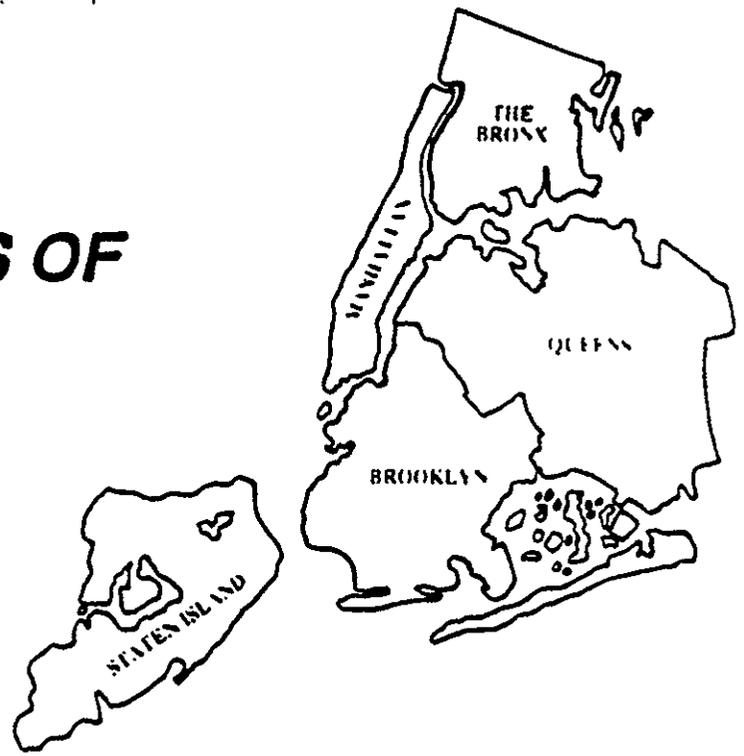


# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY



Newsletter No. 64

November 1993

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Material for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to Rebecca Yamin, editor, John Milner Associates, Inc., 1216 Arch Street, Fifth Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Material may also be sent via fax (215-977-7360).

\*\*\*\*\*  
NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 10 November 1993

1127 Graduate Center  
42nd Street between 5th and 6th Avenues  
Executive Board: 6:15 PM  
General Membership: 7:00  
\*\*\*\*\*

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting 22 September 1993

President Anne-Marie Cantwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. In Secretary Dublin's absence, Geismar recorded meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Harris reported balance of \$1,381.83. Reminders may be sent to lapsed members.

Secretary's Report: Accepted

President's Report: Cantwell thanked Rothschild for procuring meeting room at Barnard after Hunter, the planned meeting place, became unavailable at the last minute. She spoke to Landmarks regarding the issue of a site near the Brooklyn Ferry and was assured no archaeological resources would be disturbed. The Poillon-eguine house on Staten Island continues to be a problem: as reported at the last meeting, the house was badly burned (under suspicious conditions) and owner wants to destroy remainder. Archaeology an issue. Postponed from the September Landmarks hearing, but will come up again in October. Landmarks wants a meeting on the waterfront; Cantwell will set one up with Geismar, Dublin, and herself. Noted that the Greenwich Village Trust for Historic Preservation (6th Ave. & Greenwich Street) was planning a talk, "Greenwich Village Before Bohemia," at 1:00 PM on October 23, with Chris Moore one of the speakers, followed by a walk guided by Alan Newman. Also, a conference on "Archaeology of the Hudson Valley" to be held at the New York State Museum in Albany March 4-6, 1994. Cantwell asked Harris to report on situation downtown where Harris and Diane Dallal were called by Landmarks to assess problem of street excavation on Reade Street within the new Commons-Burial Ground Historic District, adjacent to the African Burial Ground. While no archaeological deposits were uncovered, the problem of overseeing sensitive city sites and the responsibility of the archaeological community is an issue. Board's recommendation that Cantwell write a letter to Laurie Beckelman, Commissioner of Landmarks, voicing PANYC's concern and urging that procedures for handling this kind of situation be put in place was approved.

Awards: Cantwell reminded the membership that there are now two awards, one for a student and the other for public service. Call for nominations will go out once Public Program date is decided. Nominations for the Public Service Award require documentation.

Burial Ground: Rothschild reported that issues dealt with by the steering committee, on which she served as a stand-in this summer, did not involve archaeology. Document went to Congress in August. \$3 million allocated for memorialization. Yamin noted that a test shipment of 13 skeletons was successfully sent to Washington. Plan is for 50 skeletons to be shipped each Friday till end of October. A major welcome planned at Howard University on the 23rd of October. Research designs continue to be an issue as does the repository for artifactual material from the Courthouse block. Suggested a letter be sent voicing PANYC's concerns that these artifacts ultimately come back to New York City.

Legislation: Question regarding status of proposed archaeology legislation on city property. Geismar, chair of the committee, was unsuccessful in finding this out in time for meeting (the office of Councilwomen Kathryn Freed, who has offered to sponsor the legislation in the City Council and has put the process in motion, was closed for the week). Geismar said she would look into the matter further.

**Native American Matters:** Cantwell reported a Sunrise Ceremony (8:00 AM) for repatriation of sacred objects planned in Central Park on October 9 (raindate October 10), sponsored by Elizabeth Sackler's group. Rothschild highlighted a call from Indian House to boycott Crazy Horse Malt Liquor.

**Newsletter:** Cantwell thanked Yamin for Newsletter.

**Public Program:** Stone given tentative dates of April 10 or 17 by Museum of the City of New York, both Sundays. Since the meeting is usually held on Saturdays, this will be clarified.

**Research and Planning:** Harris suggested Environmental Reconstruction as a far-reaching topic for a symposium. Considering February as a possible time.

**Special Publication:** "Archaeology of New York City" has been distributed and is selling briskly.

**Events Update:** Upcoming events, prepared by Linda Stone, are included in the PANYC Newsletter.

**Old Business:** Geismar reported on the African Burial Ground Competition Coalition of which PANYC is a part. After a slow start, the "Ideas" competition is picking up momentum. A poster has been printed, and registration packets are in production. Donadeo inquired about the status of the PANYC repository; Geismar offered to contact Marshall in this regard.

**New Business:** The New York State Museum is participating in the ISTE A funding program (see September NEWSLETTER); \$36 million to be distributed through organizations for research related to surface travel. Rothschild will be representing the museum at meetings that include the New York City region.

