

**The 92nd Annual Meeting
of the
Eastern States Archeological Federation

Final Program**



November 13-16, 2025
Fort William Henry Hotel
48 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845

ESAF Officers

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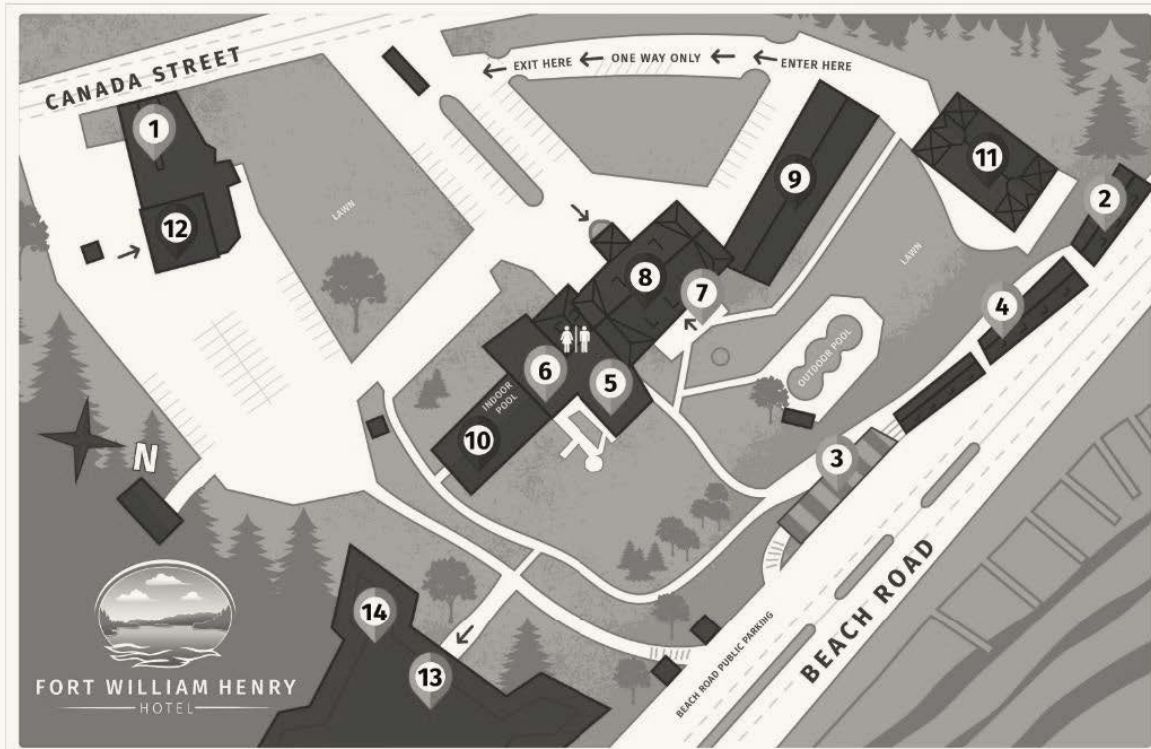
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Timothy Abel
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Hotel Plan



DINING

- 1 The Village Blacksmith
- 2 Sticky Buns Café
- 3 The Lookout Bar&Grill
- 4 The Candy Apple
- 5 The White Lion
- 6 The Lakeside Restaurant & Lounge
- 7 The Veranda Bar

BUILDINGS

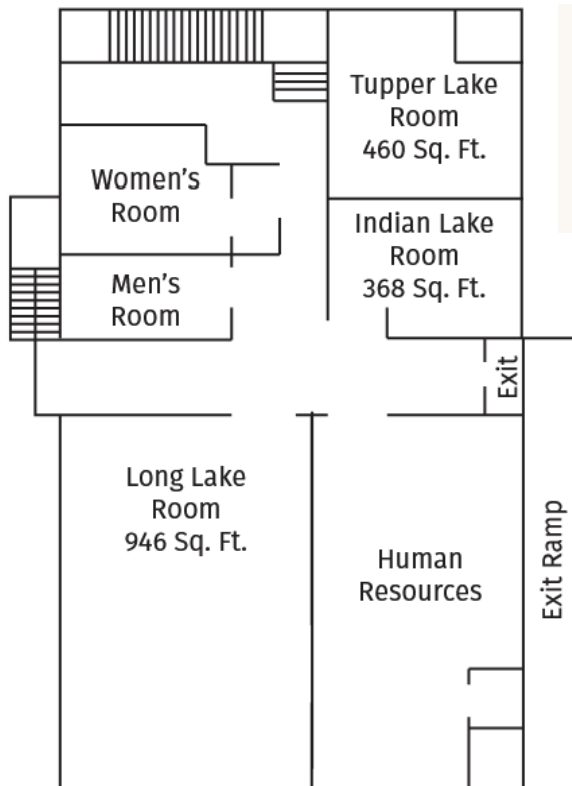
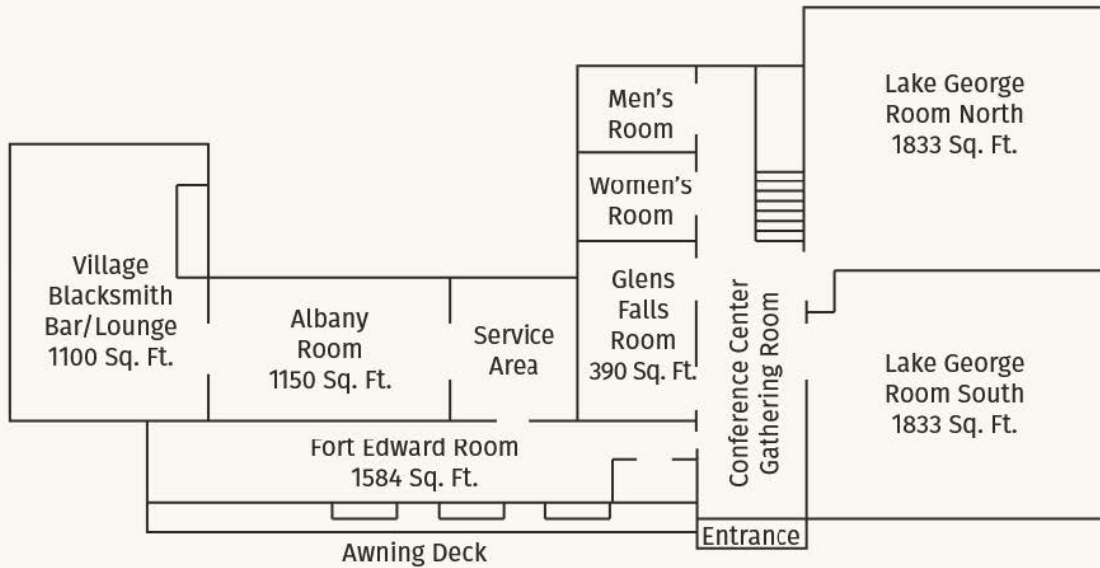
- 8 Grand Hotel
- 9 Deluxe Section
- 10 Premium Section
- 11 Carriage House
- 12 Conference Center

ATTRACTIONS

- 13 Fort William Henry Museum
- 14 Sutler Shop (free entry)

CONFERENCE CENTER

UPPER FLOOR



CONFERENCE CENTER

Lower Floor

General Schedule

Registration: #12 – Conference Center Lobby

Thursday 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM; Friday 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM; Saturday 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Thursday Workshops: - Meet at Registration 15 minutes before workshop

Fort William Henry Tour, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Solving the Grant Enigma, Long Lake Room, 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM

Ground Penetrating Radar Workshop, Albany Room, 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM

Conference Paper Sessions: #12 – Lake George Room

Friday 8:30AM to 5:00 PM; Saturday 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM; Sunday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Book and Exhibit Room: #12 – Conference Center Lobby

Friday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Saturday 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

President's Reception: #1 – The Village Blacksmith

Thursday 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM, Cash Bar.

ESAF Board Meeting

Monte Cristos Family Grille, 259 Canada St, Lake George, NY 12845

Friday, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Canadian American Friendship Party: #1 – The Village Blacksmith

Friday, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Cash Bar.

ESAF General Business Meeting: #12, Lake George Room

Saturday 3:10 PM to 4:00 PM

EXPO, Poster Session, and Cash Bar: #11 Carriage House

Saturday 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Banquet and Keynote Address: #11 Carriage House

Saturday 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

*** Denotes Participation in Student Paper Competition**



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Program

Thursday, November 13th

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM Tours and Workshops - Pre-Registration Required

Tour of Fort William Henry

Cost \$35 per person. Limited to 15 people. Thursday, November 13th, 10 AM to 12 PM.

Join ESAF for a private tour of the Fort William Henry Museum, a living history museum and reconstruction (ca. 1955) of the 1755 to 1757 French and Indian fort built by the British to stage successive attacks of the French position at Fort Saint-Frédéric (today at Crown Point, NY). The tour will be guided by staff of the Fort William Henry Museum and focus on the archaeological record of the fort.

Meet at Registration 15 min prior.



