



# The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc. Newsletter Winter 2020-21

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## SPA President's Message

I hope that this newsletter finds you well! Surely many of you share my optimism with the prospects that the New Year brings, while happy to see 2020 in the history books. We are not out of the woods yet as a nation (or as a species for that matter), but things are moving in the right direction with vaccine distribution underway. Given the fresh perspective, I am excited to move forward with contingency planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting, as well as some anticipated archaeological field school projects at Fort Halifax and Fort Ligonier!

You might have heard that SPA has obtained a Zoom license so that we may conduct business (and possibly even the annual meeting if necessary) more readily in the face of necessary precautions due to the pandemic. No doubt, this past year has forced us to rewire and rethink much of how we interact and work; however, there may be some bright sides to thinking outside of the box in our approach. I encourage members to consider participating in the use of this communication tool. It is understandable that some people will resist the technology or virtual experience, but conversely, it may encourage more dialog and new members to join in the conversations. Although the Board of Directors has yet to vote on how to proceed with the annual meeting, I strongly feel that we should use the Zoom platform to share presentations and sessions; thus, inviting more interaction and participation in general. No matter how and when we meet, I am looking forward to seeing the faces and hearing the voices of our members in 2021!

Despite this past year's attempts to derail plans, I was pleased to see that two ongoing projects with which I have been involved came to fruition in 2020. First, the National Register nomination for Fort Dewart (36SO30) was accepted, bringing our background and survey work there to a successful conclusion for the homeowner's association that stewards this spectacular site. Second, survey work adjacent to the Fort Lyttelton Site (36FU42) resulted in the acquisition of an additional 10 acres by the Archaeological Conservancy. These added layers of preservation protection are welcomed as both of these sites elaborate our understanding of frontier interactions at the outbreak of the French and Indian War, as well as the logistics of the 1758 Forbes Campaign to take Fort Duquesne.

Another exciting development, Ken Burkett has volunteered to lead a new SPA committee addressing Historical Marker nominations! This committee's charge will be to compile a list of eligible sites and work on future nominations across the state. What an excellent way to bring significant regional archaeology to broader audiences! This has prompted Paul Raber and myself to start the nomination process for Sheep Rock Shelter (36HU1) in our neighborhood. I hope that the local SPA chapters will consider getting involved by bringing forth potential nominations from their respective regions.

Lastly, I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year!

Jonathan Burns  
SPA President

### Nominations for election at Annual Meeting

President-elect: Kira Heinrich

First Vice President: Chuck Williams

2nd Vice President: Angie Jaillet-Wentling

Secretary: Jessica Schumer

Directors: Kristina Gaugler

Janet Johnson

Phil Neusius

## **Annual Meeting information:**

In light of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, an in person Annual Meeting will not be held in the usual April time slot. The committee is looking to postpone an in person meeting until Spring of 2022 at the Ligonier venue as planned for last year. A poll of our Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents and Contacts supports this plan going forward. We want our members to be safe and healthy.

The committee will be formulating zoom programs for the coming Spring of 2021 and perhaps the Fall also, in honor of Archaeology Month. The March, 2021 Spring Newsletter will hold the details for the symposiums and special memorial sessions. The SPA website will also have all updated materials and information for reserving your spot at the zoom conferences. Please refer to these sources for the most up to date information—Coming soon!

After becoming familiar with the zoom format, the SPA zoom license will be used in place of in person meetings until it is safe for us to congregate. We will have to make do with the technological meetings. While we miss the social and hospitality portions of the Annual Meetings, we can only plan for direct contact in the future.

We are not alone in making major adjustments to our meeting schedule or our procedures. All other Archaeological groups have to make these same tenuous decisions. Please help the planning committee if called upon. We will move forward but in a different way. Questions may be sent to the Secretary at [jmduritsa@comcast.net](mailto:jmduritsa@comcast.net)

## **Scholarships:**

All Scholarship awards for Annual Meeting attendance will be suspended until the next in person meeting takes place. This would be the Kinsey and Hatch scholarship awards.

## **Poster Sessions:**

The committee is investigating ways to hold the poster sessions virtually. Look for future information regarding participation.

