

Presents the

2018 ANNUAL WORKSHOPS IN ARCHAEOLOGY



John Smith's Susquehannocks: The Archaeological Context of a Native Culture

Saturday, October 27, 2018

**The State Museum of Pennsylvania
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024**

cosponsored by:
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology
Pennsylvania Archaeological Council
Zimmerman Center for Heritage
SusquehannaHeritage.org

Program Chair, James T. Herbstritt

John Smith's Susquehannocks: The Archaeological Context of a Native Culture

Please join us for this interesting examination of *John Smith's Susquehannocks*, as these knowledgeable experts explore the historic and archaeological record of the Susquehannock Indians.

For more than 200 years, between 1550 and 1763, much of the Susquehanna River Valley was home to the Susquehannocks. Their society was matrilineal, tracing kinship through the female line. They were dependent on maize agriculture, along with other domesticated foods, and lived in some of the largest Indian towns in Pennsylvania, with one thousand or more people. Their impact on the Colonial period was far-reaching, especially in the fur trade during the 1600s.

Capt. John Smith, founding father of the English colony at Jamestown, Virginia, was the first European to describe the Susquehannocks in detail. During his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay in 1608, he stopped at the mouth of the Susquehanna River, where he made contact with sixty Susquehannocks and stated that they "are the strangest people of all those countries, both in language and attire."

At the height of the fur trade during the mid-1600s, competition with other northern Iroquoian groups, namely the Seneca and Mohawk, led to upheaval and discord. By the late 1600s, conflict amongst these Iroquois groups as well as with Europeans, led to the Susquehannocks dispersal and eventual disappearance from the Susquehanna Valley in the late 1700s. The story of the rise and fall of the Susquehannocks was the fate of many Indian tribes in the eastern United States.

The program also includes a flint-knapping demonstration, instruction in recording archaeological sites and artifact identification. Admission to The State Museum of Pennsylvania is included with registration. We welcome archaeology and history enthusiasts to this informative program that will provide insights into this fascinating period in our nation's history.

Session Descriptions

Opening Remarks 9:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.

Beth Hager, Director, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Introduction and Logistics 9:15 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Paul A. Raber, Ph.D., Director of Archaeological Services
Heberling Associates, Inc.

[Session 1] 9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.

Culture History of the Susquehannocks

Barry C. Kent, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State Archaeologist (retired)

This presentation traces the culture history of the Susquehannocks as seen through archaeology and historic documentation. It begins with a brief summary of their origins in the Susquehanna Valley. Changes in the culture history and patterns of behavior of the Susquehannocks are closely tied to their interaction with other native and European cultures. We will examine these influences and provide an overview of the impact on these relationships. The pattern of movement of Susquehannock settlements will be further examined as reflected in their changing way of life, leading up to the horrific events of 1763.

[Session 2] 10:00 a.m.–10:30 a.m.

Defining Proto Susquehannock

Jasmine Gollup, M.A., TRC Environmental Corp.

While the Susquehannock Indians are historically known as the dominant tribe of the Susquehanna River Valley region, the origins of the tribe are less certain. Sharing many traits with the Five Nations Iroquois, the Susquehannocks are believed to be Iroquoian migrants, moving rapidly south along the Susquehanna River during the seventeenth century either in flight from

Iroquoian aggression or in search of economic opportunities. The Upper Susquehanna River Valley, an area straddling New York and Pennsylvania, has traditionally served as a convenient homeland for the nascent tribe, known as Proto-Susquehannocks. Unfortunately, the archaeology and research supporting this claim are undermined by technical and theoretical problems. Analysis of previous scholarship in the Upper Susquehanna River Valley will help to expose the problems inherent in Proto-Susquehannock research and provide recommendations for further research.

Break 10:30 a.m.–10:45 a.m. – coffee and snacks

[Session 3] 10:45 a.m.–11:15 a.m.

