

PAC Newsletter

Spring 2022

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PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

In This Issue:

A VISION FOR A FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGY	1
PAC UPDATES.....	2
Membership.....	2
Consulting Party	3
AGENCY UPDATES	4
PHMC – PA SHPO.....	4
PennDOT – PFAST	5
UPCOMING EVENTS	5
2022 PAC Spring Business Meeting and Symposium.....	5
Upcoming Conferences and Events...6	
RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS	7
AECOM Burlington’s I-95 Symposium at the 2022 SHA Conference	7
Populating a Radiocarbon Database of North America	9
IUP Field School Announcement - Squirrel Hill (36WM0035)	10
Excavations of Feature 173 at the Fort Hunter site (36Da159): Military Fort, Colonial Plantation Building, or Indian Trade Post?	11
Archaeological Investigations on Duncan’s Island, at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers in Central Pennsylvania.....	13
THE BACK PAGE	15
What’s It? Mystery Artifact.....	15

Banner image: Ca. 1890 photograph of a blacksmith shop in Milan, Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Courtesy of Dawn Fenton.

A VISION FOR A FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGY

Before jumping in, let me wish you all good health and a desire to see all of you in fine mettle in Ligonier in April. If you have not yet taken the opportunity to get vaccinated, please do so. We are tantalizingly seeing the end of the current COVID pandemic. Let us hope that it is in fact and not a mirage. Following sound public health measures as well as widespread vaccination will help make it true.

Although I am not on the field of battle, having retired over 3 years ago, I do hear things. One of which is that there is a current and systemic shortage of archaeologists, especially those capable of serving as principal investigators. I don't have any metrics to verify what I am hearing, but I am willing to accept it on logic. Archaeologists that meet Secretary of Interior Standards require a Master's Degree, plus around 2 years or more of specialized experience. Insofar as archaeology is a practice and a trade, more experience is better, so it generally goes hand in hand that more time on the job translates into better skills. Speaking of Secretary of Interior Standards, archaeology is the only profession for which there is no substitute for a Master's Degree. And in spite of the high bar which we must meet, pay generally lags, often on par with other historic preservation jobs that have lower minimum credential levels. Finally, the Great Resignation is symbolic of many workers fed up with the current job market, characterized by lack of benefits, lack of adequate work hours, and an overall degradation of the working environment. Archaeology is just one data point in this trend, but unlikely to be an outlier.

As I metaphorically look around the room, I see a greying profession. To the point where one could speculate that American Archaeology was one extended fad, that ended with the Baby Boomer generation, and joining other former professions that lack relevance today – television repairperson (or any repair person, for that matter), COBOL programmer, punch card operator – you get my drift.

Does archaeology have relevance? If we can't articulate our role in society today, then how do we appear to students who are shopping for a career? Egyptology, Indiana Jones, Laura Croft can only get you so far in marketing. Romance and digging in exotic places (Pennsylvania?) may tug at them, but being able to make a decent living and/or making a difference after giving up 6 or 8 years of your

life is what matters.

Fortunately, I believe that American archaeology is in the unique position to fill an important gap in telling our Nation's history, as evidenced in the work in Tulsa, or at President's House in Philadelphia, or at Pandernarium across the state in Mercer County. We are less dependent on written history, which captures the stories of the privileged first. Our background in anthropology should center us in understanding cultures and cultural differences and how to value stories and ideas that belong to others. If this is the case, then a future archaeology will be more story-telling and less hypothesis testing, more public engagement and less quiet research, more collaboration and less cowboys of science. Science and technique will still be important, but no longer the end in itself.

As an organization, we are committing to a mentoring program, still nascent in design. Maybe it's time to put some meat on the bones. We have established a scholarship fund to increase diversity in archaeology. We need it to grow to be able to create an endowment that will provide meaningful grants. If you are in a position to do so, please make a donation, either online, or hand your check over to Hannah in April. Jonathan Libbon has made an excellent suggestion to have PAC professionals review student and emerging professional resumes and to provide constructive guidance. A model for this already exists at IUP as part of their advisory committee duties. It should be a simple matter to get a small group willing to help polish resumes.

In mid-February, I attended an SAA webinar titled **Improve Your Employability: Insider Tips on Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Sector Jobs**. Given the long-held hostility that SAA has had toward cultural resources management, providing this webinar was remarkable. Personally, I think PAC could do something along these lines for our emerging archaeologists, and possibly better. Beyond acting as a clearinghouse for mentoring emerging archaeologists, PAC could possibly go a bit further and offer a hotline – a list of archeologists that would (cheerily) mentor emerging professionals and offer advice on any relevant topic, by phone, Facetime, or Zoom.

We support professional archaeology, by our membership in PAC, but to what end? The road to relevance and to better story-telling is likely going to be bumpy, and like the much-ridiculed continuous quality improvement movement, never ending. Still, saving our profession was never going to be a check-a-box. So, everyone, buckle up, and let's go. Let's have a future archaeology worth sharing.

Ira Beckerman, President
February 25, 2022

PAC UPDATES

Membership

Jonathan Libbon, SWCA Environmental Consultants

We encourage all existing members to discuss the benefits of joining the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council with their colleagues. From a top-quality newsletter and engaging biannual seminars to a direct line of communication with major agencies across Pennsylvania, PAC provides its membership with resources that allow for growth and development within the professional community. Joining PAC is a straightforward process, and for emerging professionals, it's an easy opportunity to network and learn about the professional archaeology community in the Commonwealth.

If you know any archaeologists who are not members or have fallen behind in their membership, please encourage them to join. If there are any questions regarding membership, please reach out to me at jlibbon@swca.com.

Thank You!

2022 Donors & Sustaining Members

Archaeology Month 2022

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Consulting Party

Lisa Dugas, Big Pine Consultants LLC

Every year, PAC participates as a consulting party in the Section 106 process under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1969, as amended. Typically, most consultation is related to Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) environmental review (ER) for Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) undertakings. This year, however, PAC participated in consultation with a variety of agency sponsors including US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR); Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as well as PennDOT. PAC collaborated with agencies, cultural resource management firms, Native American Tribes, and other consulting parties to develop agreement documents such as, Memorandum of Agreements (MOA) and Programmatic Agreements (PA). PAC also commented on alternative testing strategies and creative mitigation plans. Consultation summaries are provided below. The current consulting party project list is shown in the following table.

PAC participated as a consulting party for the White Rock Road Relocation Project (ER No. 2010-8056-005) in Armstrong County. An MOA between USACE (Pittsburgh District), PA SHPO, South Buffalo Township (Armstrong County) and PennDOT was developed. PAC President, Ira Beckerman, signed the agreement as one of the Concurring Parties. Heberling Associates Inc. completed Phase III Data Recovery excavations in September 2021 for two (2) small Early/Middle Woodland sites (36AR535 and 36AR536). A management summary was provided to South Buffalo Township Supervisors.