Auction to Benefit the Elmer Erb Permanent Fund cannot be held as yet. If you would like to donate directly to the Society there is a tab on the Society's webpage: [www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com](http://www.PennsylvaniaArchaeology.com) to do so.

C-14 Applications can still be made. Forms can be found on the website.

Questions about Annual Awards should be directed to Dr. John P. Nass, Jr. at: [nass81@atlanticbb.net](mailto:nass81@atlanticbb.net) .

The SPA Summer tours are postponed until further notice.

Please help your chapters and Society survive the effects of the health crisis by supporting the virtual activities and by renewing your membership for 2021.



**Correction: Steven Campbell was misidentified in the last newsletter. Nothing is more important than getting your name right! Mea culpa.**

I graduated from Youngstown State University, with a double major in Anthropology and Geography and a specialization in Archaeology and Geospatial Information Science. While attending YSU I attended an archaeological field school at the Gerace Research Center located on Sand Salvador Island, Bahamas. It was here where I fell in love with archaeology. I continued to attend the Bahamian field school for six more years working as a field and lab supervisor and during this time I was lucky enough to meet my wife who is also an archaeologist.

After graduating from YSU I worked in cultural resources management for two and half years. I worked as a Field Assistant on Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III projects across the eastern United States. Though this was great experience, I felt there was still more to learn so I enrolled in Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Applied Archaeology graduate program. This was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Through working on my M.A. thesis, "Integrating Public Archaeology and Technology to Convey the History of the Mount Tabor AME Zion Church and its Community", I had the pleasure of working with several descendants of a small community in Mt Holly Springs, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. The members from the Mt Tabor community were vital in aiding in all aspect of my research and I thoroughly enjoyed working with them to bring attention to and preserve aspects of their cultural heritage.

Today you can find me working at the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) as a permanent member of their heritage staff. I spend most of my days in the woods conducting Section 106 survey, and the off-season in the office writing up survey results and planning for the next field season. When I am not at work, I spend my free time recreating on the ANF either mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, or swimming in the reservoir. My future plans include continuing my role as a federal archaeologist with the intent of using my education to bring partnerships from both academic and non-academic associations to the ANF.

## Chapter News

### Mon-Yough Chapter #3. Project Funding

**E. Ronald Salvitti, M.D.**, a noted ophthalmologist and philanthropist in Washington, PA, provided a generous gift of \$5,000.00 to the Mon-Yough Chapter 3. We will be making use of this to fund our excavation of the **Green Tree Tavern**, a National Road tavern at a site which is located along present day U.S. Route 40 in Fayette County. A portion of this gift will also be used to procure cleaning and restoration equipment to be stored at the Greene County Historical Society in Waynesburg, PA

"In addition, we received a \$2000.00 grant from the Community Foundation of Greene County, also to aid in acquisition and installation of this machinery at **Greene County Historical Society**".

### Sorn Village Site Radiocarbon Date by John Nass

**Sorn Village(36Fa405)** is a Youghioghney phase Monongahela site located along the Monongahela River in Fayette County. The site was tested by California University of Pennsylvania in 1991. Cooking residue adhering to the interior of a rim sherd was send to Beta for AMS dating. The resulting date is listed below. The AMS date was obtained with funding from the Mon-Yough Chapter #3 and a grant from the Jacob L. Grimm Carbon-14 Award, Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.

Sample Lab Number	Sample Context	Material	<sup>14</sup> C Age (Years B.P.)	Calibrated 2 sigma
<sup>13</sup> C/ <sup>12</sup> C Beta - 559021	Site midden	Food residue	380 ± 30 B.P.	A.D. 1445-1524 A.D. 1558-1632

## GoFundMe.com Campaign

John Nass reports that their fundraising campaign ended in November and the campaign raised the necessary funds to purchase an Airabrasive Model 6500 Series II, dust collecting unit, and air pump for cleaning iron artifacts from the on-going Mon-Yough chapter excavation at the 19<sup>th</sup> century Green Tree Tavern site (36Fa588). The unit will be installed at the Greene County Historical Society. The Mon-Yough chapter thanks all those who contributed to its GoFundMe.com campaign.

