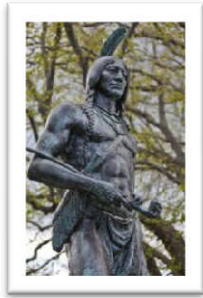
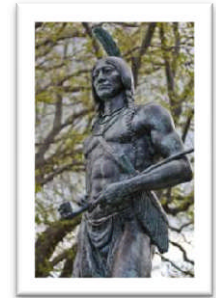


Massachusetts Archaeological Society



Massasoit Chapter

Discover—Method—Record



Massasoit Chapter History

The Massasoit Chapter was formed in February of 1940, originally designed as Group 7. Chairman Jesse Brewer invited a number of interested people from the local area to attend a gathering at his home in Plymouth.

Fourteen people responded to the call with three guests to hear Maurice Robbins, President of the Southern District, give a short talk on the goals of the newly formed “Society”. This was the beginning of the practice of meeting on a monthly basis, in the homes of the chapter members, a practice still carried on by the Massasoit Chapter, seventy-one years later !

The enthusiasm of the first members of the Massasoit Chapter is illustrated by the minutes from a January 1943 meeting: “Due to the ban on gasoline, some of the Members of the Massasoit Chapter walked two miles to the chapter meeting, others came by bus.” We take pride in the fact that this kind of loyalty and enthusiasm still exists in our chapter.

The Massasoit Chapter’s first excavation in the Plymouth area was on the property owned by Mr. R. B. Avery. It began in the summer of 1940 under the guidance of Maurice Robbins and Doug Byers. There were additional local ‘Digs’ in Plymouth, Carver, Kingston and Duxbury.

Many of the more important recoveries from these sites were reported in the Massachusetts Archaeological Society Bulletin with excellent illustrations by William Fowler of the Bronson Museum. The Bronson Museum was located in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The museum lost it’s building lease and most of the Bronson Museums artifacts were moved to the Robbins Museum of Archaeology.

Because of the location of the Massasoit Chapter, past research projects and excavations were confined mainly to coastal plain sites.

Highlights of the Massasoit Chapter

The discovery of one of the few copper axes was recovered in Southern New England at the Powers Shell Heap Site in Kingston.

The Swan Hold Site in Carver.

The Heritage Hills Site in Plymouth, that was presented to a semi-annual Massachusetts Archaeological Society meeting in 1975.

A illustrated site report from a shell midden excavation in Duxbury.

A Salvage Excavation of an extensive Archaic-Woodland site in Kingston.

The Vanguarders of the Massasoit Chapter

Jesse Brewer, Charles Sherman, Charles Sanderson, Adrian Whiting, Willard Whiting, William Whiting,

Richard Bent, Edward Borgatti, Lillian Chauvin, Andrew Dietlin, Ralston Burgess, Edward Bielski,

Elizabeth Hanelt, Russell Homes, Judith Facchini, Dennis Martin, Bernard Otto.