MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE
1987 PROGRAM AND ABSTRACTS

FRIDAY (Morning)

THE HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE FORGOTTEN: POOR, TENANTS, AND OTHER SUCH FOLKS

9:30 Introduction - Ellis C. Coleman and Wade P. Catts, Univ. of Delaware (Session Chairmen).

9:40 Houses of the Unlanded: Tenant Dwellings in the Lower Delaware Valley, 1770-1830 - Bernard Herman, Center for Historical Architecture and Engineering, Univ. of Delaware.

10:00 Synchronic and Diachronic Wealth Analysis of Industrial Tenants: Case Studies from Maryland - Silas Hurry, Maryland Geological Survey.

10:20 Tenancy, Class, and Infrastructure in pre-Civil War Wilmington - Louise B. Heite, Heite Consulting.

10:40 Break


11:10 The Banneker Farmstead: An Eighteenth Century Free Black Site - Katherine J. Dinnel and Robert J. Hurry, Maryland Historical Trust.

11:30 Archaeological Evidence of Ethnicity and Acculturation: West Indies Immigrants in Federalist Wilmington - Wade P. Catts, Univ. of Delaware.

11:50 Discussion

FRIDAY (Afternoon)

BROADENING THE FLOCK: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

1:30 Introduction Joan Chase, The American University (Session Chair).

1:40 New Evidence for the Pleistocene Peopling of the Middle Atlantic Region - Henry J. Tucci, Center for Prehistoric Archaeology.
2:00 Archaic Occupations at the Bachman Site near Easton, Pennsylvania - David Anthony, John Milner Associates.


2:40 The Application of Phytolith Analysis to the Paleoethnobotany of the Middle Atlantic Region - Dolores Piperno, Temple University.

3:00 Break

3:10 Identification of 17th Century Hair: Using the Scanning Electron Microscope as an Aid in the Analysis of Hair Samples - Nicholas Alfieri, West Chester University.

3:30 Rocking the Boat: Indians, Archaeologists, and Indian Burials - Paul B. Cissna, The American University.


4:10 Comments on Middle Atlantic Archaeology: Past, Present, Future - Charles W. McNett, Jr., The American University.

SATURDAY (Morning and Afternoon)

NEW APPROACHES TO OTHER PASTS
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CELEBRATION OF FRANKLIN AND MARSHALL COLLEGE'S BICENTENNIAL 1787 TO 1987 IN COOPERATION WITH THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Venue at Kaufman Lecture Hall, Franklin and Marshall College
See Special Bicentennial Program

SATURDAY (Evening) 8:30 MAAC, INC. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

SUNDAY (Morning)

GENERAL RESEARCH IN THE MIDDLE ATLANTIC

9:30 Introduction - Elizabeth Acuff, The American University (Session Chair).

10:00 Analyzing Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Depositions in Annapolis - Anne E. Yentsch, Historic Annapolis.

10:20 Analysis of a Controlled Surface Collection from the Beck Northeast Site - Laurie C. Steponaitis and Wayne Clark, SUNY, Binghamton and Jefferson Patterson Park.

10:40 Break

10:50 Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in the Northern New Jersey Highlands - Edward J. Lenik, Sheffield Archaeological Consultants.


1987 MAAC CLOSING COMMENTS

ABSTRACTS

Alfieri, N.J. (Identification of 17th Century Hair: Using the SEM as an Aid in the Analysis of Hair Samples from Four Native American Artifacts) - Hair samples from four 17th century Mid-Atlantic Native American Artifacts belonging to the Wrangel Collection, housed in the Skokloster Museum, Balsta, Sweden, were obtained for analysis. The samples were subjected to macroscopic and microscopic examination. Microscopic analysis included measurement of hair length and diameter, color differentiation, and proximal to distal end tapering. Microscopic analysis included cuticle scale and medulla cross section observation using the SEM. The goal of this project is to identify the originating species of the hair sample.

Anthony, D. (Archaic Occupations at the Bachman Site Near Easton, PA) - The Bachman site is located on the lower terraces of the Delaware River 2 miles south of Easton, PA, about 40 miles upstream from the fall line. Archaeological investigations undertaken at the site in connection with the proposed
construction of I-78 revealed two subsurface prehistoric components: an intact Archaic occupation surface C-14 dated to about 1800 BC, and a smaller Otter Creek/Eshback component stratified beneath the first. The two occupations were separated by a major riverine erosional event caused by severe flooding. The occupation surface of 1800 BC revealed numerous distinct activity areas, two hearths, and a varied assemblage of tools and projectile points contained in a sealed single component deposit that appears to represent an occupation of less than a week. As such, it provides an unusually uncluttered perspective on Archaic camp organization, labor division, and tool assemblages.

