



Special Points of Interest:

- Dr. Nick Bellantoni's New Book: *The Long Journeys Home: The Repatriations of Henry 'Opukaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk*
- The Templeton Paleoindian site: Radiocarbon Dates

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter

## President's Letter



I hope you all have enjoyed the summer despite the Jekyll and Hyde weather pattern we've been experiencing.

This year's field season has been the busiest I can recall. FOSA members have once again stepped up to the plate and volunteered hundreds of hours at over fifteen excavations and outreach events. Our members participated in everything from the excavations at the Templeton site, Connecticut's 10,000+ year old Paleoindian site, to providing information and education regard-

ing Connecticut archaeology at the grand reopening of the Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine. I am pleased to report FOSA members continue improving their excavation methods and techniques with added emphasis on documentation and paperwork. Evolving as avocational archaeologists and field technicians is critical to ensuring information is not lost during the recovery of artifacts or discovery of features.

Personally, I am embarrassed to say that this year was my first visit to New-Gate. It's a wonderful site loaded with history. After being closed since 2009, Morgan Bengel and the rest of the staff have done a wonderful job making this Connecticut gem a must visit.

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## News from the Office of State Archaeology



We began a busy summer season with a rescue excavation at a development project in Rocky Hill. Local Open Space regulations had required a Phase I and II survey be conducted by a contract archaeology firm and this study identified two areas of potential research value. OSA with the help of FOSA volunteers and UConn Archaeology Field School students conducted further work in these areas for three weeks in May. Locus 1 produced a relatively low-density assemblage of quartz and chert debitage, as well as diagnostic artifacts including a Wading River point (ca. 4000 years old), a Snook Kill point, a drill frag-

ment (ca. 3500 years old) and an Orient Fishtail point (ca. 2700 years old). Unfortunately topsoils were very deep in this location and it was clear that the integrity of the site had been compromised by soil movement in the past. Locus 2, however, produced a well-bounded chert tool production area. The assemblage included hundreds of chert flakes, likely from the Cocksackie quarry located south of Albany. Many of these were quite large, and some were probably utilized as simple cutting tools. Diagnostics were uncommon in this block, but we did eventually find a chert Snook Kill point in association with the area, suggesting an occupation episode about 3500 years ago. In truth, this was the most dense chert

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## President's Letter *(Continued from page 1)*

For more information check them out on Facebook or at:  
<https://www.ct.gov/cct/cwp/view.asp?a=2127&q=302258>.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mandy Ranslow the best in her new position with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C. Mandy, a past FOSA president, has spent years supporting archaeology in general and Connecticut archaeology in particular.

Her contributions are too numerous to list here but I think it fair to say her knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

*Scott Brady - FOSA President*

## News from the Office of State Archaeology

*(continued from page 1)*

reduction site I have worked on since the mid-1990s when I excavated the Paleoindian Hidden Creek site. Lab work this fall should help us learn a bit more.

In June, OSA and FOSA volunteers helped with three 1-day archaeology programs. These were located at the Stonington Lighthouse, Bushnell Farms in Old Saybrook, and Keney Park with the Ebony Horsewomen summer camp in Hartford. I want to thank FOSA in particular for their volunteer and financial support of the Ebony Horsewomen program. Connecticut Humanities also provided financial support for this multi-disciplinary outreach day. Although we got rained out, everyone had fun.

After these "warm up" excavations, things really kicked off in July with our one-week field school programs targeted at a variety of audiences. The first marked the return of the Kids Archaeology Field School at UConn. While I had hoped to explore the site of the old Civil War Orphanage located at the north end of the Great Lawn, permission to do so was withheld, so we took the kids back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century Farwell House and Jacobson Barn site and had a great time. Our next program was the Archaeology Field School for Educators and this year we went back to the Mason-Marshall site in Windsor. That week was followed by the first Veterans and Active Duty Service Members field school. The primary goal of these two weeks, in addition to providing a hands-on archaeology experience, was to expose the house cellar feature on the western edge. This was accomplished and Scott Brady arranged for drone photographer Paul Coco to come and document the site with both video and still shots. From these images we will be able to develop a 3-D model of the excavation.

