



**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MARCH NEWSLETTER**

**March Meeting, Saturday March 20, 2009
Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Avenue, Worcester, MA
AGENDA**

- 7:00: Informal Meeting, Preparation, Pay Thirza Your Dues**
- 7:30: Business Meeting, Janet Bessette**
- 7:45: Refreshments: Tonya Largy**
- 8:00: Speaker: Dr. Suanna Selby Crowley, RPA**

Topic: "Central Park Before the City: Recent Work on the Historical Archaeology of New York"

During the summer and fall 2004, a team of archaeologists, historians and soil scientists from New York City conducted a subsurface testing program to identify remains of the 19th century Central Park settlement of Seneca Village. Located between 81st and 89th Streets on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, the site of Seneca Village was an established, integrated community of freed African slaves and European immigrants. Founded in the 1820s, community was a stable population of working and farming families who were swept out of their homes by the creation of Central Park in the late 1850s. Most remnants of the village have since been forgotten or lost. Recent renewed interest in the memory of the Seneca by local historians inspired archaeologists to test for any remaining physical evidence of the settlement. As team geoarchaeologist, I conducted minimally invasive sampling of the subsurface for indicators of site preservation. This talk will highlight the history and social significance of Seneca Village and summarize the results of the testing program.



Suanna Selby Crowley is an independent archaeological and geoarchaeological consultant in New England. She has conducted fieldwork in Pakistan, Syria, Israel, France, and across the United States. Dr. Crowley pursues archaeological and geoscientific research in the prehistoric and historic contexts of both the Old and New World. Her most recent domestic work has been on site formation processes along the Upper Susquehanna River in New York and the Upper Ohio River in Pennsylvania. She has taught at New York University, through a consortium program at Columbia, Barnard, and City Universities in New York, and at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts

THE MASSACHUSETTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

ROBBINS MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY – P.O. BOX 700

Middleborough, MA 02346-0700

508-947-9005

Web site address: www.massarchaeology.org

email: info@massarchaeology.org

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING (at Zion Lutheran Church, 41 Whitmarsh Ave. Worcester)

From I-290, merge onto I-190 North via exit #19 towards Rt.12/Holden/Fitchburg. Take Rt.12/Gold Star Blvd. Exit #1 towards W. Boylston St. and bear right onto Gold Star Blvd. (Rt. 12) Follow Route 12 and travel 0.7 miles up a hill, over a bridge.

Follow Route 12 which curves to the left and continue through two stoplights. Take the right onto Whitmarsh Ave. right after Greendale Pizza and go up the hill for 1 block.

The Zion Lutheran Church will be on your left at the end of the block. The parking lot is on the right.

NOTE: Entrance stairs are on the side of the church facing the parking lot, not the basement steps of prior meetings at the church.

Archaeology Exhibits

DATE & TIME: Every Wednesday, 9:00am-4:00pm and Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm

LOCATION: Robbins Museum, 17 Jackson St. Middleboro, MA

INFORMATION: Curt Hoffman, 508-947-9005, info@massarchaeology.org

SPONSOR: Massachusetts Archaeological Society

ADMISSION: \$2.00 per child and \$5.00 per adult

The Robbins Museum is handicapped accessible.

Come visit the oldest archaeological society in the country. Enjoy our exhibits on the Massachusetts past. Learn about archaeology from our dedicated staff, volunteers, and archaeologists. Fun for the whole family. The Robbins Museum and the Massachusetts Archaeological Society offer education programs for all ages. Lectures for adults and hands-on programs for schools, boy scouts, and libraries. Have a real archaeologist visit your group and teach you about the fascinating history of New England as discovered through the science of archaeology.

**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER,
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