PAC participated as a consulting party with DCNR, PA SHPO, the National Park Service (NPS), Preservation PA and Skelly and Loy to support development of DCNR-PHMC Interagency Agreements. Ms. Angela Jaillet-Wentling explained DCNR priorities for a project specific PA and separate agency-to-agency PA to formalize review between DCNR and PA SHPO. The project specific PA is related to NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) for the conversion of portions of state forest lands and state park lands. Project specific PA will be created to resolve outstanding issues related to gas well pad conversions on state lands. PAC provide feedback on a proposed mitigation package for the project specific PA. A draft mitigation plan was written for the project specific PA.

A new Statewide Section 106 Programmatic Agreement between FHWA and USACE is being drafted for Pennsylvania. The new PA addresses

federal aid highway projects and highway projects that may require a permit from the USACE. PAC was invited to consult on the new PA and proposed to participate in the development of the PA as a concurring party. PAC reviewed and offered comments on the draft agreement.

The SEPTA Conshohocken Station Smart Parking Garage (PR No. 2021PR02467) project is being developed to increase parking availability and help reduce traffic on I-76. The cultural resources studies were conducted by AECOM and McCormick Taylor. Investigations included historic research, geomorphology, and ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey. Results showed potential for archaeological resources related to the Schuylkill Navigation Company Canal (Key No. 156463/2011RE00270) and Plymouth Canal at Lock 66 Site (36MG0511/2021RE02664). The geomorphological borings also showed deeply buried horizons that may contain pre-contact deposits. PAC participated as a consulting party to learn about the Federal Transit Agency's (FTA) good faith effort to identify and record the archaeological resources and the efforts made to avoid project impacts to resources, as well as discuss mitigation options. Additional investigations logistical constraints and safety concerns prevented further ground truth efforts. The project was redesigned to avoid precontact deposits. An MOA and mitigation for Lock 66 effects will be developed.

PAC commented on alternative methods for Phase I testing for the Riverlands Safety Implementation SR 22, Section 075 (ER No. 2020-8059-043). The project will provide safety improvements to the US 22/322 corridor in northern Dauphin County from the SR 147 interchange at the eastern end of the Clark's Ferry Bridge to the interchange with US 11/15. The proposed alternative Phase I methodology of using standard 1mx1m excavation units to a depth of approximately 1.5m supplemented with mechanical excavation using Paleo-Digger to reach deeper deposits. PAC agreed with the use of Paleo-Digger as an alternative to traditional excavation to test deep soils.

PennDOT's Balls Bend Improvements Project SR 0228, Section 270 (ER No. 1999-6127-019) will provide needed upgrades. Archaeological testing by Heberling Associates, Inc. at Site 36BT505 identified structural remains and artifacts from the J. Harbison farmstead inhabited between ca. 1864 and ca. 1931. Phase II studies indicated potential for new information from the site. Phase III data recovery workplan and mitigation options were developed if project cannot avoid site.

PAC is available to participate as a consulting party on projects that involve archaeological resources in Pennsylvania. Please contact Lisa Dugas with questions at ldugas@bigpineconsultants.com.

ER/PR #	Project	County	Agency	Purpose	Resources	Section 106 Stage	Comments
2010-8056-005	White Rock Road Relocation Project	Armstrong	USACE	Road Relocation	36AR535, 36AR536	MOA and Mitigation	Historic Properties Affected - Phase III Early/Middle Woodland camp sites.
	DCNR-PHMC Interagency Agreement	Multiple	DCNR	LWCF Program	NA	PA and Mitigation	PAC provided feedback on a proposed mitigation package for LWCF project specific PA.
	FHWA-USACE Statewide Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for Pennsylvania	Multiple	FHWA-USACE	New PA for federal aid highway projects/projects that may require USACE permit	NA	PA	PAC to participate in the development of the PA as a concurring party. PAC reviewed and offered comments on the Draft PA.
2021PR 02467	SEPTA Conshohocken Station Smart Parking Garage	Montgomery	FTA	Increase parking to reduce traffic on I-76	Multiple, (see comments)	MOA	Schuylkill Navigation Company Canal (Key No. 156463/2011RE00270), Plymouth Canal at Lock 66 Site (36MG0511/2021RE02664), deeply buried precontact era deposits possible. Precontact deposits avoided, develop MOA and mitigation for Lock 66 effects.
2020-8059-043 (2020P R03800)	Riverlands Safety Implementation SR 22, Section 075	Dauphin	PennDOT	safety improvements	NA	Identification	Phase I testing using standard 1mx1m excavation units to a depth of 1.5m with mechanical excavation using Paleo-Digger to reach deeper deposits.
1999-6127-019	Balls Bend Improvements Project SR 0228, Section 270	Butler	PennDOT	Improvements	36BT505	Mitigation	Phase III data recovery workplan developed if project cannot avoid site.

Current consulting party project list as of March 8, 2022.

AGENCY UPDATES

PHMC – PA SHPO

Casey Hanson, Eastern Region Archaeologist

Just before the new year, Emma Diehl was named the new Environmental Review Division Chief at the PA SHPO. Emma was previously an above ground project reviewer at the PA SHPO and a consultant before that. We are also currently in the process of hiring a Historic Preservation Supervisor for the Archaeology section in environmental review, and that announcement should be soon. Depending on the results of that search, we may be advertising for another project reviewer in archaeology in the near future. Alli Davis was recently hired as the new Historical Marker Coordinator and Frank Grumbine is our new Central Region Coordinator.

We completed updating the Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations in Pennsylvania and can be found here:

<https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/Guidelines%20for%20Archaeological%20Investigations.pdf>.

The 2021 PASS Report was completed earlier this month and can be found here:

https://www.phmc.pa.gov/Preservation/About/Documents/PASSREPORT_2022Final.pdf.

PennDOT – PHAST

Susanne Haney, PennDOT District 10-0 and PHAST

In spring 2021 I picked up oversight of the Pennsylvania Highway Archaeological Survey Team (PHAST). Unfortunately, there is not much to report, except for the behind-the-scenes scrambling to keep the program intact and primed while on pause this past summer. The Commonwealth suspended their internship positions in 2021, and budget constraints prevented the hiring of a crew. Despite all the setbacks, IUP graduate student Amanda Telep was brought on as the field director, and in between classes she was able to take on some tasks in late fall and early winter. Amanda assisted with fieldwork for one project in Cambria County and prepared artifacts for curation

recovered from a project in Allegheny County. Over the winter break, graduate student Sonja Williams joined her to begin preparing for curation a large collection of artifacts recovered from a project in Erie County.