Artemel, J. and E. A. Crowell (The Alexandria Slave Pen: Archaeology of Urban Captivity) - The Alexandria Slave Pen was known from 1828-1836 as the most "eminent slave trading firm in the south," and later became the chief slave trading firm along the border between the Free and Slave States. Archaeological excavation located evidence of the use of this property as a short-term habitation site for slaves in transit to southern states. The site was used during the Civil War as a prison, again with transient residents. Few archaeological studies have been conducted that record transient residence by captive members of society who have limited access to material goods. Material culture found on such sites may consist almost entirely of objects supplied by the agents and wardens of the institutions they served. Drawing upon documentary records and data from the excavation at this site, hypotheses have been developed that may guide future research in the archaeology of urban captivity.

Baumgartner-Wagner, N. and J.W. Hopkins III (Notley Hall: The Archaeology of a Black Amusement Park on the Potomac) - The last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of this century were times of reshaping of American Society. The base of the country shifted from agriculture to manufacturing. The shape of the factory became the shape of many other aspects of society. The demands of factory labor reshaped lower class amusement parks, technological "factories for fun" mirrored the industrial innovation that ruled the lives of their customers. Notley Hall, on the Potomac River below Washington, D.C., provides a window into this period of American history. Like Marshall Hall, just south, an amusement park was built on the grounds of an 18th century plantation. Notley Hall, which was in operation from 1894 to 1924, was a Black Amusement Park. Its archaeology offers information about this little studied "industrial entertainment" for the "secret city," the urban black population of Washington, D.C.

Becker, K. (Archaeology in a Laundromat) - This presentation explores the significance of the 1985 Archaeological investigation of the Seneca Falls Laundromat, located in Seneca Falls, NY. The structure of the laundromat is important because it incorporates portions of the former Wesleyan Chapel, where the
first convention on Women's Rights was held in 1848. The convention, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Jane Hunt, Lucretia Mott, Mary Ann McClintock, and Martha Wright, was the formal beginning of the Women's Rights Movement in the United States.

Carr, K.W. (The Shoop Site: Thirty-Five Years After) - The main points of Witthoft's classic 1952 report on the Shoop site were that the lithic source was 250 miles to the northwest, the technology involved a blade tool tradition, the site pre-dated Western Clovis, and the site functioned as a lookout station for big game. The purpose of this presentation is to review the past thirty-five years of discussion surrounding these hypotheses. The general consensus is that this is not a "true" blade tool tradition, and my analysis suggests that the lithic technology is similar to other Clovis sites which used a bifacial core reduction sequence. Current models for Paleoindian settlement involve quarries and/or high biomass ecotones. Recent field work at this site suggests that neither are present. Considering that this is one of the largest Paleoindian sites in the Northeast, more research is needed to determine its role in settlement pattern.

Catts, W.P. (Archaeological Evidence of Ethnicity and Acculturation: West Indies Immigrants in Federalist Wilmington) - Archaeological investigations in Wilmington, Delaware, have recovered small amounts of Colono ware from three separate house lots dating from the late 18th to early 19th centuries. The presence of Colono ware in an urban context, and its late date when compared to other sites in the southeastern United States, is puzzling. It is suggested in this paper that the Colono ware is associated with the presence of refugees of the French Revolution from St. Domingo, Haiti, who fled to Wilmington in the last decade of the 18th century. These immigrants included Frenchmen, blacks, mulattoes, and slaves. The results of the excavations of two privy features on Block 1191 in Wilmington indicate that the occupants of the household may have been West Indies refugees. The archaeological evidence identifying the ethnicity of the occupants and their subsequent acculturation into Federalist Wilmington society are examined.

Cissna, P.B. (Rocking the Boat: Indians, Archaeologists, and Indian Burials) - This paper discusses the on-going conflict between the archaeological community and the American Indian concerning the continued archaeological excavation of Indian burials as well as demands for the return of previously excavated remains - including associated artifacts. Both Indian and archaeological perspectives are presented. The latter looks at a range of proposed solutions: both official policies and/or laws, and general attitudes noted within the profession as observed over the past several years. The focus is largely on the Middle
Atlantic region, with special attention on Maryland. While showing the magnitude of the problem and its potential ramifications to the study of archaeology, this paper also proposes possible solutions.

