

Connecticut Connections: The Places That Teach Us About Historical Archaeology

LUCIANNE LAVIN

Institute for American Indian Studies

To many people the word “archaeology” invokes images of Egyptian pyramids, Aztec temples, the treasures of ancient Rome. If they are aware of North American archaeology, they usually picture archaeology sites far west of New England – 10,000-year-old early man sites on the Plains or the Southwestern Pueblo cliff dwellers. They rarely consider Connecticut as a center of important archaeological activity. But it is!

As the preceding articles on Connecticut archaeology aptly illustrate, our state’s rich multi-cultural heritage is reflected and informed by its archaeology sites. Connecticut contains thousands of prehistoric, historic, industrial, and maritime archaeological sites created by the ancestors of its various ethnic residents. Many are thousands of years old. Because *Connecticut History* is specifically an history journal, I will restrict my discussion to post- European contact archaeology sites.

Archaeology sites provide insights on fascinating and important stories about Connecticut that often are not found in local history books. Domestic, commercial, and industrial archaeology sites provide clues to the diverse lifestyles of Connecticut’s residents through time, their community relationships and events, and the cultural changes that modified those lifestyles and connections. But where can one go to learn about Connecticut archaeology?

The best places are the sites themselves. Plan an excursion to some of these wonderful archaeology localities where you can spend enjoyable, quality time with family and friends while learning about a specific aspect of local, regional, and even national history. Following the theme of this volume, I will focus on site resources that promote historical perspectives on the following segments of Connecticut history: Native American, Anglo-American Colonial, African-American, Industrial, Military, and Maritime. To better enable teachers to use these sites and other resources in their classes, I use the historical periods adopted by the State Department of Education in its social studies curriculum as subheads for the subsequent sections.¹ Some of the sites fit more than one historical period, and this is duly noted within their descriptions.

When possible, I have included pertinent Internet web sites that provide contacts, times, directions, and additional information for each source. Six are State Museums; they are open year-round and offer group tours. Fifteen are State Archaeological Preserves accessible to the public. State Archaeological Preserves are protected from vandalism or disturbance by state law. Violators are subject to a

hefty fine of as much as \$5,000 or up to five years in prison, or both.² Virtually all of the sites are described in detail in publications that are readily available to the public. Some of these are public-friendly State Archaeological Preserve booklets (see Endnotes).

European Colonization and Settlement 1492-1763

Henry Whitfield Museum: The oldest house in Connecticut and the oldest stone house in New England, the Henry Whitfield homestead at 248 Old Whitfield Street in Guilford is a state museum, a State Archaeological Preserve, and a National Historic Landmark – one of the highest honors bestowed upon a heritage site by the United States government. Built in 1639 in the style of post-medieval English domestic architecture, it was the home of Rev. Henry Whitfield, the first minister of Guilford and one of the Town's founders. In early colonial times the house functioned as a fortified refuge for community residents, just like a medieval English castle provided protection for the serfs who worked its owner's fields from the knights of opposing fiefdoms. In this case, of course, the massive stone walls of the house were built to protect the Guilford community against Indian attack. The Pequot War had occurred only two years earlier and that culture clash was still fresh in the minds of English colonists. Several archaeological excavations have been conducted on the grounds, providing insights on past landscape alterations as well as important architectural changes to the historic house itself.³ Interesting exhibits may be found in the Visitors Center and the house, which are open year-round; group tours are available. www.chc.state.ct.us/whitfieldhouse.htm

Fort Shantok: The site of an historic Mohegan Indian fort, village and burial ground off Route 2A in Montville, Fort Shantok is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. The Fort was the center of Mohegan tribal authority during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the scene of a number of important events in the tribe's history, including several significant meetings between English leaders and the famous Mohegan sachem Uncas. A good example of early historic Native American military architecture with archaeological evidence for three distinct palisade walls, Fort Shantok also provided important insights into indigenous cultural change and adaptation as a result of Mohegan-European contacts.⁴ Formerly a Connecticut state park, Fort Shantok was repatriated by the State of Connecticut, because of its traditional cultural importance, to the Mohegan Tribe upon its tribal recognition by the National Park Service. www.mohegan.nsn.us/heritage/