With, hopefully, the worst of the pandemic and budget “bumps in the road” behind us, we look forward to bringing back the PHAST program at full capacity in 2022. The next five-year Interagency Agreement (IAA) with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) is being finalized, and Amanda is ready and waiting at the helm. We will fill three Engineering, Science and Technical Intern (ESTI) field tech positions for 2022 and have begun to compile a list of potential projects. We’re looking forward to what the 2022 summer field season will bring, so stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 PAC Spring Business Meeting and Symposium

Friday, April 8, 2022 - Ramada by Wyndham Ligonier, Ligonier, PA

After 2+ long years of COVID, we are thrilled to finally be able to meet again in person and hold the research Symposium that was originally planned for 2020! Special thanks to PAC members Susanne Haney and Jessica Schumer-Rowles for their role in organizing this session and liaising with the SPA to host our business meeting.

The PAC business meeting will be held on Friday, April 8 at 9:30 am at the Ramada. The hotel will provide a wrap buffet lunch for \$17.64 to be paid to the hotel that day.

The symposium will begin with a brief presentation at the Ramada followed by a tour of the Compass Inn Museum. Admission to the Museum is \$10. A shuttle to the Compass Inn Museum will be provided at no charge; however, donations will be accepted to cover the cost.

The schedule for April 8 is listed below. For more details about the activities available at the Compass Inn Museum, please visit <https://pennarchcouncil.org/2022/02/2022-pennsylvania-archaeology-council-pac-symposium-information-and-schedule/>.

10:00 am – 5:00 pm SPA Registration in the Ramada Lobby

9:30 am – 12:00 pm PAC Business Meeting

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Wrap Lunch at Ramada or Lunch at Other Local Eatery

1:00 pm – 4:45 pm PAC Symposium: Archaeology of Blacksmith Shops Workshop/Compass Inn Museum Tour

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Archaeology of Blacksmith Shops Intro

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Shuttle to the Compass Inn Museum

2:15 pm – 4:45 pm Compass Inn Museum Tour and Workshop

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm Shuttle to the Ramada

This workshop is in partial fulfillment of mitigation commitments by FHWA and PennDOT for adverse effects to the McQuilken Blacksmith Shop site (36IN0463) as a result of the SR 0119 Sec 463 Home Bridge #3 project.

For more information about the SPA Annual Meeting and registration links for both events, please visit: <https://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com/AnnualMeeting.htm>.

Upcoming Conferences and Events

Compiled by Gary Coppock, Skelly and Loy, Inc.

Organization	Location	Date	Abstract Due Date	Web Address
MAAC (Middle Atlantic Archaeological Council)	Ocean City, MD	March 24-27, 2022	past	https://maac10.wildapricot.org/
SAA (Society for American Archaeology)	Chicago, IL	March 30 - April 3, 2022	past	http://www.saa.org/
PAC Business Meeting	Ligonier, PA	April 8, 2022	NA	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
PAC Symposium The Archaeology of Blacksmithing	Ligonier, PA	April 8, 2022	NA	https://pennarchcouncil.org/2022/02/2022-pennsylvania-archaeology-council-pac-symposium-information-and-schedule/
SPA (Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology)	Ligonier, PA	April 9-10, 2022	past	http://www.pennsylvaniaarchaeology.com/
SIA (Society for Industrial Archeology)	Portland, OR	June 9-12, 2022	past	http://www.sia-web.org/
PHA (Pennsylvania Historical Association)	Williamsport, PA	October 13-15, 2022	April 15, 2022	https://pa-history.org/
PAC Business Meeting and Fall Program	TBD	TBD	NA	http://www.pennarchcouncil.org/
PHMC Workshops in Archaeology African American Archaeology in Pennsylvania	State Museum, Harrisburg	October 29, 2022	NA	http://statemuseumpa.org/events/
ESAF (Eastern States Archaeological Federation)	Shippensburg, PA	November 4-6, 2022	TBA	http://esaf-archeology.org/
Joint Meeting of SHA (Society for Historical Archaeology) and CNEHA (Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology)	Plymouth, MA	November 5-7, 2022	TBA	https://sha.org/ https://cneha.org/
SHA (Society for Historical Archaeology)	Lisbon, Portugal	January 4-7, 2023	TBA	https://sha.org/
SAA (Society for American Archaeology)	Portland, OR	March 29 – April 2, 2023	TBA	http://www.saa.org/

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

AECOM Burlington's I-95 Symposium at the 2022 SHA Conference

Stephen W. Tull, AECOM

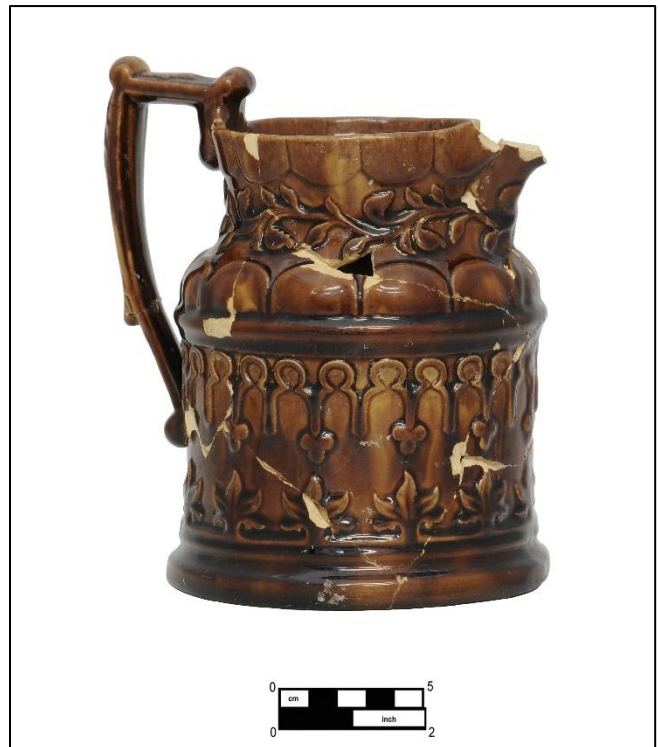
The Society for Historical Archaeology's 55th Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology was held in Philadelphia this past January 5-8, 2022 with its theme as "Enduring and Elusive Freedoms." Given that AECOM's Eastern Cultural Resources office in nearby Burlington, New Jersey has been conducting the largest archaeological project in Philadelphia's (and indeed the country's) history for more than a decade, it seemed imperative that an entire session at the conference be devoted to this work. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) are currently undertaking a long-term, multi-phase project to significantly improve and rebuild a three-mile long section of Interstate 95 between the I-676/Vine Street Expressway and Allegheny Avenue Interchanges in Philadelphia. This stretch of highway, known as Section GIR, has been subject to archaeological investigations by AECOM since 2008 (under a contract with PennDOT Engineering District 6-0), and winds through the Old City/Upper Delaware Ward, Northern Liberties, Kensington-Fishtown, and Port Richmond neighborhoods along the Delaware River.

