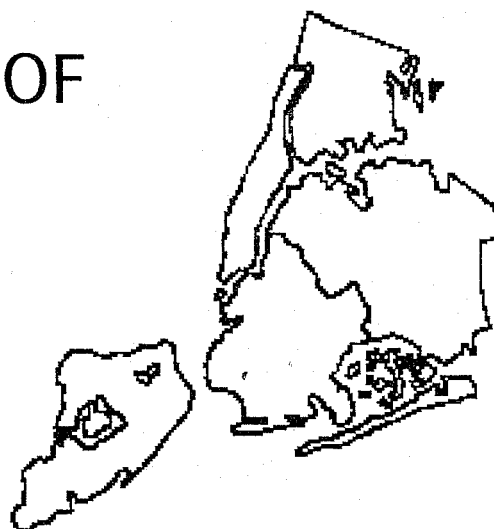


P ROFESSIONAL
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Newsletter NO. 79

February 1997

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Materials for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to:

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200 East End Avenue Apt. 2M
New York NY 10128

Home Telephone: 212 289-6337
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NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 1996

Room 1127 Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.

Executive Board: 6:10 P.M.

General Membership: 6:30 P.M.

PROGRAM:

"Geoarchaeology in NYC and Vicinity"

A Talk by

Joe Schuldenrein

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting 4 December 1996

President Joseph Schuldenrein called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. The following committees will report: Action, Awards, Events, Exhibit, Membership, Metropolitan Chapter NYSAA, Newsletter, Parks, Public Program, Repository, Research and Planning.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the last meeting were accepted with the following corrections: Under PRESIDENT'S REPORT: members of the Parks Committee should include Stone and Pickman. The sentence beginning "Geismar sent Heyl..." should be deleted. The committee pertaining to 106 regulations consists of Schuldenrein, Harris and Sutphin.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Stone reported a balance of between \$1100-1200 in the PANYC checking account. Secretary Dallal reported that dues reminders were sent out.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Schuldenrein stated that he wrote to Congress expressing PANYC's concern about the site in Albany. A copy of the letter will be included in the next PANYC Newsletter.

"Digging" activity at Stuyvesant St. and Third Avenue, a district long associated with the Stuyvesant family, was reported by Eric Byron, an avocational archaeologist, who attended the general membership meeting. Byron expressed concern that ongoing development and/or construction activity might impact original land surfaces and/or cultural remains. Byron stated that he attempted to contact several city agencies and archaeologists including Geismar who visited the site. Geismar stated that with the permission of local authorities, she "took a cut" in an area where an earlier profile had been done by a concerned archaeologist contacted earlier by Byron. Geismar reported that she observed a terracotta trolley conduit and apx. 6 1/2 feet of fill. Geismar learned that the property had not been "flagged" and an Environmental Assessment had not been undertaken. Byron expressed additional concern because digging was slated to begin in a contiguous area. Geismar's investigation indicated that DOT, Cooper Union and the Parks Dept. were the agencies involved. Schuldenrein commented that if there was no lead agency, "someone" had decided that an Environmental Assessment was not necessary. A major gap exists in implementing the compliance process in the city. PANYC must take a position -

forcefully putting some muscle into the legislation.

Schuldenrein reported that Bob Grumet would make a presentation at the end of the General Membership Meeting.

ACTION: Spritzer reported that Cynthia Blakemore, a Project Review Specialist at the NYS Office of Parks and Recreation, stated that New York City sites are not being reported to her office. Blakemore requested that PANYC members fill out special forms (which were distributed by Spritzer) for each site so that a site number can be assigned. Spritzer also reported that the Army Corps of Engineers is planning to fill 206 acres of wetlands in New Jersey with dredged and/or fill material. The Army Corps is offering a transcript of the Public Hearings. An order form will be included in the Newsletter for those interested.

AWARDS: Cantwell distributed announcements regarding nominations for the special PANYC Award for outstanding contributions made by a non-archaeologist to New York City Archaeology and for the 1997 Bert Salwen Award for the best student paper on NYC archaeology.

EVENTS: Stone reported that Harris, Rothschild and Pickman would present a paper January 9th at the New York Academy of Sciences. She also noted that an exhibit, "Treasures of the San Diego" would be available for viewing through September 28th at The Philippine Center, 556 Fifth Ave., btwn. 45th and 46th Sts. (The San Diego was a Spanish merchant galleon sunk in Manila Bay while battling Dutch forces in 1600). Also see Newsletter.

EXHIBIT: Stone reported that she sent out a letter appealing for funds for the PANYC exhibit, "We Dig New York: The Professional Archaeologists of New York City, opening at the MCNY April 2, 1997. To date, \$800 (including PANYC's contribution) had been collected.

LEGISLATION: see President's Report regarding Eric Byron. Geismar stated that the climate was complex and that she, President Schuldenrein and the committee would meet.

