



THE MASSACHUSETTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

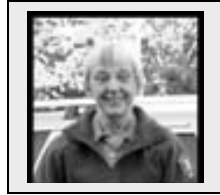
***Newsletter***

Vol. 35, No. 1  
Winter/Spring, 2009

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Frederica Dimmick*

Many of you may be surprised to learn that the president who was elected by the Massachusetts Archaeological Society on October 18, 2008 at the Annual Meeting is not the president in place at the M.A. S. today. Early last November, Mr. Glenn Mairo resigned the Presidency for personal reasons. In his place, as Vice-President, I acceded to the position of President as specified by the By-Laws of the Society. I have agreed to serve during this time of emergency until such time as the Society initiates its search for candidates for the next election. The Board of Trustees appointed Fred Robinson to serve as Vice President.



When I took over this job in early November, my first feeling was wariness: I was being thrust into a position I had not anticipated nor necessarily wished for. To my surprise and pleasure, this feeling disappeared as I felt the warmth and welcome from trustees and officers. I was among friends. Once I began my duties, however, the immensity of the task I had undertaken became clear and the time it would require seemed daunting. I felt then and still do feel quite humbled in this task. My respect for our Past President, Tonya Largy, continues to grow immeasurably as I complete the first three months of work. I cherish the support I receive from her, Curtiss Hoffman and Gene Winter, both also Past Presidents. Moreover, I begin now to see more clearly the real strengths of the Society.

First, Society members have a deep love for the past and the peoples who once inhabited Massachusetts that binds them together. From diverse backgrounds, avocational and professional members of all ages seek and respect the information that the Society presents in its displays and exhibits at the Robbins Museum and holds in the documents, reports and records in the library. This sense of stewardship of the past leads many members to generous acts of support for the Society through volunteerism and donations.

Second, the potential for research related to these Museum collections and documents is enormous; and this can become an even greater draw to new members from the academic community as we grow and provide more Museum facilities specifically for research.

Third, a little mentioned, but appealing public dimension of the Museum is its extensive collection of artwork including murals relating to lifeways of Native peoples, as well as paintings depicting Native myths, legends and cosmology. The art of Native photography is seen in Luedtke Hall in photographs of present-day Natives of all ages in daily dress or regalia. These photographs are the work of one artist, and the resulting collection itself is an anthropological dimension of the Museum.

Fourth, the Society publishes *The Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society* twice annually; it is a publication well respected by both professional and avocational archaeologists and researchers. The Society also publishes two *Newsletters*, and holds an annual meeting and a semi-annual meeting with speakers programs.

Lastly, a vibrant new school program focusing on Native peoples has been introduced in the Museum and has organized a group of docents for its implementation. Our Education Coordinator, Mary Concannon, prepares the Museum tours for classroom visits by school-age children and their teachers. As well, the chair of the Education Committee, Kevin Quackenbush, presents archaeology programs in school classrooms in the area.

The strengths having been listed above, I move on to the issues that the Society faces. As a non-profit, the Society has little funding to carry on many of the activities described above. Necessities include (but are not limited to) maintenance of the Robbins Museum (that also houses the Society), as well as providing funds for utilities and upgrading of the building; financing public educational programs of speakers at the Museum or elsewhere; producing *The Bulletin*; maintaining and updating the website; purchasing supplies and updating technology for the Society business office; funding children's classroom activities within the Museum, as well as within the schools; rehabilitating facilities for the Library; implementing up-to-date curation and storage facilities for collections; and raising funds for designing and mounting new exhibits.

Society members give generously as they can of funds and time as volunteers in all of the areas cited above. Their work and their spirit represent the best of stewardship for the Museum and Society. These individuals are the true strength of the Society. I wish to add that our only two paid staff members are also volunteers in our Society. These are Laurie

Stundis, our Administrative Assistant, and Mary Concannon, our Education Coordinator. Thanks to them! Following is a list of Society committees, some with current-sounding names that have come to join the old stand-bys of the M. A. S. I include names of committee chairs and applaud them and all of their committee members.

Development Committee, Tonya Largy  
Online Gift Store Committee (also Brick and Mortar store), Diane Pereira  
Museum Committee, Gene Winter  
Membership Committee, Curtiss Hoffman  
Legislative Action Committee, Alan Smith  
Education Committee, Kevin Quackenbush  
Technology Committee, Tom Largy  
Security Committee, Fred Robinson  
Nominating Committee, Tonya Largy  
Maintenance Committee, Don Gammons  
Library Committee, Kathy Fairbanks  
Archivist, David DeMello  
MHC Representative, Judith Zeitlin  
ESAF representative, Alan Smith  
Bulletin Editor, Curtiss Hoffman

## **LIBRARY REPORT**

*Kathy Fairbanks*

*The Bulletin of the MAS* now is bound and indexed to 2005. The next Index, 2006-2010, is started, and our goal for 2010 will be to get that one into the same bound volume as all of its constituent issues. Tricky, time-wise, but it can be done.