Next meeting November 10, at place to be announced. Meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Copy

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

18 October 1993

The Honorable Laurie Beckelman, Commissioner  
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
225 Broadway, 23rd Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Commission Beckelman:

I am writing about serious concerns that PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City) has about the protection of the African Burial Ground and the Commons Historic District.

This past August, Con Edison crews were performing emergency work on Reade Street in this Historic District. This work involved below ground activities that could have disturbed and destroyed any human remains that may have been there. Since the city has no regulations in place to protect the site in such emergency situations, two professional archaeologists, who happen to work in lower Manhattan, monitored the site at the request of New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. They did this on a volunteer basis out of their concern for New York's archaeological past in general and the Burial Ground in particular. This incident made us realize the serious need for established procedures to protect the African Burial Ground and the Commons Historic District in any such future emergency situations that involve below ground work. As you know, emergencies can and do happen 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We understand that the city is working on protocols for protecting the District. We urge you include in these protocols ways to ensure that the city will have appropriate and adequate archaeological expertise in place and available to handle emergencies such as the one this past summer. We will be happy to work with the Commission in developing such protocols.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for the work that the Commission has been doing not only to protect the archaeological concerns of this Historic District but of the city as a whole.

Sincerely yours,



Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC President  
Department of Anthropology  
Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey 07102

Copy

STATEMENT PREPARED FOR THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING 26 October 1993

Re: 941172 - Block 615, lot 19  
265 West 12th Street, Greenwich Village Historic District

Good Morning.

I'm Anne-Marie Cantwell, President of Professional Archaeologists  
of New York City (PANYC) on whose behalf I appear this morning.

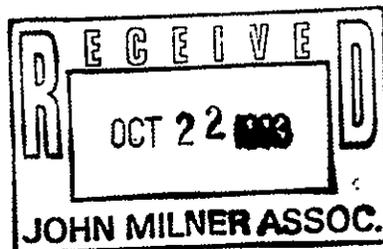
As you know, There have been a number of important archaeological  
excavations in back yards in Greenwich Village. These  
excavations have been of such consequence that they have have  
formed the basis of doctoral dissertations, masters' theses, and  
scholarly and popular articles. The results of the analyses of  
the sites have added significantly to our understanding and  
appreciation not only of Greenwich Village but of our city as a  
whole.

We are concerned that the proposed construction work in the back  
yard of this rowhouse might destroy equally important  
archaeological evidence in the form of privies, cisterns, etc. and  
we ask that you consider the impact of the construction work on  
any potential archaeological resources.

Thank you for your continuing support of New York City's  
archaeological heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Cantwell  
PANYC President  
Department of Anthropology  
Hill Hall  
Rutgers University  
Newark, New Jersey 07102



COPY

STATEMENT PREPARED FOR THE NEW YORK CITY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION  
COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING 26 October 1993

Re: 922759 - Block 5195, Lot 6 Poillon-Sequine-Britton House  
361 Great Kills Road

Good Morning.

I'm Anne-Marie Cantwell, President of Professional Archaeologists  
of New York City (PANYC) on whose behalf I appear this morning.

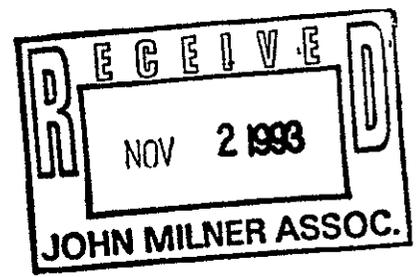
As you know, the Poillon-Sequine-Britton House is very important  
in the history of our city. Its importance, however, lies not  
only in the standing structure, but also in the equally important  
below ground archaeological resources. This house was occupied  
continuously for nearly three hundred years. Therefore, the  
grounds of the property are almost surely archaeologically  
sensitive, with the potential to yield valuable information about  
centuries of life on Staten Island. Although we have expressed  
our concerns about the site in the past, we feel it important to  
communicate them again at this hearing.

We urge you to take into account the important archaeological  
issues that are involved in this historic property.

Thank you for your continuing support of New York City's  
archaeological heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Cantwell  
PANYC President  
Department of Anthropology  
Hill Hall  
Rutgers University  
Newark, New Jersey 07102



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CALL FOR PAPERS

NEW YORK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

1994 ANNUAL MEETING

The Inc. Orange County Chapter is hosting the 1994 Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association at the Eddy Farm Resort Hotel in Sparrowbush, New York on April 29, 30 and May 1, 1994. The 1994 conference will consist of paper sessions on Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The Hotel, a historic 19th century structure situated on the Delaware River in a magnificent scenic area, will once again serve as the conference headquarters.

NYSAA members are invited to submit abstracts for papers on any subject of interest in prehistoric or historic archaeology. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes in length: a Kodak slide projector and a screen will be provided. Presenters are urged to use illustrative material. Abstracts must be received by March 1, 1994 for consideration and for program listing.

Please send abstracts to:

Edward J. Lenik, Program Chair  
c/o Sheffield Archaeological Consultants  
P.O. Box 437, 24 High Street  
Butler, N.J. 07405-0437  
Telephone: (201)492-8525 (Days)

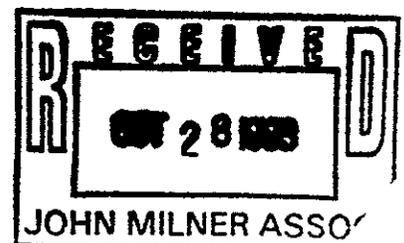
# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 1994 BERT SALWEN AWARD FOR THE BEST STUDENT PAPER ON NEW YORK CITY ARCHAEOLOGY

A prize of \$100.00 will be awarded by Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) to the author of the best student paper on New York City archaeology. Although preference may be given to papers written using materials from contract archaeology projects in the city, the competition is not limited to such research. Both graduate and undergraduate students are urged to apply. Papers should not be longer than 50 pages and must be submitted in duplicate. The deadline for submission is March 1st, 1994. Please send manuscripts to Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC Awards Committee, Apt. 5C, 14 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, New York 10009. The Bert Salwen Award will be presented at the annual PANYC Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York on May 14, 1994.

PLEASE POST



# PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

## ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

### NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR SPECIAL PANYC AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY A NON PROFESSIONAL TO NEW YORK CITY ARCHAEOLOGY

PANYC (Professional Archaeologists of New York City) is pleased to request nominations for a special award honoring non professional archaeologists, individuals, or institutions who have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of New York City archaeology. Please send letters of nomination documenting the nominee's qualifications to Anne-Marie Cantwell, PANYC Awards Committee Chair, Apt. 5C, 14 Stuyvesant Oval, New York, New York, 10009. Nominations must be received by March 1st 1994. The award will be presented at the PANYC Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York on 14 May 1994.

