In May 26, 1637, English forces and their Indian allies attacked and burned the Pequot fortified village at present-day Mystic, killing more than 400 men, women, and children in just one hour. This battle was a turning point in the Pequot War, which changed southern New England’s political and social landscape and influenced Colonial and American policies toward Native peoples for centuries. Today, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center are working together to research, document, and preserve the battlefields of the Pequot War.

Read more about the effort to document Pequot War battlefields, along with other archaeological advances, in this special Archaeology issue of CPN.
From the Executive Director

This month, CPN presents a special issue on archaeology, a branch of the preservation movement that often doesn’t receive the attention it deserves. We are grateful to all the archaeologists who offered to write articles. And we are especially grateful to Daniel Forrest, Staff Archaeologist for the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, who generously volunteered to serve as guest editor. On top of his regular duties, Dan gathered, reviewed and edited the archaeology articles, and himself wrote the overview of the state of archaeology in Connecticut. Thanks, Dan!

In the Trust’s ongoing effort to keep up with new lead safety regulations, Circuit Rider Greg Farmer has been certified as an EPA Lead-Safe Certified Renovator after he completed training provided by under the EPA Renovation, Repair & Painting Rule (EPA/RRP). Implemented in April, the EPA Lead-Safe Certified Renovator after completing training provided by the state of architecture in Connecticut. Thanks, Dan!

The new regulations represent an additional burden to contractors in the requirements for training, certification, documentation and record keeping. Since the regulations apply to all contractors and subcontractors, the cost of compliance should be reflected across all construction trades.”

Anyone who wants to learn more about the new rules may visit www.cttrust.org and search for “lead paint,” or write to Greg at ctcircuitrider@gmail.com.

We are pleased to announce that United Illuminating (UI) plans to make a $10,000 donation to the Trust under the provisions of the Neighborhood Assistance Act 2010 Tax Credit Program for the energy efficiency project at our office, the Eli Whitney Boarding House. Trustee Bob Svensk has also made a generous contribution to this project. Donors under this program must be incorporated in Connecticut as S corporations and receive a tax credit. However, most businesses that support the Trust are not S corporations, so it was wonderful to have Bob and UI contribute. Plans are underway to insulate the Boarding House and then install either a geo-thermal heat system or another, equally efficient, system.

—Helen Higgins

Upcoming Meetings of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Council

December 1, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.
January 5, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings take place at the Commission on Culture and Tourism Main Conference Room
1 Constitution Plaza
For more information call (860) 256-2800
Connecticut is blessed with an exceptionally rich and varied archaeological heritage that testifies to millennia of human life, both mundane and dramatic, in this small corner of the world. Understanding the nature and diversity of these hidden resources and preserving the record of the hundreds of generations of people who have made these lands their home is an important step in placing ourselves on the cultural landscape. To that end, archaeology has a unique ability to speak to the depths of history, to explore the underlying connections between generations, and to document the ingenuity, tenacity, and resilience of our species. Raising awareness of these resources is only the first step in the preservation of Connecticut’s Archaeological Heritage.

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John F. Kennedy - October 26, 1963

We are proud to serve the architects, engineers and planners who are preserving the past for the future.

Connecticut is grateful to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for this opportunity to highlight some of the important archaeological investigations in the state and to for the chance to acknowledge the contributions our many partners in preservation. The Connecticut Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration have supported much of the research presented here and have been an integral part of the State Historic Preservation Office’s efforts in public education. The National Park Service provides critical funding programs that encourage the identification and preservation of historic properties, including those present beneath our feet. The Office of State Archaeology, our sister agency, and the Friends of the State Archaeologist (FOSA) have worked tirelessly to protect sites throughout the state. The contributors to this volume have given generously of their own time.

Daniel Forrest is Staff Archaeologist for the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism, Connecticut’s State Historic Preservation Office. He served as guest editor for this issue of CPN.

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The Search for Lt. Eugene Bradley’s Plane Crash

by Nick Bellantoni, Thomas Palshaw, Paul Scannell, and Roger Thompson

The morning of August 21, 1941, dawned brightly over the newly established Windsor Locks Air Base, located midway between Hartford and Springfield. Only three days earlier, the first contingent of young pilots from the 57th Pursuit Group had arrived to begin combat flight training.

First Lieutenant Frank H. Mears, commanding officer of the 64th Pursuit Squadron, asked if any of the four young pilots present were interested in going up and engaging in individual “dogfight” combat exercises designed for two pilots to go up and maneuver like they were going to shoot each other down. The role of the squadron commander—generally a more experienced pilot—was to try and out-maneuver the younger ones. Second Lieutenant Eugene Bradley immediately volunteered for the exercise.