MET CHAPTER NYSAA: Stone reported that future Met Chapter speakers will include Eugene Boesch, Cheryl LaRoche and Joan Geismar who's talk on 19th Century Archaeology in NYC will be used to initiate a dialogue among chapter members. It is hoped that eventually, this mixed group of interested lay people, avocational and professional archaeologists will formulate a document expressing their concern that 19th century archaeological resources are being given short shrift by the city. Dallal will host the May meeting at "New York Unearthed."

PARKS: Geismar reported that she wrote to Scott Heyl of the Historic House Trust and sent him a copy of "New York City Parks and Recreation Properties, Borough of Brooklyn, Preliminary Archaeology Assessments" prepared by PANYC.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: The Public Program, "Finding Vanished Voices:

Excavating 19th Century New York," will be co-sponsored by the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, Sunday, April 13th 1996, 1-5 P.M.

REPOSITORY: Yamin volunteered to serve on the committee.

RESEARCH AND PLANNING: Harris will step down. The committee which now includes Schuldenrein, Klein, Yamin and Rothschild will meet regarding the symposium, "Academic Training and Preparation for Careers in CRM," which will focus on the gap between academic training and "real life."

PROGRAM: Bob Grumet told the membership of a new volume, "The Archaeology of Greater New York" which he is editing. An outgrowth of "The Buried Past: An Archaeological History of Philadelphia" published by U. of Penn. Press, the perspective volume is one of six in a series on the Archeology of Great American Cities. Wall and possibly others will be contributors. Grumet has asked PANYC to review and provide final comment on the New York Volume. Schuldenrein said that PANYC will make a decision about the scope (if any) of its involvement at the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, Diane Dallal, PANYC Secretary 1996-7

Archeologists • Geomorphologists • Planners

*environmental archeology • cultural resources compliance evaluations
preservation planning • historic landscape analysis • public presentation*

September 27, 1996

Ms. Bernadette Castro
New York State Commissioner
Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
1 Empire State Plaza
Albany, N.Y. 12239

In Re: Resolution on Implementation of Historic Preservation Procedures
and the New York State Dormitory Expansion Project - Albany, New York

Presented by: Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC)

Dear Ms. Castro:

PANYC is the central organization of Professional Archaeologists in New York City. At our Executive Board Meeting on September 25, 1996, it was brought to our attention that the New York State Dormitory Authority has scheduled the imminent construction of an office building in downtown Albany at the location of a major historic archeological site encompassing seventeenth century Fort Orange. This is a critical cultural resource of unusual significance to the State of New York. It is a non-renewable resource and one that will effectively be inaccessible and unknown to the people of New York if adequate archeological investigation is not undertaken. Preservation in place has been invoked as the procedure that will be followed by your offices to secure preservation of the site. However, it has become clear that the implementation of the phased and state approved procedures for archeological investigation have not been followed in this instance, since neither the site's depth or extent have been adequately investigated. The perceived violation of protocol has resulted in the professional decision of the archeological firm originally commissioned to undertake this work to decline to participate in its completion.

PANYC has reviewed the materials and records of the downtown Broadway excavation and resolves that the only appropriate procedure to follow in this and subsequent instances is the accepted industry standard for phased archeological investigation. We resolve further, that an approved Research Design and Scope of Work be implemented for compliance in accordance with New York Archaeological Council (NYAC) standards.

Typically three stages from Phase I (discovery), Phase II (assessment of size and significance) and Phase III (data recovery) are included in archeological site assessments. These are currently in place as the Standards for Cultural Resource Investigations that were drafted by NYAC and which were endorsed by Ruth L. Pierpont, Director of State Historic Preservation (SHPO) Field Services, in a letter dated September 20, 1995.

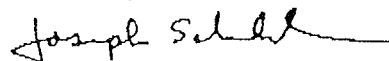
In sites as critical as that of the downtown Broadway site, the NYAC standards specify that an adequate research design be approved by the SHPO prior to implementation of data recovery. In the case of the Broadway site, Phase II was not instituted and the option to "preserve the site in place" is not viable since the dimensions and depth of the site are unknown. We can only conclude that adequate and SHPO endorsed procedures were not followed by the state for this project.

5912 Spencer Ave, Riverdale, NY 10471 (718) 601-3861 Fax (718) 601-3864
e-mail: <geoarch@aol.com>

We would emphasize that we take no sides with respect to the construction of the office building. The primary legislation that governs the treatment of cultural resources on the national and state levels specifically accommodates the needs of developers. It simply calls attention to the fact that cultural resource issues must be taken into account before construction schedules are finalized. It is clear that in this particular case the interested parties failed to integrate cultural resources concerns into the compliance agenda in a timely manner.

We urge your office to address these concerns for this project and to adopt these standards for future consideration. In this way it will be possible for developers and the archeological community to co-operate in ventures that benefit all sectors of our community.