Self-Guided Tours

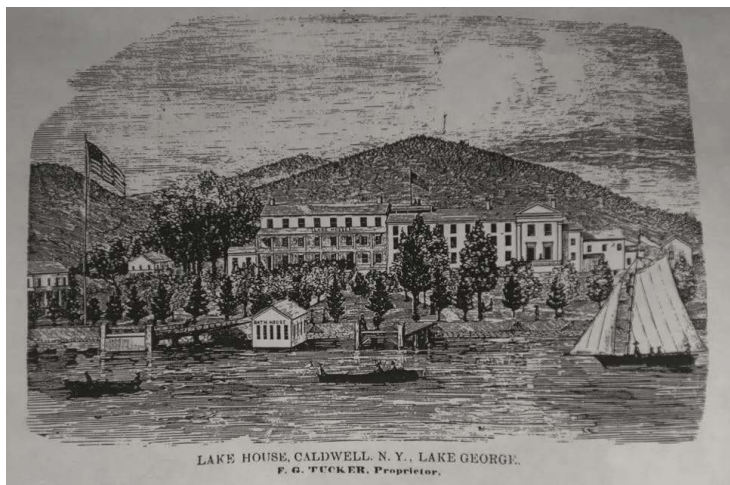
The Colonial Wars in Lake George

Free – Pick up pamphlet at Registration

The Lake George Historical Association Museum

Free – Open to ESAF Members Thursday, 12:00 to 4:00 PM

290 Canada St, Lake George, NY 12845
10-minute walk from the hotel



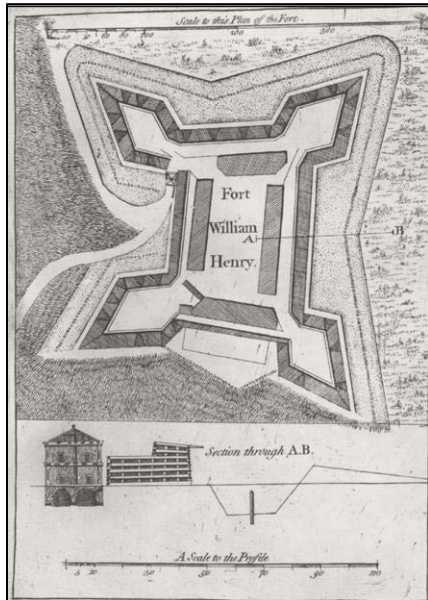
Ground Penetrating Radar Workshop

David Leslie (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC; Heritage Consultants, LLC)

David Leslie is the Principal at TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC, as well as the Director of Research at Heritage Consultants, LLC. He has conducted over 100 archaeological geophysical investigations throughout the northeast.

Cost \$35 per person. Limited to 10 people. Thursday, November 13th, 9 am to 3:30 pm.

This workshop will provide archaeologists with a hands-on experience of collecting and processing ground penetrating radar data. The workshop is intended for individuals who are interested in GPR applications to archaeological sites. We will survey a portion of Fort William Henry, a French and Indian War fort constructed in 1755 and later razed in 1757. The GPR survey will be conducted using several 350 MHz GSSI "Utility Scan" antennas, and an emphasis will be placed on survey parameters (i.e. transect spacing, direction of data collection, algorithmic techniques for data display), so that participants understand the choices faced by a GPR analyst when surveying a site.



Following the GPR data collection at the Fort, we will travel back to the Fort William Henry Conference Center and Hotel, where lunch will be provided. After lunch, we will process and analyze the datasets collected, as well as several other GPR datasets, to provide participants with a wide view of the capabilities of GPR when combined with archaeological projects. Participants will be required to bring a fully charged laptop with a demo copy of RADAN software, and pre-download several data sets for the analysis portion of the workshop. Software and data will be provided one week before the workshop. The workshop runs from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM - 2.5 hours of fieldwork, one hour for lunch (12:00 to 1:00 PM), and 2.5 hours of data processing.

Meet at Registration 15 min prior.

Solving the Grant Enigma

Benjamin Smith (Maine Archaeological Society)

Benjamin Smith is a professional writer and editor, as well as a lifelong history enthusiast. He currently serves as the editor for the Maine Archaeological Society's Newsletter, copyeditor for the Archaeology of Eastern North America, and writes grants for the Arnold Expedition Historical Society; Benjamin also previously served as the managing editor for the American Revolution Magazine and Civil War Historian Magazine.



Cost \$10 per person. Limited to 15 people. Thursday, November 13th, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

Confounded by confusing questions? Fearful of forgetting key steps? Perplexed by portals? Learn how to adopt a detective mindset so you can decode grants, streamline your application process, and submit winning grant proposals.

Meet at Registration 15 min prior.

6:30PM

**President's Reception
The Village Blacksmith
Cash Bar, Hors d'oeuvres Provided by ESAF**



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Friday, November 14th

7:30 AM – 2:00PM Registration Table- Conference Center Lobby

8:30 AM – 12:10 PM Morning Paper Session- Lake George Room

8:30 *Fudge Ripple & Smiley Faces: Interpreting the Odd Features at 36SO220, A Middle-Late Woodland Site in Southwestern Pennsylvania*
Gary Coppock (Terracon)

8:50 *Recent Findings on Late Archaic Period Pit Hearths in Southern New England: A Comparison of the Salmon Brook Dam Site and the Wappoquia Brook Site.*
Emma Wink (Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.; University of Connecticut) and Katharine Reinhart (Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.; University of Connecticut)

9:10 *At the Water's Edge: Reconstructing Daily Life at the Meadow Street Site*
Jenna Hendrick (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)

9:30 *Question and Answer*

9:40 Coffee Break

9:50 *Lithic Raw Material Procurement and Mobility Patterns during the Paleoindian and Prehistoric Periods in the North Fork Shenandoah River watershed in Virginia*
Jennifer Kennedy (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) *

10:10 *The Maryland Fluted Point Survey: Recent Investigations*
Zachary Singer (Maryland Historical Trust)

10:30 *Dunraven: An Ice Age Encampment in the Catskill Mountains of New York*
Jonathan C. Lothrop (New York state Museum), Joseph Hewitt (New York State Archaeological Association), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum) and Rudd Hubbel (New York State Archaeological Association)

10:50 *Question and Answer*

11:00 Coffee Break

11:10 *The Loss of Looting: Quantifying and Visualizing Damage to the Little Toad Site (4-16), Avon, CT.*
Stephanie Scialo (University of Connecticut; Heritage Consultants, LLC) *

11:30 *Traversing the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition: Human Adaptation and Environmental Change in the Northeast*
Nathaniel Kitchel (Salve Regina University), Meredith Kelly (Dartmouth College), Wyatt Oswald (Emerson College), Yarrow Axford (Northwestern University), Justin Stroup (Dartmouth College), Aidan Burdick (Northwestern University) and Anne Randall (Dartmouth College)

* Denotes Participation in Student Paper Competition

- 11:50 *Field research update "A preliminary update on the 2025 excavations and systematic STP testing at the Shoop site in central Pennsylvania*
 Kurt W. Carr (State Museum of Pennsylvania), Joseph A. M. Gingerich (Ohio University), Sharon McDonald (Friends of Fort Halifax), Robert Ronngren (Friends of Fort Halifax) and Joseph P. Vitolo (Friends of Fort Halifax)
- 12:10 *Question and Answer*
- 12:20 – 2:00 PM Lunch (on your own)**
- 2:00 – 5:00 PM Afternoon Paper Session- Lake George Room**
- 2:00 PM *Gender and Archaeology in the Eastern States and Provinces***
 Session Organizers: Emily Maillet (University of New Brunswick) and Lacey Macphail (University of New Brunswick)
- 2:00 *Introduction*
 Emily Maillet (University of New Brunswick)
- 2:05 *Researching Wabanaki Gender in the Far Northeast: Applying the Work of Ruth Sawtell Wallis*
 Lacey McPhail (University of New Brunswick) *
- 2:25 *White Widows and Black Bondswomen: Exploring Motherhood and Enslavement in Loyalist New Brunswick*
 Emily Draicchio (McGill University)
- 2:45 *"Give up the Ghost": Queering the Role of Guardian within an Infant-Adult Double Burial in 18th century Colonial British America*
 Nicole Hughes (University of New Brunswick) *
- 3:05 *Discussant*
 Madeleine McLeester (Dartmouth College)
- 3:25 *Question and Answer*
- 3:35 Coffee Break**
- 3:50 *Excavating Independence: The Archaeology of War and Occupation in Rhode Island*
 Sydney Dufresne (Salve Regina University) *
- 4:10 *Infrared Thermal Imaging: an Important Addition to Geophysical Cemetery Studies*
 Eric Heffter (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC; Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 4:30 *Through the Looking Glass: "Archaeologist First, Geophysicist Second" Approaches to Identifying Features, Landforms, and Sites*
 David E. Leslie (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC; Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David M. Givens (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)
- 4:50 *Question and Answer*

* Denotes Participation in Student Paper Competition

5:30 PM

ESAF Board Meeting

Monte Cristos Family Grille, 259 Canada St, Lake George, NY 12845

8:00 PM

The Canadian-American Friendship Party

The Village Blacksmith

Cash Bar, Hors d'oeuvres Provided by ESAF



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GPR: MALA GX
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The advertisement features a photograph of the Treasury in Petra, Jordan, carved into a sandstone cliff. In the foreground, a person on a camel is operating a GPR system, with red concentric circles indicating the radar's range. The text is overlaid on the left and right sides of the image.

