



Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

Newsletter

www.sacarcheology.org

November/December - 2012

UPCOMING SOCIETY'S EVENTS

SACRAMENTO ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.'S ANNUAL MEETING

Featuring

"Effects of Global Warming on Archeological Sites"

by

Michael Newland

Saturday, December 1, 2012

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

at

**Carolyn and Gordon McGregor's home
1334 Mission Ave.
Carmichael, CA 95608**

At our annual meeting Michael Newland, archeologist, Sonoma State professor and current SCA President, will be speaking on the "Effects of Global Warming on Archaeological Sites". He has been leading a project to assess the impact of global warming and a potential rise of the ocean on archaeological sites near the California coast line. Surveying sites that could be lost as a result of global warming has begun. Come hear the latest on the very important topic.

The agenda for the event is as follows:

1:00 p.m. - Spirits, appetizers, and annual business meeting

2:00 to 2:45 - Lunch of ham, escalloped potatoes, Waldorf salad, relish plate, home-made desserts

3:00 - Michael Newland speaking on climate change and archaeology.

Lunch will be provided by Carolyn McGregor. The cost of the lunch and contribution to our scholarship fund is \$15 per person. PLEASE provide your RSVP by 11/23/2012 to Carolyn McGregor at 916-487-6218 or sabrina53@earthlink.net.

Don't miss this annual meeting. We would love to expand our membership. Bring a friend.

ELECTION OF 2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Sacramento Archeological Society's Annual Meeting the 2013 Board of Directors will be elected. Additional participation is always welcome. Please make recommendations to John Foster parkarky@yahoo.com. An early slate of the board is:

| Candidate | Office | Candidate | Office |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| John Foster | President | Dennis T. Fenwick | Member at Large |
| Lydia Peake | Vice-President | Tom Johansen | Member at Large |
| Carolyn McGregor | Secretary | Jeremy Johansen | Member at Large |
| Jan Johansen | Treasurer | Ruth McElhinney | Member at Large |
| | | Diane Rosales | Member at Large |
| | | Roger Peake | Member at Large |
| | | | |

PAST ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE – COAST LINE MAPPING

Led by Michael Newland
October 2012



Lacey Kabler surveying

Michael Newland, Sonoma State professor began the project to assess the potential effects of a sea level rise on archaeological sites near the California coast line. Coastal Marin County was targeted to be the first area to survey. On October 7th six teams of four volunteers each were assigned a mile stretch of Point Reyes beach to perform coast line mapping and identify sites that may be in jeopardy. Five members of the Sacramento Archeological Society participated in this survey. The three areas that were surveyed included: Point Reyes Beach South, Point Reyes Beach North and Kehoe Beach. Although no archaeological sites were found on the Kehoe Beach survey that Lacey Kabler and Jan Johansen hiked. Monterey chert and solarized glass, glass doped with manganese for high clarity but which developed an amethyst hue from exposure to sunlight, were found on the Point Reyes Beach South survey that Tom and Jeremy Johansen walked.

The South Beach transects included the former site of the newly created, (1871), United States Life Saving Service, the predecessor of today's Coast Guard and an adjacent site, the old Marconi station where one of three coastal radio transmitters was located. Used together these transmitter beacons allowed navigators to triangulate the ship's position and thereby avoid shoals and other dangers as they proceeded to or from the Golden Gate. The piece of solarized glass was found near the former location of a barracks used by the Life Saving Service, built after 1890. An inscription on the solarized bottom of the bottle read "...dandruff tonic..." With the beginning of WWI, manganese supplies dried up, so the bottle was cast prior to ~1920. Additional surveys were performed on October 14th and 28th. Attend Sacramento Archeological Society's Annual Meeting on December 1 and hear more results.

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND ARCHAEOLOGY TOUR

Tour led by Dr. Jennifer Perry
October 26 and 27, 2012

On Saturday October 27th after a smooth hour-long journey across the water from Ventura to Santa Cruz Island during which we saw dolphins, seals and a multitude of birds, Dr. Jennifer Perry, Channel Islands Archaeologist and professor at CSU Channel Islands led a tour of the natural and cultural history of the Santa Cruz Island. Her emphasis was the 13,000 year record of human occupation on the Channel Islands. She showed us shell midden and chert quarry sites on the east end of the island. The Channel Islands natives during the prehistory period used the natural resources of the island to manufacture bead money, or 'anchum. They were the mint for the Chumash Indians who lived on the mainland. The name Chumash comes from the name that the mainland Indians gave to the island. Chumash and 'anchum are related words, so apparently the name Chumash originally meant something like bead money makers. Chert was worked to provide drills to prepare holes in the Olivella shell (also called the Purple Olive, a marine snail). The western side of Santa Cruz Island provided the shells.