Linda Towle has sent us a donation of books including several MHC reports we did not have. When we set up our “new” library, we’ll have a special MHC section to corral every MHC book, report, Newsletter, and document.

Peter Geden of Middleboro has offered to lend us his material on the Passamaquoddy language to copy or scan to disk. We’ll need to determine whether we have the equipment and manpower to do this. Though not an MAS member, Peter actually goes to book sales and buys titles we can use! He has already given us several good ones we did not have.

We recently recovered five books, three of them by Wiliam Ritchie, that were out on a loan made before the new policy went into effect. The new policy is simple: No book leaves the building, no time, no place, with nobody. Even YOU. Even ME!

Tonya Largy recently gathered data for a doctor at Harvard Public Health. It was to refute an allegation that North American aboriginal dogs came from Europe. (They actually had been domesticated from wolves millenia before.) Jean-Jacques Rivard found data that was a strong argument in Vol. 10 of *BMAS* !

## **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Tonya Largy*

The Frederick Lobl for Charities Trust has awarded the Massachusetts Archaeological Society a generous grant in the

amount of \$14,000 to enable us to continue our mission of educating the public about the Native American past in Massachusetts. The Lobl Trust has supported the work of the Society regularly since the Robbins Museum was established in Middleborough in 1990. Not only does the Lobl grant help us maintain the building, but more importantly, it supports our exhibit and inventory work, and the ongoing Native American Educational Outreach Project begun by our Education Coordinator, Mary Concannon. Mary’s position was also funded in 2008 by a grant from the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund.

The Development Committee is hard at work exploring new avenues for funding, no small task in these challenging times. We depend greatly on the generous support of our members, but we require additional sources of financial support if we are to expand our programs. The committee meets once a month and new members with energy and ideas are welcome to join us. If you would like to help the Robbins Museum grow in new and exciting ways, please call me at 508-358-4646, or send an email message to [largy@verizon.net](mailto:largy@verizon.net).

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

*Mary Concannon*

**Local Cultural Councils & MAS:  
Expanding Funding Opportunities &  
Creating Partnerships That Work!**



In late 2007, Judith Scott wrote a series of grants seeking support from Local Cultural Councils (LCCs)<sup>1</sup> that would offset the costs of admission and transportation for third grade students and teachers interested in visiting the Museum. Not only were these proposals successful in attracting new visitors, they had the added benefit of leveraging funding from the Makepeace Neighborhood Foundation, as the districts benefiting from LCC money – Carver, Middleborough, Plymouth, and Rochester – were among those Makepeace considers part of its “areas of interest.”

Seventy-two students from Rochester Memorial School attended a day-long tour extravaganza in June 2008, which featured pass-around artifact analysis and crafts (see *MAS Newsletter*, Vol. 34, No. 2, Summer/Fall, 2008, pp. 2-3). A poem written by the children in Mrs. Okolita’s class continues to serve as an introduction to both Wampanoag lifeways as well as Museum collections for other students.

(see [www.massarchaeology.org/Education/THE WAMPANOAGS poem-Okolita 3rd Gr 08.pdf](http://www.massarchaeology.org/Education/THE_WAMPANOAGS_poem-Okolita_3rd_Gr_08.pdf))

But this tour was only the beginning! December brought another 125 students to the Robbins, this time from the Nathaniel Morton Elementary School in Plymouth, with their admission fees and transportation costs being met through a grant from Plymouth’s Cultural Council. Once again, a full range of learning opportunities was available:

---

<sup>1</sup> *Programs supported in part by grants from the Carver, Middleborough, Plymouth and Rochester Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency*

Assistant Docent Coordinator Clint Sowle led students through an analysis of fishing techniques, in addition to assisting Vice President Fed Robinson with manning the artifact analysis tables. New docent Arleen Pimenta drew from her extensive craft talents to help students make bead bracelets, clay models, and finger puppets that symbolize the *Story of Turtle*. MAS President Freddie Dimmick brought along some “tools of the trade” so students could get a sense of how screens, shovels, rulers, and brushes are used in excavation. Wampanoag storyteller and poetess Donna Mitchell — who also serves as a docent in the Education Program — wove her magic as she led teams of third graders in an activity using Native symbols to create their own personal stories, drawing from indigenous myths, legends, and history. Board member David DeMello served as Time Keeper and Student Escort, ably assisted by Stephen Catto. Librarian Kathy Fairbanks provided essential support by helping to greet students, teachers, and chaperones, and doing much of the “up front” work of breaking visitors into teams. My thanks to each, not only for being on hand for the tour, but also for the many hours spent in planning and setting up for the day. That it was a success is indicated by the evaluations we’ve received back from the group: we scored 4 or 5 out of a possible high score of 5!! Excellent effort and support from all at the Museum and in the Docent Program!

