of the paucity of Middle Archaic sites that have been identified in western Connecticut. The data recovered from the site gives us a better understanding of broad patterns of Native American history.

**Note:* The full report, Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery, Site 9-10, Bethel Railroad Station Parking Facilities Expansion, Bethel Connecticut, State Project No. 302-15 by Zachary Singer (AHS) is available upon request to mandy.ranslow@ct.gov.

Mandy Ranslow, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Zachary Singer, Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.

FOSA Bus Trip to Jamestown, Virginia

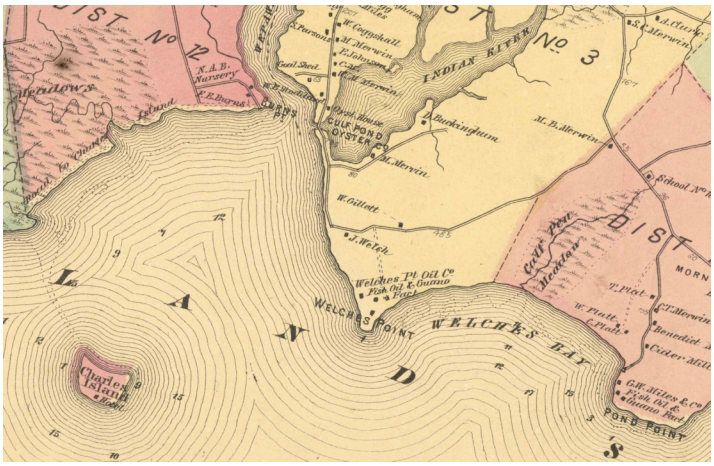
FOSA and the CSMNH are sponsoring a late-September bus trip to historic Jamestown Virginia. The dates for the trip are September 23-25 and the approximate cost will be $375 per person for double occupancy. The cost includes: Round trip transportation in a deluxe Post Road Stages Motor-coach, 2 nights' accommodations in Old Town, Alexandria, VA, 2 hot buffet breakfasts at the hotel, entrance to Historic Jamestown, entrance to the Arlington National Cemetery, baggage handling, and all taxes.

Details will be forthcoming soon. Further information and an application will be made available on the website of The Connecticut State Museum of Natural History (www.mnh.uconn.edu/) and check the FOSA website for updates and details.

Cynthia Redman

An Island Buried in History

A popular but little studied island off the coast of Milford, Charles Island is connected to the mainland by a tombolo (colloquially referred to as a sandbar) that is exposed at low tide for about two hours. The 14-acre island is rich in history and lore, replete with its own legend of buried treasure, yet the historical landscape is littered with misinformation, speculations and fictions.



Map showing Charles Island (Beers 1868)

Illustration: Courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

The island has been and still is a magnet to those on shore and it seems highly likely Native Americans made use of the island they called Poqhahaug. According to an early history (Lambert 1838), the island "was a favorite summer resort" with chief sachem Ansantaway of the Paugusset Tribe having a "big wigwam" upon it.

The European discovery of Poquahaug can be traced back to the early Dutch explorers. In 1614, a group of Dutch fur traders on the ship *Onrust,* commanded by Adriaen Block, sailed through the Great Bay (Long Island Sound) and mapped its coastlines. No original logbooks or journals are known to exist from the 1614 voyage but as Block explored the area he recorded his observations on a map. His hand-drawn map survives today and is a reasonably accurate representation of the coastlines of what would become Connecticut and Long Island.

Fortunately for historians, a few years later another member of the Dutch West India Company, Johan de Laet, wrote a narrative of that historic voyage seemingly based on Block's original records. In Laet's account of the voyage (Jameson 1909), he made no mention of Poquahaug specifically. However, he did describe New Haven harbor and the Quinnipiac River, which he named the "River of Royenberch," and mentions an island to the west. This island may have been Charles Island or perhaps one of two

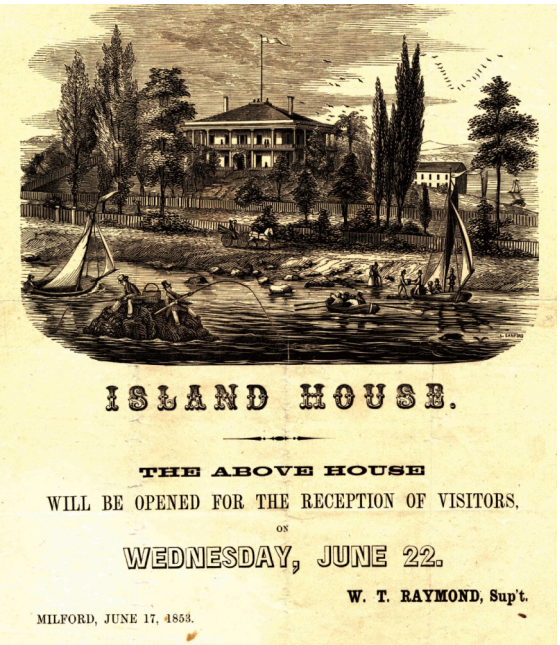
other islands that have since fallen below sea level, where Stratford Shoal and Penfield Reef are located.