Saturday, November 15th

7:30 AM – 2:00 PM Registration Table- Conference Center Lobby

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM Morning Paper Session- Lake George Room

- 8:00 *Results of Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Revolutionary War Site of Fort Plain*
David Moyer (Chenango/Upper Susquehanna Chapters, NYSAA), Daniel Bradt (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady; Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA), and Wayne Lenig (Fort Plain Museum; Van Epps Hartley Chapter, NYSAA)
- 8:20 *Glimpsing the Action on the Right Flank of the Battle of Sackets Harbor – Militia Retreat or Sustained Fight?*
Timothy Abel (Consulting Archaeologist)
- 8:40 “...whatsoever growes well in England, growes as well there”: *A Comparison of Macrobotanical Assemblages from Colonial English Sites in New England*
Katharine R. Reinhart (University of Connecticut; Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.)
- 9:00 *The Courtland Street Burying Ground, Lake George, New York*
Lisa Anderson (New York State Museum)
- 9:20 *Questions and Answers*
- 9:30 Coffee Break**
- 9:40 ***Multidisciplinary Approaches to Battlefield Archaeology: The Battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777***
Session Organizers: Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants), Fiona Jones (Syracuse University, Heritage Consultants)
- 9:40 *Introduction*
Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Fiona Jones (Syracuse University; Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 9:45 *The Ridgefield Burials: Discovery and Investigation of Four Probable Revolutionary War Casualties in Connecticut*
Sarah P. Sportman (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut), Nicholas F. Bellantoni (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut), Gary P. Aronsen (Yale University)
- 10:05 *Finding and Honoring Casualties of the 1777 Battle of Ridgefield*
Fiona Jones (Syracuse University; Heritage Consultants, LLC), Sarah Sportman (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

- 10:25 *Which Ridge, Whose Fields? – Applications of GIS and Archival Research to Battlefield Landscapes*
 Cole Peterson (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants LLC, TerraSearch Geophysical)
- 10:45 *The Battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777: Investigations of a Revolutionary War battle in a semi-urban and rural battlefield landscape*
 Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David Naumec (Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 11:05 *Battles, Burials, and Buttons*
 Susannah Goeters (Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 11:25 *The Battle of Ridgefield as Ideology: A Critical Archaeological Perspective*
 Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut)
- 11:45 *Discussion*
 David George (Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 12:05 *Questions and Answers*
- 12:15 – 1:50 PM Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:50 – 3:20 PM Afternoon Paper Session- Lake George Room**
- 1:50 *In the Trenches: A Salvage Excavation at the Maxwell House*
 Linda Seminario (Delaware State Parks)
- 2:10 *A Coastal Quarry on Roque Island, Maine*
 Arthur Anderson (University of New England) and M. Gabriel Hryn timer (University of New Brunswick)
- 2:30 *Roasting Platforms, Structures, and Storage Pits; A multi-component site and intensive occupation along the Charles River in Bellingham Massachusetts*
 Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), Jill Bielher (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)
- 2:50 *The Microbotany of the Middle Woodland, Bellingham, Massachusetts*
 Johan Jarl (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)
- 3:10 *Questions and Answers*
- 3:20 Coffee Break**
- 3:20 – 4:00 PM ESAF General Business Meeting**
 Lake George Room

** Denotes Participation in Student Paper Competition*

4:00 PM

HAPPY HOUR (Cash Bar)
CRM Expo & Poster Session
Carriage House

Posters

Mapping the Connecticut River Valley Tobacco Shed

Kaitlin Adams (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Cole Peterson (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Kody Messier (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Jeffrey Brown (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Eric Heffter (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), William Keegan (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

Investigating Site 119-19 through Lithic Analysis

Allison Anderson (Heritage Consultants, LLC; University of Maryland)

Poster Depicting Community Archaeology Program at Fort Plain, New York

Daniel Bradt (Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA), Wayne Lenig (Fort Plain Museum/Van Epps Hartley Chapter, NYSAA) and David Moyer (Chenango/Upper Susquehanna Chapters, NYSAA)

Late Archaic Archaeological Evidence from Intertidal Contexts in the Quoddy Region

Joshua Cummings (University of New Brunswick)

Fort William Henry's Top 20 Artifacts

Zachary Horan (Fort William Henry Museum)

Faunal Remains from the Sipp Bay Sites, Quoddy Region, Maine

Emily Maillet (University of New Brunswick) *

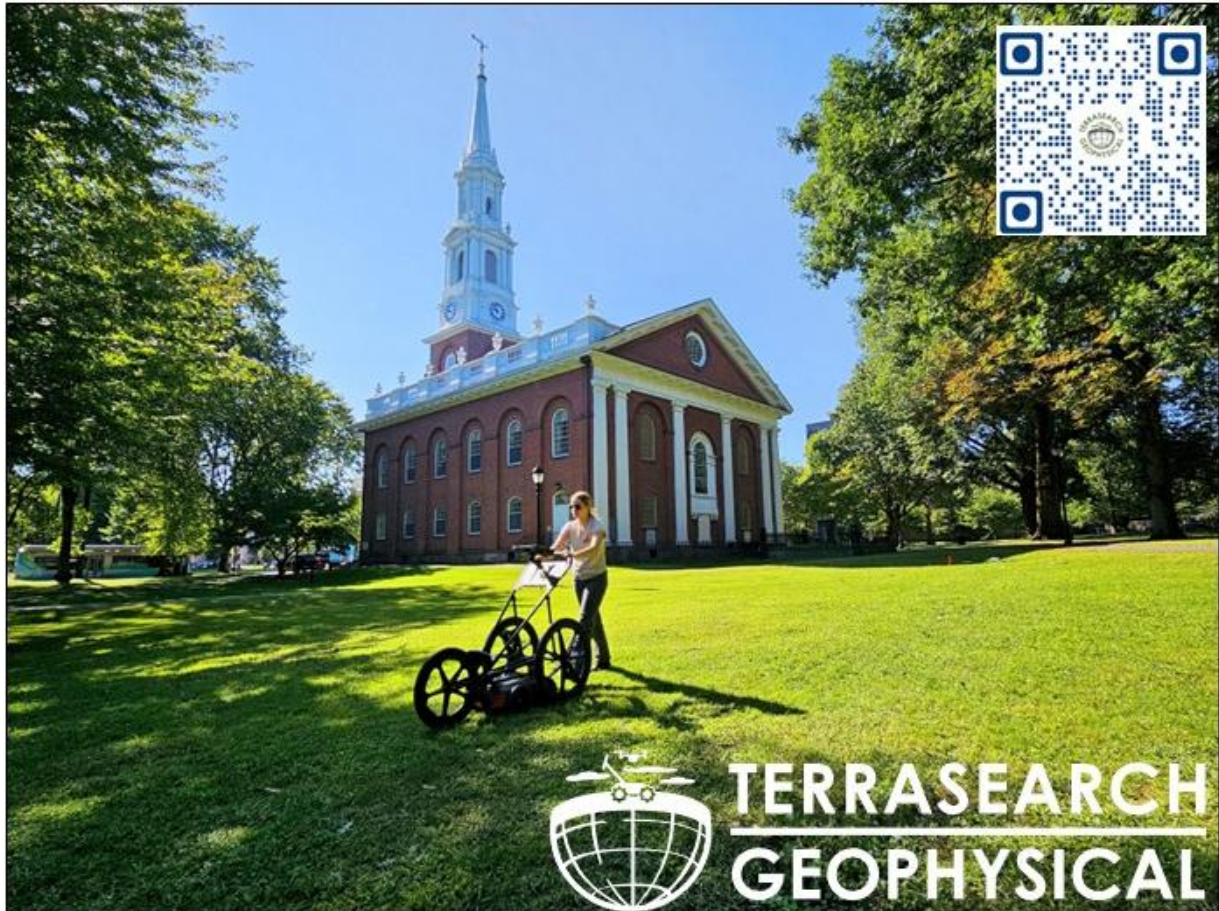
A Little Goes a Long Way: An Analysis of a Small Lithic Scatter at Site 4.36 ME on the Kennebunk Plains, Southern Maine

Taylor McCoy (University of New Brunswick), Marissa Carter (University of New England), Matthew Smith (University of New Brunswick) and Peyton Stevens (University of New England) *

For Want of a Button: Understanding the Manufacture and Transportation of the Metal Artifacts Recovered from Fort Decatur

Samuel Whittaker (Heritage Consultants, LLC)

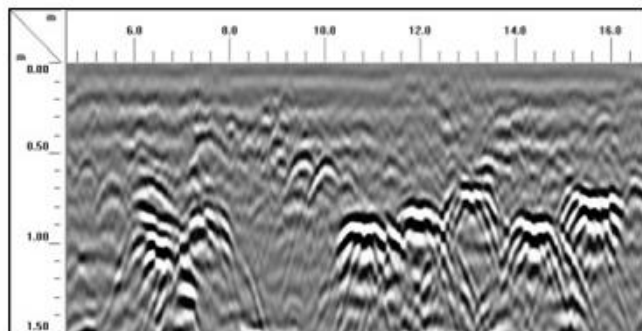
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Banquet and Plenary Lecture

