



Susquehanna River Archaeological Center
of Native Indian Studies
www.SRACenter.org



The Region's Archeological, Cultural and Historical Resource

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 2006

The Vision

The Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (S.R.A.C.) is dedicated to education, research and preservation of the Native American archaeological, cultural and historical assets of the Twin Tier Region of Northeastern PA and Southern NY.

The Mission

To proactively seek out, procure and protect all historically and culturally significant assets relative to Native American History within the Twin Tier Region and supply educational and research capabilities for the public.

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- Deb Twigg** Executive Director
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S.R.A.C. Executive Director Published in PA Archaeologist

Re-opening a debate once thought closed concerning the location of the Indian Nation known as Carantouan, local woman Deb Twigg's article appears in the most recent issue of the highly respected archaeological journal "Pennsylvania Archaeologist."

Twigg, executive director of Susquehanna River Archaeological Center, spent four years researching the topic of Carantouan's location. Her article addresses what some may consider today a bold claim, but was once accepted history. She amassed a great deal of historical evidence supporting her contention that the Sayre/Athens 'Valley' area of Bradford County and the surrounding region was indeed where Etienne Brule found Carantouan in 1615. Brule is considered the first white explorer of the region, dispatched by French explorer Champlain to seek Carantouan five years before Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock.



Deb Twigg S.R.A.C. Executive Director challenges current theories in PA Archaeologist article.

"Not many people realize this anymore, but Brule's presence in our area in 1615 was accepted and even celebrated for quite some time, until certain archaeologists made the claim that this was not the case," Twigg said.

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Breaking News

The amulet on page 4 will be featured in the next PA Archaeologist along with an article by well known author of "Picture Rocks," Ed Lenik. Ed saw this amulet in Danbury, CT last year and was awed by it then, so when he was asked to write about it, he was happy to oblige.

www.spanishhill.com/_amulet/

More news next quarter.

Video Clips are now available at our website www.sracenter.org/clips



Corner of amulet with "wolf" lined to show detail

Become A Member Today!

Historically Speaking

Louise Welles Murray founder and director of the Tioga Point Museum born in Athens, PA, January 2, 1854, died April 22, 1931.

The following commemoration was written in the first pages of "The Selected Manuscripts Of General John S. Clark, (1931)" which was her last great work before her death.

"The death of Mrs. Louise Welles Murray on April 22, 1931, just as this monograph, under her editorship, was about to issue from press, removed from the Society of Pennsylvania Archeology, and from the field of Pennsylvania archeology and history generally, one of its most valuable and forceful characters."

Myth or Fact?

A story hit all the major newswires in 1916, about horned skeletons found in Athens PA.

Even today you can find references to this story on the internet.

To learn what really happened www.spanishhill.com/Skeletons/horns.htm

E.D.N. Pow-wow's

Whispering Maples Pow-wow, Lovelton, May 27 & 28 (Memorial Day weekend).

Forksville Pow-wow, June 16, 17 & 18 (Father's Day weekend).

Volunteers are needed at both events. Contact E.D.N. Secretary, Mollie Eliot at 570-946-7179 for additional information or volunteer form.

As it becomes available we will begin including information on committees; speakers lists; and events of interest in the upcoming quarter

~ Louise Welles Murray ~

Well Known, Well Respected, Well of Knowledge

S.R.A.C. would like to dedicate this Newsletter to someone we believe was one of Pennsylvania's finest women in history, Mrs. Louise Welles Murray. Without her, many mysteries of our past would remain.

"Louise Welles Murray - The founder and director of the Tioga Point Museum was born in Athens, PA, January 2, 1854

...

The discovery of an Indian burial ground in the garden of their new home in 1882 at once interested both her and her husband, and they determined literally to leave no stone unturned until they learned the origin of those aboriginal remains . . .

In 1894 Mrs Murray had arranged a New England kitchen at a church harvest supper. Contents of the pioneer attics proved so attractive that it was at once decided that a museum should be started . . .

A Village Improvement Society had just rescued the Athens Academy from decay, a wooden building long vacant and a rendezvous of tramps. At their suggestion a historical committee began collecting material. An old settlers social was held, admittance being gained by presentation of some gift for the museum. This collection grew too valuable to risk the dangers to which it was exposed. A former Athenian urged Mrs. Murray

to persuade Mr. Jesse Spalding of Chicago, another native of Athens, to provide a fireproof building for this purpose, to which a library was added to make it more popular . . .

Being a fluent speaker, she was often called upon and gladly shared her knowledge. No record has been kept of all the newspaper articles and various addresses which she prepared, and presented for the sake of Truth, seldom receiving in return. Many of

these are preserved for reference in her museum she often laughingly declared was to be her monument. A better one would be difficult to erect. There she spent her last evening on earth, planning new work, having remarked that she did not have enough to do.

Whenever she had the opportunity to visit other museums or institutions of learning, it was always to gain new ideas or inspiration, endeavoring to adapt them whenever finances permitted. To enable the young to glean Truth from the chaff, often printed as history, was her greatest educational ambition. The criticism which such efforts arouse did not deter her, rather she pressed forward to a higher mark."

-Excerpts from the Bulletin of the Society For Pennsylvania Archaeology - December 1931



~ Louise Welles Murray ~
January 2, 1854 - April 22, 1931

S.R.A.C. Executive Director Published in PA Archaeologist

(Continued From The Cover)

Her intense research into the question of Brule's presence in the region resulted in the acceptance and publication of her article by Pennsylvania Archaeologist's editors. Her work systematically debunks claims that the Valley region was not the location of Carantouan. She feels it's time for the story of Carantouan and Etienne Brule to be celebrated once again in the Valley and surrounding areas.

Carantouan was known as a nation of three villages that covered a broad region Twigg believes reached as far as Elmira, NY to the west, Nichols, NY to the east, and Towanda, PA to the south. It's believed the Carantouans were a subgroup of the tribe called "Andastes" by the French and "Susquehannocks" by the English. They had many villages along the Susquehanna River, were known to be very warlike, and were noted to be the only enemy the Iroquois Confederacy feared.

"The Valley seems to be a place of significance for the Carantouan Nation because of a hill known

locally as Spanish Hill, which most believe was a huge fortified stronghold of the Carantouan," said Twigg. "In addition, nearby Tioga Point was a highly guarded, valuable location to all travelers in this region. It was the "gateway to the south." Travelers on both the Chemung and Susquehanna Rivers would have to pass Tioga Point on their journey southward to the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean."

In 1608 Englishman Captain John Smith encountered the "Susquehannocks," as he dubbed them, in that region. He was so awed by them that he wrote: "60 of those Susquehannocks came to us . . . such great and well proportioned men are seldome seene, for they seemed like giants to the English . . . these are the strangest people of all those countries both in language and attire; for their language it may well be seeme their proportions, sounding from them as a voice in a vault...The calfe of whose leg was $\frac{3}{4}$ of a yard around and all the rest of his limbes so answerable to that proportion that he seemed the goodliest man we ever beheld!" Smith immediately changed his plans and headed in

the other direction after meeting these great warriors.

In the late 1800's General John S. Clark visited Spanish Hill and was first to recognize it as the stronghold of the Carantouan Nation. Clark also discovered the location of the battlefield of Newtown, NY and many other historically significant Native Indian sites. Clark's claims coincided with the discovery of several of what local historian Louise Welles Murray described as "giant skeletons" when water line ditches were being dug along Main Street in Athens just above Tioga Point.

Clark and Murray's claim that the Valley region was the location of Carantouan was disputed in the following century. Twigg's article provides validity to their original concept of Carantouan's location.

