

University of Maryland at College Park

From the Selected Works of Megan E. Springate

May, 2011

**A Concealed Shoe Recovered at the Updike
Farmstead, Princeton Township, Mercer County,
New Jersey**

Megan E. Springate



Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/meganspringate/13/>



Newsletter of the

Archaeological Society of New Jersey

Established 1931

Newsletter No. 232

May 2011

A Concealed Shoe Recovered at the Updike Farmstead, Princeton Township, Mercer County, New Jersey

By Megan Springate, RPA,

Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc., Cranbury, New Jersey

In 2009 and 2010, Richard Grubb & Associates conducted archaeological monitoring and recordation at the Historical Society of Princeton's (HSP) Updike Farmstead, Princeton Township, Mercer County, New Jersey (Springate 2010). The work was conducted in conjunction with the Updike Farmstead restoration project.

to his newly born son Benjamin Clarke IV in 1742. It is not clear who operated the farm until Benjamin IV reached maturity. In his 1816 will, Benjamin IV divided the family farm between his two surviving sons, Elisha and David. Elisha inherited the old homestead; David inherited the portion of the farm that now encompasses the Updike Farmstead. An



Figure 1. Shoe recovered from inside the western wall of the Updike farmhouse. Photo by Megan Springate.

This article describes a deliberately-placed late nineteenth century protective shoe concealment that was identified during the restoration.

The Farmstead

The land on which the Updike Farmhouse now stands was part of a parcel of 1,200 acres purchased by Benjamin Clarke II from Thomas Warne in 1696. A portion of the property passed to his son Benjamin Clarke III in 1721 and thence

early structure was built on the land in the eighteenth century, likely during David's tenure. Portions of the building, which may have served as a tenant house, appear to have been incorporated into what is now the extant farmhouse. David was predeceased by his only child, and willed the farm to his grandson, Samuel Paxson. Samuel worked the farm for many years before he advertised it for sale in 1869. He was still the owner in 1870 when he died. His widow sold

Continued on page 3



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues:

First, I write to apologize for the missing March newsletter. ASNJ members who receive hard copies of the newsletter were disappointed when the newsletter didn't arrive. Several different factors came together to create a "perfect storm" and prevent the newsletter from coming out. I think we are back on track and apologize for the inconvenience.

Our last meeting, hosted by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission was extremely successful. Attendance topped 110. Our next meeting, is on May 21st and will be hosted by the Roebling Museum in historic Roebling, New Jersey. We have an exceptional lineup of papers and will also have our usual silent book auction. You won't want to miss it. More information is included in the program's section of the newsletter.

On June 18th Monmouth University's annual archaeological field school will host the ASNJ's annual field day in archaeology. The site this year is the White Hill Mansion in Fieldsboro, Burlington County, New Jersey. ASNJ members are welcome to come out and participate in the excavations from 10:00-4:00. Please be sure to bring lunch, lots of water, sunscreen, and to dress appropriately for fieldwork—fedoras are optional. I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our events.

Sincerely,
Richard Veit, Ph.D.
ASNJ President



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY FIELD DAY WHITE HILL MANSION, FOURTH STREET, FIELDSBORO, NJ. JUNE 18, 2011
(RAIN DATE JUNE 19, 2011) 10:00am - 4:00pm

Come join us for a day of archaeology at the White Hill/Field Mansion in historic Fieldsboro, New Jersey. Constructed in the mid-18th century, the Field Mansion was once the center of a 600-acre plantation overlooking the Delaware River. The house and its inhabitants played a significant role in the American Revolution. Owned during the Revolution by the widow Mary Field, the house was briefly occupied by Hessian Troops. In 1777, two American Navy ships, the *Effingham* and *Washington*, were scuttled at its dock by their captains Thomas Read and John Barry. Barry, for whom the Commodore Barry Bridge is named and his friend Thomas Reid were two of early America's most prominent naval officers. Read would later wed the widow Field. Field's son and daughter married Declaration of Independence signer, Richard Stockton's children. In 1797, Richard Stockton's widow and noted poet Annis Boudinot Stockton resided at White Hill. She died there in 1801. Over two centuries later, following a period of abandonment, the mansion is currently undergoing a major restoration. Monmouth University is conducting an archaeological survey of the property as part of the restoration project. Richard Veit and Michael Gall are directing the project. We expect to find historic and prehistoric archaeological deposits.