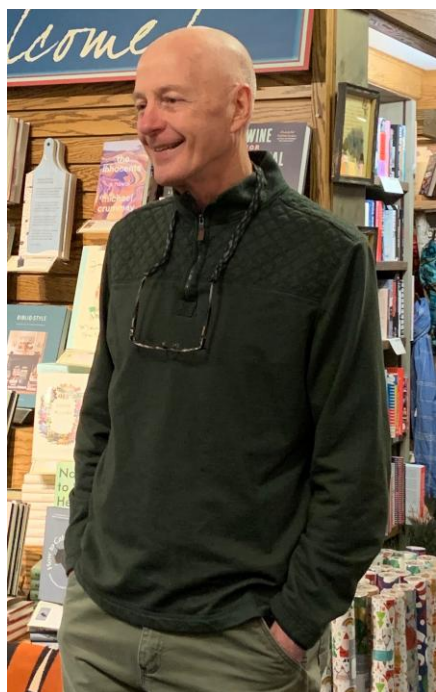
Carriage House

6:00PM Dinner

<i>Soup</i>	Minestrone
<i>Salad</i>	Caesar
<i>Entrees</i>	Chicken Marsala
	Crab Stuffed Sole with Lemon Beurre Blanc
<i>Pasta</i>	Bow Tie Pasta with spinach, broccoli rabe, mushroom, roasted tomato, garlic, olive oil, and cinzano
<i>Vegetable</i>	Roasted Vegetable Medley and Rosemary Roasted Fingerlings Potatoes
<i>Carving Station</i>	Roasted Top Sirloin of Beef au Jus
<i>Dessert</i>	NY Style Cheesecake
	Chocolate Layer Cake

7:00PM Plenary Speaker: **Joseph W. Zarzynski, RPA (The French & Indian War Society at Lake George, Inc.)**

Troweling Through the Archaeological Fieldwork at Fort William Henry During the 1950s & 1960s



Following World War II, terrestrial and underwater archaeology in North America underwent a transformation. Antiquarian-style collection of material culture was gradually replaced by a more-scientific model of archaeology. Saratoga County, NY maritime archaeologist Joseph W. Zarzynski will present a case study of that transition as he explores the archaeological excavations in the 1950s and 1960s at Fort William Henry (1755–1757) at Lake George.

The British garrison, built during the French & Indian War (1755–1763), was destroyed in August 1757 by the French and their Indigenous allies. That event was immortalized in James Fenimore Cooper's 1826 novel, *The Last of the Mohicans*. In 1952, Fort William Henry Corporation was formed. The for-profit enterprise hired Stanley Gifford, a Syracuse, NY archaeologist, to direct excavations to reveal more information about the military structure and the lifeways of its soldiers. Two years later in 1954, replica Fort William Henry opened. Moreover, in the mid-1950s, museum staff deployed an 8-foot-long, glass-paneled pram to search for submerged artifacts. Decades later, archaeologist David R. Starbuck conducted summer excavations on the grounds.

Mr. Zarzynski is a founding trustee of the French & Indian War Society at Lake George, a nonprofit entity formed over two decades ago to develop programs to interpret Fort William Henry's history. From 1987–2011, Zarzynski directed Bateaux Below, a nonprofit group that studied Lake George's "Sunken Fleet of 1758." Our banquet speaker is the author of eight books including *Ghost Fleet Awakened—Lake George's Sunken Bateaux of 1758* (SUNY Press, 2019) and *Fort William Henry's Moments in Time* (High Peaks Publishing, 2023). Furthermore, for two decades, he's written a column in the Lake George Mirror newspaper on local history and archaeology.



Cultural Resource Services

As one of the region's largest cultural resource firms, TRC has worked with a broad range of public and private sector clients to identify and address vital cultural resource concerns. We have maintained long-standing relationships with local, state, tribal, and federal regulatory agencies, which allow us to guide our clients' projects through the review process swiftly and successfully.

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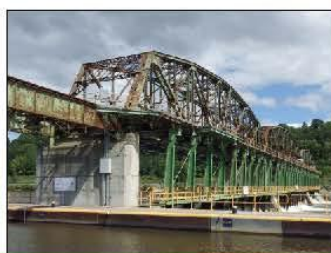
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Tim Sara — tsara@trccompanies.com — Diane Yankel — dyankel@trccompanies.com



Sunday, November 16th

8:30 AM – 12:00 PM Registration Table- Conference Center Lobby

8:40 AM – 12:00 PM Morning Paper Session- Lake George Room

- 8:40 *Ground Truth and Historic Reconstruction: a Matter of Opinion*
John Nass Jr (Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology)
- 9:00 *“Dixon’s Flats”: Three Predominantly Middle to Late Woodland Sites in the Esopus Drainage, Ulster County, NY.*
Joseph E. Diamond (SUNY New Paltz)
- 9:20 *Exploring the Middle Archaic through the Middle Woodland on the Merrimack; Excavations at Garvin’s Falls in Concord, New Hampshire*
Samuel Spitzschuh (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), David W. Trubey (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David George (Heritage Consultants, LLC)
- 9:40 *Adáli masípskwooik, ‘the place where it is flinty,’: A report on recent lithic sourcing efforts in the Champlain Valley*
Alexander Honsinger (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.) and Dawson Burnett (Maine Historic Preservation Commission)
- 10:00 *Break on Through (To the Other Site): Exploring Site Boundaries and Recent Investigations in Windsor Locks, Connecticut*
Christopher Brouillette (Heritage Consultants, LLC), David W. Trubey (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University)
- 10:20 *Questions and Answers*
- 10:30 Coffee Break**
- 10:50 *Grappling with Grapnels–History, Archaeological Recordation, and Conservation of 18th-Century French Grapnels from Lake Champlain and Lake George*
Taylor Picard (Lake Champlain Maritime Museum) and Joseph W. Zarzynski (French & Indian War Society at Lake George)
- 11:10 *Memento Mori: documenting changing attitudes towards death and dying at Milford Cemetery*
Marina Nadeau (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University)
- 11:30 *Chuck Vandrei, CRM, the LOR, and the Production of Knowledge*
Ed Curtin (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)
- 11:50 *Questions and Answers*

Abstracts

Timothy Abel (Consulting Archaeologist)

Glimpsing the Action on the Right Flank of the Battle of Sackets Harbor – Militia Retreat or Sustained Fight?

On May 29, 1813, roughly 900 British troops landed and attacked the US naval base at Sackets Harbor, New York. They were opposed by roughly 1000 American soldiers, 2/3 of which were unreliable militia. A proposed housing development provided the opportunity to document an area of the Sackets Harbor Battlefield on what is known as the “Right Flank.” On American maps of the battle, this area is labeled as where “the militia ran away.” British accounts, however, document a firefight along a bridle path through the woods of the right flank, where they pushed American forces back to an abatis in the village. The data recovery indeed documents a sustained firefight through the woods, with multiple firing lines in what appears to be a tactical retreat. This data recovery supports earlier conclusions that while a significant number of the militia likely did abandon the battle, enough stayed in the fight to remain a significant threat to British objectives, causing them to split their forces to deal with that threat. This action likely saved the Village of Sackets Harbor that day.

Kaitlin Adams (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Cole Peterson (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Kody Messier (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Jeffrey Brown (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Eric Heffter (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), William Keegan (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

Mapping the Connecticut River Valley Tobacco Shed

The Connecticut River Valley is specifically known for its shade tobacco industry. This industry has led to the development of a particular architectural form: the tobacco shed (or tobacco barn), a long building with gable roofs and regular ventilation slats. This industry was one of the most important sectors of Connecticut agriculture during the 19th and 20th centuries, and tobacco remains a common crop in the region today. Heritage Consultants has created a wide-ranging inventory of tobacco sheds in a seven-town region in the Connecticut River Valley. This ambitious project relies on a review of six separate years spanning 1934 to 2018 of aerial imagery across the region and digitization of identified tobacco sheds and related structures. The result is a comprehensive map of tobacco production in the region, but other trends in the landscape history of the region (suburbanization, infrastructure development, afforestation, etc.) are also illuminated by this data.

Allison Anderson (Heritage Consultants, LLC; University of Maryland)

Investigating Site 119-19 through lithic analysis

Site 119-19 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, offers an important opportunity to investigate past human lifeways through the analysis of lithic materials. Excavations at this locality, conducted by the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, focused on stratified deposits that yielded a range of stone artifacts, including flakes, cores, and formal tools. Lithic analysis from the excavation revealed variability in raw material use and artifact distribution across the excavation units. During the analysis artifacts were categorized by raw material type, artifact type, and provenance. Lithic analyses suggests that the site may have served as a seasonal camp or activity area where tool manufacture and maintenance were primary tasks. The analyses provides insights into raw material selection, technological strategies, and spatial organization of prehistoric activities, which contributes to broader discussions of prehistoric settlement and subsistence strategies in southern New England.

Arthur Anderson (University of New England) and Gabe Hrynicky (University of New Brunswick)

A Coastal Quarry on Roque Island, Maine

This paper presents initial archaeological excavations and geological analysis of a newly discovered rhyolite quarry on Roque Island, Maine. While a majority of the geological formations in Eastern Maine known to have provided toolstone in prehistory outcrop on the coast, this is the first direct archaeological evidence of coastal quarrring. We present geological analysis of the stone, place the quarry in context within the prehistory of Roque Island and Eastern Maine, and consider the implications for our understanding of coastal lithic sourcing.