Sincerely,



Joseph Schuldenrein, PhD
President
PANYC

cc: Senator Al D'Amato
Senator Daniel Moynihan
Governor George Pataki
Lieutenant Governor Betsey McCaughey Ross
Secretary of State Sandy Tredwell
N.Y. State Senator Joe Bruno
N.Y. State Senator Mike Hoblock
Executive Director of Dormitory Authority, John Buono
N.Y. Assembly Member Ron Canestrari
N.Y. Assembly Member John McEneny

DAVID A. PATERSON
SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEES
CODES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
ELECTIONS
HEALTH
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
MENTAL HEALTH
AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
RULES

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NEW YORK, NY 10027
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FAX (212) 678-0001

☐ ALBANY OFFICE
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LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2441
FAX (518) 432-8227

October 21, 1996

Hon. George Pataki
Governor
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12247

BY FAX

Dear Governor Pataki:

I was very disturbed to read the article in Monday's New York Times, "Albany Lawsuit Seeks Time To Dig for Dutch Artifacts," regarding the archeological discovery of the construction site of the Dormitory Authority headquarters in Albany. Disturbed, because of my own experience in helping to save the African Burial Ground, in lower Manhattan, from the bulldozers and backhoes of the United States General Services Administration. While that battle was surely prompted by the fact that the human remains at the site were of colonial era Africans, a part of our African-American heritage that had been little documented, the experience proved to me that every effort must be made to protect and study all of New York's archeological resources.

I'm sure that I don't need to tell you that the Dutch regarded Albany (Fort Orange) as a far more valuable colony than New Amsterdam, and consequently put more resources there. Any discovery of that colony, or its remnants, will give us a better understanding of New York's, indeed the nation's, history. New York's present day government, I believe, is obligated to explore and protect such valuable archeological resources.



Page Two/Archeology

I urge you, as Chief Executive, to provide for the protection and study of this archeological site and all recovered artifacts. I offer you any and all assistance that I might be able to give you in helping to accomplish this. I found that the formation of a group of community advocates, made up of a diverse cross section of citizens, helped bring about a fair and just solution in Manhattan's struggle. I found too, that setting aside a portion of the finished project as a museum or open view of the archeological dig, was a very appropriate way of making our history available to our entire community.

A window on our past is far too valuable to us to close it without a vigorous and thorough viewing, let us not pull down the sash too soon.

Sincerely,


David A. Paterson

DAVID A. PATERSON
SENATOR, 29TH DISTRICT
DEPUTY MINORITY LEADER



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

COMMITTEES
CODES
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
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RULES

October 23, 1996

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ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2441
FAX (518) 432-3827

Howell Raines
Editorial Page Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036-3959

Dear Mr. Raines:

I found the article, Albany Lawsuit Seeks Time To Dig for Dutch Artifacts, in Monday's Times a case of deja vu. It was only in October 1991 that a similar headline brought the African Burial Ground, in lower Manhattan, to the attention of many New Yorkers. It was through the efforts of the New York City community that that valuable archeological resource was saved and the human remains and artifacts found there given thorough study. What I learned from my involvement in the African Burial Ground struggle is that every archeological resource in New York State deserves full exploration and study, this window on our Dutch past is surely no exception.

The knowledge we gain through study of these resources helps us better understand ourselves, our ancestors and of course our history. In today's climate, it is important for all of us to understand that our nation is one of diverse backgrounds, encompassing many cultures and having many faces. Looking into our past, African, Dutch, Native American all the others who have left their imprints on our soil, leads to a more inclusive sense of our national identity. Being familiar with our past, hopefully, will make us more understanding of the diversity that surrounds us today.

I have written Governor Pataki asking him to give this discovery the full attention of New York State. I hope that he and other New Yorkers will seek fuller protections and means to study all State archeological resources, for as a wise person once said, "those who are ignorant of their history, are doomed to repeat it."

Sincerely,

David A. Paterson





NEW YORK STATE
OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

George E. Pataki
Governor

November 26, 1996

Joseph Schuldenrein, Ph.D.
President
Geoarcheology Research Associates, Inc.
5912 Spencer Avenue
Riverdale, NY 10471

Dear Professor Schuldenrein:

In response to your recent letter regarding the archaeological resources discovered at the site of the new corporate headquarters for the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), I am very pleased to inform you that the archaeological and historic artifacts will be appropriately recovered and preserved.

You are among a number of people and organizations that raised concerns over this important archaeological site. Thanks to the hard work of several parties, including the New York Archaeological Council (NYAC), the Attorney General's Office, the City and County of Albany, the Albany Local Development Corporation, DASNY and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the significance of the site has been fully recognized and appropriate treatments have been detailed through a negotiated agreement. Our staff, particularly Counsel Megan L. Levine and Chief Archaeologist Robert D. Kuhn, worked continuously with all the parties to develop this agreement, which does justice to historic Albany and furthers economic development in Albany today.

The agreement recognizes the historical significance of the site and outlines a formal plan for archaeological excavation, while allowing construction of the building to continue. The excavations continue to be monitored on a daily basis by Dr. Kuhn, and DASNY will issue regular public reports. I have enclosed copies of the two public announcements that have already been issued. A final report and public brochure, with text and photographs, will document the project.

