

# Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

**PANYC**

## **NEWSLETTER**

No. 145

September 2010

|                                   |           |
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### **Next Meeting:**

**October 2, 2010**

**Columbia University, Schermerhorn Hall**

**Broadway at 116th Street**

**New York, NY**

**3pm to 5pm – ROOM – TBD (look for signs)**

### **Newsletter Editor:**

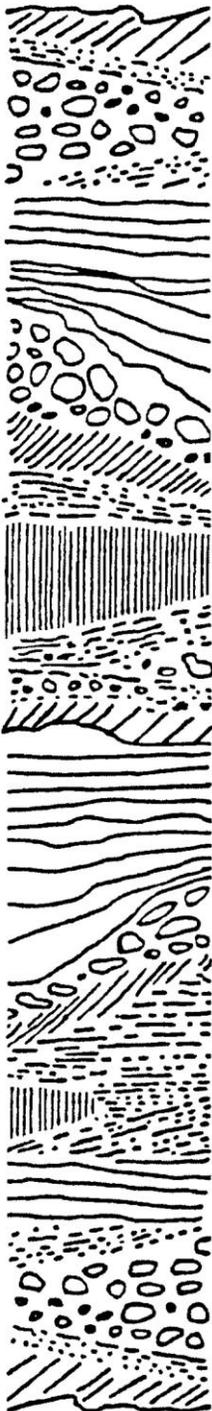
**Christopher Ricciardi**

**4110 Quentin Road**

**Brooklyn, New York 11234-4322**

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PANYC GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 2010, 6:30 P.M.  
Neighborhood Preservation Center (NPC)  
232 East 11th Street, New York, NY  
Notice of upcoming meeting, May 19, 2010

**Present:** Geismar, Linn, Rakos, Spritzer, Pickman, Wall, Stone, Cantwell, Britt, Levit, and Schuldenrein

**Treasurer's Report / Secretary's Report**

- a) General minutes from January 20, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.
- b) Spritzer reported there is \$3,504.00 in the treasury. There are 45 paid members and 1 delinquent member. There have been four new subscriptions and \$83.00 in donations. For 2009: Income was \$798.00. Expenditures were \$956.03, making a loss for 2009 of \$158.03

**President's Report**

- a) City Planning is considering a change to the review process that will require archaeology to be considered when there is re-zoning of sites not owned by the city. In preparation for this new requirement, LPC asked PANYC to update cost estimates supplied to the agency by a PANYC committee several years ago for different levels of archaeological investigation at a few sample sites.. A committee consisting of Rakos, Stone, and Geismar will research the previous calculations and respond.
- b) PANYC received an email from a public radio program in Minnesota that wants to do a piece on archaeology and bottle hunters in NYC, based on a letter written to the editor in Time Out NY that responded to the glorification of NYC bottle hunters in a recent Time Out New York feature. Geismar will follow-up.
- c) Public Archaeology Lab (PAL) is conducting a large pipeline project through New Jersey and New York, and PAL asked PANYC to become a consulting party under Section 106. PANYC said yes but to our discretion. It was suggested that we should not expand our boundaries into NJ and should keep focused on the NYC area, and that we should not be doing the research for them. Instead, we should review documents and make sure the project is going in the right direction, and if we find their research or approach to be lacking, then we should comment. The committee who will be working on this is: Rakos (Chair), Geismar, Levit, Linn, and Stone.
- d) Geismar was supposed to contact Therese Braddick from the Parks Department and wasn't able to. Geismar will try to contact Braddick to set up a meeting between Geismar, Linn, and Braddick.
- e) There was discussion about whether in future elections we have the option of emailing the ballots to members. After some discussion, it was decided to table this topic for another meeting.
- f) Geismar received an email from Chris Matthews asking if PANYC wanted to be part of a table at the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) held in Lancaster, PA in October 2010. It was suggested a committee was formed, Spritzer nominated Britt to chair and Britt accepted, other members suggested were Geismar. This discussion was tabled pending information about the cost of the table from Matthews.

**Committee Reports** (only those making a report are mentioned)

Awards: Cantwell reported that Ralph Solecki was nominated for PANYC's Lifetime Achievement award. Cantwell contacted Solecki with the news and was happy to report he was delighted. Award will be presented at the PANYC Public Program in April.

Events: Newsletter went out to membership and events page is on website. PANYC Public program April 24, 2010 1:00-3:30 pm at the Museum of the City of New York. Linn had flyers and will mail them this weekend.

LPC: Geismar wrote a letter to Robert Tierney informing him of the State's recent decision to include archaeology in the newly-recreated Chinatown Historic District.

MAS: Geismar reported that they have moved to landmarked Steinway building on West 57<sup>th</sup> Street. There was discussion about the developments regarding Admirals Row demolition by neglect. One building has been stabilized, but it has been determined by consultants that the Timber Shed, the oldest building under consideration, is too unstable to shore up, and it will, therefore, likely be demolished in the interest of public safety. Currently, this building is cordoned off.

Met Chapter: Wall reported on the upcoming event in the Met spring series: Mar. 27, 2010 Susan De Vries, *Dyckman Farmhouse tour & Relic Hunters: Uncovering History in Northern Manhattan 4:00 pm*. If interested, please contact Linn for a reservation.

Nominating/Elections Committee: Election results for 2010 came in-17 returns by return date, one received after date, but did not change election results. Results were President: Linn, Vice President: Rakos, Secretary: MacLean, Treasurer: Spritzer. Board: Britt, Cantwell, Pickman, Stone and Wall (Geismar serves on the board *ex officio*).

The incoming officers and PANYC members thank Geismar for her excellent work as president this past year.

NYAC:

- 1) Stone reported the spring meeting is the same weekend as PANYC's public program- April 24 2010. Theme of meetings still being discussed-will either be Alternative Mitigation or Use of GIS in Sites
- 2) Stone reported that the fall meeting is coming up and the NYAC board liked the idea and will recommend the joint meeting to their membership at their Spring Meeting. Linn stated that Brian Boyd of Columbia University said that we could host the meeting there. Britt reported on her research into hotel rooms in the Columbia University area. Britt will email Stone with information that she can bring to NYAC. Suggestions for the theme for Fall conference requested-please send ideas to Stone. Levit introduced the possibility of obtaining sponsorship for the public program from the University of Phoenix in the last meeting but reported that they can only support New Jersey organizations at this time.
- 3) The NYAC elections are also on the horizon and Stone is up for re-election on the board and Geismar is also running.

Parks: Geismar reported that Parks' budget has been cut. Renovations still continue at Washington Square Park. Wall reported she has an undergraduate intern working with the Historic House Trust.

Public Program:

Linn wrote letter to Frank Vagnone of the Historic House Trust inviting him to the public program in April. Will be sending members the flyer to the program via email and all else via mail this next week.

Repository: Geismar met with Amanda Sutphin and Robert Tierney and then the New York Historical Society about an artifact repository. NYHS has two new exhibits-one permanent and they maybe repository for artifacts from Ear Inn (the 1819 James Brown house).

Website: Pickman uploaded the new events calendar to the website. Committee met briefly in January discussed items that should be added, one suggestion was to explain in more detail what PANYC is and what they do.

**Old Business**

Request for suggestions for topics to PANYC/NYAC joint meeting suggestions-possible something regarding tales of different cities. Please send Stone any suggestions. Linn suggested the city of Leicester where the SHA will hold meetings in 2014.

**New Business / Announcements**

- a) Geismar reported that State Parks and Historic Sites had been cut from the state's budget, but the Senate recently passed a budget resolution restoring this funding. This is an important first step which will enable many sites to remain open, but it will not happen unless the Assembly and Governor agree. Please contact your representatives to support this proposal by calling or sending a quick email.
- b) Stone reported on the lovely exhibit at Grand Central Terminal done by the Transit Museum on the South Ferry excavations. The exhibit is up until July.
- c) Linn requested any suggestions for issues for PANYC to handle, address or new items of concern be brought to her attention as incoming president.
- d) It was also suggested that PANYC try to generate more interest in archaeology through events, exhibits such as the African Burial Ground Museum, the current exhibit with the Transit Museum on South Ferry, etc. and Rakos suggested issuing press releases on events such as these. Stone suggested contacting Karen Rubinson who is both a PANYC member and an official of the AIA to generate more contacts to disseminate information to. It was suggested this should be a topic for the Blog committee.