During the combat training, Bradley lost control of his Curtis P-40 at an elevation of 5,000 feet above the air base and crashed nose-first into a lightly wooded section bordering the airfield. The crash was catastrophic—wreckage from the plane would be embedded 12 feet deep into the ground. As soon as appropriate military personnel arrived at the scene, the crash site was cordoned off and the military proceeded with recovery of the plane and removal of Lt. Bradley’s body.

Just three days after the official opening of the Windsor Locks Air Base and only two days following his arrival, Lt. Eugene M. Bradley was the first air base casualty. On January 21, 1942, in tribute to him, the air field on which he lost his life was officially designated “Army Air Base, Bradley Field, Connecticut.”

In February of 2005, the New England Air Museum contacted the State

Connecticut’s Archaeological Heritage

Deborah Surabian and Shawn McVey, of Natural Resources Conservation Service, using ground-penetrating radar to find Lt. Eugene Bradley’s plane crash site at Bradley Airport

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Archaeologist to seek his assistance in locating and identifying the crash site. Military records never recorded the geographic coordinates of the crash site and no knowledge existed as to where the Bradley crash actually occurred. In an effort to unravel a “history mystery” by using archaeological field techniques, a research team was developed, and the search was begun to identify the crash site.

Research included information gathered from the various newspaper accounts, the Technical Report of Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee completed for the U. S. Army, the Medical Examiner’s report, eye witness informant accounts, review of 1941 aerial photographs, and modern GIS computer mapping techniques. A list of crash site criteria was developed for places of potential field testing. Six sites in the northern portion of the airport were selected and all were tested by subsurface soil cores and/or various geo-physical techniques.

Every potential crash site tested during our investigation proved negative in our search. After four years of searching, one last site needed to be looked at, but, it turned out to be under an existing runway expanded in the 1960s to accommodate jet aircraft.

Working through the DOT Airport Operations officers, Runway 15/33 closed for two hours on April 2, 2009, providing a window of opportunity to conduct a ground-penetrating radar survey of the area in question. A grid was set up over a position determined by triangulation of features found on both 1941 and 2008 images.

The ground penetrating radar reflected signals of the test area that matched the impact disturbance we had been looking for. The image clearly showed the one-foot-thick runway surface, the two-foot-thick base material, and the underlying natural soils. Also, it showed evidence of an impact disturbance consistent with a vertical plane crash site. Subsequent soil tests identified motor fluids and oil in the disturbed area that may have leaked from Lt. Bradley’s P-40. Based on all our research and field testing efforts, we were now confident we had located the Bradley plane crash site.

The search for Lt. Eugene Bradley’s plane crash site began by asking if archaeological field techniques could identify the location of this historic tragedy. It ended four years later with the specific crash location determined to be under Runway 15/33. The journey took twists and turns, and frustrating dead ends. However, persistence and re-evaluation of the data turned the entire search around to the positive.

We honor those who died during combat, but must be reminded of the many who have given their lives during training. Bradley’s story is a powerful reminder of that sacrifice. We should not forget that sacrifice and the place where it happened. Like many places named in honor of individuals, “Bradley Field” has, for most of us, become disassociated with Lt. Eugene Bradley and the tragic end of his life. All of those participating in this work feel privileged to recall his service to this country to once again highlight the significance of this place and this name.

Nick Bellantoni is Connecticut’s State Archaeologist; for more information, visit http://www.cac.uconn.edu/osa.html.
Thomas Palshaw is Assistant Curator at the New England Air Museum. Paul Scannell serves on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Office of State Archaeology. Roger Thompson is a past President and current Member of Friends of the Office of State Archaeology.
On May 26, 1637, English forces and their Mohegan and Narragansett Indian allies attacked and burned the Pequot fortified village at Mystic. The battle, which lasted only one hour, resulted in the deaths of more than 400 Pequot men, women and children. The events that culminated in the battle at Mystic Fort set the stage for English expansion in southern New England and triggered decades of strife between the region’s Native People.

In recognition of the national significance of the Pequot War, the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center submitted an application to the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (NPS ABPP) in January, 2007, for a Planning and Consensus Building Grant to develop a strategic, phased approach to protect and preserve the Mystic Fort site in the town of Groton as well as ancillary sites in the region.

The idea to study the battlefields of the Pequot War was influenced in part by the historical significance of the war and in recognition of the ongoing regional and national interest in the Pequot War. National interest was demonstrated most recently when the History Channel launched its highly acclaimed series “10 Days that Unexpectedly Changed America” with the episode, “Massacre at Mystic.”

The Pequot War is often portrayed as a conflict between the English and Pequot, and the attack on the Pequot fortified village at Mystic as the only action of the war, resulting in the immediate collapse and defeat of the Pequot. In fact, the Pequot War was as much a conflict between the Pequot Confederacy and their Native enemies as it was a war against the English. The Mystic Massacre was not the only significant action of the Pequot War, but one of dozens of battles and actions fought between the Pequot Confederacy and the English and their Native allies.