Empire State Plaza • Agency Building 1 • Albany, New York 12238
518-474-0463 • FAX: 518-474-1365


Joseph Schuldenrein, Ph.D.

Page 2

November 26, 1996

With the help of all involved, we were able to balance the protection of our heritage with the pressing economic development needs of our State Capital. I share your concerns for the protection of our cultural heritage and thank you for taking the time to write.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bernadette Castro", written over a horizontal line.

Bernadette Castro
Commissioner

cc: Hon. Alfonse M. D'Amato

Enclosures

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

December 9, 1996

The Honorable Jennifer Raab
New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
100 Old Slip
New York, New York 10005

Dear Commissioner Raab:

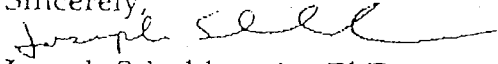
This letter is written on behalf of the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) regarding proposed development at 250 Water Street (Block 98, Lot 1; LPC Application No. 984075). PANYC is an organization whose charge is to monitor development projects in the New York City area and to call attention to endangered cultural resources when these are being threatened by development activities.

250 Water Street, located in the South Street Seaport Historic District, is potentially archaeologically sensitive, as has proven to be the case at nearby sites in and adjacent to the district. These include the TELCO, 175 Water Street, and the Assay sites, as well as buildings that are now part of the South Street Seaport Museum. Each has provided unique site-specific information concerning 18th and 19th Century development of New York City in general, and its once-great seaport in particular.

It should be noted that the original East River shoreline ran through Block 98, which suggests potential for preservation of native American resources and documentation of early landfill activities. Historically, the parcel was owned by Isaac Allerton and became the site of his 17th Century warehouse; it was later the location of Johannes Beekman's slaughter-house. These ownerships and occupations potentially render at least part of this block eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

We urge the Landmarks Preservation Commission to address the archaeological potential of this site in its project evaluation.

Sincerely,


Joseph Schuldenrein, PhD
President, PANYC

THE COUNCIL

October 30, 1996

Res. No. 1985

Resolution calling upon the New York City Parks Department to discontinue use as a playground of the site of the former African- and Native American cemetery located on the North side of 46th Avenue between 164th Street and 165th Street in Flushing and the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the cemetery as a landmark to assure it is a proper place in New York City's history.

By Council Members Harrison, Marshall, Pagan and Pinkett; also Council Members Fields, Leffler, Michels, Rivera, Robinson, Watkins, Williams and Abel

Whereas, Under Dutch, British and subsequent American rule, neither African- nor Native Americans were permitted to be buried within the limits of the Town of Flushing; and

Whereas, The Town of Flushing owned the site of the current Everett P. Martin playground, formerly known as Martin's Field, located on the north side of 46th Avenue between 164th Street and 165th Street in the Borough of Queens, which was one of only two parcels of land used as a burial ground for African- and Native Americans in the history of the Town of Flushing; and

Whereas, In 1936 the Board of Estimate authorized construction of a playground on that burial ground; and

Whereas, During construction of the playground there was overwhelming evidence, such as headstones, coffins, rare valuable coins and human remains, to identify the site as hallowed burial grounds; and

Whereas, This burial ground was substantially desecrated without regard for the sacredness and tradition in which it was held by descendants of the African- and Native Americans buried there; and

Whereas, In March of this year the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation hired an archeologist to initiate the first part of a three part archeological study to investigate the ground underneath the playground; and

Whereas, The first part, which is called a "Documentary Study", was completed in May of 1996 using City maps, death certificates and records of real estate transactions between the years 1840 and 1898; and

Whereas, The study confirmed that between 1840 and 1898 Martin's Field was used as a burial ground in which 62 percent of those laid to rest were Black, 34 percent were unidentified and more than half were children under the age of five; and

Whereas, A survey of the cemetery was published in 1932 by the Queens Borough Library in the "Private and Family Cemeteries", indicating four graves with headstones; and

Whereas, On October 22, 1996 an article in Newsday stated that the Parks Department does not concede the existence of the burial ground as quoted by Parks Commissioner Henry Stern to say "if there's something under there it shouldn't be disturbed" but that no project is planned for the site and "were not touching it;" now, therefore be it,

Resolved, that the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York City Parks Department to discontinue use as a playground of the site of the former African- and Native American cemetery located on the North side of 46th Avenue between 164th Street and 165th Street in Flushing and the Landmarks Preservation Commission to designate the cemetery as a landmark to assure it a proper place in New York City's history.

Referred to the Committee on Parks, Recreation, Cultural Affairs and International Intergroup Relations.

Spirit

WHAT'S UNDER CENTRAL PARK?

Armed with growing evidence that remains of a century-old village are buried beneath Manhattan's largest park, archeologists and historians want to excavate the site.