**Our next meeting will be on May 19, 2010 at 6:30pm.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Kelly M. Britt, substitute secretary for Jessica S. Maclean

PANYC Board Members for 2010-2011:

President: Meredith Linn  
Vice President: Lynn Rakos  
Secretary: Jessica Striebel MacLean  
Treasurer: Shelly Spritzer

Board members: Kelly Britt  
Anne-Marie Cantwell  
Arnold Pickman  
Linda Stone  
Diana Wall

Past President: Joan Geismar

PANYC Meeting Dates for 2010-2011:

October 2, 2010 - joint meeting with NYAC at Columbia University

November 17, 2010

January 26, 2011

March 23, 2011

May 18, 2011



Memorial Sloan-Kettering  
Cancer Center

May 27, 2010

Professional Archeologists of NYC, Inc  
Meredith B. Linn  
9 W 73rd Street Apt 4A  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Friend,

I am privileged to acknowledge the memorial gift of \$100 from Professional Archeologists of NYC, Inc to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center. Please be assured that a letter of notification regarding your gift has been sent.

As the nation's preeminent cancer center, Memorial Sloan-Kettering brings together outstanding people and resources in pursuit of an ambitious goal: to gain new insights into cancer through basic and clinical research, and to put those insights to work as quickly as possible through improved methods of diagnosis, prevention, and treatment. Today, more than ever, we rely on the generosity of friends who recognize the importance of this mission and share our commitment to moving it forward.

We appreciate your thoughtful contribution and, on behalf of the entire Memorial Sloan-Kettering community, I extend heartfelt thanks.

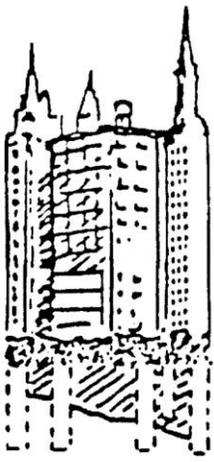
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Naum".

Richard K. Naum  
Vice President, Development

RKN/dr

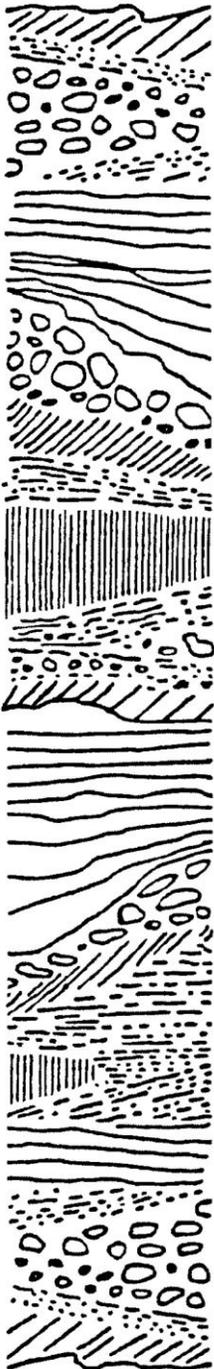
*For tax preparation purposes, no goods or services have been provided in exchange for this gift. Please regard this letter as your 2010 tax receipt.*



## Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc.

May 21, 2010

**PANYC**



The Honorable Robert Tierney, Chair

The Hon. Pablo E. Vengoechea, Vice Chair, and Commissioners (The Hon. Frederick Bland, The Hon. Stephen Byrns; The Hon. Diana Chapin; The Hon. Joan Gerner; The Hon. Roberta Brandes Gratz; The Hon. Christopher Moore; The Hon. Margery Perlmutter; The Hon. Elizabeth Ryan; The Hon. Roberta Washington)

New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
One Centre Street - 9N  
New York, NY 10038

*Re:* Certificate of Appropriateness, 55 Middagh Street  
Brooklyn Heights Historic District

Dear Commissioner Tierney and All Commissioners:

On behalf of Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC), thank you for your most recent recognition of potential archaeological issues in a historic district. I am referring to the backyard alteration at 55 Middagh Street, an 1820s structure in the Brooklyn Heights Historic District. We sincerely hope archaeology will continue to be a consideration in other districts or properties under your guardianship where history may be preserved underground. We are encouraged by your awareness and by your support.

Sincerely,

Joan H. Geismar  
Chair, PANYC Landmarks Committee

cc: A. Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, NYCLPC  
A. Bankoff, Advisor to the Chair, NYCLPC

# **The Practice of Urban Archaeology**

A Panel Discussion

William A. Griswold, Archaeologist, National Park Service, Northeast Region Archeology Program  
Vincent Maresca, Historic Preservation Specialist, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office  
Catherine Spohn, Cultural Resource Professional, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

**Saturday, October 2, 2010 – 3-5 PM**

**Columbia University – Schermerhorn Hall**

**Broadway at 116<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City**

(Subway stop = 116<sup>th</sup> St - Columbia University on the “1” train)

(Campus Map - [http://www.columbia.edu/about\\_columbia/map/MorningsideCampus.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/about_columbia/map/MorningsideCampus.pdf))

Urban archaeologists face many difficulties when excavating a site, but some of the most troublesome can be local regulations that handicap their operations or even prevent them from being able to investigate the site at all. Although the practice of archaeology is generally well prescribed, there is quite a bit of latitude in implementation of plans and methodology used. This symposium will focus on these issues in a number of urban areas.

Archaeologists from cities outside of New York State who are responsible for reviewing work in their communities will briefly present how the archaeological process works in their region. They will share their experiences and include aspects of the process they feel are unique to their cities. Following the presentations, speakers will respond to prepared questions leading to a discussion that will provide an opportunity to contrast between cities on topics specific to the urban environment that may range from implementation to research, testing and excavation. Additional questions and comments posed by in the audience, as time permits, will encourage further sharing of strategies.

Sponsored by:

New York Archaeological Council (NYAC),  
Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and  
Columbia Center for Archaeology

This program follows the general membership meeting of NYAC and PANYC, held from 1-3PM. All attending the program are welcome to arrive early and join the membership meeting where issues of importance to archaeologists in New York will be discussed.

Please Post

**FREE**

**Program of  
Public Talks  
&  
Discussion**

**Saturday**  
**Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**9 a.m. to 12 noon**  
at the

**African Burial Ground  
National Monument**

Corner of Duane and Elk Streets,  
Lower Manhattan (close to Foley  
Square, just north of City Hall)

**RSVP by Sept 15.**  
**(212) 637-0460**

Co-Organized by the  
Wenner-Gren sponsored  
Dynamics of Inclusion  
in Public Archaeology

Workshop  
and the

African Burial Ground  
National Monument



# Archaeology and the Public in New York



**Battery Wall** ruins discovered near the Ferry Terminal Building in Battery Park in 2005. These 18<sup>th</sup> century ruins are now on display in the new *South Ferry subway station*.

(Image courtesy of MTA Capital Construction)

## Program

### Featured Speakers....

## Archaeology and the Public in New York

Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>  
9am-12 noon  
African Burial Ground  
National Monument

**NYC Archaeology in the News** The ship at the World Trade Center... a potter's field in Washington Square Park... burial vaults at Trump SoHo... the Battery wall in Battery Park. These are just some of the recent archaeological discoveries in the metropolitan area. Learn how and why archaeological research takes place in NYC. Find out who is involved and hear how the public benefits. *This talk is presented by Amanda Sutphin, Director of Archaeology, Landmarks Preservation Commission, New York City.*

### **For the Ancestors and the Descendants: New York's African Burial Ground & Archaeology as Community Service**

The African Burial Ground Project was contentious. The federal government, contracted archaeology firms, academic institutions, and the city's African descendants and their allies operated with different agendas, interests, and concerns. Hear how, ultimately, the voices of the descendants, and by extension, the ancestors, overcame the forces of domination resulting in an ethical as opposed to a financially controlled project. *A talk presented by Warren R. Perry, Director for Archaeology of the New York African Burial Ground Project and Professor of Anthropology at Central Connecticut State University.*

**Seneca Village in Central Park: How Digging Up the Past builds Community Today** The free black settlement of Seneca Village (1825-1857) was located between 82nd and 89th Streets and Seventh and Eighth Avenues in what is now Central Park. For several years city residents and researchers have worked together to unearth this forgotten community's unique cultural identity -- rewriting local and national history in the process. Learn how digging up the past helps to build community relationships in the present in *this talk by Cynthia R. Copeland, President of the Institute for the Exploration of Seneca Village History.*