These actions took place over a period of almost one year, and within an area of thousands of square miles in the present states of Rhode Island, Connecticut and eastern New York. The battles, raids, and skirmishes involved thousands of Native combatants from dozens of communities and tribes throughout southern New England. The Sasqua, Poquonnock, Quinnipiac, Western Niantic and some Mohegan and Nipmuc bands fought alongside the Pequot in a loose confederacy of allies and tributaries. Others tribes, such as the Narragansett, Montauk, Wangunk, Podunk, Pocumtuck, and 50 Mohegan under the Mohegan sachem Uncas, allied themselves with the English to pursue their own political agendas. The Mohawk of New York became involved in the final weeks of the war and took the field against the Pequot either at the request of the Narragansett or in their own self-interest. It was the Mohawk and Mohegan (or ‘Mohican’) who dealt the final blow to Pequot resistance when they executed Sassacus, Chief Sachem of the Pequot at Poquiatog, west of Danbury near the New York state line.

After more than 370 years the Pequot War remains one of the most controversial and significant episodes in North American Colonial and Native history. It was the first time that warfare on such
large demographic, temporal and geographic scales was fought in English-speaking America. The Pequot War forever changed southern New England’s political and social landscape and influenced Colonial and American policies toward Native peoples for centuries. The massacre of more than 400 men, women and children at Mystic demonstrated to all Native people, in southern New England and elsewhere, the English ability and will to wage total war against real and imagined enemies. The defeat of the Pequot created a power vacuum in southern New England that initiated forty years of inter-tribal warfare as the Mohigan, Narragansett, and other Native tribes competed to replace the Pequot as the most powerful Indian tribe in the region.

Following the Mystic Massacre, the English aggressively pursued Pequot communities who had fled their homeland, systematically executed Pequot leaders and warriors, and enslaved hundreds of Pequot woman and children. Institutionalized slavery in New England had its foundation in the Pequot War when the Pequot women and children captured by the English were distributed on a per-capita basis among the victorious colonies of Connecticut and Massachusetts Bay.

One of the great ironies of the Pequot War is the sheer volume of information recorded about the Pequot by Colonial leaders and soldiers even as they sought to exterminate them. The letters and narratives of English leaders and soldiers produced during the war not only provide information on the locations of battlefields and sites, but also provide important information on English and Pequot/Native politics, the role of allies and tributaries, social and political organization, diplomacy, military strategy, tactics and weapons.

The NPS ABPP Planning and Consensus Building Grant provided a unique opportunity for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center to begin a long-term collaborative project to research, document, and preserve the battlefields of the Pequot War and in the process inform and educate the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the general public about the history and significance of the Pequot War and its ongoing legacy.

The challenges of preserving the surviving Pequot War sites are significant. The locations of battles obviously have to be identified. The MPMRC team has put hours into documentary research to locate the battle sites and has developed effective methods to verify the locations.

A second obstacle is residential development. Many of the battle sites are located in neighborhoods and are divided by multiple property boundaries. Fieldwork on these parcels required consultation and negotiation with the current owners. This process was not only necessary to allow for access to the sites, but to build the community of people that support the preservation of the battlefields. Archaeological surveys can be very intrusive, and some property owners have been suspicious of the MPMRC’s intentions. We may never convince all the landowners to participate, but the relationships we have established by demonstrating patience and good faith are paying off. Neighbors have convinced neighbors that this work is important, and momentum to protect the resources is growing. Residents have also been an important source of information in our work and we have benefited greatly from their generosity in sharing memories.

Once access to the property has been granted, the MPMRC conducts fieldwork to evaluate the archaeological evidence of the battle site. The NPS ABPP has developed an approach to research, document, and map battlefields that has proven to be highly successful. These methods were originally developed for Civil War battlefields and later applied to many Revolutionary War battlefields. The 17th-century battlefields of the Pequot War present unique challenges for historians and archaeologists. Delineation of battlefield boundaries is comparatively difficult given the nature of 17th-century documentary sources and the low density of artifacts. Nonetheless, the methods outlined by the NPS were used with great success in our surveys.

The project included four principal components; 1) research and analyze all primary accounts of the Battle at Mystic Fort, 2) cultivate relationships with landowners, town officials, local historians, and the public, 3) secure landowner permissions to pursue archaeological testing, and continued on page 12
Tourism to conduct an archaeological survey focused on the Camp house and its historically associated lands. The aim was to guide the Steep Rock Association in restoring and interpreting the house. The survey was guided by documentary research and a review of the Camp family records, which together provided an outline of the household organization and the location of former outbuildings within the property.