ASNJ members interested in participating should contact Richard Veit rveit@monmouth.edu. The field day runs from 10:00-4:00. Please bring your own lunch, water, be sure to wear field clothes, and if you have your own trowel be sure to bring it. See you in June at White Hill.

A Publication of the
Archaeological Society of New Jersey
Established 1931
ISSN 095-63371



Continued from page 1

the farm to Leverett Rice, who had also purchased the former Clarke lands previously inherited by Elisha. The property changed hands repeatedly through the late nineteenth century: Rice sold it to William Wilde in 1875; William subsequently lost the property at Sheriff's sale to Paul Tulane in 1880; in 1881, Tulane sold it to Charles Post who later forced to sell it to settle debts. Hugh Hamill bought it from Post in 1892, and within the same year sold it to George F. Updike, Sr. The farm remained in the Updike family through the late twenty-first century. In 1969, the agricultural fields were sold to the Institute for Advanced Study and in 2004, the remaining six acres comprising the farmhouse and outbuildings were sold to the HSP (Watson & Henry Associates 2005).

The Concealed Shoe

During the reconstruction project, slats of exterior siding were removed from the exterior western wall just above the stone foundation. A shoe (Figure 1) was recovered from inside the wall cavity near the brick

chimney stack. Inspection of the interior of the house indicated there was no access to the interior of the walls near the chimney. Despite its deteriorated condition it was possible to date the shoe based on various characteristics, including a stacked heel; a broad, rounded square toe; no apparent box toe arrangement; moderate skewing indicating it was made for the left foot; and a McKay-sewn last. This was a utilitarian shoe, likely manufactured between 1865 and 1875. The shoe is worn through; although it may have been purchased between 1865 and 1875, shoes were commonly worn for up to 20 years before they were no longer used (Rexford 2000:200-274).

The shoe recovered from the Updike Farmstead exhibits characteristics common to shoe concealments identified as having apotropaic (evil-averting) qualities (though there is some debate as to the specific meanings of the practice). Like the shoe recovered, concealed shoes are usually well-worn to the point of being worn out, and tend to

Table 1. Property ownership of the Updike Farmstead associated with the shoe concealment.

Date	Shoe	Owner (Dates Owned)*	Ownership Events*
Pre-1865	Likely manufacturing range Possible concealment range (1865-1875)	Samuel Paxon (1851-1870)	
1865-1867			
1867-1869			1869 – Farm advertised for sale
1869-1871			1870 – S. Paxon dies
1871-1873		Leverett Rice (1870-1875)	
1873-1875			
1875-1877	Likely concealment range (1875-1895)	William Wilde (1875-1880)	
1877-1879			1879 – Property advertised at Sherriff's sale
1879-1881		Paul Tulane (1880-1881)	
1881-1883		Charles E. Post (1881-1892)	
1883-1885			
1885-1887			
1887-1889			
1889-1891			1890 – Writ of <i>Fieri Facias</i> issued against C. Post
1891-1893			
1893-1895		Hugh H. Hamill (1892) George F. Updike, Sr. (1892-1920)	
Post-1895			

* Watson & Henry Associates (2005)



be found as single shoes (rarely in pairs). They are most commonly found associated with a chimney or hearth and are also often found under floors/in ceilings and in walls, occasionally with other objects (Eastop 2001; Swann 1996). Concealed shoes have been recovered from domestic sites, commercial/industrial sites, public buildings including libraries and state offices, and military sites (Eastop 2001; M. Chris Manning, pers. comm. 2011; May 2001; Swann 1996:8).