Mohantic Fort: This historic Native American archaeology site was built on the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in Ledyard during King Philip's War of 1675-1676. The Fort grounds are part of the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation-Archaeological District, which is a National Historic Landmark.⁵ It was discovered

during an archaeological survey under the direction of Dr. Kevin McBride, Director of Research at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center.⁶ None of the fort was visible above ground; it was identified by dark soil stains in the subsoil that revealed the fort's outer walls and bastions. Its architecture and cultural remains, such as evidence for Native metallurgy, offer critical insights into Pequot survival strategies during this time period. It is one of many indoor and outdoor exhibits maintained by the Mashantucket Pequot Museum that depict 11,000 years of Pequot history and culture. The outdoor exhibit featuring an 18th century Pequot farmstead is another good example of indigenous survival strategies, portraying Pequot economic adaptations to living among Anglo-American colonists while persisting in tribal relations.

www.pequotmuseum.org

Cady-Copp House: Built ca. 1745, the Cady-Copp house on Liberty Highway (Route 21) in Putnam is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a State Archaeological Preserve. The house is a rare "cottage" style home that may have been relatively common in the eighteenth century. It had never been hooked up to electricity, heating or plumbing, unlike other extant eighteenth century residences, virtually all of which have been modified and modernized over the years. The remarkable integrity of this one-acre homestead allowed archaeologists from the Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc. to reconstruct the mid-eighteenth and nineteenth century lifestyles of the middle-class Cady and Copp families, including activity areas for an eighteenth century home craft industry of sheet brass-working and two children's play areas. A concentration of toys, including clay marbles, iron mouth harps, an iron jack, and a toy china saucer from a child's tea set, indicated an outside play nook along side the house just northwest of the kitchen. A second concentration of toys, slate pencils, and writing board fragments marked the location of a play and writing area near a door opening on the east side of the house south of the kitchen. The Cady-Copp House and its associated grounds are also important for the extensive community involvement in its excavation, analysis, and interpretation.⁷

www.sha.org/news/research_northeast.htm

Butler-McCook Homestead: Located at 396 Main Street in Hartford, the Butler-McCook house is the oldest residence in the city. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1782, the homestead represents a typical eighteenth century upper class urban home in Hartford. Archaeological excavations recovered cultural and dietary remains that contrast with archaeological evidence excavated from contemporary ethnic residences such as comprised the Lighthouse Community (see below) and middle class English homes such as the Cady-Copp homestead. The archaeological data emphasize the distinctions in material wealth and social status that existed in eighteenth century Connecticut.⁸ Of particular interest was the archaeological observation that it was the cut of meat, rather than the quality of ceramic platter which truly indicated the status of the house's occupants. The house museum is open year round Wednesday – Saturday; group tours are available.

www.hartnet.org/als/alsprop.html

Revolution and the New Nation 1754-1820s

Putnam Memorial State Park: This Revolutionary War archaeology site located in Redding and Bethel is a State Archaeological Preserve and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This Connecticut state park contains the archaeological remnants of George Washington's northern Continental Army during their winter encampment of 1778-1779. A short walk through this lovely park allows the visitor access to numerous historical features left behind by the troops in what has been called Washington's "Northern Valley Forge" – rows of fireback (chimney) remnants from enlisted men's huts, a reconstructed officer's hut, ruins of stone ovens that once provided bread for the troops, the powder storage area, and other bits of history survive from the eighteenth century encampment. A small museum exhibits artifacts recovered from the several archaeological excavations as well as other local eighteenth century memorabilia. These provide a window into Revolutionary army camp life that is not found in local histories, such as information on the distinctive housing and diet of enlisted soldiers and officers, medicinal usage, etc. The archaeology helped to answer such questions as—Was the winter encampment in Redding comparable to the harshness and the deprivation reported from Valley Forge? (Yes; excavations showed the men were so hungry they ate their horses.) Do the material remains indicate class distinctions between the enlisted men and their officers? (Yes, in hut size and style, and in diet.)⁹

www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/putnam.htm

www.members.tripod.com/~compmast/putnam/camp.html

Fort Griswold State Park: Overlooking the Thames River on Monument Avenue in Groton, Fort Griswold is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is the historic site of the Revolutionary Battle of Groton Heights. On September 6, 1781, British vessels bombarded the Fort and it fell to British forces commanded by the infamous traitor Benedict Arnold, a native of Norwich. Archaeological studies have discovered subsurface remains of Revolutionary War barracks, associated military structures, and contemporary artifacts from within the fort's interior courtyard.¹⁰ Eighty-eight of its 165 defenders were killed during the fighting. At least one of the American troops was a Native American – Tom Wansuc, a Pequot, who survived a bayonet wound in the neck. A goodly number of Connecticut's indigenous peoples volunteered their services to the American army and navy during the American Revolution (as well as to subsequent American wars).¹¹ A small Revolutionary War museum that contains artifacts from the Fort is located on the grounds. The Ebenezer Avery House, a period center-chimney colonial home that was used to house the wounded, was relocated from its original location below the Fort on the corner of Latham and Thames Streets to the park grounds. It has been restored with Revolutionary period furnishings, and is open to the public on summer weekends.