# The Archeology Of New York

The best way to understand New York is through its history, people and the changes it has undergone through the centuries. Through illustrated slide presentations we will come to know New York in a way we never have. **3 Mondays at 8:15 PM**

November 1

## **The Changing Shape Of Manhattan Island**

Since the early 1700s, the size and shape of Manhattan have been altered drastically, through landfill and other means. The changes themselves, as well as archeological remains, tell us much about New York through the centuries.

Speaker: **Joan Geismar, Ph.D.**, archeological consultant, has conducted archeological investigations throughout the five boroughs, with particular attention to Manhattan's changing shoreline, land reclamation and urban life.

November 29

## **The Dutch of Nieuw Amsterdam**

Much of what New York is today—a multicultural city of commerce—can be traced directly to the influence of the Dutch settlers. Working from both the archeological and written archival evidence, learn about Manhattan's Dutch past and its continuing impact on the City.

Speaker: **Charles Gehring, Ph.D.**, is director of the New York State Library's New Netherland Project which is responsible for translating the official records of the Dutch colony.

November 8

## **Native New Yorkers**

People have been living in New York City for at least 12,000 years. Despite this, we know relatively little about the early inhabitants and their life and culture. Archeological records and early European documents shed light on their lives.

Speaker: **Robert Grumet, Ph.D.**, anthropologist with a specialization in ethno-history and archeology; author, *Native American Place Names in New York City* and *The Lenapes*.

**Subscriptions: \$42**

**Tickets: \$16**

**Tickets available  
At the Box Office  
Or Call Y-Charge  
(212) 996-1100**



**CENTER FOR ADULT  
LIFE & LEARNING**

*The 92nd Street Y is an agency of UJA-Federation*



*The National Organization of Minority Architects  
The Municipal Art Society of New York  
and the African Burial Ground Competition Coalition  
are pleased to invite you to a reception celebrating the commencement of*

## ***The African Burial Ground Memorial Competition***

***Thursday, October 7, 1993***

***6:30 p.m.***

***The Municipal Art Society's Urban Center  
457 Madison Avenue (at 51st Street), New York  
Reservations required: 212 935 3960***

**Keynote address by The Reverend Doctor James Forbes  
Entertainment by Bobbi Humphrey, jazz flutist**

**Exhibition of original paintings by New York public school children  
featuring the African Burial Ground on view at the Urban Center**

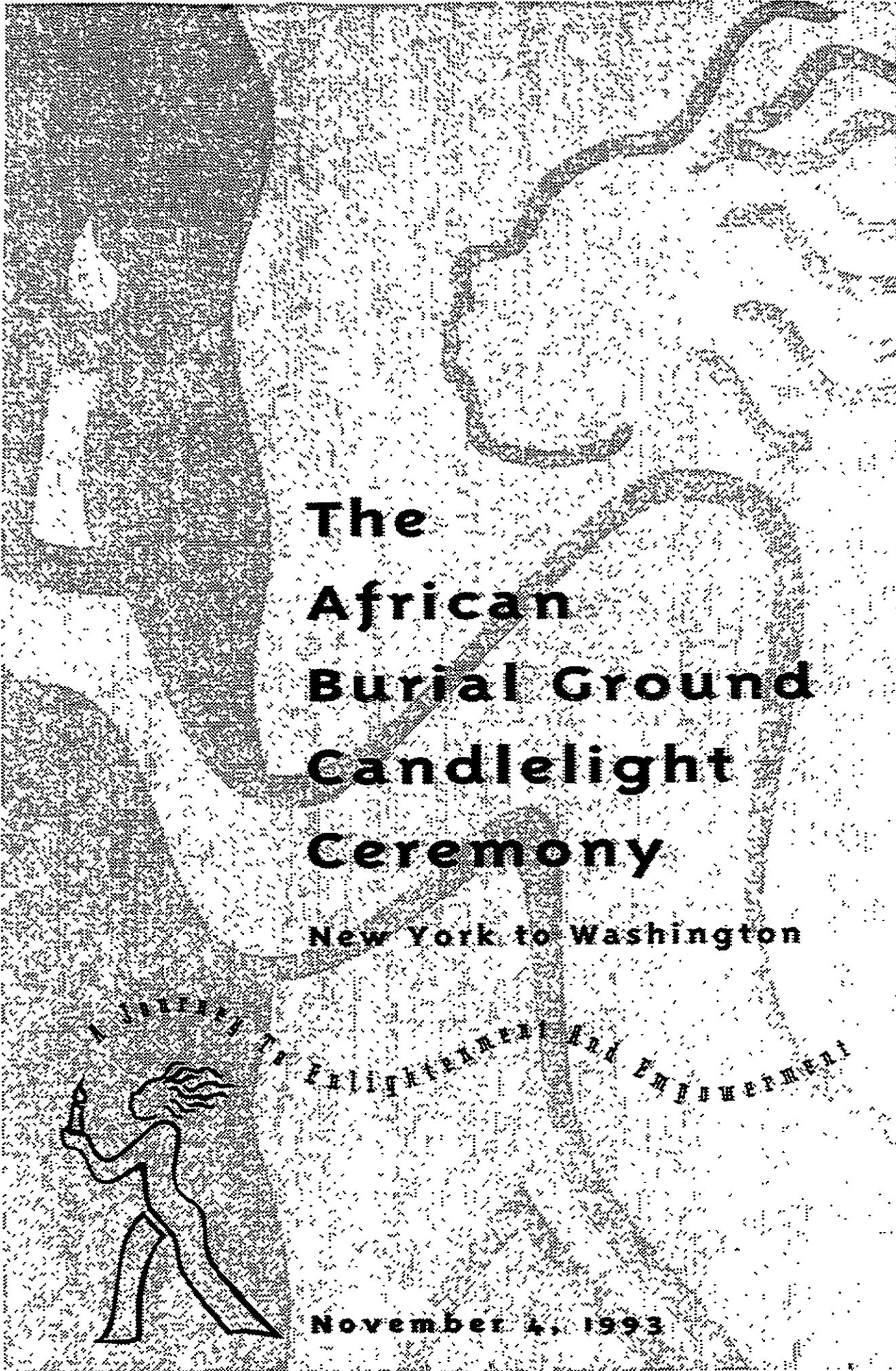
**October 7 through October 27, 1993**

***Exhibition sponsored by Linpro New York Realty, Inc.***

***The African Burial Ground Competition Coalition is the New York Coalition of Black Architects / National Organization of Minority Architects (NYCOBA/NOMA), the Municipal Art Society, Minority Environmental Lawyers Association, City Club of New York, Metropolitan Black Bar Association, New York Environmental Justice Alliance, and Professional Archaeologists of New York (PANYC).***