The recordation and discussion of shoe concealments is relatively new in academic circles. Known examples span the years from the thirteenth through the twentieth centuries, with most examples dating from the 1800s (Dixon-Smith 1990:1; May 2001; Swann 1996:8). It is unclear if the clustering in the nineteenth century is a function of an increased prevalence of shoe concealments during this time or of the preferential survival of nineteenth century buildings that may contain them. While many examples are known from England, there are increasing numbers of reported and documented concealed shoes from countries including Finland, Sweden, Holland, Belgium, France, Germany, Canada, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and Australia. Other examples from the United States have been identified in Virginia, California, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Maryland, Indiana, and New Hampshire (Jiggetts 2010; M. Chris Manning pers. comm. 2011; May 2001; Merrifield 1987; Rehab or Die 2008; Swann 1996; Wayland Historical Society n.d.). They generally date either from the when the building was constructed or from major alteration events, such as the installation of a chimney, expansion, or re-roofing (Swann 1996:8).

Table 1 details ownership and construction events at the Updike Farm during the years from 1865 to 1900, when the concealment was most likely made. Several alterations were made to the farmhouse during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The purpose of these alterations was primarily to improve the functioning of the farmhouse; most cannot be closely dated. One of the alterations probably made during this period was the addition of a bathroom (without running water) at the second story level. The bathroom, which was supported on posts, extended off the west gable end next to the chimney stack. The construction of the bathroom and attendant opening of the exterior wall would have provided an opportunity for concealing the shoe. The bathroom

was demolished in 1925 when running water was introduced into the farmhouse (Watson & Henry Associates 2005:26-27). While the demolition of the bathroom would also have provided an opportunity to place a shoe within the house walls, the age of the shoe suggests it was done before the turn of the twentieth century.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to determine precisely who placed the shoe. Considering the short periods of occupation by Paul Tulane and Hugh Hamill, it is unlikely that they were responsible for the concealment. Given the likely concealment range, based on the extensive wear of the shoe, those responsible for its placement occupied the house during the ownerships of William Wilde, Charles Post, or George Updike, Sr. The shoe is now in the collections of the HSP.

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to the Historical Society of Princeton (www.princetonhistory.org) for their support in making this information available, and to M. Chris Manning at Ball State University for sharing her research with me. All errors and omissions are my own.

Bibliography

- Dixon-Smith, Denise
1990 Concealed Shoes. *Archaeological Leather Group Newsletter* No. 6 Spring.
- Eastop, Dinah
2001 Garments Deliberately Concealed in Buildings. In *A Permeability of Boundaries? New Approaches to the Archaeology of Art, Religion and Folklore*, edited by Robert J Wallis and Kenneth Lymer, pp. 79-84. British Archaeological Reports, Oxford, England.
- Jiggetts, Jennifer
2010 Historic Custom Yields Donations of Museum's Shoes. *Washington Examiner* June 6, 2010.
- May, Ronald V.
2001 Soldier in the Chimney: Evidence for Ritual Magic at U.S. Army Fort Rosecrans, San Diego, California. Paper presented at the Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California.



Merrifield, Ralph
1987 *The Archaeology of Ritual and Magic*. Batsford,
London.

Rehab Or Die
2008 Concealed Shoes – An Alternative to Human
Sacrifice. [http://www.rehabordie.com/
2008/03/concealed-shoes-alternative-to-
human.html](http://www.rehabordie.com/2008/03/concealed-shoes-alternative-to-human.html)

Rexford, Nancy E.
2000 *Women's Shoes in America, 1795-1930*. The Kent
State University Press, Kent, Ohio.

Springate, Megan E.
2010 Draft Report, Archaeological Services,
Construction Monitoring for the Updike
Farmstead Restoration, 354 Quaker Road,
Princeton Township, Mercer County, New
Jersey. On file, Historical Society of Princeton,
Princeton, New Jersey.

Swann, June
1996 Shoes Concealed in Buildings. *Costume* 30:
56-69.