Custer, J.C. (Environmental Change and Cultural Dynamics on the Delmarva Peninsula: Structure vs Composition) - A study of the large data base on prehistoric site distributions and artifact assemblages from the Delmarva Peninsula shows that the most important cultural changes occurred ca 3000-500 BC, and AD 1000. In contrast major environmental changes are evident ca 8000 BC, 6500 BC, and 3000 BC. Except for the most recent environmental change, these are changes in environmental composition and their effects on prehistoric cultures is minimal. More significant is the mid-Holocene change which alters both environmental structure and composition.

Dinnel, K.J. and R.J. Hurry (The Banneker Farmstead: An 18th Century Free Black Site) - Archaeological Investigations by the Maryland Historical Trust during 1985 and 1986 uncovered numerous cultural features and provided artifact samples representing evidence of the Banneker farmstead. Benjamin Banneker, America’s first Black man of Science, resided at this site from the late 1730’s until his death in 1806. Historical documentation supplements archaeological data to address questions concerning the Banneker family’s lifestyle and their relative socio-economic position.

Graybill, J.R. (The Shenks Ferry Complex Revisited) - This paper is an outgrowth of Franklin and Marshall’s excavations at the late Shenks Ferry-Murry Site, Lancaster County, PA, in 1968 and 1969, and the author’s participation in that project. Here I address four issues bearing on Shenks Ferry culture history, including 1) the nature and meaning of the Shenks Ferry concept; 2) Shenks Ferry origins relative to various alternative hypotheses that have been proposed in the literature; 3) Shenks Ferry chronology and its implications for settlement change; and 4) the fate of the Shenks Ferry people as well as the role of the Susquehannocks, European epidemic diseases, etc., in their demise.

Handsman, R.G. (The Sociopolitics of Susquehannock Archaeology) - This paper explores three questions seldom posed during archaeological studies of the history of Susquehannock Indians: Whose history is it? How many histories are there? Who made Susquehannock history in the 17th century? It is argued that Susquehannock history needs to be written as archaeological histories of colonialism, struggles against the transformation and redefinition of native social relations, and the construction and reconstruction of Susquehannock ideologies. History in this sense is neither a continuum nor a discipline; history is
something some Susquehannock made and lived in and even struggled against. Archaeologies of this type of history are possible and will be about resistance, power and control, and social reproduction. As they are written, archaeological histories of the Susquehannock will demonstrate that 17th century landscapes, spaces, and material culture were above all political terrains. The Susquehannock knew this; in fact, they were responsible for it. Now it is time we wrote these histories for ourselves.

Heite, L. B. (Tenancy, Class, and Infrastructure in Pre-Civil War Wilmington) - A statistical examination of tenants and landlords indicates that tenancy in early industrial Wilmington was not a particularly class-related phenomenon. There is a strong indication that ownership of rental property was an economic strategy open to most classes of people. Tenancy was distributed among all economic strata; landlords and tenants tended to be roughly equal in status. Tenancy alone is not a reliable measure of class, status, or wealth in an early industrial city.

Herman, B. (Houses of the Unlanded: Tenant Dwellings in the Lower Delaware Valley, 1770-1830) - The surviving domestic architecture in the Middle Atlantic region, like much of the documentary record, reflects most clearly the property, society, and economic concerns of a landed, white, male minority. The aspirations and circumstances of the majority are largely unrecorded. Rural tenants represent one element of a diverse population whose place in the landscape of late 18th and early 19th century America needs to be more fully explored. Following the lead of historians and archaeologists working on tenancy, this paper will discuss the appearance and social place of tenant dwellings in the lower Delaware Valley from 1785 to 1820. One element in these landscapes, the houses of the unlanded, is known to us primarily through documentary evidence and archaeological remains. Tenant housing in the lower Delaware Valley represents varied architectural traditions which define a class of buildings within local and regional contexts. Like slave quarters and laborers' dwellings, tenant houses were designed in accordance with prevailing patterns of rural domestic architecture; like the residences of the landed elite, tenant dwellings functioned both as shelter and symbol. This paper describes and interprets those aspects of appearance and function in tenant housing.