Isaac Camp was born in Milford in 1740. He grew up during a period of rapid population growth in Connecticut’s coastal communities, fueled by immigration and booming trade with the neighboring colonies and the Old World. As the shoreline settlements grew, the demand for new arable lands intensified. Isaac’s decision to move north into a sparsely populated area only recently purchased from the Weatinock Indians is just one example of the northward shift of people in Connecticut in the middle of the 18th century. Isaac’s move was preceded by at least one older family member. Jonah Camp, Isaac’s uncle, purchased the property on which the Camp house sits in 1757. Jonah built the house shortly after acquiring the land, as it is mentioned in the deed when Isaac bought the house and surrounding property in 1761. Isaac was only 20 years old.

Documents give us only the bare outlines of Isaac Camp’s life. He married Jane Baldwin in 1763, served in the 8th Connecticut Regiment during the Revolutionary War, and died intestate in New Preston in 1793. At the time of his death, he was 52 years old, and a “farmer” whose varied economic endeavors are reflected in fragmentary historical documentation.

Much of what we know about Isaac Camp comes from the brief summary of his estate at the time of his death. His probate inventory lists 165.5 acres of land, on which were several structures, including a dwelling house, measuring 30 feet by 40

continued on page 9
feet, a barn, “cow house” and stable, “hog house,” and “horse shed.” Isaac’s farming interests are evident from the buildings on the property, but the inventory also refers to another of his investments: a “shop,” probably located along Bee Brook to the east, where there are the remains of a stone foundation, a dam, a race, and a mill pond. The probate records make no reference to the function of the shop.

Aside from records of his military service and his probate, Isaac’s name appears in the account book of Roger Cogswell between 1786 and 1792, documenting purchases that included desk furniture, “clothing work,” “sawing 2,000 feet of board for Daniel” [Isaac’s son], and iron. Isaac paid for them mainly with farm produce: one scythe, one pound of pork, 17 pounds of flax, one stack of hay, twelve pounds of leather, “arbitration with Tibbits,” “order you have for Tibbits,” and “cr [credit] by 5 lbs of iron in way of hay.” This last reference to the exchange of iron may reflect the use of the “shop” along Bee Brook.

IAIS conducted archaeological tests around the Camp house and along the banks of the nearby Bee Brook, where the presumed ruins of the “shop” listed in Isaac Camp’s probate inventory were identified. In addition to the usual architectural materials (like nails and bricks) and domestic refuse (such as ceramic tablewares and bottle glass), the survey uncovered possible structural remains located near the west elevation of the house and extending southward. Heavy concentrations of brick, slag, and charcoal suggesting that a chimney or possibly an iron forge once stood here.

Industrial archaeologist Robert Stewart, who assisted the IAIS research effort, suggested that a building near the main house may have housed a small cupola furnace, a cylindrical furnace capable of melting iron scrap. Supporting this interpretation are several large pieces of iron found amongst the brick fragments. These items were examined by Stewart, who identified a possible support for a forge or furnace and a rectangular iron “merchant bar.” Merchant bar was iron stock formed into several standard shapes and cross-sections and used in blacksmith shops and forges to create tools and implements. The merchant bar found at the Camp House had been cut on a shear, indicating that pieces of the original stock had been removed to create some forged implement before the bar was lost or discarded.

Further evidence of iron working on the property was recovered within and near the foundation remains along Bee Brook. The artifacts from this former building include slag from a furnace or forge, as well as pieces of items worked here: numerous nails and spikes, a hand-formed door backplate, the iron portion of horse bridle. A corroded wheel fragment, a pivot with two eyelets, a cast-iron six-spoke wheel, and a pressure gauge represented fragments of the machinery that was used within the building.

The wheel, 17.5 inches in diameter, has a flat 2-inch-wide outer surface, indicating that it was not used to drive a belt. Instead, it was most likely a fly wheel that imparted momentum to a drive system. The finely made wheel may have been part of a small steam engine, introduced into Connecticut around 1805. It could have smoothed out pulses in a water-powered pump, possibly used to pump water to a forge or cupola furnace in the small building abutting the back of the Camp house.

Perhaps the most tantalizing questions raised by these investigations are those concerning the past industrial activities at the site. The archaeological investigations have resulted in some interesting finds about the Camp family’s contributions to the early Industrial Revolution in Connecticut. How much and in what ways were the Camps involved in ironworking? Was the building abutting the house a blacksmith shop or was it the more specialized forge or cupola furnace of incipient iron entrepreneurs? And what of Isaac’s “shop”? What was its purpose? Its location along Bee Brook suggests it was originally sited to take advantage of water power. The archaeological evidence suggests that the shop may eventually have been run by a small steam engine, possibly to drive a water pump supporting a more intensive iron-working operation behind the Camp house. More archaeological and documentary research is necessary to help find answers to these questions.

At a broader level, the current study highlights the varied pursuits of Connecticut’s 18th century “farmers.” Although agriculture appears to have been central to the family economy, the Camps were participants in the development of the early iron industry that would soon after develop into a transformative force in the Litchfield Hills. The roots of this industry, like so many others in Connecticut, are found hidden in our rural landscapes and are tied to enterprising people adapting to a rapidly changing landscape at the start of the 19th century.

Lucianne Lavin is Director of Research and Collections for the Institute for American Indian Studies, in Washington. IAIS benefited greatly from the expertise of Robert Stewart (Historical Technologies, Inc.) and restoration architect Stephen Solley for insights to the story of the Camp family. For more information, visit www.birdstone.org.

This cast-iron wheel, found in the Camp “Shop,” may have been part of an early steam engine.
Every year in Connecticut new archaeological discoveries are made, ranging from 8,000-year-old Native American campsites to colonial homesteads and industrial remains, all reflective of our diverse and rich history. Most of these sites in Connecticut are identified by archaeologists working in compliance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act, the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act. These laws were enacted to provide for the consideration of archaeological sites and other historic properties in federal and state planning and all are based on the position that the public has an important interest in the preservation of heritage resources.

Where projects cannot avoid archaeological sites, excavations are often completed to document the resource before it is disturbed or destroyed by construction. Such excavation is intended as mitigation for the loss of the resource, but how much does the public, in whose name the archaeology is being done, learn from these projects? How does archaeological mitigation satisfy the public’s collective interest in these resources?

In reality, the information gained through study of significant archaeological sites that have been destroyed by federal state funded projects reaches the general public in indirect ways. The results of archaeological investigation are primarily presented in technical reports prepared for state or federal agencies; reports the public has little access to and which are so full of “archaeology-speak” that they make little sense to non-archaeologists. Alternatively, public presentations by archaeologists may be offered in the towns where the resources are found, but these are one-shot opportunities for interested people to learn about the importance of a site and they rarely reach a broad audience.

The need for a better means of directly addressing the public’s interests is clear. In the last few years, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT) have made great efforts to present archaeological information to the public. Some excellent public-oriented booklets have been produced, which have been very well received. But the print runs of the booklets are small because printing is expensive, thus most of Connecticut’s citizens never see them. SHPO and ConnDOT have increasingly turned to web sites on archaeological projects as a way of making the results of archaeological studies accessible to everyone. PAST, Inc. and its affiliate, AHS, Inc., created seven web sites for ConnDOT on a variety of projects. The web sites provide layers of information oriented to the public, so that people can read as much or as little as they want. Increasing numbers of viewers are visiting the web sites.

The Grohman Cigar-making Shop
Archaeological Site (www.past-inc.org/Grohman), in East Granby, was discovered in an archaeological survey of the reconstruction of the intersection of Turkey Hill Road (Route 20) and Newgate Road. The site contained the ruins of the home and cigar-making shop of Peter Grohman. In 1867, Grohman, a German immigrant and Civil War veteran, purchased three acres of land at the intersection of Turkey Hill Road, Holcomb Street and Newgate Road from Chauncey E. Viets for $650. For the next two decades, Grohman lived there and operated a cigar-making shop on the site. The shop was a fairly small one, employing four other people besides Grohman and producing 100,000 cigars (1,000 boxes) a year. At one time, small cigar-making shops like Grohman’s dotted the Connecticut River Valley landscape, reflecting the importance of the tobacco industry to the state. The web site describes the archaeological excavation and the history of cigar-making in Connecticut, provides a biography of Grohman, and includes links to related web sites.

Less than a mile from Grohman’s shop is the Clark Farm Tenant House Site (www.past-inc.org/TenantHouse), on the roadside along Route 20 in East Granby. Here are the remains of a small house occupied from c.1860 to 1940, mostly serving as housing for tenants of the Clark family, owners of the largest tobacco farm in town. A long-term occupant was John Jackson, a farm laborer of African American ancestry who worked stripping tobacco for the Clarks for roughly 30 years. The archaeological remains include foundation walls, a cellar, privy and well. The web site includes information on the archaeological investigations, as well as a brief history of African American tenant farming in Connecticut and the movement of workers from urban centers to rural areas to satisfy the demand for farm laborers.

Along Route 10 in Hamden are the remains of two 19th-century factories which made carriage parts, a local specialty tied to New Haven’s large carriage-making industry (www.past-inc.org/axleworks). Hamden carriage-component factories such as the Mount Carmel Axle Works and the Charles Brockett Carriage Spring Shop.
were known for their innovative designs and clever improvements to existing models, such as replacing wooden parts with metal ones. The web site provides a detailed history of the carriage works and a description of the archaeological investigations, as well as information on the development of New Haven’s carriage industry. Based on the information gathered during these studies the Mount Carmel Axle Works Site was designated a State Archaeological Preserve in 2001 in acknowledgement of its significance to local and state industrial heritage.