In December, the third grade team at Carver Elementary School contacted us about arranging their own visit to the Museum. We are currently working with them and with the Carver LCC to bring another 160 students on-site over the next month.

This intersection of funding goals with MAS’ goals (educational *and* operational) has proven productive on other fronts as well. One example is the successful application to the Lobl Trust (see related story on page 2); another is an application currently under consideration by the Massachusetts Humanities Foundation (MHF) to support a broad-reaching program for educators. Entitled *We, the Peoples*, this program has been conceptualized as a multi-component pilot project offering regional educators in-depth professional development opportunities to synthesize MAS’ vast collection of artifacts with a wider appreciation for Native lives, past and present. Participants will engage in a series of workshops led by scholars and Native speakers. The goal of *We, the Peoples* is to expand understanding of the interrelationships not only between Native Americans and Europeans, but also between and among Native groups themselves at key moments in Massachusetts history. Curricula from the *Native American Educational Outreach Program*, funded through both the A.D. Makepeace Neighborhood Fund and the Frederick Lobl Trust, will serve as a model for the creation of standards-based classroom materials and resources. The anticipated award from MHF is \$10,000 with an equal amount of matching funds from MAS required. Much of this can be in the form of in-kind contributions of time and effort.

Many partners have been (and will continue to be) part of this ambitious undertaking, which has been developed through the extensive efforts and assistance of a vibrant Planning Committee. MAS volunteer and MAS’ lead grant writer,

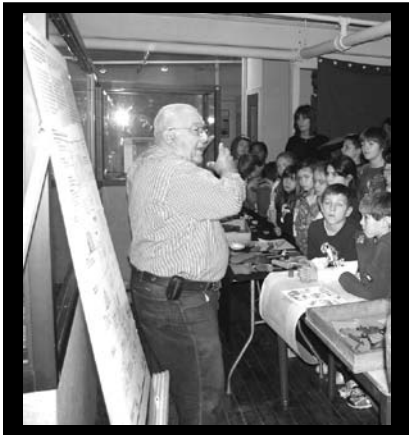
Patrick Murphy, played a key role in developing the Budget Narrative. Past-President and Board of Trustees member Dr. Curt Hoffman’s vast experience and expertise have been essential in developing a “big picture” look at what is possible. Educational partners Deb Dempsey and Carolyn DeCristofano of Blue Heron Educational Consulting Services bring their vast experience developing and leading professional development workshops, and their moral support sustained the grant writer at critical moments in the creative process. Donna Mitchell has been an indispensable partner in identifying Native speakers and guiding our content planning. Gene Winter, MAS Curator and Board member, is culling through his extensive library to identify the primary source materials that will form the core reading for participating educators. Erik Baumann, Teaching American History (TAH) Director at Bristol Community College, has graciously offered us access to TAH’s large database of teacher, administrator, and district contacts. Thanks must also go to the staff at Mass. Humanities: Pleun Bouricius, who is serving as our “point person” and mentor, and Hayley Wood, who enthusiastically invited us to apply under MHF’s *Liberty & Justice for All Project Grant*. Finally, the Education Department staff would like to thank *all* the members of the Board of Trustees and the Development Committee, who have endorsed the concept, read numerous proposal drafts, and offered valuable insight, support, and encouragement.

Should we be fortunate enough to get funding, the project will be led by Dr. Joyce Rain Anderson, an Assistant Professor of English at Bridgewater State College and former Robbins Museum Administrator Heidi Savery’s aunt. Long-time colleague and MAS member Dr. Joyce Clements of Gray & Pape, Inc., will join Dr. Anderson. Joyce brings many years experience in archaeology as well as her teaching and research on Native American women’s issues to the project. And there is other good news: two districts, Whitman/Hanson and Plymouth, have both expressed interest in having educators from grades 3/5/7 and high school participate. So, please: keep those collective fingers crossed ... this has the potential to be an exciting, rewarding learning experience for all involved!

