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Editor's Introduction

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Editor's Introduction

Volume 48 is here! This is a combined volume with a thematic section and individual, contributed articles. The thematic section focuses on recent research from Fredericksburg, Virginia first presented at the 2015 CNEHA meetings in that city. The individual articles cross the Mason-Dixon to the New England region and feature studies of 17th-century window leads and rural taverns.

"the Town aforesaid...shall be called by the Name of Fredericksburg": The archaeology and history of Fredericksburg, Virginia, edited by D. Brad Hatch and Kerry González, covers a wide range of topics within this urban area. The section begins with a discussion of urban survey methodology that draws on case studies from Fredericksburg and concludes with an analysis of landscapes at Sherwood Forest plantation. Other articles present research on stoneware manufacture, ice houses, urban slavery, tenancy, and ceramic repair. This thematic section embraces little-studied topics, such as urban slavery, and offers new perspectives on time-worn subjects.

The first of the two contributed articles in this issue, by Timothy B. Riordan, represents a continuation, of a type, of research featured in volume 45 (2016) of *Northeast Historical Archaeology*. This time, Riordan applies his knowledge of marked windows leads to a 17th-century tavern site in Charlestown, Massachusetts. As he points out, research on window leads in New England is lacking. This article seeks to redress this gap through analysis of the chronological characteristics of window leads from the Three Cranes Tavern site and a discussion of window tie types.

Laura Masur and Aaron Miller also focus on a tavern setting—in this case, the western hill town of Hawley, Massachusetts in the early 19th century. Documentary and archaeological evidence on William Sanford's "farmstead-tavern" form the context for a reconsideration of archaeological expectations of the composition of tavern assemblages. Masur and Miller argue that rural farmstead-taverns fulfilled a range of roles in the community and may have little evidence of the alcohol and tobacco consumption that archaeologists associate with taverns.

The editorial staff of *Northeast Historical Archaeology* is pleased to share Volume 48 with you and trust that you will find interesting and exciting research within it. I would like to thank all those who contributed articles and book reviews to this volume and performed vital "behind-the-scenes" roles. To the reviewers of draft articles, your time and insightful commentary are sincerely appreciated. D. Brad Hatch and Kerry González deserve a special thanks for all they have done as guest editors and, as always, Richard Schaefer did inestimable work as copy editor.

Maria O'Donovan, Editor