



**SOCIETY for
HISTORICAL
ARCHAEOLOGY**



The SHA Newsletter

Quarterly News on Historical Archaeology from Around the Globe

This Issue

- 2.... President's Corner
- 3.... 2018 SHA Awards & Prizes
- 10.. 2019 SHA Conference Call for Papers
- 17.. Current Research
 - 18.. Africa
 - 21.. Canada - Québec
 - 24.. Continental Europe
 - 25.. USA - Midwest
 - 31.. USA - Northeast
 - 33.. USA - Pacific West



2018 SHA Awards & Prizes - pp. 3-9.



Historical Archaeology in Ghana - pp. 18-21.



Battlefield Archaeology in the Czech Republic - pp. 24-25.



SHA 2019
St. Charles, Missouri
January 9-12
St. Charles Convention Center

sailing canallers.

A detailed report containing a site report for *Grace A. Channon*, as well as the Great Lakes regional context on sailing canallers, was submitted to the National Park Service in September 2017. Text has been drafted for an update to the Multiple Property Documentation *Great Lakes Shipwrecks of Wisconsin* (Cooper and Kriesa 1992), adding details on sailing canallers to the property type “sailing vessel,” and will be brought before the Wisconsin State Review Board for discussion in the near future. ❧

USA - Northeast

Connecticut

CTDOT Archaeological Investigations at the Jackson Street “Dog’s Nest” Site (submitted by Leonard Bianchi and Jean Howson, NV5-Connecticut, LLC): The Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) recently completed archaeological investigations at the site of a forgotten residential neighborhood between the Pan Am railyards and the Naugatuck River south of the I-84/Route 8 “Mixmaster” in the city of Waterbury. While this area today appears as a set of desolate and nondescript abandoned industrial pads tucked away in a difficult-to-access corner of the city, from the middle of the 19th to the early 20th century it was a vibrant neighborhood of first- and second-generation Irish and Italian immigrants. Closed in between Waterbury’s coal-fired gasification plant, the New York and New England Railroad, and the Brown & Brothers Brass Rolling Mill, and with the industrial wastewater coursing directly through their backyards in what was called the Manhan Canal, Jackson Street was not exactly prime real estate.

The Jackson Street community had a reputation for alcoholism and violence recognized as far away as Bridgeport, where the *Bridgeport Herald* in 1898 referred to it disparagingly as the “Dog’s Nest” and called it “one of the worst [neighborhoods] to be found anywhere.” Nevertheless, census records and other documents inform us that these people contributed to the 19th-century growth and prosperity of Waterbury and the state of Connecticut as a whole by working at the local brass mills and as laborers at various other factories in the city. They became citizens, and in many cases landlords, proprietors, and entrepreneurs in their own right, sometimes working out of their own homes. Within their community they often maintained the language of their country of origin, retaining and passing on key elements of their homeland lifeways that were eventually incorporated into what we consider to be “American” culture today. Despite marginalization, ill-treatment, and bigotry, and being left to live in unhealthy and even dangerous conditions, they survived and passed on their legacy. When the railroad and gas works expanded further into the neighborhood after 1904, however, the inhabitants of the Jackson Street “Dog’s Nest” were increasingly driven



FIGURE 1. Excavation on interior of foundation at former 23 Jackson Street. (Photo by Jason Nargiz.)

out. By 1917 insurance maps show no homes remaining in this area. The residents presumably dispersed into the burgeoning suburbs and many may well have descendants residing in various parts of the city to this day.

Through the CTDOT archaeological efforts, carried out by NV5 cultural resource consultants under the Section 106 federal mandate to identify and evaluate impacts to historic properties, investigators aimed to learn even more about how Waterbury’s 19th-century immigrants survived in the face of adversity. Excavations revealed no fewer than eight building foundations still intact beneath an area that will soon become a temporary freeway bypass during renovations to the Route 8/I-84 interchange. The building foundations were constructed of varying quality, as expected, but all had cellars. The homes were of substantial size and probably housed multiple families. Several had running water and septic drainage systems. Artifactual remains so far have revealed the presence of horses for transportation, widespread use of medicinals, indications of tobacco and alcohol use, work boots and industrial implements, and occasional luxuries such as molded glass. Ceramic holy water fonts also attest to the neighborhood’s Catholic heritage. Somewhat to the disappointment of the investigators, only one vertical shaft feature was discovered, possibly representing a ‘dry well’ placed for drainage purposes.

Though the area has now been backfilled in preparation for the upcoming construction, NV5 filmed a short documentary summarizing excavations at the site that should become available on the internet for public viewing

in the near future.