The Thread City Crossing Bridge, known locally as the Frog Bridge, opened in 2000 (www.past-inc.org/Willimantic). Because the project construction would impact early textile-industry remains, an archaeological investigation was conducted to expose the walls of manufacturing buildings and worker housing, and gatehouse, a headrace, and a water-powered turbine before the bridge construction was begun. Textile industries played a prominent role in the historical development of Willimantic, and this web site links the rise of local thread mills to the buried remains found beneath the new bridge.

The Quinebaug River Prehistoric Archaeological District (www.ahs-inc.biz/Quinebaug) consists of five buried Native American sites along the Quinebaug River in Canterbury. The sites were occupied as early as 8,000 years ago but were used most intensively between 1,000 and 1,500 years ago. These sites together demonstrate an enduring connection between the river and the region’s Native peoples. The sites are important because they tell us how the Quinebaug River influenced Native American subsistence patterns, travel and trade over the course of many millennia. The significance of these resources was acknowledged by the listing of all five sites as contributing resources to the National Register-listed Quinebaug River Prehistoric Archaeological District. The District was designated a State Archaeological Preserve in 2003, ensuring the long-term preservation of these sites. The web site describes how these ancient sites were identified, explains what was found during the investigations, and describes the how non-destructive mitigation measures were used to protect them during a ConnDOT construction project.

During excavations preceding the construction of Exit 81 on I-395, the buried remains of the 1712 Thomas Daniels House were found in Waterford. The Daniels family occupied the house until 1744, after which a wealthy investor purchased the property, combined it with other land, and sold it to an unknown buyer in a “lottery scheme.” The post-Daniels occupants built a blacksmith shop in an addition to the house. The house and shop were abandoned in the 1770s, the

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Preserving Battlefields, cont’d from page 7

4) develop a long-term research, education and preservation plan for the battlefield site.

We commenced our documentary research in July, 2007. The first step was to construct a timeline and battle sequence from the various 17th century accounts and narratives of the battle. The research established the types of artifacts the MPMRC might expect at various locations within the study area and allowed for a detailed comparison between the recovered military/battle related objects with the historical narratives.

It immediately became apparent that a focus solely on the Battle of Mystic Fort was not the best use of available resources. Information on all the other battlefields of the Pequot war was embedded in the same primary sources used to research the Mystic Fort battlefield. It also became evident the Battle of Mystic Fort needed to be understood in the broader historical, cultural, geographic and military context of the entire Pequot War, and therefore must include all of the battles, actions and sites associated with the War. As a result, we requested an expansion of the “Battle of Mystic Fort Documentation Plan” to the more comprehensive “Battlefields of the Pequot War Documentation Plan.” NPS approved the request; fieldwork commenced on October 1, 2009, and will continue through October of 2010. The expanded study eventually included eight study areas and twenty core areas located in six towns in Connecticut (Groton, Old Saybrook, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Fairfield) and one in Rhode Island (Block Island).

At Mystic, archaeological testing, excavation, and remote sensing have identified the perimeter of the approximately one-acre fort. Remote sensing surveys can include a variety of techniques that characterize the soil conditions with out excavation or disturbance. Here we used electrical resistivity survey, which measures the resistance of sediments and soils to the flow of electrical currents. Changes in the flow of electrical currents can help identify anomalies where conditions depart significantly from the natural soils. Anomalies, created by changes in the density or composition of the soils, are often associated with sites that have been occupied or used intensively in the past. Metal detector surveys, a second remote sensing technique used by the MPMRC, have led to the recovery of a wide range of battlefield-related objects such as gun rests, gun parts from flintlock, wheelock and matchlock muskets, brass arrow points, and musket balls of various diameters. All of this material supports our documentary research suggesting that this was the location of Mystic Fort. Now we are slowly and methodically building a more detailed picture of the actions that occurred during this brief battle.

This information will be used to draft a National Register nomination for the Mystic battlefield, including the site of the fortified village as well as the battlefield within and outside the fort perimeter. Within the next six to eight months, a draft preservation plan will be submitted for review to the NPS, the State Historic Preservation Office, and landowners to form a preservation partnership to ensure the long-term protection and preservation of this important battlefield site.

Kevin McBride is Director of Research at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center and Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut. For more information, visit www.pequotmuseum.org.