By MICHAEL ROTHFELD, P. 13

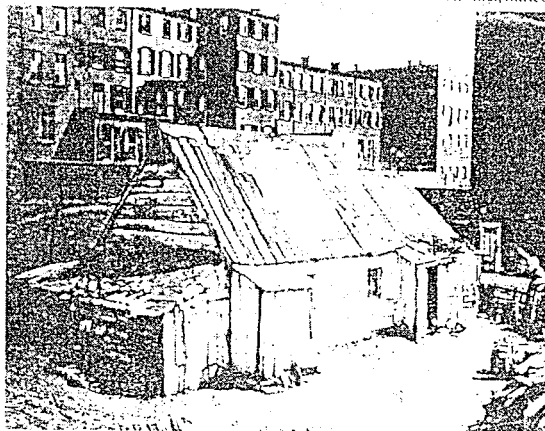
SARA CEDAR MILLER/CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY

RAIL TUNNEL PLAN BOOST FOR NADLER, P. 6 • ALLEGED SERIAL BANDIT BUSTED IN VILLAGE, P. 16 • 'MY LIFE IS EMPTY': NUISANCE LADY, P. 26

What's Buried Under Central Park?

Beneath bridle paths and baseball fields may lie the relics of a century-old village.

BY MICHAEL ROTHFELD



"These objects were sort of glistening in the ground," said Copeland, a curator of the New-York Historical Society's upcoming exhibit on Seneca Village. "One woman was wearing all white and she was on her hands and knees digging."

The pieces were analyzed by Diana Wall, an urban archaeologist and anthropology professor at City College. When the results came back, Copeland and her colleagues were amazed: some of the pieces were 150 years old.

The finds are part a growing pile of evidence suggesting there may be relics of Seneca Village, the predominantly African American community which existed from 1825 to 1857, buried beneath the bridle paths of Central Park. Entombed in the rubble, archaeologists believe they may find burial plots, parts of shanties, churches, stables, outhouses, housewares and other artifacts which could provide important details of the life of a community thrown off their land to clear the way for Central Park. But, they say, there is only one way to find out for sure.

"[It] would really be exciting to excavate," said Wall. "The artifacts they found in the ground were promising." Residents of Seneca Village, which occupied an area reaching from 81st and 85th streets, between where Sev-

enth and Eighth avenues stood in pre-park days, are often characterized as squatters in newspaper articles from the time when Central Park was built. But researchers of the community say that it was in fact a diverse village with three churches, homes of varying sizes and types, and that those who lived there were active throughout the city. Almost all black at first, a significant portion of the village's population was Irish by the time it was razed.

Chies that parts of Seneca Village may be preserved underground date back to August 11, 1871, when the *New York Herald* reported that park workers, while uprooting trees, had found two coffins containing decaying bodies at the corner of 8th Avenue and 85th Street.

The first, buried 14 inches deep, was described as "black rosewood coffin, richly mounted and in a state of good preservation." On the lid was a plate identifying the occupant as "Margaret McIntosh, died February, 1852, aged sixteen years, three months, and four days." The second, which was unidentified, contained "the body of a negro, decomposed beyond recognition."

A *New Yorker* article in 1959 identified the names of various sections of the park, including one called "Gilliooley's Burial Plot," at 85th Street north of West Drive, where a park gardener had once uncovered a skull.

"Further digging by the industrious Gilliooley disclosed a whole graveyard," the piece went on, "filled with the bones of tramps and squatters who had lived in the Park a hundred or so years ago." According to the article, the bones were later removed to a "more appropriate resting place."

Although there are no known pictures of Seneca Village, its shanties may have resembled this one from 19th century Manhattan.

Several years ago, an urban archaeologist named Scott Jordan found a small, unbroken bottle buried just under the surface in the same area, with the words "Seabury Laundry Bluing" inscribed on the side. The curators of the Historical Society's exhibit theorize this could have been used by Seneca Village residents while washing their clothes in the Croton Reservoir.

And Grady Turner, the other curator of the exhibit, said he recently located in Central Park the brick foundations of All Angels' Church, the largest in Seneca Village.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

Grady Turner and Cynthia R. Copeland, co-curators of the New-York Historical Society's Seneca Village exhibit.



Rebuilding Seneca Village

The last days of Seneca Village were 140 years ago, but for Grady Turner and Cynthia R. Copeland, those who live there are alive and well.

In two years of research, the curators of the New-York Historical Society's exhibit, "Before Central Park: The Life and Death of Seneca Village," have sifted through birth and death certificates, church registries, old city maps and countless other documents pertaining to the African American community which ex-

isted between 1825 and 1857.

Their work has added to the findings about Seneca Village published by Elizabeth Blackman and Roy Rosenzweig in their 1992 book, "The Park and the People." So far, Turner and Copeland have identified 600 former residents who lived where Central Park is now.