At Scorpion Anchorage the locations of native Chumash village sites were pointed out even though remains were not visible. Here too, historic ranching operations were very evident. A wonderful museum, ranch house, and farm machinery remain. In addition we were delighted to have Dr. Coleen Delaney, professor at CSU Channel Islands and mainland researcher talk about the extensive interaction between the Channel Islands and the mainland.



On Friday, October 26 the Santa Cruz Island tour attendees visited The Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center at Channel Islands National Park in Ventura and the Natural History Museum in Santa Barbara. If you have a chance to go to the Channel Island National Park visitor center, you will find many hands



on displays and an overview video of the Channel Islands. These are excellent. In the extensive Natural History Museum we were delighted to find an excellent section on Chumash culture. To augment our tour of Santa Cruz Island, chert tools including small diameter drills and Olivella shells were displayed. Also a skeleton of pigmy mammoth (*Mammuthus exilis*) found in 1994 was on display. This

smaller rendition of the continental Columbian Mammoth which stood nearly 14 feet tall, probably swam out to the islands was illustrative of the hypothesis that in isolation the big creatures get smaller and the smaller ones get bigger.



Photos above:

- 1 Sea lions, birds and Anacapa Island
- 2 Group near shell midden on Santa Cruz Island
- 3 Group at Channel Islands National Park
- 4 Santa Rosa Island Pigmy mammoth at Santa Barbara National History Museum

For additional tidbits on the Santa Cruz Island tour refer to www.sacarcheology.org.



SOLVING HISTORICAL MYSTERIES – AN EXAMPLE FROM GOLETA BEACH

John W. Foster

Sacramento Archaeological Society President

On our recent SAS tour of Ventura and Santa Barbara regions we had the opportunity to visit Goleta Beach and the mouth of Goleta Slough. This quiet setting was very different January of 1981 when a furious storm swept the area. High waves scoured the beach removing some 4 feet of sand and exposing bedrock normally covered by beach. As the storm cleared a local resident named Nolan Harter walked the shore. He noticed five concretions among the rocks that appeared to be the shape of cannon. They were covered with jackets of sand and rock, but he felt certain they were cannon (the plural form of cannon is...cannon!!) and something important. Luckily, UCSB was nearby so he went up to the campus to report his find. After being directed to several different departments, he finally found himself in the office of an archaeologist, and explained what he's seen. He invited the archaeologist to accompany him back to the site to take a look, but she declined. "They can't be cannon," she explained, "we'd know about any cannon that were right next to campus." Science takes a small step backwards.

A few hours later my phone rang in Sacramento. A county park ranger had stopped Mr. Harter as he was loading two of the heavy concretions into his pickup. "I don't know what they are," he explained, "but they may be important." I left for Santa Barbara that night and began to examine the find and how five iron cannon may have come to rest at the mouth of Goleta Slough.

For the next several years I worked with Jack Hunter, an underwater archaeologist, and Jim Gilmore, a writer living in Goleta, to identify the cannon, analyze them and try to determine their origin and history. Gilmore became convinced Francis Drake left the guns when he visited the coast of California in 1579. Jack and I were skeptical of this theory. Everyone knows Drake landed in Marin County, I thought. The exact site may not be known, but it must be one of several there. Besides, how could all the experts be wrong? On closer examination there were advocates for other sites: Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay, Angel Island, Trinidad Bay, San Quentin Cove, Nehalem Bay (Oregon) and Año Nuevo – to name a few. How could a century of study not have cracked the case?