**Joseph Lloyd Manor: What One Long Island Community Really Wanted to Know About Its Past** The Lloyd family operated a large scale farm and merchant business on the north shore of Long Island beginning in the 1680s. Many people of African descent, both free and enslaved, worked and lived on the Manor. In the woods a few hundred feet away from the restored Manor house, the remains of a small dwelling became the focus of archaeological research. Hear how questions posed by community members, students, and visitors shaped work at the site in important and unexpected ways. *This talk is presented by Jenna Wallace Coplin, Director of Research and Outreach at Hofstra University's Center for Public Archaeology.*

**Poetic License: Rumbings from the NY African Burial Ground and Beyond** Ancestors speaking to and through descendants became a resounding theme in the struggle to preserve and commemorate the 18<sup>th</sup> century NY ABG. The struggle also raised questions in other parts of the country and the world as to the locations of other sacred burial places. Students, academics, volunteers and the lay public have expressed interest in and support for the ABG for nearly 2 decades. "Poetic License" is a collection of poetry and collage that "bears witness" to this process of making history, of living history. *This talk is presented by Sherrill D Wilson, Urban Anthropologist, Founding Director of the Office of Public Education and Interpretation of the African Burial Ground Project and Professor of African American History and Diversity at Rockland Community College, Suffern, NY.*

# STREET A WAR ZONE?

BY MIKE McLAUGHLIN  
DAILY NEWS WRITER

## Dig in Crown Hts. to hunt for 1776 artifacts

A REVOLUTIONARY war is brewing in Crown Heights.

Neighborhood activists hope an archaeological excavation will unearth Revolutionary War artifacts beneath Clove Road, a tiny, crumbling street.

The dig will be launched this summer — despite a study that was lukewarm on whether the street was an American outpost from the 1776 Battle of Brooklyn.

"This is not your average street," said Community Board 9 District Manager Pearl Miles. "There's more than meets the eye."

But not everybody is happy about the impending dig — mostly nearby residents who say it will be dangerous and disruptive.

"How is it going to help me?" said Dvorah Eidelman, 41, a mother of eight who lives on Malbone St., which intersects with Clove Road. "It's going to be a mess. My children are young and they're going to run around. It could be dangerous."

The 2002 report by the RBA Group, a private engineering and architectural firm hired by the city, found that 800 American soldiers guarded the road — then known as the Bedford Pass — in August 1776 before retreating from advancing British forces.

Even though evidence was thin that important archeological objects would be found, the report

concluded the dig should go forward because it "would enhance our understanding of American defenses in Brooklyn" and "provide a glimpse" of how camp life was for the troops.

The city Transportation Department wanted to reconstruct Clove Road — a one-block stretch of cobblestones, cracked pavement and potholes — but halted its plans to wait to see what the 2002 study would find.

The project languished until Councilwoman Letitia James (WFP-Prospect Heights) provided \$200,000 to fund it last year.

Neighbors have complained that the street has deteriorated during the wait for a dig that

might not yield anything important.

"The street looks like a Third World country," said Solomon Neubort, 42, a lawyer on Malbone St. "You may be imposing a great burden on residents of the streets without much of a pay-back."

Advocates said the road, which was also part of a 19th century route between Brooklyn's jail and mental hospital, needs recognition — even if archaeologists don't uncover anything.

"Somewhere near here was a battle or event that is not being properly commemorated," said Michael Cetera, 64, a Crown Heights architect who has called for turning Clove Road into a park or pedestrian path. "We're trying to reconstruct history."



Crown Heights architect Michael Cetera kneels on Clove Road, where he says history should be unearthed. Photo by James Monroe Adams 4th

# Dig this – the 1700s

## Foundation of old house at City Hall

By DAVID SEIFMAN  
*City Hall Bureau Chief*

A bit of the city's pre-Revolutionary history peeked through when archaeologists began digging test holes around City Hall as part of a \$100 million renovation project and discovered remnants of an ancient almshouse.

City officials yesterday reported artifacts of the poorhouse right behind City Hall, including what appears to be the original foundation sitting adjacent to a modern-day retaining wall.

"It's not surprising to find remnants of historic structures," said Amanda Sutphin, director of archaeology at the Landmarks Preservation Commission. "But to be this close to the retaining wall is a little shocking."

She said a three-day dig uncovered hundreds of artifacts, from clay pipe stems to pottery shards to bones of butchered animals, all suspected to date from the 1700s. Tests are continuing to confirm the dates.

"There were lots and lots of bones," Sutphin reported. "This was a pretty big institution."

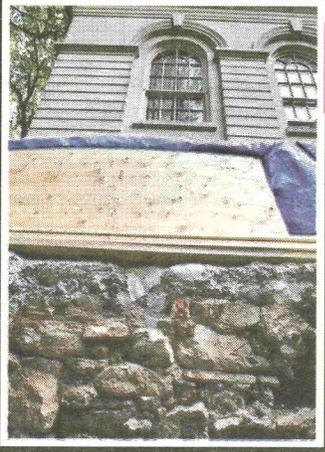
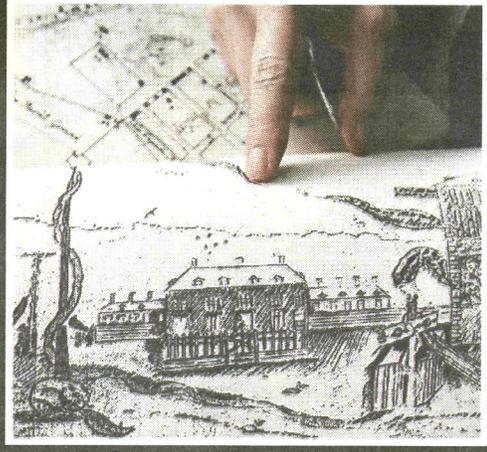
The two-story almshouse stood from 1736-1797 in an area that dates back to Dutch days and now serves as City Hall Park and includes both City Hall and the infamous Tweed Courthouse.

"In the 18th century, institutions not wanted in the center of town were placed here," Sutphin explained.

Those ranged from army barracks to jails to powder houses.



Post photos: Chad Rachman



**RICH HISTORY:** The foundation (left) of an almshouse dating to the 18th century (far left) is seen yesterday after it was discovered during a dig outside City Hall (above) for a renovation project.

The center of town then was further south. Minutes from the Common Council, the local legislature at the time, state that the 86-foot long almshouse served "poor needy persons, idle wandering vagabonds, sturdy beggars and parents of bastard children."

Nineteen years ago, about a block away, workers building a new federal building unearthed the African Burial Ground, stark evidence of one of the largest urban African populations in the American colonies in the 18th century.

The skeletal remains of more

than 400 men, women and children were eventually counted.

Officials intend to build a sub-cellar at the almshouse site to house new mechanical equipment for City Hall, which is undergoing a three-year renovation.

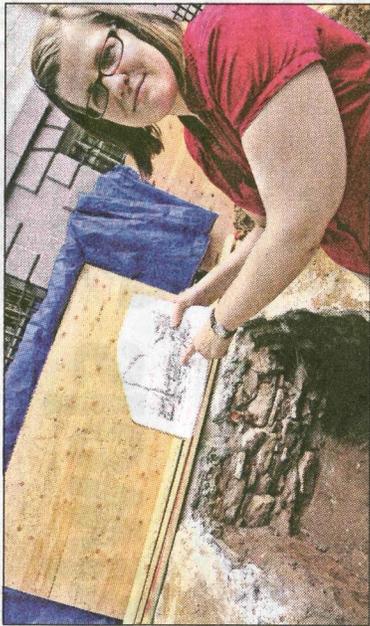
david.seifman@nypost.com

# Hall dig hits paydirt

ARCHEOLOGISTS snooping around City Hall hit a wall yesterday — an 18th century one that is believed to be the foundation of the city's first housing for the poor.

Because City Hall is regulated by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, archeologists are supervising its renovation. They suspected artifacts dating to the 1700s were buried under the building.

"It looks like we were right," gloated Amanda Sutphin, direc-



**Amanda Sutphin, director of archaeology at the Landmarks Preservation Commission, shows suspected foundation of 18th century almshouse, the city's first housing for the poor.** Photo by Marc Hermann

tor of archeology for the commission.