Partnerships have also been key in attracting the interest of local Cub Scout Troops. Two troop leaders, Bill Melchin and Diana Ricco, both of Middleborough, have taken advantage of MAS activities that are specially designed for and offered to Scouts. Young men in Bill’s pack made Talking Sticks, and young Daisys in Dianna’s troop spent an evening looking at and discussing artifacts. That these programs were a success is evident: Scouts under the leadership of Mamie Faith took advantage of Mr. Melchin’s recommendation, and came to the Museum in early January; inspired by their peers’ experience, and the boys in Pack 20 also opted to make Talking Sticks.

But Scout leaders weren’t the only ones who noticed that involvement in the Museum’s Scout programs was advantageous and fun. One local educator was in touch with staff to tell us about how — for the first time in her classroom — one young Scout “took the lead,” explaining to his classmates the symbolism and use of Talking Sticks. The discussion branched out into other lessons and discussion, all led by this one young man!

Growth and partnerships, then, can come in many forms and iterations. And we continue to grow, sometimes painfully slowly, other times by leaps and bounds. Even if we don't get MHF funding in this round, the Society has already established good working relationships with their staff, ensuring that we are on the Foundation's radar screen. Our contacts with TAH continue to prove productive, and partnering with Deb and Carolyn for a professional development endeavor in June led to their participation as consultants on *We, the Peoples*. LCC money leveraged funding from Makepeace to offer 200 students a great opportunity to spend a day at the Museum, and the *Native American Educational Project* serves both as a core for *We, the Peoples* as well as a draw for students, teachers, Scouts, and the general public. Indeed, Clint Sowle gave a Museum tour to a gentleman a few weeks ago, and found out that this man knows a key "player" at A. D. Makepeace. We hope his enthusiasm for the Museum and its collections will find a willing ear at Makepeace, where we hope to submit another proposal for 2009. So: kudos to all who worked so hard in 2008; let us now turn our focus to fostering more partnerships in this new year and growing yet again.



Clint Sowle explains the collections to school children.

## MAS CHAPTER REPORTS

### NORTHEAST CHAPTER

*Suanna Selby Crowley*

Another cold month for us in New England and another warm evening at the R. S. Peabody in Andover to look forward to! Please mark your calendars for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> when Tonya Largy, former President of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, will join us. Her talk is entitled "Lady Liberty: What Lies Beneath Her Feet" and she will take us through her research from archaeological discoveries at Liberty Island in New York Harbor. During renovations to the Statue of Liberty in 1985, a utility line trench unearthed an Indian shell heap containing animal bones and plant remains which gave new clues to the early history of Liberty Island. Tonya, who studied the evidence, will discuss the surprising findings.

The Northeast Chapter is beginning to make plans for Atlatl Day this fall. In past years, this has been an exciting event where demonstrations of spear thrower technology are displayed to the public. The Chapter is discussing an expansion of the exhibits to include other ancient technologies. We appear to have a preliminary okay for the venue at the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers and we are hoping to finalize a date in the near future. Our recent efforts at expanding publicity for our monthly meetings and our growing relationships with North Shore historical societies and museums should help to make this a big event for the Chapter. Look out for more information in the coming months.

Please make note of our upcoming meeting planned for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. It's clear that the apple doesn't fall far since the N.E. Chapter and the Robert S. Peabody Museum in Andover will proudly host Jonah Blustain, son of Museum Director Malinda Blustain. Jonah's talk is entitled "What Was Cooking at the Red Cottage?" He will discuss his work at the Davenport/Wakefield Estate in Milton with Boston University and under the supervision of Dr. Mary C. Beaudry. Among the features excavated there was a late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century refuse pit found close to a dwelling known as the "Red Cottage." Those cultural materials provide an increased understanding of turn-of-the-century food and lifestyles of the inhabitants of the Red Cottage. Jonah is currently a Senior Archaeology/Anthropology double major at B.U. We are thrilled to welcome him as a speaker to the Museum.

As a reminder, the Northeast Chapter meets regularly on the third Tuesday of every month (September through May) at the Robert S. Peabody Museum, Andover. The museum is located on the corner of Main Street (Route 28) and Phillips Street on the campus of Phillips Academy. Please join us!

### New Member Handbook

MAS is pleased to announce that we have just revised our New Member Handbook. It now contains a letter of welcome from our new President, Frederica Dimmick, as well as updated information on MAS Chapters, other state archaeological societies in the region, and the offices of state archaeologists throughout the region.