www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/fort_griswold.htm

www.friendsctstateparks.org/parks/fort_griswald_battlefield.htm

Fort Stamford: Stamford's first historic park, Fort Stamford was the site of a Revolutionary War fort built in 1781 by American troops under the direction of Brigadier General David Howe Waterbury, Jr. to protect the area from British attack. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a State Archaeological Preserve. During America's Bicentennial, archaeological investigations recovered numerous Revolutionary War military artifacts from the excavation of the Fort ruins which are curated at the Stamford Historical Society museum.

<http://www.stamfordhistory.org/rg12.htm>

Governor Samuel Huntington Homestead: Built in 1720, this lovely center-chimney house museum was the boyhood home of Samuel Huntington, the President of the Continental Congress, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Chief Justice of the Connecticut Superior Court, and a ten-year governor of Connecticut. The homestead is a National Historic Landmark and a State Archaeological Preserve. Several archaeological excavations by Connecticut College, the Public Archaeology Survey Team, and others uncovered many eighteenth century items associated with food preparation and consumption and clothing, such as ceramic shards, silver buckles and cufflinks.¹² The diverse archaeological assemblage provides important perspectives on the everyday lives of the Huntington family that are – to quote the Public Archaeology Survey Team – “particularly useful since there is relatively little documentary information available on the Huntington family's daily lives.” (www.past-inc.org/current.html). The farmstead's grounds contain a garden area, agricultural fields, and a sophisticated series of small-scale fieldstone dams and causeways to divert water sources for agricultural improvement. They provide an interesting and rare insight regarding colonial technological approaches for modifying the natural landscape.

www.huntingtonhomestead.org/

Hospital Rock: An historic petroglyph (incised bedrock outcrop) along a hiking trail in southern Farmington near its border with Plainville marks the site of one of the first wellness clinics in New England. During the 1780s and 1790s local doctors ran a smallpox prevention hospital where clients (mostly children and young adults of the wealthy) were invariolated with a mild case of the virus to make them immune to the disease. Before Jenner discovered the smallpox vaccine, doctors saturated a thread with pox fluid and pulled it through a small incision in a person's skin; this procedure was called invariolation, an apparent rite of passage since invariolation was a risky medical treatment. The names of surviving patients as well as carvings of buildings that probably represent the hospital complex were carved on a large basalt outcrop near the farmhouse where the medical staff initially met those attending the clinic. The ruins of the farmhouse complex are located along an

unpaved, intact colonial toll road that was once the main connection between Farmington and New Britain. The remains of its old toll house are located north from the farmhouse. The elusive hospital ruins remain to be found amid the woody knolls that dot the locus. Hospital Rock is a unique reminder of the dangers of colonial diseases and is a State Archaeological Preserve.

<http://www.farmingtonhistoricalsociety-ct.org/hospitalrock.html>

Fort Wooster Park: Located on Townsend Avenue overlooking the eastern shore of New Haven Harbor, Fort Wooster Park is a State Archaeological Preserve. It was part of the ancient homelands of the Quinnipiac Indian tribe and the site of their 1638 reservation, one of the earliest – if not the earliest—reservation in North America. An old Indian fort once sat atop Beacon Hill, the highest elevation on the park grounds. Oral tradition claims that bonfires were set on its pinnacle to signal impending dangers, hence its name. A beautifully engraved marble monument dedicated to the tribe in 2000 graces the front of the park. The park was also the scene of a Revolutionary War skirmish, where local American militia attempted to prevent the British from invading New Haven on July 5, 1779. They were unsuccessful; the British took Beacon Hill and marched into the city. During the War of 1812, an American fort—Fort Wooster—was built atop Beacon Hill to prevent the British from repeating that event. Park trails lead visitors to its location, where the remains of its earthen fortifications and a black powder cellar are still visible.