***Contributions for the Memorial Competition will be accepted.***

***Generous support for this program is provided by Darryl E. Greene & Associates, Inc., Santa Fe Construction, Inc., and the Thacker Organization.***



**The  
African  
Burial Ground  
Candlelight  
Ceremony**

**New York to Washington**



**November 4, 1993**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

The African Burial Ground  
Candlelight Procession and Ceremonial Tribute  
November 4, 1993  
5:30 P.M.

Program

Pouring of Libation and Performances  
at Duane and Elk Streets

NANA NII AKOTWEI  
African Resource Organization

REJOICENSEMBLE    GREAT DIVAS OF GOSPEL    WOMEN OF THE CALABASH

Candlelight Procession  
to the Mariners' Temple Baptist Church, entrance at 12 Oliver Street

Ceremonial Tribute  
Worship Leader  
REVEREND CAROLYN HOLLOWAY

Prayer Offerings  
DR. ABD' ALLAH ADESANYA    NANA NII AKOTWEI    REVEREND HENRIETTA CARTER

Reading of the Holy Word

Welcome  
REVEREND DR. SUZAN JOHNSON COOK  
Senior Pastor of Mariners' Temple Baptist Church

HONORABLE DAVID N. DINKINS

Master of Ceremonies  
REVEREND DR. M. WILLIAM HOWARD, JR.  
President, New York Theological Seminary

Statement of Purpose  
DR. HOWARD DODSON  
Chief, Schomberg Center for Research in Black Culture

DR. MICHAEL BLAKEY  
Project Director of Archaeological Research, The African Burial Ground Howard University

Musical Selections  
ODETTA  
NOEL POINTER

**\*\*REMARKS\*\***

SHELDON TURNUPSEED  
Actor, Childrens Television Workshop Production, "Ghost Writers"

DR. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE  
Professor Emeritus, Africana & World Studies, Hunter College

DR. ADELAIDE SANFORD  
Regent, New York State Board of Regents

MS. ASIBA TUPACHACHE  
Matinecoc, Educator

Closing Selection    Benediction    Moment of Silence    Recessional

Reception

The Federal Steering Committee extends special thanks to Mr. Ben Glascoe and Con Edison, Ms. Romi Howard (cover design), Barfield Public Relations, Ms. Che DeLeon, Ms. Cassandra Agard, Ms. L. Malone, Mr. Lee Dunham, Marion Smalls, Sylvia's, Copelands, T. J.'s Southern Cuisine, Pan Pan, Jamaican Hot Pot, 22 West, Koryo's, Carribean Pavillion, New World Cuisine, Harlem Travel, and the numerous other establishments, participants and persons who committed their time and effort to help make this event a success.

# A Staten Island State of Mind

Development changes a rural area. But some like the old ways.

By JANICE FIORVANTE

**T**he transformation of a borough is being played out in Rossville. This is evident in the way residents speak of their Staten Island community. There's an old Rossville and a new Rossville.

Old Rossville is rich in tradition but its vestiges are fast disappearing. New Rossville has taken shape over the last few decades as developers have discovered the area.

Rossville on the southwestern shore of Staten Island, was originally called Blazing Star, after its Blazing Star Tavern of American Revolutionary times. The old ways of Rossville survived well into the 20th century. Christy Cugini, Staten Island district superintendent of schools, remembers a hitchhiking post outside a local bar. And Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Community Board 3 district manager, lived on a two-acre farm where she raised horses and dogs until a recent move.

Even today it's not uncommon to see horseback riders or signs denoting horse farms and trails. Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve in nearby Charleston, one of the few state parks within city limits, has trails for horseback riding alongside hiking trails.

Some blame the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and Brooklynites for ruining old Rossville. Others cite the West Shore Expressway, which opened in 1976 and cut through the community, destroying some of the Victorian homes in its path. Until that highway, older residents complain, Rossville was countrylike, quiet and charming.

The expressway made it easier to find Rossville. Starting in the late 70's new developments have risen. One of the largest developments in New York City, Woodbrooke, started the change. Construction on the huge project began in 1979 and ended in 1991 for a total of 1,200 town houses and semi-attached one- and two-family homes.

With development have come shopping centers, more transportation for commuters in the form of express buses to Manhattan and housing for young families.

Susan Coscia, although a relatively new Rossville resident — she's lived there for nine years with her husband, Vincent, and their two children — resents "the continuing development of the area." "We moved for the countrylike atmosphere and the continuing building is ruining that Rossville," she said.

New developments and more families have had their effects. While schools in Rossville are praised for academic achievement, student crowding is an ever present problem.

"PS 38 can no longer accommodate all students," Mr. Cugini, the School Superintendent, said. "We are rehusing some at P.S. 4, which has a little more room." He likened the process to a chess game, recalling that just two years ago students were moved from P.S. 4 into P.S. 38.

Mrs. Coscia knows the school crowding situation well. "My son, Vincent, who is 6, started at P.S. 38 two years ago," she said. "Now that my 5-year-old daughter, Serafina, is starting school, I was concerned whether one or both would be moved." Siblings at the same school were allowed to stay together, however.

The crowding may be eased, but not for a few years. In August \$3.2 million was allocated to design two new elementary schools on Staten Island. One of them, to be designated P.S. 59, would be for Rossville. The long-proposed 900-seat school is scheduled for Woodrow Road and Walnut Avenue. The earliest year by which it can be completed, however, is 1997.

Besides P.S. 4 and 38, there are two junior high schools — I.S. 34 and 75 — as well as Tottenville High School. "All hover in the top schools' list for the city," Mr. Cugini said.

An exchange program has been a highlight for I.S. 34 and 75. "Ten kids from 75, two from 34 and another two from I.S. 34 spend 10 days in Tokyo attending local schools and students from Tokyo come here," Mr. Cugini said. He praised this as an exceptional program that had helped the students build lasting friendships. "With the internationalization of our world, this type of program is invaluable to students," he said.