While much of Philadelphia's historical image and tourism focus has centered on its involvement in the American Revolution and the founding of the country, its postcolonial and more recent past has more frequently remained hidden or even forgotten. The northernmost, and most recently settled, neighborhood of the GIR project area, Port Richmond, presented AECOM with an appropriate case study to shed light on some of the city's more recent past at the conference. Port Richmond is a large, traditionally working-class neighborhood along the Delaware River north of Fishtown. Arising around the Reading Railroad's coal depot in the 1840s, it was known for its rough-and-tumble character and had a populace composed of a wide range of ethnic, religious, and economic groups. Growing from a somewhat isolated settlement around the coal wharves in the mid-nineteenth century into part of an expanding metropolis, the neighborhood's orderly rows of homes continued to grow in the twentieth century, with new waves of immigrants leaving their stamp on the area even as industries such as the once-proud Reading Railroad faded.

AECOM's I-95 paper session, entitled "The Archaeology of the Delaware River Waterfront:

Symposium of Philadelphia Neighborhoods," was held on Friday afternoon, January 7, and consisted of eight papers given by 11 different authors. The symposium was structured so as to present archaeological research at several contextual scales, ranging from the specific Port Richmond family and household level to contexts spanning multiple neighborhoods within the project area.

After an introductory paper from Stephen Tull and Douglas Mooney to begin the session, the following two presentations focused on specific properties within the Port Richmond neighborhood. The first, given by Thomas Kutys and Samuel Pickard, examined the role that early (ca. 1842-1865) Port Richmond's grocers played in the burgeoning neighborhood and the connotations of the "grocer" occupation at that time through historical research and archaeological examples from three privy shafts at three different properties. This was followed by Madelaine Penney's discussion of children-related artifacts from another neighborhood property, which sought to answer the question of what childhood was like in Philadelphia during the 19th century for the families living at that property and the parenting methods that governed those childhoods.



Rockingham ale pitcher recovered from the privy shaft related to the Harp Tavern/Daniel McCafferty's grocery at 2852 Richmond Street.



Porcelain doll head recovered from the brick-lined privy shaft behind 2925 Richmond Street.

Samuel Pickard and Joel Dworsky followed with a synthesis about how various cultural datasets can be combined to answer research questions on the Port Richmond neighborhood scale. This paper demonstrated that by combining artifact inventories, historic vital data, and spatial data in a geospatial environment, archaeologists can quantitatively study the neighborhood to observe how demographic and economic trends manifested materially in the archaeological record. Richard Roy's subsequent paper added to the neighborhood context by analyzing the faunal material from Port Richmond. Tied to specific families, these household assemblages across the neighborhood offered a glimpse into how the varying cultural backgrounds of Port Richmond's residents influenced their diets.

The last three presentations incorporated data not only from the Port Richmond neighborhood, but also the Kensington-Fishtown neighborhood, immediately to the south, thereby yet again widening the contextual scale. Alexandra Crowder's paper discussed artifacts recovered from these neighborhoods that show evidence of women working, particularly related to the laundering and repairing of clothing. The highlighted artifacts were utilized to understand the implications of working for nineteenth-century women, as well as the social, economic, and cultural impacts that those women had on Philadelphia. Carolyn Horlacher and Lindsey Adams' paper, using the historical research done in conjunction with the archaeology, explored the material manifestation of infancy in Kensington-Fishtown and Port Richmond and the history of early



Port Richmond: Somerset-Cambria block map showing parcels classified by generalized ethnicity at the time of the 1880 census.

childhood nutrition as it relates to infant mortality. Finally, Kevin McKain and Alexandra Crowder examined archaeobotanical assemblages recovered from the Gunnar's Run South Site in Fishtown to illuminate how plant material ended up in the privies of nineteenth-century Philadelphians, as well as their cultural relationship to these inhabitants.

As a cohesive session on the I-95 Girard Avenue Interchange Improvement Project, these papers comprised a fairly comprehensive synthesis of the many contextual, material, and temporal scales being studied as part of the project. The session provided a glimpse into the research potential hidden within Philadelphia's more recent past – a recent past in which many current residents can trace their roots and, indeed, frequently still find a sense of personal identity.

The Papers:

"I-95/Girard Avenue Interchange Improvement Project: The Big Picture,"

Stephen W. Tull (steve.tull@aecom.com)

Douglas B. Mooney (douglas.mooney@aecom.com)

"Equal to a Little Gold Mine': A Preliminary Study of the Grocers of Early Port Richmond, 1842-1865,"

Thomas J. Kutys (thomas.kutys@aecom.com)

Samuel A. Pickard (samuel.a.pickard@aecom.com)

"The Children of 2925 Richmond Street and the Parents that Raised Them,"

Madelaine A. Penney

(madelaine.penney@aecom.com)

"Port Richmond: Interpreting a Neighborhood,"

Samuel A. Pickard

Joel Dworsky (joel.dworsky@aecom.com)

"Fins and Scales: A Zooarchaeological Exploration of Nationality, Religion, and Foodways in the Port Richmond Neighborhood of Philadelphia,"

Richard A. Roy (richard.roy@aecom.com)

"Women at Work in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia,"

Alexandra Crowder

(alexandra.crowder@aecom.com)

"A Grim Tale: Nutrition and Childhood Mortality in Nineteenth-Century Philadelphia,"

Carolyn Horlacher (carolyn.horlacher@aecom.com)

Lindsey Adams (lindsey.adams@aecom.com)

"What Comes In, Must Come Out': A Look Into Botanical Assemblages from Historical Philadelphia Privies,"

Kevin M. McKain (kevin.mckain@aecom.com)