Watson & Henry Associates
2005 Preservation Plan for Updike Farmstead,
Princeton Township, Mercer County, New
Jersey. On file, Historical Society of Princeton,
Princeton, New Jersey

Wayland Historical Society
n.d. Shoes in the Wall. [Wayhistsoc.home.comcast.
net-wayhistsoc/whs/Shoes_in_the_Wall/
Shoes_in_the_wall.htm](http://Wayhistsoc.home.comcast.net-wayhistsoc/whs/Shoes_in_the_Wall/Shoes_in_the_wall.htm). Accessed July 19,

FROM THE STATE MUSEUM

A recently received collection to the State Museum was the archaeological and ethnographic collection of a long time member Mr. Merritt Lum Budd. This collection was given to the NJSM by his grand-daughter (Mrs. Charlotte McMullen). The collection was formerly in the possession of Mrs. Budd, and was then given to Mr. Michael Dalessio of New York. Mr. Dalessio organized, catalogued, and meticulously cared for the entire collection for a number of years. He photographed and provided written descriptions of each object. His work was nothing short of utmost respectful care of this collection, and it will not be forgotten.

Gregory D. Lattanzi NJSM

OBITUARY

New Jersey's archaeological and historical community were grieved to learn of the death on February 23, 2011 of ASNJ member, historian, and scholar, Dr. Paul Boyd. Dr. Boyd was a kind and generous scholar and good friend. His 2006 Rutgers University dissertation, was titled *Settlers along the shores: Lenape spatial patterns in coastal Monmouth County, 1600--1750* (<http://gradworks.umi.com/31/95/3195659.html>). He concluded that historical notions of limited or summer seasonal use of the coastal areas by Contact and Historic Period Lenape were not substantiated by the evidence and that Native Americans along the Delaware River and along the coast practiced two different types of subsistence strategies. Paul's work was a rare (in New Jersey) but valuable combination of the analysis of primary historic records with archaeological data to examine the settlement patterns and lifeways of the Lenape in Monmouth County. His dissertation deserves to be widely read by scholars and CRM archaeologists. In addition to his scholarship, Paul was always willing to share his insights about Monmouth County with CRM archaeologists working in the Atlantic Highlands area and provide his warmth, support, and encouragement to colleagues. There was a lot more to his life and activism that is described below in part. He will be missed by us all.

Ilene Grossman-Bailey
36 E. Palmer St.
Morrisville, PA 19067

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY RESEARCH GRANTS

Since 1976, the ASNJ has provided research monies for worthy projects that benefit or contribute to the advancement of Historic and Prehistoric knowledge in the State and its environs. In 2008 the Society increased the Grant amount from \$500 to \$750 that could be available to each applicant. Potential applicants can write for a complete explanation of what is covered under the Grants Program, as well as a fuller description of guidelines and requirements. Send inquiries to Jack Cresson, 40 E. 2nd Street, Moorestown, NJ 08057 or jackcresson@juno.com. The application deadline for 2011 is June 30th.



A TALE OF SUCCESS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVOCACY: PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS THREATENED, PROTECTION MEASURES ARE PROPOSED

By Darryl Daum

Morales/Bernadette Park, located in Raritan Township NJ, recently revealed some of its Native American history along a stretch of one of its park trails. This area in Hunterdon County is well known for its prehistoric quarry activities and for the quantity and quality of argillite - a Triassic Period stone of the Locatong Formation - which once provided an advantageous place to acquire and work this material by prehistoric inhabitants of the region.



Figure 1. Trail where erosion is exposing artifacts.

Located on an elevated terrace above Walnut Brook lies a site area identified as a stone tool production workstation. One of the park trails passes through this site. Due to natural erosion and constant foot traffic, argillite artifacts and debitage have been exposed in and along this stretch of the trail putting the site and the artifacts in jeopardy (Figure 1).

Seeking to protect and preserve this area the park subcommittee was contacted and the concern was discussed. The subcommittee was very helpful and open to protecting and preserving the site. It was decided to place a thick layer of wood chips over the partially damaged trail, to not only impede the erosion process but also protect the underlying artifacts. A date was set for the first Saturday in June, 2011 to have a park service day to work on protecting this section of the trail.