The New Member Handbook is regularly sent out to those who join the Society for the first time. However, if you have joined MAS over the past 12 months, we will send you a copy of the revised Handbook upon request. Contact us at [mas@massarchaeology.org](mailto:mas@massarchaeology.org) or at our mailing address to request a copy. We can send this as an e-mail attachment (.doc file) or we can send you a hard copy.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

**Richard Lynch**  
**12 Greenbrier Rd.**  
**Greenville, RI 02828**  
**hstrclrsch@aol.com**

**New Book from Edward J. Lenik**

**MAKING PICTURES IN STONE: AMERICAN INDIAN ROCK OF THE NORTHEAST**

was recently released by the University of Alabama Press and is now available in both soft cover and hardcover through most book stores.

*Making Pictures in Stone* is a companion volume to Lenik's *Picture Rocks: Native American Rock Art in the Northeast Woodlands*.

Lenik's new volume adds coverage of eastern Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Washington DC area, including sites on the Susquehanna and Potomac Rivers, their tributaries, and their watersheds. New sites and objects from the New England states, Atlantic Canada, New York and New Jersey are also included.

*Making Pictures in Stone* is organized by type of artifact and covers portable rock art such as decorated tools, pendants and gorgets, effigy heads and figures as well as boulders and other non-portable sites.

Lenik opens with a discussion of the Algonquian people in the Northeast who inhabited these areas when the Europeans arrived. He discusses their lifeways and belief systems as background to understanding the images they left behind.

Lenik introduces a pioneer rock art recorder, Ezra Stiles, president of Yale College from 1777 to 1795. Stiles was the first to record rock art sites such as Dighton Rock. George Washington is also a source of observations and comments on Native American rock art and carvings.

Chapters on culturally altered trees and landscapes in myth and legend expand the concept of rock art and address the issue of the comparative paucity of Northeastern rock art as compared with the wealth of Southwestern rock art in North America.

*Making Pictures in Stone* is well illustrated with photographs and drawings. The reader is invited to consider the images, their locations and their significance.

Professional archaeologists will find this volume a welcome addition to their bookshelves, and everyone who always wanted to be an archaeologist will enjoy reading about sites and objects to be found in the Northeast.

Lenik is an active regional archaeologist who has investigated many historic and prehistoric sites in northern New Jersey, and southeastern New York. A former member of the Wayne Township (NJ) Historical Commission, Lenik ran the Wayne Archaeological Lab at the Van Riper-Hopper House for many years. He is a past president of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey and the Eastern States Archaeological Association. Lenik is a founder and active member of the Eastern States Rock Art Research Association.

**BOOK REVIEWS**

***A New England Typology of Native American Projectile Points.***

By Jeff Boudreau (Handbook Edition. MAS, 2008)

*Reviewed by Richard Boisvert*

*State Archaeologist, NH Division of Historical Resources*

Every now and then there is a publication that every serious archaeologist, professional or avocational, just must have. In New England we are fortunate to have a new publication that fits this bill. It is Jeff Boudreau's updated projectile point typology. It is not that we don't have previous point typology publications. We are all familiar with Ritchie's seminal book for New York put out in 1961 and updated ten years later, and Curt Hoffman's 1991 revision of Fowler's *Handbook of*

*Indian Artifacts from Southern New England*. These, supplemented by Dincauze's 1976 Neville site report, pretty well cover the territory. Still, there is always room for improvement and for a publication that focuses specifically on all of New England.

Boudreau's book has life size photographs of 52 different projectile point types encompassing 375 photos of the points themselves. In addition there is a quick reference guide foldout page showing an image of each type arranged by hafting mode (Stemmed, Side Notched, Lanceolate, etc). The handbook's long suit is the high quality photography, capturing not only the detail of the flaking on the points, but also exquisite color rendering. Each type is represented by multiple points (reflecting variation within the category) and a concise but data rich commentary, complete with numerous bibliographic citations. An added bonus is a timeline at the bottom of each page highlighting the time span ascribed to each point style. And for the purists, there is a discrete centimeter scale on each page. That said, the handbook does not focus on the metrics for the points, leaving that for the other publications. It is, in effect, a typology for the right brain with its focus on form and visual detail, eschewing the left brain interest in exact measurements, standard deviations, etc. Nor is there an emphasis on precisely where each point was found. He does credit other photographers where applicable.

*A New England Typology of Native American Projectile Points* is a perfect companion to the earlier typology publications, providing outstanding visual complements to the detailed descriptions. It also serves as an adjunct to a forthcoming article in 2008 volume of *The Archaeology of Eastern North America* by Jim Bradley, Art Spiess, Jeff and myself focusing on the principal Paleoindian points of New England. You can count on good graphics by Jeff there too, but this handbook will broaden the range of the points.