There's George Root, and his two-story frame house with a shed, barn and a stable. There's Andrew Williams, the first man to buy land there, who paid \$125 for three

lots. And there's William Godfrey Wilson, the sexton of All Angels' Church, among many others.

"You've got a bunch of people and pretty soon you've got this novel in your head," said Turner. "You're trying to keep all the characters straight."

The exhibit, which opens next Wednesday, January 29, recreates Seneca Village inside the museum's halls. In the first

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

MANHATTAN SPIRIT • JANUARY 24, 1997 • 13

WHAT'S UNDER CENTRAL PARK?

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Although the discoveries suggest that more may be hidden, Wall warns that it is impossible so far to be sure whether what's been found is from Seneca Village. It is not known whether the park's builders removed the existing ground or simply dumped more on top of it. The artifacts found by Copeland could potentially have come from landfill brought in from another area.

But staff members at the New-York Historical Society, who have researched Seneca Village for two years, believe that probing under the surface will shed new light. And they say that the current renovation of the Great Lawn, which borders the Seneca Village area, makes the moment right for an archaeological dig.

"We would like to explore the possibility of seeing if there are remnants of the Village down there," said Betsy Gotbaum, the Society's executive director and a former city parks commissioner. "It would give us great insight into the New York of that time and what was happening."

Deborah Kirschner, a spokeswoman for the Central Park Conservancy, which is overseeing the \$18.2 million Great Lawn renovation, noted that the two areas do not actually intersect. The Great Lawn was built over the former reservoir, while Seneca Village was to the west.

Although the Conservancy hired an

archeologist to make sure that no artifacts were disturbed or damaged, Kirschner added that excavation was not in their immediate plans.

"We have a project that we need to complete on time and on budget," she said.

But Parks Commissioner Henry Stern held out the possibility that a dig might be held, if one were proposed, in an area of about 20 square feet. He said there had been archeological explorations in the northern end of the park in the past.

"It's certainly possible to do a dig," Stern said. "As long as everything is nicely and neatly restored, no trees are damaged, and the people are responsible, I have no objection."

Other digs have been conducted in the city in recent years, most notably after an African burial ground was unearthed in

the City Hall area in 1991.

At Seneca Village, Wall said she would like to do an exploratory excavation at first, which she called "ground truthing," to see what might be there. Digging could be targeted at specific spots because maps from the time indicate where structures used to stand. If the findings were significant, she said, she would hope to conduct a full-scale dig of the village area, which covers about seven square blocks.

According to Wall, students from her field school and archeologists donating their time could be used to conduct the dig and minimal funds would be needed to fence the area off and conduct lab tests. Gotbaum said the Historical Society would try to raise money through private donations to fund the project.

Once an excavation was concluded, Wall

said, a decision could be made about whether to remove any findings or to leave them preserved in the ground, as some archeologists suggest that artifacts should be.

"From my perspective, it's important to see if there's something there in order to manage it and protect it," she said.

For others, like State Senator David Paterson, who is pushing for a dig at the site, an exploration would be an important way to commemorate a community that was vilified and evicted by the city officials who decided to build Central Park. Some have spoken of marking the area in the park where Seneca Village stood.

"It's an issue that's historical to all New Yorkers," Paterson said. "There's a lot of history and tradition that was not preserved because the nature of the way people were moved was unjust." ■

SENECA VILLAGE

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

room, visitors pass through "The Board Room," to see how the decision to build Central Park was made, apparently without consulting any of the people living there.

"The people who came up with the idea for Central Park spoke of themselves, not self-consciously, as 'the public,'" Copeland said.

Portraits of the city's cultural and political leaders will hang on the Board Room's walls, along with a history of the park, maps and design plans.

The next section, "The Village," modeled on West 55th Street, begins with the

community's three churches: All Angels', which was the largest, A.M.E. Zion and the African Methodist Unity Church.

"You're walking through and getting to meet the folks and institutions that helped to shape the community," said Turner.

There will be a tree where visitors can try to trace their lineage back to Seneca Village, along with displays of letters written by residents to protest the prices at which the city forced them to sell their land. Archeological finds from Central Park which date back to the period will also be exhibited. Hanging on the walls will be large copies of newspaper articles pertaining to the construction of Central Park, in which the members of Seneca Village are dismissed as lowlife.

West of the reservoir, within the limits of the Central Park, lies a neat little

settlement, known as "Nigger Village," reads an 1856 edition of the *New York Daily Times*, comparing the inhabitants to hogs and goats. "They have been notified to remove by the first of August."

But the exhibit, which ties Seneca Village residents to leaders of the African-American community throughout the city, paints a far different picture.

The curators are hoping that their work might help them find a descendant of someone who lived in the Seneca Village, as they continue to try to recreate its world by searching for more physical remnants of the village and information about its inhabitants.

"The fragments keep coming," said Copeland. "There are documents and pieces and we just keep piecing the story together." — M.R.