New Rossville may think global, but old Rossville was more introspective. The story of Sandy Ground, a community within Rossville, illustrates this.

Sandy Ground is one of the oldest continuously occupied settlements in the country founded by free blacks. They came from Delaware, Maryland and Virginia in the 1830's — oystermen who were being pushed out of the trade there. Raritan Bay off Staten Island was rich in oysters and Sandy Ground grew into a self-sufficient community.

**B**UT oystering ended in 1916 when the city condemned the oysterbeds as polluted. Sandy Grounders turned to farming. Both white and black residents commented that blacks and whites had always lived and worked together harmoniously in Rossville.

A fire in 1963 that destroyed 12 houses thinned out the community of Sandy Ground. Today, a cluster of descendants — 20 families — live there. The A.M.E. Zion Church, established in 1850 when 150 families called Sandy Ground home, is still the community's spiritual and social center. The church building was erected in 1897, and it attracts Sandy Grounders who have moved but return for Sunday services and special occasions like the annual barbecue.



Flowers sit atop fence pillars at 766 Woodrow Avenue

Sandy Ground is listed on the National Register as a site of archeological importance. This national historic designation does not prohibit development, but it calls for builders to conduct archeological surveys and record historical data before altering any section of the area.

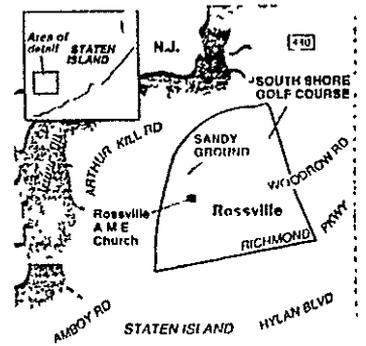
The Sandy Ground Historical Society was founded in 1978 to preserve some reminders of the past in the face of development. The Sandy Ground cemetery has been designated a landmark by the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. The society has acquired a historic house for its headquarters at 1538 Woodrow Road, part of the original Sandy Ground settlement.

This microcosm of Rossville exhibits the same strong family ties and cultural pride as the larger community, but today, with new homes surrounding older ones, residents of old Rossville bemoan the encroachment.

"The new developments aren't built to fit in with the character of the area," said Yvonne Taylor, a Sandy Ground descendant and past president of the historical society.

Development of condominiums, town houses and semi-detached homes has been slowed by the recession but shows no signs of stopping. "Building continues today," said Lydia Raguetti, the broker owner of the Raguetti Realty Corporation on Amboy Road, "but the original builder may have gone bankrupt and another is finishing the development. Six, seven years ago I could have sold a shoebox today, the units are selling for less." For example, town houses with decks and small backyards, which would have sold for \$130,000 to \$140,000 in 1989 at the height of the market, now sell for \$119,000 to \$125,000, Mrs. Raguetti said.

And financial and other problems can slow construction. A case in point: One young couple contacted to buy a town house in Rossville a year ago and it is not yet built.



The New York Times

rented a studio apartment to them because they've just married," Mr. Raguetti said. The builder has promised their house will be ready in seven months.

Town houses range in price from \$100,000 to \$150,000. Mrs. Raguetti said. But that's not the whole new construction story in Rossville. There also are detached one-family center-hall colonial houses being built and sold for \$250,000, she said.

Two family houses are semi-attached and detached, range from \$195,000 to \$399,000, according to Mrs. Raguetti.

**R**OSSVILLE Shuts the Woodrow Shopping Plaza. A new Community Board 3 is headed by the Woodrow Shopping Plaza. Kin Dunlop, woman clothing shop, (shop) deli, two banks, hair salon, and other businesses there.

Last month Mayor David Dinkins announced plans for a major renovation of shopping center on 140th Street, bounded by Arthur Kill Road, Highland Avenue, and Woodrow Road in Rossville. The shopping complex, expected to open in early 1995, will be anchored by the first New York outlet of the Price Club warehouse chain.

Woodrow Road, main street, has contributed its name mainly to the Woodrow Shopping Plaza, currently in area. Large 4, but also to a portion of Rossville. The separation of the area into Rossville and Woodrow is about 15 years old. Mrs. Fitzpatrick of Community Board 3, who links the growing use of the Woodrow name to new development, the Lambik Woodrow United Methodist Church, (founded in 1771) may account for the fixation of the name.

Restaurants in the area include the Century Inn, with sign that reads "I established 1870 Proctor Cup Smoozer." The carved bar and passed the ceiling are highlights of its interior. The Old Broadway Inn is a seafood pizza restaurant anchored in the former grocery store. The South Shore Country Club restaurant, which serves, 1992 and 1993 food is at the 18-hole club South Shore Golf course. New development and new families come more cars, putting a burden on roads. Community Board 3 has put the construction of Woodrow Road (Woodrow Rd and Rossville Avenue) on a priority. The project is already completed for Woodrow Road. Mr. Fitzpatrick said. All to be used in the area.

## On the Market



Center-hall colonial, at 52 Gunton Place, priced at \$499,000



Three bedroom single-family, at 823 Rossville Avenue, priced at \$210,000



Two bedroom condominium, 619 Correll Avenue, priced at \$92,000

## GAZETTEER

POPULATION: 4,983 (1990 census)  
AREA: Two square miles  
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME: \$51,934  
MEDIAN PRICE OF A ONE-FAMILY HOUSE: \$270,000  
MEDIAN PRICE OF A 2-FAMILY HOUSE: \$320,000  
MEDIAN PRICE OF A 2 BEDROOM TOWN HOUSE CONDO: \$120,000  
MEDIAN PRICE OF A 2 BEDROOM, ONE LEVEL CONDO UNIT: \$95,000

MEDIAN RENT OF A 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT: \$650  
DISTANCE TO MIDDTOWN MANHATTAN: 40 miles  
RUSH HOUR COMMUTATION: An hour by Academy Bus from Rossville Avenue to midtown Manhattan, \$4 one way  
CODES: Area 718, ZIP 10309  
GOVERNMENT: City Councilman Alfred C. Cerullo 3rd Republican Conservative  
AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR: At the Rossville A.M.E. Zion Church's Founder's Day Flea

Market and Barbecue on Sept. 18, an unexpected visitor showed up — the 85-year-old Joseph Mitchell. He had written a New Yorker article about Sandy Ground in 1956, entitled "Mr. Hunter's Grave," which included in his recent book "Up in the Old Hotel." Yvonne Taylor, past president of the Sandy Ground Historical Society, said Mr. Mitchell, still an active writer, had asked questions about the community and implied that he might write a follow-up on it. George H. Hunter died 25 years ago. His burial in the church cemetery.