Alexandra Crowder

Populating a Radiocarbon Database of North America

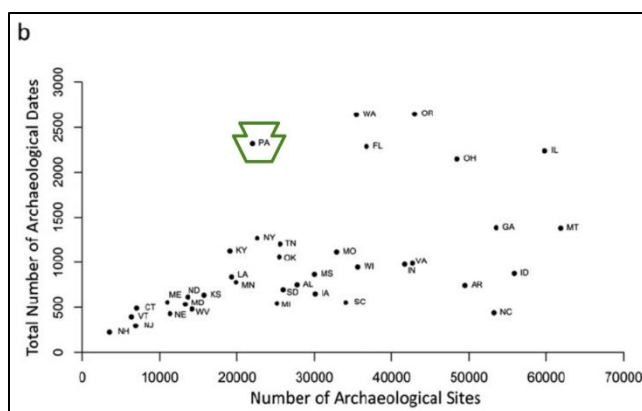
Justin McKeel, PA SHPO

Just a quick FYI for PAC members: The National Science Foundation-funded "Populating a Radiocarbon Database of North America" project recently wrapped up with the publication of "A New Radiocarbon Database for the Lower 48 States" in *American Antiquity* (Kelly et al. 2022). The project compiled over 104,000 radiocarbon dates for the lower 48 states, including 2,317 archaeological radiocarbon dates reported for Pennsylvania. There is open access to the database, most easily as a .csv file on GitHub: <https://github.com/ericknrobinson/RadiocarbonDatabaseLower48States>. Feel free to email me at jusmckeel@pa.gov if you'd like just the extracted Pennsylvania data.

The radiocarbon record of Pennsylvania is far better represented in the database compared to states with similar numbers of recorded archaeological sites. That really is a testament to the quality and tradition of archaeological research here in PA. Kelly et al. also note the difficulty of accessing grey literature to add data for some states. But for PA, over half of the radiocarbon dates were able to be added from site forms and reports digitized by SHPO and available online (at the time in CRGIS, now in PA-SHARE).

Robert L. Kelly, et al.

2022 A New Radiocarbon Database for the Lower 48 States. *American Antiquity*, Published online by Cambridge University Press: 07 February 2022.



Relationship between the reported number of recorded archaeological sites and the number of archaeological 14C dates recorded, adapted from Kelly et al. (2022, Figure 2b).

IUP Field School Announcement - Squirrel Hill (36WM0035)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) will offer an Archaeological Field School this summer from May 16 to June 24, 2022, at the National Register listed site of Squirrel Hill (36Wm0035), located in New Florence, Pennsylvania. Although the site has been intensively collected over the decades, subsurface deposits retain good integrity and have the potential to yield significant data regarding Monongahela village organization, cooking technologies, and regional trade networks. IUP conducted fieldwork at the site as part of our 2016 archaeological field school to train undergraduate and graduate archaeology students. Excavations confirmed the presence of a Johnston-phase occupation (ca. 1590 A.D.), revealed at least two earlier potential cultural components (ca. 1300 A.D. and 400 A.D.), and demonstrated that the actual site boundaries extend beyond the current Archaeological Conservancy's landholdings.

Excavations also indicated that occupation of the site was more complex than initially believed. Of particular interest, ground penetrating radar identified a large rectangular structure significantly different in both size and shape from typical Monongahela domestic structures. This summer's field school will focus on clarifying the nature of the pre-Johnston Phase occupations, determining how large the site was, finding the central plaza and/or site stockade; and ground-truthing the enigmatic rectangular structure identified in 2016.

The field school will combine traditional excavation techniques with geophysical survey, shovel testing, and soil coring. Three courses are offered: 1) ANTH 320 (6 cr.), designed for undergraduates with no previous experience; 2) ANTH 520 (6 cr.), designed for graduate students with minimal or no previous experience; and 3) ANTH 740 (4 cr.), designed for advanced graduate students seeking supervisory experience. ANTH 740 students will design an independent research objective and supervise a small crew of undergraduate students to address their research question. A Public Archaeology Day is being planned for those who wish to see the site (and get their hands dirty!) but not register for the entire course.

Class will run Monday through Saturday, 8:00am through 5:00pm. Rain days will be spent in the IUP lab washing/analyzing artifacts and trying our hand at flintknapping and pottery making. Transportation to and from the site will be provided by IUP, with rides leaving from McElhaney Hall. Housing is available through the IUP Office of Housing & Residence Life, or it can be obtained individually in town.

For more information or an application, please contact Lara Homsey-Messer (lmesser@iup.edu), Bill Chadwick (wchadwic@iup.edu), or call the IUP Department of Anthropology at 724-357-2841. Additional information on the 2016 Squirrel Hill excavations can be found at: <https://www.iup.edu/anthropology/research/excavations-at-the-late-monongahela-squirrel-hill-site.html>.



Students from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (left) and California University of Pennsylvania (right) smile from their unit at the 2016 IUP archaeological field school.

Excavations of Feature 173 at the Fort Hunter site (36Da159): Military Fort, Colonial Plantation Building, or Indian Trade Post?

Kimberly Sebestyen, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

For over a decade, archaeologists from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) have been conducting investigations of the Fort Hunter site (36Da159) in an attempt to determine the exact location of the former French and Indian War fortifications. Although the current property is known primarily for the beautiful Victorian stone mansion of Archibald McAllister and its community recreational facilities, this location has been the setting for human activity for over 9,000 years, from the Early Archaic period (6850-4850 BP.) through the present day.

Between 2006 and 2020, staff from the PHMC conducted investigations of the property at Fort Hunter Mansion and Park, located approximately six miles north of the state capitol in Harrisburg in conjunction with annual Public Archaeology Month activities each fall. Although hundreds of artifacts relating to the mid-18th century use of the property as a military fort had been found over the years, definitive physical evidence in the form of features remained scarce. Archaeologists feared that construction of the Fort Hunter mansion in 1787 and 1814 had wiped out all traces of the fort or any potentially older structures in this area.

Finally, in 2019 and 2020 archaeologists uncovered evidence adjacent to the mansion house of a structural feature that appeared to date to the fort period (1755-1763) or to the decades around the French and Indian War. This feature (Feature 173) consisted of an approximately 15-foot (4.6-meter) long cellar hole of a mid-18th-century structure. The hole is 3½-feet (1.1-meter) deep and is located approximately 3 feet (0.9 meters) below the current ground surface of the mansion yard. A 6-12-inch-thick (15-30.5 cm) dark fill soil mixed heavily with charcoal and artifacts lies along the surface of the floor and likely washed into the open hole soon after demolition of the structure. The open hole was utilized as a garbage dump for a short period before being filled in. Approximately 2½ to 3 feet (0.8-0.9 m) of a lighter-colored soil (Feature 192) filled the remainder of the cellar hole and is capped by a thin layer of almost pure charcoal (Feature 172).