Up next was the CT State Museum of Natural History's Adult Field School and FOSA Field School back at the 17<sup>th</sup> century Hollister Site in South Glastonbury. This year the goal was to establish whether a feature noted in the prior radar survey was a Native American House floor as suspected by Maeve Herrick in her thesis on the site. After two weeks of focused excavation in some very hot weather, we were able to establish that this feature was actually a second plank-lined cellar, similar to one documented two years ago. Some of the highlights of the excavation included a small brass thimble, a round black bead dating to about 1690, a large iron mattock lying on the cellar floor, a large delftware sherd with the "Chinese Scholar" motif (1675-1690), and, perhaps most surprising of all, a small silver coin minted in Yemen in 1692. Recent work by James Bailey of Rhode Island summarizing nine similar coins concludes that they were most likely brought into the colony through Arabian Sea piracy. The so-called Pirate Round developed among some English privateers in the early 1690s who grew weary of harassing French shipping and ports in West Africa and headed around the Cape to look for more profitable opportunities.

Many crew members returned to New England with shares of as much as £1000 pounds – more than enough to start a successful farming or mercantile enterprise. There is no evidence that any of the Hollisters took part in such adventures, rather these Arabian coins were likely in common circulation in the colonies in the 1690s until their association with piracy resulted in them being melted into more socially appropriate forms of currency or tableware.



**Silver Coin Minted in Yemen in 1692**

*Photo by Brian Jones*



**Red Pipe Fragment**

*Photo by Brian Jones*

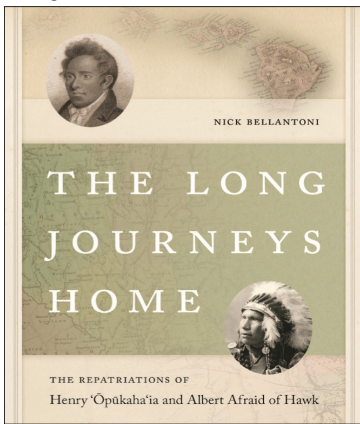


**“Chinese Scholar” - Delftware Sherd**

*Photo by Brian Jones*

To wrap up the summer, FOSA helped with two additional days at Hollister for the Historical Society of Glastonbury’s public excavation program and a one-day public dig at the Thomas Lee House in East Lyme. I want to give a big thanks to all of the FOSA members who helped out with these research projects and public outreach events. A special thanks go out to FOSA’s core mentoring team Scott Brady, Mike Cahill, Dick Hughes and Lori Kessel. Thanks are also due to my hard-working summer undergraduate intern Sara Vitelli from Franklin and Marshall College. It would be impossible for OSA to get so much done without all of you!

*Dr. Brian D. Jones  
State Archaeologist*



## The Long Journeys Home The Repatriations of Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk

Nick Bellantoni

*The moving stories of two Indigenous  
men and their repatriations*

Henry 'Ōpūkaha'ia (ca. 1792—1818) and Itankusun Wanbli (ca. 1879—1900) lived almost a century apart and came from different Indigenous Nations – Hawaiian and Lakota. Yet the circumstances of Western imperialism that led them to leave their homelands and come to Connecticut where they died and were buried have striking similarities. In 1992 and 2008, descendant women had visitations that their ancestors wished to “come home” and started the repatriation process. CT state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni oversaw the archaeological disinterment and forensic identifications in returning these men to their respective Native families. *The Long Journeys Home* chronicles these significant stories as examples of the wide-reaching impact of colonialism and the resurgence of Hawaiian and Lakota cultures.

**Nicholas F. Bellantoni** is an associate adjunct professor in the anthropology department at the University of Connecticut and Emeritus Connecticut State Archaeologist at the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History.

*“In this most engaging and extensively researched book, archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni recovers from obscurity the remarkable life journeys, dreams, and deaths of two Native men and the two worlds they lived in.”*

—**Paul Grant-Costa, Executive Editor, Yale Indian Papers Project**

*“Based on meticulous forensic research, Bellantoni’s tale of two indigenous youth from different cultures and time periods, and their struggles to survive cultural upheavals, clearly reveals the chaotic effects of American colonialism on Native peoples. The book is a major contribution to the field of Postcolonial Studies.”*

—**Lucianne Lavin, author of Connecticut’s Indigenous Peoples**

260 pp., 15 illus., 3 maps, 6 x 9”

Cloth, \$28.95, 978-0-8195-7684-2

Ebook, \$24.99 Y, 978-0-8195-7685-9

History / Biography

September 2018

## Garnet Books

The Driftless Connecticut Series is funded by the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, [www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/driftless](http://www.wesleyan.edu/wespress/driftless).



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Save 30% on print editions when you order from our web site and use discount code **W301**.

**Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni** will be giving a series of talks on his new book. See page 7 for details.