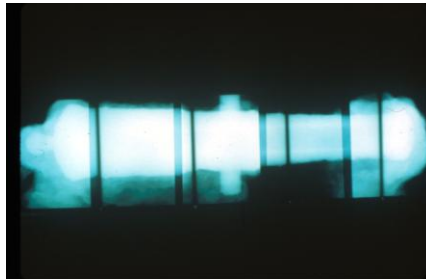
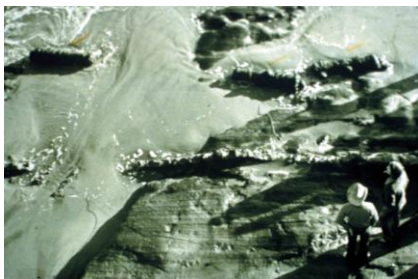
It turns out the location of Drake's landing site in California is one of our state's enduring historical mysteries. Somewhere on our coast the English explorer careened his ship the *Golden Hind*, built a fort and spent 6 weeks in the spring of 1579. He burned the "prize," a Spanish ship captured off central America, consolidated his crew and captured treasure into the remaining vessel, and prepared to sail for home across the Pacific. Only Magellan had even done it before. But where is the site? Where did Drake claim "Nova Albion" for Queen Elizabeth? Where was English first spoken on the Pacific coast? The experts have argued various theories for well over 100 years. Drake's original log of the voyage was turned over to the queen upon his arrival. It reportedly was replete with watercolor drawings of plants, animals, native cultures and coastal scenes from his 3-year voyage. It would certainly solve the mystery, but it has disappeared. A few other contemporary accounts have been closely scrutinized for clues. Using linguistics, ethnography, biology, coastline reconstruction, weather, climate, navigation and archaeology, experts of various sorts have weighed in on this mystery. There was even a formal state commission established for the 400th anniversary, and it produced no consensus.

Most experts believe Drake landed in Drake's Bay. If that's true, Cermeño comes along 16 years later searching for a harbor for returning Manila Galleons. If history is to be believed, he wrecks in the exact same spot. His ship is smashed to pieces and scattered about the beach, but he manages to salvage the pinnace and sail down the coast to Acapulco, but his report on the loss of the *San Agustín* mentions nothing about Drake having been there and interacting with coastal Indians. One of the clues Gilmore pointed to was an account that said the Golden Hind stopped at an island one day after departing to hunt seals for provisions. If that's to be believed, it narrows the possibilities considerably.

Our studies of the guns of Goleta produced more questions than answers. We x-rayed four of the guns and studied their profiles before removing the concretions. The only identifying mark was a letter "H" on one of the trunions. Metallurgy proved inconclusive as to origin but did hint at an earlier than Napoleonic date for the cannon. An offshore survey failed to produce evidence of a shipwreck, so how did those guns become concretions on the beach? Gilmore proposed that they were left on the bluff top above after guarding the entrance to Goleta slough while the ship was careened inside. This was a shallow bay in the 16th century and would have been an ideal place to secretly careen a vessel. When he departed, the guns were left on the bluff above and erosion over 400 years brought them crashing down to the beach and eventually to their resting place on bedrock.

So what did I learn from this study of the Goleta cannon? Well, my takeaways were:

1. Don't ever think you have all the answers. Remember the lesson of Nolan Harter trying to convince a university professor that he had found something important right next to campus.
2. We tried to prove Gilmore wrong, but never succeeded. Much of the descriptive evidence could be interpreted as fitting Goleta slough. While I never became convince this "proved" Goleta was the site of Drake's landing, it did call into question the conclusion that Drake's Bay was the proven spot using the same evidence.
3. Our culture drives us to solve the mystery. We demand to know where Drake landed. We deserve to know the answer. Sort it out, apply new technology, and just make the call. That's what NPS did a few weeks ago. They designated Drake's Bay as the Drake landing spot – against the advice of the State Historical Resources Commission and State Parks (me).
4. While it would be great to know the answer, the search for Drake's landing site is equally important. Don't take my word for it. Google "Drake in California" and start reading about various theories. Some mysteries are enduring and defy resolution. That's what makes archaeology so fun and challenging.



Photos above:

- 1 John Foster pointing out Goleta location of cannons on October 26, 2012
- 2 John Foster helps load cannon for transport to the Concord Naval Weapons Center for x-ray. Feb., 1982.
- 3 Five iron cannon exposed on Goleta Beach after a storm in January, 1981.
- 4 Composite x-ray of one cannon before its concretion was removed. The world's most powerful x-ray was used to examine the Goleta cannon.
- 5 Aerial view of Goleta Beach before construction of UCSB and the Santa Barbara airport (1890?). The slough was a shallow bay until 1861. Note Mescalitan Island, once a major Chumash village, blocks the entrance to the bay making it invisible from the sea..