Hess, P. (Revolutionary War Shipwrecks at Chestnut Neck, Atlantic County, NJ) - A fleet of Revolutionary War shipwrecks in and around Chestnut Neck were explored during 1985-86. The vessels were scuttled during a British amphibious assault which destroyed the important American privateering port of Chestnut Neck. An outline of colonial privateering, the port of Chestnut Neck and its destruction, and the method and discoveries of modern day archaeological investigation of the shipwreck sites will be presented. The importance of using trained sports divers to assist in underwater exploration and archaeological recovery of submerged cultural resources will be highlighted.
Hurry, S. (Synchronic and Diachronic Wealth Analysis of Industrial Tenants: Case Studies from Maryland) - Archaeological studies undertaken by the Division of Archaeology, Maryland Geological Survey, with funding provided by the Maryland State Highway Administration, have investigated two domestic sites which historical research has linked to industrial tenants. One of these sites is a 19th century rural grist mill while the other is associated with a 19th century iron furnace. Following a brief discussion of historical context, both intrasite and intersite comparisons of the ceramic assemblages are forwarded following the method proposed by Miller (1980). Intrasite analysis at the mill suggests a decline in the economic position of grist mill tenants with the advent of steel roller mills while intersite analysis points out the diversity of economic status among industrial tenants, ranging from wealth comparable to that of tenant farmers through what would be considered middle class. Other artifact groups and manifestations of wealth are suggested as fruitful areas for future research. Finally, the thorny question of the relationship economic wealth and social status is outlined and suggestions made for an integrated approach.

Kinsey, W. F. III (Susquehannock Animal Art and Iconography) - This is a study of the animal and human images found on Iroquois pipes, ladles, combs, ornaments, and the European trade materials of the 17th century. The sample includes 108 animal and 45 human Susquehannock images together with 303 animal and 115 human Seneca images.

Kratzer, J.M. and M. Fokken (Archaeological Investigations of an Early Woodland Occupation along Pennsauken Creek, Burlington County, NJ) - An archaeological project in Burlington County, NJ, discovered an unplowed deposit of Early Woodland stone tools, ceramics, and stone boiling features. The site lies on the bluff overlooking the South Branch of the Pennsauken Creek. A 50x60 ft area was excavated which provided a large enough sample to cross mend both lithic and ceramic specimens. Through provenience data and the cross mending of artifacts, intersite patterns were discovered, which showed distinct and non-overlapping activity areas. The development of these hypotheses was aided by analyzing the ceramic vessels by shape and form (as opposed to surface treatment and temper) and relating their distributions to other tool/feature class locations.

Lenik, E.J. (Prehistoric Settlement Patterns in the Northern New Jersey Highlands) - Archaeological reconnaissance and excavations in the Monksville Reservoir Project Area have resulted in the discovery of fourteen prehistoric sites in the 505 acre section of the northern NJ Highlands physiographic province. These project area sites fall into two basic types: riverine campsites and elevated plateau sites. This paper will discuss the specific adaptations made by prehistoric peoples to the environmental conditions present in the Highlands, including
resource procurement, site function, and cultural chronology. This project has shown that a land suitability/desirability model is an effective tool for predicting site locations in a heavily forested river valley with adjacent rock outcrops and ridges.

Mangold, W.L. and T. A. Grace (The Other Side of the Island: Additional Data on the Prehistoric Occupations of Three Mile Island) - The islands in the Susquehanna River were heavily utilized in prehistoric times. Three Mile Island in Dauphin County, PA is one of the larger of these landforms. In 1967, prior to the construction of the nuclear generating station, an archaeological survey conducted by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission revealed eight "hot spots" of cultural activity. Excavations were conducted on the northern-most of those locales. New information obtained through limited testing and a review of private collections gathered in the last half century provide the basis for a more thorough assessment of the island's occupations.

Moeller, R. W. (Lessons Taught, But Not Learned: You Cannot Ignore Reality) - Although their noble intentions have met with repeated failures, too many archaeologists of the Middle Atlantic Region continue to pursue unobtainable research goals. Although the pursuit of the unobtainable may be justifiable in the name of scholarship, this course of action ignores not only the social reality of the 1980's, but is also at the expense of one's implicit and explicit professional obligations.