You can get the handbook by going to the Massachusetts Archaeological Society website [massarchaeology.org](http://massarchaeology.org) and ordering it online. It will cost you \$40, and it is well worth the price.



***House of Rain***

By Craig Childs (Little Brown and Company, New York, Boston, London, 2007)

*Reviewed by Timothy Fohl*

*House of Rain* is an unusual book. It is about archaeology but it is not an archaeological book *per se*. The author has written a number of books on aspects of southwestern United States and is a contributor to National Public Radio. While not an archaeologist, he has a deep interest in the peoples and cultures of the ancient Southwest and has participated in archaeological digs there.

In this book he describes several journeys. One journey seems to be a mental evolution away from the conventional archaeological ways of discovering the past to a more holistic and non-disruptive approach. In the prologue he describes finding, in an obscure canyon, an undisturbed storage chamber. He was alone and initially very excited by the

prospects of opening a cache of items as they were placed hundreds or thousands of years before. As he was about to break the seal it occurred to him that this was not his cache and he had no right to steal it. This epiphany led to writing this book and the approach described in it. He started trying to understand the cultures of the past by simply visualizing life in ruined pueblos. He worked on understanding spatial relationships of features of sites with each other, with astronomical events and with other sites. He also communicated with descendants of the ancient people and those who may have replaced them. He does not ignore what dirt archaeology and other scientific approaches like remote sensing can say about the cultures, but most of what he describes are personal perceptions and the circumstances in which he perceives them.

The circumstances are fascinating and sometimes frightening. I don't know if he has seen too much *Indiana Jones*, but he often approaches sites in a way that seem reckless to the point of folly. For example, his entrance to Chaco Canyon consisted of him and a companion jumping into a flash flood filled with mud, trees and heavy currents and floating five miles into the canyon. In another dramatic entrance he and another person slid in near free fall down a thousand foot slope covered with snow and ice late on a winter afternoon. I have been in that area and if they had been injured, they very well might have died because nobody would find them. How they got out as night fell is left to the imagination. There are other literal cliff hangers. It does make exciting reading.

Another journey is more of an actual trip. Sometimes alone, or with his wife and children and other companions, Childs follows what he thinks are some of the migrations of ancient peoples from about 1300 years ago essentially to the present. They start in the Chaco area and travel north into the Mesa Verde area of southwestern Colorado. From there they move west into Utah and then south into Arizona and ultimately into northwestern Mexico. They travel in various vehicles and sometimes on foot, stopping at most of the well-known sites and also many places that are not explored. They look at artifacts that are exposed but do not take much if any. At some places they get involved in active digs and some reburial of looted remains. They have many conversations with local people, some of whom describe ancient concepts that are still current.



### **CHAMPLAIN'S DREAM**

By David Hackett Fischer (Simon & Schuster, New York, New York 2008)

Reviewed by Kathy Fairbanks

A new biography, *Champlain's Dream*, by Brandeis History professor David Hackett Fischer, is the most substantial work on the explorer in many years. Fischer's previous book, *Washington's Crossing*, received the Pulitzer Prize, and one can well imagine this book earning another one.

Though Samuel de Champlain in his many writings, says virtually nothing about himself (one reason for the scarcity of close-up bios), there is a tremendous record of what he did, as Fischer shows and thoroughly documents. Of its 834 pages,

265 pages are specialized appendices, notes and bibliography. The index is so finely-tuned that researchers will want to keep it around for reference. Many of the primary source maps and drawings are by Champlain himself. The scope of the whole is a swath through Spanish, Bourbon, and Stuart colonization, and eastern North American history. The depth and detail of every part of this book is totally engrossing.

In spite of his untitled beginnings, Champlain enjoyed an easy entree at the court of French King Henri Quatre. That fact has enhanced the mystery about him. Considering some of the circumstantial evidence that Fischer lists, we wonder when DNA detectives will begin clamoring for tests.

Soldier, shipmaster, explorer, cartographer and artist, it still was his status at court that enabled him to travel as an honored observer on a Spanish ship visiting Spain's colonies in the New World. Champlain witnessed the heartless exploitation of the Indians in Florida, Mexico and South America. His secret report to Henri detailing this abuse of Native peoples seems to have helped shape a very different policy, truly Christian and humane, for the French colonization of Canada.