Historic maps of the area suggest the stone wall — along with two others found in the last three days — was the foundation for the First Almshouse, which served orphans, widows and the sick from 1736 to 1797, Sutphin said.

The two-story, 86-foot-long brick-and-stone structure was demolished in 1797 and con-

struction on City Hall began in 1803, she said.

Hundreds of shards of pottery, ox bones, cooking vessels and smoking pipes were also found near the site. They are currently being tested to determine their significance.

It's not clear how the historic walls will impact construction of a sub-basement utility vault being built as part of an upgrade of City Hall. **Kathleen Lucadamo**

# Sharks & chums to see L.I. pals wed

THIS YOUNG couple is really ready to take the plunge.

Long Island lovebirds April Pignataro, 26, and Michael Curry, 31, are set to wed underwater surrounded by sharks and other marine creatures instead of the traditional wedding party.

"We are a very unique, eccentric couple," said Pignataro. "Just being underwater is like a second home for us."

The shark tank wedding will take place Sunday at Atlantis Marine World in Riverhead, L.I.

The avid divers plan to exchange vows wearing special masks to allow guests — and the pastor — to hear them from outside the tank. The bride will wear a white scuba suit and her groom will be clad in black.

And, not to worry — sharks will not get in the way. The couple will

be inside a cage to keep the nuptials from turning into a "Jaws"-like disaster.

"We were a little upset about that," Pignataro said of the protective apparatus.

They initially planned a country club wedding but when learning of the possibility of an aqua altar, the bride-to-be said, "We just looked at each other and said, 'Let's do it.'"

A spokeswoman for Atlantis said it offers shark tank dives and wedding receptions but this would be the first time the two are combined.

The couple, both auto mechanics who have been dating for more than two years, breathlessly awaits the big day.

"It's really going to be a very unique experience," Pignataro said. **Oren Yaniv**

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Man Amazingly Cheerful After Spending Four Days Lying in a Swamp With a Broken Back

Jake Gyllenhaal Would Like to Thank His Abs

## 270-Year-Old Almshouse Discovered Under City Hall Park

6/4/10 at 10:15 AM

10 Comments



Photo: nypost.com

In the midst of a \$100 million renovation project around City Hall, archaeologists have found the original foundation of an almshouse that existed on the land from 1736 to 1797, nestled right up next to a modern-day retaining wall under City Hall. "There were lots and lots of bones," said Landmarks Preservation archaeologist Amanda Sutphin, adding that the charity house "was a pretty big institution."

Contemporary records show that it served "poor needy persons, idle wandering vagabonds, sturdy beggars, and parents of bastard children." You know, the type of people these days the city is trying to push out of Manhattan. (Except for the last category, because celebrities are good for the tax base ... ) [NYP]

By: Chris Rovzar

FILED UNDER: NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS, ARCHAEOLOGY, CITY HALL, CITY HALL PARK, HISTORY

10 COMMENTS - ADD YOURS

SORT: OLDEST FIRST | NEWEST FIRST

BY [MINGUSAHUM](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:30am Report

The Almshouse is now being developed as 'luxury condos' and will feature rustic skulls and bones dotting walls and amazing beggars views of broadway.

BY [SEAMUS99](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:32am Report

Where did the swaying, off kilter beggars go?

BY [77BC](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:38am Report

'twas in another lifetime, one of toil and blood  
When blackness was a virtue and the road was full of mud  
I came in from the wilderness, a creature void of form.  
"Come in," she said, "I'll give you shelter from the storm."

BY [LIZPOP](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:40am Report

pity the children

BY [HARLEMGURL](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:42am Report

I'm not surprised. Didn't they find hundreds of African American slave plots in that same area?

BY [MUSICINCURSIVE](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:48am Report

Thanks Seamus I was wondering the same. Why only sturdy beggars? Was there a separate compound for the frail beggars?

BY [RA\\_RA](#) on 06/04/2010 at 10:58am Report

I want to know what happened to the bastard children. And are "idle, wandering vagabonds" capable of ceasing movement? Or are they like sharks?

BY [THENEXT\\_MRSBASS](#) on 06/04/2010 at 11:16am Report

That's a good point Ra Ra. Only their parents were allowed and not the poor bastards themselves? Or maybe they became sturdy beggars and thus got in on the lottery?

BY [LEWYERD](#) on 06/04/2010 at 3:40pm Report

This almshouse was discussed in a NY Times article in 1857. IAs I recall it may be older than 270 years.

BY [GEORGEJMYERSJR](#) on 06/04/2010 at 4:04pm Report



**VICHY** LABORATOIRES

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**JESSICA PRESSLER**

Articles Editor  
**NICK CATUCCI**

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NYC City Hall renovation targets dangerous decay

By SARA KUGLER FRAZIER

Associated Press Writer

Jul 18, 4:44 PM EDT

NEW YORK (AP) -- After rotting trusses, faulty wiring and sagging ceilings were discovered in New York's City Hall, the nearly 200-year-old national landmark is undergoing a major renovation that will displace the City Council and other operations for at least a year.

The city discovered deteriorating conditions during a minor renovation a few years ago, prompting a wider examination of the building, which once hosted Abraham Lincoln's body for public viewing and is one of the nation's oldest continuously-used city halls.

Officials found widespread failings and alarming decay: cracks through the trusses that support the roof, a rotting basement floor, wiring that was known to spark and dangerously sagging ceilings.

"It's gotten to the point where it's really bad," said Philip J. Kelly, the city official overseeing the project. "It has to be done. It's amazing no one's been hurt or there hasn't been a fire."

Recently, just before repairs were to begin in a City Council hearing room, a 10-foot-long, 6-inch-wide piece of plaster molding broke away from the wall and crashed to the floor.

The building was once the home of executive, legislative and judicial operations - including a criminal court and jail - but it is now primarily occupied by the offices of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, City Council and supporting operations for both.

The white Renaissance Revival-style building hosted viewings for the bodies of Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant after their deaths. It was illuminated one September evening in 1813, commemorating American victories in the war of 1812. General Dwight D. Eisenhower was welcomed with a party there upon his return from overseas in 1945.

The lower Manhattan building has also survived disaster, including a fire in 1858 during fireworks celebrations marking the laying of the first trans-Atlantic telegraph cable.

Many of the crumbling elements date to the building's original construction.

When workers first eyeballed the renovation project, the cost was estimated at \$65 million. But officials said the expense has shot up to \$106 million as crews found more problems when they ripped into walls and ceilings.

The building's last major update was in the 1950s, when the exterior marble and brownstone were replaced with white limestone, and an elevator was installed.

That elevator will be replaced in the upcoming project.

The work also involves reinforcing the wood trusses in the roof - part of the original 1812 construction - plus repairing the roof and ceiling of the council chambers and adjoining rooms. A building-wide fire sprinkler system also will be installed.

The building is also getting more efficient lighting, heating and cooling controlled by a computerized building-management system, water fixtures and lighting that are activated by sensors, and solar panels on the roof. Officials acknowledged that the environmental retrofits are not the highest level of upgrades available, but said there are cost limitations on what can be done.

Crews began some of the work in 2008, starting on the west side of the building, where Bloomberg's desk is located. Engineers said the trusses would not last another winter without possibly failing, so the beams were reinforced with steel.

The renovations won't move the mayor from the west wing, where repairs are being completed without displacing staff. Heavier work is now concentrated on the building's east side, where the 51-member City Council meets and where many council offices are located.

The room that has housed the City Hall press corps since 1898 will be closed during the work; the media began moving this month to a temporary trailer.

During the construction, council meetings will be held at the old Emigrant Savings Bank building on nearby Chambers Street.

Hearings will be shifted to another office building across Broadway, where council officials recently settled into temporary offices. Speaker Christine Quinn said there have been a few hiccups - like telephone problems and adjusting to closer quarters.