Four leagues further to the west there lies a small island, where good water is to be found; and four leagues beyond there are a number of islands, so that Captain Adriaen Block gave the name Archipelagus to the group.

In 1657 what had become known as Milford Island became the property of Charles Deal, who bought it with the intent of raising tobacco. The town of Milford granted him permission to purchase the island for that purpose on the condition that the buildings he constructed were solely used for that purpose and that he should "not trade with the Dutch or Indians, nor suffer any disorderly resort of seaman or others there" (Barber 1836:240). It is from Charles Deal's ownership that the island receives its modern name. His failed attempt at planting was noteworthy only in that it was one of the earliest attempts at raising tobacco in colonial Connecticut.

In 1835 Major John Harris purchased the island for $800 (Milford Property Transfer Records 1835) and built a beautiful summer residence there. The big home, built on the highest ground, had verandas encircling it on the first and second stories. Harris elegantly furnished the house and spent $14,000 grading and landscaping the island making it resemble “a large green inverted saucer” (New Haven Evening Register, 1884:4).

The island went through two other owners before it was purchased in 1852 by Elizur Prichard of Waterbury. Prichard, a wealthy button manufacturer who had recently retired, decided to turn the island into a resort. In 1853 Elizur Prichard opened a summer resort and hotel he initially called “Island House.”



Island House (Prichard Family Papers)
Illustration: Courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

During the summer months, Prichard lived in the island mansion with his wife Betsey and their three daughters Elizabeth, Katherine and Sarah. In the off-season they returned to their home in Waterbury.

Prichard’s resort got off to a slow start. Difficulties crossing the sandbar from the mainland and lack of boat service to the island kept large numbers of people away. The problem was remedied in 1855 when steamboats from New Haven (and later Bridgeport) started carrying visitors there for pleasure excursions twice a week during the summer months. (Hartford Daily Courant 1855).

At this point in the resort’s history, it was meant to be a quiet retreat for its guests. In way of amusements the resort offered bathing, boating, fishing and strolling about the grounds. A few years later, several other attractions would be added for the enjoyment of visitors to the island. Along the way, the name of the resort changed to Charles Island House and later Ansantawae House. Word about the resort gradually spread and guests started to arrive from all points on the eastern seaboard.

On Thanksgiving Day 1860 Prichard died while walking back to shore on the tombolo. His daughter Sarah continued to run the resort and expanded it with new features. The hotel grew to a total of seventy-five rooms and other improvements included a swimming bath with plank bottom, an aquarium claimed to be the largest in the country and headlining P. T. Barnum’s trained seal “Ned”, pavilions, wharves and a fountain supplied with water from Long Island Sound fed by steam pump (Hartford Daily Courant 1866).

The resort closed by 1868, when the island was leased to the George W. Miles Company to build a plant to produce fertilizer and fish oil. The fish oil plant functioned there until 1884 when it closed amidst lawsuits brought by the town because of the odors that emanated from the operation. The once grand hotel burned down that summer and the island went into foreclosure in 1888.

The next important phase of Charles Island’s history started in 1927 when the Dominican Fathers from St. Mary's parish on Hillhouse Avenue in New Haven announced they would build a layman’s retreat center on Charles Island (New York Times 1927). During the next two summers workers cleared the land and built a small complex of wood frame structures. A chapel, dining and recreation hall, about fourteen cabins (each baptized with a different saint’s name), a grotto, walking paths, and Stations of the Cross were built and eventually accommodated up to fifty retreatants. It was a tranquil and simple sanctuary with few amenities. The facility held its first retreat on the weekend of July 4th, 1929.

Two years after opening, several additions were made to the retreat (Saint Mary’s Church Monthly Bulletin 1931). The wooden chapel that was originally on the grounds was replaced with a stone chapel constructed near the same spot

and a statue of St. Christopher was erected on a rock pedestal in memory of six workers who had drowned returning to the mainland in a small boat in 1929. The Dominican fathers also added a dormitory building, a bell tower built of stone gathered from the shore, and a statue of Our Lady mounted on a rock pedestal fronted by a stone altar. For unknown reasons the Aquinas Retreat closed and the little island again went up for sale in 1938.