Champlain drew on his personal diplomatic skills among Indians and investors, traders and noblemen, missionaries and workmen. All this was in the service of his "... dream of humanity and peace... He envisioned a new world as a place where people of different cultures could live together in amity and concord." (Fischer)

An abridged edition is already out for pleasure readers. What would be helpful to history buffs is a companion volume of the maps and illustrations. Those are small in the original book and need a magnifier for details. It would be another boon if the Web address of The Jesuit Relations could be included in the refs. This primary source is published free on-line in several languages:

<http://puffin.creighton.edu/jesuit/relations>

## **Massachusetts Archaeological Society**

### **70th Annual Spring Meeting**

**When:** Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 10AM-4PM

**Where:** New Bedford Public Library,  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

**Who:** Everyone is welcomed to attend and enjoy a day filled with new information about Massachusetts Archaeology and History

Registration begins at 9:30AM: \$10 for MAS members & \$12 for non-members

Contact Diane Pereira at [drgypsy@comcast.net](mailto:drgypsy@comcast.net) with any questions regarding the event.

# **MAS Semi-Annual Meeting Program**

## **Centuries of Massachusetts History Revealed Thru Recent Archaeological Research**

In the heart of downtown New Bedford, one can see history and the hard work of an amalgam of cultures in the beautiful 19<sup>th</sup> century architecture that lines the cobblestone streets. The mansions lining County Street and the West End stand as testimony to New Bedford's heyday when the city bustled with wealthy Victorians and their opulent lifestyles. In its day, it saw the likes of Hetty Green, once the richest woman in the world, and Frederick Douglass, a former slave and abolitionist. From atop Union Street, the expansive view takes in Buzzards Bay, a major part of the whaling and fishing industry that's taken place here over the past two centuries, and the setting for the opening of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*.

Centuries of immigrants have settled along New Bedford and its surrounding areas, finding employment primarily in the fishing industry or in the textile mills that still line the city. But New Bedford and its environs contain a wealth of history and archaeological data that go even further back. Come enjoy lectures from professional archaeologists and historians who have devoted their time and lives pursuing their archaeological passion. Seven presentations will highlight recent research in Massachusetts, including the following topics:

### **Inscriptions of Dighton Rock - Dr. Manuel Da Silva - Physician and Historian**

Dr. Da Silva will demonstrate, by epigraphic analysis using night photographs, his claim that the original inscriptions on Dighton Rock were made by Miguel Corte Real in 1511. He will also provide evidence that the octagonal Newport Tower and the Ninigret Fort were built by the Portuguese navigators. Finally, Dr. Da Silva will show anthropological intercourse between the Portuguese sailors and the Wampanoag Indians of New England by discovering that many toponyms and proper names thought to be Indian, which have Portuguese origin. Who are the two personalities of the City of New Bedford who played a very important part in the history of Dighton Rock?

### **Archaeological Surveys of Dartmouth and Westport: Site Preservation at the Community Level - Holly Herbster (PAL)**

PAL has conducted numerous town-wide archaeological surveys in Massachusetts during the past 15 years. Recent work in Massachusetts has included community-wide archaeological reconnaissance surveys for the towns of Dartmouth and Westport. The Dartmouth and Westport surveys have collectively resulted in the identification of more than 100 previously unrecorded archaeological sites in these communities. These assessment and overview survey reports provide a planning tool for town administrators to consider in long-range planning and community development.

### **Underwater Archaeology: 17<sup>th</sup> Century Nipmuc Mishoons in Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester - Victor Mastone, Director and Chief Archaeologist, Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources**

This presentation highlights a joint effort between the Nipmuc Nation and the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources along with several other collaborators. To date, three *mishoons* or dugout canoes have been located in Lake Quinsigamond, Worcester. They appear to have been purposefully sunk. One was radiocarbon dated to the 1640s. Volunteer divers working for BUAR are creating photo-mosaics of these *mishoons*. Their discovery, the collaboration and documentation efforts, and future directions will be discussed.

### **Taylor Farm - Bill Taylor, MAS Trustee, and Jeff Boudreau, MAS Official Photographer**

The Taylor Farm site (MHC #19-PL-165) is located on the south side of the Taunton River in Middleboro, Massachusetts. It lies across the river from the well-known Titicut and Seaver Farm sites along with a number of lesser known sites. Like these related sites, artifacts recovered from Taylor Farm indicate a succession of occupations from the Early Archaic up to Contact. This area of the Taunton River drainage has a remarkably rich archaeological record, including an unexplained concentration of Early Archaic bifurcated points. An overview of this area is offered with a focus on artifact recoveries from Taylor Farm.