<http://www.fort-nathan-hale.org/FortWooster.html>

The Lighthouse Archaeological Site: Scattered cellar holes and other stone structures mark the site of an eighteenth/nineteenth century community of Native American, free black, mixed minority and lower class white families who once lived in the what-was-then wilderness of Barkhamsted. Located in the People's State Forest, the archaeological complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was excavated by students from Central Connecticut State University under the direction of Professor Ken Feder, who published a book on the Lighthouse Community.¹³ His interpretation of the archaeological finds shows how people belonging to the lower social strata lived and died in colonial and early federal Connecticut, ca. 1740-1860. Members of these class and ethnic groupings seldom left written records of their lives. Archaeological information on their architecture, cultural objects, and dietary remains provide interesting contrasts and comparisons with those from the contemporary upper class Butler/McCook homestead. The nearby Stone Museum on Greenwoods Road in Pleasant Valley contains an exhibit on the Lighthouse Community, so named because the village was located on the stagecoach road along the Farmington River that connected Albany with Hartford. When the driver saw the lights of the houses he knew he was only an hour away from the latter destination.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~mypages/Lighthouse%20Tribe/Lighthouse.html>

<http://www.stonemuseum.org/museum.htm>

Expansion and Reform 1801-1861

Newgate Prison and Copper Mine: One of the earliest commercial copper mines in North America and Connecticut's first State prison, Newgate Prison and Copper Mine is located in East Granby on Newgate Road, off Route 20. The site is a State Museum, State Archaeological Preserve, and a National Historic Landmark. Mining operations began in 1705. They did not turn a profit, and in 1773 the mine's subsurface workings were adaptively used as a Connecticut prison. During the Revolutionary War political prisoners were incarcerated at Newgate. After the war it served as the State Prison until 1827. A major heritage tourism attraction, Newgate consists of a number of prison buildings, including the original 1790 Guard House. Archaeological investigations have discovered evidence for additional eighteenth century buildings including the forge area where prisoners made nails to help the state pay for their incarceration, and many artifacts associated with prison life and copper mining.¹⁴ A portion of the underground mine workings is open to the public, as well as a museum and gift shop with video and displays. Directly across the street is Viets Tavern, an eighteenth century farm house and public house affiliated with the prison. Its first warden resided there, and food for the prisoners was thought to have been prepared in its kitchen.

http://www.chc.state.ct.us/old_new.htm

<http://www.eastgranby.com/HistoricalSociety/newgateprison2.htm>

Prudence Crandall House: Located on Routes 14 and 169 in Canterbury, the Prudence Crandall House is a National Historic Landmark, Connecticut Afro-American Freedom Trail site,¹⁵ and Connecticut Women's Heritage Trail site. Administered by the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism as a heritage museum, it highlights the educational struggles of Connecticut's African-American community and the courageous life of Prudence Crandall, Connecticut's officially-recognized State Heroine. It is the site of the first school for African-American girls. Opening an academy for "little misses of color," Crandall created a divisive racial confrontation in rural eastern Connecticut in 1833-1834.¹⁶ Archaeological studies confirmed historic accounts of a nighttime attack on the house when all the first floor windows were smashed and the front of the structure set ablaze. Although much is written about Prudence Crandall and her educational endeavors on behalf of an oppressed people, archaeological excavations brought to light even more of this story – the burial of a complete dish set by post-Crandall owners of the property, who apparently refused to eat off dishes thought to have been used by Prudence's black students.¹⁷ The museum consists of exhibit rooms, a research library and museum gift shop.

<http://www.chc.state.ct.us/Crandall%20Museum.htm>

John Brown Birthplace: The birthplace of fiery abolitionist John Brown is a State Archaeological Preserve and a Connecticut Afro-American Freedom Trail site located on John Brown Road off Route 4 in Torrington. In 1800 Brown was born in the farmhouse built by his father in 1785. In 1901 the house was restored to its eighteenth century character and became one of Connecticut's first house museums. A chimney fire destroyed the building in 1918. The Torrington Historical Society recently acquired the property and is planning to improve visitor services and incorporate interpretive trails. In 2002 it sponsored archaeological investigations by Friends of the State Archaeologist under the direction of State Archaeologist Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni. The site consists of the house foundations, a well and a stone wall surrounding these cultural features that was erected in the 1930s. Ruins that may be the remains of John Brown's father Owen's tannery were also located. Many artifacts were found that provide information on the lives of the people who lived on the property, including the Browns and later residents such as African-American tenants who rented the premises ca. 1859-1901.¹⁸

