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## Editor's Introduction

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## Editor's Introduction

This issue of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* began to take shape via articles submitted for review as far back as 1987. It opens with an article on Contact Period archaeology in New England and New York by Bert Salwen. Bert revised the article for publication shortly before his untimely death late in 1988, and, were he alive today, he no doubt would have brought it further up to date by drawing attention to recent important contributions, for this is an area of research that continues to foster interest and spark debate. Nevertheless, Bert's insight into the state of the debate ca. 1988 is still of interest.

An upcoming double issue of the journal is planned as a memorial volume honoring Bert Salwen's long service to the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology and his lasting impact on historical and prehistoric archaeology in the Northeast. The memorial volume will include a complete bibliography of Bert's work, along with articles by many of his students and colleagues.

Five additional articles appear in this issue of the journal, and they address a wide spectrum of topics and types of archaeological sites and data. Dominique Lalande introduces us to her recent archaeological survey and testing in the St. Laurence estuary, in Quebec, work that has been fostered by growing historical and archaeological interest in the study of the Basque presence in North America in the 16th century. Her description of the features and artifacts found at the site known as Anse à La Cave reveals that the site bears strong affinities with other locales where evidence of Basque whaling operations has been recovered.

Pfeiffer, Dudar, and Austin add to our knowledge of the health status of 19th-century populations through their detailed physical anthropological study of human remains interred at Prospect Hill Cemetery, in Windsor, Ontario. The 77 individuals whose remains were studied before reburial had had little access to medical or dental care, and the community experienced high infant mortality. While the stresses upon individuals were not as severe as those described by Jerome Cybulski for the skeletons of prisoners buried beneath the walls of Old Québec (*Northeast Historical Archaeology*, Volume 17, 1988), study of the

Prospect Hill group nevertheless reveals the harsh conditions suffered by frontier communities in 19th-century North America.

Ceramic analysis takes on a new twist in Rebecca Yamin's article, "Squeezing Ceramics for More Than Their Worth." Yamin goes beyond socio-economic analysis based on prices of ceramic vessels to investigate how choice of specific vessels and ware types by residents of Raritan Landing, in New Jersey, may have functioned as an element in their attempts to maintain an identity independent of nearby New York City.

Kelso and Harrington's article presents an exploratory pollen study from the Isles of Shoals. Kelso's palynological results provide a framework for understanding site formation processes on these rocky islands off the coasts of Maine and New Hampshire that, though seemingly inhospitable, played an important role in New England's early settlement by English colonists.

The final article is Haskell Greenfield's detailed analysis of faunal remains from Dutch and English sites in New York City. He uses his data to explore potential ethnic differences in meat consumption by the colonists from the two different national backgrounds, drawing upon a number of other regional zooarchaeological studies for contrast and support.

This volume of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* should have something to interest almost everyone. The contributions are almost evenly apportioned between male and female authors and between younger and senior scholars. They deal with sites in Canada as well as in the U.S.—sites, rural and urban, that date as early as the 16th century and as recently as the late 19th century and that were occupied by a variety of ethnic groups. The articles present an array of analyses—ceramics, botanical and faunal remains, human osteology—as well as field data, and the lead article offers a synthetic historiographical analysis of research into the Contact Period in the Northeast. The long wait for this volume is, I hope, rewarded by the substantive contributions that it provides.

Mary C. Beaudry