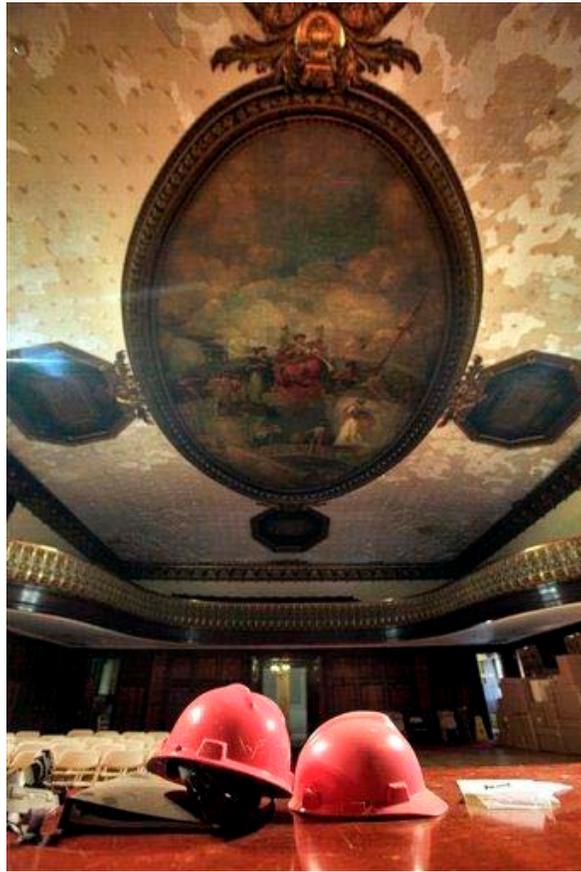
"It's a little bit of an adventure for a year," she said. "We had no choice - the building is in structural disarray and it wasn't safe for us to remain there."

One headache that has added to the growing cost of the renovation: Crews digging behind the building discovered the remains of an 18th century structure the city believes was an almshouse that stood from the 1730s to the 1790s.

The area is now being dug by hand and supervised by archeologists. The dig has turned up the remains of other structures, including a water cistern and an icehouse. Evidence of daily life, including bone buttons, medicine bottles and ceramic egg holders, have also been found.

The city Landmarks Preservation Commission is overseeing the digging and will determine what to do with the artifacts.

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In this July 14, 2010 photo, two construction hard hats rest on a table under the peeling ceiling of New York's City Hall Council Chamber. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

# The New York Times

Wednesday, July 14, 2010

## [N.Y. / Region](#)

A Glimpse of Old Waterfront, on Dry Land

By [DAVID W. DUNLAP](#)

How often in the 21st century does one have the chance to see a [19th-century river wall](#) embedded under a 20th-century highway?

Rarely enough that amateur urban archaeologists might want to hasten to the observation gallery in the [Winter Garden](#) overlooking the [World Trade Center](#) site. For the next few days — but not much longer — a 40-foot-long section will be visible of the massive bulkhead that marked Lower Manhattan's edge until the creation of Battery Park City. What can be seen are several courses of granite blocks, each about two feet high, two feet deep and four feet long. They are arranged in a kind of monumental Flemish bond, with the blocks' long and short sides laid in an alternating pattern.

Zachary J. Davis, a principal archaeologist with the Louis Berger Group, which is working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to study and document the river wall, said this portion of the bulkhead was finished in 1899. As excavation proceeds, archaeologists will get a better picture of [how the wall was constructed](#). Contemporary diagrams show the bulkhead to have combined granite, concrete, small and large stones, and timber cribbing.

Though far more modest in appearance than the great bridges of the late 19th century, the Hudson River bulkhead, which runs from the Battery to 59th Street, was arguably just as instrumental in permitting New York to flourish. Its construction allowed ships with deep drafts to nose right up to the edge of Manhattan Island. Think of the array of ocean liners that once docked along West Street.

It is possible that the public hasn't seen this portion of the Hudson River bulkhead since ferries stopped running between New Jersey and New York in 1967. (They have since resumed.) That was when the Battery Park City landfill was begun, using the earth and rock that were being excavated to create the deep foundations for the original World Trade Center.

The old river wall lay undisturbed under West Street since then. But this part of the wall stands in the way of an [underground pedestrian passage](#) that will link the World Trade Center and the World Financial Center. "This becomes the replacement for the bridge that was destroyed on 9/11," said Henry R. Caso, director of construction for Brookfield Properties, the principal owner of the World Financial Center and Winter Garden. It is to be finished by the end of 2012.

The only way through the wall is demolition, so the time to see this historical remnant is now.



The New York Times The river wall as it appears from the Winter Garden observation gallery. It is visible directly behind the yellow cab of the excavator. Toward the center right, a ladder is resting against the old wall.

July 14, 2010, 6:16 pm  
18th-Century Ship Found at Trade Center Site  
By [DAVID W. DUNLAP](#)

<http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/07/14/18th-century-ship-found-at-trade-center-site/?hp>

In the middle of tomorrow, a great ribbed ghost has emerged from a distant yesterday.

On Tuesday morning, workers excavating the site of the underground vehicle security center for the future [World Trade Center](#) hit a row of sturdy, upright wood timbers, regularly spaced, sticking out of a briny gray muck flecked with oyster shells.

Obviously, these were more than just remnants of the wooden cribbing used in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to extend the shoreline of Manhattan Island ever farther into the Hudson River. (Lower Manhattan real estate was a precious commodity even then.)

“They were so perfectly contoured that they were clearly part of a ship,” said A. Michael Pappalardo, an archaeologist with the firm [AKRF](#), which is working for the [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey](#) to document historical material uncovered during construction.

By Wednesday, the outlines made it plain: a 30-foot length of a wood-hulled vessel had been discovered about 20 to 30 feet below street level on the World Trade Center site, the first such large-scale archaeological find along the Manhattan waterfront since 1982, when an 18th-century cargo ship came to light at 175 Water Street.

The area under excavation, between Liberty and Cedar Streets, had not been dug out for the original trade center. The vessel, presumably dating from the mid- to late 1700s, was evidently undisturbed more than 200 years.

News of the find spread quickly. Archaeologists and officials hurried to the site, not only because of the magnitude of the discovery but because construction work could not be interrupted and because the timber, no longer safe in its cocoon of ooze, began deteriorating as soon as it was exposed to air.

For that reason, Doug Mackey, the chief regional archaeologist for the New York [State Historic Preservation Office](#), was grateful for the rainfall. “If the sun had been out,” he said, “the wood would already have started to fall apart.”

As other archaeologists scrambled with tape measures over what appeared to be the floor planks of the ship’s lowermost deck, Mr. Mackey said, “We’re trying to record it as quickly as possible and do the analysis later.” All around the skeletal hull, excavation for the security center proceeded, changing the muddy terrain every few minutes.

Romantics may conjure the picture of an elegant schooner passing in sight of the spire of Trinity Church. Professional archaeologists are much more reserved.

They were even careful not to say for certain whether they were looking at the prow or the stern of the vessel, though the fanlike array of beams seemed to suggest that the aft (rear) portion of the ship was exposed. Mr. Pappalardo said the whole vessel may have been two or three times longer than the portion found.

Perhaps the most puzzling and intriguing find was a semicircular metal collar, several feet across, apparently supported on a brick base, built into the hull. Perhaps it was some sort of an oven or steam contraption.

About the farthest Mr. Mackey and Mr. Pappalardo would go in conjecture was to say that the sawed-off beams seemed to indicate that the hull had deliberately been truncated, most likely to be used as landfill material.

A 1797 map shows that the excavation site is close to where Lindsey's Wharf and Lake's Wharf once projected into the Hudson. So, no matter how many mysteries now surround the vessel, it may turn out that the ghost even has a name.

# Ancient ship discovered at new WTC site

NEWSCORE

*Last Updated:* 9:19 AM, July 15, 2010

*Posted:* 9:17 AM, July 15, 2010

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Part of a ship thought to date back to the 18th century was unearthed on the site for the new World Trade Center, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

On Tuesday morning, workers excavating the site of the underground vehicle security center for the future WTC discovered timbers sticking out of the mud.

"They were so perfectly contoured that they were clearly part of a ship," said A. Michael Pappalardo, an archaeologist with the firm AKRF, which is working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to document historical material uncovered during construction.

A 30-foot (9.1m) length of a wood-hulled vessel was found about 20 to 30 feet (6-9m) below street level on the site.

It was the first such large-scale archaeological find along the Manhattan waterfront since 1982, when an 18th century cargo ship was discovered at Water Street. News of the discovery quickly spread with archaeologists and officials hurrying to the site.

The size of the find was one reason for the haste, also the fact that construction work could not be interrupted and also because the timber, now exposed to the air, began deteriorating.

One theory for the location is that part of the ship had been used as landfill material to extend lower Manhattan.