Bell Tower (Aquinas Retreat 1929)
Photo: Courtesy of the Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT

Perhaps the most enduring story about Charles Island relates to treasure reputedly buried by Captain William Kidd in 1699. An early 19th century reference to this legend (Lambert 1838) implied it was long-established at that point. According to the story, Kidd was known to have visited Milford several times and buried his treasure on the south side of the island next to a rock. When two or three individuals later tried to dig up the treasure they were greeted by a headless man coming at them from above and the burial site was enveloped by smoke and blue flames. As with many legends there are some elements of truth mixed in with fiction. In 1699 Kidd sailed from Oyster Bay, New York to Boston, where he was arrested for piracy. En route he buried about £14,000 of treasure on Gardiner's Island off the tip of Long Island. Authorities unearthed the treasure shortly after his arrest but Kidd claimed he had deposited more than £100,000 in other buried caches. These historical facts led to the numerous tales of buried treasure along Long Island Sound.

A later article (Downes 1889) added fuel to the legend. The article described "a faded and torn letter" written by a young woman and dated 1699 discovered in a bundle of papers in the garret of one of Milford's oldest houses. The letter, reprinted in the article, described one of Kidd's visits to Milford. No mention was made in which house it was discovered, nor of its whereabouts in 1889. Efforts by this author to locate such a letter and to identify earlier references to it have led to failure. Was the story of the letter simply an author attempting to add some more color to the legend? We may never know.

Charles Island is now part of Silver Sands State Park and has been designated a Natural Area Preserve for nesting herons and egrets. There are a few structural remnants visible on the island including a portion of the bell tower and part of the stone chapel's foundation, though it is eroding into Long Island Sound. Storms have taken their toll over the years and the evidence of human activity on the island is gradually blending into the sand.

Michael C. Dooling

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Gems of Connecticut History and Culture

We as residents of Connecticut are fortunate to have many of what we call Gems of Connecticut History and Culture. These museums are true gems because they have so many stories to tell about our Connecticut heritage. These little gems are found throughout our State.
Some are small where only the locals know of them while others are world renowned. For this article I have selected three that my wife and I have most recently visited.

This past summer we were among the throngs of people traveling on Route 95, crossing the Thames River via the Gold Star Memorial Bridge, from where one can see the Groton Monument. Many have seen the Groton Monument but never have investigated what it represents. Escaping the traffic, we found ourselves at Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park where this monument and museum are located.

On September 6, 1781 British Forces, commanded by the infamous Benedict Arnold burned down the city of New London destroying the "Rebel Pirate Ships" and many of the warehouses filled with British contraband. While New London was burning, the British Colonel Eyre and Major Montgomery, in command of 800 soldiers, marched Northward on the East side of the Thames River en route to Fort Griswold where the largest massacre of the Revolutionary War would take place.

Fort Griswold Monument

Photo by: Bonnie Beatrice

Fort Griswold State Park has a spectacular view of the Thames River and the city of New London on the opposite shore. A great place for hiking and kite flying and if you are lucky enough, you may see a submarine returning to port or on its way out to sea.
The Groton Monument was erected in 1830 and the plague reads: "This monument was erected under the patronage of the State of Connecticut, A.D. 1830, and in the 55th year of the independence of the U.S.A. in memory of the brave patriots, who fell in the massacre at Fort Griswold, near this spot, on the 6th of Sept. A.D. 1781, when the British, under the command of the traitor, Benedict Arnold, burnt the towns of New London and Groton, and spread desolation and woe throughout this region." The Monument is 134 feet in height and yes there are 166 steps to the top. As one can imagine the view is fantastic in all four directions.

The Monument House Museum has displays of artifacts from the battle, historical sketches of the harbor and many other unique items from the revolutionary war period. My wife's favorite was a display of the "Modern Gadgets" of the 18th century time period including kitchen gadgets and other timesaving devices.

Monument House Museum

Photo by: Bonnie Beatrice

With just a few hours, it makes for a fun outing. For further information see: www.ct.gov/deep/fortgriswold. There is no charge for visiting the State Park and is open to the public year round.

The Museum of Connecticut History

I really don't know where to begin. When we walked into the Memorial Hall we were overwhelmed with the architecture of the ceiling, the detailed wood carvings, with the stained glass admitting natural light to the Hall. A perfect setting for the near life size paintings of the past Connecticut Governors hanging majestically along the walls.

At the opposite end of the Memorial Hall, the Royal Charter of 1662 is on display in its ornate frame made of the "Charter Oak" wood. Located in a side room is the "Connecticut Collection" displaying memorabilia of military items from the Colonial Wars to Operation Desert Storm and from our political past.