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TELEVISION REVIEW

Turmoil, Even if the Slaves Are Dead

By WALTER GOODMAN

It takes most of the hourlong "Slavery's Buried Past" before Bill Kurtis gets around to significant findings from studies of the bones of slaves discovered by New York construction workers near City Hall in 1991. Researchers at Howard University, scrutinizing the remains of hundreds of bodies in what was known in colonial times as the Negro's burial ground, have come up with indications of the hard labor and poor nutrition that meant short, sickly lives for many children.

Until then, tonight's edition of "The New Explorers" has to do more with the fight over continued building at the site, which protesters called sacred, and over where the skeletons were to be sent. Mr. Kurtis, who does not let us forget that he does not favor slavery, keeps promising revelations from the lives of people who were not able to write their own stories. But the evidence noted here from colonial Williamsburg and Andrew Jackson's Hermitage in Nashville as well as from New York is scattered and at best suggestive.

The program implies that investigations into slave life were lacking before the 1991 excavations, ignoring



Clifford Russell/"The New Explorers"

Dr. Michael Blakey examining a slave's skeleton excavated near City Hall in Manhattan in 1991.

the productive efforts of historians like Kenneth M. Stampp, Eugene D. Genovese, Stanley Elkins and others.

With due appreciation for the continuing efforts at Howard University, the mostly black institution in Washington that won the slaves' remains

THE NEW EXPLORERS

Slavery's Buried Past

PBS, tonight
(Channel 13, New York, at 8)

Bill Kurtis, host and executive producer; Molly Bedell, producer; Bill Ward, editor; David Hulzenga, music and audio director; Ed Menaker, project manager and executive producer for The Chicago Production Center. A co-production of Kurtis Productions Ltd. and the Chicago Production Center/WTTW.

after a racially tinged campaign, there is something troubling about the promise of a university investigator to conduct the research "in our own way." Another calls their way "engaged anthropology," which seems to include a desire to teach black children that, as one educator puts it, "their past is full of heroes." There are other hints that some researchers might be imposing on the latest findings interpretations that are still matters of scholarly conjecture, such as the slaves' connections to religious practices in Africa and the degree of resistance to slavery.

A frank airing of such issues might make for a provocative hour. But "The New Explorers," which is sponsored by the United States Postal Service, isn't asking for that kind of trouble.



PRESENTS

THE 19TH CENTURY: A HIDDEN TREASURE

Dr. Joan Geismar
Met. Chapter Lifetime Member

Tuesday, February 11, 1996
6:30 PM
CUNY Graduate Center, 42nd Street, West of Fifth Ave.
Brockway Room (Room 1131)

The 19th century, so rich in historical and archaeological data, is currently being maligned as an archeological resource. Dr. Joan Geismar will present some of the richness found in New York City 19th century archaeological material. She will use color slides to illustrate her point and invites discussion on this controversial topic.

Tuesday March 11 6:15 pm

The Louis H. Blumengarten Lecture in Urban Archaeology

Cheryl LaRoche

John Milner Associates

"Stringing It All Together: Beads from the Excavations of the African Burial Ground"

Harold Proshansky Auditorium, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd Street
lower level, access by stair from the plaza or by elevator

co-sponsored by The Program In Anthropology, CUNY.

The Metropolitan Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association
The New York Society of the Archaeological Institute of America

News Release: New Book

IRON MINE TRAILS: SEEING HIGHLANDS HISTORY WITH AN ARCHAEOLOGIST'S EYE

Iron Mine Trails, written by local archaeologist Edward J. Lenik and published by the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, turns the archaeologist's eye on the terrain of the Highlands. This book directs the reader and hiker to more than forty abandoned iron mines. Trail directions accompany descriptions of the features and ruins present at each site. Historic background on each mine is provided.

The book's preface proclaims, "We are historical hikers....we watch the ground the way birders watch the sky." This is a trail book that searches out and explains the shafts, pits, holes, rock piles, platforms and foundations left behind by the Highlands first industry, ironmaking.

Iron was paramount in the colonial settlement of the Highlands. The first settlers were drawn not by any fertile, tillable soils or vast, open pasture lands. This hostile, rockbound land offered a rich challenge. Iron ore was here to be mined, vast forests provided wood for charcoal and wild mountain rivers power to run mines, forges and furnaces. Deep in the quiet forests of today lie the remains of this earth-shattering industry of the past.

Edward J. Lenik, an archaeologist with over 30 years of experience exploring and documenting the ironmaking industry of the Highlands, personally visited -- in many cases, rediscovered -- each of these sites. With his crew of hikers and archaeologists, he measured, recorded and interpreted each mine site. Illustrator Tom Fitzpatrick sketched features on site and prepared maps for the book. Lenik's photographs and numerous historic illustrations contrast the present and the past. Introductory chapters trace the history of mining in the Highlands and explore the technical, economic and social settings of this Highlands industry.