## The Templeton Site - An Update: Recent Findings From The 2018 Dig Season

Templeton is a deeply buried 12,000+ years BP Paleoindian site that was first excavated by Dr. Roger W. Moeller in 1977 (1) and again 1984. In 2016, Zachary Singer, then a UConn graduate student and FOSA member, with the help of FOSA volunteers, returned and excavated portions of the site. Additional research at the site with sponsorship and support from The Institute for American Indian Studies has been conducted in each of the following seasons.

This season, Dr. Zachary Singer and Dr. Cosimo Sgarlata conducted excavations with the assistance of many FOSA volunteers and in addition held a five week field school with students from Western Connecticut State University .

Located on private land between two streams in Washington, Connecticut, the Templeton site contains a deeply buried, stratified Paleoindian component located at approximately 110 cm below surface. The layer containing the Paleoindian materials rests directly above the glacial cobbles that were left as the glaciers retreated from the Connecticut landscape. While there are other artifacts, predominately from the Archaic period (8000 to 1000 BC), a significant sterile layer of flood deposits separate them from the Paleoindian artifacts. The stratified soils at the site with a deeply buried Paleoindian component is very unusual and makes Templeton a unique location to research some of the first peoples on the Connecticut landscape.

FOSA is proud to report that many of our members have volunteered at the site. Additionally, tents, screens and other supplies and equipment purchased by FOSA have been used to support work at the site. This summer, besides numerous test pits, two large blocks were opened. As work progressed, numerous Normanskill chert flakes were recovered including numerous channel flakes. Channel flakes are created when, in the late stage of point production, a large flute or channel was deliberately removed from the base of the point running towards the tip. This process was repeated on both sides of the point thinning it along the center axis and presumably provided an advantage for hafting the point to a shaft (as well as certain other advantages that are just coming to light). These fluted point styles are produced by Paleoindians.

As unit S1W16 in Block C was approaching 115 cm below surface a channel flake was found in situ by one of the field school students. After being documented and removed, a second channel flake and a charred twig fragment were located, again in situ, directly below the previous finds. The twig was collected with care taken to avoid any contamination. The importance of finding organic material of this age cannot be overstated. Connecticut soils are highly acidic and organics usually decompose within decades or, at best, hundreds of years. Archaeologists depend on organics that have been charred or preserved by events that alter the normal soil ph. and support preservation (i.e., calcium from shell deposits reducing soil ph.).



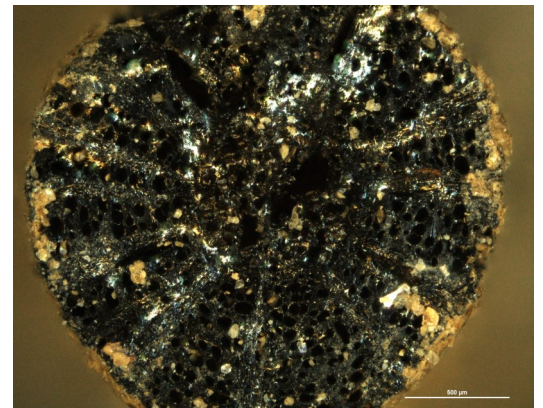
**Block B, Unit S1W16 at 118 cm below surface (Note the cobbles in the flood deposited layers visible in the wall)**

*Photo by: Chantal Henry*



**Block B, Unit S1W16 at 118 cm below surface - charred twig and chert channel flake visible within yellow oval**

*Photo by: Chantal Henry*



**Cross Section of Charred Trig, Close-up**

*Photo by: Lucas Proctor*

## What's New on the FOSA Web Site?

1. FOSA EXCAVATION POLICY: Added the "FOSA Excavation Policy" item from the previous Spring 2018 Newsletter to the "Site Activities" page; and a note about Amazon Smile to the "Home" page, in hopes other viewers may make use of it.
2. RELATED WEB SITES: Added the Archaeology Podcast Network to the "Related Web Sites" page.
3. INTRODUCTION TO ARCHAEOLOGY: Added a new GPR Animation and Drone Photogrammetry and Mapping page (formally called "Specialized Tools 2") to the "Introduction to Archaeology" page, basically lifted from the OSA Website.
4. NICK'S NEW BOOK: Added Nick Bellantoni's new book, *The Long Journeys Home: The Repatriations of Henry 'Opukaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk*, to the "Reference Books" page.
5. SELECTED VIDEOS: Added 2 "Grating the Nutmeg" audio podcasts to the "Selected YouTube Videos" page, one each for Henry 'Opukaha'ia and for Albert Afraid of Hawk, as CT State Historian discusses Nick's new book with him.
6. SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED: 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](mailto:jamesh52@comcast.net) with your suggestions.