# Expert says cemetery dig will end in time for arts center construction

By CARYL R. LUCAS

The head of an archaeological team digging up remains from a 19th century cemetery in Newark said yesterday the project would be completed in time for next month's groundbreaking of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Barry Greenhouse, whose consulting firm hired the team to excavate 50 graves at the old Trinity Episcopal Church, said the archaeologists have had sufficient time to examine the small dig, and that it is time for the remains to be relocated and the area paved over for the NJPAC.

Several of the 30 archaeologists have said state and federal guidelines, which allowed a six-week study of 20 percent of the cemetery, was insufficient.

"My understanding is that there is a concern that the 20 percent sampling requirement is not adequate," Greenhouse said. "If it were up to a few people, I'm sure they would want 100 percent sampling."

However, Greenhouse added the excavation of the church cemetery off Rector Street will conclude in time for the NJPAC groundbreaking.

The project began in May, when workers demolished the abandoned Military Park Hotel to clear a major portion of the 12-acre site that is to accommodate the complex.

The past four weeks, Greenhouse said, workers have uncovered remains from 50 graves, and some empty grave shafts. He added relics found include a few headstones, medallions, false teeth, a woman's hair comb, buttons, coffin nails and glass plates.

Greenhouse said the 20 percent of graves to be examined by archaeologists was a "sound number to provide a sufficient analysis."

But some of the researchers disagreed.

"You either do archaeology or you don't do archaeology. None of this in-the-middle stuff," said Michael Swanton, one of 10 crew chiefs at the three-quarter-acre site.

Under state and federal guidelines, the archaeologists and anthropologists will examine other materials they uncover, with all the remains to be returned to the church, said Gail L. Thompson, vice president of design and construction for the NJPAC. Federal law requires such study at all government construction sites to preserve articles of historic value.

Trinity Cathedral, the church's forerunner that sold the downtown plot to the state earlier this year, had bodies disinterred and moved to the city's Fairmount Cemetery in 1966 to make way for a parking lot.

Dean Petero Sabune of Trinity Episcopal Church said the cathedral's members were buried in the cemetery from 1809 to 1897.

He said records show 100 to 250 bodies were buried there, some in a section that was excavated in 1941 to build church offices, an auditorium and gymnasium. Remains of about 45 bodies were moved to another cemetery at that time, added the church dean.

Responding to the concerns expressed by some of the archaeologists, Thompson said, "We are just as concerned the remains don't be bulldozed. We have really done everything to take all perspectives into mind."

Thompson added, "We are absolutely committed in meeting the state's requirements in excavating the cemetery in doing the sampling. We also will respect the church's wishes."

THE STAR-LEDGER, Wednesday, October 20, 1993

## Archeologist cites project threat

By MICHAEL A. WATTKIS

A member of the archeological crew digging up remains from a 19th-century cemetery in downtown Newark has filed a criminal complaint against the head of the crew, who he said offered him a bribe to "sign off" on the dig and fired him and threatened him with a handgun when he refused, police said.

A warrant was issued earlier this month for the arrest of Barry Greenhouse, whose consulting firm hired a crew of 30 archeologists to excavate 50 graves at the old Trinity Episcopal Church cemetery, said Detective Derek Glenn, a police department spokesman.

The criminal complaint filed by William Gossett charges Greenhouse with making terroristic threats and possession of a handgun, Glenn said, noting that other charges are pending. The suspect was still at large.

The remains at the old cemetery on Rector Street are to be relocated and the area paved over for the New Jersey

Performing Arts Center. Glenn said that on Oct. 1, Greenhouse invited Gossett to a restaurant in the Robert Treat Hotel where he offered him a bribe to "sign off the project and get it over with."

Gossett told police that he refused Greenhouse's offer and walked out of the restaurant with his boss in pursuit. While walking back to the excavation site, about two blocks from the hotel, Gossett reported, Greenhouse threatened to harm him and his wife if he didn't cooperate and later fired him.

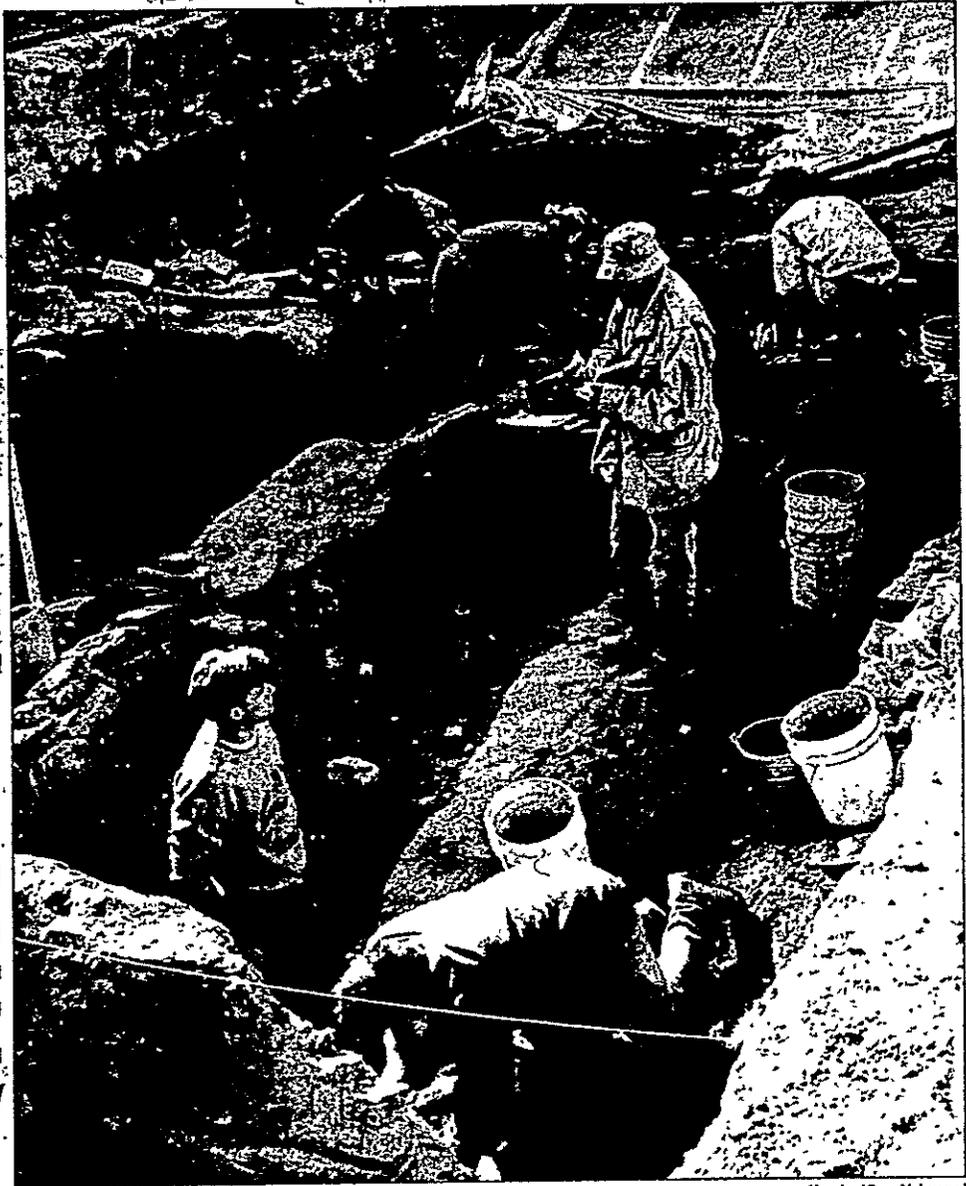
Greenhouse last month disputed some of the archeologists who complained that state and federal guidelines allowing a six-week study of 20 percent of the cemetery allowed insufficient time.

