

EXPLORE PHILLY'S HIDDEN PAST, 2010: A Pennsylvania Archaeology Month Event

WHEN: Saturday, October 16th
9:30 AM-3:00 PM

WHERE: Kirby Auditorium
The National Constitution Center
Arch Street Between 5th and 6th Streets

Free and Open to the Public
No Reservations Required

www.phillyarchaeology.org

This event is jointly sponsored by
Independence National Historical Park and
The Philadelphia Archaeological Forum
and hosted by
The National Constitution Center

STARTING TIME

PRESENTATION

9:30 *Welcome and Introduction*

9:45 *Archaeology in Philadelphia: Year in Review (Doug Mooney)*

Doug Mooney, President of the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum, will offer a whirlwind tour of projects and other notable developments in Philadelphia archaeology that have occurred over the past year.

10:00 *Graceless Vagabonds and Unmitigated Ruffians?: Children's Artifacts from Kensington and Port Richmond (Tom Kutys)*

Nineteenth century accounts often portrayed the working-class Kensington-Port Richmond vicinity as a place that swarmed with rowdy, loafing, mischievous children and youths. Archaeological investigations along the I-95 corridor, however, are uncovering a wide range of artifacts that paint a considerably different picture. Toys such as marbles, dolls, miniature tea sets, and other objects are revealing much new information about what children's lives and upbringing was like in these riverfront neighborhoods.

10:15 *Illuminations on Light: A Discussion of Lighting Devices from I-95 Archaeological Investigations (Katelyn Coughlan)*

On-going archaeological studies along the I-95/Girard Avenue corridor are producing well-preserved assemblages of household lighting devices. Represented by a wide variety of lamp and candle related objects, these artifacts fit into a known evolution of lighting improvements during the 18th and 19th centuries, and are providing much historical information about the availability of lamps in Philadelphia's households. Many of these objects may have been manufactured by local glass houses and provide evidence related to the development of the glass industry in Philadelphia.

10:30 *Flasks, Medicine Bottles, and Demi-Johns... Oh My!: Exploring the Dyottville Glassworks (Christy Wallover)*

This presentation takes a look at the glass bottle collection excavated from the I-95/Girard Avenue project area, with a focus on those artifacts manufactured at the Dyottville Glassworks, in the Kensington area. Following a brief history of this important glass house, Dr. Dyott, and the Dyottville Experiment, discussions will focus on the types of bottles made at Dyottville, as well as those represented in the archaeological record.

10:45 ***Those Ubiquitous Shaft Features: The Importance of Privies, Wells, and Cisterns in Urban Archaeological Sites (James Burton)***

Brick or stone-lined shaft features, the below ground parts of privies (outhouses), well, and cisterns, are common finds within archaeological sites in Philadelphia and can contain tremendous amounts of information about the city's past. Unfortunately, every year so-called "pot-hunters" destroy untold numbers of these features in the search for historic objects that can be sold to antiques collectors. This presentation will explore the types of invaluable information that can be gained by the careful archaeological excavation of shaft features, and discuss what is lost when they are looted for profit.

11:00 ***Understanding a Pennsylvania-German Summer Kitchen (The Upper Perkiomen Archaeology Club)***

Members of the Upper Perkiomen High School club will discuss their summer 2010 excavation of the summer kitchen at the Henry Melchior Muhlenberg House in Trappe, Pennsylvania. Muhlenberg was the founder of the Lutheran Church in America. Their work uncovered the traditional Pennsylvania-German outbuilding that he directed be built in 1776. Evidence of its destruction by fire in 1779 was also documented by the group.

11:15 ***Privies and Wells, What's That Smell?: Excavation of a Neighborhood in "Fishtown" (Rich White)***

Fishtown is a neighborhood in Philadelphia that has derived its name from its reputation as the center of shad fishing during the 18th and 19th centuries. Archaeological investigations, conducted prior to construction of the SugarHouse Casino, have provided a glimpse into the lives of early immigrant families who called Fishtown home. This paper will present a brief history of the area and provide a discussion of the investigation and discoveries.

11:30 ***Under Your Feet (or Under Your Seat): Learning from the National Constitution Center Archaeological Site (Jed Levin)***

This year the Sixth Annual Philadelphia Archaeology Month forum is being held on an archeological site! Actually, the auditorium in which our talks will be held is located above the National Constitution Center Site. This talk will provide glimpses into the lives of some of the people who lived on the spot during the period around the American Revolution. We will learn about the households of a wealthy Quaker merchant, a German American baker, and an African American coachman. These new insights into 'we the people' highlight some of the things revealed through the study of documents and archeological artifacts conducted by the volunteers and staff of the Archeology Laboratory at Independence National Historical Park.