### **Our Ancestors' Legacy - Donna Edmonds Mitchell, a.k.a. Words in the Wind (Minoweh Ikidowin), direct descendant of Dr. William P.P. Perry of Watuppa Reservation, Fall River**

Is our past ever lost or does it transcend through the bloodlines of all generations? Donna will share her own personal story and the stories passed down through the Perry Clan of Watuppa Reservation in Fall River through oral stories, photos, letters, books, and personal stories.

### **Allen Mill Project - Kaitlin Deslatte - Independent Archaeologist and Researcher**

Recent Research at Allen's Mill in South Dartmouth Saw and Grist Mill will be discussed. This building has been in use for 400 years: 17th - 20th century. Historical Examinations of maps and deed records will be reviewed as well as the nomination process of the Mill to the National Register of Historic Places.

### **The Waite-Potter House: A Part of Westport Town History - Kate Johnson**

The Waite-Potter house was a Rhode Island stone ender built in Westport in the late 17th century. The site has long been an important part of Westport's town history, and the house's prominent place on the town seal is a testament to this importance. While the house itself was destroyed in the 1930s by Hurricane Carol, recent preservation efforts have successfully restored what remained of the house's two adjacent chimneys. While no archaeological excavations have been undertaken as of yet, this presentation will deal with the research, probable scope of excavations, and historical significance of the Waite-Potter site.

**Join the Massachusetts Archaeological Society in our 70th annual Spring event, where we will explore what the archaeological record really says about this beautiful part of the South coast. This event will be held at the New Bedford Public Library, a Greek and Egyptian revival granite structure that imposes itself upon the downtown area (see directions below). Registration begins at 9:30AM. Lectures begin promptly at 10AM. A 45 minute break at noon will allow for local sightseeing, whether it be the Seaman's Bethel or the New Bedford Whaling Museum, both within walking distance of the library - or simply a brief lunch at a nearby restaurant. Light refreshments will also be available.**

**From Boston:**

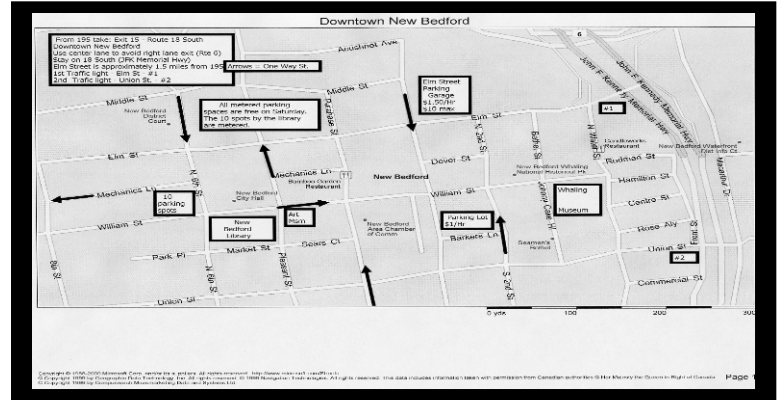
Route 93 South {13 miles}. Hwy. forks in Braintree; stay right.  
Sign reads: "93 South, Dedham-Providence." {3 miles}.  
Exit 4: Route 24 South: This is a left lane exit. {24 miles}  
Exit 12: Route 140 South {19 miles}  
Exit 2E: Interstate 195 East. {1.3 miles}  
Exit 15: Downtown - Route 18 South {1.1 miles}  
TURN RIGHT at lights onto Elm Street.(B Marker on map)  
Turn left at N 6th St  
Turn left at William St (C Marker on map below)

**From Cape Cod:**

Head southwest on US-6 toward Herring Pond Rd{3 miles}.  
At Bourne Rotary Circle N, take the 2nd exit onto the RT-25 W ramp  
to Boston/Providence{.9 Miles}  
Merge onto RT-25 W {8.7 Miles}  
Take exit 1 to merge onto I-195 W toward Providence RI/New  
Bedford{15.6 miles}  
Exit 15: Downtown - Route 18 South {1.3 miles}  
TURN RIGHT at lights onto Elm Street.(B Marker on map)  
Turn left at N 6th St  
Turn left at William St (C Marker on map)

**From Providence:**

Head northeast on I-195 E {29 miles}  
Exit 15: Downtown - Route 18 South {1.3 miles}  
TURN RIGHT at lights onto Elm Street.(B Marker on map)  
Turn left at N 6th St  
Turn left at William St (C Marker on map)



**The Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc.  
Robbins Museum of Archaeology  
P.O. Box 700  
Middleborough, MA 02346-0700**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #29  
MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA**