ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF NEW NETHERLAND ARCHEOLOGY
Rensselaer and Albany Counties, New York

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Introduction

This annotated bibliography summarizes the contents of written resources concerning archeological finds related to Dutch colonial occupation and settlement during the 17th and 18th centuries in Rensselaer and Albany Counties, New York. The following sources were consulted during the compilation of this bibliography.

- Published and unpublished papers, reports, and manuscripts from the authors’ research files
- Cultural resource management reports on file with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- New York State Archaeological Association Bulletins and newsletters
- New York Archaeological Council newsletter abstracts
- Archaeology of Eastern North America
- Northeast Anthropology
- Man in the Northeast
- American Antiquity
- Society for Historical Archaeology
- Historical Archaeology
- Northeast Historical Archaeology
- APT- The Bulletin of the Association for Preservation Technology
- The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology
- Society for Industrial Archeology Newsletter
- Journal of the Association for Industrial Archaeology
- de Halve Maen
- New York Archives
- New York History
- CRM
- The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association
- Shavings- Newsletter of the Early American Industries Association
Bibliography

Anderson, Lisa M., Vanessa Newell Dale and Dawn M. Lawrence

The Schuyler Flatts African American burial ground was discovered in June 2005 during sewer line construction in the Town of Colonie, Albany County. The farmland at the Flatts was owned by the prominent Schuyler family, and the individuals buried in this cemetery were probably enslaved Africans who labored for the wealthy Schuylers and their neighbors. The skeletal remains of 14 individuals reflect a lifetime of hard work and poor health with evidence of a high infant mortality and heavy mechanical stress. A low prevalence of nutritional stress and trauma among the adults contrast with urban enslaved populations from the same period. The burial practices appear to conform to dominant religious and social norms, likely as a result of active religious conversion efforts, signaling the assimilation of certain Christian practices into traditional African belief systems.

Anonymous

Excavations will occur until June 30 at the site of a planned expansion of the visitors’ center. The area may have been the location of formal gardens in the 18th century, of which remnants were visible as late as 1905.


A small red earthenware sherd excavated at Crailo in 1971, part of a colander, is very similar to a complete Dutch 17th-century colander found in the Netherlands. The archeological evidence of broken and discarded objects assists in the accurate furnishing of historic sites. Illustrates the sherd and complete colander. Note: The sherd that is illustrated is actually from Fort Orange and not from Crailo.


Excavations in Albany in advance of construction by the State University of New York of a parking garage uncovered, at a depth of 10 to 15 feet, waterfront bulkheads originally facing the Hudson River. One was constructed around 1760, and another dated about 1780. The excavations by Hartgen Archeological Associates provided an unprecedented view of how the waterfront evolved, as new wharves extended into the river burying the old ones underneath. Boat equipment, fishing gear, ceramics, coins, bottles, and clay pipes, all discarded beginning in the 17th century, were recovered. Remains of the colonial Albany stockade wall were discovered, and 300 feet of it were exposed.

Apuzzo, Robert and Michael Cohn

In summer 1980, the installation of a water pipe along Pearl Street between the Stadt Huys Site and the Fraunces Tavern Musuem uncovered a refuse heap associated with either the Stadt
Huys or the nearby Lovelace Tavern. The artifacts found date to c. 1660-1690, and include:
East Anglian flint (ballast stone?) fragments; a crown conch shell from the West Indies; Dutch
delft tiles; combed ware from Bristol, England; Westerwald fragments from Rhineland; heavy
yellow, orange, and brown ware with feet or ring-bases (with one such base displaying the
thumb-print of the potter); delft or tin-glazed ceramic vessels originating from Holland and/or
England; small “Dutch” type bricks; a bottle seal with the initials “GS.” The earliest pipe found
was made by Jane Wall (1641-1661), followed by Edward Bird, marked “EB” (1655-1675), and
then Heinrich Gerds, marked “HG” (1670-1685); all of these pipes have been noted at Fort
Orange and Fort Amsterdam. The latest pipe type is that made by Edward Tippet, marked
“TIP” (1713-1720).

Arch Tech
2005 Phase I (IA & IB) and Additional Phase IB Cultural Resource Investigations: Highland Creek
Planned Development District, Town of Brunswick, Rensselaer County, N.Y. On file at OPRHP,

Report on the Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Highland Creek Planned
Development Project, in the Town of Brunswick, for which fieldwork occurred from June to
October 2005. The survey identified three precontact sites (two of which were isolated finds)
and four historic sites: The McManus House Foundation Remains, the McManus/Bonesteel
Homestead Complex, the McManus Family Cemetery Grounds, and a 19th Century
secondary deposition (or plow-zone scatter). The McManus House stone foundation belongs
to the original residence established by Hugh McManus in 1796, which remained extant until
the early 20th Century. The structure was burned and subsequently demolished, and by 1968,
this portion of the property was excepted from the original deed. The McManus/Bonesteel
Homestead Complex was located on a 278-acre portion of the Manor that was leased to Hugh
McManus in 1796. The property was transfered to his son, William McManus, in 1823 (five
years prior to Hugh McManus’ death in 1828). The majority of the property remained in the
McManus family until 1862, after which it was transferred to the Springer, Warren, Welch,
and Bonesteel families, respectively. The residence, dairy barn, milk house, horse barn, and an
additional barn foundation date from the early- to mid-19th Century; two sheds and a pole
barn are later additions that date to the 20th Century. A large man-made pond south of the
residence was also used for ice harvesting. The McManus Family Cemetery Grounds was
established in 1813 for the burial of five year old Nicholas Wheeler, grandson of Hugh
McManus. In 1883, at least three burials were removed to the Oakwood cemetery in Troy.
The burial places of a number of other individuals (who are documented in census records) are
unaccounted for, and may still rest at the site.

2006 Evidence of a Stockaded Community and Persistence of the Dutch Cultural Heritage: Beverwyck in
the City of Albany. On file at OPRHP, Waterford, NY, Cultural Resource Information

Initial report on the Phase II and III archaeological excavations for the proposed construction
of the DASNY headquarters at 515 Broadway in downtown Albany, for which fieldwork
occurred from 1996 to 1998. Refer to The Louis Berger Group, Inc.’s 2008 report for a clear
and concise description of project findings.

A phase I archaeological survey of Canterbury Crossing, located at No. 1035 Loudon Road and No. 418 Boght Road in the Town of Colonie, for which fieldwork occurred from October 2005 to April 2006. The survey identified two historic archaeological sites: The J. Plant/William Roff Farm Complex (No. 1035 Loudon Road) and the Jan Douwe Fonda/Levinius Lansing Farm Complex and Cemetery (No. 418 Boght Road). The J. Plant/William Roff Farm Complex was a portion of the Manor that was leased to Federic Roff in 1790 and passed to William Roff in 1842. The farm complex was constructed between 1850 and 1854 for J. Plant. The property later reverted to the Roff family, until Isaac Roff sold it in 1922. Further deed research is needed to clarify the transfer of property between the Roff and Plant families. Archaeological features include foundations associated with the residence, a large barn, a stone-lined well, a windmill/well, as well as artifact deposits dating to the mid-19th Century. The Jan Douwe Fonda/Levinius Lansing Farm Complex and Cemetery consists of a cellar hole, barns, outbuildings, complex well system, and cemetery in proximity to the original Jan Douwe Fonda residence, which may have been constructed by 1732; the remaining features are associated with the occupation of Levinius Lansing, who acquired the property by 1790. The locations of the house, two barns, an additional outbuilding, a silo, and four stone-lined wells (including a square well/cistern) were identified during the archaeological survey. The cemetery, which was in use from 1826 to 1875, was not located by the survey. Phase II site evaluations were recommended for both historic sites.


A report on additional Phase I archaeological fieldwork and Phase II site evaluations for the J. Plant/William Roff Farm Complex (No. 1035 Loudon Road) and the Jan Douwe Fonda/Levinius Lansing Farm Complex and Cemetery (No. 418 Boght Road), identified by Arch Tech in 2006. Further documentary research in regard to the J. Plant/William Roff Farm Complex identified Stephen Van Rensselaer III’s lease of a 142-acre lot to Frederick and Christopher Roff in 1790, followed by the issue of warranty deeds for these leases to William Roff in 1842. A residence was constructed within the project area between 1850 and 1854, and was associated with John Plant, a farmer/butcher who was likely renting the property from the Roff family. Further archaeological work uncovered a stone-and-mortar foundation with a timber-frame superstructure, the foundation of an additional barn, and artifact deposits spanning the mid-19th to mid-20th Centuries. No further archaeological work was recommended for the site. Further research in regard to the Jan Douwe Fonda/Levinius Lansing Farm Complex and Cemetery revealed that the 167-acre parcel was owned by Jan Douwe Fonda, who in turn leased it to Levinius Lansing in 1790. The property was subsequently passed to Francis Lansing, who attained the rank of Colonel during the War of 1812. After 1920, the property was occupied by Michael Murphy, who owned and operated a dairy farm on the site; the site was abandoned after 1930. Further archaeological work determined that the structures within the site were associated with later phases of occupation, as their associated artifact deposits dated to the 19th and 20th Centuries. Although the cemetery was still not located, Arch Tech recommended avoidance of its suspected location.
A Phase I archaeological survey of the Mat Farms Subdivision, located at No. 421 Orchard Street, in the Town of Bethlehem, for which fieldwork occurred from August to October 2007. The survey identified one precontact site and one historic site: The Bratt/Slingerland/Fisher Historic Site and Fisher Cemetery. The site was a portion of the Manor that was leased to Adrian Bratt in 1767, and was continuously occupied by the Bratt (alternatively spelled “Bradt”) family through 1833, after which it was conveyed to Philip Smith and later sold to John A. Slingerland in 1844. The farm remained in the prominent Slingerland family for a decade, after which it was sold to Daniel G. Fisher in 1854. The Fisher family cemetery was established nearby in 1871. Artifacts identified within the outlying agricultural fields and pasture lots correspond to the later occupation of the property, and date to the 19th to 20th Centuries.

[Annotator’s Note: Landmark (2006) identified an 18th-Century structure at 265 Van Dyke Road as the homestead of Adrian Bratt as it appears on the 1767 Bleecker map; the property was later transferred to the Sanlsbury [sic?], Bragdon, and Leonard families. Archaeological deposits were found that date to the 18th Century. It is unresolved as to whether or not the structure at 265 Van Dyke Road or 421 Orchard Street was the ancestral home of Adrian Bratt; it is also possible that both structures were constructed in the 18th Century on the same tract of land that was owned by Adrian Bratt].

A Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Kendall Square Project located on the Lands of Waldenmaier in the Town of Bethlehem, for which fieldwork occurred from March to May 2009. The survey resulted in the identification of one precontact stray find and nine “historicer-era resources” similarly described as stray finds. The survey also identified the locations of the
William Haswell and the Edward Haswell Historic Cemeteries, both of which were originally owned by John Haswell, c. 1774. Both cemeteries were located outside of the survey area, and as such, no further work was recommended for these sites.


Report on the Phase I archaeological investigation for the proposed Duncan Meadows residential development in the Town of Brunswick, for which fieldwork occurred from August 2006 to June 2009. The survey identified one precontact site and two historic sites: The Duncan Farm Complex and the Colehamer House Site and Colehamer #1 Cemetery. The Duncan Farm Complex was located on a portion of the Manor that was leased to Dominie (Samuel) Swartfaeger in 1790, after which it was passed through various families, ending with the Duncan family, for whom the site is named. The site consists of an extant house (No. 151 McChesney Avenue), barns, outbuildings with associated archaeological deposits. The Colehamer House Site and associated cemetery were located on a portion of the Manor that was leased to Martin Freligh in 1791. The site consists of a stone-and-mortar foundation situated within a field south of the survey area; the cemetery, however, was not located. Archaeological deposits within the survey area consisted of mid-20th century artifacts.


Report on a phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Lexington Hills Planned Development District in the City of Cohoes, for which fieldwork occurred from May to December 2008. The survey identified five historic sites situated on a terrace overlooking the Salt Kill, a small tributary on the west side of the Hudson River: The 18th Century Jacob (F.T.) Lansing house (and possible mill) site, the 19th Century Fonda/Collins house site, the 19th Century Collins/Van Vranken house site, the 19th Century Lexington Hills historic site (which also contains a spillway and potential mill component), and the 19th Century Best/Waterbury house/farm complex. The Jacob (F.T.) Lansing site was identified during historic research, and is thought to consist of a foundation and buried archaeological deposits dating to its span of occupation from 1767 to 1949; no excavation occurred at this site because it was located on private property beyond the limits of the survey area. Two precontact sites were also identified.


A Phase I archaeological survey of the proposed Six Unit Apartment Project located at One Mill Road in the Town of Colonie, for which fieldwork occurred from July to August 2013. The survey identified two historic sites: The Tooper/Waterbury Mills and the G. Hills House and Farm Complex. The Tooper/Waterbury Mills was a grist mill originally owned or leased by William Tooper in 1790. From 1850 to 1860, the mill was owned by Henry Waterbury; its dam was breached and the mill was burned c. 1860. The G. Hills House and Farm Complex (No. 477 Old Niskayuna Road) was a portion of the Manor that was leased to Samuel Hills in c. 1795, at which time he constructed his house. The house is comparable in style, age, and familial association with the Ebenezer Hills, Jr. House (90NR02775/001-04-0274); both...
residences are associated with the first settlers of the Verdoy area. From 1851 to 1854, the property was associated with a “G. Hills,” for whom the site is named. Because both sites were located outside of the archaeological survey area, no further work was recommended for them.

2015  

Report on a Phase I archaeological survey for the Newell Place Conservation Subdivision on 25 Wemple Road in the Town of Bethlehem, for which fieldwork occurred sporadically from November and December 2013 to February and March 2015. The survey identified the Conradt Fridagh (Vrydagh, Fryday) House Site, a late 18th Century Rensselaerwyck Manor House (c. 1792-1851). In 1790, “Coenradt Vrydagh” married Christine Deppe (or Debt), and is thought to be the same “Coenradt Fridagh” that leased a portion of the Manor in 1792. “Conradt Friday” died in 1819, and the property remained in the Friday family until 1837, when it was conveyed to Herman (Harmon) Van Derzee, for which the deed was recorded in 1838. The Manor house does not subsequently appear on 19th-Century landownership maps. The survey also identified the McHarg Family Cemetery Site (504 Feura Bush Road), a family cemetery that was in use from the late 18th- to early 19th-Century, for which the interments were reportedly moved to Bethlehem Cemetery (although this has yet to be confirmed).

Archaeological Research Specialists

1990  
**Phase IA and IB Archaeological Assessment Report for the CNG TL-470 Pipeline Crossing Project, East Greenbush, New York.**

Report on a Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed natural gas pipeline from Albany County to East Greenbush, for which fieldwork occurred in September 1989. The survey confirmed the presence of two previously-identified early Dutch homestead sites. The Van Buren Site Locus 1 contained the following assemblage: red and yellow brick, pan tile, coal, coal ash, slag, window and bottle glass, 17th- to 19th-Century ceramics (including European salt-glazed stoneware and other Dutch and Rhenish types; specific designations were not given), kaolin pipes, nails and metal (including 19th Century iron farming equipment parts), bone, and quahog shells; a precontact component dating to the Woodland Period was also identified. Regarding the history of the site, the authors state, “[...] it cannot yet be proven that this is the homestead of Cornelis Maessen Van Buren rather than that of Symon Walichsz [...]” The presence of 18th- and 19th-Century artifacts, including farming implements, indicate that the site continued to be farmed throughout the 18th- and 19th-Centuries. The presence of later artifacts are attributed to manure-spreading. The Van Buren Site Locus 2 contained the following assemblage: Rhenish stoneware, Dutch majolica, kaolin pipe fragments, and yellow Dutch klinker brick fragments used for chimney construction. Other 18th- and 19th-Century ceramics were also found (but specific types not named). Van Buren Loci 1 and 2 are the earliest-known Dutch farmsteads to exist in Rensselaerwyck and may be the first farms established in New York State.

Baart, Jan M.

1987  
**Dutch Material Civilization: Daily Life between 1650-1776, Evidence from Archaeology.** In *New World Dutch Studies: Dutch Arts and Culture in Colonial America, 1609-1776*, edited by R.

The Kampen cloth seal excavated at Fort Orange has the crowned coat of arms the same as examples of Kampen seals from the Dann, Pompey, Indian Hill, Lot 18, and Indian Castle Iroquois Indian Village sites.


Lead bale seals from Haarlem are relatively rare, and they clearly indicate that Haarlem cloth did not form a regular part of the goods traded to Indians. A good example of such a seal, however, was recovered from the KeyCorp site in Albany (ca. 1650 to 1686). It has the coat of arms of Haarlem on one side, and on the reverse the length of the cloth is indicated. Haarlem was primarily a linen producing town, but other cloth was also manufactured. This seal probably was attached to cloth other than linen. At Fort Orange, a lead cloth bale seal marked CAM PEN with a crown is a type of seal that has also been found at more than eight Iroquois sites dating between 1635 to 1655 and 1663 to 1682. A lead tubular seal found at Fort Orange with the coat of arms of Kampen and marked CAM PEN is the same type as examples found at four Iroquois sites dating between 1649 to 1662 and 1663 to 1682.


Clay pipes from the site in Arrowsic, Maine, bear the marks of Bristol pipe makers such as William Evans and Llewelyn Evans who made pipes between 1660 and 1688. Other pipes at the site have the EB mark. This EB mark differs from the EB mark for Edward Bird found on the pipes at Fort Orange, and this EB was apparently a different maker. However, the makers’ marks on other pipes from the site have also been found on pipes from Fort Orange and at other sites.


In 1850 an excavation in Broadway in front of the Museum revealed a stratum associated with old wood piles consisting of chips, oyster shells, and other rubbish that filled the streets in early days, despite ordinances. This suggests that the worthy Dutch housewives had not yet established their reputation for neatness and cleanliness, or that their voice was not very potent.


The silver bodkin excavated at Fort Orange is one of three distinctively Dutch bodkins that have been excavated. It is plain but with a hooked end.
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In excavations in 1971 at the Dutch Fort Orange site in Albany a plain silver bodkin with hooked end and tear-drop-shaped eye was recovered. It is very similar to copper alloy bodkins recovered from the wreck of the Dutch East India ship Kennemerland, wrecked off the Shetland coast in 1664 on its way to the Dutch colony of Batavia. The bodkin from Fort Orange was found in an area directly in front of the location of the brewery built by Jan Labatie. His wife was Jillesje Claes Schouw, the widow of surgeon Harmen Mynderse Vandenbogart, and the bodkin could have been hers.

Becker, Marshall Joseph

Yellow bricks are unique to 17th Century Dutch and Swedish colonial sites along the east coast. Yellow bricks were popular in the western provinces of the Netherlands from the late 16th Century through 18th Century; their clay came from the Gouda region in South Holland. The standard size of these bricks range from 33 x 70 x 165 mm to 32 x 76 x 178 mm, and have three degrees of hardness: soft, medium (or Ijsselsteen), and hard (or Ijsselklinkers). The last type were commonly used as paving stones for roadways, and were brought to America as ballast in trans-Atlantic ships. In the early 17th Century, a local brick industry developed at Fort Orange. The Dutch gained control of the South (Delaware) River in 1655, and in 1657, Fort Orange began to ship locally-produced bricks to New Amstel for the construction of Fort Altena as well as for the chimneys of local residents. A red-coated brick from Fort Orange is thought to be the result of intentional staining, or dodekop, from iron oxide. Red brick manufacture may have been developed quite early at Fort Orange, which would have precluded any further yellow brick manufacture. Trace element analysis of bricks from Fort Orange is proposed to determine their origin.

Birchwood Archaeological Services

Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Red Oaks development project in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred from April to May 2005. The survey identified the S. Rowe Site, which is characterized by a cellar hole with collapsed foundation walls and an associated yard and refuse deposit. Artifacts span the late-18th to early-19th Century, and include: a white “scratch-blue” stoneware teacup fragment, creamware, pearlware, ironstone, whiteware, redware, machine-cut and wire nails, window glass, brick fragments, mortar, portland cement, decaying wood, clear bottle glass, animal bone, clam shell, a button fragment, a 12-gauge shotgun shell, and other modern materials.


A Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Vista Technology Park in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland, which occurred from October through November 2005. The survey identified three precontact sites, two 18th Century sites (the Peter McCutcheon Farm
Site and the Christian LaGrange House), as well as two 19th Century sites. The Peter McCutcheon Farm Site consists of the remains of a c. 1760 brick residence (with a 20th century timber-framed addition), the foundation of a barn (or other outbuilding), two roads, and a pond. The site was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places. The Christian LaGrange House includes the remains of a late 18th Century timber-framed residence (with a 19th century kitchen extension), associated outbuildings, a silo, several wells/cisterns, and the LaGrange family cemetery. The land was purchased by Omie de LaGrange from Jan Hendrickse Vroman in 1686. In 1716, Omie de LaGrange and Simonse Vedder purchased the remainder of the patent, and in the same year, Omie and his brother Isaac established a farm on the same tract. Christopher LaGrange, the grandson of Omie LaGrange, occupied the current house that is thought to be located near the original homestead established by Omie and Isaac. The site is named for one of his sons, Christian LaGrange. The LaGrange family cemetery was in use from 1828 to 1859. Both the LaGrange house and cemetery were recommended for avoidance.


A Phase III data recovery of the Peter McCutcheon House Site that was initially identified during the Phase I archaeological survey. The age of the house was further ascertained through dendrochronology, which provided an early date of c. 1735. Two additional periods, 1764 and 1786-1787, were also identified during the dendrochronological analysis. The provenience of the materials used in the original brick portion of the house were analyzed with XRF technology to determine the composition of their clay, which matched the soil beneath a pond to the east of the house site, and confirmed the speculation that the unusually large bricks were manufactured on site. Archaeological excavations within the cellar of the house outlined former domestic activities that took place in this part of the house, including food preparation, food storage, and child play/instruction. Documentary evidence suggests that the house was initially occupied by the Radcliffe or Sixby families in the first half of the 18th Century; Peter McCutcheon, for whom the site is named, was most likely responsible for the third and final building phase of the house, as corroborated by the dendrochronological analysis. McCutcheon was a Scottish immigrant who was affiliated with the Loyalist movement and other Loyalist activists in the Normanskill area. The site’s “Dutch” architectural features and landscape elements are also discussed (pp. 83-90).

Blackburn, Roderic H. and Ruth Piwonka

Excavations at the Schuyler Flatts between 1971 and 1974 have revealed objects and features reflecting three centuries of occupation. The site is important not only because of the continuous occupation by important families but also because it was the home described in detail by Anne Grant in her memoirs. The house cellars excavated in Fort Orange revealed features of old-world elegance such as leaded glass windows and green-glazed clay floor tiles, while the cellar walls made of timbers and boards instead of stone indicate the temporary nature of those houses. A Dutch majolica plate acquired by the Albany Institute in 1983 has a flower-and-vase motif which is Dutch in origin but undoubtedly was based on Italian design. It was a pattern popular with majolica potters in the 1640s, and sherds of similar patterns were found at Fort Orange. Because of the archeological work during the past 15 years, there is now
a precise understanding of the ceramic wares that were used in the Albany area during the hundred years from 1650 to 1750.

Bliven, Rachel D., et al.

Excavations under Riverside Avenue in Rensselaer, N.Y., above and below Crailo uncovered many 17th-century artifacts. Indians appears to have camped on the Crailo farm in order to trade. The ceramics from the site include both Indian pottery and European wares. Other artifacts, illustrated, include clay pipe fragments, and iron Jew’s harp, a raspberry-type glass prunt, fragments of brass, a glass bead, and a brass thong or lace tip.

Bradley, James W.

A circular bale seal marked CAMPEN excavated at Fort Orange from a context dating between 1648 and 1668 is similar to CAMPEN seals from the Onondaga Lot 18 site (1650-1655), the Onondaga Indian Castle Site (1655-1663), and the Onondaga Indian Hill site (1663-1682).


The glass beads excavated at Fort Orange can be used as a basis for comparison with the Onondaga sites. The greatest similarity of beads and other artifacts from Fort Orange is with the artifacts from Shurtleff and Carley Onondaga sites, dating ca. 1630 to 1640 and ca. 1640 to 1650, respectively. All of the pipe marks from those sites as well as from Lot 18 site of ca. 1650 to 1655 have also been recovered from the Fort Orange site.


Much has changed since the first publication of this book in 1987. Important archeological work has been completed not only at Indian sites but also at several European-related sites as well. These are significant in understanding the European materials and technologies that increasingly influenced the Iroquois during the first half of the 17th Century. One essential study is the 1988 dissertation on the excavation and analysis of Fort Orange, which is complemented by other recent studies such as the 2003 report on excavation of the 1648 structure, “an illicit trader’s hut,” located just north of Fort Orange. The 1990 dissertation on wampum examines the question of who made wampum beads, with some surprising results.


The archeological evidence recovered at the Schuyler Flatts site provides new details complementing the documentary record that allow a more complete sense of Arent van Curler to emerge. The excavations uncovered portions of the farm complex built by Van Curler in 1643 and occupied until ca. 1660. By 1642, Van Curler had become the most knowledgeable man on the fur trade in the Colonie. The large quantity of trade goods recovered from his house site at the Flatts is evidence of his success in trade through the turbulent period of the
1650s. One excavated cellar was found to have been kept extremely clean, since there was very little trash found in it. The other cellar had a layer of trash in the bottom about 1 foot deep, and it was deposited probably in 1669 during the rebuilding by Jeremias van Rensselaer. Both cellars relate to the large farmhouse built by Van Curler in 1643. The artifacts indicate that the Flatts farm was a comfortable, well-appointed, prosperous residence during Van Curler’s tenure. In addition to trade goods, many farm-related tools and items of hardware needed to run a growing farm were found. After returning to the farm from the Netherlands in 1648, Van Curler introduced new classes of trade goods. Clay pipe fragments are the most common artifacts from the site, and most of them bear the EB mark of Edward Bird of Amsterdam. Pipes marked EB are also the most common marked pipes found at fur-trade-related sites after 1650, and few have been found at other sites predating 1645. The pipes made by Bird, as well as by other Dutch pipe makers, include examples with a distinctive funnel shape made specifically for the American trade, and these pipes do not occur at sites predating ca. 1645. Firearms parts found at the Flatts indicate that the firearms traded by Van Curler at the Flatts were not obsolete or recycled weapons but were first-class snaphaunce and flintlock muskets.


When Henry Hudson and his crew met Indians on the Hudson River in 1609, two very different cultures came in contact. Usually when two such different cultures meet, the results are catastrophic. But something very different happened in the upper Hudson Valley. Although conflicts certainly occurred, the Dutch and the Indians learned to live together during the first half of the 17th century. At the Goldkrest site near Papscanee Island postholes indicating outlines of Mahican houses were excavated. [Note: The site was on Cuyper Island, near Papscanee Island.] The artifacts from the site are typical of the pre-contact period, but two small pieces of sheet brass, perhaps from a kettle, recovered from one feature represent the very first, very early archeological evidence of first contact between the Mahicans and Europeans. The Dutch established their presence in 1614 with the construction of Fort Nassau on Castle Island. Polychrome glass beads recovered from a Mahican site in Lansingburgh represent the early trade period of ca. 1614 to 1624. The excavations at the site of Fort Orange, built in 1624, revealed a trash pit that may date from as early as its 1624 construction. Fragments of glass roemers and beakers and of Dutch majolica decorated in the Italian style of Montelupo and the Chinese Wan Li style match exactly similar pre-1640 vessels excavated in Amsterdam. Artifacts similar to those found at Fort Orange have been recovered at the Van Buren site near the north end of Papscanee Island, at the Schuyler Flatts north of Albany which was the site of Arent van Curler’s house in 1643, at Crailo across the river from the site of Fort Nassau, and at two house sites located a short distance north of Beverwyck. These sites were all within Rensselaerswyck, and there was friction between the patroonship of Rensselaerswyck and representatives of the West India Company at Fort Orange. Within Beverwyck, the village established under the jurisdiction of the West India Company at Fort Orange in 1652, artifacts were recovered from the site of Volkert Jansen Douw’s house, built possibly as early as 1647. Unfortunately, other opportunities for the archeological excavation of 17th-century sites within early Beverwyck have been lost because of inadequate surveys and excavation at sites such as the KeyCorp site, 532 to 552 Broadway. 102 to 110 State Street, and the New York State Dormitory Authority building site. Artifacts such as beads, lead bale seals, and clay pipes are especially useful in tracing the trade between the Dutch, the Mohawks, and other Iroquois nations. Dutch sites that were active specifically in trade with the Indians during the 1664 to 1690 period are fewer in number than Dutch domestic sites. In addition to Fort Orange, which was used until 1676, the only Dutch sites known to be related to the
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Indian trade in this period are the Schuyler Flatts and the Van Buren site. All of the marked clay pipes found at Mohawk Indian sites that were made at Gouda in the Netherlands are also represented by the marked clay pipes found at the Schuyler Flatts. The marks include the cross and orb, the HG, the crowned HG, and the CDP marks. The CDP mark on Gouda pipes was that of Cornelis Dircksz. Peck, who started work in Amsterdam but was listed as a Gouda pipe maker between 1667 and 1679.


Recent archaeological work in Albany, New York, has provided evidence of wampum production during the first half of the 18th century. Large quantities of partially prepared Mercenaria strips and bead wasters have been found along with iron drills and whetstones in several locations. These sites, which included an almshouse and a blockhouse, led the excavators to speculate that wampum production may have been “a marginal, part-time urban craft” by which people could supplement their income.

The Dutch terms *sewan* and/or *zeewant* are derived from the Narragansett *siwan*, or “scattered,” which refers to loose or unstrung shell beads (although the term was used indiscriminantly by the Dutch). In addition to the various functions it served for the Native Americans, wampum was used as a form of currency by both Native Americans and Europeans in New Netherland. Adrian Block, Hendrick Christiaensen, and Jacques Eelkins were independent Dutch traders active south of Albany. In 1614, the New Netherland Company was established to regulate the trade industry and saw the construction of Fort Nassau. In 1624, the West India Company established Fort Orange. European settlement increased the local demand for wampum, which by 1626, was dominated by the Dutch (via the West India Company). While the Native Americans made the wampum, the Dutch provided tools that expedited the process as well as a market for it; wampum therefore was an integral part of Dutch trade. Archaeological sites provide evidence of wampum production in Albany, which were interpreted to be a “marginal, part-time urban craft.” By 1650, over-production and poor quality deflated wampum’s economic value, and the Dutch no longer controlled areas of wampum production, which in turn contributed to the fiscal problems of New Netherland. After 1650, wampum was superceded by claw-shaped shell pendants, which have also been recovered from Dutch sites. Ultimately the Dutch successful engagement in local trade resulted from their experiences in Africa and the East Indies, where marine shell was also highly valued by indigenous peoples.


Reprint with slight revision but with no illustrations of the version of the article in de Halve Maen, Volume 78, Number 1, Spring 2005.

Bradley, James W. and Gordon De Angelo
1980 *European Clay Pipe Marks from 17th Century Onondaga Sites*. William M. Beauchamp Chapter, NYSAA.

Clay pipe bowls marked EB are the most common marked pipe bowls at Onondaga Iroquois sites of the 17th century. Two types of EB-marked bowls are reported from the Fort Orange site, as are pipe bowls marked BC, CD with a rowel, WS, and the “rose,” which are also found at Onondaga sites. A pipe bowl marked HG was found in Albany, and other examples have
been recovered from Oneida Iroquois sites dating between ca. 1660 and 1685, at a Mohawk site dating ca. 1667 to 1693, and at a Seneca site dating ca. 1645 to 1687. A pipe bowl with a crowned HG mark was excavated at the Fort Orange site. Five out of a total of six varieties of fleur-de-lis marks on pipe stems are reported from Fort Orange.


See abstract for Bradley and De Angelo (1980).

Brewer, Floyd I.


Between 1982 and 1986, more than 2,500 clay pipe fragments have been excavated from the farm in the Town of Bethlehem settled by Cornelis Hendrickse van Nes in 1641. Pipe heel marks HS, RW, and EB, for Henry Smith, Roger Wilkin, and Edward Bird, all pipe makers of Amsterdam, have also been found at Fort Orange. Another Dutch pipe, not found at Fort Orange but found at Iroquois sites from the 1670s, is marked with a cross and orb on the heel. Pipes made in Bristol, England, in the 18th century include many with the mark of Robert Tippet. Use of the Tippet cartouche on the pipe bowl may date from after 1722, when Robert Tippet II died. A Bristol pipe marked T GRA NT in a cartouche was made by Thomas Grant, a pipe maker who died in 1751. An example was also excavated at the Schuyler Flatts site. Another English pipe, probably later in date, is marked W and G on the sides of a spur heel. Later Dutch pipes include a pipe made in Gouda with the crowned 58 heel mark of Jacobus de Ronde. On both sides of the heel is stamped the Gouda shield with the letter S above it. The S stands for the word slegte, which means “ordinary.” [Note: The word slegte would more likely indicate a pipe of the poorest quality.]


A fragment of mid-17th-century Dutch majolica excavated in the north lawn of the Nicoll-Sill house may date from the occupation of the property by Cornelis Hendrickse Van Nes from 1642 to 1650. Other tin-glazed ceramics date from the occupation of the property later in the 17th century and into the 18th century. They include delft made probably in Liverpool and in Lambeth, England. There are fragments of delft tiles with Biblical scenes. The north lawn area also produced blue-decorated porcelain sherds that may date from the 1720s. Other porcelain can be dated to the 1730s, and a fragment with an overglaze-painted shield in black with traces of a floral motif in blue dates from the end of the 18th century. This was typical of special-order porcelain. Closer to the house two fragments of polychrome hand-decorated white salt-glazed stoneware were found and may date from the 1740s. Other mid-18th-century white salt-glazed stoneware sherds include fragments of plates with the barley and the dot, diaper, and basket patterns.


The Goes/Van Derzee Farm Site consists of a substantial precontact component spanning the Archaic, Transitional, Woodland, and Contact Periods. By c. 1640, Cornelius Hendrickse van Nes had established a farmstead on the site. On 12 September 1652, a formal bill of sale for a large tract of land (including the site) was issued by Aepje (Skiwias), the chief of the Mahicans,
Annotated Bibliography of New Netherland Archeology
Rensselaer and Albany Counties, New York

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to Johan van Rensselaer; other named witnesses include Aert Jacobs and Cornelius van Voorhout. From 1733 to 1735, Kiliaen van Rensselaer and his wife, Elizabeth Salisbury Nicoll, built their home on the tract overlooking the Vloman Kill; today it is the second-oldest extant house in the Town of Bethlehem. Artifacts of European origin from the Goes/Van Derzee Farm Site include: creamware, delftware, earthenware, green-glazed ware, pearlware, porcelain, redware (mostly modern), stoneware, whiteware/ironstone-graniteware, bottles and household glass fragments, kaolin pipes (Dutch, English, and German), buttons (mostly modern), and various metal items (e.g. nails, buckles, hooks, etc.).

Brewer, Floyd I., Florence A. Christoph and Peter R. Christoph

Floyd Brewer directed excavations at the historic Pieter D. Winne house in the Town of Bethlehem, Albany County, in 2000 and 2001 with the goal of dating the structure through archeological evidence. Except for the area along the west foundation wall, the site unfortunately had been extensively disturbed. In the first year of excavation, 3,258 artifacts were recovered. The artifacts include a William III coin from between 1694 and 1702, fragments of brown slip-decorated yellow ware, fragments of white salt-glazed stoneware, and a clay pipe bowl marked R TIPP ET in a cartouche on the side of the bowl. Along the west foundation wall were found fragments of a blue-decorated delft plate which could be dated firmly to between ca. 1715 and 1730 on the basis of extant dated examples. These artifacts are all typically English. Other artifacts include a two-tined bone-handled fork, a clasp knife, a Dutch hinge, and delft tile fragments. The artifacts are consistent with a construction date for the house of ca. 1720, when Pieter D. Winne married Rachel Van Alen.

Brewer, Floyd I. and Brian J. Gosselin

History of the First Reformed Church of Bethlehem, which applied for incorporation on 28 December 1791, and is the oldest church in the Town of Bethlehem. The church was granted a tract of land for a parsonage farmhouse with farmland by Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1795. The sequence of dominies can be traced from 1798 to 1820, after which the parsonage was rented to tenant farmers that grew vegetables for the Albany area market. The parsonage burned on 7 May 1946, and its associated barns and outbuildings were removed later the following year. Archeological investigations conducted by Bethlehem Archaeology Group in April 1986 recovered artifacts dating to the earliest occupation of the parsonage, from c. 1800 to 1820, and include: green, lead-glazed redware, slip-decorated (probably American) redware fragments, free-blown prescription bottle fragments, deep green wine bottle fragments, a wide decorative baldric brass buckle, blue shell-edged English pearlware fragments, green shell-edged English pearlware fragments, hand-tooled bone buttons, brass buttons (most with loops on the reverse side), hand-wrought iron door pintle, ribbed clay pipe-stem fragments, kaolin clay pipe-bowl fragments, a hand-wrought iron gatehook, hand-wrought iron horse-shoes, a mold-created iron door key, a mold-created iron padlock fragment, hand-wrought iron scissor fragments, hand-wrought iron rosehead nails, machine-cut iron spikes, a Paul Revere style pipe-bowl, black lead-glazed redware fragments, brown lead-glazed redware fragments, plain redware fragments, transfer-printed English creamware fragments, transfer-printed English pearlware fragments,
light yellow English creamware fragments, English annular (banded) creamware fragments, English annular pearlware fragments, slip-decorated lead-glazed redware, blue underglaze hand-decorated high-gloss English pearlware fragments, a hand-wrought two-tine iron pitchfork, a hand-wrought iron shutter strap hinge, marbelled English annular pearlware fragments, earthenware fragments with a green copper stripe, assorted greenware fragments, and transfer-printed English ironstone China fragments.

Broderick, Warren F.

The “Albany Road” was constructed between 1753 and 1773 from Greenbush (Rensselaer) to Deerfield. The road later became the Eastern Turnpike of 1801-1804, and was abandoned in the early 20th Century. The road is now used as a logging road.

Broderick, Warren F. and Patricia Barbanell

John Carner (Kerner) was born in Germany c. 1735, and immigrated to America in the late 1750s. In 1759, he married Susannah “Hawk” (Anglicized “Haak” or “Hogg”), who was of Palatine German descent. His homestead was leased from the Patroon in 1790, and was located in the current Town of East Greenbush. John and his brother, Philip Carner, were both prominent potters in Greenbush during the late 18th Century; John E. Van Alen’s survey of Greenbush labels John Carner’s property as belonging to “John Kerner - alias Pottebacker,” which refers to his trade as potter. John died in 1801, and his wife died shortly thereafter, in 1806. Both were interred in the first Lutheran Cemetery in West Sand Lake. Although their gravestones were documented in the early 20th Century, they have since been destroyed by landowners. A site visit conducted in 1986 identified lead-glazed red earthenware behind the 19th Century structure belonging to John Carner, Jr., which was located across the road from the homestead of the potter John Carner. Upon John Carner, Jr.’s death in 1834, an inventory filed at Rensselaer County Surrogate’s Court lists “2 earthen pots” valued at 50 cents.

Broderick, Warren F. and William Bouck

See abstract for Broderick and Barbanell (1988).

Bullock, Orin M., Jr.

Archeological investigation at Schuyler Mansion must be combined with documentary research to identify locations of outbuildings; excavations were initiated in October 1968. Archeological investigation also may be expected to reveal locations of garden areas, walks, paths, roadways, and wells.
Burggraf, James D.

A shell midden at Massapequa Fort on Fort Neck, Long Island is thought to be the source of early Dutch trade wampum. Iron nails and spikes may have been used as hammers, pressure-flakers, or awls, depending on size.

Cantwell, Anne-Marie, and Diana diZerega Wall

The character of New Netherland as a Dutch colony is a matter of debate among scholars. The question is whether New Netherland was “more Netherlandish than new” or whether it was similar to the Netherlands but also “very different.” Excavations indicate that Fort Orange in Albany was similar in scale and size to its namesake on the Rhine River built by Maurice of Nassau in 1614. Remains of a massive wall uncovered in the fort’s south moat were probably from a ravelin, an outwork built of stone in 1648. As Dutch settlers arrived in increasing numbers, they built homes where they could farm and trade away from the activity around Fort Orange. Archeologists have excavated such sites as those of Volkert Jansen Douw and Juriaen Theunissen. The material recovered from the houses in Fort Orange, Douw’s house in Beverwyck, and Van Curler’s home at the Schuyler Flatts reveal just how cosmopolitan the home furnishings of these remote settlements were, replicating homes in the Republic. On farms, seeing the artifacts and architecture clearly would have made new Dutch arrivals feel at home. At the site of Van Curler’s farm at the Flatts, archeologists recovered a mattock for harvesting hay and whetstones probably used for sharpening scythes. The garbage bones at this site reveal a definite preference for pork. The high number of ham bones recovered there by archeologists, and the paucity of bones from other cuts of the animal, suggest that the occupants bought the hams in town. The wood-lined cellars of houses that were discovered in Fort Orange and Beverwyck and at rural sites, however, suggest an attitude regarding homes as temporary structures to be occupied only long enough acquire wealth. In the cellar of the Van Doesburgh house in Fort Orange, wampum beads were more abundant than glass trade beads, and wampum was perhaps collected there for trade. Trade beads and many other typical trade artifacts were recovered from the sites of the house of Volkert Jansen Douw in Beverwyck and of the Van Curler house at the Flatts north of Beverwyck. Across the Hudson River, features were excavated near the site of the house built for Dominie Megapolensis which contained a mixture of Indian artifacts and Dutch domestic material that is not the type of European goods that are usually thought of as typical trade objects, raising questions about the nature of interactions between individual colonists and Indians. Venison and wild fowl were luxuries in the Netherlands, while in New Netherland the analysis of garbage bones shows that they were common, everyday fare, along with occasional appearance of raccoon, bear, and elk. In the Douw cellar, pumpkin seeds, peach pits, acorns, hazelnuts, and butternuts were recovered. The Dutch in New Netherland created neither a carbon copy of life in patria nor a watered-down version of it. There were subtle but significant differences between New Netherland and the homeland. A part of the process was to take what was new and unknown and to incorporate it into something recognizable and familiar, something Dutch.
Cantwell, Anne-Marie and Diana diZerega Wall

Analysis of the chemical composition of the clay used in making the yellow bricks excavated at Fort Orange shows that they are very similar in their chemistry to the yellow bricks excavated in New Amsterdam (New York City). The clay of possibly locally-made ceramic bottles, excavated in New Amsterdam, is similar to the clay that was used to make the roofing pantiles excavated at Fort Orange and at New Amsterdam sites. As at Fort Orange, archeologists working in New Amsterdam have discovered that the Dutch colonists spared no effort in creating comfortable Dutch homes. The earliest Dutch inhabitants of New Amsterdam depended on deer for food, just as at Fort Orange, where deer teeth were more than twice as common as pig teeth before the late 1640s.

Cardinal, Scott

Excavations at the site of a colonial British blockhouse in the intersection of Pearl and State Streets in Albany occurred in 1972 and 1998. The 1972 excavations were conducted by Paul Huey, and the 1998 excavations were conducted by the New York State Museum. The 1972 excavations occurred in conjunction with the sampling of trenches excavated by a backhoe, while the State Museum excavation of 1998 occurred within discrete excavation units. In the 1972 excavations 670 items were recovered, while in 1998 the excavations produced 5,763 items. The material from 1972 evidently comes from the interior of the blockhouse structure, while the material from 1998 comes from an area immediately outside the building. The relative percentages of architectural and domestic artifacts from 1972 and 1998 are remarkably similar, whereas a considerably higher percentage of personal artifacts were recovered in 1972 compared to 1998. The 1998 excavations produced a larger number of military items. Both excavations produced evidence of the manufacture of shell wampum beads. The bore sizes of clay pipe stems from the 1972 excavation yielded a median occupation date of 1738.92; those from the 1998 work gave a date of 1737.91. The greatest difference between the 1972 and 1998 collections is in the ceramics. The 1972 collection has proportionally more utility wares, while the 1998 collection has more porcelain and refined earthenware. The 1972 collection of ceramics is weighted towards buff earthenware, utility stoneware, and delft. The 1998 collection has a larger proportion of white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware, which may suggest a slightly later occupation.

Chilton, Elizabeth S.

Craile State Historic Site was one of four sites at which archeological interpretation activities were concentrated during the summer of 1988 because of on-going major projects. The text of a brochure/press release was produced, and 33 copies of the press release were reproduced. Also, 30 copies of a brochure were produced. During the two weeks of fieldwork a total of about 36 people visited, in addition to several reporters from local newspapers. The weather was very rainy, and school was still in session.

In 1970 the rear portion of the site was redesigned by a landscape consultant apparently based upon the results of archeological surveys conducted in 1968. Representative ground forms and materials were used to interpret but not to reconstruct the original locations of structures attached to the Schuyler Mansion, since there is not enough information for an accurate reconstruction of those 18th-century structures.


The excavations at the Schuyler Flatts site from 1971 through 1974 provide evidence of the existence of the combined barn and dwelling structures in New Netherland. One late 17th- or early 18th-century structure at the site was the brick Schuyler dwelling. The other structure, located just to the south, was earlier and was probably the farmhouse mentioned by Van Curler in 1643. An L-shaped cellar with walls constructed of horizontal wooden planks was uncovered. It has been assumed this house was an aisled house. However, in northern Europe aisled houses did not have excavated cellars. More likely the Flatts farmhouse of 1643 was an example of the Zeeland Barn Group, in which the dwelling portion of the combined barn and dwelling was constructed of brick and had an excavated cellar.


The Beaver Street burial ground in Albany beginning in 1676 was known as the Dutch Reformed Church “new burying ground.” Previously, burials had been interred around and beneath the floor of the church building built in the 1650s at the center of the intersection of State Street and Broadway. Excavations in the burial ground area occurred at three locations where pilings and piling caps will be constructed. At one location, previous testing had revealed one burial, Burial 4, while at the other two locations Burials 1 through 3 and 6 through 11, respectively, were discovered. Further excavations where Burials 6 through 11 were found revealed Burials 14 through 20 and 24, and this area was the only one that included burials of children. All bones were in extremely poor, fragile condition. Burial 7 was relocated and removed in a block to be taken to a laboratory for careful excavation. Burials 3, 11, and 12 were left undisturbed and not excavated because they could be avoided by the construction work. Burials were closely aligned in a fairly straight line. They were each oriented east-west. Seven burials had coffins with gabled lids. The left first incisors of the skull of the male in Burial 15 were clearly worn from years of smoking a pipe, which he held with his teeth in the front of his mouth. The tooth wear of other individuals who smoked indicates they held their pipes to the sides of their mouths. The body of an adult male in Burial 2 had had its feet cut off at the ankles after death to fit it into the gabled coffin. One foot was found between his thighs. His original height was probably about 5 feet, 2 to 4 inches. Burial 5 was female, with her arms crossed over her chest. Burial 8 was that of a large, robust male about 5 feet, 8 inches in height. He had large muscle markings from a life of heavy labor, but he suffered from an osteomyelitis infection in a lower leg. His feet were also cut off to fit the body in the coffin. Burial 16 was a child, whose legs were cut off at the knees to fit the body in the coffin. In all, remains of 24 individuals were identified, studied, and removed. Of these, 19 were identified as adults, and four were children.
Stage 1A & 1B Cultural Resources Investigation, 532-554 Broadway, City of Albany, Albany County, N.Y., East Nassau, New York.

Uccellini United proposes to construct a seven-story building with a steel frame in the area bounded north by Steuben Street, west by James Street, east by Broadway, and south by property of the City of Albany Industrial Development Agency. This block was within the palisades of the village of Beverwyck. In the 20th century a parking garage was constructed in the southern half of the site, destroying any evidence of previous occupation. Extensive previous disturbance had occurred at the northeast and northwest corners of the site. Archeological investigation revealed 17th-century ceramics, wine bottle fragments, pantile fragments, and oyster shells. These artifacts were mixed with 20th-century debris. Near the center of the site, at a depth of 17 feet, three parallel east-west oak planks were uncovered. They were nearly 7 feet in length and lay upon the natural subsoil clay. They were 2½ inches thick, planned on both sides, contained wood pegs at the ends and center, and were beveled to fit together. They appeared to be very old, perhaps associated with the drainage system mentioned in records in 1770. However, 20th-century artifacts were found associated with the planks, and further excavations by hand around them indicated they were not part of any drainage system. Nearby, a mortared stone foundation wall was discovered running east from James Street. Nine fill strata were encountered within an apparent cellar hole. Level 4 contained oyster shells, glass, and Dutch delft dating from the 1660s, but unfortunately they were mixed with 20th-century debris. The delft was a fragment of a blue-decorated delft tile that had been cut and rounded for use as a gaming piece. Deeper down, in Level 9 which was above the natural subsoil clay, 18th-century English delft and clay pipes, red clay pantiles, and a red brick were uncovered. The 17th-century artifacts that were found at this site should be offered to the State or the City for future exhibits and research.


A Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Troubadour Estates Subdivision in the Town of Bethlehem, for which field work occurred in September 2003. The survey area encompassed a Dutch farm site that had been previously studied by the Bethlehem Archaeological Group. The parcel was originally identified on the 1767 Bleecker map as the property of W. Winne; the property was later associated with a J. Coones in 1854 and W. Kimmey in 1866. The Winnie-Kimmey Barn, and the archaeological deposits associated with it, were deemed eligible for listing on the National Register by members of OPRHP. The main artifact repository was the Bethlehem Archaeological Group, which at the time of writing, had not yet published a report of their findings. Collamer & Associates, Inc. failed to locate any 18th Century archaeological deposits, and did not recommend any further archaeological work on the site.

Cornwell, W. S.


The cranium of an adolescent male found at Dann Site 1 shows signs of fronto-occipital flattening that is associated with infant head-binding practices. Analogous cranial morphology has been observed at the Peachtree Mounds in North Carolina, which suggests that the Iroquois were interacting with southeastern tribes during the Contact Period. Dann Site 1 dates to c. 1650-1675.
Cotter, John L.

Testing was conducted to define and interpret soil stratigraphy and the character of foundation walls of the Schuyler Mansion.


Excavation at the south corners of Schuyler Mansion revealed an early 19th-century brick drain possibly installed under the direction of Philip Hooker. At the rear corner of the Mansion the foundation of the adjacent building was found which was connected to the main house by a single low wall.


Construction of sewer lines along the Hudson River resulted in the discovery by archeologists of 17th century features, mostly pits, directly in front of Crailo State Historic Site. The pits contained both Indian and Dutch material.


Testing and surveys are underway in an effort to locate tangible evidence of the Battle of Bennington.


A test survey in the front yard of Crailo State Historic Site prior to proposed regrading to improve drainage revealed stratified evidence from the 17th century despite the heavy restoration work of the 20th century. Significant evidence of the early occupation levels still remains, and the testing has insured that these will not be destroyed in the regrading. The excavated artifacts will be used for comparative studies with other sites to identify cultural patterns. At Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in Albany, certain areas of a proposed parking lot behind Schuyler Mansion contain evidence of 18th and early 19th century occupation. Artifacts include a distinctive lead bale seal and a brass U.S. Army button from between 1821 and 1830. Construction will be planned to avoid grading to depths that would disturb archeological deposits.


Excavations were conducted in the large area to the rear of the Schuyler Mansion where grading will be necessary for construction of a new parking lot. A road bed of crushed red sandstone that evidently passed through Schuyler’s orchard was discovered and excavated. Remains of a brick drain system were found at the site of Schuyler’s barn, and it is hoped that a slight redesign of the parking lot will allow these drains to be preserved.

Curtin, Edward V.

A Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Homewood Suites Hotel, located at No. 216 Wolf Road in the Town of Colonie. The project area included the National Register-listed John Wolf Kemp House/Leatso Farmhouse (90NR2778). The federal-style brick farmhouse was built c. 1780-1810 for John Wolf Kemp, a tenant of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. In addition to the farmhouse, the site also includes a former summer kitchen and privy, whose
location was identified during the Phase I survey. A Phase II site evaluation was recommended for a closer examination of these features, as well as to further refine the archaeological component of the site and to evaluate its potential to yield significant information.

2005  

Report on a phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Waters Edge subdivision in the Town of Grafton, for which fieldwork took place from June to August 2005. The survey identified four historical sites: the J.T. Main 1 Site, the J.T. Main 2 Site, the J.T. Main 3 Site, and the Steam Saw Mill Site; all except the J.T. Main 2 Site contain historic foundations. Diagnostic artifacts found at the collective sites include: pearlware, undecorated whiteware, whiteware with chrome colors, transfer-printed whiteware, flow-blue, white granite, yellowware, rockingham, tan stoneware with black interior, Albany slip stoneware, Bristol slip stoneware, colorless glass, milk glass, a cobalt blue blob top, solarized, tooled crown finish, solarized continuous thread finish, and amber beer bottle glass. The presence of pearlware suggests an initial occupation dating to the late 18th Century that continued until the early 20th Century, based upon the presence of machine-manufactured glass vessel fragments. No precontact sites were identified.

2006  

Report on a Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Spinney at Pond View, in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred in May 2006. The J. Kinney Site consists of a mortared fieldstone foundation with cellar hole, a brick-lined well, and a partially-buried concrete barn foundation. Artifacts were concentrated around the foundation, which include: vessel glass (colorless, aqua, brown amber, and emerald green), aqua flat glass, marigold-colored carnival glass, pink Depression glass, cut and wire nails, metal staples, a spring, a sprocket, an electric pressing iron, an ice skate blade, a can key, a bullet shell, gray enamelware bowls, a ball clay pipe stem, creamware, blue-painted pearlware, redware, blue transfer-print whiteware, undecorated whiteware, white granite, porcelain, turquoise fiestaware, mussel, scallop, and snail, cow teeth, brick, stone, plaster mortar, and cinder. A subsequent Phase IB addendum and Phase II site evaluation were conducted in 2008.

2006  

Report of a Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Hunters’ Run subdivision in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred from August to September 2005 and additional work occurred in January 2006. The survey identified two historic sites. The Decker-Hicks Site is located in the immediate area of an extant structure, for which the artifact deposit spans the mid-18th to early-20th Centuries. The assemblage includes: one fragment of buff earthenware with a hand-painted blue-green leaf outlined in black (1650-1750), undecorated creamware (1762-1820), undecorated pearlware (1800-1835), yellowware tile (1830-1940), Jackfield (1870-1890), decal-decorated whiteware (1890+), a milk glass canning jar liner (1869), manganese solarized vessel glass (1880), aluminum foil (1910+), and a plastic hair comb (1915+). The Hunters’ Run Barn Site is later in date, and consists of the following assemblage: cut nails (1805+), wire nails (1860+), an enameled basin (1867+), a fragment of colorless vessel
glass embossed “COKE” (1900+), and a Pyrex fuse and casserole lid (1915+). A stray precontact find was also found at the site.


Report on additional archaeological work at the J. Kinney (Kimmey) site, for which fieldwork occurred from April to May 2008. The J. Kinney Site consists of a mortared fieldstone foundation with cellar hole, a brick-lined well, and a partially-buried concrete barn foundation. Artifacts were concentrated to the east and north (or backyard) of the foundation, and include: porcelain, whiteware, white granite, yellowware, redware, pearlware, creamware, tin enamel, brick fragments, shell, animal bone, ball clay pipe fragments, and modern materials (e.g. cement fragments and asphalt shingles). Some of the artifacts may represent the earliest occupation of the site by David Semen between 1795-1844, while the majority of the deposit is attributed to J. Kinney’s occupation of the site from 1844 onward. The site was recommended for avoidance.

Dallal, Diane

Excavations at 7 Hanover Square in New York City produced 78 clay pipes heel-marked EB. This number constitutes 25 percent of the total number of marked pipes. One variety of the EB mark consists of the letters within a beaded circle, and 68 percent of all the EB-marked pipes had this mark. This particular mark is also on pipes marked EB recovered from strata at Fort Orange dating from ca. 1650 to 1664. Another variety of the EB mark is the plain EB heel mark, and this is found on 14 percent (11 examples) of the total EB-marked pipes from 7 Hanover Square. At Fort Orange this mark appears on pipes from a context dated ca. 1647 to 1676. The EB initials within concentric circles constitute only 5 percent of the EB marks on pipes from Hanover Square, and from Fort Orange pipes with this mark are from pipes found in a context of ca. 1650 to 1664. Finally, EB initials within a sunburst or cogwheel is a mark found on only 4 percent of the Hanover Square EB-marked pipes, and from Fort Orange it is found on pipes from a context of ca. 1640 to 1647. The crowned EB mark was on 7 percent of all the EB-marked pipes at Hanover Square, and an EB mark with a raised dot between the letters was also found at Hanover Square, but neither of these EB marks appeared among the pipes excavated at Fort Orange.

Davis, Nancy L.

Archeological excavations were conducted for the New York State Department of Conservation in 1998 at the corner of South Pearl Street and Howard Street in Albany. Prior excavations near this location revealed archeological deposits related to back yards of houses that once faced State Street. Other records indicated that this street corner was once the
property of the Lutheran Church during the 17th and 18th centuries. Three wooden coffin burials, the wooden floor planks of a mid-18th-century structure, and an 18th-century wooden barrel privy were found. Soil and wood samples were collected. Pine and oak dominate the types of tree pollen in the samples. Very little of the pine pollen is white pine; the majority is an indeterminate species of pine. The two earliest pollen samples are from the ground surface in the late 17th century, prior to the burials. The lower sample is dominated by a large quantity of aster-type pollen, probably from species of sunflower and goldenrod. The upper sample shows that several non-native plants were introduced into the area: chicory-type pollen probably from dandelions and Eurasian cereal-type pollen, such as wheat, barley, oats, or rye. Pollen from strata dating from ca. 1680 to 1750 includes the initial appearance of European red clover and other plants of the pea family, sheep sorrel, pale dock, knotweed, and buckwheat. Wood chips in these strata are “hard pine,” most likely pitch pine from the Albany Pine Bush area. Wood chips from a stratum dating after ca. 1750 are of white oak and eastern white pine. From this period, also, was the barrel privy, which yielded seeds of many kinds, mainly of edible fruit. The cherry and plum pits are considerably larger than wild varieties and were probably from horticulturally improved varieties. The blueberries and huckleberries probably were harvested in the Pine Bush. Wild grape seeds were also present. Other plant seeds include lambsquarters, pokeweed, clover, and hawthorn.

De Roever, Margriet

In the excavations at the site of Fort Orange in Albany in 1970 thousands of tobacco pipe fragments were recovered. English sailors and foreign students introduced the smoking of tobacco to the Netherlands by the end of the 16th century. English pipe makers also came to the Netherlands. The most common types of pipes excavated at Fort Orange were those with the maker’s initials “EB.” Research in Amsterdam revealed the identity of “EB” as Edward Bird, an English pipe maker who settled in Amsterdam. The earliest record of Edward Bird in Amsterdam is that of his marriage to Aeltje Govaert in 1630. The record indicates he was born in Surrey, England. In 1645 Bird purchased a corner house on the Egelantiersgracht, and there is a photograph showing this house. However, he may have continued to live in a house on the Lauriergracht until 1654, when he bought a house on the Rozengracht between the two middle bridges. His wife died in 1658, and he married Anna van der Heijden in 1659. He died in 1665 and was buried in the Westerkerk churchyard. Edward Bird was exceptionally wealthy among the 50 or so other pipe makers in Amsterdam of English origin. His son, Evert, continued the pipe making business. His widow, Anna, married Hendrik Gerdes, also a potter and pipe maker, in 1668. The younger Evert Bird died at some time before 1692.

1995 Koopmanschappen voor Nieuw-Nederland: Een blik op de Nederlandse handelsartikelen voor de inheemse bevolking van Amerika / Merchandises for Barter with the Native American Population. In One Man’s Trash is Another Man’s Treasure, edited by A. van Dongen, pp. 70-93. Museum Boymans-van Beuningen, Rotterdam.

Research on the provenance of clay pipes excavated at Fort Orange revealed information about Edward Bird, the maker of many of the pipes. He was from England, and at his death he possessed a huge stock of more than 376,000 pipes. He also had credit for a shipment of pipes.
to New Netherland. Such detailed information about other English pipe makers has not been compiled.

DeCorse, Christopher R.

Clay pipe stem bore diameters excavated from sealed stratigraphic contexts at Fort Orange demonstrate a lack of chronological consistency in size. In the majority of instances, the bore sizes overestimated the dates of archeological deposits at Fort Orange. The majority of the clay pipes at Elmina are also Dutch, and the pipe stem bore dating formula applies specifically only to English pipes.

Deem, James M.

When slave burials were discovered, a sad, hidden side of Schuyler Flatts history became known. The burials were discovered by construction workers digging a new sewer line on June 3, 2005. Archeologists were called in, and they discovered the burials of six adults, two children, and five infants in a two-row, unmarked cemetery. The iron nails from the coffins and the brass pins from the burial shrouds indicated a date for the graves before 1820. DNA analysis revealed that all but one adult had a mother, grandmother, or great-grandmother who was born in Africa. Three had links to west-central Africa, two to east Africa, and two to the island of Madagascar, off Africa’s eastern coast. They were not related to each other. Artist Gay Malin reconstructed faces of the adults. One was a 5-foot, 4-inch woman who was about 55 years old when she died. Her DNA was traced to Madagascar. Well-developed muscles in her right shoulder and large joints in her lower body indicate she was strong and hard-working. But she had severe arthritis in her left hand, toes, and lower spine. Her remaining teeth were full of cavities and covered with plaque, and grooves worn in her front teeth indicate that she smoked a clay pipe. Another individual was a 40-year-old woman of African descent, but her DNA revealed that a close female relative was possibly a Micmac Indian from the coastal regions of Maine or Canada. She suffered from poor nutrition or was quite ill when she was a child. She had once broken her left wrist, and she had severe arthritis in her lower back. When the New York State Department of Transportation decided to improve Pearl Street in Albany in 1998, archeologists from the New York State Museum were contracted to conduct excavations in advance of construction. At the corner of Pearl and Howard Streets, they uncovered a wooden plank floor deep underground. Below the floor, excavations revealed remains of a coffin and a human skull. This was a burial from the old Lutheran burial ground, which city records indicate was removed and relocated in 1786. The individual was a woman who was 5 feet, 1 inch tall and in her early 40s. Artifacts indicated she was buried probably about 1742. Her bones indicated that her life had been very difficult. At the time of her death she had sinus and lung infections and abscesses, a painful left leg, and gout in both feet. Of her seven remaining heavily tartared teeth, six were severely decayed. Artist Gay Malin, using the reconstructed skull, reconstructed the face of the woman, who has been given the name Pearl.
Diamond, Joseph E.  

Kingston Incised Indian pottery appears at sites only sporadically in the northern Hudson Valley, having been found at a site on Papscanee Island and at Fort Crailo in Rensselaer County.

Dunn, Shirley W.  

The Indian storage pits and contact period materials excavated in 1974 at Fort Crailo may have been from the Mahican fortified site on the east shore of the Hudson River opposite Fort Orange mentioned in 1626.


The Teunis Dircksen van Vechten farmstead was estalished on the Manor in 1639. In 1641, the Patroon re-distributed six morgens of Teunis Dirksen van Vechten’s land-holdings to the adjacent Mauritz Jansen farmstead, because some of Teunis Dirksen van Vechten’s land had lain uncultivated. He continued to farm the remaining 30 morgens (60 acres) of land from 1640 until 1676. According to his lease renewal of 1657, his farmstead included a house, barn, and hay barracks; he also owned another house in Albany as well as one additional property. Teunis Dircksen van Vechten died in 1685, and his son, Gerrit Teunis van Vechten took over the next lease for “three or six years” starting in 1678. He in turn transferred his lease to Claes van Petten and moved to Catskill. He was subsequently granted a new farmstead known as Schoeneveld or “Cleanfield” by Maria van Rensselaer in 1680. From 1678 to 1677, he rented a tract of woodland from Governor Andros, which was done independently of the van Rensselaers. Gerrit Teunis van Vechten then rented portions of his land-holdings to Jan Roose, Cornelis Dyckman, and Harmen Janz. Gerrit Teunis van Vechten was known as “Captain van Vechten,” and had been a messenger from Albany to New England during King Philip’s War; he was also part of a militia during the Leisler Rebellion from 1689 to 1690.

2008  *Crailo State Historic Site (Fort Crailo): A Timeline with Pictures.* Friends of Fort Crailo, Crailo State Historic Site, Rensselaer, New York.  

Excavations have revealed a cobblestone workspace behind Crailo that may have linked the house with a large barn.


Archeological excavations at Crailo have revealed evidence of early pre-Dutch occupation of the site by Indians that continued into the period of Dutch occupation. Evidence from excavations has suggested that the house occupied by Megapolensis, the Dutch minister, may have burned following his departure. Archeologists have also uncovered stone-paved surfaces of the courtyard that was between the house and the kitchen in the nearby barn. In front of the house, post holes from the stockade have been recently discovered under the edge of the present sidewalk, less than 15 feet from the house. [Note: An excavation from the front wall westward to the sidewalk did not reveal post holes, but instead the cross-section of a deep trench that possibly once held stockade posts in a line along present Riverside Avenue.] Next to the wall of the house excavations revealed late 17th- and early 18th-century artifacts that
imply an early date for the south room. A test unit excavated by Dennis Wentworth, archeologist with the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, along the foundation wall of the south wall of Crailo indicated the absence of any filled builder’s trench, suggesting the cellar was excavated into a full basement from an existing earlier cellar. The basement wall for the south wall would have been laid with stone from the inside.

Eager, Samuel W. (1846-47) *An Outline History of Orange County, with an Enumeration of the Names of its Towns, Villages, Rivers, Creeks, Lakes, Ponds, Mountains, Hills and Other Known Localities*.

A publication in 1820 notes that on the east side of the Hudson River a little south of Albany, on the property of John I. van Rensselaer, can be seen vestiges of the British army camp of 1755, after 60 years. Ashes from hearths where soldiers boiled their kettles can be observed by the curious traveler.


Jan Labatie, an inhabitant of Fort Orange, may have previously served as a carpenter for one of the many glasshouses in the area where he was born near Verdun. Labatie married the widow of surgeon Harmen Mynderse Vandenbogart. Glassmakers named Vandenbogart had long been operating in the Netherlands in the employ of the Bonhomes, celebrated industrialists and glassmakers, who controlled glasshouses at other places, including Verdun.


The artifact collection from the Vereberg Tavern excavation of 1953 and 1954, curated at the Albany Institute of History and Art, was catalogued and studied. The excavations apparently uncovered a brick walkway or paved area and at least two fireplaces. A goal was to determine, if possible, from which of two tavern sites at Vereberg the ceramics were excavated. One tavern was established as early as 1704, but by 1753 there were two taverns at Vereberg. During the 1760s, one of the taverns was owned by Daniel McMichael, and the other was owned probably by Anthony D. Bradt. By 1805, apparently only one tavern remained there, and it may have stood until about 1900 as a residence. Calculation of the mean ceramic date for the site using the South formula with the 4,361 sherds gives a mean date of 1819.5 +/- 4 years. Most of the ceramics are from the period from ca. 1750 to 1900, and it is likely the site was that of the second, or later, of the two taverns at Vereberg. This probably would have been the McMichael tavern. The most frequent ceramic type in the assemblage is post-1780 pearlware, followed by whiteware (after ca. 1820) and then creamware (ca. 1762-1820). Slip-decorated and lead-glazed yellow ware constitutes only 1.5 percent of the total ceramics. Delft is 1.1 percent, and white salt-glazed stoneware is only .3 percent of the ceramics.

The archeologists of the Division for Historic Preservation conducted three days of excavations in October 1975 at Fort Crailo. Because of poor drainage, it was proposed to grade away approximately 1 foot of soil from the front yard of the house, and the excavations were conducted to determine whether any significant archeological evidence would be disturbed during the grading and whether such remains are present below the 1-foot depth. It was also intended to sample the artifacts from various strata to determine dating and to use the artifacts for comparative studies and analyses. Nine small test units were carefully excavated. Five of the test units were on the crest of the slope toward the front sidewalk. As many as five soil strata were observed, and they each contained a mixture of artifacts from the 17th to the 19th or 20th centuries. Four other test units were excavated closer to the front wall of Fort Crailo, and three were excavated below the depth of 2 feet. Two of those units had strata dating from the 18th century, and one had a layer dating perhaps from the 17th century. The southernmost of the four test units contained the most soil strata, of which Stratum VII dated probably to the late 18th century, with fragments of Chinese porcelain, creamware, delft, utility stoneware, and pearlware. Of the four test units, the northernmost of the two middle units had a reddish-brown gravel stratum with 18th-century bottle glass, white salt-glazed stoneware, Chinese porcelain, clay pipes, and hand-wrought nails. This stratum probably was a previous ground surface. Below it was a second, earlier gravel layer with artifacts including Dutch yellow brick fragments and a fragment of gray Westerwald stoneware decorated in blue and manganese purple. This type of Westerwald stoneware would date from after 1675. This earlier gravel surface dates probably from the late 17th or early 18th centuries. Below the gravel was an early loam layer that held red brick fragments and a single quartz crystal. The same early loam layer was found in the northernmost of the four test units at a depth of about 20 inches.


Excavation of a sewer line in front of Crailo in Riverside Avenue in 1974 revealed remains of pits containing evidence of 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century occupation. Prehistoric artifacts were also found, dating from a time span of ca. 2,000 B.C. to 800 A.D. To the south of Crailo, an old shoreline of the river was found. Test excavations elsewhere around Crailo revealed as much as 2 feet of gravel fill in layers immediately in front of the house. Beneath the fill layers was a buried topsoil layer containing pieces of yellow brick. On other sides of the house evidence of prehistoric as well as 17th-century occupation has been found. In 1979 testing of the rear yard area was commenced. Five test units along a proposed fence line revealed artifacts of the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. A test unit excavated next to the south wall of the house revealed 18th-century artifacts.


Located north of Albany on the west side of the Hudson River, the fertile area that was known to the Dutch as de Vlackte, or “Flatts,” as it was called in the 18th century, became the location of the farm of Philip Pieterszen Schuyler in 1672. The house he built in the 1670s burned in 1962. The site became threatened by development. The Town of Colonie helped
sponsor rescue excavations at the house site, but the discovery of significant features there prompted the Town to purchase and preserve the site. South of the Schuylar house site, on land then still vulnerable to development, the presence of 17th-century artifacts on the ground surface led to excavations which revealed the remains of a deep wood-lined cellar with wooden steps for access. Artifacts from the site date from the middle 17th century, and the cellar was very likely under the large house-barn farmhouse built by Arent van Curler in 1643. Another 17th-century Dutch farmhouse site has been located south of Albany across the Hudson River near one end of Papscanee Island, another fertile flat along the river. Artifacts from this site, dating as early as 1637, correspond closely to those from Fort Orange and the Flatts. Crailo, a historic house from the early 18th century also located across the river from Albany, stands on a much older site. In 1974, construction of a sewer line in a deep trench under the street in front of Crailo, and archeologists recorded and saved artifacts from a series of filled pit features that contained Dutch and Indian artifacts from the second quarter of the 17th century. There was a noteworthy amount of Dutch domestic material as well as the usual trade goods. In Albany, originally the town of Beverwyck laid out in 1652, excavations for an electrical conduit under the streets revealed layers of debris that once littered the streets in front of the shops and houses. Concentrations of leather scraps, barrel fragments, crown glass cuttings, and butchered bones all demonstrated the presence of shoemakers, coopers, and other craftsmen along the street. The excavations also revealed channeled wooden logs that were part of the city’s first water system, described by a traveller to Albany in 1679. [Note: The traveller’s account dates from 1680.]

Feister, Lois M., and Paul R. Huey

A staff person has been hired for the archeology unit of the Bureau of Historic Sites to develop a program of public interpretation of fieldwork conducted during the 1988 season, which will include work at Crailo.

Feister, Lois M.

Surveys at Crailo State Historic Site were conducted in an area proposed for the planting of trees. The results revealed evidence of occupation of the site from the first half of the 17th century. The present structure appears to date from the 18th century, and the survey revealed the location of a possible earlier cellar hole.


Testing at Crailo State Historic Site revealed occupation levels and artifacts from the early 18th century, in addition to evidence of major landscape change in the early 19th century.


Archeology Day was held on June 22, with a display of artifacts, tours, and presentations. The excavations continued through June in the area where a new addition to the current visitors’ center is proposed to be built. The area was once part of the Schuyler garden, remnants of
which may have existed as late as 1905. Preliminary testing revealed remains from the late 18th and early 19th centuries.


Excavations were conducted at Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in the area where a new visitors’ center is proposed to be built. The previous existence of at least three gardens in the area from the late 18th century to the early 20th century was confirmed.


The archeological excavations conducted at Schuyler Mansion from 1968 to 1994 indicate that a largely intact mottled clay layer exists across the entire site. The artifacts in this layer mostly date from ca. 1760 to ca, 1810 or 1820, almost exactly reflecting the life span of Philip J. Schuyler. In this layer there is more pearlware (post-1780) than creamware, although creamware was probably the most used ceramic type during Schuyler’s lifetime. One noteworthy artifact is a lead bale seal stamped with seven stars. There are six stars in a circle around a central star, and the stars were probably a merchant’s mark. Another artifact from the layer is a pencil made from a strip of lead. Above this layer there are many later soil layers that reflect later occupations and charges. Excavations have revealed 18th- and 19th-century features, and artifact distributions reveal changes in traffic and trash disposal patterns. The artifacts provide direct information about the furnishings that once were within the house.

Testing prior to the construction of the parking lot behind Nos. 24 and 30 Catherine Street revealed soil strata that were badly mixed. The 18th-century ceramics, which would have been used by the Schuyler family, include creamware, pearlware, Chinese porcelain, white salt-glazed stoneware, delft, and brown slip-combed yellow ware. A concentration of hand-wrought nails between Nos. 24 and 30 Catherine Street is probably from Philip Schuyler’s barn that once stood there. Buried wood and a system of carefully-constructed brick drains were also uncovered in this area. The buried wood included a 9-inch-wide flat board resting on the clay subsoil. Other boards were vertical and apparently formed a wood-lined drain. Excavations in the Schuyler barn area produced the largest number of 18th-century artifacts. The excavations uncovered a fragment of Whieldon creamware with a green and yellow “clouded” glaze. The white salt-glazed stoneware includes a sherd with scratch-blue decoration and one with overglaze enameling in red, black, and brown. White salt-glazed stoneware and delft sherds were relatively uncommon in the parking lot survey compared porcelain, creamware, and pearlware. The relative amounts are similar to those excavated at Cherry Hill, for example, while at sites such as the Vereberg Tavern site in the Pine Bush there is much less porcelain. The creamware is mostly of the “Royal” pattern, but near the house a fragment of a toy creamware saucer of the feather-edge pattern was found. Brick drains discovered in front of the house in 1969 were very similar in construction to those found at the barn site.


Excavations at Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in Albany in 1986 and 1994 have revealed evidence of two gardens established there in the 18th century. The DeWitt map of 1794 shows
the Schuyler garden west of the modern visitors’ center, with the west wall of that building against the edge of the garden. The earlier garden, from before ca. 1780, was smaller than the later garden shown on the 1794 map. The earlier garden featured deep-trenched flower beds, square or rectangular boxes excavated into the dense subsoil clay. Post holes represented evidence of fencing. Philip Schuyler’s post-ca. 1780 garden was changed and expanded with the addition of fill over the old beds, and the garden was extended farther south. Associated artifacts included a plain brass button, an iron file, delft tile fragments with purple decoration, and three gunflints.


Excavations for a new gas line revealed a trench feature likely from the 17th century with a mixture of Dutch and prehistoric Indian artifacts. A brass projectile point was also recovered.


In 20 years of excavations for research and in advance of necessary ground disturbances, 89 excavation units of various sizes have been excavated. This work has demonstrated that the Crailo site was occupied in prehistoric times as well as in the 17th century prior to ca. 1650. The 17th-century occupation included not only that of Indians but also probably that of Dominie Johannes Megapolensis by 1643. The bank of the Hudson River originally was much closer to the existing Crailo house. Excavations next to the walls of the existing house indicate the foundation walls are earlier. The location of a possible well from the 17th century was found. The trench for an 18th-century wall was found at the rear of the lot, near Nelson Avenue. Remains of cobblestone courtyard surfaces, foundations of additions, and 19th-century privies and a cistern were found.


Artifacts excavated from below the floor of the pantry area behind the kitchen are primarily kitchen-related artifacts, and they are associated with the Whitman family occupation of the house between 1816 and 1823. Included among them is a fragment of a lead-glazed engine-turned red earthenware teapot of about 1770, similar to fragments excavated at Crailo State Historic Site.


Testing at the proposed location of a new wheelchair ramp revealed only layers of subsoil below the sod. However, careful sweeping with a metal detector revealed one spent musket ball, the first battle artifact known ever to have been discovered and excavated by archeologists in this area of the battlefield. The bullet is flattened and deformed from impact, and part of it was possibly sheared off. Its weight is 16.6 grams.
Fisher, Charles L.


Eight areas of the site were tested or inspected. In the vicinity of the farm now occupied by the Historic Site caretaker, test units produced no evidence of occupation earlier than the early 19th century. A low earthen mound believed to be at the position held by German Grenadiers at the time of the battle was also tested. Testing revealed no 18th-century artifacts, but the construction details of the mound and its location suggest that it dates from the battle. Other areas that were tested or surveyed, including the top of the hill, produced no artifacts related to the battle. The total absence of 18th-century military artifacts from this survey is difficult to explain, especially since continuous ground coverage was provided by the use of a metal detector.


Excavations in Albany have revealed evidence of gardens, yards, cemeteries, military structures, pottery dumps, and waterfront development. Analysis of human remains reveals information about the health and personal lives of the people of Albany. The information derived from archeology is the result of late 20th-century highway construction, new utility installations, new public building construction, and private developments which have destroyed large portions of the city’s archeological remains, but which have provided opportunities for the scholarly investigation of the material evidence of the creation of the city.


The British colonial guard house site under State Street at the junction with South Pearl Street was discovered during excavations in 1972. Further excavation occurred in 1998 as part of a project to reconstruct South Pearl Street. The 1972 excavation revealed remains of a 17th-century water pipe beneath the site. The 18th-century deposit was located 1½ meters below the street surface, within a drainage ditch that had been dug along the west, uphill side of the guard house to divert water. Artifacts from the ditch include gun parts, gunflints, part of a D-shaped canteen, delft ware, creamware, stoneware, and pearlware. A button marked USA indicates occupation during the Revolutionary War. The artifacts also include cow, chicken, pig, horse, beaver, sturgeon, and deer remains, with evidence that soldiers butchered animals in front of the guard house and discarded the waste in the center of the street. There were wampum beads in several stages of production, leather fragments from shoe making or repair, scraps of iron and brass, and a coiled piece of birch bark. Remains of a small puppy were buried in front of the guard house. A mean ceramic date of 1754 is based on the artifacts excavated in 1972 from the interior of the guard house, while the artifacts from the exterior have a mean ceramic date of 1763.

Trace element and stable isotope analysis of human physical remains are techniques that enable direct investigation of food consumption. Bone samples from three adults buried in the Lutheran Church lot in Albany were analyzed. Dental calculus found on the molars of one burial, an adult female, indicates a basic diet composed of starchy, gruel-type foods. Documents record that sappan (oatmeal porridge) was a universal dish among the Albany Dutch. All three individuals had strontium levels higher than those usually reported for modern adults. This implies that the amount of meat in their diet was less than the stable isotope analyses suggests, and the amount of plant material greater. However, it is likely that the consumption of shellfish increased the strontium content, creating the erroneously appearance of a vegetarian diet. Two of the individuals had levels of lead in their bones within the range of modern individuals. The third, however, had a very high level of lead, and this individual also suffered from tuberculosis. This individual also had a higher levels of copper and zinc, possibly the result of greater access to meat and shellfish. These high levels may indicate this individual was of a higher social status than the other two.

Archeological remains from the Lutheran Church were discovered in the area north of the Rutten Kill culvert beneath Pearl Street. Material remains were also excavated beneath Howard Street for nearly 40 feet west of Pearl Street. The original Lutheran Church lot extended beyond the current city block between Howard and Beaver Streets. In a deep deposit, evidence from the 17th-century Lutheran Church was uncovered, but the building foundation was not located. It was probably immediately south of the excavation area. The artifacts include yellow brick fragments, ceramics, delft tile fragments, wampum beads, glass beads, and clay pipes with the EB heel mark. Features, such as a wooden storage cellar, refuse pits, and privies produced numerous artifacts from the 18th century. The possible storage cellar may have been within the church house or in an exterior kitchen, and artifacts from the original ground surface outside the cellar are from the mid-18th century. They include Chinese porcelain sherds, English white salt-glazed stoneware sherds, clay pipes, bottle glass, and evidence of wampum-making. Burial remains of five people were recovered. The cemetery may have been established as early as 1670 or 1672. Three adults, two males and a female, were found buried in coffins. The female burial, Burial 1, was intrusive through a stratum dating from about 1650 to 1750, and the grave was covered over with a stratum dating from about 1750 to 1800. The stratum dating about 1750 to 1800 contained 211 clay pipe fragments, a marble, wampum beads, glass beads, gunflints, and remains of two pets (a dog and a cat). The clay pipe fragments included bowls marked RT and R TIP PET, as well as fragments marked WN and JW. WN may have been William Nicholas, who worked in England between 1730 and 1775. Deeper strata at this location contained 17th-century artifacts including a reworked pipe stem whistle similar to those found at Fort Orange. Burial 2 dates from about the same time as Burial 1 and was about 10 feet south of it. Burial 3, on the west side of Pearl Street, was about 32 feet south of Burial 2. Subsequently, after the excavations were completed, the construction work was monitored. More 18th-century material was recovered, in addition to
the blade of a sewing shears from the 17th century. Remains of a white oak barrel privy were also found, and soil from within it was collected for analysis.


Artifacts recovered from the excavation of a mid-17th Century trader’s hut include: tobacco pipes impressed with fleur-de-lis, “EB” heelmarks, and another with an image of a crocodile regurgitating Sir Walter Raleigh (because he tasted so bad after smoking); green-glazed earthenware, delft, Dutch majolica, Frechen and Westerwald stoneware; prunts from 17th-Century wine glasses and wine bottle fragments; a 17th Century Dutch copper half-duit coin; pins, hook-and-eye fragments, a lace tip (aglet), cast metal buttons; beads, marbles, and two small quartz crystals. Excavations at the 17th-Century house and glazier shop of Jurriaen Theunis (Theunissen) recovered approximately 230 pounds of glass, some of which displayed scribe marks indicating that they were trimmings likely collected for recycling. The only other artifacts discovered at the site were two mid-17th Century tobacco pipes with a “Tudor Rose” on the heel and a small sherd of tin-glazed buff earthenware. Excavations of the c. 1652 house occupied by Volkert Jansen Douw (the KeyCorp Site) recovered lead bars, glass trade beads, wampum, an iron axe, knives, and mouth harps. The presence of lead bars suggest that Douw was engaging in illicit trade through the exchange of the raw material for musket balls to Native Americans for furs. The nearby Lutheran Church Lot also recovered artifacts from the fur trade, including a mouth harp, glass trade beads, clay tobacco pipes, and wampum. While delft tiles served the same purpose in the Netherlands as they did in New Netherland, the decorative motifs found in the corners of the tiles did vary. An early delft tile (c. 1650) found at the Brick Maker’s House in Quackenbush Square bears a unique design of a fleur-de-lis in the corner.


In 1970, when interstate highway construction threatened the site of Fort Orange, archeologists working under temporary shelters during the winter identified remains of four buildings within the fort, the east entrance, the stone-lined south moat, and the inner wall of a defense work on the south side of the moat. The wood-lined cellars of three of the houses contrasted with the evidence of their substantial above-ground appearance. The wood-lined cellar from the house occupied by a Dutch trader outside of Fort Orange was later excavated, and the cellar contained artifacts of both Indians and the Dutch who were smoking, drinking, gambling, and trading. Another house from the 1640s occupied by a brick maker had a wooden floor resting directly on the earth. The artifacts from that site include many trade items. Within the original town of Beverwyck, excavations revealed the remains of the house of Volkert Jansen Douw, a trader who was granted the lot in 1652. The cellar floor consisted of 14-inch planks laid on wooden beams placed directly upon the earth. On the lot of the Lutheran Church built by 1680, skeletal remains of five individuals were uncovered, and the skull of a female was used as the basis for a facial reconstruction by an artist. The remains bore evidence of infections and nutritional diseases suffered by both children and adults. In 2000, excavations revealed the remains of a large distillery that had been constructed outside the north wall of the colonial 18th-century town, and elsewhere in Albany the site of a British guardhouse containing artifacts dating from the French and Indian War was excavated.
Large scutes, the bony external plates from along the backbone of sturgeon, excavated at the State University Construction Fund parking garage site in Albany confirm written descriptions of Atlantic sturgeon up to 15 feet long in the Hudson River. At the location of a gate in the stockade at the same site, a large iron padlock was found with the inscribed letters M/... RATT.” A wig curler from this parking garage site bears the maker’s mark, a crowned WB. Wig curlers are rarely found in Albany, but they suggest increasing British influence on the community. The Dutch, according to sources, were not fond of wearing wigs in the 18th century. At this site were found wampum-making debris and drills for making wampum and a polychrome hand-decorated delft punch bowl. The excavations revealed remains of the house and privy of Stewart Dean, the famous Albany sloop captain who sailed to China. A brass pocket sundial of the 18th century was excavated at the KeyCorp site, as well as an iron axe, wampum beads and drills for making wampum, delft gaming disks, and a two-tined bone-handled fork with personalized marks on the handle, all from the 18th century when the site was an almshouse. Artifacts of the 17th century at this site include a Jew’s harp with the R mark, numerous glass tubular beads, pipe bowls marked EB, roemer prunts, a lead bar, and red earthenware milk pan sherds. Artifacts from the Lutheran Church lot site at Howard Street and South Pearl include pins and shears, part of a flintlock hammer (cock), and a green-glazed Dutch pipe stem. Excavations at the location of the new Department of Environmental Conservation building revealed 17th-century clay pipes marked with the Tudor Rose heel mark, refuse left by a glazier, window lead, Dutch majolica, and clay marbles. Also, large dumps of unused, broken late 18th-century ceramics were discovered where they had been discarded perhaps by John Fondey, a merchant. At the location of the Quackenbush Square parking garage, remains of the 18th-century Quackenbush-Douw distillery were uncovered. The artifacts include an engine-turned red earthenware teapot imported from England and late 18th-century pearlware.

Fisher, Charles L. and Karen S. Hartgen

Few sites from the historic Indian-European contact period have been found in the Hudson Valley. Excavations in the street in front of Fort Crailo have produced trade items including a single glass tubular bead, which had been burned. One bead that was excavated at Waterford is similar to the Fort Crailo bead. It is black glass that was dipped into red, but the Waterford bead has a more complex stripe pattern. Fort Crailo is one of the few sites that have been investigated and reported.

Fisher, Charles L. and Paul R. Huey

Excavations at Schuyler Mansion have clarified misconceptions about the locations of flanker wings in relation to the main house.
Fisher, Charles L., Karl J. Reinhard, Matthew Kirk and Justin DiVirgilio  

Large numbers of parasites have been identified in archeological samples from privies and other features in excavations in Albany. This is the largest database available for the study of parasite infections in American cities of the historical period. The greatest numbers of parasites were in contexts related to the expansion of the city in the late 18th century. In most of the 18th century, sewage in Albany was limited to drainage ditches, which were not adequate to remove the quantity of human waste and rubbish that accumulated. Beginning in the 1790s, Albany began enclosing the streams, or kills, that flowed through the city into the Hudson River. Excavations at the New York State Dormitory Authority building site, the Department of Environmental Conservation building site, the Maiden Lane pedestrian bridge site, the Quackenbush Square garage site, 40 Howard Street, and North and South Pearl Street all produced evidence of parasites. Different identified human parasites from 18th-century sites include whipworm, tapeworm, roundworm, dwarf tapeworm, and the thorny-headed worm. Evidence of dog roundworms were recovered at 40 Howard Street from a 1780s ground surface. At the Maiden Lane pedestrian bridge site, the 18th-century deposits contained evidence of roundworms but no whipworms. Likewise, at the Quackenbush Square garage site a surface context of ca. 1640 to 1700 revealed eggs of roundworms but no whipworms. The eggs of the thorny-headed worm were found in a 1780s privy in the Lutheran Church lot on South Pearl Street, left either by pig feces or an infected human. The earliest privy excavated at the Environmental Conservation building site was used before the French and Indian War and contained no parasite eggs.

Fitzgerald, Willam R., Dean H. Knight and Allison Bain  

Large, rounded, broadly striped polychrome glass beads dominate bead samples from sites of the first quarter of the 17th century in the Canadian Maritimes, Québec, and Ontario. The geographical concentration of these beads in areas immediately adjacent to Dutch territory along the Hudson River and their absence at the Fort Orange site suggest that they were supplied by the New Netherland Company and private Dutch traders along the Hudson in the period between 1609 and 1624. The beads recovered at Fort Orange in the 1624 to the 1660s period are quite distinct from the beads in the previous period. Bead assemblages from sites of this period in Atlantic Canada, Québec, and southern Ontario are dominated by the red bead varieties, while Iroquois and Erie sites have a preponderance of the light gray, turquoise, and dark blue varieties.

Gaimster, David  
1997 *German Stoneware 1200-1900: Archaeology and Cultural History.* Published for the Trustees of the British Museum by British Museum Press, London, United Kingdom.

Within the past 30 years historical recognition of the scale of the Dutch Atlantic trade in the 17th century has developed through the archeological record from sites notably in the Dutch colony of Rensselaerswyck, which include Fort Orange, Albany, Rensselaer, the Schuyler Flatts, and the Van Buren farm site. Excavations at Fort Orange have produced an extensive assemblage of Dutch majolica, faience, and Rhenish stoneware of the 1624 to 1664 period. There are sherds of Frechen mugs and bottles of Bartmann type, and Westerwald drinking jugs.
and tankards dominate the stoneware. Fragments of Dutch Bartmänner with the arms of Amsterdam applied were discovered. Other armorial medallions from these vessels found at Fort Orange parallel those recovered from wrecks of Dutch East India Company ships such as the Batavia (1629) and the Vergulde Draeck (1656). At the Van Buren site (ca. 1637-1696) and at the Schuyler Flatts site (ca. 1643-1690), Rhenish stoneware accounts for around 30 percent of the total ceramic assemblage.

Gartley, Richard and Jeff Carskadden

Unglazed off-white clay marbles excavated at Fort Orange and the Schuyler Flatts are similar to white-bodied clay marbles excavated in Deventer and Amsterdam in 17th-century contexts. The appearance of marbles in excavations at Fort Orange and other sites apparently corresponds to the arrival of children in families at those sites. The appearance of marbles in the 17th century may be limited to Dutch and French sites. Archeologists for the most part have shown a lack of interest in mundane artifacts such as marbles. An exception is the research on the artifacts excavated at Fort Orange, where 15 marbles, all from the 1624 to 1664 period of Dutch occupation, were recovered.

Gerhauser, Leslie E.

A delft tile fragment found beneath the fireplace of the Daniel Pieter Winne house built about 1750 in Bethlehem, Albany County, is decorated in blue and is part of a Biblical tile with part of the inscription JOAN 20. .... A tile fragment decorated in blue from the KeyCorp site shows a snake entwined around a staff. It closely corresponds with a print published in 1660 depicting the Old Testament scene from Numbers, chapter 21, verse 8. The archeological context of this fragment dates possibly from before 1685. Other tile fragments excavated at the Dean Street Parking Garage site are directly from the same 1660 source. Another fragment, decorated in purple, is from a tile illustrating The Four Horsemen from Revelations in the New Testament. Two other fragments also decorated in purple have part of a scene depicting The Spies of Canaan in the Old Testament. Tile fragments decorated in purple also form a scene of the Expulsion from Eden, and another purple-decorated fragment has part of an inscription for Matthew, chapter 2, verse 14. A blue-decorated tile fragment has part of an Old Testament scene from the 1660 prints source showing Jacob Wrestling with the Angel. Excavations at Cherry Hill recovered a blue-decorated tile depicting Jesus and the Travellers to Emmaus and dates probably from the earlier house of Hitchin Holland at this site, if not from the first Van Rensselaer house built there about 1768. The tiles are mostly of Frisian or Utrecht production.
Gibb, James G.

Clay tobacco pipes excavated at the Compton plantation site in Calvert County, Maryland, occupied from the 1630s to the 1660s, include 42 pipe bowls with marked heels. One is marked FLO WERH UNT. Flower Hunt was an English pipe maker active between 1651 and ca. 1670. The 41 other heel-marked pipe bowls are all marked EB, for Edward Bird, and these pipes are also the most common marked pipes recovered from the site of Fort Orange.

Gibbons, Kristin L. and Peter H. Stott

Excavations in 1969 prior to wall stabilization revealed evidence of early drainage and roof gutter systems as well as information on the original ground surface levels. Excavations in 1968 in the cellar revealed the presence of coal dust below the dry laid brick cellar floor.

Gilbert, Allan S., Garman Harbottle and Daniel deNoyelles

Discussion of the theory, sampling, chemical variability, technological modification, diagenesis, database structure, and statistical characterization problems of ceramic compositional analysis. The area of New Netherland/New York was selected as a case study. Access to intact buried clays within the New York City area are limited to electrical resistivity probing, municipal borings, analysis of branded bricks (including non-plastic temper, coal dust, iron oxides, and barium). Discussion of methodology included the sampling strategies of artifacts and natural clays, as well as laboratory analysis. Preliminary results were presented, which show great potential for future analyses.

Goring, Rich

Illustrates a portion of a seal from a Westerwald stoneware jug dated 1632 plus other Westerwald fragments excavated at Fort Orange. Other fragments are from 17th-century Dutch farmstead sites, including the Schuyler Flatts. Typical English earthenwares are rare if not nonexistent at Dutch sites in New York. The author has not seen a single fragment of English North Devon sgraffito ware from any site in New York, and there is only one fragment of English gravel-tempered ware from Fort Orange. Possibly a second example of English gravel-tempered ware has been recovered recently from the Stadt Huys site in New York City. Illustrates examples of Dutch red earthenware from Fort Orange.


Testing for the route of a buried electrical cable in 1988 revealed remains of a cobblestone courtyard at a depth of about 20 inches behind the house. In 1987 testing also revealed foundation remains possibly from a kitchen addition that extended over the cobblestones. Artifacts associated with the courtyard included pipe fragments, thimbles, a bone brush, buttons, roofing tile fragments, garbage bones, and ceramic sherds.
Goring, Rich and Paul R. Huey

According to one source, about 1789 Reverend James V. Romeyn was the first minister of the Dutch Reformed Church to preach in the vicinity of Nassau, in a barn which stood opposite the subsequent dwelling of Doctor Samuel McClellan. A deed in 1824 refers to construction of a Methodist church that was to occur 114 feet from the southwest corner of McClellan’s house. The area that was tested is in the field at the southwest corner of U.S. Route 20 and McClellan Road, just west of the Village of Nassau. A new bank building is to be constructed at this location, and a total of 23 test units were excavated on the property. Relatively few artifacts were recovered. There were machine-cut nails of the late 18th and the 19th centuries as well as 19th-century ceramics. A sherd of plain pearlware could date as early as ca. 1780. Sherds, one each, of gray salt-glazed stoneware and creamware could be even earlier. Traces of a road that ran across the site parallel with McClellan Road were found. The pearlware and creamware sherds were found in the two test units closest to Route 20 and the bridge over the Valatie Kill.

Grimaldi, Mary Ellen

Installation of a drain along the west wall of Schuyler Mansion to alleviate the moisture problem was preceded by archeological work which provided new information about later additions to the building.

Groft, Tammis K. and Mary Alice Mackay, editors

In America, scholars were alerted to the significance of Dutch majolica, as distinct from Dutch faience, after the excavations at the site of Fort Orange during the winter of 1970 and 1971. Dutch majolica dishes and plates from the 17th century were purchased by the Albany Institute in 1983. The patterns on the sherds recovered at the Fort Orange site are identical to the plates and dishes of Dutch origin acquired in 1983. The sherds of Dutch majolica found at Fort Orange outnumber those of all other types of ceramics recovered except for common utility wares. Majolica and the utility wares are little known elsewhere in America and are rarely found in museum collections. Examples of 17th-century Dutch lead-glazed red-bodied and white-bodied earthenware vessels (a chamber pot, a serving dish, a pipkin [grape], a skillet, a bowl, and a colander) were donated to the Albany Institute in 1986, and they are the same simple forms recovered in the Fort Orange excavations. The colander form that appeared most often among the Fort Orange sherds was a large red earthenware vessel having the shallow shape of a saucer. In its elaborate form, Dutch faience was characteristic of the wealthy burgher society of the Netherlands. The common household pieces represent the Dutch folk tradition, and it is this simple variety of tin-glazed pottery that was found at the Fort Orange site.

Grossman, Joel W.
Three weeks of excavation in Albany along the former riverfront revealed a 300-foot long complex of structural remains. A high-speed solution to recording the remains was needed because the excavation had run out of time in July 1999. High-resolution single-camera photogrammetry was used in conjunction with laser-radar scanning technology to produce a three-dimensional record of the excavated site. This was the first use in archeology of the recently-developed laser-radar scanning technology (LIDAR). The archeologists had uncovered 12 feet below street level a series of parallel bulkhead lines along the original river shoreline, in addition to a town stockade line. The house lot of Stewart Dean was exposed, and an artificial surface of hundreds of horizontal rough-cut branches and small logs formed parallel working surfaces behind an 18th-century bulkhead wall. The density and irregularity of the exposed wooden elements suggested that the traditional methods of manual recording and field photography could not adequately record the magnitude and complexity of the site. A total of 900 metric images and 600 megabytes of multiple three-dimensional laser-point scans were recorded.

Grumet, Robert S.


Primary source material referencing the Rechgawawanck date from 1642-1645, and coincide with the last three years of the Governor Kieft War between the lower Hudson River Delawarans and the Dutch from 1640-1645. David Petersz de Vries’ account referenced the assassination of a Dutchman by a Delawaran in 1642; other murders, thefts, and provocations occurred on both sides. The following year, the Dutch massacred 120 people across two Delawaran encampments; an armistice was made two months later. In 1645, the peace treaty concluding the Governor Kieft War was signed by the sachems of various native groups, including the Rechgawawanck. The last document to mention the Rechgawawanck was the sale of Staten Island in 1657. Analysis of these documents indicates that the so-named “Rechgawawanck” are the Haverstraw, a Delawaran group.


European trade goods excavated at Crailo State Historic Site are similar to those found at the Mechanicville Road site in Waterford. Crailo is one of twelve archeological sites listed in Mahican territory dating to the historic contact period.


Archeological deposits containing European trade goods have been excavated at Fort Crailo as well as near the Mechanicville Road (Saratoga County) and near the north end of Papscanee Island.
Hagerty, Gilbert W.

The site near Flat Creek is believed to have been the Mohawk village of Canagere, visited by Van den Bogart. A glass “raspberry” roemer prunt found at this site is the same as examples from the 1640s excavated at Fort Orange and at the Schuyler Flatts. Another example has been found at the Oak Hill site. It has been noted that there is a greater range of roemer prunt styles from the Schuyler Flatts site than at Fort Orange. The “raspberry” type appears at both Fort Orange and the Flatts as well as at the Mohawk sites. But at the Schuyler Flatts some of the prunts are finer-textured and not as raspberry-like, and they may be later, perhaps after ca. 1675. A large clay pipe bowl from Oak Hill has a heel marked with four small fleur-de-lis marks in a diamond. The same heel mark is on a similar pipe bowl excavated at Fort Orange.

[Note: This is an error. The quadrate fleur-de-lis heel mark is not among the marks on pipes recovered from Fort Orange.] The Printup site may have been the site of the Mohawk village of Ossernenon. Artifacts from the site include small conical fluted pewter buttons similar to buttons from Fort Orange. There are also examples from the Mitchell site, and at both sites lead bale seals marked CAMPEN, like the one from Fort Orange, have been found. Some of the brass Jew’s harps from the Printup site are marked with an R on the top of the loop, and they match examples from 1640s contexts excavated at Fort Orange. Other examples are from the Onondaga Carley site (ca. 1640 to 1650) and Lot 18 site (post-1650). Two examples were found at the Oneida Sullivan site.

Hall, Jerome Lynn
1996 *A Seventeenth Century Northern European Merchant Shipwreck in Monte Cristi Bay, Dominican Republic*, Anthropology, Texas A&M University.

The shipwreck in Monte Cristi Bay was excavated based on several factors. These include the vulnerability of the wreck to treasure hunters and the danger that the site would be stripped of interpretive information. The preliminary study of 1,000 clay pipes from the site prior to the first season indicated that the vessel was a Dutch merchant vessel that sank between 1630 and 1665. The wreck was known as the “Pipe Wreck.” Two coins from the wreck were minted no earlier than 1649 and 1651. The location of the wreck suggests that the vessel was there in search of salt. Dendrochronology reveals one oak timber was cut between October 1642 and March 1643, probably in England. Associated with the hull sheathing was found cattle hair, part of a protective coating. Fragments of more than 4,000 clay pipes have been recovered from the wreck. Three marks on the heels of clay pipe bowls are those of pipe maker Edward Bird of Amsterdam, and they would date between 1642 and 1665. These pipe bowls and other decorated clay pipes indicate a portion of the cargo originated in the Netherlands. At Fort Orange, the excavated clay pipes include examples of at least five different varieties of Bird’s EB heel mark. Other pipes from the wreck have a Tudor rose heel mark which matches one of the varieties of this mark among the pipes from Fort Orange. A flower heel mark on 12 of the pipes from the wreck is identical to the mark on a pipe excavated at Fort Orange from a context dated 1648 to 1676 and also on pipes from the Van Buren site. Fragments of square paneled glass case bottles and a wine glass stem are the same shape as fragments from Fort Orange. The cargo of the ship, particularly the clay pipes, indicate that the Dutch or English colonies of North America were the destination of the ship and that it sank after 1651.

A shipwreck located and excavated in Monte Cristi Bay on the north coast of the Dominican Republic has been identified as an English ship built in 1642 or 1643 but which sank after 1651 with a Dutch cargo. It was probably an English vessel that fell into enemy hands and became a Dutch merchant vessel. The clay pipes and other artifacts from the site indicate the destination of the ship was the Hudson River, because its cargo compares well with the material from Dutch sites such as Fort Orange in upstate New York.

Hanson, Neil and Lewis Cohen

The ceramics from two 10-foot grid squares excavated at the Schuyler Flatts were studied. Only a few levels of strata appear to be continuous throughout the site. The yellow gravelly subsoil had some post molds as well as prehistoric pottery and lithics associated with it. Above the subsoil was a layer of compacted dark brown loam and gravel and it is thought it was associated with 17th-century Dutch occupation. Above this layer was a stratum of gravelly loam with 17th- and 18th-century artifacts. A trench for a stockade wall cut though this layer and was filled in prior to the 1759 fire. The 1759 fire is next represented by a layer of ash and charcoal. Above this is a confusing sequence of layers reflecting the amount of new construction that next occurred, between 1760 and 1790, consistent with the cobblestone surface laid possibly about 1780. Tin-glazed delft was strong predominant ceramic type of the total ceramics from grid squares 10S 20E and 20S 20E. Porcelain is the second most frequent ceramic type.

Harrington, Faith

Test trenches excavated at Crailo State Historic Site in advance of installation of new electrical conduits revealed data relating to occupation of the site in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. Artifacts from the 17th century included salt glazed stoneware and a Pine Tree Shilling. From the 18th century there are sherds of slip decorated buff earthenware and the foundation wall of a rear wing.

Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.

Report of an archaeological survey for the proposed 80 State Street office building in Downtown Albany, for which fieldwork took place in 1983. The oldest documented structure known to have occupied the site was the Staats House, which stood on the corner of State and South Pearl Streets from c. 1659 until the mid-1880s. Five backhoe trenches were excavated, which confirmed that the nearby Ruttenkill Ravine was filled over the course of various historical episodes beginning in the late 18th-Century and again in the mid-19th Century (for which there is historical documentation of a culvert being buried between 1842-1845). Intact 19th Century foundations and building rubble were also found, as well as artifacts spanning the late 18th- to early 19th-Centuries. Further archaeological investigation was recommended with the expectation of finding earlier 17th- and 18th-Century deposits buried deeper beneath the fill. [Annotator’s Note: Soil strata analogous to that identified as “fill” was later found to
be representative of the 18th Century street surface along James Street and North Pearl Street in a monitoring project conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. in 2000. As a consequence, the interpretation of the soil stratigraphy in this report should be revised].

1986  

A portion of the Dutch Reformed Church burial ground has been discovered and remains intact. The burials date from the 17th century and later into the 18th century. Excavations have revealed the presence of at least 11 burials in three locations under 19th-century brick paving. Radiocarbon dating of the wood from a coffin indicates the wood from which the coffin was constructed was from a tree that was growing before ca. 1600. The burials were oriented east to west. In one place, three coffins were found stacked one on the other, as mentioned in the historical record. The extent of the burial ground, with numerous intact burials, remains undetermined. The burials which are in the proposed pile locations for the parking garage should be carefully excavated and studied.

1987  

Six test trenches were excavated at the site of a proposed 2-acre commercial development in downtown Albany, where the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation building is now located. The excavations totalled 700 feet in length and revealed extensive 17th- through late-18th-century deposits capped beneath later fill. In the portion of the site nearer to the Hudson River, fill deposits were deepest. In this area, a large circular wooden feature was found, interpreted as a possible tanning pit. Other possible evidence of tanning included a number of leather scraps and deposits of wood and bark. Recovered artifacts included a black glass trade bead, wampum, prehistoric pottery, tin-glazed earthenware, “Westerwald” type stoneware, porcelain, and Jackfield earthenware. See *On the Outside Looking In: Four Centuries of Change at 625 Broadway. Archeology at the DEC Headquarters, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York* (Hartgen 2002) for additional information about this site.

1988  

The survey was conducted at the location of the proposed Garry-Lange-Finn development project which is actually from 606 to 638 Broadway in Albany. It is in the block encompassed by Broadway to the east, Columbia Street to the south, North Pearl Street to the west, and Van Tromp Street to the north. Historical records show that this area was outside the original Albany stockade in an area which was brought within the city walls in the 18th century. Until that time, the area was the location of the colonial tanning industry along Fox Creek. Four east-west backhoe trenches were excavated and located so as to avoid the buried Fox Creek culvert or sewer. Only one 18th-century artifact, a fragment of lead-glazed slip-decorated red earthenware, was recovered. It was found at 606-608 Broadway. A sherd of creamware found below the cellar floor at 636-638 Broadway might date from the 18th century. The four test trenches revealed seven mid-19th-century privies, and all the other artifacts are almost certainly of 19th-century date or later.
Five backhoe trenches were excavated in the block between Broadway, Steuben Street, and Maiden Lane in Albany, where the new Dormitory Authority of the State of New York office building is to be built. This work provided a detailed view of the north, south, and central sections of the project area, a stream bank along Maiden Lane, and the former bank of the Hudson River now buried somewhere in the vicinity of the city parking garage adjacent to the east side of the parcel. The lots in this block were patented between 1652 and 1667 and were mostly first occupied by houses and gardens. Two trenches were excavated in the Yates/Lansing lot, one trench each was excavated at the Cornelis Teunissen lot near Maiden Lane, the Reformed Dutch Church lot, and, finally, the Verbeeck/Schuyler lot. The Yates/Lansing lot was part of the 1652 patent to Teunis Cornelissen. The lot was acquired by Jan Salomonsen Goewey, a wagon maker, in 1680. The north foundation wall and the southwest corner of the 18th-century Yates/Lansing house were found. It was the home of Abraham Yates, Jr., the mayor of Albany from 1790 to 1796, and then became the home of Abraham G. Lansing, State Treasurer from 1803 to 1812. At least two late 18th-century to 19th-century privies were noted in association with this lot. In the clay below the cellar floor of the house were found fragments of a delft plate, slip-decorated red earthenware, square glass bottle fragments, a bone knife handle, red tubular glass trade beads, pantile fragments, red brick, and food remains. The trench excavated at the Cornelis Teunissen lot was adjacent to Maiden Lane, and it was hoped that evidence of a stream channel that is believed to have followed Maiden Lane would be found. Simon Volkertsen Veeder acquired this corner lot in 1667. Below the cellar floor of later buildings, a layer of mid-18th-century artifacts was found, and below this was a deposit of 17th- and 18th-century artifacts. The latter context contained coconut fibers, delft ceramics, Dutch yellow bricks, pantile fragments, a clay marble, a shoe fragment, a black round glass trade bead, a stone bead, and a sewing kit (needles, clothing fastener eye, and thimble). The Reformed Dutch Church lot was part of the patent to Frans Barentsen Pastoor in 1653. It was acquired by the Dutch Reformed Church in 1692, and the new parsonage for Dominie Dellius was constructed there at great expense to the church. This parsonage was the last home of Eliardus Westerlo, who lived there from 1784 until his death in 1790. Below the floor of later structures on the site, silt and sand deposits contained delft ceramics, a brass straight pin, gray stoneware sherds, Westerwald stoneware, slip-decorated yellow ware fragments, Chinese porcelain sherds, white salt-glazed stoneware, and scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware, all from 18th century if not also from the 17th century. The Verbeeck/Schuyler lot was to the north, adjacent to Steuben Street, and was part of the patent to Jan Verbeeck in 1653. David Schuyler lived here after 1664. His son, grandson, and great grandson evidently occupied the lot until 1797. The excavations revealed a pit containing artifacts of both the 17th and 18th centuries. Fieldstone walls were encountered, and with them was associated a rich deposit of artifacts from ca. 1750 to 1770 period. There is also a significant privy feature.
mid-17th century. A privy associated with this lot contained primarily ceramics and glassware, and the predominant ceramic ware consists of fragments of green shell-edged pearlware plates. Other pearlware fragments are from polychrome hand-decorated teapots. A red-bodied teapot has engine-turned decoration. The other privy, aside from 19th-century ceramics, included 18th-century creamware plate fragments of the “Royal” and “Bath” patterns and well as green shell-edge pearlware plate fragments. One marked creamware platter base was made after 1780 by David Dunderdale & Co. Blue hand-decorated Chinese porcelain included a sherd with overglaze gilt decoration. Artifacts of the 17th century from this lot include a sherd of tin-glazed earthenware with Wan Li decoration in blue. White salt-glazed stoneware with post-ca. 1740 diaper and basket-weave decoration was also found. A fragment of conch shell suggests that wampum production occurred on this lot or nearby. The sewing kit from the Cornelis Teunissen lot includes a clothing fastener eye, 13 straight pins, and a thimble. Beads from the Teunissen lot include a long, finely finished tubular shell bead. From the Reformed Dutch Church lot there is a purple and white shell bead which was broken while it was being drilled, which indicates wampum-making activity. Other artifacts from this lot include a molded white salt-glazed stoneware of the barley pattern. There is also a Chinese porcelain tea cup hand-decorated in blue on the interior with a Batavian exterior. [Note: This was a Batavia brown porcelain cup, with a solid brown glaze covering the exterior, common throughout the first half of the 18th century.] An entire refuse pit or privy feature was excavated on the Verbeeck/Schuyler lot. A complete clay pipe bowl from the feature has a Tudor Rose heel mark and dates probably from between 1650 and 1680. The other artifacts from the feature are consistent with a 17th-century date, and they include a wide variety of food remains (bones and shell). A strand of blond hair was also recovered. From a context elsewhere on the lot were found mid-17th-century artifacts such as a sherd of Dutch majolica and a red glass tubular bead with a ribbed surface. Other ceramics are later ceramics, such as a dot and diamond pattern polygonal creamware plate. A privy placed at the rear of the lot contained a large number of ceramic sherds, mostly creamware. The plates and platters were of the “Royal” pattern, while others were of the “Bath” pattern.


A Phase IB archaeological survey for the proposed 110 State Street office building (encompassing 104-110 State Street) in downtown Albany. The survey identified the 110 State Street Archeological Site, which consisted of two separate archaeological deposits dating to the 18th Century and 19th Century, respectively. The 18th Century component is characterized by an A-horizon (buried topsoil) that has the potential to contain features dating to the 18th or earlier, while the later component consists of an undisturbed mid-19th Century privy; both features were sealed beneath approximately 1 meter of fill. Both components of the site were deemed National Register eligible by OPRHP, and at the time of writing, a data retrieval plan was being drafted.


The location of the proposed 600-car parking garage in Albany is one city block east of Broadway and south of Maiden Lane. Five test trenches were excavated, and 17th and 18th century deposits were located, mostly within the western portion of the project area. Artifacts include a gunflint, clam shell wampum-making debris, clay pipes, sturgeon plates, glass beads, brass straight pins, a brass tinkler, yellow and red brick, glass wine bottle fragments, and delft
tiles. There is a wide variety of other ceramics, including pearlware, creamware, white salt-glazed stoneware, Westerwald stoneware, Chinese porcelain, combed slip-decorated yellow ware, delft, and red earthenware. Timber remains of wharves were uncovered.


A Phase IA/IB archaeological survey for the proposed 600-car parking garage, which comprises one city block east of Broadway and south of Maiden Lane. The multi-component SUNY 600-Car Parking Garage Site was identified, which contains 10 cultural deposits dating to the 17th- and 18th-Centuries and a number of 19th- and 20th-Century foundation walls and structures. Early historic features included the remains of a fireplace containing 17th Century yellow brick and delft tile, and a wood floor with timber sleepers, which may be associated with two 18th Century residences. An assemblage of 17th- and 18th-Century artifacts was also found in association with these features. The remains of piers/wharves show the location of the waterfront and its expansion eastward into the Hudson River. The site was determined to be National Register eligible, and further archaeological investigation was recommended.


A Phase II site evaluation of the Picotte-DEC Office Building Site, which had been previously identified by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. in 1987. The site contains a number of deposits and features associated with various periods of occupation spanning the precontact period, contact period, 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-Centuries. The colonial deposits were found to represent a continuum of occupation beginning in the last quarter of the 17th Century and continuing through the 18th Century; they were also found to include Native American and trade-associated items. These deposits in particular have the ability to provide significant information on how Albany reacted to the uncertain conditions of the 18th Century and also how the community responded to the conclusion of that threat at the end of the American Revolutionary War, whereas the 19th Century deposits reflect the growth of domestic industry as well as a burgeoning middle class. The deposits spanning the 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-Centuries were determined to be National Register eligible due to their corresponding significance.


A report on archaeological monitoring of the installation of a fiber optic cable in downtown Albany. Five backhoe trenches were excavated along James Street (between Maiden Lane and Columbia Street; Trench 1), Columbia Street (between James Street and Chapel Street; Trench 2), North Pearl Street (Between Columbia Street and Clinton Avenue; Trench 3), Frontage Street (between Orange Street and Columbia Street; Trench 4), and Columbia Street (between Frontage Street and Broadway; Trench 5). Four sections of the 18th Century street surface were identified at James Street (Trench 1) and North Pearl Street (Trench 3). Along James Street (Trench 1), the 18th Century street surface is represented by a soil horizon consisting of woodchips underlain by gray clay containing 17th- and 18th-Century artifacts including: a delft tile fragment, delftware, creamware, pearlware, Chinese export porcelain, Staffordshire earthenware, redware, white salt-glazed stoneware, whiteware, a tobacco pipe bowl and kaolin
pipe fragments, bottle glass, and animal bones (belonging to cow, sheep, and pig). Additional 17th and 18th Century artifacts recovered from other features within the same trench include: Frechen stoneware, tin-enameled lead-glazed earthenwares, gray stoneware, ironstone, and a yellow Dutch brick fragment. Although the Columbia Street (Trench 2) artifact assemblage consisted of 18th Century materials (i.e. a Staffordshire earthenware fragment, a creamware fragment, and a sheep femur with butchery marks), they were not associated with an intact feature. Along North Pearl Street (Trench 3), a stone foundation wall feature was found in association with an 18th Century artifact assemblage. An 18th Century street surface analogous to that found along James Street (Trench 1) was also identified along North Pearl Street (Trench 3). The following 17th- and 18th-Century artifacts were recovered from the trench: delftware, delft tile, Staffordshire type earthenwares, Westerwald stoneware, white salt-glazed stoneware, Chinese export porcelain, creamware, pearlware, wine bottle glass, yellow Dutch brick, tobacco pipe fragments, and animal bone. Additional artifacts spanning the 18th- and 19th-Centuries were also found, including: creamware, pearlware, Chinese export porcelain, whiteware, bottle glass, oyster and clam shell, and animal bone. Along Frontage Street (Trench 4), only mid- to late-19th Century features were found. No significant artifact deposits were identified along Columbia Street (Trench 5).

[Annotator’s Note: The woodchip layer underlain by gray clay identified as the 18th Century street surface (found along James Street and North Pearl Street) is analogous to that identified along 80 State Street during another archaeological monitoring project conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. in 1983. However, in that earlier project, the woodchip layer was (erroneously?) identified as fill].


The project location consists of two blocks in Albany. The northern boundary is the historic line of Quackenbush Street. To the east is the Water Street arterial highway. The southern boundary is the original alignment of Orange Street, which was approximately at the south edge of the I-787 highway entrance ramp near present Orange Street. Across Orange Street south of the project area is the location of the new Department of Environmental Conservation building. Beginning in the late 18th century, lots were acquired and developed in this area by some of Albany’s wealthiest families. The 1698 Romer map shows a brick kiln located within the project area. Documents refer to a brick and pantile kiln in Albany as early as 1657. A map from 1759 shows no brick kiln, however. Five test trenches were excavated with a backhoe. One trench, placed in order to find evidence of the brickyard, revealed a thin deposit of pantile fragments and brick fragments dominated by over-fired examples, occasionally fused, and the powdery remains of under-fired bricks. This deposit was just above the natural, undisturbed clay subsoil at a depth of 1.7 meters below the ground surface. Associated with the brick waster deposit were fragments of 17th-century Dutch pipe stems. Subsequently two of the other test trenches encountered the same brick waster layer, and associated with it was a complete 17th-century clay pipe bowl with a Tudor Rose heel mark. The ceramics associated with the deposit were mostly tin-glazed wares, with smaller amounts of red earthenware and buff-bodied wares. One trench also revealed a wooden water supply pipe from the 1790s. The final test trench again revealed evidence of the brickyard, at a location 60 meters from where it was first discovered. Here, remains of a late 17th- or early 18th-century collapsed brick structure with a stone foundation were also found, together with tin-glazed earthenwares, Staffordshire ware, an iron hinge, and Dutch clay pipes. [Note:
“Staffordshire ware” would be English yellow ware. The clay pipes have Tudor Rose and EB heel marks. A third pipe has an illegible mark and is elbow-shaped (heel-less). The stone foundation of the structure rests directly on top of the brick waster layer.


Archeological testing at the Schuyler Flatts will be conducted in locations planned for structures, landscape plantings, sign supports, and utilities. Salient features of the Schuyler house that burned in 1962 have been exposed, and the outline of the house has been mapped. By means of the 1970s site excavation plan, the archeological grid system has been reestablished, and the cellar of the 17th-century Van Curler house has been relocated.


Report on the Phase I archaeological survey for the Sterling Organics Site 3 Landfill on Papscanee Island in the Town of East Greenbush, for which fieldwork occurred in August 2001. Three backhoe trenches were excavated. Trench 1 contained a precontact feature (Feature 1); no artifacts were found. Trench 2 contained historic artifacts dating to the mid-17th Century, e.g. yellow and red brick and clay pipe fragments, including stems with fleur-di-lis marks and a heelmark imprinted with the initials “CD” with a rowel. Trench 3 exposed five features, including two precontact hearths (Features 2 and 3), the wood-lined cellar hole of a 17th-Century structure (Feature 4), a wood slab with a hand-wrought nail associated with tinglazed ceramic fragments and faunal bone (Feature 5), as well as the foundation and partial interior of a 17th-Century outbuilding (Feature 6). These remains indicate the presence of an early 17th Century Dutch colonial farmstead on Papscanee Island in the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. The site is located in the vicinity of the Van Buren Locus 1 and Locus 2 Sites.


Report on archaeological monitoring for a proposed fiber-optic line project on Maiden Lane (between Broadway and Water Street) in downtown Albany. Five manholes and backhoe trenches were excavated, with the oldest deposits being located in the vicinity of Manhole 3. A 17th Century trash pit was found sealed by a thin layer ash that likely dates to the fire of Peter Gansevoort’s barn in December 1793. Artifacts from the feature include: 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-Century bricks, wrought-iron nails, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, delftware and tile, white salt-glazed stoneware, black-glazed redware, Astbury hollowware, Chinese export porcelain, grey-bodied stoneware, various glass, a cuprous finial, kaolin pipe bowls and stems, trade beads, wampum production fragments, animal bone, and shell (including clipped clam). A drain made of handmade red bricks was identified as one of the alterations made to the road surface by Andrew Rawlins in the late 18th Century. An early 18th Century wood-lined privy was also found, and included the following artifact assemblage: delftware, redware, various glass, kaolin pipe bowl and stems, French gun flint spall, leather shoe and shoe fragments, wrought-iron nails, clipped clam, wampum, a glass trade bead, and animal bone. The former 1793 road surface was identified in the vicinity of Manhole 3. A 19th Century foundation with associated artifact deposit was found in the vicinity of Manhole 2.

Phase II fieldwork began December 11, 2000, and continued to January 12, 2001. Ten additional backhoe trenches were excavated, and five areas were selected for more intensive investigation. Within those five areas ten units were excavated. This work revealed more evidence of early brickmaking, the remains of a 17th-century house, and an 18th-century tan yard complex. [Note: The tan yard remains were later determined to be remains of a distillery.] The remains of the house are very significant as a source of information about 17th-century house dimensions, construction techniques, and the Dutch assimilation or adaption of English or French building techniques. The floor boards are still in place. This Dutch house is only the seventh such structure to be identified and excavated within the present limits of Albany. The house was probably built between 1640 and 1650. The house was inundated by a disastrous flood but was refurbished and reoccupied between 1680 and 1700, soon after which the house was demolished. Glass trade beads were found in the brickyard deposits, but so far no brickyard features have been identified. In one trench six large wooden 18th-century tan vats were uncovered. They range in diameter from 6 to 8 feet. The bottom of a vat was fitted with a wooden drain.


Excavations were conducted at the Schuyler Flatts in advance of development of the site as a public park by the Town of Colonie. The park will occupy approximately 35 acres, and improvements will include construction of an access road, a parking area, a visitor pavilion and utilities, walking trails connecting to a bike path, a community garden, an arbor, and plantings. In the area that was tested, the fieldwork indicates that the integrity of the historic and pre-contact archeological deposits have been compromised by widespread disturbance. Whether this disturbance extends to other untested areas is unknown, but the current development will have no impact on significant archeological resources. A surface collection in December 2001 in the 16-acre tilled area within the large walking trail loop identified 44 locations of pre-contact lithic debitage or tools. The only pre-1800 historic artifact recovered was a sherd of Westerwald stoneware with molded decoration. A Late Archaic projectile point (ca. 3500 to 2500 B.C.) and a Levanna point (ca. 700 to 1350 A.D.) were also recovered.


A rum distillery was uncovered in 2001 in Albany’s Quackenbush Square. The distillery operated from ca. 1750 to 1810 and included 18 vats. There was a still, a fireplace, a privy, and the foundations of the manager’s house. Archeologists working at the location of the State University Construction Fund parking garage uncovered a 300-foot section of colonial Albany protective stockade, including two gates leading to the shore of the Hudson River. Nearby, on Dock Street, were found the remains of the house of Stewart Dean, a privateer captain who settled there in 1776. Artifacts from Dean’s lot include a cricket cage that he obtained in China during his famous voyage of 1785. Excavations at the location of the new Department of Environmental Conservation headquarters building revealed remains of the house of John Bogart and two other houses that burned in the great fire of 1797.

A Phase III data retrieval for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Headquarters, located at No. 625 Broadway in downtown Albany, whose significance was initially recognized during a Phase I archaeological survey in 1987 and subsequently explored in a Phase II site evaluation in 1998, both of which were conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. The data retrieval research addresses Albany’s place in local, regional, state, national, and international economies and history. The span of the research was a reflection of the city’s participation in these various economic and historic strata. Chapter 2 entails a historical overview of the area. Chapters 3 and 4 discuss wampum manufacture in Albany and its economy, the impact of 18th Century colonial conflicts on the neighborhood, differences in social status as reflected by material culture, as well as the identification of so-called “invisible people,” i.e. women, children, and slaves, whose lives are scarcely recorded in historic documents. Chapters 5 and 6 explore the 18th Century development of the Montgomery Street block and how its extensive pearlware deposit is a relic of the 1797 fire; the origins of the ceramic assemblage are also discussed. Chapter 7 is dedicated to the 19th Century archaeological deposits, while the remaining chapters return to the overarching themes mentioned above.


Report of Phase I and III archaeological investigation within the area effected by the Hudson River Way, a proposed pedestrian bridge in downtown Albany, for which fieldwork occurred from April to May 2001. The Hudson River bank was filled from west to east over the course of the 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries, as demonstrated by the archaeological excavations of Piers 1-3, respectively. The western half of Pier 1 is situated on the original bank of the Hudson River, and contained three mid- to late-18th Century features. The first feature was an arched stone culvert that was constructed in 1788. Archaeoparasitological analysis of samples collected from the feature found that 18th- and 19th-century residents had Ascaris (roundworm), Trichuris (human whipworm), and Oxyur equi (equine pinworm), and indicates that the culvert functioned as a sewer. The Maiden Lane stone culvert is one of the first public sewers in the United States, and pre-dates Albany’s first true sewer system, which was not installed until the mid-1850s. The second feature was a portion of the dismantled stockade, which was most likely dismantled c. 1759 (after the fall of Fort Tionderoga, Fort Niagara, and the City of Quebec) and, based upon negative evidence, repurposed to raise the Maiden Lane road surface prior to 1762. The strata immediately above the feature contained a high concentration of 18th Century material including: delftware, lead window cames, wampum (and other remnants of wampum production), as well as glass trade beads; the latter materials are integral components of the fur trade industry. The third feature was a plank work-surface constructed with clenched, hand-wrought nails dating to the late-18th to early-19th Century. These features are the earliest-known examples of public improvements in downtown Albany, and their location on Maiden Lane reflects the street’s significance as the main point of entry into the city from the Hudson River. Eight 19th Century features were also identified within Piers 2 and 3. John Williamson’s House was also identified; although the house was owned by John Williams from 1793 to 1802, the structure was not constructed until later in the 19th Century.

Report on the Phase III data retrieval for the proposed Quackenbush Square Parking Facility in downtown Albany, for which fieldwork occurred throughout the winter of 2000-2001. Chapter 1 provides an overview of the Phase I and II archaeological work at the site. Chapter 2 describes the competition for politico-economic primacy between the colony of Rensselaerwyck and the West India Company in the Hudson Valley and how it is reflected in Rensselaerwyck’s 17th Century brickard. Chapter 3 presents the archaeological interpretation of the Quackenbush Square House, 17th Century tenant house built for the brick maker in the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. Artifacts recovered from the site include: ceramics, glassware, cutlery, tobacco pipes, marbles, glass trade beads, wampum, buttons, buckles, and baubles. Chapter 4 provides a historical overview of the 18th Century Douw-Quackenbush distillery, while Chapter 5 details the results of the archaeological excavations, which also included 19th Century privies and water-lines. Chapter 6 contextualizes the consumption of rum in the Albany community as a process of anglicization from the 17th and 18th Centuries. Chapter 7 details trace-element analysis of night soil and other samples, which indicate the use of heavy metals (e.g. antimony, arsenic, and mercury) for medicinal purposes. Chapter 8 concludes the report with further commentary on the preceding chapters, and is followed by a postscript detailing other archaeological work that has taken place in downtown Albany.


Report on the Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed water line along US Route 20 and portion of adjoining roads in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred from June to August 2005. The survey identified three historic sites corresponding to map-documented structures: Site 1/SHGAW MDS 3 Unidentified c. 1876, Site 2/SHGAW MDS 4-5 Miller/Frickinger/Piano Factory, and Site 3/SHGAW MDS 13 Worden/Spiers/Chandler. Artifacts recovered from the vicinity of Sites 1 and 2 include: black-glazed redware, lead-glazed redware, creamware, pearlware, stoneware, whiteware, mold-blown bottle glass, machine-molded bottle glass, lamp chimney glass, window glass, a pipe stem fragment, faunal bone, shell, brick fragments, cut nails, wire nails, coal, cinder, a sewer pipe fragment, and a staple. Artifacts from Area 6 include: creamware, pearlware, yellowware, whiteware, porcelain, stoneware, redware flowerpot fragments, mold-blown bottle glass, lamp chimney glass, pipe stem and bowl fragments, brick fragments, faunal bone, shell, a bolt, a cut nail, wire nails, and an automotive wheel weight. A subsequent Phase II site evaluation was conducted the following year.


Phase I archeological survey for proposed sewer lines and treatment plant site in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork initially occurred in November and December 2003 followed by an addendum in August 2006. The survey identified a total of 22 archaeological sites, seven of which contain materials that can be dated to the late 18th Century. The County Line Site is a shared-component precontact and historic site, for which the latter component includes: creamware, redware, whiteware, a cut nail, a wire nail, mold-blown green bottle glass, amber bottle glass, brick fragments, coal, coal ash, and slag. The Van Buren House Site is located on a
historic property (424 River Road), whose associated archaeological deposit contains early historic material, including: salt-glazed stoneware, whiteware, a wire nail, and one complete brick (dating to c. 1770-1810). The Squire-Barheyt Site contained a late 18th to early 19th Century historic assemblage consisting of: Westerwald stoneware, creamware, pearlware, redware, porcelain, pipe stems, window glass, cut nails, a corroded metal strap, and faunal bone. The Buckley Site contained another historic assemblage consisting of: lead-glazed redware, unglazed redware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, mold-blown vessel glass, window glass, pipe stem- and bowl-fragments, nail fragments, faunal bone, clam shell, brick fragments, and coal. The Tavern Stand Site may date as early as the 18th Century. The site’s assemblage contains: whiteware, a cut nail, faunal bone, a clam shell fragment, as well as a red brick fragment. The Adams/Ten Eyck Site is associated with an extant c. 1770 structure within the Schodack Landing Historic District. The archaeological deposits contain a dual precontact and historic component, for which latter component includes: creamware, Chinese export porcelain, aquamarine glass (melted), pipe stem fragments, faunal bone, mussel shell, and brick fragments. The Jacob C. Schermerhorn Site is similarly associated with an extant historic structure within the Schodack Landing Historic District, which is associated with a dual-component archaeological deposit that includes: creamware, pearlware, Chinese export porcelain, whiteware, redware, earthenware, bottle glass, vessel glass, lamp chimney glass, window glass, pipe stem fragments, faunal bone (including sturgeon), and shell fragments. The remaining 15 sites are either precontact and/or date to a later historic period. A Phase IB addendum and Phase II site evaluation was conducted the following year.


Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Proposed Water District #8 in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred in February 2006 and April 2006. The survey identified Mr. Buyers’ Garden Site, which is characterized by a dual precontact and historic component. The historic artifact assemblage includes: redware, black-glazed redware, pearlware, creamware, whiteware, stoneware, aquamarine bottle glass, sheet metal fragments, and a metal can rim. The site was avoided by the oncoming construction.


Phase II site evaluation of the three historic sites previously identified during the Phase I: Site 1/SHGAW MDS 3 Unidentified c. 1876, Site 2/SHGAW MDS 4-5 Miller/Frickinger/Piano Factory, and Site 3/SHGAW MDS 13 Worden/Spiers/Chandler. Site 1 is located at 3804 US Route 20, which includes an extant house that was built in c. 1870 in a style favored by German immigrants. The area of Site 2 spans the front lawn space of two modern residences located at 3816 and 3820 US Route 20. Both sites were located on the property of the Bavarian piano-maker Frederick Frickinger, who emigrated from Dinkelsbuhl, Germany. In 1837, Frickinger came to Schodack, and over time purchased several properties for his piano-making enterprise until his death in 1889. Artifacts recovered from Sites 1 and 2 are temporally similar and include: creamware, yellowware, pearlware, redware, whiteware, porcelain, stoneware, bottle glass, vessel glass, window glass, lamp glass, pipe stems, cut nails, brick fragments, hardware, shell, and faunal bone. Site 3 is located in the front lawn space of 4294 US Route 20, which contains a historic structure dating to c. 1790. The property was originally associated
with a Laurent Manger, and was later leased to Nathaniel Brockway. Brockway constructed his home on the site shortly thereafter; c. 1812 the house being operated as a tavern. Its outbuildings (a carriage house and another outbuilding) collapsed and were bulldozed in c. 1980. The archaeological site is characterized by a dual precontact and historic component, the latter of which includes: creamware, pearlware, redware, whiteware, porcelain, polychrome, bottle glass, vessel glass, window glass, lamp glass, drainage pipe, cut nails, pipe stems, brick fragments, hardware, shell, and faunal bone. The 18th Century structure and its associated archaeological deposits were deemed National Register Eligible.

2006  

An emergency Phase III site mitigation of an unmarked burial ground, designated the Schuyler Flatts Burial Ground, occurred in June 2005. Thirteen individuals were uncovered, recorded, and removed to the New York State Museum anthropology laboratory to undergo further study. The burials were most likely interred over the course of the late 18th Century into the early 19th Century. The graves were oriented east-west and organized in two rows of six and seven; an additional burial was identified in a third row which was left in situ because it was outside of the area of potential effect. The disarticulated remains of two other individuals were identified within a backfill pile at the site, and the remains of another individual was recovered during earlier construction work in 1998. The burial ground held a minimum of 17 individuals, all of whom are presumed to be of African descent. Further archaeological investigation was recommended in order to determine the southern and western limits of the burial ground.

2006  

A Phase I archaeological survey for the Van Dyke-Spinney Residential Development, located at No. 265 Van Dyke Road, in the Town of Bethlehem, for which fieldwork occurred sporadically throughout the summer, fall, and winter of 2005. The survey identified seven precontact sites as well as one historic site: The Bradt-Oliver Historic Archeological Site, which is associated with an 18th Century house on 265 Van Dyke Road. The stone house was likely built in the second half of the 18th Century, and underwent several modifications thereafter, including a mid-20th Century addition. A carriage house had also stood on the property near Van Dyke Road, but had been demolished in the 1980s. According to Barbara Carkner (landowner), the house is the ancestral home of Adrian Bratt, who was the first to settle the area. A Phase II site evaluation was recommended, which was conducted by Landmark in the following year.

[Annotator’s Note: Arch Tech (2008) identified an 18th-Century structure at 421 Orchard Street as the homestead of Adrian Bratt as it appears on the 1767 Bleecker map; the property was later transferred to the Slingerland and Fisher families. Although the structure was identified as dating to the 18th Century, the artifacts recovered from the survey area date to the 19th and 20th Centuries. It has been unresolved as to whether or not the structure at 265 Van Dyke Road or 421 Orchard Street was the ancestral home of Adrian Bratt; it is also possible that both structures were constructed in the 18th Century on the same tract of land that was owned by Adrian Bratt].

2007  
*Phase IA Literature Review and Archeological Sensitivity Assessment: Proposed Rite Aid Pharmacy #10687, The Country Grove Property, North Greenbush Road (Route 4), Town of North*
Annotated Bibliography of New Netherland Archeology
Rensselaer and Albany Counties, New York


Report on Phase IA background research for a proposed Rite Aid Pharmacy on the Country Grove property located at 10 North Greenbush Road (US Route 4), in the town of North Greenbush. Although it was constructed in the late 18th Century, the structure is not documented until the 1854 Rogerson Map of Rensselaer County, at which time it is affiliated with “R. Vandenburgh.” The earliest photos of the Vandenburgh House date to c. 1905, and show the house with (at least) two western additions. Three barns are also located upon the property, which is bounded by a picket fence on the east and the mud road which later became US Route 4 by 1931. The property was determined to have a high precontact sensitivity as well as a high historic sensitivity, and a Phase IB archaeological survey was recommended and subsequently completed in 2008. The Vandenburgh House, however, was determined ineligible for listing on the National Register by OPRHP.


Report on a Phase IB addendum and Phase II site evaluations for the proposed sewer line project in the Town of Schodack, for which fieldwork occurred from April to July 2007. The Phase IB addendum identified four new archaeological sites, one of which contains materials that can be dated to the 18th Century. The Schodack Landing Road Site is a multi-component site, for which the historic component includes: creamware, redware, whiteware, salt-glazed stoneware (Albany slip), hand-painted overglaze porcelain, wire nails, unidentified hardware, mold-blown glass, lamp chimney glass, window glass, faunal bone, clam shell, oyster shell, a slate pencil, roofing slate, brick fragments, coal, and coal ash. The archaeological deposit traverses the yard of the c. 1880-1915 Johnson House, which according to the current owner, was formerly used as an ice house. The other sites are either precontact and/or are associated with a structure dating to a later historic period. The historic component of the County Line 1 Site (that was identified during the initial Phase I survey) was determined to be associated with the late 19th Century occupation of the site, rather than during the late 18th Century. Of the 18th Century sites that were identified during the original Phase I and subsequently evaluated during the Phase II, none were found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.


Report on Phase I archaeological survey of the Country Grove property located at 10 North Greenbush Road (US Route 4) in the Town of North Greenbush, for which fieldwork occurred in August 2008. The house was constructed for Cornelius Vandenburgh c. 1790-1800. In c. 1850, the house was remodeled in the popular Greek Revival style; subsequent additions were made to the house in c. 1880 and after. Artifacts recovered from the site include: delftware tile, white ball clay pipe stem fragments, black-glazed redware, Chinese export porcelain, a possible yellow earthenware fragment, and a complete four-hole bone button, in addition to various items dating to the 19th- and 20th-Centuries. A precontact site with dual Late Archaic and Late Woodland Period components was also identified on the property. Although the Vandenburgh House was previously determined to be ineligible for listing on the National Register by OPRHP, the archaeological site was nevertheless recommended for
inclusion in the National Register. A Phase II site evaluation was also recommended and subsequently completed in 2012.

2009  
**Cultural Resources Survey, Van Schaick Mansion OPRHP Grant, PKS-08-SC-096, 08PR06183.**  

A limited archaeological survey for proposed repairs to the Van Schaick Mansion, for which archaeological work occurred in May 2009. Excavation consisted of five shovel test pits, which included: brick and mortar fragments, window glass fragments, creamware, pearlware, a salt-glazed stoneware fragment, a small pipe-stem fragment, flower-pot fragments, and aluminum can fragments. No intact features were found.

2011  

The Knickerbocker Historical Society, Inc. proposes to install a replica fireplace, hearth, and bake oven likely original to the basement kitchen of the c. 1785 Knickerbocker Mansion. Archaeological fieldwork was conducted to gain as much information as possible about the fireplace, hearth, and bake oven that were removed during the late 19th to early 20th Century to facilitate the construction of a new chimney. The original firebox and chimney were identified, as well as subsequent 19th Century alterations to the kitchen facilities (which included raising the floor level and installing a hearth apron) and the late 19th to early 20th Century stone-and-brick chimney base. A sheet midden was identified surrounding the fireplace and under the adjacent hearth stones, which included the following assemblage: creamware, pearlware, whiteware, porcelain, redware, vessel glass, bone/shell, kaolin pipe fragments, buttons, and a straight pin. This sealed deposit dates to c. 1780 to 1820, and may extend throughout the basement.

2012  

Report on the Phase II site evaluation of the Country Grove property. Although the Vandenburgh House was previously determined ineligible for listing on the National Register by OPRHP, the determination was overturned after conversations between OPRHP and the Town Historian’s office. Excavations identified a number of features, including: two precontact postmolds, a contact period hearth, a possible 18th Century stone foundation wall, a stone-lined privy vault (with nightsoil deposit, cobble base, and coal ash abandonment fill), a mid-19th Century redware tile drain, a late 19th Century vitrified stoneware drainage pipe, as well as a postmold of unknown date. The 18th-Century locus of artifacts included: Chinese export porcelain, English hard-paste porcelain, creamware, pearlware, redware, Staffordshire, white salt-glazed stoneware, and stoneware. Precontact artifacts included: flakes, debitage, projectile points, chipped stone tools, ground stone tools, rough stone tools, pottery, and fire-cracked rock. The precontact site was identified as having an earlier pre-Iroquoian Late Woodland component followed by a later Mahican occupation dating from the late-15th or mid-16th Century to early 17th Century, with the latter span of occupation occurring during the Contact Period. The Vandenburgh Site was again recommended for listing on the National Register. [Annotator’s Note: The Vandenburgh House was razed in December 2016].

Report on Phase I and II archaeological investigation for proposed condominiums on Delaware Avenue in the City of Cohoes, for which fieldwork occurred in April and May 2013. Initial excavations uncovered a buried A (topsoil) that contained various precontact, 17th-, 18th- and 19th-Century artifacts. Subsequent Phase II excavations identified five features: a Native American hearth (that contained Contact Period brick, fire-cracked rock, and Late Woodland/Contact Period pottery fragments), the trench of a historic palisade fence, the corner of a 17th-Century pit feature (possibly a cellar hole, which contained red and yellow hand-made bricks, pipe fragments, wine bottles, delftware, Chinese export porcelain, buff earthenware, white salt-glazed stoneware, and creamware), a historic postmold (lined with eight hand-made bricks), and a section of a Native American structure (that included fire-cracked rock, a stemmed biface, and a flake). Other significant finds from the site include: a 1662 bale seal, smoking pipes (c. 1680), Dutch yellowware, Grappen, Westerwald, and Frechen.


Report on a Phase I archaeological investigation for the proposed Senior Living Community on No. 33 and No. 45 Forts Ferry Road in the Town of Colonie, for which fieldwork occurred in August 2015. Archaeological deposits associated with the Weatherwax Farmstead (No. 45 Forts Ferry Road) and the Ten Broeck Farmstead (No. 33 Forts Ferry Road) were found, both of which predominantly date to the 19th Century (although the Weatherwax Farmstead may have been established as early as c. 1790). The artifact deposits were comprised of ceramics (e.g. lead-glazed earthenware, stoneware, whiteware, creamware, and semi-porcelain), a fork, coal fragments, shell, and plastic. A small cemetery was also identified northwest of the study area. No further work was recommended for either site.

Hartgen, Karen S.


The most recent example of the disregard for Albany’s past is the destruction of the archeological site at Broadway and Maiden Lane. This destruction occurred at the hands of a New York State agency, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, which, under state preservation laws, is required to consider the impact their projects will have on historic structures and archeological sites. The block selected by the Authority for construction of their new headquarters building was within the town of Beverwyck laid out in 1652. In this same block in 1992 the city had previously demolished the 18th-century town house of Abraham Yates, Jr., member of the Albany Committee of Safety during the Revolution and mayor of Albany from 1791 to 1796. The block lies within the boundary of the National Register’s Downtown Albany Historic District and the city’s archeological district as defined by the line of the stockade that surrounded the town in the 17th century. The Dormitory Authority solicited proposals for initial archeological investigations in June 1996. Hartgen Archeological Associates was selected to complete an initial survey of the archeological potential of the entire block, in which in 1652 and 1653 patents were granted to Jan Verbeek, Frans Barentsen Pastoor, Teunis Cornelissen, and Cornelius Teunissen Bos. Four test trenches
revealed that the block contained remarkable archeological features and extensive deposits of artifacts from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Dormitory Authority, however, proposed that only seven days of archeological work would be conducted and that the work would be limited to just one house lot of 20 by 40 feet in a section of the block already known to be the least productive of information. With this inadequate scope of work, Hartgen Archeological Associates declined the job. Another firm was hired instead, and excavations were conducted and expanded but with no design for systematic sampling or research. Based on the documented archeological significance of the block, the New York Archaeological Council filed a lawsuit in the State Supreme Court claiming the Dormitory Authority had not complied with state and federal preservation laws. The court required additional excavations in designated areas, with monitoring of the excavations and completion of weekly progress reports. All fieldwork was to be completed by November 22, 1996. The Dormitory Authority reports that discoveries include a refuse-filled 17th-century drainage channel, a 14-foot portion of the residence of Dominie Godfridus Dellius, an 18th-century privy, and, in April 1997, timbers from the original Beverwyck stockade of 1659. Installation of a water line in the northern portion of the block revealed the presence of trade beads and other 17th-century artifacts in an area that will not be affected by construction of the building. The excavations have been extended until July 1997, but the conditions outlined in the memorandum of understanding with the Dormitory Authority have yet to be fully implemented.


Since the archeological excavations at the site of Fort Orange in the early 1970s, Albany has struggled to balance recognition of its Dutch heritage and history with the archeological record of its past that lies buried in places throughout the center of the city. Much of this record has already been systematically destroyed by development throughout the past century. Beginning in 1980 more than a dozen downtown archeological projects have illuminated the city’s rich archeological past. Each new find swells public interest, but the city has yet to develop an archeological management plan for this very historic city. Possibly the worst example of disregard for the city’s history is the destruction of the rich archeological site at Broadway and Maiden Lane, located just within the stockaded city’s north gate, by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, in 1996. The Dormitory Authority chose as the location for its new headquarters building a block in the heart of the well-known historical district that contained both archeological resources and historic structures. The block was the location of original Dutch patents to Jan Verbeeck, Frans Barentsen Pastoor, Teunis Cornelissen, and Cornelis Teunissen. Subsequent residents included Jan Baptist van Rensselaer, David Pietersen Schuyler, Dominie Dellius, Eliardus Westerlo, and Abraham Yates, Jr. Initial testing of the site by Hartgen Archeological Associates occurred within each of the original patents of Verbeeck, Pastoor, Cornelissen, and Teunissen. All four patents could be correlated with later building lines. The test trench in Teunis Cornelissen’s lot produced 17th and early 18th-century artifacts: ceramics, glassware, food remains, a bone knife handle, glass trade beads, early brick, and pantile fragments. There was also a late 18th-century privy with fine glassware, ceramics, more pantiles, a coconut husk, and a cut conch shell. Testing in Cornelis Teunissen’s lot revealed colonial 18th-century ceramics, shoe leather, coconut fiber, a brass sewing kit, glass beads, and tubular conch shell beads. In Frans Barentsen Pastoor’s lot, later occupied by Dominie Dellius, there were 17th- and 18th-century artifacts at a depth of more than 7 feet below the existing ground surface. In Jan Verbeek’s lot there were also many...
artifacts dating back to the 17th century. There was a privy dating from ca. 1750 to the 1770s that related to the occupation of David Schuyler and his son Abraham on this lot. In 1996, The Dormitory Authority proposed only a limited excavation of seven days in one of the least promising areas of the site and hired another archeological consultant to do the work. Nevertheless, without an adequate research design and a systematic sampling plan, the excavations were expanded piece-meal into other areas. As of 2002, no schedule has been developed for the completion and curation of the artifacts excavated by the consulting firm that conducted the excavation, for the preparation of a scientific report on the work, or for production of a popular brochure and exhibit.


Phase I and II studies for the Crossgates Mall identified Crossgates Site 2, an 18th-century deposit of cultural material located within a buried topsoil stratum. The artifacts assemblage contained over 1,900 artifacts, including roughly 1,000 ceramic sherds, 200 bottle glass fragments, 190 bone fragments, 340 architectural fragments, 40 pipe bowl/stem fragments, 5 buttons, 1 gun flint, 50 coal and slag pieces, and 70 unidentified metal or glass objects. The ceramic types present include creamware, pearlware, Chinese export porcelain, white salt-glazed stoneware, Jackfield ware, Astbury ware, Delft ware, yellow-combed slip-decorate buff earthenware, Metropolitan and Wrotham type redwares, other slip-decorated and lead-glazed redware, and Westerwald stoneware. A quantitative analysis of the assemblage reflects domestic, agricultural and possibly tavern activities. No archeological features nor structural remnants were located within the study area. A small structure with no substantial foundation may have been present within the site, but was not detected. The archeological remains of an associated structure were removed during construction of the New York State Thruway, but no evidence supporting this was found.


Excavations in June and July at the proposed visitors’ center addition site revealed more information about Schuyler’s gardens as well as artifacts from the later 19th-century occupation. An “Archaeology Day” was held on June 22 for the public.


Assemblages from Contact Period sites are generally characterized by artifacts that are Native American in origin as well as those that are European in origin. Analysis of these assemblages demonstrate that the Iroquois assimilated a high percentage of European utilitarian and ornamental materials, while some components of Native material culture were distinctly maintained.
Heritage America, Ltd.


Report on a Phase I archaeological survey for a proposed stone quarry in the Town of Nassau, for which fieldwork occurred in July 1993. The survey identified a dry-laid stone foundation and cellar hole located near an artificial pond that was created by damming a stream. Ceramics (not specified) associated with the feature suggest that it was occupied c. 1780-1850.


The site previously identified in the Phase I archaeological survey was identified as the Cahoon (Caboon) farmstead that was occupied c. 1780-1840; the farmstead burned down at an undetermined date. Sampling of both the interior and exterior of the foundation recovered the following assemblage: coarse salt-glazed stoneware, red earthenware (including Jackfield type black-glazed red earthenware), polychrome annular and transfer-printed pearlware, black transfer-printed pearlware, the base of a Masonic glass flask (attributed to the Coventry, Connecticut glass works of 1813-1849), bones and teeth, shell fragments, pipe-stem and -bowl fragments, plaster, and buttons.

Howard, David Sanctuary


Examples of porcelain sherds excavated at the Schuyler Flatts site include three fragments probably from two different small blue Wan Li-decorated Ming bowls of the first half of the 17th century. Three other blue-decorated Kang Hsi porcelain fragments are from two bowls and a molded saucer of about 1700 to 1720. A seventh blue-decorated porcelain sherd is from a Yung Cheng plate or saucer of about 1730.

Hudson Mohawk Archaeological Consultants


A Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed expansion of the Watervliet Reservoir, located on the Normanskill Creek. The report includes an in-depth historical overview of the earliest-known European contact in the region, beginning with Henry Hudson’s journey on the Hudson River in 1609, followed by the Dutch settlement of the Guilderland region in 1629. The Dutch families and the positions of their homesteads on the 1767 Bleecker map are discussed. The influx of Palatine Germans into the same area in the early 1700s is also discussed. The opposing dynamics between the loyalists and patriots during the American Revolutionary War divided the region, and culminated in the Battle of the Normanskill near Vosburgh Farm on 13 August 1777. In 1788, the area was incorporated into the Town of Watervliet. From the mid-18th Century to early 19th-Century, the region experienced further unrest due to the anti-rent movement against the last Patroon of Rensselaerwyck. By 1840, the anti-rent movement transformed into the Anti-Rent War.
Archaeological fieldwork took place from July to November 2007, over the course of which three precontact sites and 24 historic sites were identified. Of these, two of the historic sites were mid-18th Century Dutch farmsteads: The Vrooman (Vroman)/P. Sharp Farmstead Historic Site and the A. Wemple Historic Site, both of which are shown on the 1767 Bleecker map near the Normanskill Creek but were later demolished for the construction of the Watervliet Reservoir in the early 20th Century. [Annotator’s Note: According to the site form filed by the authors, the H. Ellers Farmstead also contained an artifact deposit spanning the late-18th to mid-20th Centuries, but the report makes no mention of a late-18th Century component to the site, and instead characterizes it as a 19th Century map-documented farm complex only]. The Vrooman (Vroman)/Shaver Family Cemetery Site was also identified near the Vrooman (Vroman) Farmstead site which is comprised of 10 gravestones (seven headstones and three footstones) representing three to four individuals; the surname “Shaver” also appears on a number of markers. The Vrooman (Vroman) family owned the nearby farmstead which was later removed for the Reservoir; the cemetery is located on property owned by James Sharpe in 1915.

Huey, Lois M.

Excavations on the river bank directly across the Hudson from the location of Fort Nassau revealed pits containing Indian and Dutch artifacts that were left by Indians who may have traded at Fort Nassau. In October 1970, archeological excavations in Albany commenced at the site of Fort Orange, built in 1624. The site was in the path of a highway, Interstate 787, then being constructed along the river. Surprisingly, the excavations revealed that the Dutch in Fort Orange used delicate glassware, fine ceramics, a tortoise-shell comb, a silver bodkin, and deer, cows, pigs, and sheep as food. They brought with them the things they were accustomed to having at home in the Dutch Golden Age of the 17th century. The walls of the fort were built with horizontally stacked logs rather than with vertical stockade posts. Houses in the fort built by traders had wood-lined cellars. Pieces of window glass indicate the windows of some houses were decorated with painted coats of arms. Elsewhere in Albany, the streets of the original Dutch town covered archeological features from the 17th century. North of Albany, at the site of the Dutch “best farm” in the colony, excavations revealed the cellar portion of a Dutch farmhouse of the 1640s. The farmhouse originally was a long structure that combined both a residence for the farmer and a barn for the animals in different sections. Pewter screw tops for glass bottles were found with scratched initials AVC, for Arent van Curler, who settled there and built the Dutch farmhouse.


Copies of the report on the excavations at Crailo from 1974 to 1994, with detailed analysis and interpretation, will be in the New York State Library collection and will be available on-line in pdf for download from the State Library catalogue.


In June 2005 digging for a sewer line close to the historic Schuyler farm near Albany turned up a human skull. It was found not far from where a female skeleton in a coffin was discovered in 1998. The machine digging stopped, and archeologists uncovered 12 burials in wood coffins at the site in the path of construction. The remains of another individual were recovered from
the pile of earth that had been dug by the machine. There were adults and children, and they were the remains of enslaved Africans. Five were infants under the age of one year, and two were children under the age of 10. Six of the adults were women, and one was male. The youngest woman was between 25 and 35 years of age, and the oldest was older than 50 years in age. The male was between the ages of 40 and 50. The bones were carefully studied and analyzed at the New York State Museum in Albany. Lesions on the bones from muscle attachments indicated the slaves had done hard physical labor. The bones revealed that the slaves were well fed but that some of them in the past had suffered from anemia and malnutrition. Analysis of DNA showed that four adults were related to Africans from western or west-central Africa. One woman had Micmac Indian ancestry. Two other women had ancestors who lived on Madagascar. All the adults had different mothers. Using copies of the intact skulls, facial reconstructions were made. The remains of the slaves buried in the African Burial Ground in New York City, by comparison, suffered from malnutrition, unlike the Schuyler slaves. The evidence also indicates some of the New York City slaves suffered broken bones from injuries or beatings, and at least one was shot.

Huey, Paul R.

1965 The American Affairs of John de Neufville & Son, Founders of the Albany Glass Works, Cooperstown Graduate Programs, State University of New York College at Oneonta, Cooperstown, New York.

In the Town of Guilderland west of the City of Albany, down the ravine of the Hungerkill about half a mile from Route 20, a resident plowing his garden in 1962 encountered bricks and heavy stones. He began digging up the stones and discovered the remains of a glass furnace from the glass factory that once existed at the site from 1785 until about 1815. Louis F. Ismay of the Rensselaer County Junior Museum conducted test excavations in December 1962, and extensive excavations were conducted at the site in 1963 and 1964. Remains of at least five separate kilns or furnaces were uncovered. The factory was established by the firm of John de Neufville & Son of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The de Neufvilles had negotiated loans to the United States during the American Revolution, and John and Leonard de Neufville came to the United States hoping to recover some of those debts. They arrived in May 1785, and Leonard de Neufville signed articles of agreement with two glassmakers who arrived with him, Jan Heefke and Ferdinand Walfahrt, establishing the Dowsburgh Glass House. Heefke was advanced credit of 1,400 Dutch guilders to visit Germany and to bring back 24 or 25 workmen. John G. van Schaick acted as an agent for Leonard de Neufville, and some of Van Schaick’s letters to Leonard de Neufville are written in Dutch. The company experienced many difficulties, including collapse of the glass house in a snow storm in December 1786. Leonard de Neufville proved to be incompetent, and the business failed in 1789. Other investors re-established the glass house, which continued until 1815.


It is not clear from available records when the Fegeller family settled on a farm on Van Baal’s Patent near the Normanskill. Casper Fegeller and Hans Fegeller are listed in the Albany County militia in 1767, and a house is shown at the Casper Fegeller house site on the Albany County map of 1756. In 1776 more than 60 tenants on Van Baal’s Patent were made to sign leases from the Van Rensselaers, and “Johan Casper Feagerly” signed his lease on July 10. One of Fegeller’s sons who became a Loyalist and went to Canada in 1780 with the notorious Joe Bettis later returned and surrendered himself. A map drawn in 1789 clearly shows the location
of the house and farm of 136½ acres of Casper Fegeller. A portion of modern Font Grove Road in New Scotland follows the original northeast boundary of the farm. The site of the house was discovered in a corn field in 1966. The artifacts, associated with a shallow depression, indicate an exclusively 18th-century occupation. More than half the 70 pipe stems from the site have bore diameters of 4/64 inch. The stems with the largest bore diameter, 6/64 inch, are a little more than 5 percent of the stems. The Binford stem bore formula gives a mean occupation date of 1758 for the site. Creamware sherds are the most plentiful among the ceramics, of which 49 fragments were recovered. Pearlware is the next most frequent, followed by white salt-glazed stoneware, porcelain, and delft. Other ceramics include red earthenware, slip-decorated buff earthenware, and gray salt-glazed stoneware.

Illustrates sherd of barley-pattern white salt-glazed stoneware from Level II of the Lagrange-Oliver site in the Town of New Scotland.

Excavations at the south corners of Schuyler mansion were conducted in advance of the construction of concrete wall braces at the corners to support the foundations. In front of the Mansion an early 19th century drain was found, perhaps installed about 1818 by Philip Hooker. At the rear corner of the Mansion the adjacent flanker was connected to it by a single low wall. Ground levels around the Mansion were once much lower, and more of the stone foundation walls were originally exposed.

In July 1971 a 10-foot grid system was surveyed with an east-west base line in the area north of the Schuyler house foundation walls at the Flatts. The excavation of 18½ 10-foot grid squares occurred in the area which had been part of a driveway and yard north and west of the rear wing of the house. This revealed walls and partial dimensions of at least two previous structures on the site, as well as remains of a 19th-century brick cistern, a late 18th-century cobblestone paved courtyard, and an 18th-century well. Stratified deposits have produced 17th- and 18th-century artifacts. The earliest stratum contained 17th-century Dutch pipe stems, *roemer* glass fragments, and ceramics associated with traces of a foundation wall. Most of the wall had been dug out for the stone in the 1760s for re-use elsewhere. The north wall of the building was about 20 feet in length, and it extended southward at least 25 feet. A trench had also been dug later through the wall, and it was apparently for a bastioned stockade wall from before 1750. A continuous layer of ash and charcoal represents the fire of 1759, described by Anne Grant. Artifacts include shoe buckles, knee buckles, buttons, a fine-toothed bone comb, a brass projectile point, red earthenware with engine-turned decoration, pins, and buttons. Military artifacts, probably British, include buttons, scabbard clips, musket balls, and musket parts. A silver spoon bears the maker’s mark CR and has the initials MS scratched on the handle, perhaps for Margarita Schuyler.

The Dusenbury-Vredenburg house in the Town of Nassau burned in 1973, and the site was to be graded and filled following the archeological testing. Part of the house was constructed about 1770 by John Dusenbury, a Loyalist in the Revolution, who came from Westchester
Three small test units were excavated, and an already-graded area was surface-hunted. The surface hunting recovered 180 ceramic sherds, mostly from the 19th century. Pearlwares perhaps from the late 18th century include green shell-edged rim sherds, polychrome hand-decorated sherds, and blue hand-decorated sherds. Less creamware was found; one section of a creamware plate rim is of the “Royal” pattern. One sherd of delft was found. [Note: This sherd may not be tin-glazed delft but instead probably dates from the 19th century.] There was a total absence of red earthenware. There were pieces of hand-wrought iron structural hardware (a gutter hanger and a hinge). The test unit excavations produced an additional sherd of green shell-edged pearlware and hand-wrought iron wedges, one of which is 3½ inches in length.

Excavations at the Schuyler Flatts site in 1974 included further uncovering the cobblestone paving that was discovered in 1971. An additional 600 square feet of paving was uncovered with the excavation of six 10-foot squares, with the goal of viewing the paving to detect any possible pattern in the stonework. In one place the stones had been disturbed and crudely replaced where a tree had once stood, and an iron grape shot was found in the disturbance. The earliest artifacts elsewhere above and between the cobblestones appear to date from the 1760s or 1770s, suggesting a date of construction. The cobblestones have been exposed for the first time probably since the early 19th century, and it is now a responsibility to care for this unique feature and to protect it from vandalism. In July and August excavations continued in the 17th-century cellar located to the south of the Schuyler house. This work began in 1972 when heavy machinery used on a sewer line and other construction revealed evidence of 17th-century occupation. A very deep, filled-in cellar hole with walls made of wooden boards was discovered. The 1974 excavations continued in the remainder of the cellar and revealed that it was an L-shaped structure. On the south wall a set of wooden steps was discovered descending into the cellar. The cellar had been repaired once or twice as the walls caved in, and the final collapse occurred in the late 17th or early 18th centuries. Numerous 17th-century artifacts were recovered. Together with the size of the feature, they suggest that this was possibly the cellar of the house built under the direction of Arent van Curler in 1643.

1974 Philip Pietersen Schuyler acquired the already-established large and valuable Flatts farm from the Van Rensselaers in 1672. It was a natural place for trade with Indians. The historic Schuyler house unfortunately burned in 1962. Because the site was threatened with development, in 1971 the Division for Historic Preservation of the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation undertook rescue excavations in cooperation with the Town of Colonie and the Heldeberg Workshop. Summer field schools were held at the site for high school students and for teachers in an in-service program for teachers from throughout the state. The excavations provided a large amount of data that will help broaden the understanding of the Schuyler family of the Flatts and Albany, which included General Philip J. Schuyler. In addition, the 17th-century material from the site provides a significant comparison with the artifacts excavated at the site of Fort Orange in Albany in 1970 and 1971. A 17th-century stone wall was discovered in 1971 in addition to a trench for the protective stockade built in the 1740s. The 17th-century stone walls appear to be from a structure 20 feet by at least 25 feet in size. The stone foundation of a separate outbuilding, possibly a kitchen, flanking the rear wing of the Schuyler house was also found. It had apparently burned in the fire of 1759. The excavation in 1971 also uncovered about 600 square feet of cobblestone paving to the rear of
the house, and an additional 600 square feet of paving was uncovered in 1974. The earliest artifacts found above and between the stones of the paving date from the 1760s or 1770s, indicating a probable construction period for the cobblestone courtyard. The paving was left intact for possible preservation during future development of the property, or as a possible park. In 1972 excavation commenced in an area to the south of the Schuyler house and continued in 1974. This work revealed a deep L-shaped cellar hole. The cellar had wooden walls and was between 26 and 30 feet in length. An intact set of wooden steps leading into the cellar was found, along with artifacts mostly from the first half of the 17th century. The cellar is possibly the cellar that was built under part of the large farmhouse constructed by Arent van Curler in 1643. It appears the cellar was used until late in the 17th century, with numerous attempts to repair the collapsing cellar walls. Following collapse of the house, the hole may have remained open until about 1730.


Excavation at the site of Fort Orange yielded a number of broken 17th-century tobacco pipe stems characterized by the grinding or abrading of notches into each of them as deep as the stem bore to form a series of holes in the side of the stems. They were recovered from contexts dating as early as 1647. Another example was discovered during excavations in Albany, originally the town of Beverwyck laid out in 1652. One possibility is that these stems were fashioned into crude whistles or flutes. Small rustic flutes and recorders are illustrated in many Dutch paintings of the period from ca. 1620 to 1655, suggesting a direct expression at Fort Orange of the current fad in the Netherlands.


Killiaen van Rensselaer established farms in the vicinity as early as 1631. Hendrick van Rensselaer brought his family to live at the Crailo house by 1725. In 1974, when a large sewer line was built under Riverside Avenue in front of the house, excavations revealed 13 pit features containing prehistoric Indian artifacts as well as evidence of 17th-, 18th-, and 19th-century occupation.


A test unit excavated in 1968 at Schuyler Mansion revealed a wall and four soil strata.


In 1969, a major excavation project at Schuyler Mansion rescued valuable research information that otherwise would have been lost.


The site of the glass factory, located in Guilderland, was tested in December 1962 by Louis F. Ismay. Located on private land, it appeared the site would ultimately be destroyed, and a rescue excavation project was organized. The excavations were conducted during the summers of 1963, 1964, and 1965. At least five separate features were uncovered in the glass factory site. Not only were many fragments of glass, slag, and broken melting pots excavated and collected
but also clay pipes, buttons, garbage bones, oyster shells, and at least one coin that were lost or discarded by workmen. The design and arrangement of the furnaces were found to be nearly identical to the plan of the Amelung glass factory, established in 1784 and excavated in 1962 in Maryland. The glass factory established in Guilderland by Leonard de Neufville of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1785 was abandoned in 1790. De Neufville, deep in debt, was admitted to the Philadelphia Hospital for “madness” in 1797, and he died there in 1812. An Albany merchant and industrialist, James Caldwell, took over the glass factory in 1792. He was owner of a prosperous snuff, chocolate, and mustard factory in Albany, and he apparently needed a convenient source of hand-blown mustard bottles. Others joined the company. The glass factory soon suffered from numerous difficulties and losses. Large quantities of cheap window glass, for example, were being imported from France. The company reorganized in 1795, but friction between the directors developed as early as 1796. By 1800 two rival factions had hopelessly split the company.


Profitable agriculture and the proximity of mills for grinding grain combined ideally with opportunities for close trading contacts with the Indians at Schodack at least well into the 18th century. The site of the Indian village in the 18th century apparently represents one of the last traditional habitation sites to be given up by the Mahicans as they dwindled in number. The archeological sites on Schodack Island are vulnerable and fragile resources that must be carefully protected with increased public use of the State Park.


A number of different types of fleur-de-lis marks appear impressed on the Dutch clay pipe stems that have been excavated at the site of Fort Orange (1624-1676). One common type of stamped fleur-de-lis mark, which appears on the stems singly as well as in groupings, is the fleur-de-lis with initials PG incorporated within the mark. Other examples of pipe stems with this distinctive mark have been found at the Stadt Huys site in New York City and in excavations under Riverside Avenue in Rensselaer, N.Y., across the Hudson River from Fort Orange. Information is sought on other occurrences of pipe stems with this mark.


Striped tubular beads of Kidd and Kidd type IIIbb appear at Fort Orange as well as in the Indian contact site at Crailo dating about 1625 to 1650. Cut brass or copper kettle fragments were also found at the Crailo site, but relatively few were found at Fort Orange.


The Fort Orange excavations produced 324 glass beads, representing 80 Kid and Kidd varieties. Round glass buttons were not included as beads, and a number of crumbly blue-green glass beads were so degraded they could not be retrieved. The Kidd and Kidd bead typology facilitates useful comparative analyses. The most frequently occurring variety of bead at Fort Orange is variety Iva11, circular in shape, of clear glass with an opaque white middle layer. The second most frequent variety, IIIa12, is a tubular bead of transparent navy blue with an opaque white middle layer. The greatest concentration of all tubular beads was north of the fort’s east entrance path in front of the Staats-Van Twiller-Van Rensselaer house.
concentration of all rounded beads was closer to the entrance path in front of the southwest corner of that house. This suggests the intensified trading activity in this area of the site. South of the entrance path, tubular beads predominated along the south wall of Labatie’s house, while farther away to the south there were mostly rounded beads. [Note: Later research has indicated that what was thought to be the south wall of Labatie’s house was actually an earlier building in the fort. Instead, south of the entrance of the fort, tubular beads predominated in front of the north end of the Labatie house closest to the entrance, while there were mostly rounded beads farther south in front of the Labatie house.] There were relatively few beads in and around the Van Doesburgh house. At other archeological sites, it is known that tubular beads reached their maximum popularity about 1650. Comparison of the 14 most common bead varieties at Fort Orange (74.99 percent) with the occurrences of those bead types at 21 other excavated sites reveals a uniform chronological progression westward of sites having maximum correlations with the Fort Orange Dutch bead types. Those sites have median occupation dates from as early as 1565 to the most recent date, 1690.

1982  

The Van Buren site may have been occupied as early as 1631, as per the initial arrival of Cornelis Maesen van Buren. The van Buren house may have been replaced c. 1670 when the property was passed to Cornelis Teunis van Veghten. Archaeological materials, including broken Dutch yellow brick, building stone, 17th Century glass, Westerwald stoneware and other ceramics, etc., corroborate that the site was occupied as early as the early- to mid-17th Century. Patterns on the Westerwald stoneware fragments match those from contemporary Fort Orange. According to land survey records of 1792, a hay barrack is noted at the site. During the 18th Century, the property was owned by the Douw family. An 18th to 19th Century scatter of artifacts was also found.

1984  

Dutch majolica decorated in blue, copied directly from blue-decorated Wan Li porcelain that began to be imported to the Netherlands in 1602, became very popular, especially after about 1620. One pattern that was copied from porcelain, the “bird on rock,” is on at least two fragments of Dutch majolica excavated at Fort Orange. Other majolica sherds recovered from Fort Orange are plate rims with typical Wan Li patterns, including flowers or peach symbols. One Dutch majolica plate excavated at Fort Orange originally had a rim decorated in the Wan Li pattern, but the rim has been carefully chipped away. This left a circular plaque with a crude Chinese painting that could be hung on the wall. A very similar Chinese painting is at the center of a majolica bowl excavated in the Netherlands in 1600 and 1625. A blue-decorated tin-glazed bowl from about 1640 excavated at Fort Orange has tin glaze on front and back, unlike Dutch majolica, and this vessel represents a new development of finer delft ware imitating Chinese porcelain more closely. Some of this ware is so skillfully made that it looks exactly like porcelain; other examples of decoration are simplistic copies of Chinese scenes and include plates from the 1660s or 1670s. Examples of both types were found at Fort Orange. True porcelain was very expensive, and only a few fragments from the 17th century were found at Fort Orange and the Schuyler Flatts. From the Flatts there is a porcelain plate rim with the Wan Li peach symbol decoration. From Fort Orange there are fragments of a Chinese porcelain mustard pot dating from between 1640 and 1660.

The excavations at the site of Fort Orange continued through the entire winter of 1970 and 1971. The Department of Transportation provided a heated shelter which enabled completion of the rescue excavation so as not to delay construction of the new Interstate 787 highway across the site. This work was followed in 1972 and 1973 with the monitoring of excavations during the installation of power conduits in Albany under Broadway, State Street, and South Pearl Street. Albany, established in 1652 as the town of Beverwyck, and Fort Orange were both under the jurisdiction of the West India Company. Rensselaerswyck, the separate farming colony that was established in the area around Fort Orange in 1630, came into conflict with the West India Company, and sites in Rensselaerswyck offer an intriguing opportunity to make comparisons with West India Company sites. The Schuyler Flatts was perhaps the finest and most extensive Rensselaerswyck farm in the 17th century and was settled by Arent van Curler in 1643. Across the river from and south of Fort Orange is Crailo, a site occupied by Dominie Megapolensis in the 1640s. Farther south is the Van Buren site, the location of a farmhouse built probably by Cornelis Maessen van Buren in 1639 and occupied until perhaps 1696. The Fort Orange excavation exposed features of the fort and a large artifact assemblage from the 1624 to 1676 period of occupation. In Albany the excavations under State Street revealed the original water pipes from Albany’s first water system, installed in 1678. Thin cut and worked bark fragments were found under South Pearl Street, and under Broadway in front of Union Station remains of a corduroy street surface were revealed from 3 to 4 feet below the modern street level. The three sites in Rensselaerswyck are the Flatts, the pits under Riverside Avenue at Crailo, and the Van Buren site. Trade goods were found at all three sites, although there are fewer beads. Rhenish stoneware sherds found at the Flatts are from a Westerwald jug with a frieze telling the story of the Prodigal Son. As at Fort Orange, the tin-glazed ceramics at the Crailo Riverside Avenue and Van Buren Rensselaerswyck sites outnumbered the red earthenware Dutch utility ceramics, but not at Arent van Curler’s farmhouse at the Flatts site. The predominant ceramic type at the Flatts was Rhenish salt-glazed stoneware.


Of the more than 300 glass beads excavated at Fort Orange, only 36 percent are tubular bead varieties. The varieties of glass beads that were recovered at Fort Orange are not necessarily the types most often found at 17th-century Indian sites. Possibly the beads from Fort Orange include types that were less popular left-overs from the Indian trade, not to mention the possibility that the Dutch also wore beads. Glass beads also have been found at other 17th-century Dutch sites in the region around Fort Orange, which was the colony of Rensselaerswyck established in 1630. The purpose and function of Rensselaerswyck was intended to be very different from Fort Orange, a trading center. Beads have been recovered from at least three Rensselaerswyck sites: from Crailo and from the Van Buren site across the Hudson River from Fort Orange and from the Schuyler Flatts site about 4 miles north of Fort Orange. However, in contrast to Fort Orange, relatively very few beads have been found at these Rensselaerswyck sites. The greatest number is from the excavation of the cellar of the Van Curler house at the Schuyler Flatts site, dating from 1643, where the bead sample consists of only 20 specimens. Of the beads from this site, 40 percent are tubular varieties. Only 30
percent of the Van Culer cellar beads match any of the 14 most common varieties (75 percent) of the Fort Orange beads. Conversely, the 20 beads from the Van Culer cellar correspond to 32 percent of all the Fort Orange beads.

1985  

Although at least four of the 34 State Historic Sites maintained, operated, and interpreted by the State of New York from as early as 1850 were initially occupied by the Dutch in the 17th century, and although translations of the colonial New York Dutch records occurred in the 1850s by E.B. O’Callaghan and by A.J.F. van Laer early in the 20th century, it was not until 1970 that archeologists in New York located and carefully excavated the very first extensive colonial Dutch site of the 17th century. The site was Fort Orange, built by the West India Company in 1624 and abandoned by the English in 1676. The site remained relatively intact in a field south of Albany until the construction of a house destroyed part of the site in the 1790s and the construction of a concrete railroad crash wall in 1932 destroyed another part of the site. What remained lay protected under a city street and a parking lot. In 1970 that area was in the path of a new arterial highway, and rescue excavations were conducted through the cold winter of 1970 and 1971. This work revealed remains of a house that could be identified from the original Dutch deeds as the house of Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh, built against the south wall of the fort. Behind the house was uncovered a portion of the south moat of the fort. The south wall of the fort was evidently nothing more than a stack of horizontal logs held up by vertical posts. The south moat also adjoined a stone ravelin. The Van Doesburgh house had a shallow cellar constructed with wooden plank walls about 1651. By 1664, when English soldiers lodged in the house, it was decrepit and ready to collapse. Using the Dutch deeds, it was also possible to identify part of another cellar as the house built by the wife of Abraham Staats in 1642. Remains of another structure are from the brewery of Jean Labatie built in 1647. [Note: The walls that were found were not those of the Labatie brewery but instead were probably part of a guard house next to the east entrance into the fort.] The artifacts include few military items, aside from two cannon balls, a bit of chain mail, gunflints, pieces of small lead shot, and part of a wheel lock firearm. Fragments of ceramics, glassware, and clay pipes were numerous and varied. The excavation produced only a few coins, many glass trade beads, and 57 small wampum beads, of which 30 are white and 27 are purple.

1985  
Memorandum re: the Van Buren Site, pp. 3.

During a visit to the Van Buren site on 15 April 1985, a second site, the Papscanee Creek Site, was identified within the immediate vicinity of the Van Buren Site. Surface finds included a scatter of red and yellow bricks, 17th-Century pipe stem fragments, a small fragment of majolica, as well as various 19th Century fragments (e.g. pipe stems, ceramics, and glass). These sites are among the earliest farms of Rensselaerswyck and were closely associated with Greenbush, Crailo, and other farms on the east side of the river.

1986  

Historical archeology entered a remarkable period of growth and development following World War II beginning in the late 1940s and continuing through the 1950s. Early projects in this period included the amateur excavations at the 18th-century Vereberg Tavern site near Albany, discovered during Thruway construction in 1953 and 1954.

Excavations in 1966 during a field school sponsored by the Heldeberg Workshop at the site of the Jacobus Lagrange farm house site located in the Normans Kill valley, dating from about 1720, were commenced in an effort to identify distinctive patterns of Dutch cultural behavior from the material at the site. It was found that the stone cellar wall of a later house on the site was built across the filled-in remains of a wood-lined cellar measuring about 9 by 12 feet in size. On the floor of the cellar were found squash, melon, or pumpkin seeds.

In Albany, excavations in 1970 and 1971 revealed the remains of wooden cellars, the most intact of which once existed under the Van Doesburgh house of ca. 1651. Excavations followed at the Schuyler Flatts site north of Albany, and remains of a deep wooden cellar were found that corresponded in size to the cellar construction of which was documented by Arent van Curler in 1643. In excavations for a power conduct under State Street and Broadway in Albany in 1972 and 1973, trenching revealed the collapsed walls of at least three wooden cellars. One was in Broadway, one was in State Street just east of Chapel Street, and one was opposite Lodge Street. The cellar opposite Lodge Street was built of pungent yellow pine and may have been from a structure associated with the fort. Excavations in 1986 on Norton Street, at the KeyCorp site, revealed remains of the Volkert Jansen Douw house built possibly as early as 1647. It became the Reformed Church almshouse in 1685. Excavations uncovered stone foundation walls, with a wood plank floor laid directly on the natural clay.


The archeology of colonial Dutch sites in New Netherland has emerged in the 1970s as a prolific source of new information. When Simeon De Witt surveyed land south of the city of Albany, laying out new city blocks and streets, he carefully recorded the visible outline of the site of Fort Orange. He purchased for himself the two lots that included much of the site and built his new home there. What he found during the construction or whether he retrieved artifacts remains unknown. Discoveries of colonial artifacts occurred elsewhere in Albany during the 19th century, and Albany City Historian predicted that when construction of the Port of Albany commenced in 1926 there would be the important discovery of evidence that a French fort was built there in 1540. Rescue excavations were conducted by the New York Historic Trust at the site of Fort Orange in 1970 and 1971 and at the Schuyler Flatts site from 1971 to 1974. At the Flatts the cellar of Arent van Curler’s farmhouse of 1643 was discovered. In 1972 at the Crailo State Historic Site, excavation of a deep sewer line under the street in front of the house revealed evidence of early 17th-century Dutch-Indian contact and trade.

1988 Aspects of Continuity and Change in Colonial Dutch Material Culture at Fort Orange, 1624-1664, Department of American Civilization, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania.

The excavations at the site of Fort Orange during the winter of 1970 and 1971 revealed the partial remains of at least four structures inside the fort, the pathway leading to the east entrance of the fort, the cobblestone-lined south moat, and the corner of a possible stone ravelin on the south side of the moat. The most extensive evidence of a structure was the wooden cellar of the house of Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh of about 1651. Remains
were also found of part of the cellar of the house built by the wife of Abraham Staats in 1648. The corner of a third wooden cellar may have been the house of Hans Vos in the 1650s. The brick walls of a fourth structure may have been the brewery built by Jan Labatie in 1647. [Note: Subsequent documentary research has indicated this was not the Labatie brewery but instead the walls of a much earlier building, possibly a guardhouse house adjacent to the east entrance into the fort.] The Indian pits excavated across the river and south from Fort Orange beneath Riverside Avenue in front of Crailo contained 86 percent tin glazed earthenware, compared to amounts between 50 and 71 percent of the total ceramics in features in Fort Orange, except for the Van Doesburgh house and the adjoining tavern dump where there was less. Other 17th-century sites in Rensselaerswyck have only 40 percent or less tin glazed earthenware. The Riverside Avenue pits also produced an iron Jews harp of the same form as one found in Fort Orange in a layer believed to predate 1624. An Indian pottery sherd at Fort Orange with an incised “ladder” design that is characteristic of Kingston Incised pottery dates perhaps from the 15th- or 16th-centuries and is of a type that is found at other sites in the St. Lawrence, Hudson, Mohawk, and upper Delaware Valleys, including the Riverside Avenue site at Crailo. Quartz crystals have been found at Crailo and the Van Buren site south of Crailo as well as in Fort Orange.


Castleton State Park is the new name for the three historic islands that were Upper Schodack, Lower Schodack, and Houghtaling Islands. They have been covered and connected together with dredging spoil from the deepening of the Hudson River channel beginning in the 1920s, although much of Upper Schodack Island is free of dredging spoil. Archeological resources include not only a still standing Victorian house and sunken canal barges but also probably 17th- and 18th-century farms and Mahican Indian sites buried under the dredging spoil. The dredging spoil, while protecting archeological remains, also makes those sites less accessible for archeological research. In any case, the sites of the Mahican Indian village and the colonial house sites, if they can be located, should be protected and sampled if possible rather than extensively excavated. An extensive or total excavation, if properly conducted, would nevertheless destroy these resources and would be extremely expensive.


Gerrit Cornelise van Ness was baptized in 1702. He married Sarah van den Bergh in 1724, and shortly thereafter established their home on the Hoosick River. They had eight children; the first was Cornelis, born in 1726, and the last was Nicholas, born in 1744. The 1739 survey for the patent of Walloomsac identified the location of the Van Ness House, which when collated with modern maps, can be relocated. The archeological integrity of the site has not yet been determined.


This paper was presented in September 1986. Some of the most important archeological deposits in Albany still exist under the city streets, despite the numerous utility lines that have been installed under them. The construction of large buildings from the late 18th-, 19th-, and
20th-centuries have destroyed other remains, except where buildings had no deep cellars. Records of Dutch artifacts that were found during such construction are few, but by 1847 the “little yellow bricks” used by “the Dutch of Fort Orange” were well-known. Remains of the city’s stockade wall and human burials were occasionally discovered in the 19th century. The excavation of a part of Fort Orange occurred beginning in October 1970 and continued during the winter. The artifacts provide information on the used by the Dutch in their homes as well as for trade with the Indians. Trenches dug to install electrical conduits under Broadway, State Street, and South Pearl Street in 1972 and 1973 were monitored by archeologists, and many additional artifacts were recovered. Under South Pearl Street, thin bark that had been cut to make small baskets or other utensils was recovered. The KeyCorp site was excavated in 1986, revealing the cellar of the house of Volkert Jansen Douw possibly from as early as 1647, which became an almshouse in 1685. There were stratified deposits, and many Dutch and English artifacts, including extensive evidence of wampum-making. To the south of the site and across Beaver Street was the Dutch burial ground, and excavations there in advance of construction of a parking garage revealed burials.


It is estimated that little more than 5 percent of the original area of Fort Orange was excavated in 1970 and 1971, but an abundance of material for further research was recovered. A larger percentage of the site has been destroyed by the construction in 1932 of a concrete railroad abutment wall and by the building of row of houses in the 1790s along Broadway. Partial remains of four structures in the fort were uncovered, and the translated and published Dutch deeds and court records made it possible to identify three of them, each of which had cellars with wood plank walls. This type of construction clearly was not intended to be permanent, but the houses above those cellars were refined and well finished. The Van Doesburgh house had leaded casement windows with colorful enameled roundels. The roof was a durable pantile roof. Inside, walls were ornamented with delft tiles decorated with blue-painted figures of animals and people. Square, flat, red earthen floor tiles with brown or green lead glazes were used to pave fireplace hearths or floors. Curiously, the cellar below this house was filled with more than a foot of silt and garbage that had accumulated from its construction about 1651 until the house collapsed about 1664. Also, it is curious that overall the ceramics from Fort Orange consisted of a greater number sherds of expensive tin-glazed Dutch majolica and faience (delft) and a lesser number of lead-glazed utilitarian red earthenware sherds. Fragments of Indian pottery were found within the houses and elsewhere at the site, and in the pathway that led from the east entrance into the fort were found fragments of a complete Iroquois smoking pipe with an effigy face on the bowl. It was perhaps acquired by an appreciative Dutch trader or collector.


Excavations at the site of Fort Orange revealed sections of the foundation of one structure that was probably part of the original fort of 1624 and stood just inside the fort near the east entrance. The foundation consisted of large, soft, crumbly dry-laid red bricks lined on each side with large cobblestones. Later, houses were built inside the fort by private traders, while the moat was lined with cobblestones and a stone ravelin was added. The shallow cellars of three houses were exposed in the excavation, and each cellar consisted only of plank walls and flooring. The cellars clearly were not permanent, but the houses above them were well furnished. The most extensive remains were those of the house of Hendrick Andriessen van
Doesburgh. The house had a pantile roof, and inside there were blue-decorated delft tiles lining the walls or fireplace. There were leaded casement windows with fancy roundels that had enameled inscriptions and other decoration. Clear red-glazed square tiles and green-glazed square tiles probably paved a fireplace hearth or may have been used for an entire floor.


The island now known as Castleton Island once consisted of three separate islands, the history of which can be traced from 1609 through the entire colonial period. Despite extensive purchases of land by the Dutch elsewhere on both sides of the Hudson River beginning soon after 1630, the Mahican Indians resisted selling these fertile islands to the Dutch until a period of crisis after 1660. Mahicans continued to occupy the islands. A map dated 1730 shows a cluster of Indian houses on the northeast corner of Moesmans Island, and a traveler in 1744 reported seeing “a small nation” of Mahicans “with a king that governs them” on the same island. Deep deposits of dredged spoil from the Hudson River presently cover the islands and protect archeological resources presumably including the Mahican Indian village site. Castleton Island is currently protected as an undeveloped State Park. [Note: The name has been restored to Schodack Island, and the area has been developed as a State Park.]


Crailo is one of at least three State Historic Sites that represent New York’s 17th century Dutch history and that has significant but finite buried archeological resources. The excavations at Fort Orange and the Flatts enabled the effective interpretation not only of Dutch pantiles but also of ceramics, trade goods, and other material from the first half of the 17th century that were subsequently discovered during rescue excavations at Crailo.

1995 Teunis Dirksen van Vechten Site, Town of East Greenbush, pp. 5.

The Teunis Dirksen van Vechten Site was occupied from c. 1639 to 1680. Artifacts found at the site corroborate the span of occupation and are distinct in comparison to other 17th-Century Dutch sites, e.g. the Van Buren sites, Schuyler Flatts, Crailo, and Fort Orange. The site’s assemblage includes red brick (but no Dutch yellow brick fragments), very few tin-glazed delft of faience fragments, and although 20 pipe stem fragments were found dating to the 17th Century, none were found to display a fleur-di-lis mark. Two marked heel fragments were found, which include the RW monogram (Fort Orange mark #36, post-1648) and the Tudor Rose mark (similar to Fort Orange #25, c. 1657-1664). One of the stems was filed and ground into a whistle or small flute. Overall, the assemblage was found to be similar to that found at Van Buren Site #2, which is also adjacent to the Papscanee Creek. Aside from the removal of its foundation stones, the Teunis Dirksen van Vechten Site remains largely undisturbed and maintains significant research integrity.


Research that was completed as early as 1966 indicated that a new arterial waterfront highway in Albany would pass directly across the site of Fort Orange. Consequently, the New York State Department of Transportation arranged for the New York State Historic Trust to conduct rescue excavations at the site during the winter of 1970 and 1971. Washing, cataloguing, researching, identifying, and interpreting the vast collection of artifacts that resulted from the excavation presented an immense challenge. When Charlotte Wilcoxen at
the Albany Institute of History called and expressed an interest in seeing the ceramics, a visit was arranged. Her special interest was Dutch and Hispanic tin-glazed earthenwares, and in 1980 she travelled to Amsterdam with pictures of some of the sherds from Fort Orange. She met scholars and archeologists including Jan Baart, who explained the important typological difference between Dutch faience and Dutch majolica, both of which are represented by the Fort Orange sherds. Charlotte was now working one day a week as a volunteer in the lab of the State Historic Sites Archeology Unit in the office at Pebbles Island in Waterford, New York. She assigned catalogue numbers to all the artifacts from Fort Orange and from the Schuyler Flatts site. She put catalogue numbers on the sherds, and she listed 970 catalogue numbers for Fort Orange and even more for the Flatts. She was able to use information from her cataloguing in her publications, and her work has enabled the effective use and management of those collections.

1996  

On the north end of Van Schaick Island, an 8-inch iron axe head was found at the location of the planer in the Matton Shipyard. The axe head is of typical French design and dates probably from the 17th century. Many similar axes have been found at 17th-century French sites and Iroquois village sites along with other French trade goods.

1996  

Traces of Fort Orange, built in 1624 and abandoned in 1676, remained clearly visible in the open pastures south of the town of Albany for almost 140 years after its abandonment. A British engineer measured the outline of the fort in 1766 and found that it was 140 feet, 6 inches in length along the river and 125 feet in depth. The people of Albany refused to allow the British military to disturb the site, and the site held very strong symbolic meaning. Simeon DeWitt, the State Surveyor General, however, built his new house on the site in the 1790s. Part of the site remained buried under the pavement of Steamboat Square, but in 1932 a concrete abutment for the Delaware & Hudson Railroad was constructed which destroyed the buried remains of the eastern two bastions of the fort. In 1970, excavations sponsored by the New York State Historic Trust and the Department of Transportation were commenced at the site to rescue the remaining portion of the site that was in the path of Interstate 787, then under construction. The excavations from October 1970 to March 1971 revealed remains of three houses in the fort with wooden cellars, the brick and stone foundation of a probable guard house adjacent to the pathway from the east entrance of the fort, the cobblestone-lined south moat, and part of an adjacent stone ravelin. The Tantillo painting of Fort Orange in 1635 depicts the fort as it might have looked before houses with wooden cellars were built in the fort in the 1640s and 1650s, but the excavations provided the artist with information that had not been available to any previous artist. Not only was the general size and probable plan of the fort confirmed, but the excavations also confirmed that the fort was no crude frontier outpost. It was clear that the Dutch spared no effort in bringing high-quality building material and other artifacts to the site in an effort to recreate the life they had known in the Netherlands.

1996  
“A Short History of Cuyper Island, Towns of East Greenbush and Schodack, New York, and its Relation to Dutch and Mahican Culture Contact.” *A Northeastern Millennium: History and
Although the Mahican Indians sold Papscanee Island to Kiliaen van Rensselaer in 1637, they resisted selling Cuyper Island to the Dutch until 1660. Dutch farms were soon developed on Papscanee Island, and just to the north of Papscanee Island there is archeological evidence that before 1650 a group of Indians lived in close proximity to the Dutch (probably Dominie Megapolensis) at Crailo. Research suggests that the Mahicans finally sold Cuyper Island and other islands of traditional significance to them during the 1660s, a period of crisis for the Indians of the Northeast in New England as well as the Hudson Valley, coinciding with Jeremias van Rensselaer’s construction of a new farm and estate at Crailo.

**Archaeology for Robert E. Funk** ed. by Christopher Lindner and Edward V. Curtin. *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 12:131-147.

In the 18th century, remains of Fort Orange were clearly visible in the pasture south of the town of Albany, and the celebration in 1788 of the ratification of the Constitution included a ceremony at the site. At the same time, traces of the British hut camp from 1755 were still visible across the Hudson River a short distance south of Albany. Remains of part of Fort Orange in Albany were uncovered in 1970 and 1971. In 1974, directly in front of Crailo State Historic Site, across the river and south of Fort Orange, rescue excavations revealed extensive remains of Indian occupation during the 17th century, providing additional evidence of the Mahicans in that period. Further south, on the east side of the river in the Town of East Greenbush, excavations in 1993 revealed remains of an Indian occupation site from the very early 17th-century. Postmolds from a rectangular structure 36 feet in length and from an ovoid structure about 26 by 36 feet in size were exposed. Two fragments of sheet brass were recovered from a hearth radiocarbon dated at 1699 +/- 50 years. About 1830 human bones were excavated at Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site by a relic hunter. By 1850, so many artifacts had been collected from the Battlefield that no more could be found.


The Fort Orange Archaeological Site, a small single-component archaeological property in the City of Albany, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1993. It is one of 17 properties designated for their significance in documenting the relations between Indians and colonists in the Northeast identified in the Historic Contact Theme Study by the National Park Service. The location of the site was confirmed with excavations that began in October 1970. The excavations continued until March 1971 in mitigation of adverse impact from the construction of Interstate 787. Remains of structures in the Dutch fort, built in 1624, together with thousands of artifacts were uncovered. Below the Dutch occupation strata was found evidence of prehistoric Indian occupation, dated from charcoal at A.D. 960 +/- 60. Surviving
portions of Fort Orange undoubtedly lie buried and preserved under city streets and blocks just west of Interstate 787. Fort Orange is the type site for 17th-century Dutch material in New Netherland, and analysis of the ceramics, glassware, and metal wares contained in this assemblage has provided and retains the potential to provide further information on the nature and effects of technology transfer to native people.


A visual survey of archeological features and deposits in the area along what was once Montgomery Street between Steuben and Columbia Streets in Albany was conducted in September and October 1969. The area was disturbed during construction of Interstate 787, which included the installation of a deeply-buried sewer line under what had been the railroad yard east of Broadway and Union Station since 1853. Buried walls were observed and recorded, and artifacts were retrieved from this area as well as from an area north of Orange Street. There were concentrated deposits of late 18th-century wine bottle fragments as well as entire, thick strata of nothing but ceramic sherds of that period. One such deposit was in the vicinity of Water Street between Columbia and Steuben Streets and consisted of sherds of plain creamware and polychrome hand-decorated pearlware. Another dense deposit was on the east side of Montgomery Street. Soil profiles visible on the sides of the sewer line trench indicated that extensive archeological deposits still remained and have likely survived the construction. The highly concentrated deposits of ceramic sherds are probably from cargoes of ceramics that arrived damaged and were used for street surface fill. Wealthy merchants such as William James, Thomas Gould, and John Jauncey owned waterfront property in this area. Jauncey bought a house north of Columbia Street in 1793, and he had a store house on the south side of Columbia Street. According to Munsell, the row of residences along the east side of Montgomery Street between Steuben and Columbia Streets was known as “quality row” and were occupied by some of the wealthiest families of Albany.


The Schuyler Flatts Archaeological District, a small multi-component archaeological property in the Town of Colonie, was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1993. It is one of the best preserved and most intensively documented historic contact period archaeological sites in upstate New York, meeting the criterion as a property that has “yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance.” Excavations at the site revealed the cellar of the residence built by Arent van Curler in 1643, located near where Adriaen van der Donck had built an unauthorized house in 1642. Other excavations revealed strata of charred wood and fire-reddened soil from the fire of 1759 which badly damaged the house built by Philip Pietersen Schuyler about 1672. An extensive cobblestone courtyard was also uncovered.


The Contact Period village of Kaunameek (or “Kanamoack”) is situated on the Kinderhook creek. The site is named after the Mahican chief who may have established or lived at the village, and is thought to have been occupied from c. 1685 onward. Rev. Sargeant prosthetized to the village inhabitants from 1737 to 1739. In 1743, he was replaced by David Brainerd, who constructed a house in the village but left the following year due to the threat of
war. He and his converts then relocated to Stockbridge; those who did not convert most likely remained (as their community was closely tied to another at Schodack Island). A 1752 map of the area identifies the location of “Caunemeuk” on the south side of the Kinderhook Creek, whose location can now be extrapolated. The site was most likely abandoned during the French and Indian War from 1755-1760.


A preliminary survey of ten archaeologically-sensitive areas within the former stockaded town of Beverwyck and colonial Albany: 1. The Stadt Huys and 17th Century breweries (located within the Plaza at the foot of State Street along the east side of Broadway); 2. The Delavall House, Glenn House, etc. (on the northwest corner of Broadway and Hudson Street); 3. The VanNoorstrant House and a possible brewery (on the northeast corner of Green and Beaver Streets); 4. The Van Valkenburgh House, Pease-Weed House, and Dutch Reformed Church (on the southwest corner of Beaver and Green Streets); 5. The Tontine Coffee House, Mansion Hotel, and Smith Community (located between Broadway, State Street, and James Street); 6. The Viele House, Cuyper House, and Van Benthuyzen House (located within the triangular park north of Maiden Lane between James Street and Broadway, and Pine Street); 7. The Bradt/Folsom/Bogardus House and Kleyn Tavern (located within Tricentennial Park, the entire block between James Street and Broadway from Steuben Street north to Columbia Street); 8. The Matthew Klein House Site (located within open lot on the south side of Columbia Street, formerly number 50 Columbia Street); 9. The Johannes Cuyler, Jr. House Site (located within the south part of the block between Columbia, Steuben, Lodge, and Chapel Streets); and 10. The British Hospital and Lutheran Church (located within the east half of the block of Lodge Street between Pine and former Steuben Streets).


Remains of the Albany almshouse of 1686 were discovered in 1986 during an early phase of construction of a new KeyCorp Bank building. Rescue excavations were conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates, with the assistance of the Archeology Unit of the Bureau of Historic Sites, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Stone foundation walls and a wood plank cellar floor of the structure were uncovered. Part of the structure was a house built in the late 1640s. In the northern section of the site excavation revealed six clearly stratified cultural deposits. The earliest stratum represented the initial occupation as an almshouse in 1686 and included both Dutch clay pipes and English brown-combed buff earthenware sherds, as well as a bear tooth and a clasp knife. This stratum had accumulated above a wood floor laid on the natural clay. On the surface of this stratum lay a pewter spoon. Above this earliest stratum was a succession of wooden floors separated by fill strata. In the excavation of one upper stratum the first fragments of Chinese porcelain and English white salt-glazed stoneware began to appear, in addition to a post-1729 halfpenny. There were also many broken clam and conch shells clearly left from the manufacture of wampum; the almshouse may have functioned as a workhouse. Above this stratum, in an even more recent context, the first creamware began to appear, and this context dates probably from about 1740 to 1760.

The site of the Johannes Ecker house is a cellar hole overgrown with brush. Topographic maps as late 1990, however, show the house. Johannes Ecker (1737-1817) was probably a son of Nicholas Ecker, who settled in Albany County in 1711. The farm evidently passed after 1817 to Margaret, a daughter of Johannes Ecker. The 1790 census lists one slave, but in his will probated in 1817 Johannes gave his “black girl Deena” plus 44 acres to his daughter Catherine. He gave freedom to his “black woman Betsey” on the day of his widow’s death.


Crailo and the Schuyler Flatts are among four 17th-century Dutch sites where excavations have occurred and that represent the Colonie of Rensselaerswyck, which was separate from Fort Orange and Beverwyck.


It is not likely that the “patroon’s garden” of the 17th-century later became Liberty Park. The street pattern around what became Liberty Park existed as early as 1770, and a map dated 1848 clearly identifies the space as a park. It may have been a park as early 1808. As a lot of ground in a busy city on which no new building has been constructed for probably more than 250 years, and perhaps on part of which no building has ever been built, the park is highly unique and potentially very important for archeological resources that exist there. The “patroon’s garden,” where Jeremias van Rensselaer was buried in 1674, was probably a small cemetery that still existed in 1819 near the intersection of Broadway and Pruyn Street.


Construction projects beginning early in the 20th-century prompted the first efforts to conduct archeological excavations at historic sites in Albany. City Historian Cuyler Reynolds in 1926 announced that construction of the Port of Albany on Castle Island would result in a discovery proving that the first fort there was not Fort Nassau, built in 1614, but instead a French fort built in 1640. Apparently nothing was found from any fort, and the legend of the French fort of 1540 is baseless. In 1953 and 1954, as construction of the New York State Thruway proceeded through the Pine Bush area, the discovery of British coins and other artifacts in the vicinity of the Verebergh Tavern site resulted in the excavation of that site by William D. Mohr and Edward Brooks. A tavern was established at the site as early as 1704. The New York State Historic Trust contracted with J. Glenn Little to conduct excavations on the grounds of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site in 1968, and this work revealed foundations of the two flanking rear wings of the mansion, built in 1762. Further excavations at Schuyler Mansion by Historic Trust archeological staff occurred in 1969 in advance of foundation repairs. Also in 1969 the excavation of deep trenches for sewer line construction from behind the Quackenbush house southward to the former railyard area behind Union Station was monitored. This was followed in the winter of 1970 and 1971 by the excavation at the site of Fort Orange. In 1972 and 1973, deep trenches dug under Broadway, State Street, and South Pearl Street for an electrical conduit were monitored, and in 1973 and 1974 the City of
Albany Bureau of Cultural Affairs excavated at the Quackenbush house. Excavations also were conducted at the Isaac Truax, Sr. and Jr., tavern sites in the Pine Bush area. In the late 1970s extensive testing occurred at the rear of the Schuyler Mansion prior to grading and construction of the parking lot. Excavations after 1980 included work at Cherry Hill, a second tavern site in the Verrebergh area of the Pine Bush, the less than adequate excavation of the Dormitory Authority block, the Lutheran Church burial ground under South Pearl Street, and the Dean Street Parking Garage site.


Vacant lots in Albany, where city buildings that once filled those lots have been demolished, offer opportunities for archeological research in advance of future construction. While those vacant areas are presently used for much-needed parking space, it is only a matter of time before new buildings are erected on those lots, even if the new buildings are nothing more than more efficient parking garages. A survey of the vacant lots in the city within the area enclosed by the Albany stockade of the 1690s reveals at least five open areas where archeological excavations that would make significant contributions to research could be conducted. One large parking lot is north of State Street, and four open lots are south of State Street. Of the four lots south of State Street, two are east of Green Street and two are west of Green Street. The buildings constructed in the 19th century on those lots did not necessarily disturb or destroy all archeological evidence from the 17th- and 18th-centuries. Research by Joel Munsell, Jonathan Pearson, and Janny Venema has formed the basis for more detailed analysis of the history of each parking lot. The two lots south of State Street and east of Green Street were parts of the patents granted originally to Sander Leendertsen Glen and to Jacob Jansen van Noorstrant. One of the two lots west of Green Street was occupied apparently by Lambert van Valkenburgh in the 17th century. The other lot was occupied probably by Jacobus Hilton, a “wampum maker,” in the 1730s; test excavations on the lot in 1999 actually revealed extensive evidence of wampum making there. The fifth open lot is north of State Street and west of Broadway. The map of early property owners published by Pearson and Munsell is useful as a basis for research on the history of the lot, but their information needs to be verified. This large lot may have included parts of original patents to Carsten Fredricksen, Adriaen Jansen van Ilpendam, Gerrit Jansen Cuyper, Michiel Ryckerts, Thomas Sandersen, Albert Gerritsen, and Pieter Loockermans. The great fire of 1793 started in a building that stood on this lot. [Note: See the abstract for the 2013 publication of this article for corrections.]


New technology and sources of information enable the identification of previously unidentified artifacts. A coin has been identified that was excavated in 1972 from an 18th-century soil layer deep under State Street in Albany. It is among other 17th- and 18th-century artifacts recovered during excavations for a trench to install new electrical conduits under Albany streets. The coin is from Brazil and is dated 1736. It is a 10-réis coin with a prominent X on one side, and it has two holes in one edge to enable a person to wear the coin on a string so that it always faced forward. It was found in the street directly opposite the lot on which stood the home of Albany merchant Simon Veeder (1709-1786) and later of his son Volkert. The Roman numeral X on one side could have had a different meaning to the wearer, since American Indians and enslaved Africans often believed the symbol “X” had supernatural power. Volkert Veeder, in fact, owned one slave in 1800.
It was appropriate that Albany celebrated its 300th anniversary in 1986 at the same time excavations occurred at the KeyCorp site in the city. It was the site of a house built probably by Volkert Jansen Douw possibly as early as 1647 on the south side of the Rutten Kill in the area that would become Beverwyck. It became the almshouse for Albany in 1685. Stone foundation walls and a wood plank cellar floor were revealed. There was extensive evidence of wampum making, probably after the structure became an almshouse. South of this site, on Beaver Street, burials in the original Dutch Church burial ground were discovered and excavated. Other excavations were started but not necessarily completed in Albany in 1987. At 104 State Street a trash deposit was discovered that was perhaps left by Myndert Harmensen van den Bogart, a gun stock maker and trader. At 540 Broadway test excavations revealed Dutch artifacts, such as a fragment of a delft (faience) plate decorated in blue with a fruit design. It came from the lot that was the site of the house of Teunis Teunissen de Metselaer. Farther north, on the east side of Broadway, test excavations revealed features with glass trade beads as well as leather and bark possibly from early tanneries. At Crailo State Historic Site excavations in 1988 and 1990 provided evidence of occupation of the site in the 17th century. A fragment of pre-1650 Dutch tin-glazed majolica indicated evidence of occupation of the site probably by Dominie Megapolensis. In 1993 excavations south of Albany east of the river on Cuyper Island revealed remains of a Mahican Indian settlement probably from the very early 17th century. In 1996 there were excavations that produced colonial Dutch artifacts in the block on the east side of Broadway north of Maiden Lane. To the north, in 1998, on the east side of Broadway at 625 Broadway, excavations uncovered pre-1664 features, including glass debris and a wood-lined cellar left by Juriaen Teunissen Tappen, a glazier and trader there in the 1650s. This location may have been just beyond the north limit of Beverwyck, the jurisdiction established by Pieter Stuyvesant around Fort Orange in 1648. Nearby, a little farther north on the east side of Broadway, excavations in 2000 revealed remains of another house with a wooden cellar together with evidence of a mid-17th-century brickyard. In 1998 another entire block east of Dean Street and south of Maiden Lane uncovered the entire 18th-century waterfront of Albany as well as remains of the late-17th-century stockade wall along the river. Artifacts from the site include a Gunter quadrant dated 1650. Excavations at the Van Buren farm site near the north end of Papscanee Island in 2001 revealed a wood-lined cellar with wall footings of stone dating probably before the flood of 1648.

The excavations in 1970 and 1971 of part of the site, now under I-787, revealed an area within the east curtain wall of the fort as well as part of the south moat and a ravelin added in 1648. The area of excavation was about 2,700 square feet and measured 170 feet in length, north to south. The excavation area was 10 feet wide at the north end and 30 feet wide at the south end. There was evidence of three wood-lined cellars of houses and the foundation of a probable guardhouse from the 1624 fort adjacent to a packed entrance pathway.

Archeological studies of the Oneida, Onondaga, and Mohawk Iroquois published between 1976 and 1995, were followed by excavations revealing Mahican sites of the 16th and 17th
centuries in the Albany and mid-Hudson regions. The New York State Historic Trust excavated part of the site of Fort Orange in 1970 and 1971, and in 1986 a significant project in Albany was excavation of the KeyCorp site dating from the 17th century. Other excavation projects at colonial sites in Albany followed with work for the New York State Dormitory Authority, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Dean Street Parking Garage. In 2001 remains of a mid-17th-century brickyard and a complete 18th-century distillery were uncovered. Outside of Albany excavations have occurred at the site of the Daniel Pieter Winne house, firmly dated to 1751 through dendrochronology.


A stoneware fragment excavated at Crailo in 1993 is decorated with a stamped circle, inside of which are an incised scallop pattern and a face. This “man in the moon” face is highlighted in blue. The reverse, or interior, has a typical dark reddish-brown Albany slip glaze. There is some possibility this is a fragment of a jug made in Troy by partners Branch Green and James Morgan, Jr., between 1799 and 1805. In 1805, they left Troy and established a pottery at Old Bridge, New Jersey; their stoneware made at Old Bridge was noted especially for incised designs such as the “man in the moon” face.


Fort Orange became Fort Albany with the English taking of the fort in 1664. The Dutch town of Beverwyck became Albany, which received its English charter in 1686. Architecture demonstrates the continuity of traditional Dutch styles in the English colony through the remainder of the 17th-century and well into the 18th-century, while archeological evidence from sites occupied before and after 1664 provides insight into the actual process of cultural change and the transition from Dutch to English material culture. White clay pipes made by numerous Amsterdam pipe makers were shipped to Dutch New Netherland by the thousands both for trade with the Indians and for local consumption as well. A single Amsterdam pipe maker, Edward Bird, dominated the export of pipes to North America by 1650. Pipes with his EB mark had the bulbous-shaped bowl that was typical of the 17th century. However, beginning in the 1640s, some of the pipes excavated at Fort Orange had heel-less bowls with a unique straight-sided elbow shape. Archeological evidence at sites in the Netherlands and in North America shows that these pipes were made specifically for the American trade, of a pattern probably invented by Bird. Other Amsterdam pipe makers also soon produced pipes of this design for export to America. The shipment of both styles of pipes to America from Amsterdam continued after 1664, and as Gouda gradually replaced Amsterdam as the center for Dutch pipe making, the export of both styles to America continued into the late 1670s. At the same time, Bristol, England, was becoming the center of English pipe making and the export of pipes to America. Bristol pipe makers such as Llewellyn Evans began deliberately copying the popular Dutch heel-less pipes for trade specifically to America. Robert Tippet of Bristol next continued to make the heel-less pipes in the late 17th-century, and his son and his grandson continued to send many thousands of heel-less pipes to America through the remainder of the colonial period. Heel-less pipes with the RT or R TIP PET mark became as ubiquitous at colonial American sites in the 18th century as the Dutch pipes marked EB in the 17th century. They were typical English pipes, but they had Dutch origins.

In 1993 a new park, Island Creek Park, was opened close to what was the north end of Castle Island and the probable site of Fort Nassau in 1614. Excavation by machine in 2001 of three test units through deep fill deposits reached depths of between 6.9 feet (2.09 meters) and 13 feet (3.95 meters) below the ground surface. A fourth test unit was excavated to a depth of 8.8 feet (2.68 meters). No evidence of the remains of Fort Nassau was observed. During excavations at the site of Fort Orange during the winter of 1970 and 1971 parts of three shallow house cellars built of wood planks were uncovered. Remains of a fourth structure with a shallow brick foundation and the remains of the south moat and a possible ravelin were also discovered. A hard-packed clay pathway, evidently connected to the original entrance of the fort, was also discovered. The east curtain wall, entrance, and two eastern bastions were destroyed during construction of a concrete crashwall in the 1930s. A large portion of the wood-lined cellar of the Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh house was uncovered built adjacent to the edge of the south moat. A space of 2 or 3 feet between the upper edge of the moat and the Van Doesburgh cellar must have been the location of the south wall of Fort Orange. There was no line of stockade post holes. Instead, the wall of the fort must have been constructed of large, horizontally-laid logs.


The Beam-Dusenbury house in the Town of Brunswick is one of the few colonial-era stone houses in Rensselaer County. Adam Beam and his family moved to the farm about 1761 from Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, and they likely occupied a house which was already built. It is possible the house had been constructed about 1724 by Teunis Viele, a cousin of Adam Beam’s father-in-law. If the house was built as early as 1724, careful archeological testing might provide evidence in support of this interpretation.


Copies of the report on the excavations at Crailo State Historic Site from 1974 to 1994, with detailed analysis and interpretation, will be in the New York State Library collection and will be available on-line in pdf for download from the State Library catalogue.

2013 History and Archeology of the Martin Gehler, Jr., Site (A08313.000261), Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, New York, Waterford, New York.

Excavations beginning in 1959 produced artifacts indicating the occupation of the site began about 1775 or 1780. Of Palatine German origin, the Gehlers migrated to Schodack from Dutchess County, and initially during the Revolutionary War they were Loyalists. Fragments of an engine-turned lead-glazed red earthenware teapot excavated at this site, occupied beginning about 1775 or 1780, are identical to fragments of a teapot of this type excavated at Crailo State Historic Site. A piece of a porcelain cup has overglaze enamel decoration in red, green, brown, and pink and is a good example of porcelain with famille rose decoration, dating from about 1750 to 1800. The shape of a handle from a two-tined fork is pistol-handled, which was a style gradually phased out in the 1770s. On the bone handle, with two pins between them, are scratched three X marks, which were intended to personalize this object for a specific individual. A clock mechanism, probably German, dates from about 1780 to 1820. Coins include a 1781 Spanish real and a 1787 Connecticut coin.
2013  *A Short History of the Henry Hoff Site, Waterbury Road, Town of Schodack, Rensselaer County, New York*, Cohoes, New York.

A visit in 1965 to the Henry Hoff site, located in the Town of Schodack near the Valatie Kill, revealed the presence of a well-preserved cellar hole with dry-laid stone walls intact on all four sides. By 2013, the walls had caved in, but the site is otherwise an intact archeological resource. A Rensselaerswyck survey map of about 1790 shows the house located on the farm of James Peters. Documentary evidence that Peters actually settled on or occupied his farm has not been found, and his identity is difficult to establish. The farm surveyed for Peters was instead leased in 1791 to Thomas Wallace, a merchant from Dutchess County. Wallace’s wife was the niece of Thomas Tobias, who by 1794 owned the farm. Tobias also paid rent to the Van Rensselaers. Henry Hoff, who was married in 1824 in Nassau, next settled on the farm and lived there with his wife until they sold it in 1866.


The research by Janny Venema has completely revised the identification by Pearson of the early property owners in the block north of State Street and west of Broadway. Evert Jansen Wendell was granted the patent north of State Street and east of James Street. One of the lots in this patent passed to Simon Veeder (1709-1786), whose tax assessment in 1767 was one of the highest in the city. To the east of the Wendell patent was that of Michiel Ryckertsen, a gunstock maker from France, and this lot was subsequently owned by Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh, also a gunstock maker. The patent next to the east, numbers 49 through 55 State Street, was later acquired in 1671 by Philip Pietersen Schuyler, a gunstock maker, who in 1679 sold it to Maria van Rensselaer, widow of Jeremias van Rensselaer. The house there became her home, evidently at numbers 53 and 55 State Street, and later it was the home and store of Leonard Gansevoort, behind which, in a stable, the great fire of 1793 was started. Along Broadway, land within the open lot in this block was patented to Willem Jansen Stoll and to Dirck Bensingh. The block has a complicated history, but important archeological evidence remains probably exist in some areas of the open lot.


Excavations beginning in the early 1970s at sites including Fort Orange and the Schuyler Flatts showed that life in New Netherland was no crude struggle for survival, but instead that the Dutch had managed to import the essentials of their “Golden Age” material culture largely intact. For the first time since Van Laer translated and published Dutch documents in the 1930s, scholars were able to study and understand the Dutch experience in a new way. One hypothesis is that in New Netherland, more than in any other of all the Dutch colonies worldwide, the Dutch in New Netherland were able to establish a way of life that most closely resembled that of the home country in the 17th century. Among the few archeological sites of New Netherland that have been set aside, preserved, and protected from new development are the Schuyler Flatts and Crailo State Historic Site. Any further excavation at those sites should be conducted only with proper funding and based on specific research questions, with excavations carefully limited to what is necessary to address the questions and designed with regard to managing the total remaining non-renewable resource. Deep testing in 2001 at a location believed to be near the site of Fort Nassau on Castle Island failed to reveal any indication of Dutch occupation. The site may still exist deeply buried, but locating it will be physically and technically very difficult and expensive. Artifacts found in large quantities at
sites and which can be easily categorized by type or maker, such as glass trade beads and clay tobacco pipes, offer important opportunities for research. The trade beads excavated at Fort Orange, for example, when quantified by type, reveal the wave of impact of these trade goods at Indian sites progressively from site to site westward. Among the makers of the clay pipes found at Fort Orange, identified by the marks on their pipes, is found a group of at least a dozen who were English and emigrated to Amsterdam before 1640. Most of this group, as well as some Dutch pipe makers, were in some way related or interconnected to each other. Their marks are on about 40 percent of the pipe bowls from Fort Orange, suggesting a loose partnership rather than competition. An anomaly from the archeological evidence is the extensive use of plank-lined wooden cellars, a form of construction not generally observed at sites in the Netherlands. Another anomaly is the observed in the ceramics excavated at Fort Orange, where there are high percentages of expensive tin-glazed majolica and delft (Dutch faience). In the Netherlands, utilitarian red earthenware ceramics are usually predominant from excavations.


Excavations at the site of Fort Orange and in Beverwyck have produced a wealth of information about the Dutch material culture of colonial New Netherland. Identifying some types of artifacts present a challenge when paintings or documents do not provide answers. Gordon DeAngelo, with his extensive knowledge of trade artifacts recovered from contact-period Indian sites in central New York State, was a most valuable resource in identifying trade axes, coins, lead bale seals, and clay pipes. He identified coins excavated at Fort Orange and elsewhere and the mark on a clay pipe excavated at a Beverwyck site. Two Dutch *duits* were excavated at Fort Orange. One, dated 1628, was thought initially to be from Gelderland, but it is more likely from Overijssel. The other *duit* is dated 1627 and is marked HOLLANDIA. A third coin had been cut in half and was especially difficult to identify. Gordon finally was able to identify it as an English James I sixpence struck in Ireland probably in 1605. Another *duit*, dated 1624, was recovered from a Rensselaerswyck site near Crailo and was identified by Gordon as a *duit* from Utrecht. A heel-less Dutch pipe that was found has a “post horn” maker’s mark, a mark not previously seen. It was found at the Quackenbush Square site in Albany by Hartgen Archeological Associates and was identified by Gordon as dating from the 1670s. It was made probably by Abraham Danielsz van Hoorn of Gouda.


Archeologists with the Division for Historic Preservation in May 1974 monitored the construction of a sewer line in a deep trench under Riverside Avenue in front of Fort Crailo. It was a 30-inch pipe laid in a trench 20 to 30 feet deep. The first day of monitoring, human bones were unfortunately lifted out of the trench in a single backhoe bucketful of soil. It was determined they were from a burial at the eastern edge of Riverside Avenue precisely in line with the north wall of Fort Crailo, 39 feet, 6 inches westward from the northwest corner. Examination of the remains at the State Museum revealed that they were from a young male between the ages of 20 and 40 years, probably not an Indian. On the opposite side of Riverside Avenue a stratified trash pit was discovered. It was filled probably soon after 1790 or 1800, probably when John J. van Rensselaer made repairs to Fort Crailo. At least 13 other pits were
discovered and recorded during the monitoring process. They contained a mixture of prehistoric projectile points, net sinkers, Middle Woodland and Late Woodland Indian pottery, delft tile fragments, mussel shell fragments, mammal bones, fish bones, the base of a square case bottle, a roemer glass prunt, Dutch majolica sherd, a brass lace tip, an iron Jew's harp, a glass bead, and Dutch pipe fragments. The European artifacts and the Late Woodland Indian pottery suggest a period of occupation in the second quarter of the 17th century, when Dominie Megapolensis lived at Crailo. The trench also revealed a line of 19th-century pilings that marked the original east shoreline of the Hudson River, before fill was deposited westward to the present east shoreline. Fort Crailo was thus once much closer to the river and was located on a rounded point of land projecting into the river.


A layer of crushed stone was laid down as a ground surface at Hyde Hall in the 19th-century to the rear of the house. This ground surface treatment is similar to the evidence of the 18th- or early 19th-century ground surface that has been uncovered at Schuyler Mansion.


Trenches were excavated at Crailo State Historic Site to accommodate new electrical conduits, revealing data on occupation of the site from the 17th- to the 19th-centuries. The foundation of an 18th-century rear wing was found. It is believed the site was the location of a house built early in the 1660s by Jeremias van Rensselaer.


The rich, fertile, alluvial flat land of Papscanee Island on the east side of the Hudson River below Fort Orange was noticed by Dutch traders and was described in the book *Nieuwve Wereldt* by Johannes de Laet in 1625. Among the colonists who arrived in the new Colonie of Rensselaerswijk in 1635 was Cornelis Maesen van Buren, who was contracted by Kiliaen van Rensselaer in 1636 to establish a farm on Papscanee Island. Van Buren and his wife died in the flood of 1648, but his farm was taken over and operated by other tenant farmers until perhaps 1688. Two sites have been located near the north end of Papscanee Island that were probably occupied by the Van Burens and their successors. Artifacts from these sites include glass beads and other trade goods but also Dutch ceramics and other artifacts of the 17th-century. Excavations at one of the sites in 2001 revealed evidence of a wood-lined cellar and stone footings. It was possible to distinguish a pre-1648 flood deposit from later occupation. In addition, the site of the farmhouse of Teunis Dircksen van Vechten has been located.


[Reprint of an article published under the same title in *de Halve Maen*, Volume 77, Number 4, Winter 2004.]

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Hutton, George V.

The Fort Orange excavations revealed evidence of some of the earliest known use of brick in the Hudson Valley. A dry-laid brick foundation from the 1630s was revealed. [Note: This early red brick foundation actually may date from the original construction of Fort Orange in 1624.]

Jacobs, Jaap

Information on commodities for trading imported to New Netherland is provided by archeological excavations. Glass beads find little mention in the archives but come to light to a greater extent in excavations.


The village of Beverwijck was established in 1652 within the immediate vicinity of Fort Orange. Among the earliest buildings constructed at the site was the guardhouse (kortegaard), which was built by 1654. The plans for a blockhouse (gebinten) were drafted in 1655, and was constructed the following year. Following a battle with the Esopus Indians in 1659, the Dutch planned and built a stockade later the same year. By 1670, the stockade had fallen into disrepair. In 1715, the blockhouse was replaced with a stone building.

Janowitz, Meta F.

Traditional Dutch food-ways were modified in New Amsterdam through changes in use of European domestic plants and animals; a parallel trend is observed in neighboring British colonies. 17th Century Dutch archeological assemblages commonly include: coarse earthenware pots (grapen) and skillets (steelpan or bakpan), and faience and majolica plates. All of these elements are also found in Dutch-American assemblages. According to Adriaen Van der Donck’s *A Description of the New Netherlands*, the Dutch preferred English cattle and pigs (due to their resiliency), and cared for other European livestock including: goats, sheep, chicken, domesticated rabbits, turkeys, geese, and duck. The Dutch also consumed local wildlife including buffalo, raccoon, beaver, wild rabbit, deer, wild turkeys, as well as coastal fish and shellfish, e.g. sheepshead, blackfish, striped bass, salmon, drum, sturgeon, weak-fish, herrings, and halibut, etc. The Dutch grew European plants such as cabbages, parsnips, carrots, lettuce, onions, beets, radishes, and adopted local squashes. The Dutch cultivated European grains, wheat and rye, in addition to local maize. After the British annexation of the colony in 1664, Dutch ceramic types remained distinctively Dutch, as did their food-ways.

Jones, Karen M., ed.

A silver shoe buckle marked C-O-B has been found in excavations near the site of the tavern and house built sometime after 1756 by Isaac Truax (1726-1808), located in the Albany Pine
Barrens between Albany and Schenectady, 12 miles northwest of Albany. The excavations were sponsored by the American Pine Barrens Society, Inc. The tavern had a reputation as a meeting place for Tories through the Loyalist activities of Isaac’s brother, Jacob, between 1777 and 1780. The maker of this shoe buckle was Charles Oliver Bruff, a New York City silversmith who fled to Nova Scotia as a Loyalist in 1783 or 1784.

Jordan, Stacey and Carmel Schrire

The incidence and nature of coarse earthenwares recovered from Dutch colonial sites in the South African Cape contrast with those qualities in ceramics found at other Dutch colonial sites. Enormous amounts of utilitarian pottery were produced in the Netherlands, and European red earthenware alone constitutes 39 percent of the excavated ceramic assemblage at Fort Orange, the West India Company post in New Netherland. Only meager amounts of such pottery were exported to the Cape. New Netherland was the destination for West India Company ships, and there was no disadvantage to carrying mundane goods like earthenware to New Netherland to exchange for furs. For the East India Company, however, it was more cost-efficient to produce coarse earthenwares at the Cape station and to save the space in the outbound ships for the goods needed for the lucrative trade with the East.

Kaktins, Mara and Sharon Allitt

To date, the Albany almshouse and the New York City Almshouse are the only two colonial American almshouse sites that have been excavated. The artifacts excavated from the Philadelphia almshouse privy represent the period of almshouse operation from 1732 to 1767. Almshouse inmates were assigned task work to produce income. The recycling of old pewter that was sold for scrap to be melted down and reused may have been one form of task work at the almshouse. Four pewter spoon fragments, some partially melted, were found in the privy. A pewter spoon was found in excavations at the New York City almshouse, and two pewter spoons were recovered from the Albany almshouse site. It is unusual to find pewter at archeological sites. Valuable pewter would not have been discarded. A total of 18 percent of the total identified vessels in the privy are creamware, porcelain, and white salt-glazed stoneware teawares (teacups, teapots, and saucers). At the New York City almshouse site, 18 percent of the tableware ceramics were teawares, and high-status ware such as porcelain and scratch-blue white salt-glazed stoneware were present at the Albany almshouse site.

Kelley, J.M., Ltd.

Photographic documentation of the Daniel Pieter Winne House in the Town of Bethlehem.
Archeology has recently become a valuable tool in uncovering information about colonial Dutch culture and history in America. Archeological excavations are undertaken at sites where construction is or will be occurring in order to rescue information. This is necessary because the principal Dutch settlement sites are mostly located in repeatedly rebuilt center city areas. Most of this work has been done so recently and under such pressure that the field reports have not yet been published nor have the significance of the discoveries been assessed.

Discoveries at the site of Fort Orange in Albany include the moat of the fort and traders’ houses in the fort built with board-lined cellars. Excavations in downtown Albany in the streets revealed some of the city’s earliest water pipes, part of a system dating from 1678. Other excavations have occurred at the site of the substantial country home of the Douw family at Wolvenhoeck, in Rensselaer, and at the Flatts, where Arent van Curler built a house in 1643.

Archeological investigations are revealing entirely unsuspected dimensions of Dutch material culture, especially from the 17th-century, at sites in Albany and other places. Discoveries at rural locations include remains of an 18th-century distillery at Wolvenhoeck and ruins of farmhouses at the Schuyler Flatts. In Albany remains of Fort Orange and the 17th-century town water system have been uncovered. Since reports on these projects have not yet been published, their effects on future studies cannot be accurately estimated. Charlotte Wilcoxen has recently pointed out the significance of Dutch majolica, which has not found its way into American museums. Nevertheless, the numerous fragments found at Fort Orange and at sites in tidewater Virginia reflect the wide range of Dutch trade, which prompted the restrictive British Acts of Trade of 1651 and 1660. The same traders at Fort Orange who complained bitterly of economic hardship were eating from elaborately decorated dishes and drinking from fine glassware, attempting to maintain their accustomed European standard of living in the colonial wilderness.

Kenny, Peter

Article about the Daniel Pieter Winne House, formerly in Bethlehem.

Kirk, Matthew

A tremendous fire swept through three city blocks in August 1797, consuming 216 structures. No one was killed, but nearly 1,000 people were left homeless. Evidence of this fire was an important component in the excavations at the site of the new Department of Environmental Conservation building in Albany in 1998. Remains of three pre-1797 structures were identified at what became 611 to 613 Broadway. One was the house of John Bogart, on a lot sold after the fire to Philip J. Schuyler. Remains of the house consisted of a stone foundation, brick and mortar exterior walls, charred wood flooring, and interior walls, and a possible fireplace base. A small pit feature in an interior wall contained remains of a small wood barrel. The function of this feature is undetermined, but artifacts within it included a bone-handled knife, chain links, an axe head, a well hook, a crushed pocket watch, and ceramic sherds. About 50 feet northeast of the house was a wood-lined privy which had also burned. A mean ceramic date of 1794 was calculated from the 277 ceramic sherds in the privy. Ceramics from within the Bogart house include French faience, English delft, Chinese porcelain, white salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, Jackfield ware, engine-turned red earthenware, Westerwald stoneware, and decorated pearlware. The decorated pearlware included fragments with blue and brown underglaze transfer printing. There are fragments of wine and case bottles, decorated wine glasses, and a Turlington’s “Balsam of Life” medicine bottle dated 1754. Personal items include decorated shoe buckles, Revolutionary War buttons marked USA, jewelry, thimbles, fine-tooth lice combs, and a broken calumet pipe carved from red stone. The red stone pipe is inscribed “Johannes De Graef Syn.” Such pipes are associated with the Indian trade.


Maryland-born Stewart Dean, an Albany merchant, was celebrated for his voyages to China from 1784 to 1787, in 1797 and 1798, and in 1800 and 1801. Excavations prior to construction of a new parking garage for the State University Construction Fund revealed remains of Dean’s house built in 1776, several of his warehouses, his waterfront wharf, and his well. The foundation of his house was built of cut stone laid on a wooden footing consisting of two parallel wooden planks above large timber footers. The east wall of the foundation rested on the wooden posts of the former Albany riverfront stockade wall. The well was constructed in 1786 near the kitchen wing of the house. The fill within the well consisted of household trash and the contents of chamber pots but also many items that Dean brought back from his Far East travels such as tea, silk, and porcelain. Two types of small Chinese cricket cages were found at the site. A significant amount of Chinese porcelain was found in the well. Most of the porcelain was either underglaze blue-decorated or plain white with overglaze polychrome decoration. Common creamware and pearlware comprised the majority of the ceramics in the lower portion of the well. Garbage bones were mostly sheep or goat, with lesser numbers of cow, pig, and bird bones. Fish bones included those of cod, salmon, bass, and sturgeon. Seeds, pits, and rinds from the well are those of apples, figs, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, dock, elderberries, grapes, huckleberries, peaches, plums, pumpkins, squash, raspberries, watermelons, strawberries, and coconuts.
Kleeberg, John M.

Artifacts from excavations in Albany in August 2001 north of the Albany stockade include a 17th-century Dutch half *duit*, a 1749 British farthing, five British George II halfpence, and a Hibernia halfpenny from the 1720s. In 1972 on State Street near James Street, a 1736 coin from Brazil was excavated. Excavations at the Schuyler Flatts site in 1971 and 1972 produced a British William III halfpenny and three British halfpence, one dated 1738 and two dated 1749, with evidence of burning. In addition, a Hibernia halfpenny dated 1723, a Connecticut copper dated 1787, and a French colonial nine-*denier* coin dated 1721 with the La Rochelle mint mark were recovered in the Flatts excavations. At Crailo State Historic Site, excavations have produced a Massachusetts Pine Tree shilling dated 1652 and a British halfpenny dated 1774. Coins from nearby Douw’s Point excavated in 1971 include a British halfpenny dated 1720, a Hibernia halfpenny of 1723, and a Connecticut copper dated 1787. From the Papscanee Island area there is Dutch two-*stuiver* coin from Utrecht. At the site of Fort Orange, a Dutch two-*stuiver* coin from Holland dated 1626, a James I farthing token of the “Harrington” type dating 1613 to 1614, a George I halfpenny, a George II halfpenny dated 1736, and a coin dated 1628 with a hole in the middle were excavated.

Kochan, James L.

Illustrates a Brunswick bayonet captured at the Battle of Bennington which was a copy from a Prussian pattern in use since the 1730s. Also illustrates a Brunswick musket captured in the battle which differs from the Prussian form more commonly associated with the Brunswickers, known from other captured muskets of the battle and from fragments excavated on the Battlefield.

Kuhn, Robert D.

The Cromwell Site may be “Onekahoncka,” the Mohawk village that was visited by Harmen Meyndertsz van den Bogaert in 1634-1635. European trade goods comprise less than 1% of the assemblage, and include: five scraps of brass (recycled from a brass kettle), three glass beads (IIa1 and IVk3), a lead fragment, and two cut nails (one of which appears to be intrusive). Other artifacts found at the site include: pottery, ceramic pipes, chert and quartz projectile points and other lithics, ground stone artifacts, other stone materials (e.g. feldspar), shell and bone artifacts, and subsistence remains.
Annotated Bibliography of New Netherland Archeology
Rensselaer and Albany Counties, New York

Landmark Archaeology, Inc.


A Phase II investigation of five archaeological sites within the Van Dyke-Spinney Senior Residential Project, No. 265 Van Dyke Road, in the Town of Bethlehem, for which fieldwork occurred from July through August 2006. The Bradt-Oliver Historic Site, previously identified by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc. during a Phase I archaeological survey in 2005, underwent further investigation. The farmstead consists of an 18th Century stone house (with 20th Century addition) and two outbuildings. Although ownership of the property could not be traced through deed records prior to 1859, the structure is shown on the 1767 Bleecker map associated with the name Adrian Bratt. By 1854, the property is associated with a J. Oliver. In 1859, Peter H. Bradt acquired a right-of-way through the property of Valentine Oliver. In 1878, John H. and Hester Bradt sold the property to another family. The house has been continuously occupied to the present time. The artifact assemblage found at the site is consistent with archival research and dates from the 18th Century to the modern era. However, Landmark did not determine the site to be eligible for listing on the National Register, and did not recommend any further archaeological work on the site.

[Annotator’s Note: Arch Tech (2008) identified an 18th-Century structure at 421 Orchard Street as the homestead of Adrian Bratt as it appears on the 1767 Bleecker map; the property was later transferred to the Slingerland and Fisher families. Although the structure was identified as dating to the 18th Century, the artifacts recovered from the survey area date to the 19th and 20th Centuries. It has been unresolved as to whether or not the structure at 265 Van Dyke Road or 421 Orchard Street was the ancestral home of Adrian Bratt; it is also possible that both structures were constructed in the 18th Century on the same tract of land that was owned by Adrian Bratt].


Report on the Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed water line in the Town of Poestenkill for which fieldwork occurred from May to June 2006. The survey identified a total of eight sites (seven historic sites and one precontact stray find). Historic Site 1, located in front of a historic structure at 148 Plank Road, dates to the late 18th Century and later. Artifacts found at the site include: creamware, black-glazed redware, refined earthenware, a kaolin pipe stem fragment, a fragment of clear flat glass, a hand-wrought nail, and rusted metal objects. The remaining six historic sites date to the 19th Century. The Hoag Site and the Union Hotel Site were further explored with a Phase II site evaluation that occurred from June to July 2008. Although the Hoag Site is attributed to the mid-19th Century, its artifact assemblage contains material dating from the late 18th Century to the present, e.g.: pearlware, whiteware, ironstone, stoneware, redware, yellowware, refined earthenware, a ceramic game token, glass, metal, kaolin pipe fragments, animal bone, brick fragments, shell fragments, and plastic. Similarly, the Union Hotel Site is designated as 19th Century although its artifact assemblage contains much earlier material, e.g.: creamware, pearlware, whiteware, Jackfield-like, ironstone, porcelain, semi-porcelain, slipware, stoneware, terracotta, redware, refined earthenware, glass, metal, kaolin pipe fragments, animal bone, brick fragments, shell fragments, and plastic. Neither the Hoag Site nor the Union Hotel Site were recommended for National Register eligibility.

Report on the Phase II site evaluation of eight sites that were initially identified during the Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed water line in the Town of Poestenkill, for which fieldwork occurred from May to June 2009. Five of the sites contain artifacts dating to the 18th Century; the remaining three date to the 19th Century. Site A08310.000010 comprises three discrete areas, the first of which dates to the 19th Century. Area 2 is located within the front yard area of two structures (9-11 Main Street) that appear on historic maps dating from the mid- to late-19th Century. The artifact assemblage, however, suggests an occupation as early as the 18th Century. Artifacts found include: pearlware, creamware, refined earthenware, whiteware, redware, glass, hand-wrought nails, machine-cut nails, wire nails, kaolin tobacco pipe fragments, animal bones and teeth (of horse, sheep, and pig), a leather button, and various plastic items. The integrity of the site is compromised by a roadside ditch that has since been filled, and as such, no further work was recommended for Area 2. Area 3 is located within the front yard area of two structures, a residence and a blacksmith shop, which appear on mid- to late-19th Century maps; today only one structure remains extant (at 11 Plank Road). Artifacts found include: Creamware, pearlware, whiteware, tin-enamede coarse earthenware (c. 1640), Nottingham-type stoneware (c. 1700), Jackfield-like earthenware (c. 1740), glass, machine-cut nails, kaolin tobacco pipe fragments, as well as animal bone fragments with butcher marks. Site A08310.000011 is located at 148 Plank Road, which is not illustrated on any historic maps from the area. The artifact assemblage includes: creamware, refined earthenware, pearlware, whiteware, stoneware, white salt-glazed stoneware, redware, glass, wire nails, and kaolin tobacco pipe fragments. Site A08310.000012 is associated with an extant historic structure at 1647 Spring Avenue. Artifacts recovered from the site include: stoneware (one with Albany slip), creamware, pearlware, whiteware, terracotta, refined earthenware (one Jackfield-like), redware, porcelain, glass, metal fragments (including nails, a hoe blade, a buckle fragment, and an unidentified pewter item - possibly a utensil handle), kaolin pipe fragments, animal bones with butcher marks, as well as animal teeth. Site A08310.000013 is located on the eastern corner of Weatherwax Road and Route 355, and is associated with the foundation of a historic structure shown on mid- to late 19th Century maps. The site includes a feature constructed of handmade bricks (unspecified color), and an artifact assemblage including: pearlware, terracotta, whiteware, refined earthenware, stoneware, redware, semi-porcelain, porcelain, Jackfield and Jackfield-like, white granite china, yellowware, coarse earthenware, slipware, ironstone, glass (primarily flat glass as well as two glass buttons), machine-cut nails, wire nails, two brass buttons, a brass cufflink button (c. 1726-1776), kaolin pipe fragments, animal bones with butcher marks, as well as animal teeth. Site A08310.000015 is associated with a historic structure that is still extant at 208 Weatherwax Road. Two stone features were found that are associated with a retaining wall in the front yard of the house, parallel and next to Weatherwax Road. Artifacts found include: creamware, pearlware, redware, stoneware, terracotta, ironstone, whiteware, glass (including one prescription style bottle dating to c. 1820-1870), machine-cut nails, one wire nail, and animal bones. No further work was recommended for any of these sites, nor were they found to be National Register Eligible.

Latham, Roy

In 1928, two Contact Period burials were uncovered during a construction project on Burial Point, Long Island. Both burials are associated with the East Hampton settlement, from c. 1650 to 1750. The first burial contained the remains of an adult male with wood, nails, textiles, and shoe buttons; the second burial contained the remains of another adult male with leather, fabrics, and bark on the bottom. The latter burial contained 6,000 wampum beads that formed a broad belt or vest over the chest of the person. The beads were arranged in alternating groups of white (from Whelk) and purple (from Quahog) in color; a portion of the beads were worked kaolin trade pipe stems. Other burial items included 32 shoe-button type copper buttons coated black, three flat pewter buttons with square shanks, 20 small tubular beads on one strand, small brass and shell disk beads, glass beads of various sizes and colors, part of a brass ring and a small brass chain, as well as a bore knife handle (for which the iron blade had since decomposed). The latter burial also included a dog burial with red pigment (that was not identified as ochre) and two spines of spined dogfish. Larger grave goods were looted by residents of Amagansett, Long Island. The fate of either burial was not stated.

Lee, Esther J., Lisa M. Anderson, Vanessa Newell Dale and D. Andrew Merriwether


The burial ground located at the Schuyler Flatts in the Town of Colonie, Albany County, revealed fourteen individuals dating from the 17th- through the early 19th-centuries. Bioarcheological analysis suggested some of these individuals were of African ancestry who had worked and died on the property owned by the prominent Schuyler family. Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) analysis was carried out on skeletal remains of seven adults using restriction fragment length polymorphism typing and direct sequencing of the control region to infer their origins and relatedness. Results show that none of the individuals were maternally related, with four individuals identified as African haplogroup L, one identified as Native American haplogroup X, and two identified as haplogroup M and M7. Individuals of African ancestry correlate with published mtDNA data on African Americans and their geographical origins corroborate with the various exit points during the African slave trade to New York State. Individuals identified as haplogroup M7 and M resemble lineages found in Madagascar. Historical documents suggest several hundred people were imported from Madagascar through illegal trading to New York by the end of the 17th century. The study of the remains highlights the diverse origins of the enslaved labor force in colonial New York and contributes to the understanding of African American history in the northeast.

Lesniak, Matthew


Excavations at the Department of Environmental Conservation building site, the Dean Street Parking Garage site, the KeyCorp site, a site on Howard Street, and the Lutheran Church site on South Pearl Street have revealed evidence of wampum making in the 18th-century. In the 17th-century strata at the Department of Environmental Conservation building site, any
evidence of wampum or wampum making was entirely absent. These strata contained sherds of Westerwald stoneware, tin-glazed ware (delft), pipe stems with fleur-de-lis marks, pipes with the EB mark, and tubular glass trade beads. Only a fragmentary awl was found in a hearth. In contrast to these strata, in the 18th-century deposits wampum, both finished and unfinished beads, was abundant. Conch shell cut into strips and cut clam shell fragments were found, and many of the unfinished beads are wasters, broken during manufacture. At Fort Orange in the 17th-century and at the Department of Environmental Conservation building site in the 18th-century, most of the wampum was found within house cellars or near structures rather than scattered in a traffic area or in back yards.

Little, J. Glenn

The area directly west of the house has been heavily disturbed. The disturbances have destroyed most of the stratigraphy relating to the Schuyler family occupation, and the ground surface level has been raised considerably since ca. 1800. In the testing, more than 200 feet of soil profiles were recorded. The east wall of the southwest corner wing was located in a test trench. The foundation is considerably wider at bottom than at the top and appears to have been battered. The well was partially excavated and cored to a depth of 4 feet. It appears to date from the 19th century. Sections of foundations uncovered to the north and west correlate with structures shown on the Dripps map of 1857. [Note: Contract Archaeology, Inc., lost all the artifacts from this project.]

Little, Keith J.

For many years researchers have contended that Nueva Cadiz and faceted chevron glass beads did not circulate later than 1600 in Spanish contexts. The first hints of contradictory data come from sites in northeastern North America, with occurrence of beads comparable to those from Spanish contexts at early 17th-century sites in western New York. It was suggested these beads indicated trade with Spaniards or the beads were hand-me-downs. However, they have also been found at 17th-century sites in Ontario, and the 17th-century Fort Orange site in New York yielded a fragment of a faceted chevron bead. They have also been recovered from 17th-century Mohawk sites.

Lopez, Julius and Stanley Wisniewski

The Canarsee, part of the Matouack Confederacy, occupied the western end of Long Island and the eastern side of Staten Island throughout the Contact Period. The tribe’s principal settlement site of the same name, “Canarsee,” means “the fenced place” by which the Native American lands were divided from that of the Dutch and English colonists. According to Dutch accounts, the Canarsee paid an annual tribute of dried clams and wampum to the Mohawk. The Dutch advised the Canarsee to discontinue the tribute, and as a consequence, the Mohawks retaliated with violence. In 1655, the Iroquois raided Staten Island and Long Island and killed 67 Canarsee as further recompense. Afterward, the Consistory of the Dutch
Church at Albany ensured that the Matouack Confederacy paid tribute to the Iroquois. The last member of the Canarsee died in 1832. The remainder of the article discusses the lithics recovered from the Ryders Pond Site; no artifacts of European origin are mentioned.


Continued description of the Contact Period Ryders Pond Site and its components. Pottery types span from Middle to Late Woodland, and include: Eastern Incised, Van Cortlandt Stamped, Clasons Point Stamped, Complete Interior Cord Marked, Modified Interior Cord Marked, and Interior Bossed. Faunal remains found at the site include those of: land turtle, box turtle, sea robin, sturgeon, blackfish, porgy, land snail, cockle shell, mud snail, razor clam, half razor, deer bone and antler fragments, and dog bones. Trade items include: an iron point, a perforated triangular copper point, two glass beads, an iron axe, pierced oval spoon bowls, four white kaolin pipes with barrel-shaped bowls and flat heels (and others that are later in date), gun-flints of dual French- and British-origin, a British coin minted during the reign of King George III, and a brass medallion commemorating the British capture of Louisberg, Cape Breton on 26 July 1758.

Lord, Philip, Jr.


The Tory Fort Hill is in the southeast quadrant of Bennington battlefield and was a position partially occupied and fortified by Loyalist troops during the battle. There was a brief but intense military confrontation on the site. A root cellar on the hillside was used as a grave for 17 Loyalist dead. A preliminary survey of the site has been conducted by Robert Shuey. The site should be protected, preserved intact, and stabilized, and it could become an interpretive focus for the battlefield area. The purchase by the State of 10 to 20 acres, preferably 30 acres, to preserve and interpret the site as part of Bennington Battlefield is an urgent priority.


Esquire Barnet in 1850 reported that on the crest of the Tory hill, in front of and somewhat below the breastwork, several years previous a woodchuck had turned up human bones. Plowing deeply revealed more bones. An eyewitness to the aftermath of the battle said there had been a small structure there built of boards into the earth before the battle and that this structure had caved in. Consequently, 17 bodies left after the battle were thrown into the cellar hole and were buried there. It was said in 1850 that lead balls and other relics of the battle used to be found often, but they were scattered and lost and nothing of the kind was found any more. During a field survey of the cultivated fields east of Hessian Hill in 1987, a clump of brush and saplings was noted in approximately the location of a building shown on the Durnford map drawn soon after 1777. However, a 1927 highway survey map shows a barn in that location, and an inspection of the site confirmed that it is a barn site, probably of 19th-century origin. It is possible the barn stood on the site of an earlier structure.

The Tory Fort was the site of a major part of the Battle of Bennington. An archeologist was able to map the outlines of the redoubt based on the artifacts found there. The site is still an important, unmatched archeological resource.

Loren, Diana DiPaolo

Glass beads and wampum were the most frequent items of adornment recovered from the excavations at Fort Orange. However, there were also black glass buttons, brass buttons, aglets, and hooks and eyes as well as lead seals for fabrics.

Lossing, Benson J., ed.

A Hessian camp kettle dug up on Bennington Battlefield by Charles Hoag of Dover, Dutchess County, is in the collection of Revolutionary War artifacts in the Poughkeepsie Museum.

Lossing, Benson J.

Upon the slopes of the hills where the battle occurred and where the Hessians were entrenched, now cultivated, musket balls and other relics of the battle have been plowed up.

Matejka, Gail Klimcovitz
1974  Archeological Testing at Arryl House, Clermont State Historic Site, New York State Historic Trust, Albany, N.Y.

The sample of artifacts excavated at Arryl House includes ceramics that correspond closely to the ceramics excavated from a trash pit west of Crailo in 1974. The Crailo pit, however, did not contain ironstone, whiteware, and black basaltes among the ceramic types.

McCashion, John H.

Clay pipe bowls with plain EB and plain HG heel marks have been excavated at both the Schuyler Flatts and at Fort Orange. The EB marks are on bulbous pipe bowls as well as funnel-shaped pipe bowls. The plain HG mark on pipe bowls at the Flatts and at Fort Orange is found only on funnel-shaped bowls. [Note: The comprehensive inventory of all marked pipe bowls at Fort Orange did not include a single plain HG-marked pipe bowl at that site. There were, however, funnel- or elbow-shaped pipe bowls at Fort Orange with the crowned HG mark.] Pipes marked EB have been attributed to Edward Battle, a pipe maker of Bristol, but
this is doubtful. In a letter sent to the author in April 1975, Simon Hart of the Amsterdam archives identified the EB pipe maker as Edward Burt [Bird].


A reworked clay pipe stem whistle similar to those excavated at Fort Orange is among the clay pipes from the Mohawk Oak Hill site of about 1626 to 1645. A reworked pipe stem whistle that was found in a trench dug under a street in Albany, part of a clay pipe with an elbow- or funnel-shaped bowl, has a plain HG mark. No clay pipe with the plain HG mark was officially recorded from the Fort Orange site, but one example was recovered by Fran McCashion from an upper level pit at the Fort Orange site in October 1970. Located north of the village of Nelliston in the Mohawk Valley, The White Orchard site dates from about 1667 to 1689. At least eight pipe stems from this site have a diamond-shaped mark enclosing four fleur-de-lis marks. The mark dates from 1677 to 1680 and occurs on pipe stems from at least 11 other New York State sites including the Schuyler Flatts. One variety of the EB heel mark on a pipe bowl found at the White Orchard site but not at other contemporaneous Mohawk sites was also predominant in component 78 at Fort Orange, dating from ca. 1657 to 1664.

McEvoy, Joseph E.


In preparation for rebuilding the front steps and porch of the Schuyler Mansion entrance vestibule, masons had already trenchted around the front steps when the archeologists arrived. The foundation for the front steps was built separately from the vestibule foundation and consists of mortared rough-cut stone. The builders’ trench for the steps and porch was uncovered. The artifacts in the trench indicate that construction of the porch was associated with a period of remodeling. They include brick, mortar, interior plaster fragments, nails, gray slate, delft tile fragments, pieces of wheel-engraved frosted glass, pearlware fragments, and pieces of lead. The engraved glass fragments are decorated with a diamond and dot pattern, and they may have been part of the globe of a lamp.


A file fragment excavated in 1988 was found to have a mark with the letters CAM at the base of the tang. The same mark has been found on files from the French River rapids in Ontario, where they were lost from goods that were destined for the fur trade at western outposts. The files were probably made by a file maker of Sheffield, England, James Cam, who was working before 1797.

McEvoy, Joseph E. and Rich Goring


A brief survey of Bennington Battlefield was conducted in 1975 to re-examine whether the traditional location of the battle has been properly identified. Extensive previous development may have destroyed much of the original topography. A low, linear mound and shallow depression was observed but could not be tested due to wet conditions. A test unit excavated on top of the hill revealed a fragment of coal and traces of charcoal. A metal detector survey was also undertaken on top of the hill, but this did not produce any evidence of the battle. A
metal detector and visual survey was also conducted on a hill to the northwest, producing only a hand-wrought iron horse shoe and a .38 caliber cartridge case. The horse shoe probably represents farming activity. Careful examination of maps leads to the conclusion that the battle indeed occurred at its traditional site, and further survey work there is recommended.

McLaughlin, Pegeen

Excavations at the site of the new Department of Environmental Conservation building in Albany in 1997 and 1998 uncovered extensive deposits of hand-decorated pearlware and other English ceramics. In one area adjacent to Montgomery Street between Columbia and Orange Streets, the deposits of ceramics were so dense that there was no soil mixed with them. A deposit of burned ceramics was below the deposits of unburned ceramics. It was deposited probably after the great fire of 1797 by John Fonday, Jr., who had “large crockery and glass ware stores” that were destroyed in the fire nearby on Broadway. Predominant among the burned ceramics was blue-decorated pearlware, in addition to other pearlwares, creamware, and slip-decorated red earthenware. The unburned ceramics most likely were deposited in the first decade of the 19th century, when Fonday co-owned much of the area.

Miroff, Laurie E.
2011 Data Recovery Investigation of the Colonie Shaker Creek II/III Site: OGS 43297, State Police Headquarters Campus, Town of Colonie, Albany County, New York. On file at New York State Museum, State Education Department.

The Colonie Shaker Creek II/III site is located in the Town of Colonie, Albany County. The site is approximately 8.4 kilometers (5.2 miles) west of the Hudson River and approximately 3.5 kilometers (2.2 miles) south of the Mohawk River. The rivers join approximately 8.4 kilometers (5.2 miles) to the northeast of the site. Additional drainage is provided by Shaker Creek, a small meandering Mohawk River tributary which is approximately 145 meters (476 feet) south of the site and merges with the Mohawk River to the north. The site lies at an elevation of approximately 79.3 meters (260 feet) to 88.4 meters (290 feet) asl and is situated on a terrace above the Shaker Creek and Mohawk River floodplains. A prehistoric and a historic component are present at the site. The historic component of the site consists of sheet midden and midden feature deposits associated with a house site dating from the late 18th into the early 19th century. William Orlop and his family moved from the Mohawk valley to the Albany area between 1757 and 1759. A lease from Catherine van Rensselaer to William Orlop is dated 1771, and that may be the date the house at the site was constructed. William’s son, Frederick Orlop, married Hannah Reese in Schenectady in 1780. The 1800 census indicates the family owned one slave. The dwelling was occupied probably by the Orlops until 1850, when the Hocknells purchased the property. The Orlop family was of German origin, probably from Ducal Saxony in central Germany. Artifacts from the 18th century recovered from the site include many decorated pipe bowls, some with Masonic decoration, and one bowl with a heel, with a leaf design along the mold seam, and with the maker’s initials IH in a round cartouche on the side of the bowl, typical of Bristol pipes of the colonial period. Eleven gunflints were recovered, dark gray to black in color. Most are of the blade type, but at least one is a spall. Colonial-period ceramics include tin-glazed delft and buff-bodied comb-decorated
yellow ware. There is slip-decorated red earthenware and creamware, as well as pearlware. There are fragments of dark green glass hand-blown case bottles and cylindrical wine bottles.

Moody, Kevin

The discoveries of battle artifacts in the vicinity indicate that the location of Baum’s redoubt has been properly identified. Aerial photos, however, seem to show a horseshoe-shaped feature on the hill to the west, similar to the shape of Baum’s redoubt as depicted on the battle map. This western location is more logical as the site of Baum’s redoubt than the one that has been identified previously.


Excavations at the site of the new Department of Environmental Conservation building in Albany in 1998 revealed remains of a pre-ca. 1650 wood-lined pit or cellar feature. Apparently it was the remnant of a house that was destroyed by the great flood of 1648 or was demolished by order of Pieter Stuyvesant. It was close to the confluence of Fox Creek with the Hudson River, and it was more than 2,300 feet north of Fort Orange. The structure was a strongly-built post-and-beam structure, with finished dimensional lumber rather than rough timbers or logs. The sheathing was affixed to the outside of the 4- by 4-inch posts, which were spaced 35 inches apart on center. There was no builder’s trench to accommodate in situ construction. The structure was 9 feet wide, east-west. It was at least 10 feet long. The floor boards of the cellar were from 8 to 12 inches in width. The sleepers were hand-hewn, aligned north-south, and spaced 8.8 feet apart on center. Clay pipes from the site include fragments with the common EB mark for Edward Bird. Of the ceramic sherds, 56 percent are tin-glazed Dutch delft or majolica. Red earthenwares form 23 percent of the sample, while there are only a few sherds of white-bodied earthenware or of German stoneware. There are also gunflints, glass *roemer* prunts, straight pins, decorated buttons, a lace tip, and glass beads. The eight beads are all tubular varieties. Two stone or stoneware marbles and two small quartz crystals were recovered from the site. After the cellar collapsed or was demolished and filled, there was evidence that Indians occupied or camped on the site. The illicit Dutch trader who occupied this site evidently continued a trade relationship here with the Indians after ca. 1650. [Note: It is probable the cellar was a house built by Juriaen Teunissen Tappen, a glazier and trader at this location.]

Moser, Jason D., Al Luckenbach, Sherri M. Marsh and Donna Ware

Three varieties of Dutch yellow brick were recovered at the Town Neck site. A number of examples exhibit evidence of *dodekop* staining, with iron oxide applied for decorative effect. Dutch bricks with similar staining have been identified at the Fort Orange site in Albany.
Moyer, David, Anna Blinn Cole and Holly K. Norton  

A Phase III cultural resources data recovery was conducted at the Peter McCutcheon house site, located in the Towns of Bethlehem and New Scotland. The site dates from the 18th century. Analysis from the Cornell Dendrochronology lab dated a small group of assorted timbers from ruins of the brick portion of the house to ca. 1735. Two additional periods, ca. 1764 and 1786 to 1787, were identified in the dating process. In correlation with documentary evidence, these dates suggest the site may have been occupied in the first half of the 18th-century by either the Radcliffe or the Sixby families. Whether or not Peter McCutcheon built the brick house on the site, he was likely responsible for the third and final building period identified by the dendrochronology. The brick house stood upon a small knoll approximately 77 feet (24 meters) above a small nearby pond. A partially exposed foundation of uncoursed fieldstone supported the brick walls composed of bricks of a large size. The bricks are handmade of soft mud and clay and appear to have been sand struck, as demonstrated by the impressions along the face of the Brick. An informal average brick size measures approximately 9.0 by 4.0 by 2.5 inches (22.8 by 10.1 by 6.3 centimeters). In some cases leaves and twigs are visible on the brick surface from where they were left to dry prior to firing. Ceramics from the site include sherds of red-bodied tin-glazed plain white delft or faience. Other red-bodied ceramics consist of black-glazed Jackfield ware and lead-glazed red earthenwares, some with trailed buff slip decoration. Peter McCutcheon was born around 1760 to parents Andrew McCutcheon and Jane Adair, who had sailed from Kirkmaiden, Wigtown, Scotland, to New York City. However, the house may have been built by Evert Sixby, born in 1715, who married Elsje Egmont Sagar in 1737. Evert’s brother Willem also was married in the same year to Annatje Radcliffe. The brothers are known to have lived in the West Manor of Rensselaerswyck. Garret Sixby, a son of Evert Sixby, became a Loyalist and member of Butler’s Rangers in the Revolution. Colonel Garret Sixby married Mary Miller in Canada in 1782. She was a sister of Capt. Charles Miller, who married Margaret McCutcheon, Peter’s probable younger sister. Peter McCutcheon returned to Albany County. He leased the farm in 1787 and 1790. In 1837 Aaron Radcliffe and his wife, Emeline, purchased the McCutcheon house and farm from Stephen Van Rensselaer, III.

Mudge, Jean McClure  

The excavations within the site of Fort Orange uncovered three matching rim sherds of porcelain from a deposit dating from ca. 1650 to 1660 in the house that belonged to trader Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh. As an example of Transitional export ware, the symmetrical, scroll-leaved pattern on the rim indicates it was from a mustard pot, can, tankard, or chamber pot. These sherds are firm evidence of the presence of porcelain in New Netherland when the colony’s population was at last growing.

Munsell, Joel  

When the basement of the house of E.H. Pease in Albany was excavated, coffins were discovered in which bodies were buried one above the other. The burials were those of Revolutionary War soldiers.

On the property of Jeremiah van Rensselaer on the east bank of the Hudson River, a little south of Albany, can still be seen remains of camp fires and other vestiges of the British army camp of 1755.


Digging for the foundations of a new livery stable for Wasson & Jewell on Middle Lane in Albany revealed live mortar shells from the Revolutionary War, when the site was a military storehouse owned by Philip van Rensselaer.


When the basement of a house was excavated at the northeast corner of the ancient burial ground near the Middle Dutch Church, coffins were discovered in which bodies were buried one above the other.

New York State Museum


An initial survey of October 1982 determined that the 18th Century Pickard/Van Valkenburgh/McMichael Tavern was buried under the northern bridge embankment for Rapp Road. Subsequent archaeological monitoring occurred for the removal of the Rapp Road embankment for a new thruway entry/exit ramp in September 1986. Excavations uncovered an intact dry-laid stone well that had been filled-in during multiple historic episodes, the last of which was likely related to the tavern’s destruction. The builder’s trench of the well contained several early 18th-Century artifacts including: white salt-glazed stoneware, Westerwald stoneware, Chinese blue underglaze porcelain, delftware, lead-glazed slipware (early yellowware), creamware, pearlware, refined redware (e.g. Jackfield), kaolin pipe stem fragments (yielding a median date of 1763), flat and curved glass, hand-wrought nails, a buckle, a two-piece gilded convex copper button, red bricks, oyster and clam shell, as well as modern c. 1952 construction inclusions associated with the construction of the Rapp Road bridge. The well was covered in plastic wrap and left in situ; it is plausible that additional sub-surface features associated with the Tavern remain intact under the ground-surface.


Report of a survey along Route 143 in the Town of Coeymans. The survey identified 72 residential and commercial buildings, which span the 18th-, 19th- and 20th Centuries (23 buildings date to post-1945). The survey identified a historic cemetery, for which the earliest internments occurred in 1796/1797, and the latest internments occurring in the 1880s. A recently erected marker commemorates early settlers in the area.


Report on a Phase I archaeological survey for the proposed replacement of bridge BIN 1-01599-0 over the Valatie Kill in the Towns of Schodack and Nassau. The survey identified the
Galer Site (NYSM 10584), a farmstead site that was built by Martin Galer in c. 1775. During the American Revolutionary War, Martin Galer was arrested for Loyalist activities and held in Albany County jail until he was cleared of charges. The Galer family sold the farm in the late 18th Century, after which it was occupied by various owners. Artifacts recovered from the site include: redware, creamware, pearlware, bones, clam shell, coal, clear leaded table glass, olive green bottle glass, green bottle glass, a wrought nail, cut nails (burned), and brick fragments. The site represents the early pre-Revolutionary War settlement in the Town of Schodack, and was determined to be National Register Eligible. The survey also identified the McClellan Site (NYSM 10585), which consists of three separate structures: 3500 US 20, MDS 3, and MDS 7 (85 McClellan Road). 3500 US 20 was constructed by Elaphalet Reed in c. 1790. In the early 19th Century, the property was sold to Peter Van Valkenburgh, who operated the house as an inn or tavern from c. 1800-1815. MDS 7 is a c. 1789-1795 barn that was used as a place of worship by the Dutch Reformed congregation until a church was constructed in the Town of Nassau. In 1824, the portion of the property containing MDS 7 was sold to the Trustees of the Methodist and Episcopal Churches for a place of worship. The Church continued to own the property until 1833, when construction of the Methodist Church was completed in the Town of Nassau; the barn was demolished prior to 1854. MDS 3 is a pre-1862 structure that was converted into a doctor’s office in the mid-19th Century, and into a law office by the early 20th Century. Artifacts recovered from the site include: redware, salt-glazed stoneware, creamware, pearlware, bone fragments, pig tusks, oyster shell fragments, clam shell fragments, coal, charcoal, kaolin pipe fragments (one of which bears the initials “IC” on the bowl), clear leaded table glass, a wrought nail, cut nails, square nails, brick fragments, window glass, a wire clip, and an unidentified piece of iron; the latter construction debris is associated with the mid-19th Century modification of MDS 3. Artifacts associated with MDS 7 include: redware, under-glazed blue porcelain, bone and clam shell fragments, pressed glass, coal, a wrought nail, a wrought staple, cut nails, square nails, wire nails, window glass, small brick fragments, mortar, and cement. Modern artifacts include: clear and green bottle glass, mussel shell fragments, and the bones from a recent cat burial. The site represents the development of a late-18th Century tavern (3500 US 20) on the outskirts of the village as well as the post-Revolutionary War settlement of the Town of Schodack, and was determined to be National Register Eligible.

1999  

The addendum to a Phase I archaeological survey for the reconstruction of NY 396 on a new alignment from NY 9W to NY 144, for which fieldwork occurred in 1999. The survey identified five precontact sites and three historic sites, the latter of which includes: The Winne/Creble Site (NYSM #10934), the F. & J. Shafer Site (NYSM #10915), and the Job Corps Site (NYSM #10943). The Winne/Creble Site is characterized by a dual early Late Woodland (c. 1000-1100 AD) component as well as a Flemish component dating to the 17th Century. The first mill on the Vlomankill was erected by Andries deVos and subsequently leased in 1677 to Pieter Winne, known by his Flemish origin as “de Vlamingh,” for whom the Vlomankill was named. The Winne/Creble House initially appears on the 1767 Bleecker map as belonging to “Old Pieter Winne,” and remained within the Winne family throughout the mid-19th Century, after which it was sold to the Creble family; at the time of writing, the house was vacant. The Winne family cemetery is also located nearby. Archaeological deposits from the Winne/Creble Site date from the 18th to late 20th Century. Although the parcel containing the F. & J. Shafer Site (NYSM #10915) and the Job Corps Site (NYSM #10943)
were originally owned by the Winne family in the 18th Century, the latter two farm sites (and their associated archaeological deposits) were not established until the early- to mid-19th Century.


The first (of three) reports on the archaeological monitoring of a segment of Pearl Street from Madison Avenue to Pine Street. Significant features were discovered in the historic Lutheran Church House lot (NYSM 10963), including: the wooden floor of a cellar associated with the Church House built in 1742, burials of three adults (one female and two male) of European ancestry who were interred from the early- to mid-18th Century, two barrel privies that predate the widening of Pearl Street in the 1790s, artifacts from the 17th and 18th Century occupation of the site, a brick drain dating to the late-18th to early-19th Century, and the foundations of buildings associated with the city market constructed during the mid-19th Century. An 18th-Century artifact deposit was identified in the area of the former British Guard House (NYSM 10964), which contained creamware and pearlware, both of which indicate that occupation of the site continued after 1763. Objects dating to the American Revolutionary War indicate that American soldiers occupied the Guard House during this conflict, e.g. blue, hand-painted pearlware in “chinoiserie” style and a “USA” button of the continental army. Additional sites were identified dating to the turn of the 19th Century, including Norton Street (NYSM 10965) and Pearl Street (NYSM 10966).


The second (of three) reports on the archaeological monitoring of a segment of Pearl Street from Steuben Street to Livingston Avenue. Isolated features (including two buried stone foundation walls, a stone drain, a brick drain, wooden water pipes, and a privy) and artifacts (including a rim sherd of lead-glazed red earthenware made during the 1600s, creamware, animal bone, clam shell, etc.) comprise the North Pearl Street Monitoring Site (NYSM 11558). A granite block that formerly held a plaque commemorating the home of De Witt Clinton was also found; the historic marker was erected during the bicentennial of the city’s charter in 1886. An intact buried A-horizon (topsoil) was not found, and is thought to have been removed over the course of various construction projects. Historic Clinton Square (NYSM 11559) was found to contain historic ground surfaces dating to the early 19th Century and artifacts spanning the late-18th and early-19th centuries, including: architectural materials (e.g. nails, brick fragments, mortar, roof tiles, tarpaper, sewer pipe fragments, and tile fragments), ceramics (e.g. redware, buff earthenware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, ironstone, yellowware, porcelain, and salt-glazed stoneware), bone and shell fragments (e.g. clam, oyster, mussel, cow, sheep, fish, and sturgeon), bottle glass, a piece of lead shot, clay tobacco pipes, coal, slag, cinder, as well as a number of modern items (e.g. bottle caps and plastic). Most importantly, a section of the city’s stockade wall that was constructed during the early 1700s (NYSM 11560) was found, along with several 18th Century artifacts, including: architectural materials (e.g. nails, flat glass, floor tiles, a hinge, a piece of door hardware, and tin-glazed buff earthenware (delft) wall tiles), evidence of food preparation and consumption (e.g. animal bones, calcined (baked) bones, animal teeth, horn, fish bones (including sturgeon); shells of
clams, oysters, and mussels; and pits and shells of fruits and nuts (including plum, cherry, and peach pits and hickory, hazel, and acorn nutshell)), ceramics (e.g. pearlware, creamware, white salt-glazed stoneware, Chinese export porcelain, lead-glazed buff earthenware, gray salt-glazed stoneware, and red-bodied lead-glazed earthenware), glass (e.g. aqua-tinted bottle glass, dark green wine bottle glass), other artifacts related to food preparation and consumption (e.g. utensils), personal items and small finds (e.g. glass beads, wampum, buckles, buttons, shoe leather), tools (e.g. a scissor fragment, and a lead fishing weight or sinker), a fragment of gunflint/shot, a comb, marbles, and tobacco pipes (with makers’ marks).

Archaeoparasitological samples were found to contain Ascaris (roundworm) and Trichuris (whipworm). A soil stratum containing charoal is thought to date to either the fire of 1793 or 1797. [Annotator’s Note: The 18th-Century street surface was also identified, consisting of a blue-gray clay with wood chips, and is analogous to that described in reports by Hartgen (1983) and (2000)]. Other features found in the vicinity include: a trash pit, wooden water pipe, brick drains, and the Fox Creek stone arch culvert.


Third (and final) report of the archaeological monitoring of a segment of Pearl Street from McCarty Avenue to Madison Avenue. Six features were recorded, three of which were street entrances to buildings, basements, or cellars, whereas the other three were small sections of brick drains that carried watewater into larger street drains. The majority of archaeological deposits consisted of ceramics (e.g. creamware and pearlware) dating to the early- to mid-19th Century; the few ceramics (e.g. ironstone and salt-glazed stoneware with Albany slip) that were found dating to the 18th Century may have been discarded at a later date. Other artifacts found include: clam and oyster shell, food bone waste, clay tobacco pipes, leather tanning waste, fragments of hand-made bricks, a thimble, nails, a button, leather shoe parts, modern ceramic tiles, and a variety of bottle glass. This assemblage was considered representative of the domestic refuse that was discarded in the late-18th and early-19th Centuries in Pearl Street and along the southern boundary of the colonial settlement of Albany, and was designated the Memorial Hospital Site.

Niles, Grace Greylock


In 1838, bones of the heroic Hessians killed during the Battle of Bennington were unearthed in a potato field near the present Barnet house.

Nooter, Eric


Excavation at the site of Fort Orange occurred when the site was threatened by highway construction. Archeologists uncovered remains of four buildings that stood inside the fort and also found traces of the moat. A large number of Dutch 17th-century artifacts were also
recovered. Illustrates a nearly complete reconstructed delft plate of ca. 1650 to 1670 excavated at Fort Orange.

Omwake, H. G.  

This article is the third (and final) part of Lopez and Wisniewski’s report, which details the four kaolin pipes found at the Ryder’s Pond Site in Brooklyn. The first (I-197) is a broken effigy pipe, which may have been produced by the French during the mid-19th Century (although a more precise date could not be achieved due to the fragmentary condition of the pipe). The second (I-198) and third (I-199) resemble types manufactured in England during the mid-17th Century, and may have been trade items. The last (22943a) was produced by William White’s Corporation of Tobacco Spinners of Glasgow, Scotland and dates to from the early 19th to early 20th Centuries, and post-dates the Contact Period.

Orser, Charles E., Jr.  

The artifacts excavated at Fort Orange are pan-European in nature. The ceramics include majorica and delft manufactured in the Netherlands but also ceramics from Italy, England, the Iberian peninsula, China, and Germany. The glassware was made in the Netherlands, Venice, and Germany. These finds are duplicated from excavations in other Dutch house sites of the 17th-century in the area. The global expression of Dutch Eurocentrism is demonstrated by the presence of identical artifacts excavated at sites of the same period in the Netherlands. The only variation is the presence of Indian artifacts. At the site of a brick maker’s house in Rensselaerswyck, the artifacts included a bear effigy smoking pipe having an Iroquois affiliation, as has another pipe recovered from the Fort Orange site.

Palmer, Arlene  

Excavations at Fort Orange and at St. Mary’s City, Maryland, have yielded fragments of sophisticated table glass made in either Venice or the Netherlands in the 1650 to 1700 period. Fragments of Venetian façon de Venise stemmed glassware of elaborate styles have been recovered from St. Mary’s City, Fort Orange, and sites in Virginia.

Pauley, Jean W.  

Historical archeology has been an important part of Heldeberg’s “Adventure in Learning” since 1964. The “Heldeberg and Historic Site Archeology” program began as a proposal to the New York State Historic Trust for completion of a pilot project at Schuyler Mansion in August 1969. The proposal is justified on the basis of Heldeberg Workshop’s experience and preservation philosophy. Heldeberg conducted a field school for students at the Lagrange site near the Normanskill from 1966 to 1968. The site is within the controversial Van Baal Patent of 1672, and the site was the farm of Jacobus Lagrange beginning about 1720. Excavations
revealed remains of an early wood-lined cellar that was replaced probably in the 1740s with a stone-built cellar. There was a fire about 1780, but Lagranges continued to live there until 1836, when the farm passed to the Oliver family. Explorations in the vicinity resulted in the discovery of another early site near a small creek flowing toward the Jacobus Lagrange farm. This is the Casper Fegeller site, also on Van Baal’s Patent south of present Font Grove Road. Casper Fegeller settled there perhaps as early as 1756. No excavation has occurred there. Also nearby, the Christian Lagrange house site has been discovered near the Normanskill. The house was built after 1767 but was occupied only until about 1789. It has not been excavated. Another site that has been identified is the Jacob Cooper site, occupied probably by 1766 on the 270-acre Heldeberg Workshop property almost directly under the towering Helderberg escarpment. Other research has identified the location of Fort Orange in downtown Albany. The site is threatened by highway construction, and at the request of Mayor Erastus Corning, Heldeberg submitted to him a proposal to test the site, assuming it was city land. Because the site is on state land, the mayor forwarded the proposal to the New York State Education Department where, after brief correspondence, the matter was dropped. The Department of Transportation, however, has maintained contact with the Historic Trust regarding the site, and has assured the Historic Trust that an opportunity to investigate the site will be provided. In the fall of 1969, Heldeberg sponsored an excavation at Douw’s Point south of Rensselaer, New York. It was the site of the home of Petrus J. Douw in 1724 and later of Volkert P. Douw, mayor of Albany. In August 1969, Heldeberg Workshop conducted a field school with high school students under careful supervision to rescue archeological information that would otherwise be lost during necessary structural work on the south and east sides of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site.

Peña, Elizabeth S.
1990 Wampum Production in New Netherland and Colonial New York: The Historical and Archaeological Context, Graduate School, The Department of Archaeology, Boston University.

Six wampum production sites in Albany form the core of this study. Also, the KeyCorp site collection of 17,300 artifacts was catalogued. The analysis reveals, contrary to archeological assumptions, that all of the wampum production debris was associated with 18th-century contexts dating from as late as the 1760s. The same was found to be true from the analysis of material from four smaller excavations in Albany in 1972 and 1973; the wampum production occurred in the 18th century. Only Fort Orange is among the Albany sites with possible evidence of wampum making in the mid-17th century.


The excavations in 1986 of the Albany almshouse, used from the 1680s into the 18th century, produced abundant evidence of wampum making by the residents. A variety of shells and shell fragments was present. There were conch shells, clam shells, cowrie shells, and the shell of a Barbadian keyhole limpet. Totals of 56 wampum blanks, 49 unfinished wampum beads, and 22 finished beads were recovered. Of the 56 wampum blanks, which were shaped but not drilled, 49 are of purple clam, three are of white clam, and four are of conch shell. From the unfinished beads, broken during manufacture, it would appear there was considerable wastage in the simple manufacturing process that was used. The purple shell examples are more numerous probably because the denser purple shell was more difficult to work.
An examination of the artifacts excavated at the KeyCorp site revealed two major phases. The first phase was from ca. 1650 to 1680, with strata containing glass trade beads, ceramics, and glassware in the southern area of the site. Wampum beads were also found associated with these artifacts, but wampum-making debris was not present. Evidence of the second phase of occupation, from the mid-18th century, was restricted to the northern area of the site. This area contained all of the evidence of wampum-making, consisting of more than 2,000 fragments of cut clam and conch shell and nearly 200 partially-formed wampum beads. Whetstones, awls, and drills were found, and there are five coins minted between ca. 1728 and 1755. The wampum-making evidence is very similar to material from four other wampum-making loci discovered in Albany probably from the 18th-century.

Perry, Clay
1948  

Bear’s Den cave is located on the southwest side of Butternut Hill near the headwaters of the Kinderhook Creek. According to local oral history, the cave was used as a refuge by beaver-trapper Paul Braham in c. 1770. Shortly thereafter, he constructed a log cabin near the source of a spring at Eagle Rock. There is a vague account of the cave being used by European settlers before Braham.

Phillips, Shawn M.
2003  

Remains of five individuals were discovered in excavations at the Lutheran Church lot in 1998 on Pearl Street in Albany. Three individuals, adults, were within separate wooden coffins, and two individuals are represented only by a single bone each. The burials date from before ca. 1750. The first burial was a female in her early 40s. A facial reconstruction was created based on the skull. Her dental health was poor, and she had suffered from tooth loss, dental disease, and abscesses. She had been sick with a childhood disease and rickets. She had a sinus and upper respiratory infection as well as, apparently, syphilis and gout. The second burial was male in his late 20s. He also suffered from poor dental health, and he had tuberculosis. During his life he had survived other infections and injuries. The bones indicate he had engaged in some form of heavy, routine labor or exertion. The third burial was a male in his early 40s. Like the other two individuals, this person suffered from an upper respiratory infection. A broken left wrist had healed well before death.
Pilcher, L. F.

Window wells with gratings have been built around the cellar windows at Schuyler Mansion to conform to what was found during the excavation.

Pipes, Marie-Lorraine

A large and well-preserved faunal assemblage was recovered from midden refuse deposits in and around the wooden cellar of the mid-17th-century farmhouse of Arent van Curler. The greatest densities of faunal refuse were found in excavation units along the northwest wall and inside corner of the cellar hole. The area of the cellar west of the wooden cellar steps yielded little bone, where there may have been a bulkhead or partition. Much of the recovered faunal material had slumped into the cellar from outside. The faunal remains represent a wide variety of species. There is a minimum of 39 bird, mammal, fish, and reptile species. Mammal and fish remains are by far the most common, followed distantly by bird. A single wing fragment from a turkeyvulture was recovered, and unlike the other bird remains the turkeyvulture would not have been food. Pigeon remains are the most frequent in the bird category. Turkey bones are not frequent, however, in the sample. Domesticated bird species include chicken, duck, and goose. The chickens evidently included egg-laying hens. Domesticated mammal species include cat, dog, horse, goat, sheep, and pig. Only cattle, sheep, and pig are present in high frequencies. The cat remains represent at least three individuals, two adults and a juvenile. The hip bone of one cat was arthritic and indicates an aged individual. A dog mandible is from a robust breed of dog, probably a mastiff. There is a single horse incisor. A goat mandible is from a very old individual, and the mandible was chopped, indicating removal of the tongue. Sheep remains are far more common than goat, with a minimum of eight sheep. The assemblage represents at least 13 cattle. With a minimum of at least 20 individuals, pigs were almost as common as cattle. A wide range of wild mammal species is represented and includes chipmunk, mouse, rat, woodchuck, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, beaver, elk, bear, and deer. With the exception of bear and deer, wild species are present in low frequencies and were uncommon. Woodchuck remains exhibit butcher marks, indicating food use. Beaver bones also indicate butchering. Bear remains were found in most of the excavation units, indicating at least two individuals, and most of the long bones were butchered. Deer is the most abundant mammal species, with a minimum of at least 16 individuals. Fish remains are from catfish, freshwater drum, pike, rock bass, smallmouth bass, striped bass, sturgeon, walleye, and yellow perch. All are freshwater fish. Snapping turtle is represented by enormous carapace segments indicating a measurement of more than 3 feet in length.

Prendeville, Harriette W.
1972  *Everything’s Coming up History: Relics of the 17th and 18th Centuries are Uncovered around Colonie, New York. Holiday Inn Magazine for Travelers* July-August:41-42.

About 500 yards from the front entrance of the Holiday Inn in Menands, New York, there is the excavation, interpretation, and recording of archeological data from a site where British and colonial troops camped in the 18th-century and a site occupied by the Dutch in the 1640s. In a cooperative effort last summer by the Town of Colonie, the Heldeberg Workshop, and
the New York State Historic Trust, a field school was held for teachers in July and for serious high school students in August. An extensive cobblestone courtyard has been uncovered, disclosing what appears to be an “M” set in the patterned stones. The artifacts from the site will be studied in relation to the artifacts recovered from the 17th-century Fort Orange and 18th-century Schuyler Mansion archeological sites in Albany. There is the possibility the historic site will eventually be established as a historic park.

Raesly, Ellis L.


Reid, Sharon B.

Proposed replacement of a culvert under Route 67 just east of the Battlefield initiated shovel testing. A total of 21 shovel test pits was excavated on the south and north sides of Route 67. No artifacts were identified.

Rose, Peter G., trans. and ed.

The 1668 edition of De Verstandige Kock (The Sensible Cook), first published in 1667, is translated into English. It is a cookbook that must have been used by Dutch settlers. The excavations at Fort Orange yielded ceramics that are comparable to similar ceramics excavated at mid-17th-century sites in Amsterdam, and this has aided immeasurably in the understanding and appreciation of this period. Dutch records of New Netherland mention the abundant water fowl, and the bird bones excavated at Fort Orange confirm the extensive consumption of these birds. Some of the bird bones are from long-legged birds, perhaps herons. Other excavated bones were butchered with an axe, which would have resulted in large portions to be roasted, boiled, or stewed. Recipes in The Sensible Cook fit well into this tradition.

Rose, Peter G.

Beer and taverns were a significant part of life in New Netherland, as indicated in many court cases. Archeological excavations have provided additional evidence of drinking. Glassware sherds include pieces of roemers with raspberry prunts have been found at sites such as the one at the corner of Whitehall and Pearl Streets in New York City. From Fort Orange there are
fragments of a type of tall glass drinking vessel called a *pasglas*, which had rings encircling the glass for measurement of beer consumption in a drinking game.

Rothschild, Nan A.  

The few Indian pipes and pottery fragments recovered in excavations at Fort Orange indicate that Mohawk Indians evidently were allowed to trade within the walls of the fort. Analysis of the Dutch artifacts shows that there was a strong and rapid transfer of the entire Dutch material culture to the New World. The study of the changing importance of deer to pig as meat sources at Fort Orange was monitored in the analysis of the excavated artifacts by the ratio of teeth of deer and pig. However, pigs have 44 teeth, and deer have 32, so any ratio of pig teeth to deer teeth should be standardized accordingly by multiplying deer teeth quantities by 1.375 or pig teeth by .727. Nevertheless, the data indicate that both species were crucial at Fort Orange in the Dutch period. In the deposit dated 1657 to 1664, with a sample of 60 teeth, deer and pig teeth represent each 50 percent, but a standardized ratio is 1.37 deer to one pig.


Archaeological research provides information concerning the adoption of Indian food resources by the Dutch and British settlers of the Hudson Valley and Mohawk area. Food remains excavated at Fort Orange show a diet dominated by deer and pork. The latter was imported and raised by the Dutch. Deer were acquired from the Indians by trade, especially in winter, in addition to fish, wild fowl, squash, maize, beans, tobacco, and wild fruit. The Dutch, however, seem to have preferred to maintain a diet as similar as possible to their traditional one and were not particularly interested in Indian foods. They grew their own produce and meat, supplemented with corn, venison, and other indigenous foods probably prepared in mimicry of traditional Dutch dishes.

Rothschild, Nan A. and Diana diZerega Rockman  

It is presumed that urban sites will yield a higher proportion of locally-made products than sites in rural areas. Manufacturers of goods would tend to set up businesses near the large-scale local market of a city in order to economize on the transportation costs of importing materials and moving finished goods. In analyzing the artifacts from the Stadt Huys block in New York City, it was originally predicted that New Amsterdam, being a higher-order central place, would have a higher proportion of imported to locally made ceramics than Fort Orange, a smaller contemporary Dutch settlement in present Albany. As it happened, the opposite is true. The Stadt Huys block yielded a higher ratio of red earthenware to delft than did the excavations at Fort Orange. Delft was imported, whereas the red earthenware is assumed to have been locally made. New Amsterdam, with its larger population and local market, seems to have attracted more potters than the more remote settlement of Fort Orange.
1985  Rumrill, Donald A.