Lisa Anderson (New York State Museum)

The Courtland Street Burying Ground, Lake George, New York

The discovery of unmarked graves during construction in Lake George in 2019 brought renewed focus to the role of Fort George in the American Revolution. Fort George was pivotal during the Northern Campaign to take Quebec beginning in 1775 and later in the summer of 1776 as the site of a general hospital established to house troops exposed to smallpox. Understanding the archaeology of the Courtland Street Burying Ground and the events that led up to it was possible thanks to Chuck Vandrei who was uniquely positioned as the Department of Environmental Conservation's Historic Preservation Officer responsible for oversight of cultural resources at Fort George and as an advocate for the protection of archaeological resources, particularly military sites in Lake George. This paper will present the most recent results on the burying ground in the context of his research on the history and archaeology.

Daniel Bradt (Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA), Wayne Lenig (Fort Plain Museum/Van Epps Hartley Chapter, NYSAA) and David Moyer (Chenango/Upper Susquehanna Chapters, NYSAA)

Poster Depicting Community Archaeology Program at Fort Plain, New York

This Poster captures the essence of our Community Archaeology Project conducted at Fort Plain, New York, a Revolutionary War fortification, located in the Mohawk River Valley. Work started in 2023 and was completed early 2024. The poster's flow depicts the day-to-day obstacles encountered while working the site from a non-professional perspective which in its self-convey's the overall projects evolution from beginning to end, from the initial focus of the project, i.e. "The Bake House", to its conclusion and possible future investigations.

Christopher Brouillette (Heritage Consultants, LLC), David W. Trubey (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University)

Break On Through (To the Other Site): Exploring Site Boundaries and Recent Investigations in Windsor Locks, Connecticut

During the 2025 field season, Heritage Consultants conducted an archaeological survey of an approximately 75 acre agricultural field in Windsor Locks, CT as part of a warehouse development project. The project area is situated within immediate proximity to four previously identified precontact era sites, with 19 precontact sites located within one mile. Through multiple field methods including systematic pedestrian survey, shovel testing, ground penetrating radar, unit excavation, and monitoring of machine assisted soil removal, we were able to further expand previously identified site boundaries. The combined excavations conducted across the site shed insight on the use and occupation of the land and its immediate surroundings from the Middle Archaic through Woodland periods. These excavations can be utilized as a case study to investigate possible intra-site relationships and interrogate concepts and methodologies currently associated with the ways archaeologists establish site boundaries.

Kurt W. Carr (State Museum of Pennsylvania), Joseph A. M. Gingerich (Ohio University), Sharon McDonald (Friends of Fort Halifax), Robert Ronngren (Friends of Fort Halifax) and Joseph P. Vitolo (Friends of Fort Halifax)

Field research update "A preliminary update on the 2025 excavations and systematic STP testing at the Shoop site in central Pennsylvania

The Shoop site covers over 38 acres but consists of 18 to 22 separate artifact clusters. Unfortunately, most of these are poorly mapped and their contents poorly documented. Do these represent separate visits as part of the seasonal round as suggested by Witthoft (19520) or do these represent different activity areas from a more limited number of visits by large social groups? Beginning in 2021, test excavations have revealed an unplowed woodlot where artifact patterning has not been disturbed for 13,000 years. Using a combination of block excavations and close interval shovel test pits, artifact clusters have been identified representing small individual lithic reduction events and larger activity areas such as hide scraping. The goal of this investigation is to better understand activity areas, group size and especially the number of visits and occupations. The resolution of these issues has obvious implications for Early Paleoindian adaptive strategies.

Gary Coppock (Terracon)

Fudge Ripple & Smiley Faces: Interpreting the Odd Features at 36SO220, A Middle-Late Woodland Site in Southwestern Pennsylvania

In the mid-90s I directed a data recovery at 36SO220, a Middle-Late Woodland (ca. AD 400-700) site Somerset County, Pennsylvania, in association with PennDOT's US 219 Meyersdale Bypass Project. The site is situated on the floodplain of Elk Lick Creek, a third-order tributary of the Casselman River. In addition to hearths, roasting pits, and numerous Lowe and Jacks Reef-cluster bifaces, a large number of odd features were exposed with profile attributes described in the field as "fudge ripple" and "smiley faces." A frenzy of last minute trenching and stripping determined that these were the remnants of an extensive network of interconnected ditches of equal width and depth. Though their origin puzzled archaeologists and geomorphologists alike, I hypothesized that they represent the remains of pre-Middle Woodland-era beaver canals. Recent meanderings through extant beaver habitat at the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area provides compelling evidence to support my previous conclusion.

Joshua Cummings (University of New Brunswick)

Late Archaic Archaeological Evidence from Intertidal Contexts in the Quoddy Region

In the Quoddy Region, spanning southwestern New Brunswick and eastern Maine, rising sea levels have completely eroded coastal Late Archaic sites, displacing them into intertidal and subtidal contexts. Recent collaborative research with avocational archaeologists in Passamaquoddy Bay (eastern Quoddy Region) has documented Late Archaic artifacts that are broadly contemporaneous with the Moorehead phase (4100–3700 BP) and red ochre-covered mortuary/ceremonial features reported from Maine. These findings extend the geographic range of the Late Archaic Moorehead phase and red ochre ceremonialism into the Quoddy Region. In addition, the structure, orientation, and exposure of eroded sites provide new perspectives on the placement of coastal Late Archaic settlements, with implications for understanding subsistence, mobility, and seafaring practices in this drowned cultural landscape.

Ed Curtin (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)

Chuck Vandrei, CRM, the LOR, and the Production of Knowledge

Chuck Vandrei served the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in a long career as archaeologist and Agency Preservation Officer. Initially, this work involved Section 106 reviews of Clean Waters Act projects. Later, his focus shifted to DEC's SHPO consultation on State projects. This paper highlights Chuck's work within DEC on the Little Wood Creek site archaeological project, as well as DEC's achievement, under Chuck's guidance, of a successful Letter of Resolution (LOR) process for managing archaeological impacts. Also, reflecting back to Chuck's pre-DEC career, we find a thread from his Seneca village archaeological research leading to today's concern with Understudied and Diverse Lithic Sources. The last part of the paper discusses contributions from LOR-required data recoveries to Understudied and Diverse Lithic Sources. LORs, unself-consciously, make cutting-edge contributions to archaeology's Theoretical and Substantive Knowledge or TSK: the dynamic, conceptual basis of archaeological significance.

Joseph E. Diamond (SUNY New Paltz)

“Dixon’s Flats”: Three Predominantly Middle to Late Woodland Sites in the Esopus Drainage, Ulster County, NY.

In November of 2017 the author accepted a donation of a collection of artifacts from three archaeological sites on Dixon’s Flats, in Marbletown, New York that were collected over almost 40 years by avocational archaeologist George Van Sickle of Marbletown. The Dixon’s Flats collection is divided into the “East”, “West” and “Center” or middle sites, as well as non-provenienced artifacts that were never given designations. Although there are sporadic indications of earlier archaeological cultures, an analysis of the three sites points to a series of occupations that are predominantly Middle to Late Woodland and that probably relate to the growing of cultigens on the Esopus Creek floodplain during the summer. The Dixon’s Flats sites are part of a seasonal round in the Late Woodland in which the Munsee Speakers of the Esopus drainage move from late Spring-early Fall locations on the floodplain, to sites on sand terraces and protected hollows above the floodplain from fall through spring.

Emily Draicchio (McGill University)

White Widows and Black Bondswomen: Exploring Motherhood and Enslavement in Loyalist New Brunswick

This paper challenges the familiar narrative of Canada as a haven for runaway enslaved people via the Underground Railroad by examining the experiences of Black bondswomen in Loyalist New Brunswick (1783-1834). Focusing on the intersections of enslavement and motherhood, it draws on archival records and a desktop survey mapping sites inhabited by the selected enslaved women. This research reveals how enslaved mothers navigated forced dislocations, abuse, resistance, and the maintenance of familial bonds while labouring under the unique conditions of enslavement in a temperate region. Case studies demonstrate that enslaved women were indispensable to enslavers—particularly white widows—because of their multi-occupational skills, yet they endured profound physical, sexual, and psychological violence. By centering an under-researched dimension of slavery and archaeology in Atlantic Canada, this paper opens a window into the lived realities of enslaved women, foregrounds their entangled relationships with white women, and considers life after manumission.

Sydney Dufresne (Salve Regina University)

Excavating Independence: The Archaeology of War and Occupation in Rhode Island

This research applies archaeological geophysics to Revolutionary War-era sites in Rhode Island, with the objective of identifying subsurface features that inform understandings of conflict, occupation, and preservation. Surveys employed ground-penetrating radar, electrical resistivity, magnetometry, and GPS to detect buried anomalies, distinguishing between colonial-period and later modifications. Fieldwork at Conanicut Battery, the Windmill Hill Historic District, and Vernon House on Aquidneck Island demonstrates the effectiveness of geophysical prospection for reconstructing eighteenth-century military and domestic landscapes. These results contribute to the expanding research of archaeological studies on Revolutionary New England and highlight the value of non-invasive methods for guiding future excavation and interpretation.