## Green Tavern Site Excavation Update

During the fall, members of the Mon-Yough Chapter #3 and student volunteers from California University, continued excavation at the Green Tree Tavern Site (36Fa588), located along U.S. 40 in Fayette County. The image below was taken in July, 2019, using a drone. To date, approximately 44 m<sup>2</sup> have been excavated, exposing dry laid, fieldstone walls, flagstone flooring, and a possible hearth and associated/chimney fall. The hearth/chimney fall is visible in the upper left corner of the aerial image. The most recent excavations are not shown in the aerial image.

While the construction date for the log and wooden built tavern is still uncertain, it was consumed by fire in the 1840s. However, ceramic sherds span ca. 1790s to the 1890s. This date range is also reflected in the bottle and glass container sherd collection from the site. Excavation has also recovered a large sample of bone, shell, metal, ceramic, and Prosser or china buttons. Excavation will continue starting in April, 2021. Volunteers and visitors are welcome. Contact **John Nass** ([nass81@atlanticbb.net](mailto:nass81@atlanticbb.net)) for directions, etc.

## Frances Dorrance Chapter 14, Erich Zeh, President

In light of the ongoing Covid-19 issues and increasing cases, **there will not be any meetings for the rest of this year** and into 2021. I will keep newsletters/announcements going periodically. Memberships paid for 2020 will be carried over into 2021.

The Palmer Library is open with restrictions. If any member would like to take out a chapter book to read, please contact me to meet there.

Most all events and programs have been cancelled, others have gone virtual. I will pass along the information as I receive it as well as the links for the virtual ones.

I am currently working with Aurora Balderas in getting the article "Overpeck Incised Pottery" onto our chapter website ([www.spa-chapter14.org](http://www.spa-chapter14.org)). A big thanks both to her and Chris Hummer, PhD for making this possible. If there is any interest in Woodland Type Ceramics in the middle Delaware Valley, I would like to hear from you, I have references and samples for further study.

## The State Museum of Pennsylvania Winter Update

Normally this newsletter would describe a very busy fall with a lot of public outreach programs, unfortunately much of our outreach was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. That hasn't meant that we haven't managed to reach many of you and an even broader audience through various telecommuting applications.

Archaeology Month in October was highlighted by a series of speaker presentations focused on our Workshops in Archaeology theme, The Delaware Indians: Then and Now. Senior Curator of Archaeology at The State Museum, Dr. Kurt Carr, introduced this weekly series of speakers which included Dr. Roger Moeller, Dr. Greg Lattanzi, Dr. Jean Soderlund, and Dr. Brice Obermeyer. The presentations are available on YouTube at the following link [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8ZjZK2E6\\_Ost1xbhyFWteBxFoRx6cRtD](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8ZjZK2E6_Ost1xbhyFWteBxFoRx6cRtD). This is also accessible via [statemuseumpa.org/virtual-learning](http://statemuseumpa.org/virtual-learning), scroll down to 2020 Workshops in Archaeology, click on the blue title and this will also take you to the YouTube videos. Kurt also participated in the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC) speaker series in which he presented information on Dugout Canoes in Pennsylvania. This was in conjunction with the Archaeology Month poster this year which featured a pre-contact period dugout canoe from Luzerne County, housed at The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Access to additional programming is available from the Virtual-Learning page including our bi-weekly blog, This Week in Pennsylvania Archaeology (twipa.blogspot). Some of you may follow us through this venue and if you do, you know that we have been writing this blog for over twelve years. We cover the archaeological record of every county, that's 67 counties in case you've forgotten, historic artifacts from bells and buttons to toilets and teapots. Native American pottery, projectile points, stone tools and organic remains are illustrated and discussed here as well. Site information and archaeological time periods from the Paleoindian through the Contact Period, noted archaeologists and debated topics such as bison, chunky stones and Clovis. As you can imagine, there is a wealth of information available on this blog for students, teachers and you.