Connecticut played an important role in the story of American Industry and Manufacturing including the precession manufacturing of firearms, clocks, hardware and tools. A large room is devoted to the Colt Firearms Collection. The Colt Factory Collection was given to the Museum of Connecticut in 1957. The collection includes Colt Gatling guns, shotguns and handguns that were manufactured throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

These are just a few of the many items that are so enjoyable to see. To plan your visit www.hartford.com/museum-of-connecticut-history/

Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum

We saved our favorite of these for last. The Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum, founded in 1931, is the oldest Native American-run museum in the United States.

This small but unique museum is filled with items made by Mohegan and other Native American artisans, with traditional regalia on display including feather headdresses and turkey feather bonnets. Several items fashioned from wampum include belts, decorated collars, beaded moccasins and purses.

Our favorite, was the collection of Native American pottery from different locations and tribes throughout our country. The designs, colors and cultural styles are too vast to describe and are all beautifully crafted. On the grounds is a replicated Mohegan Village with a traditionally-framed wigwam and longhouse. .

On your first visit to this wonderful museum we realized that you cannot see it all, hence leaving one looking forward to future visits.

For more information in planning your visit you can go to this web page:
www.mohegan.nsn.us/

Of course these are just a few of the numerous Gems that we have in Connecticut, many are at no cost or ask for only a small donation.

Remember the definition of archaeology as you pass through these museums or battlefields. Archaeology is the scientific study of past human life and civilization through material remains. What is being displayed is the result of dedicated archaeologists' and historians' efforts for all to see. We owe them all our gratitude for their work and contributions. So, pick a Gem, pack a lunch and ENJOY.

Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum

Photo by: Bonnie Beatrice

Ken and Bonnie Beatrice

Help Wanted

A need exists for a backup to Jim Hall for the maintenance of the FOSA web site. If you think you might be interested but don't have the experience, Jim is more than willing to teach you. The only out-of-pocket expense you may need is to purchase a copy of *HTML: Your Visual Blueprint for Designing Effective Web Pages*. This manual was published in 2000 and can be purchased on Amazon for as little as $0.01. It's very hands-on, giving you examples that you can code. This is pretty much the only manual Jim has needed to create and maintain the site. You will NOT need to purchase and learn a web development package (e.g., WordPress). Rather, coding is done using the text editor already on your PC (in Jim's case it's WordPad, though Notepad will also work for Microsoft users). Your ultimate responsibility would be to take over from Jim should he be unable to continue maintaining the site for any reason. That said, you would be expected to gain familiarity with the web site's design, content and presentation, and the coding done within it. This would be accomplished by reviewing the current website's pages, suggesting/making such minor changes as are felt appropriate, perhaps doing normal routine maintenance on selected pages, on up to creating your own pages or sections as opportunities arise. What is done, when it's undertaken and so forth would be worked out between you and Jim as you become more experienced at coding and familiar with the operation of the FOSA website. Additional information may be found at this web page: http://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_VolOpps.htm#help

You can email Jim at jamesh52@comcast.net

FOSA's Newest Board Member

Lori Kessel was elected by the FOSA Board of Directors at it's Annual Meeting to serve as it's newest Board member.

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

Leanne Kennedy Harty

Dr. Brian D. Jones

Welcome New Members

New since 8/17/15:

Christopher Brouillette

Eileen Connors

Michael Dooling

Jason Hedman

Allie Herz

Margaret Johansson

Henry and Linda Kerr

Catherine Labadia

Amelia M. Mariotti

Craig Nelson

Wil Reed

Thomas Scarduzio

Alexandra Schipani

Robert C. Stewart

Vance Tiede

FOSA Financial Report

Calendar Year 2015

Beginning Balance 1/1/15		13,574.25
Income	33,891.79	
Expenses	26,133.63	
Ending Balance 12/31/15		21,322.41

Douglas Jordan Testing, Dating and Conservation Fund Donations ……....670.00

FOSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Individual..... $25 ☐ Corporate/Institution..... $100 ☐

Family..... $35 ☐ Patron Benefactor ..... $150 ☐

Student..... $5 ☐ Douglas Jordan Testing, Dating and Conservation Fund Donation..... $_____ ☐

Classroom..... $50 ☐ General Fund Donation..... $_____ ☐

OSA Library Donation…….. $_____ ☐

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Please check areas of interest for volunteering:

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- ☐ Artifact Curation
- ☐ Education and Outreach
- ☐ Historical Research and Report Writing
- ☐ Fund Raising
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ OSA Library
- ☐ Web Site and Social Media
- ☐ Laboratory Analysis/Cataloging
- ☐ Board of Directors & Committees
- ☐ Exhibit Planning/Art Work
- ☐ Grant Writing
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Writing Site Forms & Reports
- ☐ CT Archaeology Center/Museum

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

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