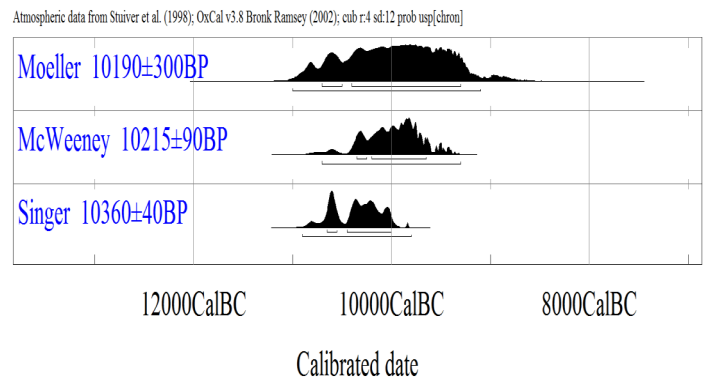
*Jim Hall*

## The Templeton Site - An Update: Recent Findings From The 2018 Dig Season

*(Continued from page 5)*

Prior to the 2018 dig, there have been only two radio carbon dates associated with the Paleoindian period at Templeton. Dr. Moeller (1) dated material from a possible post mold and a received a date of 10,190 +/- 300 years radio carbon years before present (RCYBP). McWeeney (2) dated a sample recovered at 99-102 cm. below datum and received a date of 10,215 +/- 90 RCYBP.

Dr. Singer recently received the radiocarbon date for the 2018 charred twig, 10360 +/- 40BP RCYBP (see chart below). Dr. Singer stated, "It is a great Middle Paleoindian date! With more excavation, we will hopefully encounter a hearth, which will provide us with a stronger date for the Paleoindian occupation and information about Paleoindian fuel use and possibly diet!"



*Scott Brady - FOSA President*

### References:

Moeller, Roger 1980 W. 6LF21: *A Paleo-Indian Site in Western Connecticut*. American Indian Archaeological Institute, Washington, CT.

McWeeney, Lucinda Jackson 1994 *Archaeological Settlement Patterns and Vegetation Dynamics in Southern New England in the Late Quaternary*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Yale University

## FOSA Officers and Board

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**Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni** will be giving talks on his new book, *The Long Journeys Home: The Repatriations of Henry 'Opukaha'ia and Albert Afraid of Hawk*. Below is a list of dates and locations.

**Nov 8** – Trinity College, Mather Hall, Common Hour Seminar, 300 Summit St, Hartford, CT, Noon Info: call 860-297-2000.

**Nov 13** - Ledyard Public Library, 718 Colonel Ledyard Hwy, Ledyard, CT, 7:00PM, Info: call 860-464-9912.

**Dec 2** – Institute for American Indian Studies, 38 Curtis Road, Washington, CT, 3:00PM Info: call 860-868-0518.

**Jan 17, 2019** – East Hartford Public Library, 840 Main St., East Hartford, CT, 7:00PM Info: call 860-291-7100.

**Feb 12, 2019**- Windsor Historical Society, 96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT, 7:00PM Info: call 860-688-3813.

**Feb 14, 2019** – Norwalk Community College Archaeology Club, 188 Richards Ave, Norwalk, CT, 8:00PM Info: call 203-857-7000.

### Other Dates to be Announced

## FOSA Committees and Committee Members

**Archaeology Awareness Month:** TBD (Chair), Jim Hall, Dick Hughes, Elliot Schawm, Kathy Walburn

**Excavation Committee:** Jeremy Pilver (Chair), Heather Alexson, Scott Brady, Mike Cahill, Marlo Del Chiaro, Brian Meyer, Dick Hughes, Elizabeth Mark, Cynthia Redman, Frederick Rivard, Zachary Singer, Jim Trocchi, Kathy Walburn

**Membership:** Mike Raber (Chair), Glenda Rose (Corresponding Secretary)

**Newsletter:** Jerry Tolchin (Chair), Heather Alexson, Jim Trocchi

**Nominations:** Cynthia Redman (Chair)

**Outreach:** Kathy Walburn (Chair), Heather Alexson, Bonnie Beatrice, Ken Beatrice

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Scott Brady (Chair)

**Website:** Jim Hall (Chair), Martha Davidson