Ethnogenesis and the Beginnings of Susquehannock

James T. Herbstritt, The State Museum of Pennsylvania

Nearly 60 years have passed since John Witthoft published "Ancestry of the Susquehannocks" (Witthoft and Kinsey 1959) in which he stated that the Seneca and Cayuga Iroquoians were cognates to Susquehannock culture. Recent archaeological research suggests that modifications to this theory are required by linking other northern Iroquoians with groups who were not Seneca Iroquoians. This mixed Iroquoian association points directly to the West Branch and North Branch traditions as the ancestors of Susquehannock culture (Herbstritt 2018). Thus, Witthoft's true "Proto-Susquehannocks" originated in the Deep Valleys/Glaciated High Plateau sections of northcentral Pennsylvania and nowhere else. This presentation introduces the archaeological contexts of the West and North Branch traditions with a discussion of Proto-Iroquoian/Iroquoian pottery types as they apply to the development of Susquehannock. The settlement and community patterns of these groups and a solid set of radiocarbon dates connects these cultural traditions.

[Session 4] 11:15 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Subsistence, Seasonality, and Ritual at the Lemoyne Site

Andrew Wyatt, M.A., Senior Archaeologist, AECOM

The Lemoyne site is a palisaded early seventeenth century Susquehannock village located on the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As part of data recovery excavations in 2007 and 2008, 43 pit features of various sizes and depths were identified, several of which contained discrete fill layers. Refitting of artifacts between layers in individual larger features suggest that they were filled fairly quickly; however, seasonality of fills are indicated by preserved food remains. This presentation will focus on the well preserved food remains and other artifacts from these features, and their implications for Contact period subsistence, seasonality, and ritual at the site.

[Lunch] 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m. – on your own – see order form for boxed lunch options.

[Session 5] 1:15 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

Susquehannock Chronology and Community Patterns

in the Upper Potomac River Valley

Robert D. Wall, Ph.D., Towson University

The presence of Susquehannock peoples in the upper Potomac valley has been explored more fully at several new sites in the last few decades. It is now understood that Susquehannock settlements are no longer considered to be anomalies in upper Potomac prehistory. Rather, they represent a brief but intense presence in the region for approximately two decades. This short period, evidenced by the presence of early Susquehannock sites in both the North and South Branch valleys, abruptly ends ca. 1620, based on glass trade bead and ceramic analyses from Potomac valley sites. This brief presence in the upper Potomac also appears to be manifested in the community patterns of these settlements. The lack of longhouse structures on these sites represents their transient nature. Perhaps short-term use was due to the uncertainty of existence in these new lands or to fulfill a specific short-term need. Whatever the reason, the lack of enduring settlements is reflected in the nature and organization of upper Potomac region sites.

[Session 6] 1:45 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

Susquehannock Stature: The Tallest Native Americans in the Northeast
Marshall Joseph Becker, Ph.D., West Chester University

Following his first contact with the Susquehannock tribe in 1608, John Smith described them as a “gyant-like people.” The accuracy of this observation has been confirmed from two vectors. The first proof was the direct study of the human skeletal remains of populations believed to be part of the Susquehannock Confederacy. Comparison of the statures of one group of these people from a site in West Virginia with other Susquehannock skeletal samples reveal a very tall population. These Susquehannock people were then compared with samples of contemporary Native populations in the nearby region. Comparisons between the Susquehannock and other Native American populations of this period reveal that Susquehannock males are significantly taller, while female Susquehannock average height is similar to that of other groups. This biological evidence has since been confirmed by the discovery of independent historic observations that confirm John Smith’s perceptions of the unusual height of the Susquehannock people.

[Session 7] 2:15 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

Public Kettles, Private Pots
Lisa M. Lauria, Ph.D.

All but the smallest Susquehannock ceramic vessels were made for purposes surrounding the preparation and consumption of food. Over the course of the seventeenth century, brass and copper kettles were integrated into existent patterns of food preparation and consumption. As kettles replaced the highly public and visible ceramic family cooking pot, the remaining ceramic vessels produced were increasingly limited to private use. The makers of ceramic pots changed production to meet their changing needs. In this presentation, it is argued that as the social context of the Susquehannock ceramic cooking vessel shifted from both public and private spaces to exclusively private ones, the technical and decorative functions of those vessels also changed. The changing materiality of cooking vessels therefore reflects sensible adaptations to the new materials introduced by Europeans but not acculturation or cultural or artistic decline.