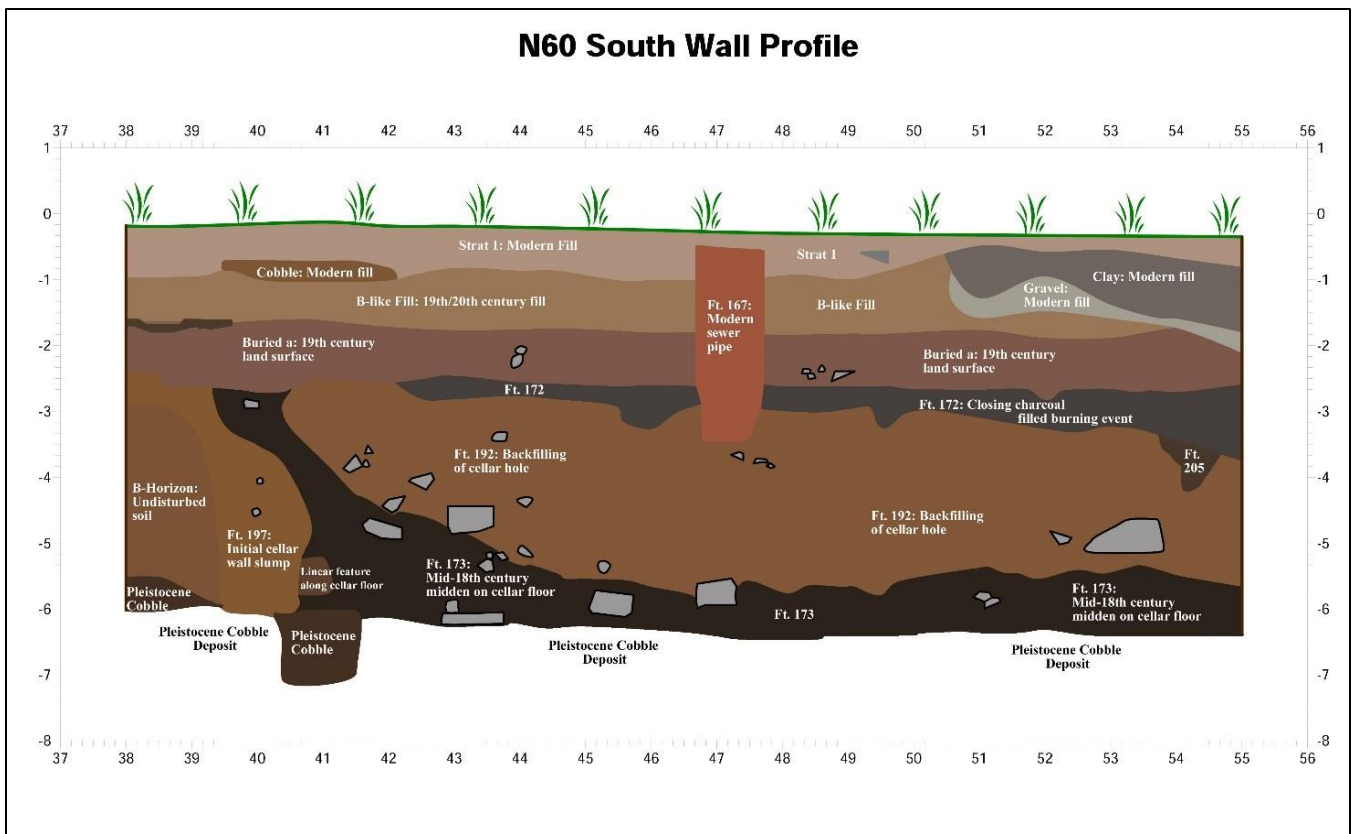
Hundreds of artifacts were recovered from Feature 173 that dated to the early to mid-1700s, including tin-glazed earthenware (Delft), scratch blue stoneware, brass buttons, wrought nails, cuff links, Jackfield ware, and King George IV coins dated 1755-1756. Almost 6,000 animal bone fragments and teeth, fish bones,

and horn or antler core fragments came out of the feature. In addition, items such as French and British gun flints, a side plate for a musket, and close to 400 musket balls, bird and buck shot, and lead sprues and waste were recovered.

It is difficult to determine the exact source of the artifacts due to the numerous activities taking place on the property in the mid-1700s. They could have been deposited during the French and Indian War by soldiers at the fort; however, they also could have been related to the civilian occupation of the property by the Chambers and Hunter families (1720s-1769). Research indicates that a gunsmithing operation was taking place at Fort Hunter, which makes it difficult to determine if gun related items are connected to private manufacture and repair or to activities at the fort. At least one member of the Chambers family (Samuel Hunter's stepson James) and his brother-in-law William Foulkes are documented to have been making Pennsylvania long rifles at Fort Hunter in the late 1750s-early 1760s.

Items often associated with trade with Native Americans including glass beads, knives, straight pins, kaolin pipes, scissors, pocketknives, thimbles, and fragments of scrap brass were also recovered from Feature 173, including a unique blue triangular glass bead from the base of the feature. Interestingly, many of these objects were not solitary; three pairs of scissors and two pocketknives were found within close proximity to each other on the cellar floor. Thirteen single link and paired cuff links were scattered throughout Feature 173, a seemingly large number of this type of artifact. Over 100 straight pins, 70 glass beads, 57 buttons, 3 glass jewelry inserts, 9 buckle fragments, 13 gunflints, and 140 kaolin pipe bowl and stem fragments were also found. Could these items represent goods that were being stored here for trade to Native Americans?

A trade license has been discovered for Samuel Hunter for the year 1766 although it is possible he was conducting trade without a license for much longer. James Chambers, Hunter's stepson, was killed during Pontiac's Rebellion and the 1764 inventory of his possessions points to his dealings in trade. Chambers, whose profession is listed as a gunsmith, had tools and items relating to that business ("Ripfel Barrels", "Bullet moulds", "Sundry files") as well as typical trade goods. His inventory lists "Tomhawks", large and small brass kettles, Ozenbrig and Stroud, matchcoats, bed lace, "Indian shirts", and 2,400 pieces of black "Wompum". No trade license has yet been discovered for Chambers; however, he would have had little use for wampum or matchcoats if he was not involved in the business of trade with the Native Americans of the area.