# New York Daily News

## 32-foot-long hull of 18th century ship found buried at World Trade Center

BY [RICH SCHAPIRO](#)

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Originally Published: Thursday, July 15th 2010, 2:05 AM

Updated: Thursday, July 15th 2010, 10:06 AM

Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/07/14/2010-07-14\\_32footlong\\_hull\\_of\\_18th\\_century\\_ship\\_found\\_buried\\_at\\_world\\_trade\\_center.html#ixzz0tIMzlibU](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/07/14/2010-07-14_32footlong_hull_of_18th_century_ship_found_buried_at_world_trade_center.html#ixzz0tIMzlibU)

Workers excavating at the [World Trade Center](#) site have made an extraordinary discovery: a 32-foot-long hull of a ship believed to have been buried in the 18th century.

The unearthing of the wooden vessel, buried some 25 feet below street level, is the first large-scale archaeological find along the [Manhattan](#) waterfront in three decades.

Archeologists say the ship likely was a part of a large batch of debris used to fill in land to extend lower Manhattan into the [Hudson River](#). It was uncovered Tuesday morning.

"We noticed curved timbers that a backhoe brought up," archeologist [Molly McDonald](#) said, according to the [Associated Press](#). "We quickly found the rib of a vessel and continued to clear it away and expose the hull over the last two days."

McDonald and her colleague from the firm AKRF, [A. Michael Pappalardo](#), had been assigned to the site of the 9/11 attacks to document historical objects uncovered during construction. They called the discovery significant, but said it would take time to determine the precise age of the ship.

The archeologists are in a race against time. The ship's delicate wood, now exposed to the air, is likely to start deteriorating quickly. A boat specialist was planning to visit the site Thursday.

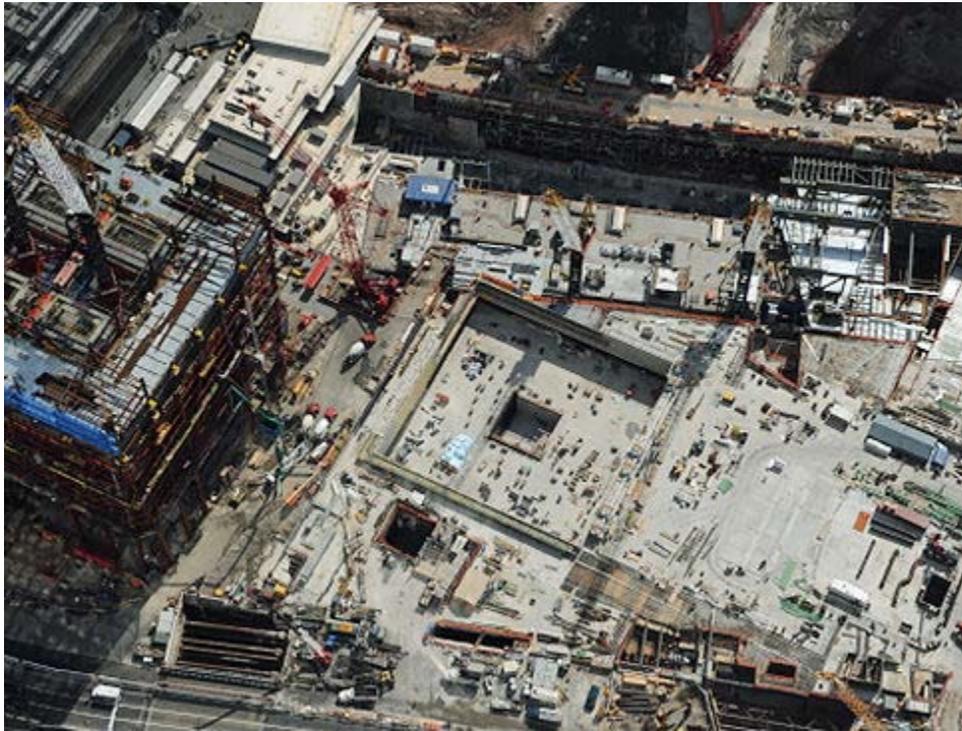
"We're going to send timber samples to a laboratory to do endocrinology that will help us to get a sense of when the boat was constructed," McDonald said.

Workers also found a 100-pound anchor in the same area, but they're not sure if it belongs to the ship. The last time a major archeological find was made along the waterfront was in 1982, when an 18th-century cargo ship was discovered under 175 Water St.

Pappalardo expressed surprise that the ship was discovered intact so many years after it was buried underground.

"I kept thinking of how closely it came to being destroyed," he added.

Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/ny\\_local/2010/07/14/2010-07-14\\_32footlong\\_hull\\_of\\_18th\\_century\\_ship\\_found\\_buried\\_at\\_world\\_trade\\_center.html#ixzz0tIMu5cqL](http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2010/07/14/2010-07-14_32footlong_hull_of_18th_century_ship_found_buried_at_world_trade_center.html#ixzz0tIMu5cqL)



Bonifacio/News

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Japan News and Discussion

### Workers in NY begin to dismantle buried ship

Tuesday 27th July, 07:25 AM JST

NEW YORK —

Plank by plank, archeologists on Monday began the delicate process of dismantling a section of an 18th century ship that was found buried across the street from the World Trade Center site. Each plank will be freeze-dried so that the fragmentary hull can eventually be reassembled and put on display, said Nichole Doub, head conservator for the Maryland Archeological Conservation Laboratory.

The 32-foot (9.7-meter) section of the nameless vessel was found earlier this month as workers were excavating for the rebuilt World Trade Center's parking garage. The archeologists who carefully began taking it apart said they were thrilled by the historic find.

"This is my first ship. I've been doing archeology in New York City for almost 30 years," said Diane Dallal, director of archeology for AKRF, an environmental, engineering and planning consulting firm that is working on the project.

Historians believe the ship had been junked by the time it was used around 1810 as landfill to extend the shores of lower Manhattan. The ship's exact age will be determined by lab analysis. Warren Riess, a historian at the University of Maine whose specialty is 18th-century ships, said the buried fragment appeared to be the ship's bow. "It's probably something that was like a coastal schooner or brigantine or sloop," he said.

Riess said the ship likely sailed from New York to Boston or to Virginia or Barbados carrying goods such as flour, bricks or hay.

"A merchant ship, a jack of all trade \_ that's my first guess," he said. "It's the kind of ship that made New York, when you think about it." The ship was found partially intact because the dirt it was buried in preserved it. Riess said the ship is an important find because no one would have bothered to save such a commonplace vessel 200 years ago. "Nobody wrote about it, nobody made drawings of it," he said.

The discovery of the ship's rotting timbers 20 feet (6 meters) below street level in a spot surrounded by office towers suggests Manhattan's long history as a hub of commerce. "The Dutch set it up as a trading post and what is it today?" Riess said. "It's the world's biggest, greatest trading post, isn't it?"

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# 18th-Century Boat to Leave World Trade Center in Pieces Monday

July 21, 2010 9:52am Updated July 21, 2010 9:57am

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Archaeologists at Ground Zero will begin taking the 18th-century boat found on the site apart on Monday.

STORY

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COMMENTS



The boat was covered in protective sheeting Tuesday to keep the wooden beams dark and wet, preventing them from deteriorating. (DNAINFO/Julie Shapiro)

By Julie Shapiro

DNAINFO Reporter/Producer

LOWER MANHATTAN — The 18th-century boat [unearthed last week at the World Trade Center site](#) is about to make its first journey in more than 200 years.

Starting on Monday, archaeologists will dismantle the ship's crumbling wooden beams and move them to storage to study them further, said Steve Coleman, spokesman for the Port Authority.

The work is scheduled to take five to eight days, but the Port Authority hopes to speed it up by adding double shifts.

After the beams leave the World Trade Center site, they will likely go to Hangar 17 at JFK Airport, which houses dozens of large artifacts of 9/11, including twisted steel columns from the Twin Towers.

The Lower Manhattan Development Corp., which owns the site where the boat was found, will seek public comment about plans for the vessel, but the agency has not yet released a timeline or any details.

Coleman said the removal of the boat would not delay work on the World Trade Center site's much-needed [Vehicle Security Center](#).

Port Authority workers found the boat 20 to 30 feet below street level while excavating the center between Liberty and Cedar Streets last Tuesday.