[Break] 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

[Session 8] 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

The Susquehannocks in Colonial Pennsylvania
Timothy J. Shannon, Ph.D., Professor of History, Gettysburg College

This session will provide an overview of the Susquehannocks’ interaction with the colonial peoples of early Pennsylvania, from their involvement in the sixteenth-century fur trade until the destruction of Conestoga Indian Town in 1763. We will focus on their responses to the challenges of colonization and the ebb and flow of their influence among other Native peoples and their colonial neighbors in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and New York.

[Session 9] 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
Jackie Kramer, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail is the nation’s first national water trail. The trail includes the great rivers that flow into Chesapeake Bay including the Susquehanna River from Havre de Grace, Maryland to Cooperstown, New York. This presentation will provide an overview of the themes of the trail and how the National Park Service is partnering with state and non-profit organizations to tell the stories of the trail that support the themes, including the American Indian stories of the Lower Susquehanna River. Information about the Susquehannock site at Native Lands County Park in York County, PA and its role in telling these stories will also be presented.

[Closing Summary/Discussion] 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Paul Raber, Ph.D., Heberling Associates

2018 ANNUAL WORKSHOPS IN ARCHAEOLOGY PROGRAM

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration (Ground-floor hallway)
- 9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Opening remarks - Beth Hager, Director, The State Museum of Pennsylvania
- 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Introduction and Logistics, Paul Raber
- 9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Session 1** Barry Kent, Culture History of the Susquehannocks
- 10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Session 2** Jasmine Gollop, Defining Proto Susquehannock
- 10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. **Break** (Foyer to the Auditorium)
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. **Session 3** Jim Herbstritt, Ethnogenesis and the Beginnings of Susquehannock
- 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Session 4** Andrew Wyatt, Subsistence, Seasonality and Ritual at the Lemoyne Site
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch** (on your own)
- 1:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Session 5** Bob Wall, Susquehannock Chronology and Community Patterns
- 1:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Session 6** Marshall Becker, Susquehannock Stature: Tallest in the Northeast
- 2:15 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Session 7** Lisa Lauria, Public Kettles, Private Pots
- 2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. **Break** (Foyer to the Auditorium)
- 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Session 8** Tim Shannon, The Susquehannocks in Colonial Pennsylvania
- 3:45 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. **Session 9** Jackie Kramer, Captain John Smith Trail Project, NPS
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Closing Summary/Questions and Discussion** Paul Raber
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Reception**, Ground Floor, Susquehanna Room

Additional Programming

- 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. *Flintknapping Demonstration* – **Foyer to Auditorium** – Steve Nissly
This presentation will feature an expert flintknapper who will demonstrate how stone tools were made during the Prehistoric and Contact periods in Pennsylvania.
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. *Site Recording in Cultural Resources Geographic Information System* - **Susquehanna Room**
Noel Strattan and Hannah Harvey, State Historic Preservation Office
Recording of archaeological sites is an essential task in protecting and preserving our archaeological resources. Assistance in recording your archaeological sites will be provided by these qualified individuals.
- 1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. *Artifact Identification* - **Susquehanna Room**
Doug McLearn, Chief, State Historic Preservation Office
Patricia Gibble, Ph.D., Historic archaeologist, retired college professor and consultant

Registration Fee:	
Early Registration Discounts (Deadline Oct. 19)	
General Public	\$25.00
Student	\$15.00
PA Heritage Foundation	\$15.00
SPA and PAC Members	\$15.00
Registration at Door	\$35.00
No Discounts at Door	

Completed registration form and your check made payable to:
Pennsylvania Archaeological Council (PAC)

should be mailed to:
Workshops in Archaeology
The State Museum of Pennsylvania
300 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0024

Workshop Registration Form

Registrant Name(s) _____

affiliation _____

Contact information: *Please print clearly*
Address _____

(Street) _____ (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Email* (required for email registration confirmation) _____

Boxed Lunch Option; must pre-order and pay in advance. _____ **\$6.50 each**
Lunch includes chips, pickle and cookie

Option #1: Baked Virginia Ham & Swiss on Sesame Bagel
 With Lettuce & Tomato

Option #2: Turkey, Bacon & provolone on a Spinach Tortilla
 With Lettuce & Tomato

Option #3: Garden Veggie Pita With L.T. Broccoli, Cucumber, sprouts & lite veggie cream cheese

Note below if you are a student, PA Heritage Foundation, SPA or PAC member

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Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____