Staff are continuing to post images and catalog information in an on-line portal of the PHMC collections, ARGUS users can access entries which feature many of our significant artifacts from exhibits in the museum. This project is a Collections Management initiative for the entire Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) providing our collections from the historic sites and museums in a searchable format and visible for research, education, or just general viewing pleasure. This system will make access to the collections available to everyone and highlight our notable items. Information included in the on-line data includes the Pennsylvania Archaeological Site Survey number (PASS) or collector/donor, culture time period, and the significance of the artifact. To date, nearly four hundred entries from the Section of Archaeology have been added into this system. We hope access to this information will be useful in artifact identification inquiries and for general knowledge of the historic and Native American artifacts in our collection. To access the on-line collection please go to, [https://5074.sydneyplus.com/Public/PHMC\\_ArgusNET/Portal.aspx?lang=en-US&d=d](https://5074.sydneyplus.com/Public/PHMC_ArgusNET/Portal.aspx?lang=en-US&d=d) , multiple search options are available; collection (archaeology), artifact type (i.e., stone tool), site name, and/or site number (PASS #).

The **Pennsylvania Farm Show** is a virtual event this year but the PHMC will still have a presence. An interview conducted with Kurt Carr will discuss the making of our replica dugout canoe which has been a highlight at the show for fifteen plus years. His presentation will include images of the process and the archaeological record of dugout canoes in Pennsylvania. To check out the virtual Farm Show and the complete schedule visit <https://www.farmshow.pa.gov/pafarmshow/participate-virtually/schedule/Pages/default.aspx> . On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Kurt is also tentatively scheduled to do a presentation on pandemics suffered by Native Americans.

We continue to be good stewards of our collection with regular monitoring of our areas, remote sensors for temperature and humidity and security measures throughout the collections. Our staff are responding to inquiries from the public, conducting research, writing and preparing for a return to the office sometime in the future. For now, we remain safely socially distanced and hope all of you are following guidelines of Dr. Rachel Levine and are safe and healthy.

**Recent donations made to the Society**

**In memory of Barry Kent:**

**By William Turnbaugh**

**In memory of Steve Warfel:**

**By William Turnbaugh**

**Mary Alice Graetzer**



**As noted in the President's message volunteers are needed for a new historical marker committee of the SPA to make applications and apply for additional historical markers relating to the Native Americans of Pennsylvania.**



Kenneth Burkett previously sat on the PHMC marker selection committee and submitted successful nominations. He will head up the committee and would be willing to help with submissions. Interested individuals and Chapters should contact Ken to serve on this committee. The committee will prepare applications and help make the submissions. Contact Ken at: [kenburkett@comcast.net](mailto:kenburkett@comcast.net)

Each year the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission approves a number of Historical Markers throughout the state that commemorate people, places and events of significant historical merit. The applications are submitted by individuals or groups and must go through an in depth approval process meeting specific criteria. The PHMC has asked that groups specifically submit important archaeological resources for markers.

The markers must be of statewide significance and not just of local interest. I suggest that chapters consider submitting "Type Sites" from which a specific culture has been named that would certainly meet that criteria. Some examples include the Drew site, McFate site, Johnston site, and Mead Island site here in western PA. Other locations of specific interest include petroglyphs, historic villages, portages etc.

This year the Parkers Landing Petroglyphs was accepted and fully funded by the PHMC. After being held up by a delay in state funds it is now in production and hopefully will be installed with a dedication ceremony later this fall. For more information, go to <https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/Historical-Markers>.

## **In Memoriam**



**Albert G. Moore Jr., 91, of Irwin, passed away Sunday, November 29, 2020. He was a charter member of West Hempfield Presbyterian Church, a member of Shidle Lodge No. 601 F. & A.M., Irwin, for more than 50 years, and a proud Army veteran that served in the Korean Conflict. Albert began his career as a machinist apprentice at Westinghouse Air Brake Company, Wilmerding. He owned and operated Moore and Shaver Machining, New Stanton, and prior to his retirement worked as a salesman for REM Electronic Supply Co. He was an avid golfer, enjoyed riding his bike on the Yough River Trail, and would volunteer with the YRBTC to maintain the trail. Albert was an amateur archaeologist. Later in life Albert earned his bachelor's degree in Archaeology from California University of Pennsylvania and was given the Archey Award in 1989. Al was active in archaeology for forty or more years. He was a Carnegie Field associate archaeologist and long time member and past president of the Westmoreland Chapter #23. He worked on sites in Washington, Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset and Ft. Ligonier, Ft. Wallace, the Blank site and many, many more. He managed several sites with the late Dick George and was always ready to help students in the Field School programs. He was generous with his time and knowledge. His knowledge was considerable. In the past few years, he decided to donate his books and field equipment to the SPA for sale in the book rooms and auctions at Annual Meeting. He is survived by his loving wife Ruth M. Moore**



