

## Spring Meeting

Saturday May 21, 2011

Cosponsored by



Massachusetts Archaeological Society



Archaeological Society of Connecticut

at



Old Sturbridge Village

“CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT HOME AND ABROAD”

### 2011 Spring Meeting Program

#### CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH AT HOME AND ABROAD

**9:00AM – 10:00AM Registration**

**10:00AM – 10:15AM Opening Remarks**

**10:15AM – 10:45AM *The Search for Ezra Chamberlin and the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley***

Nicholas Bellantoni

In 2000 the confederate submarine H.L. Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy ship in combat, was raised from the depths of Charleston Harbor and seen for the first time in 136 years. An archaeological investigation of the Hunley's interior yielded a surprising item: the id tag of Ezra Chamberlin, a Union soldier from Killingly Connecticut. Did this Connecticut Yankee die on a Confederate submarine? While telling the story of the Hunley, state archaeologist Nicholas Bellantoni searches for the fate of Ezra Chamberlin

**10:45AM – 11:15AM *The Archaeology of the Earliest Viking Settlers of Iceland***

John Steinberg

Dr. John Steinberg will talk about the recent discoveries from the Skagafjordur Archaeological Settlement Survey. He and his team are beginning to uncover the nature of the settlement patterns of earliest Vikings in Iceland. The volcanic island is one of the last large landmasses on earth to be inhabited. The Vikings who first settled this land of fire and ice were chieftains, wealthy farmers, and their retinues who were fleeing state consolidation in Norway under Harold Finehair. Many of the stories of these settlers and their descendants<sup>1</sup> were written down and today are called the Icelandic sagas. John will talk about the implementation of a package of innovative remote sensing methods that have revealed a well-preserved household archaeology, which is almost invisible on the surface. One of the sites discovered during the survey is a long-house at Glaumbaer farm. This farm is mentioned in the Icelandic sagas as the home of Snorri Thorfinnsson, supposedly the first European born in the New World. Discoveries of this site and others from the Viking age, in combination with the unique saga literature, outline a fascinating story of settlement and social change.

**11:15AM – 11:45PM *Expanding the Narrative: The Archaeology and Historiography of the Pequot War***

Kevin McBride

The Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center has initiated a long-term project to research the broader cultural and historical implications of the Pequot War (1636-1637) and its significance to descendant communities of English and Native people in the region. The first phase of fieldwork was conducted in 2010 at the site Battle/Massacre of Mistick Fort. On May 26, 1637 a force of 77 English from Connecticut and 250 Narragansett and Mohegan allies attacked the Pequot fortified village at Mystic. More than 400 Pequot men, women and children were killed in the attack which lasted less than two hours. Recovered battlefield artifacts have provided a new perspective on the battle and have important implications for how colonial narratives of the war were constructed and how they inform our broader understanding of Colonial and Native histories.

**11:45AM – 1:00PM** Lunch

**1:00PM – 1:30PM *A True Recognition of the Past: Don Malcarne***

John Pfeiffer

Don Malcarne was a trusted colleague, a student - in the academic sense - who was continuously striving to learn, a determined academic whose view of the past was not clouded by traditional whitewash, and obviously a genuine friend to us all. His infusive commitment and energy was an inspiration to his students, colleagues, friends, and family. He undertook all tasks in front of him with a professionalism and humor. With Don at your side, the job at hand was never as difficult as it first appeared. He made it fun, stimulating, and rigorous.

**1:30PM – 2:00PM *Archaeobotanical Investigations of Ubaid Period Kenan Tepe, Southeastern Turkey***

Philip J Graham

This paper discusses 302 archaeobotanical samples taken from in and around a burnt house structure dating to the Ubaid period from the site of Kenan Tepe in Southeastern Turkey. The archaeobotanical samples are well preserved and come from multiple types of contexts and activity areas associated with the structure including floors, second story collapse debris, hearths, and middens. The large number of well preserved samples allows for a comprehensive analysis of the range of comestibles grown at the site as well as the location of various types of activities associated with plant processing and their relationships to the house. The botanical remains from Kenan Tepe provide information on household economy, agricultural production, and animal pasturing and foddering, greatly augmenting our understanding of agricultural and subsistence practices during the Ubaid.

**2:30PM – 3:00PM *The Deer Run Site: A Preliminary Report of a Prehistoric Site in the Uplands of Western Connecticut***

Andrea Rand

The Deer Run Site in Warren, CT is nestled on a protected stream terrace of a gently sloping hill in the western uplands. Based on a C-14 date and other diagnostic artifacts recovered in the last two field seasons of the Litchfield Hill Archaeology Club of the Institute for American Indian Studies, indicate that this was a multi-component site spanning thousands of years from at least the Late Archaic to the early Middle Woodland.

**3:00PM – 3:30PM *Roasting on the River: The Results of the Phase III Data Recovery at the Garvin's Falls Site, Concord NH.***

Thomas Mailhot

In the summer of 2008, John Milner Associates (JMA) conducted a phase III excavation (data recovery) at the Garvin's Falls site along the Merrimack River in Concord, NH. This paper summarizes the excavations by JMA at the Garvin's Falls site (27-MR-78). The JMA excavations will be discussed in comparison to past excavations at Garvin's Falls. In addition, special analysis that had been conducted, including lithic thin slice analysis, lithic use wear, floral and faunal analysis, pottery analysis and soil micromorphology will be summarized.

**3:30PM – 4:00PM *A Comparative Examination of the Astronomical Date August 13th in Mesoamerica and New England***

Kaitlin Ahern

Kaitlin Ahern has conducted a comparative study on how the civilizations of Mesoamerica and the societies in pre-contact New England honored the astronomical date of August the 13th. The two societies were likely completely isolated from each other, yet they both found this date to be significant. What role did the solar and astral patterns have upon the ancient Maya in Mesoamerica and Native Americans in Massachusetts? What made them see the date differently from each other or on some level did their beliefs correlate? There are volumes of research on the importance of the date in the Ancient Maya civilization, but there is currently very little published on the relevance of the date in New England. She has begun consulting and interviewing antiquarians about the astronomical structures in the state of Massachusetts and through various rock formations she has seen how the Native Americans used the cosmos to keep track of important dates and yearly occurrences. She has also traveled out to various sites in Lakeville and Carlisle to observe the phenomenon in person, which aided in the analyzing of the published material on August 13th. She has already started her research into the Maya, by visiting the country of Belize last summer, and by reading several textbooks by the leading experts in order to draw my conclusions for the importance of the date in the Mesoamerican region.