Also, the process to identify and register the site has been undertaken in a measure to further preserve the longevity and integrity of these Native American remains. Thanks to Jack Cresson and Jesse Walker, of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey and Richard Grubb Associates, for their time, counsel and continued support on this effort.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The ASNJ has 203 members who are paid through 2011 or beyond. Membership renewal reminders went out in March; if you haven't already, please renew your membership. You can renew securely online using a credit card at www.asnj.org or send a check using the form in the newsletter.

Megan Springate, VP-Membership

TREASURER'S REPORT

PNC Bank Checking Account \$9,817.03
ING Direct Business Savings Account \$10,244.54
Rahway Savings CD \$4,643.68 (SAME)

Ilene Grossman-Bailey, Treasurer

NEWSLETTER

Please send articles, meetings announcements, reports and any other archaeological news you may have to the following email

glattanzi@me.com

and I will try to see that it gets in.

Thanks!

Gregory Lattanzi, Newsletter Editor



Archaeological Society of New Jersey
May 21st, 2011 Meeting
Roebling, NJ

Board Meeting 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Break 11:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch

President's Welcome 1:00-1:10 pm

1:10-1:30pm Coming full circle at George Mason's Gunston Hall, Wendy Miervaldis and Claudia Wending

1:30-1:50pm The Power of Choice: Reflections of Economic Ability, Status, and Ethnicity in the Foodways of a Free Black Family in Northwestern New Jersey, by Megan E. Springate and Amy K. Raes

1:50-2:10pm "Salvage Squared": Salvage Archaeology at the Warner Farm Prehistoric Site, Mt. Laurel, NJ Sandra H. Bierbrauer, Richard Regensburg, Jack Cresson, and Antoinette Collins Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

2:10-2:30pm Newark's Iron Coffins, by Scott Warnasch and Michael Audin

2:30-2:50pm Archaeological Investigations at the Gully Site (28-Mo-351): A prehistoric camp in Central New Jersey. Jesse Walker, Richard Grubb & Associates, Inc.

Directions to Roebling Museum

The Museum is located at 100 2nd Avenue in Roebling, NJ. It is readily accessible from the Riverline. The museum is located a mere 1000 from the Roebling stop of the train, and is the building on the huge park-like lot with the giant wheel that is located right next to the train stop. If you are traveling by vehicle, the museum can be reached by traveling on Rt. 130 and turning West at Hornberger Avenue. You travel just over ¼ mile and cross over the railroad tracks, past the train station and 2nd Avenue is immediately in front of you. The Museum is 500 feet down the street and the only building on the right side of the street. However, there is access to a parking lot right at the railroad tracks. You need to drive past the back of the train station and follow the signs further back to the Museum parking area.

If you are using Rt. 295, then you use exit 52, then you head west towards Florence. You travel 2 miles until you reach Rt. 130. At the light, you make a right turn and head north and travel ¾ of a mile to the next light, which is Hornberger Avenue. Make a left turn here and follow the same directions to the Museum.

There is a deli located by the RR station and two bars (Roebling is still a blue collar town).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

Membership Application

2011 Membership Fees

Active.....	\$25.00	Institutional.....	\$30.00	Family.....	\$30.00
Student*.....	\$20.00	Sustaining.....	\$35.00	Corporate.....	\$100.00
		Life.....	\$1000.00		

___ YES! I wish to receive the ASNJ newsletter via email only
(please provide a valid email address)

*Student Membership requires a photocopy of a valid Student ID.

Make checks payable to: Archaeological Society of New Jersey and return to:
ASNJ c/o Megan Springate P.O. Box 526, Cranbury, NJ 08512

Date:_____ Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____ E-Mail _____

Archaeological Society of New Jersey
c/o Megan Springate
P.O. Box 526
Cranbury, N.J. 08512

First Class Mail