"If you would like to learn more about this exciting past we all share, please attend one of my many regional presentations on this topic. These are always free of charge, open to the public, and listed in local newspapers, on the web at SpanishHill.com, and SRACenter.org," Twigg said.

S.R.A.C. Partner in EMHR River Clean-up Earth Day 2006

Plans are moving forward for a Susquehanna River clean-up day sponsored by Endless Mountain Heritage Region, Inc. (EMHR) on Earth Day, April 22. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is helping fund the event, but local donations and the loan of equipment are needed to accomplish the tasks at hand.

Sites for cleanup will be selected in Sayre-Athens, Towanda and Wyalusing areas for the event. Similar events later in the year will focus on different sites, including some in Wyoming County. Trash collected will be separated and either recycled or taken to a landfill.

"It's part of S.R.A.C.'s mission to protect significant assets relative to Native American History. We feel the river is one of those assets," said Mollie Eliot, S.R.A.C. Director of Cultural Outreach and EMHR Vice-president.

"The (Susquehanna) River is central to Chesapeake Bay clean-up," said Mike Lovegreen, Bradford County Conservation District at an organizational meeting. He noted the river is identified as a top ten scenic river in the country. The river has also been listed as "endangered."

EMHR Executive Director Bob Veleker commented that the north branch of the river, which runs past Towanda, is "a lot cleaner now than it used to be in the '60s. Back in those days we didn't have eagles and herons, those big birds, like we do now," he said.

Group facilitator David Buck, owner of Endless Mountains Outfitters, Sugar Run, spends a lot of time paddling as a guide. "The pristine aspects of the river are in some places marred by trash, some accidental

(Continued on Page 4)

Events

Deb Twigg, SAR meeting March 18, Ramada Inn, Ithaca, NY.

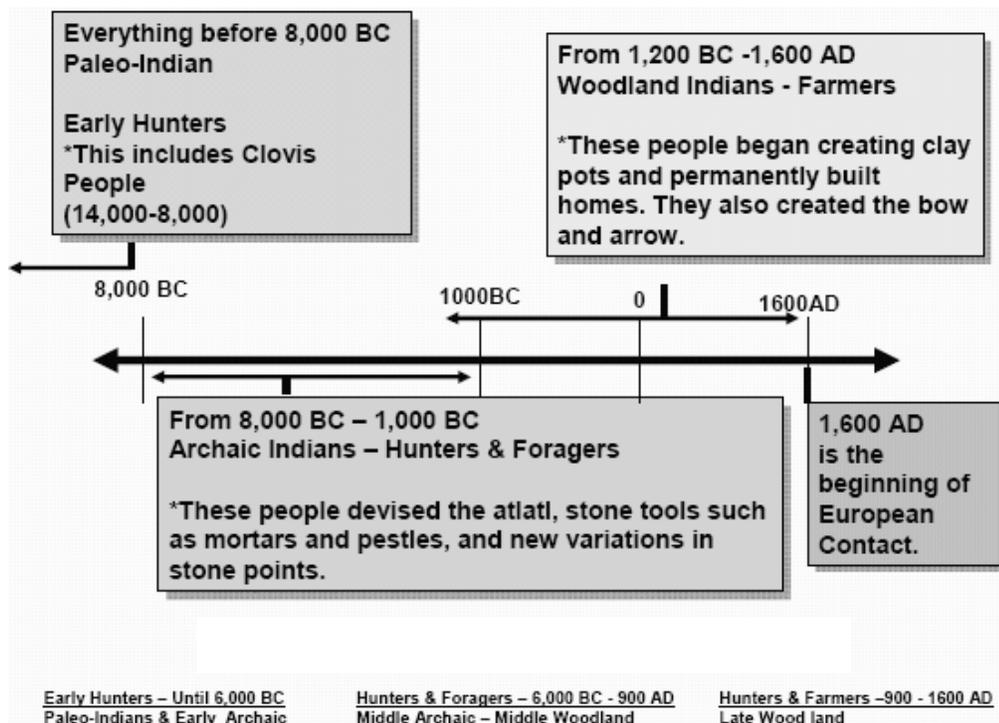
PA Archaeology Andaste Chapter, March 20, 7p.m., Bradford County Library, Burlington, PA.

Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Show is March 25, 26. S.R.A.C will have an information table. Someone will be on hand to answer questions.

Deb Twigg, guest speaker for the Sayre Historical Society Annual Dinner, March 28, Sons of Italy, Sayre, PA. Tickets are \$13.50. Includes dinner and tips, etc. Social Hour, 5 p.m. dinner at 6.

Deb Twigg, DAR, May 13, noon, Blue Dolphin in Appalachin, NY.

Approximate Regional Indian Time Line



S.R.A.C. Partner in EMHR River Clean-up Earth Day 2006

(From River Page 3)

and some deliberate,” Buck said. Some of the Earth Day clean-up efforts will address flood debris, but some trash is the result of landowners piling it on the riverbank knowing full-well high water will eventual-

ly carry it away.

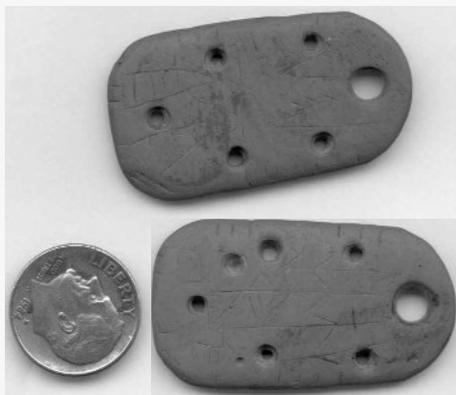
The group hopes people will support this large-scale clean-up effort as a matter of community pride. “This river is worth spending some time on,” said Lovegreen.

The next meeting is set for 5 p.m. March 21, at the Stoll Building, Wysox. For more information contact Endless Mountains Heritage Region at 570-265-1528, email emhr@epix.net or call David Buck at 570-746-3272. EMHR on the web: endlessmountainsheritage.org.

Amulet Stirs Imagination, Invites Speculation

Who among us doesn't love a mystery? We'd love to know what you think about this amulet.

Last year Deb Twigg and Dick Cowles attended New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA www.neara.org/). Twigg



The amulet in comparison to a dime. It is carved on both sides.

presented “The Spanish Hill Story”. They took artifacts relative to the hill from the Dick Cowles and the Ted Keir collections. A board from the Cowles collection included a blue slate amulet. NEARA member and representative for PA, Larry Mulligan noticed the amulet looked as if it had carving on it. Other attendees including Ed Lenik, author of “Picture Rocks,” and archaeologist Ralph Coffman became very interested in this piece. The board the amulet was on was dated 1908, and the providence was marked as the river flats just below and west of Spanish Hill.

Since then, Cowles has donated his collection including this amulet to S.R.A.C.

In the last PA Archaeologist journal, there was a call to collectors to send significant or interesting pieces to be showcased in each volume. When Twigg sent the amulet, it was immediately of interest to editor Bill Tippins, especially when Lenik was to write data to go with the picture in the next issue.

Interestingly enough, another amulet was found in New Jersey and it is quite similar. Information on that piece will also be published.

We are excited to know what ideas you and the readers of the next issue of PA Archaeologist might have concerning the amulet.

Email your comments to info@sra-center.org. We'll include some comments in the next newsletter.

E.D.N. News

Three architects submitted bids for the new EDN Cultural Center to be acted on at Winter Council. Since Council was cancelled they were asked to freeze bids until March. Two more architects have evidenced interest. One, Muhammad Abdussabur, is hoping to attend Spring Council March 19. He is working with the Southern Cherokee to plan an educational center in Kentucky.

Lincoln Log Homes has offered EDN a building package at dealer cost. If accepted, this would change architect's plans.