Parry, W.J. (The Relationship Between Lithic Technology and Changing Mobility Strategies in Eastern Pennsylvania) - Prehistoric lithic technology was strongly influenced by mobility strategies. In particular, it appears that an emphasis on biface reduction was closely associated with a high degree of residential mobility in prehistoric North America. Thus, it is not surprising to find, throughout the continent, that the production of bifacial tools and cores decreased over time, as mobility also decreased. Published descriptions of lithic assemblages from eastern PA will be reviewed and changing mobility patterns will be inferred.

Piperno, D. R. (The Application of Phytolith Analysis to the Paleoeoethnobotany and Paleoecology of the Middle Atlantic Region) - The analysis of phytoliths, microscopic silica formed in the cells of living plants, can provide considerable information on the paleoecology of the Middle Atlantic region. Phytoliths are mineralized plant fossils that exhibit remarkable durability in sediments over long periods of time, and hence are commonly found in deposits inimical to the preservation of other remains like pollen and macro-fossils. They are produced in considerable numbers and distinctive shapes by many plant species including maize (Zea mays L.) and squash (Cucurbita spp.). This paper
explores the potential of phytolith analysis in Middle Atlantic archaeological and geological research. It is shown how phytolith studies may elucidate such questions as the origin and development of agricultural systems, the economic importance of wild plants, and the nature of prehistoric environments and environmental modification.

Steponaitis, L. C. and W. Clark (Analysis of a Controlled Surface Collection from the Beck Northeast Site) - Located in the uplands of Maryland's Western Shore, the Beck Northeast Site encompasses dense archaeological deposits dating to Late Archaic and Woodland times. In 1982 the Maryland Historical Trust obtained a controlled surface collection from this locality. This paper presents an analysis of the spatial patterns evident in the surface-collected material, focusing especially on the Middle Woodland, Selby Bay phase component.

Truncer, J. (Perkiomen Points: A Functional Analysis) - Actualistic studies have demonstrated that at least two general categories of macroscopic breakage observable among experimental lithic points (transverse fractures and distal impact fractures) can potentially represent different tool usage. Functional interpretations of Terminal Archaic Perkiomen points are presented based on breakage observations for approximately 500 individual specimens. Morphological, regional, and environmental variables are considered in the analysis. The advantages of macroscopic functional analysis and its potential contribution toward understanding past economic systems are discussed.

Tucci, H. J. (New Evidence for the Pleistocene Peopling of the Middle Atlantic Region) - Archaeological excavations at Durham Cave in eastern PA have revealed the presence of human remains in association with Pleistocene mammals. Artifactual evidence from the cave revealed a rather basic bone tool technology which was supplemented occasionally with stone tools for butchering, and a subsistence technology revolving around the hunting and butchering of Pleistocene mammals such as Arctodus, Canis dirus, Symbos cavifrons, and others. The living floor which produced these artifact patterns has been dated to 35,000 BP, thus leading to the labelling of Durham Cave as a pre-Clovis site. Recent discussions with cave explorers led the author to several other cave sites in PA and NJ which seems to exhibit the same patterning as Durham Cave. Preliminary investigations of these other caves suggest they area likely candidates for inclusion in the pre-Clovis database. This paper will discuss the growing evidence for a pre-Clovis occupation of the Middle Atlantic during the Pleistocene, and will summarize the environmental factors operating on the pre-Clovis populations in an initial attempt to provide a settlement model for the pre-Clovis period.
Yentsch, A. E. (Analyzing Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Depositions in Annapolis) - On urban archaeological sites with their often complex sequences of land fill and reuse, researchers come face-to-face with the haunting question of "who" deposited the materials they recover more frequently than do archaeologists working on isolated, rural sites. In sorting out this problem at the Calvert site, we have compared different deposits in terms of artifact weights, artifact density, minimum vessel counts, and indices of vessel completeness. We have also considered the variation in discard rates for two different classes of artifacts: ceramics and faunal material. This emphasis on formation processes, together with presence/absence dating, is gradually providing a means for answering the knotty question of who deposited what at the site.

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Acknowledgements

1987 MAAC PRESIDENT: JOHN CAVALLO
PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: RICHARD J. DENT
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAIRMAN: W. FRED KINSEY III
SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY: KURT CARR, JAY CUSTER, AND RUSSELL HANDSMAN

Requiescat in Pace

Victor A. Carbone
Friend of Middle Atlantic Archaeology
Eshback & Otter Creek occur below discontinuity at Bachman site. Above discontinuity are well dated Late Archaic components.