This article entails an inventory of Mohawk sites, a number of which contain artifacts of Dutch origin or transfer. The Martin Site (c. 1600-1630) contained a 1615 French copper coin, a c. 1585 German counter or jetton, Weserware fragments (c. 1570-1620), which arrived at the site via direct or indirect trade with the French on the St. Lawrence River or the Dutch on the Hudson River. Other artifacts found at the site include: pottery, lithics (e.g. projectile points, drills, scrapers, reamers, knives, etc.), nails, brass scraps, iron axes, brass and copper projectile points, gun parts (a serpentine from a matchlock and a frizzen from an early doglock), gunflints (local and French gunspalls), musketballs, and trade beads (IIIa12). The Wagner’s Hollow Site contained glass trade beads (IIb18, IIbb1, IVb32, IVb34, IVg1, and IVk3) and a kaolin pipe bowl with tulip heelmark. Based on this find, the site was likely occupied c. 1610-1630. From c. 1630 onward, the Mohawk transferred their villages from the north to the south side of the Mohawk River in order to facilitate trade with the Dutch at Fort Orange. The Cromwell Site was occupied c. 1624-1636, and later visited by van den Bogaert in 1634-1635 as per his historical account. The site contained two French gunflints that were likely brought to the site by the Dutch. Other artifacts found at the site include: Cayadutta- and Fonda-Incised pottery, chert Madison projectile points, hand-wrought rose-head nails, and trade beads (IVa7, IVb34, and IVk3). The Van Evera-McKinney Site (c. 1636-1642) contained two diagnostic artifacts: a brass Jew’s harp with a stylized “R” trademark that belonged to a manufacturer in Amsterdam who was active from 1640-1680, and a high-profile heel of a kaolin pipe bearing the insignia of a galloping horse ridden by a figure brandishing a sword with the initials “VO” underneath; this insignia has yet to be linked to a specific maker. Other artifacts found at the site include: nails, brass scraps, two trade axes, brass projectile points, and a trade knife (type H). From c. 1640 onward, firearms appear on Mohawk sites. The Bauder Site contains four middens that indicate a long span of occupation, from c. 1625-1650. Objects of probable Dutch origin include a kaolin pipe with the insignia of a diamond-enclosed fleur-di-lis on the stem and a tulip on the heel, for which analogous examples have been found at Fort Orange (1624-1675). Additional kaolin pipes recovered from the site bear makers’ marks of “HF” and “RH.” A Campen tube-type bale seal bears a resemblance to another seal found on the Carley (Onondaga) Site (c. 1640-1650). Additional artifacts found at the site include: iron trade axes, knives (one type D, seven type G, and two type H), iron pintsles, iron Jew’s harps, iron hoes, iron awls, iron buckles, iron scissors, iron nails, an iron key, iron gun parts, lead musket shot (taking the form of gaming pieces, pendants, and a bear effigy), pewter spoon handles, a round pewter brooch, a pewter cup, incised and collar base-notched pottery, chert scrapers, Madison chert projectile points, brass projectile points, a brass rear-sight from a flintlock musket, a plethora of trade beads (If, IIA1, IIA40, IIb56, and IVa13), wampum, and opaque black cassock buttons. The Rumrill-Naylor Site (c. 1630-1640) contained 39 kaolin pipe stems. Some of the pipe stems bear the initials “PG” over three horizontal rows of diamond-enclosed fleur-di-lis; analogous pipe stems have been found at Fort Orange (c. 1630-1645). Others display a diamond-shaped grouping of four diamond-enclosed fleur-di-lis with rouletting along the stem. Three kaolin pipe bowls with heelmarks resembling swasticas (for which the Dutch manufacturer remains unknown) were also found; analogous examples have been found at the Stadt Huys in New York City c. 1625. Other artifacts of Dutch origin include: a large dumbbell-type Campen bale seal (with “PEN” still visible) and two tube-type Campen bale seals, two snaphaunce lockplates produced by the Dutch firearms authority in Amsterdam, as well as three solid cannonballs from Fort Orange. Additional artifacts found at the site include:
beads (a variant of IIa1, IIb12, IIb56, and IVb36), two Rhenish drinking glass fragments, opaque black glass cassock buttons, artisan brass pipe-lineers, pewter pipe stems, pottery pipe stems, fragments of a polished gray slate pipe bowl with an inlaid lead letter “X” facing the smoker, one Susquehanna broad projectile point, six Madison projectile points, various pottery fragments (Otsungo Incised, Fonda Incised, Garoga Incised, Chapin Crisscross, and others that have yet to be identified), a granite celt (with sparkling garnet), graphite paint stone, hematite, yellow ochre, five small bale seals without impression, a lead effigy of a leaping female white-tailed deer, pewter spoons, pewter buttons with six-sided stems (or “stellas”), a cast pewter brooch in elongated form, brass kettle lugs (and other fragments), brass bangles or tinklers, a brass pestle, brass tobacco box tampers, brass thimbles, brass bracelets, fleur-di-lis musket stock escutcheons, brass square stock Jew’s harps with the stylized “R” trademark, 60 brass projectile points (one of which was still shafted), hand-wrought nails (mostly rose-head), iron pints, eight iron axes (many of which have makers’ marks), eight iron hoes, an iron adze, iron kettle bails, iron medial-rigged sword remnants (including shaft, point, and handle sections), iron fishhooks, iron needles, iron scissors, flat and half-round iron files, iron awls, trade knives (22 type E, nine type G, 39 type H, and six of variant styles), 20 iron Jew’s harps (14 rounded-back and seven straight-back), iron ice creepers, an iron locking hasp, iron projectile points, iron scrapers (small, medium, and large), drill-bits, five chisels, two punches (or drifts), a small pocket anvil, two drawshave blades, a locally-made gunflint, various gun parts (including two batteries from Spanish miquesters and a wheelock spanner), a spontoon, and a rapier hilt. The Oak Hill No. 1 Site (c. 1640) contained a large kaolin pipe with Dutch tulip heelmark analogous to those found at the Bauder Site, Rumril-Naylor Site, Fort Orange, and the Thurston (Oneida) Site, all of which date from 1625-1637. Other artifacts found at the site include: nails, brass trade knives, brass projectile points, trade beads (a variant of IIa1, IIa7, IIa40, IIb56, and IVa13), opaque black glass cassock buttons, and a small brass religious medal (probably from a rosary). From c. 1660 onward, objects of Jesuit origin become prevalent at Mohawk Sites. The Printup Site (1647-1660) contained kaolin pipes with the initials of Edward Bird (“EB”) of the Netherlands, whose pipes appear within Iroquois sites from 1650 onward. Two dumbbell-type and two tube-type Campen bale seals were also found, analogous to those found at Fort Orange (1648-1682), Onondaga Sites Lot #18, Indian Castle, and Indian Hill (1650-1682). Brass Jew’s harps with the stylized “R” trademark (analogous to those found at the Van Evera-McKinney Site) were found as well. Additional artifacts found at the site include: several different gun parts, gunflints (both local and French), iron trade knives (five type F, seven type G, seven type H, two type I, three type J, and one bone-handled clasp knife), iron files, iron cold chisels, iron scissors, iron fishhooks, three iron ice creepers, a belt axe (with a high relief “X” enclosed by a circle on the left side), an iron drill bit, iron sword blade fragments, eight straight iron awls, an iron offset awl, an iron double-curved awl, a pair of sheet metal shears, iron needles, four iron points, over 100 Jesuit rings (and other religious paraphernalia), brass kettle fragments (especially cast, rolled, folded-corner, and clipped-corner lugs), brass projectile points, brass bangles, brass pendants, brass bracelets, brass thimbles, a brass pipe tobacco box tamper, a Venetian coin with the word “SOLDINO” on the obverse and “74” on the reverse, a French silver-alloy douzain with a countermark fleur-di-lis that Louis XIII had impressed on all the preexisting coinage when he initiated a new coinage in 1640-1641, bale seals (bearing the numerals “64,” “66,” and an embossed “8”), brass and pewter buttons, and 267 glass trade beads (IIa1, IIa6, IIa38, IIa57, IIb36, IIb56, IIb4, IIb4b). The Mitchell Site (c. 1652) contained a kaolin pipe heelmark with the initials for Edward Bird (“EB”) of Amsterdam (1655-1665), tampers from Dutch tobacco boxes (similar to those found at the Printup Site) and several Campen bale seals, one of which is a counterseal of the numeral “4” over the initials “TB” that could be the mark of Cornelis Teunisz Bos, a magistrate at Fort
Orange, or Cornelis Teunisz van Breukelen, also known as Broer Cornelis. Brass Jew’s harps with the stylized “R” trademark (analogous to those found at the Van Evera-McKinney and Printup Sites) were also found at the site. Additional artifacts found include: pottery fragments, lithics (e.g. a drill, side scrapers, and a uniface), a green steatite pipe stem, trade knives (one type E, one type G, six type H, and two other variants), one trade axe (with an “X” enclosed by a circle on both sides of the blade), two large iron pinteles, a large iron key, straight iron awls, iron fishhooks, iron points, an iron scraper, seven iron Jew’s harps (two straight-back and one curved-back), a brass plate embossed with a scene of a hunter with a flintlock musket and three dogs in pursuit of a leaping stag, a square-cut piece of brass with a circular laurel (or other floral) impression, brass thimbles, brass projectile points, brass kettle lugs (rolled, cast, and folded), over 12 Jesuit rings, a small religious medallion (similar to that found at Oak Hill No. 1, probably from a rosary), various gun parts, gunflints (two local and one French gunsball), one complete pewter pipe and several pewter pipe stems, pewter buttons, black opaque glass cassock buttons, over eight lead tortoiseegies, one otter lead efiggy, musket balls of various sizes, metal tableware fragments, and trade beads (IIa40, IIIa12, IIIm1, IIIm*, and IVn7). The Janie Site (c. 1642-1658) contained a brass duit that reads “TRANSISULANIA” (Lat. “Overyssel,” a Netherland province) on the reverse and displays a crown over a rampant lion, and a date of “162[...].” One large dumbbell-type and two tube-type Campen bale seals were also found. Additional artifacts from the site include: 24 beads (IIa37 and IIIa12), one black cassock button, small cast brass button with a five petal floral design, one Jesuit ring, one brass Jew’s harps with the stylized “R” trademark, brass pipe bowl liners, brass thimbles, brass projectile points, brass kettle lugs (with folded or clipped corners), an iron drawshave, an iron cold chisel, an iron sword handle, an iron screwdriver, one small- and one medium-sized iron scraper, two pairs of iron scissors, an iron drift (or punch), a few iron awls, an iron projectile point, a complete iron hoe and three eroded hoe-blades, a belt axe, three full felling axes (one without a makers mark, one with an “X” enclosed in a circle, and one with a stylized “X” enclosed in a rectangle), several hand-wrought nails, trade knives (11 type E, 10 type G, 14 type H, and two rattailed), pottery fragments, two bipitted hammerstones, a chert blade, kaolin pipe fragments (one of which has a plain heel), five pewter pipe stems, a pewter pipe bowl with an otter effigy, three lead turtle efigies, one lead hawk efiggy, several musket balls (12 of which are tumbled; three are round flat gaming pieces), a small rivet-type bale seal (similar to that found at the Printup Site embossed with the numeral “8”), two whole and one half small dumbbell-type bale seals, and a variety of gun parts. The Freeman Site (c. 1659-1666) is identified as “Kaghnuwage,” the palisaded castle where meetings took place between the Mohawks and Dutch in 1659, and as “Andaroque” of the Marquis DeTracy’s historical account. Kaolin pipe fragments including one with the initials of Edward Bird (“EB”) of the Netherlands were found at the site. Other artifacts include: a 1632 double turnois coin, a brass Jew’s harp with “R” trademark, brass projectile points, seven Madison chert projectile points, 10 Late Woodland pottery fragments, a fragment of brown-slipped gray stoneware (from a Rhenish Bellarmine bottle), gun parts, and trade beads (Ia5, Ia7, IIa1, IIa2, IIIa3). Sites that did not contain artifacts of Dutch origin or transfer are also described in the article.

Ruttenber, Edward M.


A Hessian camp kettle made of brass or bell metal dug up on the Bennington Battlefield is among the miscellaneous relics at Washington’s Headquarters. It was among the articles
belonging to the estate of Enoch Carter and was transferred by the City of Newburgh to the Trustees of Washington’s Headquarters on July 7, 1874. [Note: The kettle is in the Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site as catalogue number WH.1971.114.]

Salwen, Bert  
1978  

It is now evident that useful portions of Indian sites occupied prior to later Euro-American disturbance are still intact below and between the constructions of later inhabitants. In Rensselaer, New York, archeologists observing sewer trench excavations identified pits containing aboriginal materials. Four of these pits, which also yielded European artifacts, constitute one of the few known sources of information about the material culture and subsistence activities of Hudson Valley Indians in the contact period. The features were found under a city street that had been used for more than a century.

Salwen, Bert, Sarah Bridges and Joel Klein  
1974  

The Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House is located at the intersection of Clarendon Road and Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush in Brooklyn. The house was built c. 1639-1641 and may be the oldest house in New York State. An archaeological survey was conducted on the grounds of the house as well as within its cellar in December 1972. Stratified deposits were found dating to the late 17th Century until the time of its abandonment in the late 20th Century. Artifacts found include: yellowware with comb-and-scallop decoration (c. 1670-1775), English delftware (c. 1660-1750), Chinese “Canton” export porcelain (c. 1792-1850), a clay pipebowl fragment (with molded face on front of bowl and rouletted rim), and a Dutch clay pipestem fragment marked “SP...” and “...DA” (Gouda, 18th Century).

Scarlett, Sarah Fayen  
2011  

The most popular decorative motif used on tin-glazed earthenware by English, Dutch, and German potters in the last quarter of the 17th-century was a robed Chinese man among grasses and rocks. Sherdswith the Chinese Scholar pattern have been excavated at sites along the coast.
of Maine, in New York at Fort Orange, in Virginia at Williamsburg, Hampton, and Jamestown, in Maryland at St. Mary’s City, and in Jamaica at Port Royal. Many of the sherds represent products of London and Bristol, while others were made in the Netherlands, France, and German-speaking regions of Europe. The sherds include a rim fragment found at Fort Orange from a dish dating after ca. 1670. Also excavated at Fort Orange is part of a tin-glazed dish with lead glaze on the back, dating from ca. 1600 to 1650. The edges of the plate had been carefully chipped and ground away to remove the rim so that the round central figure decoration could be hung and displayed on a wall. The configuration of a lone Chinese figure in a scrubby landscape played an important role in the perception of China in the popular English imagination.


The ceramic evidence from Dutch sites in New Netherland suggests there were factors there that were not operating in the United Provinces. Unusually large amounts of tin-glazed earthenware were noted at Fort Orange, never accounting for less than 50 percent of the ceramics in any component. Red earthenware never made up more than 39 percent of the same assemblages. Similar percentages occurred at other Dutch colonial sites in New York, with the exception of the Schuyler Flatts site, which had only 29 percent tin-glazed earthenware. However, red earthenware at that site still accounts for only 28 percent of the total assemblage, because the percentage of stonewares is unusually high. This is quite unlike the distributions encountered in the wells and privies of the United Provinces, where red earthenware is usually the largest group of ceramics. In English sites in North America, likewise, red earthenwares comprise high percentages of the ceramics. It has been suggested that the Dutch settlers of New Netherland attempted to recreate a life rich in the manufactured goods that they had known in the Netherlands and were unable to reproduce on their own. The full range of documentary and archeological resources were used for the analysis of the dauntingly broad range of Dutch artifacts recovered from the excavations at the site of Fort Orange.


Following Henry Hudson’s voyage in 1609, a number of European merchant ships were drawn to the Hudson by lure of the fur trade. In 1613, two ships from the Van Tweehuysen Company landed in the harbor. One of these ships, the Tijger under the command of Adrien Block, stayed for a number of months trading for furs. In January 1614, the ship was burned. Block and his crew salvaged parts of the Tijger to build another ship, with which they returned to Europe. The 1916 excavation for the Interborough Rapid Transit subway uncovered the burned shell of the ship in addition to a number of artifacts, including: a Dutch broad-headed axe, glass trade beads, clay pipes, a small cannon ball, and European ceramics. The importance of the fur trade coupled with the threat of English encroachment prompted the Dutch to establish the permanent settlement of New Amsterdam on Manhattan in 1624. The colony was centered in the area of modern Wall Street, which have been preserved in stratified deposits below the urban ground surface. Portions of foundations and roofing tiles likely associated with the first Stadt Huis, or City Hall (1653-1699) have been uncovered in this area. In 1630, the Dutch West India Company established patroonships in Staten Island, parts of
New Jersey, as well as throughout the lower- to mid-Hudson River valley. Cornelis Melyn established a farmstead on Staten Island near the Narrows in 1642. It was abandoned the following year, re-established, and completed burned in 1655 during the “War of the Peach.” Middens associated with either the first or second occupation of the farmstead have been discovered, which include: a Flemish two-handled jar, German Bellarmine jug fragments, Dutch and English delftware, English slipware, a brass “Latten” spoon, a brass pipe tamper bearing an effigy of Charles I (1625-1649), as well as various Native American artifacts. Other contemporaneous sites include other farmsteads on Manhattan and Staten Island, a 17th Century House/General Store near the North Shore of Staten Island, as well as c. 1640-1650 Pieter Claesen Wyckoff House in East Flatbush, Brooklyn. After the fur-bearing animals were depleted from the environs of New Amsterdam, the focus of the fur trade shifted to Fort Orange (modern Albany). In 1664, New Holland was seized by the Duke of York, re-captured by the Dutch in 1673, and then permanently retaken by the English in 1674. These political vacillations were the underpinnings of later socio-economic expansion that transformed the Town into the City of New York in the early 18th Century.

Shaver, Peter D.

Bennington Battlefield is the archaeological site of the battle of August 16, 1777. It became a National Historic Landmark on January 20, 1961.

Skerry, Janine E. and Suzanne Findlen Hood

The Biblical story of the prodigal son was frequently featured on Westerwald stoneware of the early 17th-century. Sherds of vessels with this motif in molded panels have been excavated from at least two American sites. Remains of one such vessel, a large jug of baluster form, were recovered from a brick-lined well at Jamestown, Virginia, used during the first quarter of the 17th-century. An intact jug with this design in a collection bears the date 1618. A few fragments from another large jug with the same prodigal son motif in molded panels were excavated at the Schuyler Flatts site.

Snow, Dean R.

Diagnostic artifacts at Mohawk Iroquois sites of the 1614 to 1626 period include round polychrome star chevron beads, none of which were found in excavations at Fort Orange.

Solecki, Ralph S. and Robert S. Grumet

White-clay smoking pipe-bowls with heelmarks with the initials “EB” for Edward Bird, an Amsterdam pipemaker active from 1630 to 1683 are similar to those found at contemporary Fort Orange, New York, and the Isaac Allerton Site, a pre-1651 Manhattan warehouse. Two brass mouth harps with an “R” trademark are analogous to those found at the Power House.
Site, a Seneca village occupied from 1640-1655. [These brass mouth harps are of Dutch origin and are present at a number of Seneca Contact Period sites as cited by Rumrill]. Negative evidence (i.e. the absence of gun parts, gunflints, and musketballs) is attributed to the Dutch and English restriction on trade of firearms to Native Americans.

Sopko, Joseph S.

The salvage archaeological excavation of Fort Orange revealed a feature of pan tiles and bricks that were deposited within a cellar hole around the time of the fort’s abandonment, c. 1668-1676. This feature most likely resulted from British renovations following their capture of the fort in 1664, and was later scavenged for intact bricks and/or pan tiles. The earliest bricks in the colony were yellow bricks that were imported from the Netherlands. After a local brick-making industry was established, the colony produced its own bricks and exported bricks to other parts of North America. Three types of bricks are attested at Fort Orange (small yellow, small red, and large red), which coexisted at the same time yet served different functions. The sample recovered from Fort Orange reflects the historical development of the site. Further study recommended neuron activation analysis.

1985 *Pan Tile Roofing in 17th and 18th Century New York.* Paper presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology meeting, Boston, Massachusetts.

The manufacture of pantiles in the Colonie of Rensselaerswyck did not occur until 1654. From the excavation of the Van Doesburgh house in Fort Orange 560 pantile fragments were recovered, representing a minimum number of 78 tiles. From the fragments, 13 complete tiles were reconstructed, and at least half of 23 other tiles were also reconstructed. They were all well-fired and uniform in size, averaging 14¼ by 9¼ inches. At Crailo State Historic Site in 1974 and 1975, excavations produced a total of 64 pantile fragments in the northern half of the front yard. In 1977 excavations under the floor of the 1762 wing addition produced 40 pantile fragments.


Crailo is one of several Hudson Valley sites where buff earthenware is greater than 10 percent of the total ceramic assemblage. It appears this pattern may relate to the Dutch ethnic origins of site occupants.

Sopko, Joseph S. and Joseph E. McEvoy

Using x-ray fluorescence, samples of brick were analyzed from the Schuyler Mansion and from the site of Fort Orange in Albany. It is known that the Schuyler Mansion bricks were made in 1761 from clay along the Rutten Kill by local brick makers, Isaac and Lucas Hooghkirk, whose initials and date are carved in one of the bricks in the wall. The Fort Orange bricks are red bricks excavated at the site of Fort Orange (1624-1676), and they were probably also made in Albany. The Schuyler Mansion and Fort Orange brick samples are compared with samples from 18th-century brickyard sites at Crown Point in Essex County and at the John Jay
Homestead in Westchester County. The analysis indicates a 99 percent probability the Fort Orange and Schuyler mansion bricks are from the same source. Further analysis indicates commonality between the Albany bricks and the John Jay bricks, but a difference between the Albany and John Jay bricks and the Crown Point bricks. A visual comparison of the floor tiles from the Crown Point soldiers’ barracks with the Crown Point brick indicates differences. The brick clay has a high amount of lime and the formation of aggregates which formed points of weakness. The floor tile clay, however, is well mixed and blended. The x-ray analysis indicates the Crown Point brick and the floor tiles are from different sources. The Crown Point floor tiles have a greater similarity to the Albany bricks.

Starbuck, David R.
Archeological excavations at Crailo State Historic Site revealed some large early features which will be explored further in future field seasons.

At Bennington Battlefield, the New York State Museum has conducted archeological work. Very few artifacts from the period of the battle were recovered, however. [Note: The New York State Museum has not excavated within Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site.]

Sylvester, Nathaniel Bartlett
At Bennington Battlefield the second growth of timber has recently been cut from “Hessian Hill.” Seymour C. Gooding is the present owner of the farm. Those killed in the first battle were buried near the Barnet house, now owned by Gooding, and in 1838, when potatoes were being dug there, many bones were found.

Talcott, S. V.
In November 1882 excavations for the public market in Albany, at the site of the Middle Dutch Church in Beaver Street, uncovered tombstones and human remains. Among these was the burial of Margaret Oothout, who died in 1770, wife of Henry Quackenbush. The inscription on the stone was written in Dutch. Other burials and tombstones were those of David Van der Heyden, who died in 1770, and of his wife Gertrude, who died in 1784. A small iron cannon was also found. This burial ground was used for many years prior to 1806, when the original Dutch church was demolished and additional burials from under the church were removed to this place. After this burial ground was no longer used, the new church yard was located at the head of State Street. When upper State Street was graded to a lower level, the remains found there were removed to the burial ground in Washington Park.
Tantillo, Len F.

The archeological evidence and the Van Curler letter of 1643 were used as the basis for conclusions about the appearance of Van Curler’s farmstead. The “Little River,” the inner channel between the Flatts farm and the island opposite the farm, formed a natural harbor. The excavations revealed the southeast and southwest corners of the structure as well as building materials. Foundation walls indicated an unusual jog at what appears to be the junction of the dwelling section and the barn section. A schematic floor plan of the entire structure was developed. The plan provides only the basic criteria for further interpretation which enters the realm of conjecture as to walls, door and window openings, and roof lines. Surviving examples of similar structures and examples in period paintings and drawings are studied. The end result is part fact and part speculation. It is better to have a flawed scholarly attempt at picturing the past than no effort at all. Images spark discussion that stimulate further research and discoveries.

The Louis Berger Group, Inc.

A Phase I archaeological survey for improvements to the intersection of New York State Route 155 and Old Niskayuna Road in the Town of Colonie, for which fieldwork occurred June 2008. Two historic sites were identified: The John Hill/Van Auken House Site and the Shaker/Powell Hotel Site. The John Hill/Van Auken House Site consists of a homestead and farm that was originally constructed in the late 18th to early 19th Century; however, according to this report, the structure is not attested on any historical maps until 1854. The ceramic assemblage found at the site represents an occupation range from the late 18th Century to the early 20th Century. The Shaker/Powell Hotel Site is a mid-19th Century hotel that was later demolished in the 1980s. A Phase II site examination was recommended for both sites if avoidance was not possible.


Revised report for the proposed construction of the DASNY headquarters. The unit excavated within Lots 495/499 uncovered the remains of the Merchant and Broadway Central Hotels of 1892 and 1908, respectively. Three units excavated with Lot 507 produced artifacts from the 17th Century in a floor level underlying the Merchant Hotel, the latter of which dates to the mid- to late-19th Century. Early artifacts from the floor level include a fragment of delftware, kaolin pipe stem fragments, creamware, pearlware, and porcelain. Three units within Lot 513 identified 18th Century deposits with a poured concrete intrusion that dates to the early 20th Century; the 18th Century deposits were identified by delftware fragments, creamware, kaolin pipe stem fragments, and a fragment of crown window glass. Two privies were also contained within this lot, one of which yielded 19th to 20th Century deposits (Privy/Midden 5), while the other (Privy/Midden 3) was not described in detail. Five units in Lot 527 uncovered the brick floor of Bleecker Hall, which underwent modifications in the late 19th Century. A
mixed artifact assemblage was identified behind Lots 495/499, which is thought to have been disturbed by the railroad. A total of 12 privy/middens were identified behind Lot 513, which span the late 18th to early 19th Centuries. Two units behind Lot 531 recovered an artifact assemblage spanning the 17th- to 19th-Centuries, including delftware, stoneware, creamware, pearlware, yellowware, wine and beer bottle fragments, and architectural materials (e.g. brick). The six units behind Lot 545 recovered a large artifact assemblage that includes: both red and yellow bricks, glass, delftware, creamware, pearlware, kaolin pipe stem and bowl fragments, leather shoe fragments, precontact lithics, trade beads, and a wide variety of animal bones (including cow, pig, sheep/goat, cat, dog, bird, and fish).

2008  

A Phase II site examination of the John Hill/Van Auken House Site (herein designated as the Orlop/Hill House) and the Shaker/Powell Hotel Site, both of which were identified as part of the Phase I archaeological survey. Further deed research identified William and Jacob Orlop as the earliest leasees of property from Stephen Van Rensselaer in 1790. By 1830, the property was leased to John Hill (or “Hills”). His son, John A. Hills, resided at the Orlop/Hills House in addition to owning and operating the nearby Shaker/Powell Hotel. In 1887, he sold the Shaker Hotel to George and Mary Minks, who in turn renamed the building to the Minks Hotel. The ownership of the hotel continued to change steadily thereafter. Archaeological excavation of the Orlop/Hills House uncovered a buried A-Horizon (topsoil) with artifact deposits ranging in date from 1795 to 1800; this component of the site was sealed beneath later fill episodes. Archaeological excavation of the Shaker/Powell Hotel identified artifact deposits dating to 1831, which may be associated with the John A. Hills ownership of the site. The assemblages of both sites were found to be quite different, despite having the same owner: “A relatively low occurrence of alcohol- and tobacco-related items were found within the stratum associated with the nineteenth-century hotel. This may suggest that alcohol was not served at the hotel and that smoking may have been discouraged, possibly in deference to Shaker clientele” (p. 57). Both sites were recommended for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

2011  

Phase I archaeological survey and monitoring for the proposed Wellington Place development from 60-64 and 132-140 State Street and 67 Howard Street in downtown Albany, for which fieldwork initially occurred in 2007 and then again in 2009-2011. Two historic sites were identified over the course of the fieldwork: the 67 Howard/140 State Street Historic Site and the Wellington Place Historic Site (134-136 State Street). The Wellington Place Historic Site was defined by eight fragmentary wooden posts and a brick-and-wood drain capped with flagstones, underlying a 19th Century structural foundation. Dendrochronological analysis found that the pitch pine posts were felled c. 1677 to 1711. A hand-wrought awl was also found at the site.

Further monitoring of the Wellington Place Project in November 2014 and April-May 2015 recovered one additional wooden post associated with the eight pitch pine posts previously identified at the Wellington Place Historical Site. No other artifacts were noted.

**Thomas, N. D.**

1926  *Bennington Battlefield,* Hoosick Falls, New York.

The site of the Battle of Bennington was acquired by the State in 1912. An automobile road has been constructed to the top of the hill where the Hessian entrenchments were. The land has been plowed for more than 150 years, and all traces of the original earthworks have been obliterated. Therefore, markers should be erected showing the location of the entrenchments based on Burgoyne’s map; the markers should explain that the location is based on Burgoyne’s map, the accuracy of which several historians have questioned.

**Trousdale, Allen**


**Valosin, Christine**


The analysis of ceramics excavated at the Saratoga Schuyler estate dating from the 1760s to the 1780s is ongoing, but the predominance of creamwares throughout the excavations illustrates the same pattern of ceramic use at both the Albany and Saratoga Schuyler properties.

**Van den Hurk, Jeroen**


Despite the high groundwater table in the Netherlands, the Dutch used various types of cellars for domestic purposes. Six out of 19 contracts in New Netherland mention a cellar. Archeological evidence has shown the New Netherland settlers used wooden cellars.

**Veit, Richard F.**


The excavation by Charles Abbott on Burlington Island in the Delaware River produced fragments of four red clay roof tiles. They strongly resemble the roof tiles recovered in excavations at the site of Fort Orange. Such tiles are commonly used in the Netherlands and are evidence that the site is Dutch.
Veit, Richard F. and Charles A. Bello

The roof tiles excavated by Charles Abbott from a Dutch site on Burlington Island in the Delaware River are very similar to those excavated at Fort Orange. Their red color is Munsell color 7.5YR7/8, described as reddish yellow.

Veit, Richard F. and Paul R. Huey

Glass bottles with seals or crests applied to necks or shoulders of the bottles, if used by individuals rather than organizations, served as indicators of economic and social capital in early America. They provide insights into various aspects of colonial culture, including the creation and maintenance of male identities, membership in élite groups, and knowledge of proper etiquette. The geographic disparities in their distribution, with many more examples recovered from sites in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware than at sites farther north, serve to highlight the development of distinctive regional cultures. At the Schuyler Flatts site a bottle was excavated with a seal marked PS, for Pieter Schuyler.

Venema, Janny
1993 Kinderen van weelde en armoede: Armoede en liefdadigheid in Beverwijck/Albany (c.1650 c.1700). Uitgeverij Verloren, Hilversum, the Netherlands.

Illustrates a string of eight wampum beads excavated in situ at Fort Orange in 1970 or 1971. The string of eight beads had the value of one stuiver.

2001 The Court Case of Brant Aertsz van Slichtenhorst Against Jan van Rensselaer. de Halve Maen 74(1):3-8.

Describes the Patroon’s House.

Waite, Diana S.

Illustrates a complete reconstructed pantile excavated at Fort Orange, from a house built between 1649 and 1651. The tiles were fashioned with lugs with which they were attached to horizontal scantlings, and they were further secured with mortar. It has not yet been established from neutron activation analysis whether such tiles were actually made near Albany. Dutch sites in the Albany area have yielded only pantiles and no plain, or flat tiles.
Waite, Diana S. and Paul R. Huey  

Illustrates remains of the Hendrick Andriessen van Doesburgh house built about 1650, uncovered in the southeast corner of the site of Fort Orange. The site had been preserved under 6 feet of fill beneath Broadway in Albany, and it was excavated and recorded previous to construction of the new Albany arterial highway through the site. Illustrates the buried remains of a stockade wall trench dug in the 1740s at the Schuyler Flatts site. The stone foundation of a later structure built in the 1750s crossed the filled-in stockade wall trench. Because of the historical significance of the site and because of the public interest aroused by these and other discoveries, a developer who owned the property agreed to set these remains aside and preserve them in a small historical park.

Wallace, Dwight D.  

Excavations were conducted in advance of the construction of concrete reinforcements at the Mansion corners. At the southeast corner, the stratigraphy was disturbed because of utility lines that had been installed, between which the original natural and undisturbed topsoil stratum above the clay could be discerned. The early topsoil stratum did not contain artifacts. Above the early topsoil is a deposit of clay fill. A brick drain is probably the earliest intrusion. Later drains were made of tile. The foundations of the Mansion were laid directly against the vertical sides of the excavation into the clay for the cellar, leaving no filled wall trench. It can be clearly established the foundations were originally exposed above a ground surface that was some 11 to 14 inches below the present ground surface. Also, parallel with the foundation wall a clear drip line from run off of rain from the Mansion roof could be discerned. Evidently there was a crushed rock ground surface in front of the Mansion. The drip line would predate the installation of gutters and the brick drain. At the southwest corner of the Mansion, the foundation wall of the original wing or flanker was exposed. The foundation wall was not as well constructed. At the southwest corner of the Mansion the depth to the original old topsoil level is even greater than at the front corner, showing that originally the ground surface sloped less toward the front from the rear. The crushed rock of the old ground surface found at the front corner is not present at the rear corner.

Wheeler, Walter Richard  

The tile fragments recovered in 1974 during the excavation of a trench in Riverside Avenue in front of Crailo appear to date from ca. 1625 to 1660. One has a dog as a central motif, while another has an ox-head corner design. They match tile fragments found at the Schuyler Flatts. Excavations between 1985 and 1990 produced additional tile fragments, one of which is from a scriptural tile that belongs to the series which was probably installed in the east wing in 1762. The scriptural tiles that were in the “tile room” at Crailo in the east wing are of the same type as an example from the Nicoll-Sill house in Bethlehem. A total of eight tile fragments has been
excavated at Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site between 1969 and 1994. The four purple-decorated tile fragments were clearly scriptural tiles and are of the same type as those excavated at the Schuyler house site on Eagle Street in Albany and at the Van Schaick house in Cohoes. They were likely made in Utrecht.


This bibliography presents a comprehensive inventory of the “built culture” of all counties adjacent to the Hudson River in New York and New Jersey. Most useful to the scope of the New Netherland Bibliography are the entries of Albany and Rensselaer Counties.


Late-mediaeval European protective rituals and practices associated with building construction and/or habitation of buildings mixed with Native American and African magical practices in the New World and transformed over time. This apotropaic phenomenon is detailed within the New World Dutch Cultural Hearth. Various types of artifact deposits associated with Euro-Americans include: coins, sharps, shoes, daisy wheels, the Saltire (or St. Andrew’s Cross), hearts, diamonds, other inscriptions (e.g. the “Wakon-bird Symbol” or “spirit dove” and other palimpsests), date stones, human remains and their avatars, horse skulls, cats and other quadrupeds, witch bottles, and other types of intentional deposits (e.g. rods and the mixture of hair and plaster in the walls of a house). Deposits associated with Native American practices include: quartz crystals, spirals, corn cobs and moccasins, as well as the daisy wheel. Deposits associated with enslaved Africans (originating from East Africa, West Africa, and Madagascar) include: nkisi (or minkisi) bundles and objects inscribed with a cross or “X” mark. A few of the deposits are not mutually exclusive, which suggest an interaction of slave, Native American and Euro-American practice. These artifact deposits are located in the following areas of a building: entry, threshold, transition spaces; fireplace hearth and flue; roof deposits; and foundation deposits. One example, the Van Loon house in the Town of Athens, contains an assemblage that resulted from multiple depositional episodes that occurred over a period of time from 1724 to c. 1824.

Wilcoxen, Charlotte


Excavations at the site of Fort Orange show that Indians lived on the site prior to the arrival of the Dutch. The excavation of part of the site of the fort in 1970 and 1971 revealed remains of structures that could be identified exactly from 17th-century deeds and other records. The artifacts from the site include Dutch pottery and glass. Many of the glassware sherds represent the finer types of drinking glasses.


Fragments of Bartmann jugs from Frechen, Germany, found at Fort Orange and the Schuyler Flatts are similar in every respect to those found on the wreck of the Dutch ship, Vergulde
Draeck, sunk in 1656. They have a mottled buff and dark brown surface appearance. At these sites, however, there were only minimal traces of Siegburg-type stoneware. Dutch majolica of the first half of the 17th century was plentiful at both Fort Orange and the Schuyler Flatts. Wan-li border designs are numerous, and most of the majolica patterns can be identified by examples in Dingeman Korf’s book on Dutch majolica. Wan-li designs are common on sherds of Dutch faience as well. A small bowl from Fort Orange with this decoration appears to be a transition piece between majolica and faience. Several large sections of faience plates from Fort Orange from ca. 1650 to 1670 also have a transitional character. The decoration occupies only the center portion of the plates, which have plain white rims. Evidence of cups is rare among the sherds from Fort Orange, although examples from the second half of the 17th century have been excavated at the Schuyler Flatts.


In a sense, the excavations at the site of Fort Orange were a milestone in American archeology since it was the first time an important 17th-century Dutch site in America had been carefully studied. The work produced a large body of artifacts from a tight date range of 1624 to 1676. The 12 years between 1664 and 1676 was a time during which most of the site was occupied by the British, but the import and use of Dutch goods evidently continued. The English commercial world was not yet equipped to meet the challenge of supplying the province of New York with consumer goods of the type to which it had become accustomed under Dutch rule. The evidence at Fort Orange indicates the housekeeping of the small English garrison was spartan, as indicated by the dearth of English ceramic wares of the period found there. The ceramics recovered from the site of Fort Orange fall into five distinct groups: Dutch ceramics, German salt-glazed stonewares, Iberian and Italian wares, Chinese porcelain, and English earthenwares. At the Schuyler Flatts site, the Dutch faience and majolica sherds display the same patterns as those from Fort Orange. Westerwald stoneware sherds include those from frieze on a jug telling the story of the Prodigal Son. Several sherds of what appears to be Italian faience were excavated at the Flatts site. They are from a lobed dish with a light turquoise blue tin glaze. Similar sherds have been noted at an early Virginia plantation site and at Massachusetts sites. The Van Buren site is the site of an early Dutch farmstead near Albany. As yet it has been only tentatively explored, but it has produced significant sherds of Dutch majolica and faience, German stoneware, and Dutch utility wares corresponding to types found at Fort Orange.


The excavation at the site of Fort Orange in the winter of 1970-71 was the first professional excavation of a Dutch site in America, and the artifacts are, in effect, a time capsule. The ceramic artifacts from the site fall into five distinct groups: Dutch ceramics, German stoneware, Iberian and Italian wares, Chinese porcelain, and English earthenware. The Dutch majolica from the site dates, stylistically and archeologically, from 1600 to 1675, with most of from between 1629 and 1650. The decorative pattern on majolica that was most frequent at Fort Orange was the Chinese Wan-li design. The Dutch tiles are a common type, while there are no examples of the expensive polychrome tiles of the first half of the 17th century. Utility wares at the site are represented by many sherds of red-bodied earthenware with a cinnamon-brown lead glaze. Another type is of a coarse, whitish body with a dark green glaze. The
German stoneware consists of Westerwald and Frechen types. None of the Westerwald has manganese decoration. Iberian tin-glazed earthenware is sparsely represented, and there was even far less Chinese porcelain. A few sherds appear to be late Ming or from the Transition Period that followed. English ceramics are also minimal, with a few sherds of gravel-tempered coarse red earthenware. The ceramics otherwise duplicate those in use in the Netherlands at the same time, with allowances for differences in economic status.


As a collector of Dutch delft, the author examined the hundreds of tin-glazed earthenware sherds that were recovered in 1970 and 1971 in the excavations at the site of Fort Orange. It was noted that some sherds were tin-glazed on both sides, while others had tin glaze on only one side and a transparent lead glaze on the reverse. Paul Huey had noticed this earlier, having been alerted about this distinction by a communication from Ivor Nöel Hume. To obtain more information, the author decided to visit the Netherlands to consult Dutch experts. It was the curator at the Boymans-van Beuningen Museum in Rotterdam who explained the important typological difference between Dutch majolica, tin-glazed on one side and lead-glazed on the reverse, and later tin-glazed wares. By about 1660 Dutch majolica was no longer widely produced. The decorated sherds recovered in Rotterdam from the earth churned up by the terrible World War II bombing exactly duplicated the patterns of those from Fort Orange. Before returning to the United States, the author visited four other Dutch museums, met with the Amsterdam city archaeologist, and met with a prominent collector of Dutch majolica.


The Tram and Cameron sites, both located in Livingston County, New York, were occupied probably between ca. 1580 and 1610. The types of glass beads from these sites are typical of the period before ca. 1610 and probably represent a French origin. At other sites, with occupation beginning about 1610, there is a sudden increase of new and different types of beads including striped polychrome beads, and these beads are evidently from Dutch trade on the Hudson, Fort Nassau being constructed in 1614. However, the bead assemblage from Fort Orange, built in 1624, exhibits a sharp departure from the range of bead types common at sites from the ca. 1610 to 1625 period. About the time Fort Orange was built, there was a deliberate attempt in the Netherlands to produce less expensive trade goods, including simplification of the process of bead manufacture. Not all the bead types typical of the period before ca. 1610 were found at the Cameron and Tram sites, but a few isolated examples of the missing types have been recovered from Fort Orange and other post-1624 sites.


In the fall of 1983, vandals at the Schuyler Flatts looted a stone cellar feature located about 30 meters from the main Schuyler house. The rectangular cellar was about 1.5 by 1.1 meters in size; the floor, at a depth of 90 centimeters, was paved with brick or stone. The backdirt from
the looting contained an assemblage of fragments of wine and case bottles and other glassware, ceramics, bone, and some structural artifacts. No whole objects were present, presumably taken by the vandal. Wine bottle fragments account for more than a third of the entire sample, and there are about half as many square case bottle fragments. The 141 wine bottle fragments represent a minimum of 46 bottles. The sample represents at least 16 case bottles. More than 21 percent of the sample consists of window glass fragments. The fragments of green-tinted medicine bottles are from at least six bottles. There are fragments of three clear lead glass scent bottles. Glass tableware consists of fragments of decanters, flip glasses, and wine glasses. Of the decanters, seven out of the ten fragments are lead glass. Two fragments are engraved. The two wine glass fragments are colorless lead glass. The ceramics include porcelain, pearlware, creamware, red earthenware, and stoneware. Other than two creamware chamber pot fragments, all the ceramic wares are tableware items such as cups or plates. Creamware makes up the bulk of the ceramic sample. Of the 88 pieces of window glass, 74 are blue-green tinted, and the remaining 14 are green-tinted. Five fragments have part of a scratched inscription, “R Sc[h]….” The garbage bones include a sawed rib bone.