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR SITES TOUR

By Roger Peake

Thirty two people plus two guides (staff to the Archaeological Conservancy headquartered in Albuquerque, NM) participated in this tour of French and Indian war sites mostly in New York and Pennsylvania. It was geared towards archeology, culture, and history. We started and ended in Buffalo, NY and traveled just short of 2000 miles by bus (a comfortable one!) in our visits to more than a dozen sites including museums. The Conservancy arranged experts to chat with our group at virtually every stop. Although we stayed at a different location each night, it was fine because we had the next day's adventure to look forward to seeing. As always, the Conservancy did an excellent job in providing the necessary logistics. We highly recommend tuning into the Conservancy information for the variety of tours offered (505-266-1540 tactours@nm.net)

As to our tour, sites we visited included:

1. **Fort Stanwix National Park**, a magnificent reconstruction of an 18th century fort used in both the French and Indian War and during the American War for Independence.
2. **Fort Ticonderoga**, built by the French starting in 1755 (known then as Fort Carillon) as part of the defense of this critical pass in the north-south flow of communications, men, and supplies. The security of New France (Canada) and New England depended on this fortification and it changed "owners" several times during this conflict; and the Americans took it from the British in May, 1775. This American victory was our first in the American War for Independence. Native peoples hunted and fished in this area for thousands of years before French soldiers and priests began explorations of the region in the early 1600s.
3. **Crown Point State Historic Site** contains impressive ruins of French and British forts that once occupied this strategic peninsula on Lake Champlain. The French called their fort, St. Frederic, and when occupied by the British as Crown Point it was the largest British fortification in North America. The Americans held it from May 1775 and into 1776 when they withdrew. During this "American" period, over three-dozen pieces of artillery were moved to hills surrounding Boston for uses against the British. The British then occupied the fort until 1783 and the end of the American War for Independence.
4. **Roger's Island (and Fort Edwards)** was a very large British military complex during the French and Indian war. The complex included Fort Edward, the Royal Blockhouse (now a preserve owned by the Archaeological Conservancy, and Roger's Island in the Hudson River. Roger's Island was the base for Roger's Rangers and the birthplace of the modern U.S. Army Rangers.
5. **Ganondagan State Historic Site**, a 17th century Seneca site noted for its full-sized replica of a Seneca bark longhouse.
6. **The Iroquois Indian Museum** offered a Native-American perspective on the French and Indian War. We saw wonderful exhibits of native art and a reconstructed Iroquoian longhouse.
7. **The Pennsylvania State Museum and Fort Hunter Park** included the only active archeological excavation on the trip. The museum included exhibits and collections with artifacts from excavations at several French and Indian War sites.
8. **Fort Frederick State Park** was our only site visit in Maryland. This fort was built by the colony of Maryland in 1756 to protect the western frontier during the French and Indian war. This fort is unique because it was built of stone instead of wood and earth berm so typical of fortifications of the period. This fort was never attacked but it guarded the Cumberland Valley and Potomac River against Native American raiding parties. During the American War for Independence, the fort served as a prison camp for captured British troops. A local canal was guarded by Union forces during the American Civil War.
9. **Fort Necessity National Park** was an early focal point for competing claims between the French and British to the vast territory along the Ohio River and between the Appalachian Mountains and the

Mississippi River. The confrontation at Fort Necessity in the summer of 1754 was the opening battle of the French and Indian War fought by England and France for control of the entire North American continent! It was also the opening episode of a worldwide struggle known as the Seven Years War which was truly the first world war. It ended in 1763 with the expulsion of the French from North America (except Louisiana) and also from India. Also notable was the action of George Washington, a British subject at the time, who suffered the only time he surrendered to an enemy.

10. **Fort Pitt and the Heinz History Center**, (called Ft. Duquesne when held by the French). This fort is at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers which join to form the Ohio River. The footprint of the fort on the point is all that remains of the fort except for an original Royal Blockhouse; both are in the middle of downtown Pittsburg. The History Center includes their award-winning "Clash of Empires" exhibit which is one of the largest ever created on the French and Indian war. This exhibit has been shown at the Smithsonian Institution; the History Center and Smithsonian are affiliated.