Architectural plans are still required. Bob Veleker of Endless Mountains Heritage Region has been extremely helpful.

EDN hopes to incorporate "Green Technology" into their plans: Geothermal heat; a roof with vegetation to filter rainwater; a rain garden to collect runoff; and a parking area that grows grass when not in use. Their building needs to be sustainable and lasting.

They need funds for their dream to become reality. Please help any way you can!

EDN PowerPoint Presentation

CD: \$10.00 each. (You must have Microsoft PowerPoint on your computer to run this CD.) This has lots of Forksville Pow-wow pics from 2004 & 2005.

Proceeds beyond production & shipping will benefit the EDN building fund. (Shipping is \$3.00)

S.R.A.C. Announces New Chairperson



Ted Keir New Chairman of S.R.A.C.

Retired Educator Ted Keir, well known locally for sharing his love of history, geology and archaeology, recently accepted the position of Chairman of the Board for Susquehanna River Archaeological Center of Native Indian Studies (S.R.A.C.). He holds a Masters in Earth and Space Science, a Masters in Health and Physical Medicine and has taught classes at Penn State. Keir brings more than 50 years experience as an avocational archaeologist to S.R.A.C. He worked alongside professionals on many local digs, including the discovery of a woolly mammoth (See S.R.A.C. Dec. 2005 Newsletter). He is a popular lecturer and has written and published extensively about his experiences.

He co-founded Bradford County's "Andaste Chapter #5" one of Pennsylvania's earliest Archaeological groups, and is also a member of the "TriCities Chapter"

Archaeological group based in Endicott, NY. He co-founded the local "Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Club." He is an avid collector of Indian artifacts and uses his collection for community education. A portion of his collection was on display at the S.R.A.C. event "Drumbeats Through Time" held in Sayre in October.

Keir retired in 1984 from Athens High School where he taught Earth and Space Science and coached basketball and baseball. He served more than eight years as a Commissioner for Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, retiring from that position last year. He is locally famous for penning "Sportmen's Sphere" for the Morning Times, an endeavor that has occupied most of his Sunday evenings for more than two decades. He is a retired Director of Bradford County Conservation District and stays connected to that organization as an Associate Director.

Keir, 83, and his wife Evelyn have five children, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He looks forward to helping S.R.A.C. grow. S.R.A.C. was founded in February 2005, and gained non-profit status in August 2005. The organization is dedicated to education, research and preservation of the Native American archaeological, cultural and historical assets of the Twin Tier Region of Northeastern PA and Southern NY. On the Web: www.sracenter.org

Nina Versaggi Joins S.R.A.C. Advisory Board

SRAC welcomes Nina Versaggi! Nina Versaggi has been involved in professional archaeology since 1972. She received a doctorate in anthropology and a master's from Binghamton University. She obtained her bachelors from Rutgers University. Nina has served as director of the Public Archaeology Facility at BU since 1988. She has authored several books pertaining to

archaeology including "Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherer Settlement Models: Interpreting the Upper-Susquehanna Valley," which discusses prehistoric inhabitants of the Southern Tier.



Nina Versaggi

S.R.A.C.
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Membership Type	Annual Fee	Benefits
Student	\$10.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit), and online database collection access
Senior (65 and above)	\$10.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to set limit)
Individual	\$20.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Family	\$20.00	Quarterly newsletter, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Research Partner (Individual)	\$100.00	Quarterly newsletter, free copies (up to a set limit), discount on photos (up to a set limit), and database collection access
Corporation (Group)	\$250.00	Quarterly newsletters, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)
Benefactor	\$500.00 and Above One time	Lifetime membership and quarterly newsletters, discount on copies and photos (up to a set limit)

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Become a member of S.R.A.C.!

- 1.) Please check the type of membership you wish to apply for.
- 2.) Fill out the information above.
- 3.) Submit this form and a check for the appropriate amount to :

Susquehanna River Archaeological Center (S.R.A.C.)
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