Profile of the south wall of the cellar feature. (Courtesy of PHMC)



Objects recovered from Feature 173, including possible trade items. (Courtesy of PHMC)

An inventory of the goods and Ch. W. Hight and Credits which were of James Chambers, of Washington County Gen. He deceased, at the time of his death who died intestate, not administered by Thomas Chambers deceased taken this eighth day of March. 1764. by William Souths and appraised by John Carbin, Samuel Doyd & John Henry Van fellows, to wit

20 Ruffled Shirts	£ 2 = 0
1 Sunday Glee	" 7 = 6
1 Sunday East mountain	" 10 =
5 1/2 yds Buckets moulds	" 5 =
3 Gun locks	" 12 =
1 Sunday Watch with stone	" 4 = 0
61 lb. Silver of several pieces	" 5 =
19 lb. Silver of ditto	" 6 =
1 1/2 lb. Gold	" 5 =
2 1/2 yds. Cloth	" 7 = 6
5 Cotton hawks	" 1 = 0
1 Brass traps 2 without springs	" 1 = 5 =
2 Brass Shells w. 10 lb	" 12 =
8 1/2 lb. Brass	" 5 =
2 Small Brass Shells	" 15 =
1 Adze	" 3 = 10 =
1 Silver Watch	" 15 =
2 West. Hair Spades w. 2 lb	" 4 = 6 =
3 1/2 yds. Coarse Cambric	" 6 = 11 =
19 lbs. Iron	" 0 = 2 =
3 small Cutlery knives	" 1 =
Thread	" 3 =
2 yds. Rayons Meris	" 3 =
1/2 yds. Coarse Cambric	" 3 =
1 English Matchlock	" 2 =
4 French ditto	" 5 =
12 lb. Soap	£ 21 = 5 = 2

L. Van Over

Inventory of James Chambers showing his possessions. (Courtesy of Fort Hunter Mansion and Park)

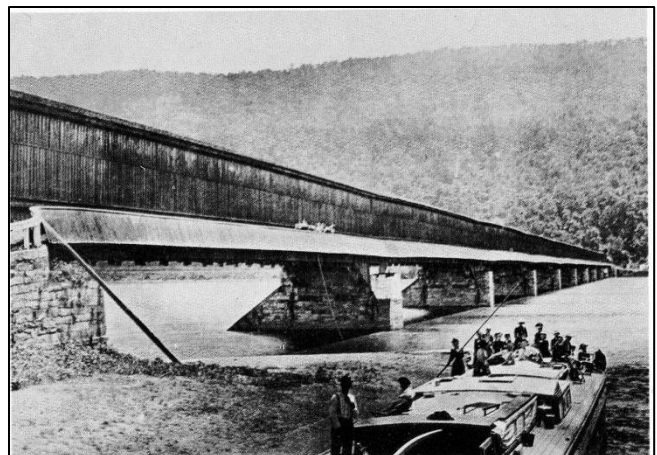
Other records indicate that Simon Girty, Sr. was also trading with various tribes at the property. A list of "Indian Traders unlicensed from 10th Aug^t 1747 to 10th Aug^t 1748" notes "Simon Girtie, Chambers's in Pextang [now Fort Hunter]", who was trading for someone named Edgil possibly Simon Edgell who may have had a store at the mouth of the Juniata River on the west side of the Susquehanna.

Unfortunately, questions regarding the use of this building cannot be answered with the information recovered so far. Like many of the other mysteries surrounding Fort Hunter, the exact use of this structure may never be known. Further excavations of Feature 173 could unlock answers to some of the questions however, it may take the discovery of new archival material to settle the debate as to whether this structure was associated with the military fort, the colonial plantation of the Chambers and Hunters, or with Native American trade.

Archaeological Investigations on Duncan's Island, at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers in Central Pennsylvania

Gary Coppock, Skelly & Loy, A Terracon Company

Archaeological investigations for proposed SR 0022/0322 improvements have provided new insights into Duncan Island's long history of human occupation. Located at the Juniata/Susquehanna river confluence, the island has been an attractive settlement location and an important route of passage to the west. In addition to occupations spanning Archaic to Late Woodland times, the island was the site of an historically-documented burial mound, and, prior to 1750, was home to an enclave of displaced Native Americans (primarily Conoy and Nanticoke). By the late eighteenth century Huling's Ferry (the precursor of Clark's Upper Ferry) and the precursor of present-day SR 0022/0322 had been established. In 1829 the ferry was replaced with (what was then) the world's longest covered bridge. The following year the Duncan Island section of the Pennsylvania Mainline Canal was opened, connecting the Eastern, Juniata, and Susquehanna divisions. Our work has identified several nineteenth-century domestic sites, demonstrated that portions of the Pennsylvania Canal exist beneath twentieth-century fill, and determined that stratified pre-contact period deposits extend to a depth of more than 2.7 m (9.0 ft) below the current ground surface. By employing Brian Fritz's Paleo-Digger (in the machine's PennDOT debut), we were able to quickly and safely sample soils down to the water table, which occurred at ca. 4.0 m (13.0 ft) bgs (Photos 4-5). The preliminary results will be presented at the upcoming Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology conference in Ligonier, April 9-10, 2022. For your viewing enjoyment, a YouTube video of the Paleo-Digger in action on the Riverlands project can be found here: <https://youtu.be/nwtlREaQfvs>. It's pretty cool. Enjoy.



Canal and tow bridge at Duncan's Island. (PA Archives)



Excavation of Test Unit 2 after removal of four feet of fill.



Brian Fritz emptying the Paleo-Digger bucket.

THE BACK PAGE

What's It? Mystery Artifact

**10 inches long; 5.25 inches wide
weighs 16.5 pounds**



**Check out the end
of the PDF for the
answer**

We are looking for photos and other "Back Page" suggestions! These can be nostalgic, funny, or puzzling.

PAC Newsletter, Spring 2022, Vol. 34, No. 1

Compiled by Gary Coppock, Skelly and Loy, Inc., A
Terracon Company (gcoppock@skellyloy.com)
Design/Formatting by Hannah Harvey, PennDOT

*The PAC Newsletter is published twice a year to update
members on PAC happenings, agency updates,
announcements from firms and universities, and
current research from around Pennsylvania.*

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PAC Membership Requirements

Any person shall be considered for membership to the Council who satisfies the following requirements. Member categories and annual dues are described below:

Professional —

- A graduate degree in anthropology, archaeology, or a closely related field; or a Bachelor's degree in anthropology, archaeology, or a closely-related field, and two years of professional experience in a research, supervisory, educational, or administrative capacity.
- A professional interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. Interest must be documented by the applicant and should clearly demonstrate how the applicant's professional activity has contributed, or may contribute, to the advancement of Pennsylvania's prehistoric or historical archaeology. This documentation may include:
 - a. Authorship of professional or archaeological publications.
 - b. Authorship of archaeological papers presented at professional or professional/avocational meetings.
 - c. Authorship of archaeological contract or grant reports.
 - d. Development or implementation of archaeological educational or interpretive programs.
 - e. Administration or supervision of archaeological programs or projects.

Student —

- Enrollment in a graduate or undergraduate degree program in anthropology, archaeology or closely-related field.
- The applicant should have an interest in Pennsylvania archaeology. The applicant will submit a curriculum vita and proof of enrollment in a degree program. Student members will be voting members.
- Student dues are \$15/year.