11. **Fort Niagara State Historic Park** - This fort has dominated the entrance to the Niagara River since 1726; this river connects superior lakes Ontario and Erie. Fort Niagara played a key role in the struggles of France, Great Britain, and the Americans to control the Great Lakes region. It helped shape the destinies of the Iroquois peoples and the nation of Canada. The Iroquois Confederacy was/is comprised of six nations (Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida, Onondaga, Mohawk, and the Tuscarora. The Oneida and Tuscarora Nations supported the Americans during the American War for Independence; the other four affiliated with the British.

We also stayed overnight at picturesque Lake George, and visited Niagara Falls. It was a great trip offering insights into the North American continent of the period and its protagonists prior to the American War for Independence. We learned so much about why the Americans declared war against their British occupiers just a few years after the French and Indian War ended in 1763.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REFERENCES

“Oldest Arthropods in Amber”

This article notes that two mites and a midge were found in amber 230 million years old. Prior to this discovery the oldest specimens in amber were 130 million years old. (Science 2012-08-31, page 1026)

“A Crystal-Clear View of an Extinct Girl's Genome”

The Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany has sequenced the entire genome of a tiny finger bone from the Denisova Cave using a new method that amplifies single strand DNA. “The team compared the nuclear genome of this girl, who lived in Siberia's Denisova Cave more than 50,000 years ago, directly to the genomes of living people, producing a "near-complete" catalog of the small number of genetic changes that make us different from the Denisovans, who were close relatives of Neanderthals. The team confirms that the Denisovans interbred with the ancestors of some living humans and found that Denisovans had little genetic diversity, suggesting that their small population waned further as populations of modern humans expanded.” (“A Crystal-Clear View of an Extinct Girl’s Genome”, by Ann Gibbons, Science 2012-08-31, pages 1028-1029)

“Mapping the Origins and Expansion of the Indo-European Language Family”

Two competing hypotheses for the origin of the Indo-European language family continue to be debated. This article uses Bayesian phylogeographic approaches, together with basic vocabulary data from 103 ancient and contemporary Indo-European languages to model the expansion of the family and test these hypotheses. The conventional view places the homeland in the Pontic steppes about 6000 years ago. An alternative hypothesis claims that the languages spread from Anatolia with the expansion of farming 8000 to 95000 years ago. The report found support for the Anatolian origin over a steppe origin. (Bouckaert & all, Science 2012-08-24, pages 902, 957- 960)

RENEWAL OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Since January 1 is approaching and all memberships except those who join recently (after September, 2012) are renewed at this time, please support the society by paying your 2013 dues by **January 1, 2013**. Remember your dues make **scholarships** possible.

The annual dues are:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Student/Limited Member | \$15 |
| Individual Membership | \$30 |
| Family Membership | \$40 |
| Sponsor | \$100 - 499 (individual) \$500 - 999 (business) |
| Patron | \$1000 |

Membership Benefits

Individual and Student Limited: One-year subscription to SAS Newsletter

- Members-only meetings
- Members-only fieldwork
- Field trips
- Special Lectures
- Classes and events sponsored by SAS

Family: All of the above for each Family Member

One SAS Newsletter per Family Membership

Sponsor: All of the above plus prominent mention in the SAS Newsletter and event programs for one year

Patron: All of the above plus autographed book from keynote speaker, as applicable

Please make out your check to “**Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.**” and mail it to:

Sacramento Archeological Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 163287

Sacramento, CA 95816-9287

Thank you in advance for your prompt payment. We really appreciate your support.

Annual Dues for 2013

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Address: _____

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| Student/Limited Member | \$15 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Individual Membership | \$30 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Family Membership | \$40 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Sponsor | \$100 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Scholarship Donation | | _____ | \$ _____ |

Total enclosed

\$ _____

Sacramento Archaeological Society, Inc.

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Mark Your Calendars

December 1, 2012, Saturday – Annual Meeting and Michael Newland speaking on climate change and coastal archaeology
February, 9 or 10, 2013- 2012 Scholarship Recipient's Presentations



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