<http://comp2.com/thj/JohnBrown.htm>

<http://www.ctfreedomtrail.com>

Nineteenth Century Schaghticoke Village: The center of Schaghticoke culture and community, this site on the present Schaghticoke Reservation in Kent is an excellent example of life on a historic western Connecticut Indian reservation. Archaeological investigations directed by Lucianne Lavin along the narrow floodplain of the rugged Reservation land uncovered several buried nineteenth century house foundations and thousands of artifacts that showed how tradition and adaptation melded to allow continued survival of the Schaghticoke tribal community in a marginal landscape surrounded by members of the dominant Anglo-American society.¹⁹ Although the Reservation is the private property of the Schaghticoke tribe, tribal leaders allow through traffic on the Schaghticoke Road that runs along its eastern edge. The Appalachian Trail runs through Schaghticoke Mountain overlooking the road, and the Tribe allows hikers to travel the Trail through their Reservation lands. Trail and road travelers can enjoy the beauty and quiet of the Schaghticoke homelands while catching glimpses of two early nineteenth century residences still standing off the road, the tribal pavilion and camp grounds where the Tribe holds social and political gatherings, and the Schaghticoke tribal burying grounds. It is the third of three Schaghticoke burying grounds on the Reservation. The first eighteenth century burying ground was sold off illegally in 1801 by the state-appointed white tribal overseer with permission from the Connecticut General Assembly along with the northern portion of the Reservation.²⁰ The second burying ground was flooded about 1905 when the dam at Bull's Bridge was constructed as part of a hydroelectric power generating facility. Some of the burials were dug up and moved to the present burying ground; they are designated by simple unmarked fieldstone headstones.

<http://www.schaghticoke.com/index.html>

Development of the Industrial United States 1870-1900

Roxbury Iron Mine & Furnace: The Roxbury Iron Mine and Furnace archaeological complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It includes the remains of the first integrated steelworks in the United States. Although mining, smelting and steel making operations at this site were not very successful, large-scale production of high quality steel was still an unrealized ambition of the United States when this blast furnace began in 1865. The well-preserved remains, protected by the Roxbury Land Trust, provide a critical opportunity for understanding historic metallurgy processes through interpretation of the surviving industrial archaeological ruins. The Mine Hill Preserve is 360 acres of lovely hiking trails including an old donkey path (the unfortunate beast of burden used for trekking out the ore) that leads past abandoned mine shafts, granite quarries to the restored iron ore blast furnace, roasting ovens and other cultural features of this fascinating industrial archaeology site.

<http://www.roxburylandtrust.org/preserves.html>

Kent Iron Furnace: Located on Route 7 in Kent, the Kent Iron Furnace site is a State Museum and a State Archaeological Preserve. The site contains the remains of a highly successful iron ore extraction and manufacturing complex that spanned most of the nineteenth century. The partially restored blast furnace began producing pig iron in 1826. Production ceased just before the turn of the century. Preliminary archaeological studies indicate that evidence survives for several furnace-related structures including the furnace stack, charcoal sheds, ore crushing shed, charging bridge, and two waste disposal areas which contain large salamanders (slag and brick masses removed from the furnace's hearth). The Sloane-Stanley Museum of Early American tools and implements, also located on the property, contains a diorama of the late nineteenth century Kent ironworks and vintage photographs of the blast furnace. The Connecticut Museum of Mining and Mineral Science is located on adjacent property, which is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

<http://www.chc.state.ct.us/sloanestanleymuseum.htm>

Whitney Armory: The Whitney Armory site on Whitney Avenue in Hamden is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes a small-scale, but interesting industrial museum. It was the locus of nineteenth century inventor and manufacturer Eli Whitney's firearms factory, where Whitney revolutionized arms manufacture through mechanization and mass production based on the concept of interchangeable parts. It is a significant industrial archaeology site that epitomizes the growth of the Industrial Revolution in general and, specifically, industry in Connecticut. Archaeological investigations by Yale University unearthed information on the buildings and manufacturing processes of Eli Whitney Sr. and Jr.'s 1798-twentieth century small arms factory and associated factory workers' village of Whitneyville in New Haven. Some of these techniques were not mentioned

in the factory records. For example, excavation of a revolver frame of malleable cast iron demonstrated the use of malleable iron casting as a regular production technique rather than the usual method of wrought iron forging.²¹ The Eli Whitney Museum is located on the original site of the Armory. It contains a 1/3 scale model of the Armory.²²