New Jersey

Searching for an Elusive Revolutionary War Fort: Monmouth University's Summer 2017 Field School (submitted by Richard Veit, Adam Heinrich, and Sean McHugh): Monmouth University's summer 2017 field school was a cooperative project between Monmouth University's Department of History and Anthropology, Rutgers University-Newark's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the National Park Service. It was directed by Richard Veit, Ph.D., Adam Heinrich, Ph.D., and Sean McHugh, M.A., all of Monmouth University. We were working in conjunction with Jim Harmon of the National Park Service and Lee Slater, Ph.D., of Rutgers Newark. Lee was assisted by Pantelis Soupsis of the Technical Educational Institute of Crete. Monmouth University staff for the field school included photogrammetry expert Jennifer Swerida and crew chiefs Safa Akhtar, Stephanie Codling, Casey Hannah, Eric Lauenstein, Evan Mydlowski, and Kristen Norbut. Ten Monmouth University undergraduate students and eight graduate students participated in the project. We were assisted by numerous ASNJ volunteers, including Steve Santucci, Sevrice Corson, Darryl Daum, Chris and Rebecca Brown, Jason Wickersty, and others. Fieldwork took place in May and June of 2017. The project focused on Fort Hill and associated camps in the Jockey Hollow area of Morristown National Historical Park and was designed to determine the extent and integrity of the archaeological deposits on Fort Hill, while testing the value of remote sensing techniques, most notably induced polarization, a form of resistivity.

Fort Hill is the site of a relatively unknown Revolutionary War fortification constructed in 1780 on the orders of General Anthony Wayne. It has been described as "the least known and least visited historic site in Morristown National Historical Park" (Olsen n.d.). The winter of 1780 saw a portion of the Continental Army encamped at Morristown. These troops included the Pennsylvania Line, including Hand's Brigade, which huddled on Fort Hill and included two Pennsylvanian and two Canadian regiments. In December 1780, Wayne described his plans for the site as follows: "I traced out a kind of Citadel consisting of three small redoubts—the whole joined by a stockade" (Olsen n.d.). Shortly thereafter construction began, with approximately 100 men assigned to work on the site. Local civilians were also employed hauling logs. A contemporary description noted that "the works go on so briskly that I hope in a few days we shall be able to bid the enemy defiance. Our works on Mount Kemble consist of two small redoubts and a blockhouse that will contain about forty men—the six pieces of artillery are to be stationed there" (Olsen n.d.). However, construction appears to have stopped when the Pennsylvania Line mutinied on 1 January 1781. It is not clear that any further work took place at the fort.

Indeed, the site was largely forgotten until the Reverend Joseph Tuttle visited the site in the 1850s (Figure 1). He described it as follows: "At the East and Northeast on the



FIGURE 1. An illustration of Fort Hill from the 1850s. Note the similarity between this image and the following image showing the cleared site today. (Figure courtesy of Morristown National Historical Park.)

top of Fort Hill are some remains not like those we had previously examined. They evidently were not the ruins of breast works, but seem to have been designed to prepare level places, for the free movements of artillery; and a close inspection shows that cannon stationed at those two points, on the hill top would sweep the entire face of the hill, in case of an attack. This undoubtedly was the design. In the immediate vicinity, are the remains of quite a number of hut chimneys, probably occupied by a detachment of artillerymen" (Tuttle in Olsen n.d.).

At the beginning of the project, the site was heavily overgrown and obscured by large fallen trees. After extensive clearing (Figure 2), a 10-meter grid was laid out across the approximately 2-acre site. Geophysical surveying was carried out across the site, and shovel tests were excavated on the grid points. Twenty-six shovel tests were excavated. Sadly, no artifacts were recovered from the shovel testing. Four one-meter-square excavation units were then excavated in order to investigate features identified during the geomagnetic survey. No cultural remains were noted. The entire site was then metal detected, with trained teams of detectorists working on each block. Only a handful of artifacts were recovered from the metal detecting. They included U.S. coins from the 1960s and early 1970s, possibly lost by individuals visiting the site during the Bicentennial, and a large iron chain link that is not temporally diagnostic, but could be associated with the construction of the fortifications on the hill.

Although subsurface archaeological work was not especially revealing, two rough stone gun platforms were visible and were carefully mapped and photographed. A third possible gun platform was also noted. It, too, was mapped and photographed. Photogrammetry was performed on the gun emplacements.

At this point, the survey switched to the sites of the huts noted by Reverend Tuttle on the slopes of Fort Hill. These are believed to be associated with either the Connecticut Line, which camped on the hill's slopes in 1779–1780, or the