Amy Fox (University of Toronto)

490 Broadpoints: Memoir, Method, and the Making of Archaeological Knowledge

Broadpoints of the Late Archaic Period are central chronological and cultural markers across the Eastern Woodlands, yet their classification relies on typological systems that reveal as much about disciplinary traditions as they do about past lifeways. In this presentation, I re-examine the classificatory histories of broadpoints, specifically their role as diagnostic markers of the Late Archaic. I use a geometric morphometric analysis to test whether regional types are distinguishable by form alone, and what nature this form takes across regions and watersheds. By situating

these classificatory practices within broader discussions of power, naming, and the colonial legacy of archaeological terminology, I highlight how interpretations of the Archaic are shaped by both methodological advances and inherited bias. Ultimately, this paper takes the form of a first-person narrative, reflecting on a ten-year dissertation journey as both memoir and analysis, weaving personal experience into a broader critique of archaeological practice.

Susannah Goeters (Heritage Consultants, LLC)

Battles, Burials, and Buttons

In 2025 Heritage Consultants, LLC, contracted by the Ridgefield Historical Society and funded through a grant from the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program, continued its second phase of investigation of the Battle of Ridgefield. The Battle of Ridgefield occurred on April 27, 1777, during the Revolutionary War. This paper seeks to examine and categorize the buttons that have been found during this latest survey and compare them with buttons found in burials at the nearby Casey Site (118-38), located just south of the third engagement, the main battle of the Battle of Ridgefield. Through this examination, we hope to provide both sets of buttons with more context, adding to a deeper understanding of the individuals who participated in these events.

Eric Heffter (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC; Heritage Consultants, LLC)

Infrared Thermal Imaging: an Important Addition to Geophysical Cemetery Studies

In the past decade, a plethora of non-invasive geophysical prospection methods have been applied to identify subsurface features, particularly in cemeteries. One of the areas that has seen the most technological advancements involves uncrewed aerial vehicle (UAV) or drone flights. UAVs provide archaeologists with a wide range of efficient methods to conduct wide-scale geophysical surveys. One of these many methods is infrared thermal imaging. This presentation provides an overview of thermal imaging and its application as a geophysical prospection tool for cemeteries. Results from repeated thermal drone flights at West End Cemetery in Chester, Connecticut are also presented showing the potential variability in thermal imagery data from the same cemetery. These imagery data are also contrasted with a high-resolution ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the West End Cemetery, to provide complimentary information and aid in the identification of unmarked graves.

Jenna Hendrick (Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc.)

At the Water's Edge: Reconstructing Daily Life at the Meadow Street Site

Between 2023 and 2024, Curtin Archaeological Consulting, Inc. identified and documented the Meadow Street Site, a multiple-occupation precontact site situated along the Susquehanna River in Otego, New York. The site's geomorphological context, proximity to aquatic resources, and artifact assemblage- analyzed through use-wear and spatial patterning- indicate its role as a seasonally reoccupied fishing camp. Building on these datasets, this paper integrates environmental, material, and regional research to reconstruct site activities and settlement dynamics. To bridge technical analyses with lived experience, narrative vignettes are employed to synthesize the evidence into a human-centered interpretation, illustrating how the Meadow Street Site contributes to broader understandings of riverine resource use and mobility in the region.

Alexander Honsinger (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.) and Dawson Burnett (Maine Historic Preservation Commission)

Adáli masípskwoók, 'the place where it is flinty,': A report on recent lithic sourcing efforts in the Champlain Valley

This report chronicles recent geoarchaeological explorations of potential lithic raw material sources in the Champlain Valley conducted during the summer of 2025. The documented field investigations involved a combination of pedestrian and boat surveys in the search for quarry locations. While the effectiveness of identifying Champlain Valley chert sources with the naked eye appears to vary, thin-section petrography is presented as an alternative method for distinguishing raw materials across the region. Available evidence for the distribution of Champlain Valley lithics is also reviewed to highlight past developments in raw material sourcing and to outline future research prospects.

Zachary Horan (Fort William Henry Museum)

Fort William Henry's Top 20 Artifacts

A poster with a brief description and pictures of the "Top 20" artifacts of Fort William Henry Museum and Collection Centre. Based on their historic value, pertinence and relation to the French and Indian War and Lake George history, and those mission critical to Fort William Henry and the French and Indian War Society at Lake George. With include items such as powder horns, bateaux and sloop fragments, "French" gang mold, HMS Looe Cannons, a French Siege cannon found in Lake George, a document detailing a shipment of "Rum" to Fort William Henry, artwork by local artist Jack Binder who did extensive work for the Fort William Henry reconstructed Museum, and numerous other interesting pieces and artifacts in the Collection Centre and on display at Fort William Henry.

Nicole Hughes (University of New Brunswick)

“give up the ghost”: queering the role of guardian within an infant-adult double burial in 18th century colonial British America

The queer concept of kin-making involves purposeful acts of care and ritual to explore how kin were created and maintained. This research explores the social kinship of a double burial, between an male adult (burial A) and an infant (burial B) within a greater multiple-internment site located in the cellar of the Ste. Marie house property at the Fortress of Louisbourg, an 18th century colonial site in Cape Breton, Canada. The reasoning of this double burial is explored beyond normative, biogenetic relatedness. Instead, it is possible the bereaved living appointed the adult male with a guardianship role in death and the close and intimate connection between the placement of Burial B's body directly on top of Burial A's chest suggests a type of maternal care, contrary to the gender norms and hyper-masculine behaviours expected of men in 18th century colonial British-America.

Johan Jarl (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

The Microbotany of the Middle Woodland Bellingham, Massachusetts

In 2024, archaeological surveys by Heritage Consultants along the Charles River terrace in Bellingham, MA, located a Native American roasting platform composed of densely packed fire-cracked rocks, alongside ten additional cultural features. Radiocarbon dating placed the roasting platform in the Middle Woodland Period (~3000–1000 BP). Associated features included several post holes, storage pits, and the structure floor surrounding the roasting platform. Soil samples from these features as well as the roasting platform were sent to the UConn Archaeobotanical Laboratory for microbotanical analysis. As there have been relatively few studies on microbotanical remains in New England, it was decided to do a thorough analysis looking at a wide variety of micro-remains, including phytoliths, starch, fungi, pollen, and phytoplankton. Here we present the initial results of this study, with a focus on the lessons learnt from working on multiple different types of micro-remains in an understudied region of the world.

Fiona Jones (Syracuse University; Heritage Consultants, LLC), Sarah Sportman (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

Finding and Honoring Casualties of the 1777 Battle of Ridgefield

In 2019, a group burial of five individuals was discovered in the cellar of a historic home in Ridgefield, Connecticut, directly adjacent to the third engagement of the Battle of Ridgefield, which took place in 1777 during the American Revolutionary War. After confirming the remains as historic, this group burial was recovered with a multi-institutional effort, including the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology and Yale University. Research on the remains is ongoing, but their recovery sparked great local interest in the Battle of Ridgefield. As a part of ongoing research with Heritage Consultants, a comprehensive ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey was completed in the summer of 2025 on the property where the remains were first discovered. This presentation details the burial recoveries and the results of the 2025 GPR survey as they relate to next steps for the continuing research into the Battle of Ridgefield.

Jennifer Kennedy (Indiana University of Pennsylvania)

Lithic Raw Material Procurement and Mobility Patterns during the Paleoindian and Prehistoric Periods in the North Fork Shenandoah River watershed in Virginia

The North Fork Shenandoah River watershed remains understudied, particularly for the Paleoindian and Archaic periods. Most archaeological research in the Shenandoah Valley has focused on the South Fork, with its theories often generalized to the entire region. However, the South and North Forks lie on opposite sides of the Massanutten Mountains, representing distinct ecotones with different climate histories during and after the glacial maximum. These differences caution against assuming comparable settlement and mobility patterns across the two watersheds. This study examines a substantial private collection of lithic materials and presents preliminary results of a pedestrian survey at site 44SH0065 in order to better understand subsistence-settlement strategies utilized during the Paleoindian and Archaic periods along the North Fork Shenandoah River. While past studies have emphasized ephemeral foraging, this research suggests site continuity and a logistic mobility strategy linked to lithic raw material procurement.

Nathaniel Kitchel (Salve Regina University), Meredith Kelly (Dartmouth College), Wyatt Oswald (Emerson College), Yarrow Axford (Northwestern University), Justin Stroup (Dartmouth College), Aidan Burdick (Northwestern University) and Anne Randall (Dartmouth College)

Traversing the Pleistocene-Holocene Transition: Human Adaptation and Environmental Change in the Northeast

The Pleistocene-Holocene transition in the area of North America east of the Hudson and south of the St. Lawrence rivers (the Northeast) was a period of profound environmental change. Relatively open, spruce parklands and tundra environments transitioned to the closed canopy forests akin to those of today. Across this same interval archaeological information indicates human lifeways also transformed with substantial shifts in technological, mobility, and subsistence practices. Despite the large magnitude of these changes, and their potential to elucidate the impacts of future environmental warming, relatively little archaeological and paleoecological work has been undertaken in the Northeast focusing specifically on this period. Here I report on ongoing work to refine understanding of the chronology of changes in lithic technology and toolstone procurement practices in the Northeast to better align changes observed in the archaeological record with those of increasingly high resolution paleoenvironmental information.

Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut)

The Battle of Ridgefield as Ideology: A Critical Archaeological Perspective

The impact of the 1777 Battle of Ridgefield on the Town of Ridgefield cannot be overstated. It is materially embedded in the physical landscape of the town, from the cannonball lodged in the side of Keeler Tavern to the

streets named after military generals who fought in the battle. The battle has shaped the way that Ridgefielders understand the past; Benedict Arnold, whose name is synonymous with ‘traitor,’ is considered a local hero. Stories of the battle passed down through oral tradition have transformed it into a legend and infused it with new meanings. Ultimately, the Battle of Ridgefield serves to provide the town with both an identity and an ideology, bolstered by the archaeological evidence of the battle. Employing a critical archaeological approach to this evidence allows for the ideology to be stripped away, exposing the various forms of exploitation and injustice it serves to both naturalize and reproduce.

David E. Leslie (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC; Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David M. Givens (TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

Through the Looking Glass: “Archaeologist First, Geophysicist Second” Approaches to Identifying Features, Landforms, and Sites

Geophysical specialists have long been an important component of the archaeological toolkit and have been embedded with site-wide analyses over the last 50 years of archaeological practice. By necessity, many of these specialists were geophysicists first, and their archaeological knowledge was limited. Advances in geophysical technologies, field collection strategies, and the widescale application of these techniques over the past 20 years have created a need for well-trained geophysicists within our field and resulted in many archaeologists specializing in these techniques. Here, we explore the relationship between geophysics and archaeology, the challenges archaeologists have with interpreting the squiggly black lines provided by specialists and the inherent uncertainty of remotely sensed data. Combining relevant technologies and field methods with an “archaeologist first, geophysicist second” approach can provide archaeologists with readable and clear results that can guide excavations or, in some cases, supplant them.

Jonathan C. Lothrop (New York State Museum), Joseph Hewitt (New York State Archaeological Association), Susan Winchell-Sweeney (New York State Museum) and Rudd Hubbel (New York State Archaeological Association)

Dunraven: An Ice Age Encampment in the Catskill Mountains of New York

Identified in 1963, the Dunraven site in Middletown Township, Delaware County, provides the first evidence of an Ice Age Indigenous encampment in the interior of the Catskill Mountains of New York. Dunraven is situated along the East Branch of the Delaware River and Joseph Hewitt's surface collection of the site recovered a fluted point base, endscrapers, and other Paleoindian unifacial tools. The fluted point is tentatively classified as a Barnes/Michaud-Neponset biface, indicating Dunraven dates to circa 12,200-11,800 calendar years before present (Middle Paleoindian). This small assemblage suggests that maintenance of hunting weaponry, hide working, and other processing tasks took place during this Ice Age encampment. Located on the southwest margin of the Catskill Mountains in Deposit, Delaware County, Beaver Lodge is only the second fluted point site recorded for the Upper Delaware Valley of New York (Rudler 2006). Viewed collectively, the Dunraven and Beaver Lodge sites demonstrate that First Peoples did not avoid the Catskill Mountains during the Ice Age, but rather, travelled seasonally through this rugged terrain, likely using the valleys of the East and West branches of the Delaware River as travel corridors.

Emily Maillet (University of New Brunswick)

Faunal Remains from the Sipp Bay Sites, Quoddy Region, Maine

This poster summarizes the preliminary findings of a research project that aims to consider economic change during the Middle (ca. 2200 to 1300 cal BP) and Late Maritime Woodland periods (ca. 1300 to 550 cal BP) in the Far Northeast. According to David Black's model for the region, the transition from the Middle to Late Maritime Woodland was marked by increased sedentism and a shift from residential toward logistical mobility. Zooarchaeologically, this would be reflected in evidence for food storage, intensification, and shifting emphasis on marine mammals and large fish toward terrestrial mammals and small fish. Little recent work has been done to test

these models, due to coastal erosion having damages or obliterated coastal sites. Radiocarbon dates indicate that the well-preserved fauna from Sipp Bay spans this critical period, possibly providing one of the last opportunities to refine our understanding of hunter-gatherer settlement and subsistence in the western Quoddy Region.

Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut), Samantha Lee (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David Naumec (Heritage Consultants, LLC)

The Battle of Ridgefield, April 27, 1777: Investigations of a Revolutionary War battle in a semi-urban and rural battlefield landscape

The Battle of Ridgefield (April 27, 1777) was the most significant Revolutionary War battle fought in Connecticut. It took place over a twenty-four-hour period within a semi-urban and rural setting between 1,800 British Regulars and 800 Connecticut militia. As a case study, the Battle of Ridgefield provides insight into the challenges of deploying relatively inexperienced state militias against British regulars and in identifying militia units and weapons within an eighteenth-century domestic landscape. Overlooked in the larger battlefield context are the many small unit engagements that took place over a twelve-hour period following the main engagement – the breach of the American barricade – as groups of retreating Americans were pursued by the British across town. The integration of KOCOA analysis with the nature and distribution of battle-related artifacts provided battlefield archeologists with a unique opportunity to reconstruct multiple small unit skirmishes initiated by both American and British forces south of the barricade.

Taylor McCoy (University of New Brunswick), Marissa Carter (University of New England), Matthew Smith (University of New Brunswick) and Peyton Stevens (University of New England)

A Little Goes a Long Way: An Analysis of a Small Lithic Scatter at Site 4.36 ME on the Kennebunk Plains, Southern Maine

The 2025 University of New Brunswick/University of New England archaeological field school conducted test excavations on the Kennebunk Plains in Southern Maine, uncovering a small lithic scatter, site 4.36 ME. The Kennebunk Plains landform is known for the Palaeoindian period Hedden Site (4.10 ME). However, our lithic analysis showed no reason to believe that lithics from site 4.36 ME were also Paleoindian, but instead suggested they were from the Archaic period. This poster will describe this lithic scatter and consider the spatial relationship among Paleoindian sites, later occupations, and sandy dune landscapes.

Lacey McPhail (University of New Brunswick)

Researching Wabanaki Gender in the Far Northeast: Applying the Work of Ruth Sawtell Wallis

In this paper, I begin to use ethnohistoric and archaeological data to construct models of gendered action and their material correlates among the Wabanaki. Drawing on feminist theory, my research highlights the importance of examining underrecognized sources when considering gender in the archaeological record of the Far Northeast. I emphasize the contributions of anthropologist Ruth Sawtell Wallis, whose fieldwork in the 1950s focused on the experiences of Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey women in the Maritime provinces. Her attention and unique access to female informants and Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey lifeways as a female anthropologist provides a foundation for considering the intersections of daily life, social identity, and material culture. By highlighting Wallis, my research expands anthropological understanding of Wabanaki gender, which had previously been largely derived from the work of male anthropologists and underlines the enduring value of archival sources in archaeological research.

David Moyer (Chenango/Upper Susquehanna Chapters, NYSAA), Daniel Bradt (Community Archaeology Program, SUNY Schenectady; Van Epps-Hartley Chapter, NYSAA), and Wayne Lenig (Fort Plain Museum; Van Epps Hartley Chapter, NYSAA)

Results of Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Revolutionary War Site of Fort Plain

During the summer of 2023 and spring of 2024 archaeological investigations were conducted at the site of a possible bakehouse building on the site of Fort Plain, a strategic fortification constructed by American forces to protect the Mohawk Valley during the Revolutionary War. Fieldwork included a ground penetrating radar survey and the re-excavation of portions of the structure which were initially identified as part of prior archaeological investigations in 1961. This current study builds upon this previous research and provides insights into the possible function of the structure.

Marina Nadeau (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University)

Memento Mori: documenting changing attitudes towards death and dying at Milford Cemetery

In 2024 Heritage Consultants conducted archival research and grave marker documentation and condition assessment for 654 markers ranging from the mid 1600s through 1865 within Milford Cemetery in Milford, CT. Through this data changes in New England Christian burial practices from the seventeenth through the nineteenth century can be identified. Early Puritan grave markers were simple and unadorned, reflective of their strict social and religious views. The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw shifting patterns in socio-cultural and religious practices, demonstrated through funerary traditions. As the Milford community grew and the landscape changed, grave markers were often repositioned from their original locations for various reasons, thus grave markers are a physical reflection of an evolving ideological landscape. The Milford cemetery represents these traceable chronological changes through expanded use of symbolism, motifs, style, and epitaphs. This presentation will discuss how Milford Cemetery embodies the physical and ideological shifts in New England surrounding death from the seventeenth through nineteenth century.

John Nass Jr (Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology)

Ground Truth and Historic Reconstruction: a Matter of Opinion

Archaeological investigations at historical sites, such as military forts, have the advantage of archival resources to assist in the excavation of such sites. A problem arises when excavations are undertaken for state agencies and local historical organizations who often have a vision of what will be found and how it is to be interpreted. In this presentation, two such sites, Fort Meigs in Ohio and Fort Loudoun in Tennessee, will be used as examples that involved a clash between the priorities of archaeology and those of the sponsoring state and historical organizations. At stake in such arrangements is the narrative and how it will be presented to the public.

Cole Peterson (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Kevin McBride (University of Connecticut) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants LLC, TerraSearch Geophysical)

Which Ridge, Whose Fields? – Applications of GIS and Archival Research to Battlefield Landscapes

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a powerful and widely-applied tool for analysis of historical landscapes. Reliable spatial information has always been integral to understanding the sequence of events on a battlefield. Spatial analysis can provide vital insight into where, how, and why combatants moved across the landscapes. Using the American Revolutionary War's Battle of Ridgefield (1777) as a case study, Heritage Consultants has put together archival information, geospatial data (including remote sensing), historic maps and photographs, and three-dimensional visualization software to recreate the landscape in a novel fashion. This information has led to new ways to visualize the landscape from a combatant's perspective and added rigor and complexity to KOCOA analysis.

Taylor Picard (Lake Champlain Maritime Museum) and Joseph W. Zarzynski (French & Indian War Society at Lake George)

Grappling With Grapnels—History, Archaeological Recordation, and Conservation of 18th-Century French Grapnels from Lake Champlain and Lake George

Seven-iron grapnels recovered from Lake Champlain and Lake George are believed to have once been employed by 18th-century French salvors attempting to recover sunken vessels and ordnance. The artifacts are unlike the traditional-anchor design of that era with two arms and a wooden stock. These grapnels are stockless and have five arms (tines), each of which ends with a fluke (palm). The artifacts provide an opportunity to gain insight into the role of underwater salvage at these two-strategic waterways. This paper reviews the known history of these relics, examines the archaeological recordation of this assemblage, and details the recent conservation of 4 of the 7 grapnels—2 from Lake Champlain and a pair from Lake George. These grapnels provide archaeologists with a rare opportunity to study the design of colonial-salvage equipment, and allows us to explore the methodology possibly used to recover submerged militaria from the depths.

Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), Jill Bielher (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David E. Leslie (Heritage Consultants, LLC; TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC)

Roasting Platforms, Structures, and Storage Pits; A multi-component site and intensive occupation along the Charles River in Bellingham Massachusetts

The Bellingham Shoppes Site I was initially identified through excavations conducted by UMASS Arch Services and JMA in 2001 and 2007. The site was originally thought to represent a single Middle Archaic component, however, additional site examination and a Phase III data recovery conducted by Heritage Consultants in 2024 and 2025 redefined the boundaries and representation of the site. Through close interval testing and unit excavation, Heritage was able to expand the boundaries of the site and identify additional Terminal Archaic and Middle Woodland components. Excavation of the site resulted in the identification of numerous cultural features including a domestic structure, roasting platform and storage pits. In order to better understand the site, Heritage implemented a multitude of methods and analyses. Here, we address the collective data obtained from the site and contextualize the features within a regional framework, with a focus on Indigenous architecture and settlement patterns.

Katharine R. Reinhart (University of Connecticut; Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.)

“...whatsoever grows well in England, grows as well there”: A Comparison of Macrobotanical Assemblages from Colonial English Sites in New England

Throughout the Colonial Period in New England (1620-1776), wild and cultivated plants were a critical piece of the survival puzzle. As colonists began to settle into the land that would become their home, they experimented with transplanting and sowing familiar crops and herbs from Europe. While some would eventually take root successfully in New England soil, the English also found themselves relying on, and enjoying, wild plants and cultigens introduced to them through interactions with Indigenous peoples—some of which were mistaken for European botanical cousins. Furthermore, this successful strategy of adapting European crops and adopting local plants into colonial diets provided a necessary foundation for the English to spread across the mainland. This cross-temporal comparison of macrobotanical assemblages recovered at two 17th-century and three 18th-century sites excavated by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. highlights the importance of plants and Indigenous knowledge in the success of English colonization in New England.

Stephanie Scialo (University of Connecticut; Heritage Consultants, LLC)

The Loss of Looting: Quantifying and Visualizing Damage to the Little Toad Site (4-16), Avon, CT

Archaeology, amateur excavations, and looting share a long, intertwined relationship. Methods for documenting and reporting the impacts of improper excavations vary widely, with examples ranging from large-scale quantification through satellite imagery and LiDAR, to examination of site typology in relation to vulnerability, to single-site case studies. In 2024, a voluntarily reported unauthorized excavation in Avon, Connecticut, conducted by an individual

attempting to identify a site location, initiated a mitigation effort that offers a unique opportunity to spatially visualize the impacts of such an intrusion and quantify the damaged contextual information within the larger assemblage. Utilizing data from the first season of mitigation work and the surrendered artifact assemblage, this paper explores the potential for documenting lost archaeological data as a means of quantifying site impacts, stressing the importance of sound archaeological methods within the avocational community, and underscoring the need to maintain the integrity of archaeological sites.

Linda Seminario (Delaware State Parks)

In the Trenches: A Salvage Excavation at the Maxwell House

In the Spring of 2025, an underground electrical wire replacement at the 20th-century Maxwell House in White Clay Creek State Park led to the placement of a 60-meter trench. After the excavation of the trench, parks staff identified several artifacts in the back dirt pile and reported them to the Cultural Resources Unit (CRU). Due to the placement of the back dirt alongside the length of the trench, an emergency recovery investigation of the site allowed CRU to thoroughly explore site formation processes and artifact distribution, as well as identify the deposits associated with an original 19th-century structure that stood on the parcel. In addition, this allowed the opportunity to train Parks staff on proper procedures when encountering cultural materials and strengthen relationships with maintenance staff to help mitigate disturbances prior to construction outside of the confines of Section 106.

Zachary Singer (Maryland Historical Trust)

The Maryland Fluted Point Survey: Recent Investigations

This presentation provides an overview of recent investigations undertaken via the Maryland Fluted Point Survey. Highlights include a return of the PaleoDigger to continue investigations of the deeply buried Clovis occupation at the Barton Site, block excavations at the Piney Grove Clovis site, and the recordation of recently discovered fluted points in Maryland.

Samuel Spitzschuh (Heritage Consultants, LLC), Brenna E. Pisanelli (Heritage Consultants, LLC; Southern Connecticut State University), David W. Trubey (Heritage Consultants, LLC) and David George (Heritage Consultants, LLC)

Exploring the Middle Archaic through the Middle Woodland on the Merrimack; Excavations at Garvin's Falls in Concord, New Hampshire.

In July of 2025, Heritage Consultants conducted excavations at the Garvin's Falls Site on the Merrimack River in Concord, New Hampshire. This was the latest in a series of excavations within this site occurring from 2022 to 2025 in support of transmission line upgrades. Over the course of these excavations hundreds of Native ceramic, macro-botanicals, and faunal remains have been recovered as well as thousands of lithic artifacts. Lithic artifacts include a variety of raw materials, debitage types, and tools. Groundstone tools and steatite jewelry were also recovered. The Native ceramic assemblage features decorated and undecorated vessel sherds with a high percentage of re-fits. The Garvin's Falls site is representative of Indigenous occupations spanning the Middle Archaic to Middle Woodland era. Here, we summarize these results and situate the site to better understand precontact era resource consumption, trade networks along the Merrimack River, and settlement patterns in southern New Hampshire.

Sarah P. Sportman (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut), Nicholas F. Bellantoni (Office of State Archaeology, Connecticut), Gary P. Aronsen (Yale University)

The Ridgefield Burials: Discovery and Investigation of Four Probable Revolutionary War Casualties in Connecticut

In 2019, construction activities in the cellar of a ca. 1790 house in Ridgefield, Connecticut uncovered historic human burials. In compliance with state statutes, the Office of State Archaeology was called in to investigate the burials. The excavations uncovered five individuals, four of whom were hastily buried together in a common shallow grave. The burials are located within the battlefield of the Revolutionary War Battle of Ridgefield and are likely casualties of that event. A team of experts is studying the remains to learn about the lives and deaths of these individuals. Their discovery sparked renewed local interest in the battle and initiated new research efforts, including the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program investigations discussed in this session. Collectively, this work will shed new light on the events of April 1777 and facilitate a more nuanced local narrative about this significant battle in the lead up to America 250.

Samuel Whittaker (Heritage Consultants, LLC)

For Want of a Button: Understanding the Manufacture and Transportation of the Metal Artifacts Recovered from Fort Decatur

Recent archaeological work by Heritage Consultants, LLC, from 2022 to 2024 corroborated written and oral accounts of Fort Decatur's location in Ledyard, CT. This fort was built during The War of 1812 to protect Stephen Decatur's fleet from the nearby British naval blockade. During these excavations, a wealth of artifacts were uncovered that directly relate to the occupation of the fort. A majority of those recovered comprised of metal objects such as buttons, horseshoes, musket balls, etc.

How these metal objects were made and transported is important to understand life at the fort. Take the buttons for example, how and where would they have been made? How would they have been transported from where they were made to the fort? These are important questions to aid our interpretation of finds at this and other locations improving our picture of sites with similar assemblages.

Emma Wink (Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.; University of Connecticut) and Katharine Reinhart (Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc.; University of Connecticut)

Recent Findings on Late Archaic Period Pit Hearths in Southern New England: A Comparison of the Salmon Brook Dam Site and the Wappoquia Brook Site.

Archaeological and Historical Services' (AHS) 2025 excavations at two sites identified morphologically similar pit hearth features associated with diagnostic Late Archaic Period projectile points: the Salmon Brook Dam Site in Brookfield, Massachusetts, and the Wappoquia Brook Site in Pomfret, Connecticut. Both sites represent single-component, short-term occupations featuring tightly defined activity loci, which offer valuable insights into mobility and settlement strategies in southern New England during the Late Archaic. During this dynamic cultural period, influences from the surrounding regions are reflected in the evolution of lithic technological complexes. Despite differences in the material culture recovered at Salmon Brook and Wappoquia Brook, the morphology and contents of these pit hearth features suggest analogous patterns of resource exploitation and processing—specifically of hickory nuts. This presentation will discuss these findings and contextualize them within current bodies of research on adaptive strategies employed by Indigenous groups during this period of high mobility and cultural innovation.