11:45 ***Preserve America Steward Presentation***

On August 5th First Lady Michelle Obama designated the Archeology Laboratory at Independence National Historical Park as a Preserve America Steward. The Laboratory is now one of just 30 entities nationwide which have received this coveted designation. The designation specifically acknowledges the accomplishments and dedication of the numerous volunteers who have donated a total of more than 18,000 hours of their time in the laboratory. This presentation will recognize the award of the designation and those who made this achievement possible.

Noon ***Lunch Break***

1:00 ***Finding the Forgotten: Recent Archaeology at an Abandoned Cemetery in Logan Square***

(Ken Basalik)

This talk provides a brief overview of recent archaeological work undertaken in Logan Square. Logan Square, like other squares in the city, was open space that witnessed a variety of activities including public executions and pauper burials in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Logan Square was also purportedly used as an adjunct cemetery for the German Reformed Church. Although substantial alterations have occurred to the square, no burials have been reported during construction or from archaeological work that has been performed in square in the twentieth century. Recent archaeological work has identified the location of the German Reformed Church cemetery that was abandoned in the early nineteenth century.

1:15 *The Root of the Matter: Searching for William Hamilton's Greenhouse at The Woodlands Estate (Sarah Chesney)*

Recent excavations at The Woodlands, William Hamilton's Schuylkill River estate west of Philadelphia, have unearthed clues about this amateur botanist's greenhouse complex and shed light on the growth of landscape design and botany in the decades following the American Revolution.

1:30 *Before We Dig: What MIGHT Be There (Rebecca Yamin and Grace Ziesing)*

A new building is to be built and everyone is excited --but will an archaeological site be discovered when the bulldozer starts moving away the soil? Archaeologists don't have X-ray vision, they can't see into the ground, but they do have ways of predicting whether a piece of land is likely to contain archaeological evidence. A case in point is the corner of 3rd and Chestnut Streets in Philadelphia where the new American Revolution Center museum is to be built. In this talk you will learn how archaeologists attempted to determine whether any archaeological evidence remains buried underneath this piece of ground.

1:45 *Old Maps and New Computer Systems: Investigating Dock Creek -- A Lost Waterway from Philadelphia's Colonial Past (Matt Harris)*

More than 200 years of urban development has erased most traces of the natural landscape in downtown Philadelphia. This talk will present recent research on Dock Creek, a waterway whose banks once supported early industries such as tanners, distilleries, and soap makers. Today, this vanished stream is being explored using old maps and historical records, alongside geomorphologic studies and modern topography. This new research is helping to determine whether archaeological sites might remain preserved along the course of this old waterway buried beneath today's sidewalks and streets.

2:00 *Urban Archaeology in Old City Philadelphia: An Archaeological Investigation at 129 Elfreth's Alley (Deirdre Kelleher)*

As one of the oldest continuously occupied residential streets in America, Elfreth's Alley has a rich history of urban life and culture dating back to the turn of the 18th century. People from many different walks of life have inhabited the Alley, ranging from shipwrights and pewtersmiths to shoemakers and carpenters. During the fall of 2009, a small-scale archaeological investigation was carried out in the basement of 129 Elfreth's Alley. The excavation and assemblage of artifacts recovered reveal a great deal about the daily lives of some of the inhabitants of Elfreth's Alley during the latter part of the 19th century.

2:15 *A More Tolerable Quarter: Finding Washington's Dining Hut at Valley Forge (Joe Blondino)*

The summer of 2010 marked the second field season of excavations at General George Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. During the encampment, the General and his officers eventually found the modest stone house a bit small to serve as a major military headquarters, and Washington had a log dining cabin built to alleviate crowded conditions inside. This summer, evidence was uncovered of this cabin where Washington not only took his meals, but conducted much of the business of commanding the Continental Army. The location of the remains of this cabin, along with other encampment-period features uncovered over the

course of the last two summers, reveals much about what the landscape around Headquarters would have looked like during the winter of 177-1778.

2:30 ***The Timbuctoo Discovery Project: Archaeology of an African American Community in Southern New Jersey (Christopher P. Barton and Patrica G. Markert)***

Archaeological investigations were recently undertaken at Timbuctoo, an antebellum African-American community that once served as a destination along the Underground Railroad, and today is still inhabited by descendant community. In the summer of 2010 a pre-Civil War structure (Feature 13) as well as several thousand artifacts spanning from the early 19th century through the 1930's was uncovered. The ability to confidently locate Feature 13 was aided by a geophysical survey. The work at Timbuctoo exemplifies the use of archaeological, ethnographic, and historical methodologies that have enabled the project to facilitate open dialogue with the public on such important issues as age, class, gender, and race, both in the past and in the present.

2:45 ***"Wonderful Things': Summing It Up (Dave Orr)***

Dave Orr is no stranger to anyone familiar with archaeology in Philadelphia. Since 1973 his work in and around the city has helped make Philadelphia a center of urban and industrial archaeology. In this talk he will provide his insights on some of the archaeology projects reported on in this forum and will point out fruitful directions some of these, and other projects, may explore in the future.

3:00 ***Program Ends***