Sustaining — Any active member may opt to become a sustaining member by paying \$50/year in dues.

Please Note: All members of the Pennsylvania Archaeological Council must also be members of the [Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology](#).

How to Apply

To apply for membership, please send a completed membership form and a CV or resume documenting that you meet PAC's membership requirements, as outlined in the constitution, to the Vice President:

Jonathan Libbon
SWCA Environmental Consultants
80 Emerson Lane, Suite 1306
Bridgeville, Pennsylvania 15017
email: jlibbon@swca.com

The Membership and Ethics Committee will review new applications as they are received. Once your application has been approved by the Board, you will be contacted by the Secretary/Treasurer with a welcome message, including an invoice for dues—which must be paid in order to finalize your membership. New members will be announced at the PAC business meetings.

Payments received by July 1 will be applied to that calendar year. Payments received after July 1 will be applied to the next calendar year.



PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

Member Information Form

- New Member
 Updating Information

Member Type:

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 Student (\$15)
 Sustaining (\$50)

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Company: _____

Work Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Work Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ - _____

Preferred E-mail: _____

I am currently a member of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology

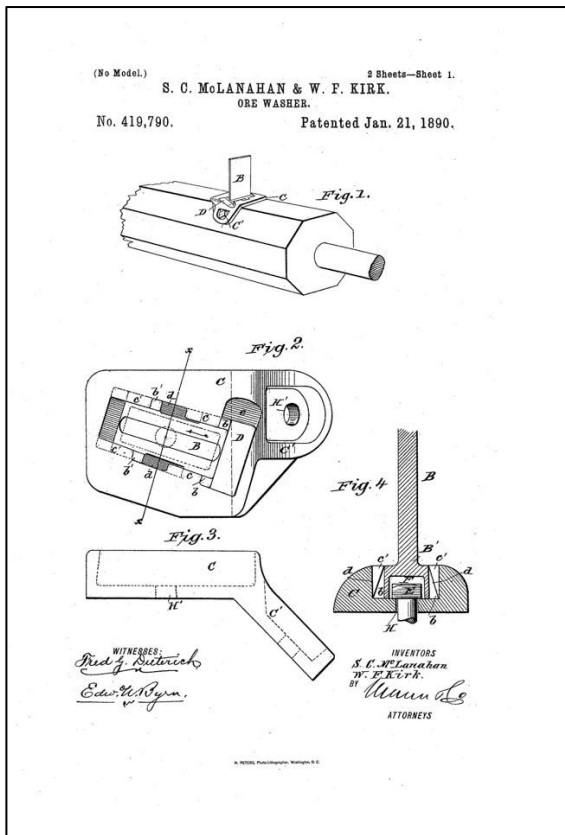
- Yes
 No

Please send dues via PayPal or send a check made out to the **Pennsylvania Archaeological Council** to:

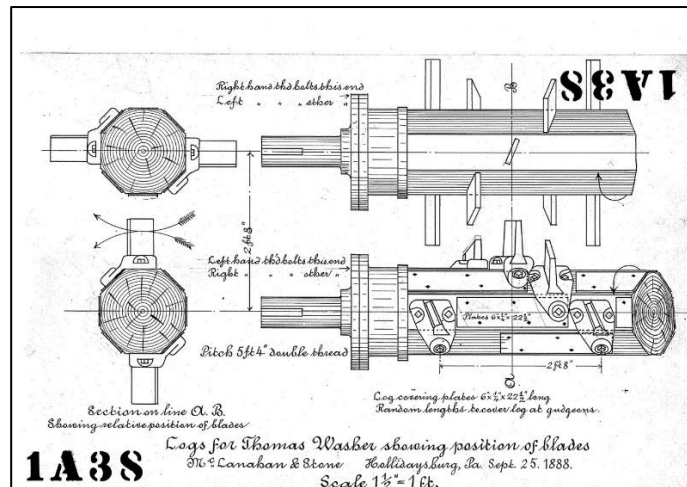
Pennsylvania Archaeological Council
c/o Hannah Harvey
1031 Belleview Avenue
Pottstown, PA 19464

Reach out to PACSecretaryTreasurer@gmail.com with any questions.

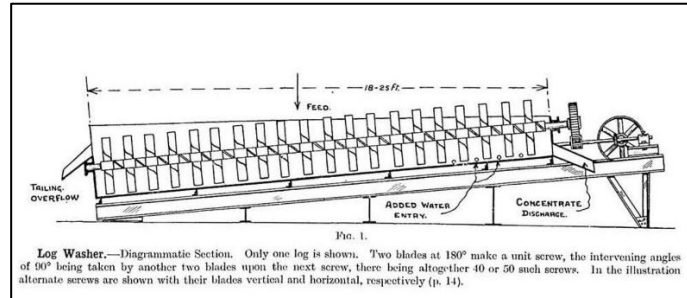
What's It? Mystery Artifact



McLanahan and Kirk 1890



McLanahan and Stone 1888



Truscott 1923:14

Answer: Log Washer Blade (aka Iron Ore Washer Blade) Found at the Valentine Iron Ore Washing Plant (36CE0526) in Centre County

The Log Washer, invented in 1842 by Centre County ironmaster Abraham Valentine, revolutionized the iron industry by allowing for the economical use of small iron ore fragments (aka “wash ore”) that had previously been discarded as waste. It is comprised of one or two ca. 25-ft long octagon logs with attached blades that turn in a cork-screw fashion within a gently sloped water-filled trough. The machine separated the iron fragments from its clay matrix, pushing the clean ore out the top while the clay and water exited the bottom. The log washer, commonly used throughout the US and Europe by the late nineteenth century, is still manufactured and used today.

Coppock, G.F.

2012 *Valentines and Thomas – Ironmasters of Central Pennsylvania. Phase III Archaeological Data Recovery Investigations, The Valentine Iron Ore Washing Plant (36Ce526), Benner Commerce Industrial Park, 82-Acre Parcel, Benner Township, Centre County, Pennsylvania.* Report submitted to the Centre County Industrial Development Corporation, State College, Pennsylvania. Heberling Associates, Inc., Alexandria, Pennsylvania.

2015 *Abraham S. Valentine's Log Washer and the Resuscitation of the Nineteenth-Century Iron Industry of Central Pennsylvania. IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology 41 (1-2): 48-70.*

McLanahan, S.C., and W.F. Kirk

1890 *Ore-Washer.* United States Patent Office, Patent No. 419,790. January 21, 1890.

McLanahan and Stone

1888 *Wooden Log Plans Showing Composite Blades*. Original on file at the McLanahan Corporation, Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania.

Truscott, S.J.

1923 *A Text-Book of Ore Dressing*. MacMillan and Company, London.