He countered that the time period was enough and promised to have the site ready for groundbreaking this month.

# FIRST BLOODS: THE DISCOVERY OF 'LITTLE AFRICA'

When the remains of colonial-era Africans were unearthed in lower Manhattan two years ago, it proved that black people had established a community in New York — before they were even considered Americans.

NATHAN JACKSON/STAFF WRITER



Newley/Oswe Muhammad

*"Now after seventy-five years have passed: The bones of these forgotten victims of the revolution are shovelled up by Irish laborers, carted off and shot into the sea, as the rubbish of the town. Had they been white men's relics, how they would have been honored with sumptuous burial anew, and . . . with prayers and preaching of Christian divines! Now they are rubbish of the street."*

— The Rev. Theodore Parker of Boston for an historical sketch, circa 1855; from exhibit at the Tribeca 148 Gallery.



**T**HOUSANDS of black Americans, touched by the discovery of their ancestral remains when the Revolutionary-era African Burial Ground was excavated nearly two years ago in lower Manhattan, will take to the streets tomorrow evening to pay tribute to a "burial anew."

Starting at 7:30 p.m. at the corner of Duane and Elk Streets, right behind City Hall, and continuing on to the Mariner's Temple Baptist Church on Henry Street, the Federal Steering Committee on the African Burial Ground is holding the African Burial Ground Candle Light Ceremony. The procession bears the subtitle, "A Journey to Enlightenment and Empowerment," because it is intended not only to mark the transferral of the remains of New York's African Burial Ground to Howard University for research, but also to offer New York's black community a fresh view of their role in making history.

Many major politicians and civic leaders, along with community members, will be in attendance. In a city that is at least 25 percent black, the importance of the burial ground's discovery — to see that a "Little Africa" existed here long before, say, nearby Little Italy, and that New York City was built on the backs of free and enslaved Africans — is immeasurable to many people who hunger for their rightful recognition.

Interest in African participation in the city's history has been galvanized by the unearthing. "I'm seeing thousands of people per month on the tours that I do now," said Sherrill Wilson, direc-

tor of public information and education for the General Services Administration. "There is a demonstrated need for this information. Before the African Burial Ground was found, I believe if you asked ten people, all of them would think that New York's African history began in Harlem. Few people have been taught about colonial Africans."

A walking tour of the African Burial Ground by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation heretofore attracted about 15 to 25 people. Now it routinely draws five times as many. They visit, some with tears in their eyes — black, white, male, female, and from all boroughs — feeling the impact of what the small piece of land represents.

And the excavation has inspired a number of art exhibitions, including a current one at the Tribeca 148 Gallery, 148 Duane St., entitled "Reflections: A Legacy Unearthed: Discovery of the Duane St. Burial Site." The gallery is filled with art inspired by the burial ground, which is a couple of blocks away.

Politicians, community leaders, artists, anthropologists, archeologists and historians were electrified by the October, 1991, find. People of many religions and ethnic backgrounds have shown up



Newsday/Osler Muhammad

Workers in 1991, at left, at the African Burial Ground in lower Manhattan, above, officials examine the excavation at the construction site of a federal building. Tomorrow's vigil will mark the removal of the remains of slaves for research

at the site to perform rites over the graves.

"The African Burial Ground offers proof of what has indeed been our role in New York and America," said Howard Dodson, director of the Schomburg Center for Black Culture and Research. "Our role and social influence was a well-kept secret. Now we have the kind of evidence that establishes Africans as having a prior claim — a real investment in America."

With the ancestral history of a major community in New York on the line, it would seem that the greatest care would be taken with the African remains, which were found when ground was broken for a new federal office building near City Hall in October, 1991.

But, "There has been tremendous pressure put on the archeologists at the burial site," said writer Christopher Moore, who can trace his lineage back to the first black New Yorkers and is preparing a book about his family. "This is the largest government construction project since the building of the Pentagon. Were talking about three hundred million dollars. The work had to get done."

Some had complained from the beginning about the excavation project being put in the hands of the government's General Services Administration (GSA). "But this was government land purchased from the city in 1986 and it was their call to make," said David Kutz, who is producing a documentary about the burial ground. "The black community was up in arms against anyone white being in charge of anything that had to do with their ancestors — with some justification."

**A** NUMBER of archaeologists, conservators and civic leaders pointed out neglect — verging on abuse — by the GSA and its construction companies. One example is the wholesale removal of bones from the site, a technique known as the "coroners approach," where bones and dirt are shoveled in large quantities and sifted later. State Sen. David Patterson (D-Harlem) put an end to that approach through his burial ground task force.

In February, 1992, it is estimated that at least 20 graves in the cemetery were uprooted by construction workers in an apparent

effort to lay the foundation for the new 34-story federal building. GSA said the damage was accidental.

"African Americans know better than to trust the same government that enslaved them to look after the remains of the ancestors that they enslaved," said Bob Law, a political activist and radio personality on WWRL. "We don't expect that the same people who suppressed our history are now ready to honor it."