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Since then, the boat has captured the imagination of New Yorkers, who were surprised to learn that so much history could exist so well preserved just a couple dozen feet below the sidewalk.

A team of archaeologists from AKRF has been documenting the boat as quickly as possible, because the wood started deteriorating as soon as it hit air and light. The archaeologists are now keeping the boat wet and covered in protective sheeting so the beams will stay intact.

While AKRF will have more time to study the ship once it is off site, the team has already made some discoveries about its past.

The boat likely measured 60 feet by 18 feet and was either a small transatlantic vessel or a large coastal one, said Diane Dallal, director of archeology for AKRF. The portion uncovered at the World Trade Center is about 30 feet long, likely the bow, or front, half of the boat.

"We have the bottom, we don't have the whole thing, but it still can give us a lot of information," Dallal said.

Dallal said the ship appears to be privately owned, which is especially interesting. While extensive historic documentation exists for larger vessels like warships or government boats, smaller privately owned boats like this one often sailed under the radar.

"We know so little about the mundane ships in New York," Dallal said. "It will provide information about the construction, the design, the utilization."

For more clues about the boat's past, Dallal and her team will look at how the timbers are joined together and how they were cut, she said.

Dallal believes the boat was sunk on purpose, as part of the landfill that extended Manhattan's shoreline west into the Hudson River. Her team has also found scraps of shoe leather, shards of dishes and other refuse from the turn of the 19th century.

As for whether another boat could be lurking in the mud under the site, only time will tell, as workers continue excavating for the security center.

"It's always possible," Dallal said.



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Monday, July 19, 2010

## N.Y. / Region

### 18th-Century Ship Found at Trade Center Site

By *DAVID W. DUNLAP*

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For that reason, Doug Mackey, the chief regional archaeologist for the New York [State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation](#), was grateful for the rainfall. “If the sun had been out,” he said, “the wood would already have started to fall apart.”

As other archaeologists scrambled with tape measures over what appeared to be the floor planks of the ship's lowermost deck, Mr. Mackey said, "We're trying to record it as quickly as possible and do the analysis later." All around the skeletal hull, excavation for the security center proceeded, changing the muddy terrain every few minutes.

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A 1797 map shows that the excavation site is close to where Lindsey's Wharf and Lake's Wharf once projected into the Hudson. So, no matter how many mysteries now surround the vessel, it may turn out that the ghost even has a name.

*Readers who know a thing or two about boat-building or maritime history are encouraged to look through the slide show and offer their interpretations.*

The New York Times – City Room

The S.S. World Trade Center Sets Sail

By DAVID W. DUNLAP AND FRED R. CONRAD

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Whatever the antique vessel was, and whenever in the 18th century it arrived on the Lower Manhattan waterfront, one thing can be said almost certainly: Its journey in was easier than its journey out.

The vessel was discovered by workers on July 13, about 20 to 30 feet below street level, during the excavation of a site bounded by West, Washington, Liberty and Cedar Streets. This area — which had not been disturbed during the construction of the original World Trade Center — will one day house the vehicle ramps leading to the network of roadways, loading areas and parking spaces under the new World Trade Center.

The wood-hulled ship was an object of instant archaeological interest and popular speculation. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey worked around it as much as possible while keeping the excavation on track. But the time for salvaging and removing the vessel finally arrived on Monday. Among those on site for the delicate operation were the archaeologists A. Michael Pappalardo, Diane Dallal and Molly McDonald of AKRF, the consulting firm working for the Port Authority; Warren Riess of the Darling Marine Center of the University of Maine, who worked on the last vessel unearthed in Lower Manhattan in 1982; and Nicole Doub, the head conservator of the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Library in St. Leonard, to which the remnants of the ship are bound — piece by piece.

After planks were coded and tagged, Ms. Doub carried them up from the muddy pit and wrapped them carefully in padded cocoons for their trip to Maryland. A spokesman for the Port Authority said that it was hoped the disassembly and removal could be finished before the end of the week, with archaeologists working double shifts. Ms. Dallal, still excited by the find, allowed as how that wouldn't be a problem. "I don't think they'll want to go home," she said.

Just before the dismantling began in earnest, the archaeologists allowed Fred R. Conrad of The Times aboard the vessel briefly to take a panoramic view of the site. The photograph can be viewed in any direction: 360 degrees left to right (or right to left), all the way down to the lowermost deck of the ship and all the way up to the protective tarpaulin, which billowed in the wind. It was, Ms. Dallal noted, as if the ship were on one final sail.

**Op-Chart**

**Raiders of the Lost City**

Last week, workers at the World Trade Center site discovered a 30-foot section of an 18th-century ship, buried about 20 to 30 feet below street level. It's a remarkable find, but hardly a first for New York. Since the late 1970s, hundreds of archaeological digs around the city have uncovered thousands of artifacts and structures — each of which have helped to shape our understanding of New York's history. The Op-Ed editors asked 12 local archaeologists to share their most memorable discoveries.

**Tannery**

Foley Square

Maps show that in the 18th century the Collect Pond, which sat on the north side of Foley Square but was filled in around 1815, was home to the city's tanning industry — but there were no artifacts to prove it. In 1995, though, I determined that subtle changes in the soil composition under the square were probably caused by rotted bark and organic mats, items that were used in the tanning process. Subsequent excavations yielded goat horns from discarded carcasses and tanning hooks, evidence that tanneries had in fact been on the site.

— JOSEPH SCHULDENREIN, archaeological consultant

**Almshouse**

City Hall Park

This 18th-century building, located earlier this year, was the city's first poorhouse. Thousands of artifacts were found, including coins, pottery and a skeleton key — evidence that before the grand City Hall went up in the early 19th century, the neighborhood was occupied by the poor and prisoners, some of whom were American soldiers who were captured during the Revolutionary War.

— ALYSSA LOORYA, archaeological consultant

**Row house foundations**

7 Hanover Square

Digging along the east side of Pearl Street in 1981, my colleagues and I uncovered the well-preserved foundations of a row of houses from the late 17th century. It was only the second block of houses excavated in Lower Manhattan, and it yielded a trove of artifacts from the city's earliest days — including a ceramic crucible, proof that a silversmith may have once worked there.

— ARNOLD PICKMAN, archaeological consultant

**Battery wall**

Battery Park

We discovered this wall in four sections, built in 1741 and 1755, during the 2005 excavations for the new South Ferry subway station. Long buried by history, it was thrilling to find such a large intact artifact that had been part of everyday life over 250 years ago.

— LINDA STONE, archaeological consultant

**Lovelace Tavern**

85 Broad Street

During the city's first large formal archaeological exploration, in 1979, we uncovered the foundations, the floor and many artifacts from Lovelace Tavern, built in 1670. The discovery included a remnant of a barrel containing many intact (but empty) wine bottles. The tavern wasn't just a site for socializing; it served as New York's second city hall. The foundations were preserved and can now be seen on the plaza of the former Goldman Sachs building.

— NAN A. ROTHSCHILD, professor at Barnard College

**Windmill**

Governors Island

In 1998 my firm uncovered what we believe to be remnants of a wind-powered sawmill built by the Dutch around 1625. The mill was recorded in 17th-century texts and maps, but its exact location and appearance were unknown before the excavation. It sits less than two feet beneath park grounds that hundreds of thousands of visitors walk over every summer.

— HOLLY HERBSTER, archaeological consultant

**Bottle fragment**

King Manor, Jamaica, Queens

In 2004 I found this wine bottle fragment buried with the remains of an 18th-century structure that had been used by slaves. It was carved with an X. The mark is most likely a West African Bakongo cosmogram, a depiction of the universe — strong evidence that Africans in New York preserved their ancestral communal beliefs despite their enslavement.

— CHRISTOPHER MATTHEWS, associate professor at Hofstra University

**Plow furrows**

Sheridan Square

During a 1962 dig, my colleagues and I were surprised to discover a well-preserved series of dark stains buried under several layers of soil — unmistakable proof that one spring day, in the 18th or early 19th century, a farmer had been there plowing his fields. What is today a dense and vibrant urban neighborhood was, not long ago, a quiet country farm.

— ANNE-MARIE CANTWELL, professor at Rutgers University

**Ritual bath**

5 Allen Street

During a 2001 excavation, we uncovered a luxurious turn-of-the-century bathhouse with a 20-foot swimming pool as well as a 6-foot-by-6-foot ritual pool, or mikvah. Rabbi Nochum Rosenberg examined the pool and declared its construction "kosher," making it one of the oldest known mikvahs in New York and the first discovered in archaeological excavations in the city.