**Vance P. Packard**, 78, of Bear Lake, Thornhurst, died peacefully Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020. His lifelong career as an industrial archeologist began as a student in archeology at Franklin and Marshall College, where he earned a bachelor's degree and continued at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, where he received his master's degree. He returned to Pennsylvania, where he spent the next 30 years working for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, first in archeology, then in historic preservation and finally in running industrial museums including Drake Well Museum in Titusville and Eckley Miners Village and the Anthracite Heritage Museum locally. The industrial sites suited him best.

He was twice president of the Society for Industrial Archeology and received its highest honor, the General Tools Award. He also received the President's Award from Pa. Museums and honors from the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor and Coolspring Power Museum.

His life was marked by generosity, drive, humor and passion. He excelled at photography and fishing and most every endeavor he pursued. He often said, "What's worth doing is worth doing to excess." He loved to have a houseful of family and friends for whom he would cook and tell stories. He and his wife, Bonnie traveled extensively, always with a case of cameras, and he was proud that he had visited all seven continents.

## NEW PUBLICATION

### The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania

Edited by Kurt W. Carr, Christopher A. Bergman, Christina B. Rieth, Bernard K. Means, and Roger W. Moeller. Elizabeth Wagner, associate editor

Pennsylvania is geographically, ecologically, and culturally diverse. The state is situated at the crossroads of several geographic zones and drainage basins which resulted in a great deal of variation in Native American societies. *The Archaeology of Native Americans in Pennsylvania* is the definitive reference guide to rich artifacts that represent 14,000 years of cultural evolution. This authoritative work includes environmental studies, descriptions and illustrations of artifacts and features, settlement pattern studies, and recommendations for directions of further research.

Containing previously unpublished data and representing fifty years of collaborative findings gathered under historic preservation laws, the book is organized into five parts, reflecting five major time periods. Essential for anyone conducting archaeological research in Pennsylvania and surrounding regions, especially professionals conducting surveys and research in compliance with state and federal preservation laws, as well as professors and students engaging in research on specific regions or topics in Middle Atlantic archaeology.

**Kurt W. Carr** is Senior Curator of Archaeology at the State Museum of Pennsylvania.

**Christopher A. Bergman** is Vice President of Cultural Resources at AECOM.

**Christina B. Rieth** is State Archaeologist and Director, Cultural Resource Survey Program, the New York State Museum.

**Bernard K. Means** teaches archaeology courses at the School of World Studies and is director of the Virtual Curation Laboratory at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Roger W. Moeller** is owner of Archaeological Services, Bethlehem, CT.

**Elizabeth Wagner** is Curator of Archaeology at the State Museum of Pennsylvania. 960 pages | 8 1/2 x 11 | 157 illus.

Three Volumes Cloth bound with slip case 2020 | ISBN 9780812250787  
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**Send SPA Newsletter information to the Secretary**

**Officers 2021**

**Newsletter Deadline: March 1, 2021**

**The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, Inc.** was organized in 1929 to: Promote the study of the prehistoric and historic archaeological resources of Pennsylvania and neighboring states; Encourage scientific research and discourage exploration which is unscientific or irresponsible in intent or practice; Promote the conservation of archaeological sites, artifacts, and information; Encourage the establishment and maintenance of sources of archaeological information such as museums, societies, and educational programs; Promote the dissemination of archaeological knowledge by means of publications and forums; Foster the exchange of information between the professional and the avocational archaeologists

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