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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

David B. Landon

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Volume 35 of *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. In 2006 CNEHA marked its 40th anniversary, and it is fitting that this issue contains an Award of Service for Pierre Beaudet, who served as chair of the council for nine of those years. Sherene Baugher admirably details his lasting contributions to the organization.

The first three articles in this volume all highlight the value of careful, contextual analyses of material culture. Hodge uses a close analysis of historical sources to examine the changing meaning of ceramics in 18th-century Newport, Rhode Island. By bringing us closer to the 18th-century "appreciation" of different ceramics, she heightens the interpretive potential of archaeological materials. Peña's study of wampum recovered from Fort Niagara links small finds to big issues, placing them in the context of European colonialism and Native-European negotiations at the Fort. Drawing on her previous research on wampum, she also interprets manufacture and trade practices. Finally, Scarlett, Rahn and Scott take a detailed look at the marked bricks from the West Point Foundry Site in New York. The archaeological context of the bricks, in conjunction with historical information about brick manufactories, provides insight into the history and development of the iron works.

Diamond's article on the African Burial Ground in Kingston, New York describes the archaeological and historical evidence for a burial ground that had been absorbed by urban expansion and ultimately forgotten. He makes a compelling case for his attribution of the cemetery, and details the use of the parcel up to the present. Diamond's article is also about the intersection of the past and the present. His discovery of the cemetery and efforts to have it preserved were not met with much enthusiasm by anyone in the community. In this case, most people apparently

wanted the dead to remain silent and forgotten.

Wholey and Chenoweth both present very interesting analyses of the roles and functions of taverns. Wholey looks at a long-running rural tavern in Delaware, charting the changing fortunes and aspirations of its tavern keepers. The rich material culture and historical record documents the transition from a specialized tavern, to a much more diversified rural farmstead where keeping tavern was one task among many. This change coincides with broader economic changes in the rural landscape that decreased the importance of taverns. Chenoweth's study looks at a very short-lived urban tavern in Philadelphia. The tavern was paradoxically run on property owned by a Quaker landlord, and Chenoweth reexamines Quaker prohibitions towards alcohol, suggesting a more nuanced view. Both of these articles make outstanding use of comparative site data to understand the functions and roles of taverns, and will be important sources for future tavern studies.

As part of the 40th anniversary, I am also pleased to publish David Starbuck's updated bibliography of our region's historical archaeology scholarship. Most of you are undoubtedly familiar with his 1986 bibliography, and this new version brings it up to the present, including citations accidentally overlooked last time. Since *Northeast Historical Archaeology* is now being published electronically, members will soon be able to download a searchable PDF version of the bibliography, adding to its utility. Few of us have the patience and attention to detail required for such an undertaking, so thank you David Starbuck.

Finally, this issue contains seven book reviews, covering a variety of recent publications, to help us keep abreast of the ever-expanding range of scholarship in our field. I hope this volume proves useful and becomes a valued addition to your library.