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Giving Back, cont’d from page 11

buildings removed, the cellar filled in, and the land converted to an agricultural field. No trace of this former home was visible at the time of the archaeological survey. As described in the web site (www.ahs-inc.biz/Daniels), the entire homestead site was excavated, providing a rare opportunity to examine a mid-18th century site in detail. The 73,000 artifacts reveal the lives of the occupants and their participation in the local economy. The site also provided important information on the historic use of “earthfast” construction in which timber posts driven into the ground supported parts of the house. This is an architectural pattern largely absent in Connecticut’s surviving 18th century architectural inventory, but one that may once have been common in many parts of the state.

The buried remains of the 1705 Ephraim Sprague House in Andover are described on the web site (www.ahs-inc.biz/Sprague) as a “time capsule from the 18th century” and indeed they are. Sprague moved from Duxbury, Massachusetts, with his father and brother to what was essentially the interior frontier of then-Lebanon, which was just opening to colonial settlement. Ephraim’s great-grandfather had arrived in Plymouth colony in 1623 from England. The extensive excavations of Ephraim’s house indicate that it was an archaic West Country cross-passage house form, indicating that the Spragues were very conservative, building in an “old county” manner. Very few such houses have been documented in the New World and no cross-passage houses are standing today in the United States. As with the Daniels House in Waterford, the former Sprague House was demolished in the 18th century and the remains of the structure were buried. At the time of the archaeological survey, the home site was a non-descript section of a cornfield.

The house was occupied until the 1750s, when it was destroyed by fire. The fire, although tragic, created an unusually favorable environment for the preservation of organic artifacts and food remains. Two-hundred fifty year old organic items such as wooden planks and timbers and even potatoes and corn were carbonized; other items, such as eggshells, codfish scales and antler, were preserved “like new” in the ashes beneath the field. Almost everything the Spragues owned and used survived, albeit burned or broken, revealing a great deal about the family’s daily life. Items range from a refined tea set to a crude dovetail saw fashioned from a cut-up brass kettle. After the fire the family abandoned the home site. Its two cellars were filled in and covered over with loam to create an agricultural field, which was farmed until the 1999 excavations associated with ConnDOT improvements to Route 6.

These web sites reflect the ongoing efforts of the Department of Transportation and the State Historic Preservation Office to provide meaningful information about the heritage resources studied during DOT’s planning process. AHS and PAST are pleased to have been part of this important program and in the celebration of Connecticut’s unique archaeological treasures.

Mary Harper is an archaeologist and the President of the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. (PAST), headquartered in Storrs. For more information, visit www.past-inc.org.

Scissors, a needle, glass beads, straight pins and thimbles from the 1712 Daniels Site, in Waterford.
New National Trust Advisor

Charles Janson has been named a new Connecticut Advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is an attorney with Robinson & Cole in Stamford, with a practice that encompasses commercial purchases, sales and leasing, real estate secured financing, and affordable housing development, with a focus on environmental due diligence and compliance for commercial transactions. A resident of Darien, he serves as a Trustee of the Dahesh Museum of Art, the Weir Farm Heritage Trust, the Darien Land Trust, and, since 2008, of the Connecticut Trust.

Mr. Janson’s professional expertise came to the aid of his interests in historic preservation and land conservation last year, when he provided legal assistance to the National Trust the National Trust for Historic Preservation in implementing preservation easements that eliminated the threat of four new houses overlooking the National Historic Landmark and increased the site’s conserved land from 47 acres to more than 200 acres which will be free of future development (see CPN, March/April 2010).

The National Trust’s Board of Advisors includes two representatives from each state, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Advisors provide counsel on emerging concerns and trends, and in turn have stimulated the creation of program activities responding to a range of issues, including diversity, the recent past, heritage education, heritage tourism, and economic development. 🌿

Hartford.

Hopes that Coltsville would soon be designated a national park were put on hold in September, when the Coltsville National Historic Park Act failed to win approval in the House of Representatives (see CPN, July/August 2010).

The bill, introduced in April by U.S. Rep. John B. Larson, would have established several criteria for the Coltsville industrial village to become a National Park. The bill came up under a streamlined procedure but fell short of the two-thirds vote required under that procedure.

Rep. Larson issued a statement saying, "I am disappointed that in today’s hyper-partisan atmosphere in Washington we can’t even get agreement to create a National Park to preserve one of our nation’s and our area’s most important historic manufacturing sites. This legislation was supported by the Republican Governor of our State and a bi-partisan coalition of local officials."

However, the defeat was not final; after the election, Rep. Larson will have an opportunity to bring the legislation back to the House floor in the more traditional manner where it can get an up-or-down vote.

Robinson & Cole
**Around the State**

**Derby and Granby.**
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection launched its resident curatorship program on October 13. The program allows private citizens or nonprofit organizations to lease historic buildings on state park or forest land, in exchange for restoring and maintaining the buildings (see CPN, July/August 2010).