Edward J. Lenik is president of Sheffield Archaeological Consultants of Butler, NJ. He is a member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists, and a recognized expert in the regional archaeology of the Northeast. He has investigated many prehistoric, historic and industrial sites in this area. He is a past president of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey, the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, and the North Jersey Highlands Historical Society. A resident of Wayne, NJ, Lenik has served on the Wayne Township Historical Commission for over twenty-five years and is Director (volunteer) of the Archaeological Research Laboratory located at the Van Riper-Hopper (Wayne) Museum. He also serves as the Honorary Curator of Archaeology at the Trailside Museums of Bear Mountain / Harriman State Parks (New York).

Iron Mine Trails is available at local bookstores or can be ordered from the NY-NJ Trail Conference, 232 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10016. Pocket-sized for ease of carrying, the book is priced at \$8.95.

PANYC EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT - February 5 - March 31, 1997

EVENT	SPEAKER	TIME	DATE	LOCATION	PHONE #	FEE
Treasures of the San Diego	exhibit	11-6:30 daily	thru 2/28/97	Philippine Center, 556 Fifth Ave.	212-922-3019	\$4
The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman: 1869-1950	exhibit		thru 4/4/97	Paine Webber Art Gallery	212-713-2885	
The Tenement Museum at the Museum of the City of New York	exhibit		thru 4/15/97	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	
The Streets & Beyond-photographs of the people and streets of New York throughout the century	exhibit		thru 6/8/97	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	
Praxis & Politics: Anthropologists in non-academic settings	symposium	1:30-5PM	Sat 2/8/97	New York Academy of Science, 2 E. 63 St.	212-838-0230	\$5-\$12
The 19th Century: A Hidden Treasure	Joan Geismar	6:30PM	Tue 2/11/97	CUNY Grad Center Room 1131		free
Aphrodisias: the City of Venus Aphrodite	Christopher Ratte	8:15PM	Tue 2/11/97	92nd St. Y	212-996-1100	\$18
American Silver	Marvin Schwarz	11AM	Wed 2/12/97	Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-570-3930	
Sign Sculpture: Shop & Cigar Store Figures in America	exhibit		2/15-4/14/97	Museum of American Folk Art	212-595-9533	
19th Century American Architecture	Stacy Tenenbaum	7PM	Fri 2/21/97	Metropolitan Museum of Art	212-570-3930	
Architecture in East Harlem: An Historic & Cultural Overview	Raymond Plumney	2PM	Sat 2/22/97	Museum of the City of New York	212-534-1672	
Workshops in Archaeometry	conference		2/22-23/97	University of Buffalo	716-636-241	
Who Owns Culture?: Lessons from the Northwest Amazon & Sundry Other Places	Jean Jackson		Mon 2/24/97	New York Academy of Science, 2 E. 63 St.	212-838-0230	

Growth & Complexity in Prehistoric Japan	Peter Bleed	7:30PM	Tue 2/25/97	Columbia U.-Schermerhorn Room 501		
Mass Culture/Material Culture: New Yorkers at Home in the Early 20th Century	panel	6PM	Thurs 3/6/97	Museum of the City of New York	Advance Registration 212-534-1672x206	
Mid-Atlantic Archaeological conference	conference		3/7-9/97	Ocean City Sheraton-Fountainbleau Inn		
Stringing It All Together: Beads From the Excavations of the African Burial Ground	Cheryl LaRoche	6:15PM	Tue 3/11/97	CUNY Grad Center-Harold Proshansky Auditorium		free
Studies in Black & White: Towards Reconstruction of the Anthropological Concept of Race	Nina Glick Schiller		Thurs 3/13/97	New York Academy of Science, 2 E. 63 St.	212-838-0230	
Studies in Black & White	conference		Fri 3/14/97	New York Academy of Science, 2 E. 63 St.	212-838-0230	
Northeast Anthropological Association	annual meeting		3/14-16/97	Carleton University, Ottawa		
An Archaeological Tour of the Sinai: In the Footsteps of Moses	David Moyer	8PM	Thurs 3/20/97	Bruce Museum-Greenwich, CT	203-661-4654	\$5
The Western Wall & Tunnel: History and Archaeology	Lawrence H. Schiffman	8:15PM	Mon 3/31/97	92nd St. Y	212-996-1100	\$18

If any members have events which they would like listed, please contact Linda Stone by phone or fax at (212)888-3130 or by mail 249 E 48 St. #2B, New York, NY 10017.

PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

- Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree (M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.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.
- Applicants must have at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curation experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experience will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set by the Society of Professional Archaeologists (SOPA).
- 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 a case by case basis.
- All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership.
- 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. In applying for membership it is expected that an individual is in agreement with these goals. PANYC is not an accrediting organization and is not to be used as such.

Application for membership shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the applicant's resume or *vita*.

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

If you are interested in joining PANYC or if you would like to subscribe to the PANYC Newsletter, please complete the form below and return it to John Killeen, PANYC Secretary, 58 Garnsey Pl., Belford, NJ 07718.

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Please indicate preferred mailing address and check below as appropriate.

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