— CELIA BERGOFFEN, adjunct professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology

**Scuttled ship**

175 Water Street

Sometime between 1737 and 1746, the owners of five East River water lots used a ship, which had been scuttled along the shore, to create the outer edge of a new block. We discovered it in 1981 and while it was not the first ship found in a Manhattan landfill, it was the first to be fully excavated, providing a unique example of colonial engineering.

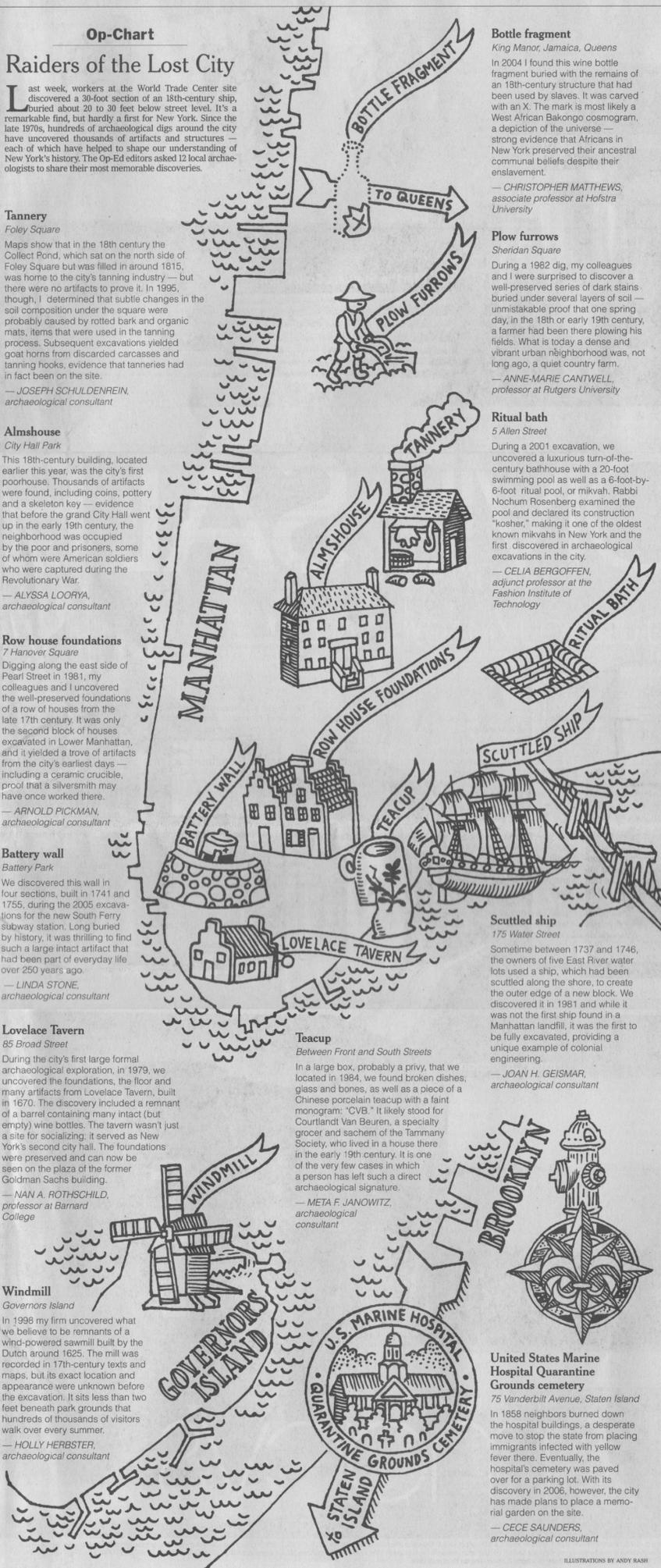
— JOAN H. GEISMAR, archaeological consultant

**Teacup**

Between Front and South Streets

In a large box, probably a privy, that we located in 1984, we found broken dishes, glass and bones, as well as a piece of a Chinese porcelain teacup with a faint monogram: "CVB." It likely stood for Courtlandt Van Beuren, a specialty grocer and sachem of the Tammany Society, who lived in a house there in the early 19th century. It is one of the very few cases in which a person has left such a direct archaeological signature.

— META F. JANOWITZ, archaeological consultant



**United States Marine Hospital Quarantine Grounds cemetery**

75 Vanderbilt Avenue, Staten Island

In 1858 neighbors burned down the hospital buildings, a desperate move to stop the state from placing immigrants infected with yellow fever there. Eventually, the hospital's cemetery was paved over for a parking lot. With its discovery in 2006, however, the city has made plans to place a memorial garden on the site.

— CECE SAUNDERS, archaeological consultant

| <b>Event</b>  | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Speaker</b>   | <b>Time</b>      | <b>Date</b>                    | <b>Location</b>  | <b>Contacts</b>   |
|---|--|--|------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| "Archaeology and the Public in New York" at the African Burial Ground National Monument | Featured: Amanda Sutphin, Warren Perry, Cynthia Copeland, Jenna Coplin, and Sherrill Wilson  |  | 9am-12pm         | Sept. 19, 2010                 | African Burial Ground National Monument, corner of Duane and Elk Streets | RSVP: 212-637-0460  |
| Met Chapter Event   | "An 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Ship at the World Trade Center Site"  | Elizabeth Meade, AKRF  | 6pm              | Sept. 23, 2010                 | AKRF, 440 Park Ave. S, 7 <sup>th</sup> Fl., Big Apple Conference Rm.     | Met Chapter   |
| Tenement Museum Event   | "Five Points: The 19 <sup>th</sup> Century neighborhood that invented tap dance, stole elections, and became the world's most notorious slum"                              | Tyler Anbinder   | 6:30pm           | Sept. 23, 2010                 | The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 91 Orchard St., NY, NY              | <a href="mailto:events@tenement.org">events@tenement.org</a>  |
| Walking Tour: Geology of Northern Central Park  | including bedrock and glacial features, as well as the War of 1812 fortifications and Huddlestone Bridge.  | Geologist Sidney Horenstein                                      | 10am-12pm, 1-3pm | Sept. 26, 2010                 | AMNH, 81 <sup>st</sup> and Central Park West                             | <a href="http://www.amnh.org/programs/programs.php?src=p_h&amp;date=2010-09-26&amp;event_id=1793">http://www.amnh.org/programs/programs.php?src=p_h&amp;date=2010-09-26&amp;event_id=1793</a> |
| New York Society/Archaeological Institute of America Lecture: NYAC/PANyc Joint Meeting  | Amheida: Excavating a City in the Dakhla Oasis of Egypt<br>Business Meeting, program information TBA   | Roger Bagnall, Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, NYC | 6:30pm<br>1-3pm  | Sept. 30, 2010<br>Oct. 2, 2010 | ISAW, 14 E84th St.   | Linda Stone   |
| Tenement Museum Event   | "This Historical Atlas of New York City: a visual celebration of nearly 400 years of New York City's history"  | Eric Homburger   | 6:30pm           | Oct. 6, 2010                   | The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 91 Orchard St., NY, NY              | <a href="mailto:events@tenement.org">events@tenement.org</a>  |
| New York Society/Archaeological Institute of America Lecture:                           | Haupt Lecture: "Bir Madhkur, Petra and the Incense Trade through Arabia"   | Andrew M. Smith II, George Washington U.                         | 6:30pm           | Oct. 21, 2010                  | Columbia U., Schermerhorn rm. 612  |   |
| American Anthropological Association's (AAA) 109 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting           | Circulaton: This theme is meant to encourage us to think about what happens when movement is the orga-nizing trope of our questions, methodologies, analyses and accounts. |  |                  | Nov. 17-21, 2010               | New Orleans, LA  | <a href="http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/index.cfm">http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/index.cfm</a>   |
| Tenement Museum Event   | The Encyclopedia of New York City, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ed.   | Kenneth Jackson  | 6:30pm           | Dec. 8, 2010                   | The Lower East Side Tenement Museum, 91 Orchard St., NY, NY              | <a href="mailto:events@tenement.org">events@tenement.org</a>  |

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