



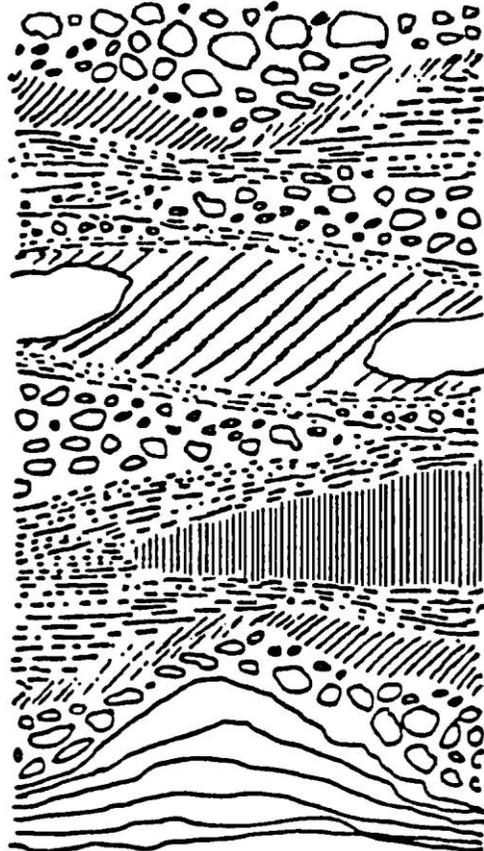
Symposium on the

ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY

**GREENWICH VILLAGE: INDIANS,
BACKYARDS, AND BURIAL GROUNDS**

**Thirtieth Annual PANYC Public Program
Museum of the City of New York
Sunday, April 19, 2009**

open to the general public



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC), is a non-profit organization of local professional archaeologists concerned with preserving the archaeological and historical resources of New York City and educating the community about our cultural heritage. We would like to thank all those who made this year's PANYC Symposium possible. This includes staff members of the Museum of the City of New York, especially Paula Zadigan, Manager of Community Programs and Alyson Cluck, Communications Associate. We also thank PANYC member Shelly Spritzer for her help with production of the flyer and program, and we especially thank all who participated in the program and all who attended.

TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL PANYC SYMPOSIUM

Presented by the Professional Archaeologists of New York City (PANYC) and the Museum of the City of New York in Honor of the Late Dorothy M. Miner, Former Counsel to the New York Landmarks Preservation Commission and Friend of Archaeology

GREENWICH VILLAGE: INDIANS, BACKYARDS, AND BURIAL GROUNDS

1:00

Welcome

Joan H. Geismar, Program Chair

1:15

Greenwich Village as Indian Country

Anne-Marie Cantwell, Rutgers University

When, 400 years ago, Henry Hudson sailed up the river that now bears his name, he passed by the western reaches of today's Greenwich Village. Known then as Sapokanikan, it had been Indian country for 13,000 years. In 1982, archaeologists excavated the Sheridan Square site hoping to find traces of 17th century Native life but instead found not only how Indian Country had been transformed but also how the idea of the land itself had been rethought.

1:35

Village Backyards: Excavating New York's First Suburb

Diana DiZ. Wall, CUNY

In the early 19th century, the Village became one of the city's first suburbs after its farms were subdivided into urban-sized lots and developed with single-family homes for the city's middle-class and rich. Excavations in the backyards behind some of these houses have revealed many details of middle-class domestic life. This talk provides an overview of some of these backyard projects.

1:55

Before It Was Washington Square Park...

Joan H. Geismar, Joan H. Geismar, Ph.D., LLC

Washington Square Park includes the western part of a late-18th to early-19th-century Potter's Field that, in its entirety, was said to include 20,000 interments. After almost a quarter century of active use, the former burial ground was transformed, first into a parade ground, and then a public park. Recent archaeological testing related to new construction raised, and answered, several questions--foremost among them, did any burials remain?

2:15 – 2:25

Break

Please be seated promptly

2:25

Lost Amongst the Rubble: The Spring Street Church Site

Douglas Mooney, URS Corp.

Subterranean burial vaults discovered during recent archaeological investigations on the former Spring Street Presbyterian Church property contained over 150 burials. Analysis of forty-five intact burials from these brick and stone vaults offered new information about the structure and internal organization of such vaults and the preservation of human remains in the 19th century.

2:45

Coffin Plates from the Spring Street Church Site: Stories from the Rubble

Rebecca White, URS Corp

Coffin plates were among the funerary artifacts recovered from the Spring Street Presbyterian Church vaults. A coating of dirt, corrosion, and insect casings made most of them indecipherable. However intensive cleaning eventually revealed the elegantly engraved names, ages, and dates of death, for some of the people interred in the vaults. Research using church documents, census records and newspapers revealed some of their personal stories.

3:05

Dialogue

Anne-Marie Cantwell, Diana DiZ. Wall, Joan H. Geismar, Douglas Mooney, Rebecca White

The opportunity to ask questions and discuss New York City archaeology with the program's speakers.