“There is no better way” to celebrate the 375th anniversary of Connecticut this year than to showcase historic homes on state land, said Governor Jodi Rell at a press conference held at the Smith-Curtiss house, at Osbornedale State Park in Derby. The governor announced that DEP was ready to receive applications for that house, which was bequeathed to the state in 1956 by the businesswoman and philanthropist Frances Osborne Kellogg.

The Trust, says executive director Helen Higgins, “was worried about the Smith-Curtiss house for a long time. Now, I feel we are on a whole new path.” The house has been vacant for several years, and the Trust awarded a HPTAG grant to the Derby Historical Society for a capital needs assessment.

Later this fall, the department also plans to issue a request for proposals for the Worthen house, in Enders State Forest, Granby. This house also received a capital needs assessment, through a HPTAG grant to the Friends of State Parks. An additional two to four houses will be added to the program each following year.

For more information, visit www.ct.gov/dep/residentcurator or call Nicole Shaw (860) 424-3179.

**Middletown.**
An early-morning fire destroyed Weeks Hall, at Connecticut Valley Hospital, on September 21. Built between 1894 and 1896, the hall was part of a major late-19th-century expansion of the hospital, Connecticut’s oldest public mental facility. The entire hospital complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation. However, it is almost certainly related to lack of maintenance or security. The three-story brick building had been vacant for more than 20 years—since the early 1980s—and was condemned in 1999 on account of structural failure.

Such neglect is not uncommon. Weeks Hall is only the latest in a long line of state-owned historic buildings to fall down or burn or be demolished after years of neglect.

• Also at Connecticut Valley Hospital, Woodward Hall, built in 1886, was demolished in 2006.
• Norwich State Hospital: after years of efforts, the town of Preston finally took possession of the site, but apparently all but the central administration building have deteriorated beyond reasonable repair.
• Seaside Sanitarium, Waterford: a fire at an outbuilding called attention to the vulnerability of the site’s more significant structures.

For years, changes in treatment of mental illness have meant that places like CVH saw their patient populations drop, and the state has shuttered and disposed of many facilities.

In 1994 the Connecticut Trust included state-owned health care facilities in its list of The Most Important Threatened Historic Places, and for several years, the Hartford Courant has been calling for the state to stop neglecting its unused (or underused) historic buildings. After the Weeks Hall fire, the newspaper published an editorial urging that a single agency be put in charge of all historic buildings; setting aside money to stabilize and preserve the buildings; and creating an historic preservation plan and a marketing plan.

One more thing might be added to the Courant’s list: when historic state-owned buildings are transferred to private owners, the state should impose preservation restrictions (also known as preservation easements) to ensure that the buildings are not needlessly demolished or mistreated, and that they be kept in good repair.

The Courant pointed out that protecting these developable properties would be a “sound investment, creating jobs, reviving neighborhoods and saving the major expenses of demolition.” But for that to happen, the buildings have to survive long enough to be developed.
Hartford.
Community leaders and preservationists met in September to celebrate the inclusion of the Northwest District School on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hartford’s oldest surviving school building, the Northwest School is red-brick structure erected in 1891 as an addition to an older school. Subsequent additions further enlarged the school in 1899, 1906, and 1910, and in 1914 the 1891 section was moved to one side to make room for yet another addition. The much-enlarged school operated until 1978, when a new school opened nearby, and all but the current portion were demolished.

This story of nearly constant enlargement parallels Hartford’s growth as an industrial and insurance center between the Civil War and World War I, when the city struggled to keep up with the burgeoning school population.

Designed by the prolific Hartford firm of Cook, Hapgood and Company, the Northwest School provided an up-to-date facility for the educational needs of the day. Brick construction offered safety from fire and a sense of permanence. Separate classrooms provided space for graded classes—a change from older schools, which put everyone in a single room. And the rooms were spacious, with large windows for lots of light and fresh air. The Northwest School met these needs so successfully that the city was willing to go to the expense of moving it in 1914, a major undertaking said to have been the largest relocation to date of a brick building in New England.

Vacant for many years, the Northwest School now faces a new future as the home of the John E. Rogers African American Cultural Center. The center will provide a permanent home for one of the largest privately owned collections of African American historical artifacts, an assortment of articles and personal histories, photographs, artwork and other artifacts, assembled by Rogers, a Hartford postal worker with a deep interest in African-American history.

The Cultural Center organizers have signed a 33-year lease with the city to use Northwest School and they hope to raise $3 million to restore and transform the building. National Register listing will help the building qualify for restoration grants from the State Historic Preservation Office. The group has already received about $50,000 in emergency funds from the Connecticut Trust to make structural repairs and waterproof the roof before winter.

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