"It was [mainly] the African-American community that continually stopped the abuses at the burial ground," said Gina Stahlnecker, an aide to Patterson. "Although the committee people were predominately African-American, there were many others like PANYC [Professional Archaeologists of NYC] who are mostly white females and attended every meeting and were the impetus for Congress getting involved and forcing GSA to adhere to laws and give proper respect to our ancestors."

But the GSA's Wilson says that the agency has come a long way since the excavation began. "Unquestionably GSA made many large mistakes in the beginning but they've made great strides to clean it up," Wilson said by phone. "They have put African-Americans in leadership positions." Blacks are involved with the steering committee, the information and education task force, and with the care of the remains at Howard University.

"The significance of the burial ground is greater than we could have guessed before," said Wilson. "This is the first time that we can tell our own story. The bones will tell us all that history couldn't so far. The record of Africans in New York is so distorted, this gives us a chance to know what life was really like for colonial Africans."

That significance will be celebrated in Washington, D.C., on Friday at the university, where Patterson will address dignitaries as they honor the arrival of the remains at Howard, where the bones will begin to tell the story of African life in colonial America. ■

For more information on tomorrow's candlelight ceremony, call the Office for the Federal Slave Burial Grounds at (202) 788-1897, ext. 101.



HE skeletons are stored in huge, gray-metal lockers that scale the height of all four walls. Room 007, in the basement of the Gym Building at Lehman College in the Bronx, is where the remains from the African Burial Ground, discovered in 1991, have been housed for over a year.

Despite the room's intriguing number and profound and sacred cache, its plainness makes for an anticlimactic encounter.

Professionals from the worlds of science and the arts are working together on this City University campus in the Bronx in a ground-breaking endeavor. With almost miraculous success, they are transporting to Howard University in Washington, D.C., the remains of almost 400 human beings excavated from the graveyard of enslaved colonial New York Africans.

The bones were discovered when ground was broken for a new federal office building in lower Manhattan. The bones, the only physical evidence of 18th Century black slaves in the United States, are expected to yield information about their diseases, origins in Africa and work.

It is, necessarily, painstakingly slow work. In silence and with the focus one finds in a surgical theater, small and large bones are placed in large boxes buttressed by as many as four different types of foam.

Stretching down the middle of the room is a long table on which a five-member team diligently packs the remains of colonial-era Africans.

The remains were brought to Lehman because it is the home base of MFAT, a private forensics company that was initially hired to do the scientific analysis. However, the company did not have much of a background in African and African-American bio-history, and had no blacks on its staff. After a series of mistakes, concerned members of the black New York community urged that a qualified black scientist should lead the project. In June, 1992, MFAT was out, and Michael Blakey, a physical anthropologist at Howard University in Washington, D.C., was appointed as the African Burial Ground's scientific director.

But ever since the announcement that the analysis would be done at Howard University, there has been a debate as to whether it was possible to transport the bones to Washington.

The fear voiced by scientists was that transporting the bones would turn them into powder (After being stored in a rather arid environment at Lehman College, the bones have become so brittle that on occasion they have crumbled in people's hands.) Enter Artex, a fine-arts moving company in Silver Spring, Md. Since 1990, Artex has been transporting unique and delicate materials up and down the East Coast.

"Nobody has tried to do a move of this size or complexity before. To my knowledge the fine arts and the archaeological communities have not worked together," says John Jacobs of Artex. Adds Ronny Long, a black employee of Artex, "I feel like I have a purpose here. It's a challenge because each burial is unique."

# BONES OF CONTENTION

BY RODGER TAYLOR

there were weeks of conversations and meetings between the Artex packers and handlers and Blakey, osteologist John Null, and conservators Gary McGowan and Cheryl La Roche. On Sept. 13, a test shipment was made. "Thirteen burials were chosen," Blakey recalls. "We intended them to be a representative sample of those excavated at the site. . . . When they arrived, we were very pleased to see that there was no damage. We examined them with a magnifying glass and there was absolutely no change in their condition."

But between the anthropologists and conservators, the trial shipment caused some tension. "Even though the partnership between these two groups of scientists is still evolving, each has not been clearly understood by the other," says conservator La Roche. Conservators' allegiance is to the material; their primary concern is preservation.

Anthropologists are interested in the analysis of the material they're working with. There can be some "acceptable" level of damage.

Last spring, when a group of anthropologists serving as a peer review committee suggested that the



Michael Blakey, the burial ground's scientific director, talks to workers at the site.

remains should be moved to Howard, Blakey decided to take the Artex approach: The remains travel to Washington in a 22-foot-long museum-specified truck equipped with climate control, hooking and clipping features and air-rod suspension, which is critical because it reduces shock.

"Watching that first test shipment of remains arrive at Howard was by far my best moment on the project," says La Roche.

"As the truck entered the walkway that leads to Frederick Douglass Hall, where the lab is located, Doctor Blakey came running down the block after it," La Roche recalls. "I was, like, 'Michael, you're really excited about this.' I'm happy for him. It's been a long struggle to get to this point."

Blakey has been traveling up to Lehman on Mondays, from where, as of today, the last of the burials is being transported. He projects that once all the remains get to Howard, cleaning them will take about two years and the analysis could take five or longer. When the analysis is completed, the remains will be taken back to African Burial Ground to be reburied. ■

Rodger Taylor is a free-lance writer and a volunteer on State Sen David Patterson's (D-Harlem) burial

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the organization's purpose and meets the following criteria:

A. Applicants must hold an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., S.Sc., or official A.B.D.) from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classical studies, or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.

B. At least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience are required. Requirements for field and laboratory analysis may be met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set by the Society for Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).

C. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on an individual basis.

D. Applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership. Members receive the Newsletter and other PANYC publications.

E. Applicants should submit a statement of purpose that includes their interest in New York City archaeology. Members of PANYC have a commitment to protect and preserve the city's archaeological resources and to support research and encourage publication of information recovered from those resources. Members will not engage in illegal or unethical conduct involving archaeological matters. PANYC is not an accrediting organization and is not to be used as such.

We invite anyone interested in New York City archaeology to subscribe to our Newsletter and attend our general membership meetings and annual Public Symposium.

If you are interested in joining PANYC or would like to subscribe to the Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to: Susan Dublin, PANYC Sec., Dept of Anthro. Suny Purchase, 735 Anderson Hill Rd. Purchase, N.Y. 10577

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