<http://www.eliwhitney.org/test/index.html>

<http://www.eliwhitney.org/test/site.htm#two>

Airline Railroad Archaeological District: The Airline Railroad Archaeological District which spans Colchester and East Hampton is a State Archaeological Preserve composed of a portion of the original railroad right-of-way and several highly significant engineering structures of the Airline railroad system. The Air Line Railroad opened in 1873, connecting central Connecticut with New York City and Boston. It was advertised as the fastest route between those cities. An important transportation resource from the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries, it provided both freight and passenger service. Four of its engineering structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places: the Lyman Viaduct, the Rapallo Viaduct, the Blackledge River Bridge, and the River Road Stone Arch Bridge. In 1996 the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection initiated plans to transform the route into a multipurpose trail and linear state park. The Old Air Line Trail is open to the public, who may walk in history over the nineteenth century rails and viaducts covered by the trail and under the Stone Arch Bridge.²³ The trail head is located in East Hampton and continues through Colchester and Hebron. Trail maps are available at each of the town halls.

<http://www.performance-vision.com/airline/index.htm#about>

Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company: Located at the confluence of the Still and Housatonic Rivers in Lovers Leap State Park in New Milford, this extensive industrial archaeological complex is listed on the State Register of Historic Places, and is a State Archaeological Preserve. The Bridgeport Wood Finishing Company was a water-powered mill complex that produced wood filler and a weather-resistant paint, the major ingredient of which was ground quartz; later products included Silexite concrete, sandpaper, and other abrasive products. The plant at the Great Falls was completed in 1882 and operated until 1928. The archaeology site is a wonderful example of a large nineteenth century industrial complex situated to exploit the waterpower potential of the Housatonic River and nearby railroad connections for production and marketing purposes. It includes the archaeological remains of the main mill and wheel house; additional factory buildings included an office, paint factory, box shop varnish factory, cooper shop; other waterpower and railroad structures associated with the industry; brick, stone and iron kilns for roasting quartz and other mineral required in their manufacturing process, and workers' boarding houses on 13.5 acres of land. Raber and Gordon's excellent map layouts and descriptions of the plant property make an excellent field guide when visiting this site.²⁴

Emergence of Modern America 1890-1930

Cornfield Point/Light Vessel LV-51 Site: The Lightship *LV-51* site is an underwater archaeology site (shipwreck) located off the Connecticut coast in Old Saybrook. It is a State Archaeological Preserve that provides information on Connecticut's maritime history and underwater archaeology. Light vessels were essentially floating lighthouses, protecting the waterways and guarding other vessels from running aground or foundering in Long Island's rocky coastal waters. The lightship *LV-51* was built in 1890 by order of Congress. In 1919 it was rammed by a tug barge and sunk, fortunately with no loss of life. The *LV-51* now rests on the bottom of Long Island Sound in 170 to 190 feet of water. Archaeological investigation of the shipwreck included sophisticated technological research methods such as sonar imaging, use of a Remote Operated Vessel, and underwater video-photography, which provided remarkable photographic images, measurements and facts about the construction of nineteenth century lightships.²⁵ The discovery and remote investigation of the *LV-51* highlight the positive partnering of the Connecticut diving and archaeological communities, several state agencies, and UCONN-Avery Point to accomplish a mutually important goal. For a history and photo gallery of lightships visit the U.S. Coast Guard web site.

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-cp/history/Lightship_Index.html

The Great Depression and World War II 1929-1945

World War II Hellcat Crash Sites: This mid-twentieth century archaeology site, located north of the former Norwich State Hospital in Preston, marks the crash sites of two Grumman F4F-5N "Hellcats" and has been designated a State Archaeological Preserve. These World War II military aircraft unfortunately collided during night training maneuvers by two young Naval Reserve pilots from the Charlestown (Rhode Island) Naval Auxiliary Airfield on October 19, 1944. The Hellcat was the most successful American aircraft in World War II. Over 12,000 were produced between 1942 and 1945 and only 270 were lost in combat. The Hellcats downed 5,155 enemy planes. Archeological site analysis included interesting use of a metal detector survey to determine the debris field and bounds of each site, the largest of which was a surprising nine acres.²⁶ This State Archaeological Preserve vividly illustrates the dangers inherent in military aircraft training on the home front during World War II and is an appropriate memorial for and recognition of America's brave military aviators.

Site Fragility & the Importance of Local Museum Exhibits

Archaeology is a powerful learning tool for broadening our knowledge of Connecticut's diverse cultural heritage and enhancing the State's social studies curriculum. Archaeological resources, however, are fragile and non-renewable. Many sites have long since been destroyed. The only things left of them are the excavated artifacts and the field notes describing their associations. Other sites still exist but are largely inaccessible to the public because of the risk of their being vandalized and destroyed by the curious and collectors seeking "treasures" for their private collections, or to sell to other collectors.

Educators, students, and interested visitors can view the cultural remains from these sites at several local museums and draw further conclusions about their meanings. Once a site is destroyed by development, suburban sprawl, or an uneducated treasure seeker, its story is gone forever. This is why archaeology sites are so very important, and the reason they must be protected and preserved from disturbance and destruction.

For information on Native American archaeology sites, visit the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut; the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Ledyard; or the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University in New Haven. The IAIS and MPMRC museums contain indoor and outdoor exhibits that feature replicated Native American villages and other cultural features. Many town historical societies feature house museums furnished in a specific historical period so that visitors can see and feel what it was like to live during that time period. A few, such as the Derby Historical Society (<http://derbyhistorical.org/>), offer historical re-enactments or living histories of everyday activities during that period of time. Exhibits at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury depict the industrial history of the Greater Waterbury area. Many of the topics apply to state and regional history as well such as living conditions for emigrant and black factory workers; early factory working conditions; growth of the brass industry; development and impact of unions (<http://www.mattatuckmuseum.org/>). Some of these exhibits are online and can be viewed from the museum's web site. In the fall 2006 volume of *Connecticut History*, Joan Cavanaugh described a number of more localized industrial museums in Hartford, New Haven, New Britain, and Torrington with interesting, visitor-friendly exhibits on the local industrial history.²⁷

How teachers might use these sites

The archaeology sites discussed above provide historical information about Connecticut's heritage—often not found in local history books – that will help educators meet the general program goals and discipline standards of the State social studies curriculum framework for Grades K-12, particularly the history standards but also some for geography, civics and economics as well (Connecticut State

Department of Education 1998). Many make wonderful field trips for both students and educators. Hands-on site visits should provide teachers with innovative curriculum materials, and promote research and creative thinking among students and interested public alike.

The above sites are but a few of the many historic archaeology sites and facilities available to educators and the general public. Time and space restraints do not allow for full coverage of all publicly accessible Connecticut archaeology sites in this article. To locate additional archaeology site resources, I strongly urge the reader to seek out local archaeology and history web sites, and to surf the internet in general. I have listed a few important web sites below:

- Archnet/Archaeological Research Institute: <http://archnet.asu.edu/>
- Central Connecticut State University African-American Archaeology Studies: <http://www.ccsu.edu/cas/archaeology.html>
- Connecticut Underwater Archaeology: <http://www.mnh.uconn.edu/underwater/AddRes.html>
- Institute for American Indian Studies: <http://www.birdstone.org/index.htm>
- Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center: <http://www.pequotmuseum.org/>
- Mattatuck Museum: <http://www.mattatuckmuseum.org/>
- Office of Connecticut State Archaeology: <http://www.cac.uconn.edu/>
- Peabody Museum of Natural History: <http://www.peabody.yale.edu/>
- Public Archaeology Survey Team, Inc.: <http://www.past-inc.org/news.html>

¹ “Social Studies Curriculum Framework,” Division of Teaching and Learning, Connecticut State Department of Education, 1998.

² Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, Chapter 184a, Section 10-390.

³ Harold D. Juli, “Garden Archaeology at the Henry Whitfield Museum, Guilford, Connecticut,” *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 64 (2002): 69-92; see also the web site discussing the Yale excavations <http://www.yale.edu/archaeology/hwh>.

⁴ Bert Salwen, “Cultural Inferences from Faunal Remains: Examples from Three Northeast Coastal Sites,” *Pennsylvania Archaeologist* 40(1-2) (1970): 1-8; Lorraine Williams, “Fort Shantok and Fort Corchaug: A Comparative Study of 17th Century Culture Contact in the Long Island Sound Area,” (PhD diss., New York University, 1972); Lorraine E. Williams, Kevin A. McBride, and Robert S. Grumet, “Fort Shantok National Historic Landmark,” *Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut* 60 (1997): 29-42.

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