

# EXPLORE PHILADELPHIA'S BURIED PAST

Philly's Tenth Annual Archaeology Month Celebration!

**Saturday, October 4th, 2014**

**10am to 3:30pm**

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Archaeological Forum  
& Independence National Historical Park

Hosted by the National Constitution Center

**Location: Kirby Auditorium (NCC, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), 525 Arch Street, Philadelphia**

**\*\*\* FREE EVENT \*\*\***

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**10:00** **Welcome**, Jed Levin, Chief, History Branch, Independence National Historical Park

**10:10** **Philadelphia Archaeology: The Year in Review**, Douglas Mooney, President, Philadelphia Archaeological Forum  
*This talk presents a whirlwind tour of projects and other notable developments in Philadelphia archaeology over the past year.*

**10:25** **Native American life along the Delaware River**

*Recent archaeological investigations for the I-95/Girard project have uncovered evidence of Native American occupations buried beneath the Cramp shipyard in Philadelphia. Prehistoric artifacts recovered from the Cramp Shipbuilding site include stone tools, fragments of soapstone and pottery, and projectile points that typologically date between circa AD 1500 - 3000 BC. Several Native American features that may have functioned as hearths have also been identified. These recent findings shed light on the life of Native Americans that once lived along the banks of the Delaware River. (Jeremy W. Koch and Matt Olson)*

**10:40** **The Hoyt Heist: Trademark Theft in the 19th Century**

*Today one can find drug stores and flea markets selling knock-off cologne bottles claiming to be Jessica Simpson or Antonio Banderas' latest scent. While often considered a relatively new phenomenon, recent archaeological research shows that false advertising was prevalent in the 19th century. In this presentation, two cologne bottles excavated from Philadelphia serve as a case study for early consumer deception and trademark infringement. (Mary Jachetti)*

**10:55** **Hidden Maps of Philly: New On-Line Sources**

*Adam Levine ([www.phillyh20.org](http://www.phillyh20.org)) will describe his recent work inventorying and scanning the historical manuscript map collection in the Philadelphia Department of Streets, which has a variety of unseen plans from the 1790s through to the 1880s. Jim Duffin will describe his on-line work of mapping Philadelphia properties in 1777 and some of the new things he has learned about the 18th century city. (Jim Duffin and Adam Levine)*

**11:10** **Lightening Round # 1**



- **Not Abominable Snowmen but Snow Babies!**

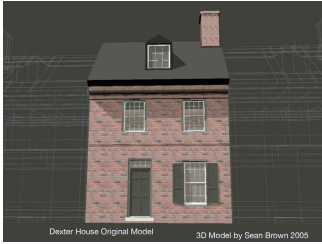
*Recent archaeology performed as part of a PennDOT project in the vicinity of Marcus Hook, encountered a series of homes that were demolished in the 1920. Porcelain figures were recovered from a privy. Deeply stained, the figurines resembled monsters, but they were Snow Babies. Snow babies were first manufactured in Germany. The first snow babies were made in 1864 from candy. By the 1890s now babies began to be made of porcelain. Their meaning, use, place of manufacture and popularity have changed through time. (Ken Basalik)*

- **How to Read a Sidewalk**

*We walk on sidewalks everyday -- never realizing the stories they might have to tell. This talk presents clues on how to 'read a sidewalk to find forgotten history. (Lauren Cook)*

- **Lilies of the Fields: An Example of an Early Twentieth Century Ornamental Light Bulb**

Recent archaeology performed as part of a PennDOT project in the vicinity of Marcus Hook, encountered a series of homes that were demolished in the 1920. Included in one privy was an early 20<sup>th</sup> century light bulb in the shape of a lily. Ornamental lights, particularly for display on Christmas trees, were first available in 1907, by 1918 these bulbs were available in a wide range of shapes and colors. They remained popular into the late 1950s/early 1960s. This object reflects the adaptation of the electricity to the Christmas holiday, and the changing iconography associated the celebration of Christmas. (Ken Basalik)



- **Upstairs in the Coachman's House: Re-Imagining a Free Black Home in early Philadelphia**

In the late 18th century, the free black coachman, James Oronoco Dexter, lived with his family in a house close to Arch and 5th Streets (now under the bus depot for the National Constitution Center). Members of Drexel University's Digital Media Program, in consultation with area archaeologists and Independence National Historical Park staff, are working to digitally recreate the house which was long ago lost in the development of the city. The goal of the virtual model is to produce an interactive educational experience within which to explore 18th and early 19th century life, including attitudes toward race, religion, and economic class, and to consider the influence of these on 21st century Philadelphia. The latest rendition of the 3D model, which incorporates the second floor interior and garret, will debut at this event. (Matthew Mlodzienski)

**11:25 The Archaeology of James Dexter Meets the "Oculus Rift" Presentation (Followed by a Demonstration in the Lobby)**

The Archaeology of James Dexter Meets the Oculus Rift Virtual reality is transforming historical site interpretation into an "interactive, immersion, experience". This talk and demonstration will introduce the 'next generation' head-mounted display technology known as the Oculus Rift (OR) that is being used to create a 3D model of the James Dexter House. Dexter, a free black coachman, lived near 5th and Arch Streets in the 1790s. His house site was excavated in 2003 by archaeologists working for the National Constitution Center and Independence National Historical Park. Using stereoscopic virtual reality, a wearer can now walk around the outside of the (3D model of the) Dexter house and explore the interior first floor of the house. (Chester Cunanan)

**11:45 - 1:30** \\\\\\\\\\\ LUNCH BREAK \\\\\\\\\\\

**1:30 Digging Into PhillyArchaeology.Org"**

PhillyArchaeology.Org is a clearing-house 'for all things Philly archaeology'. The website has information about local archaeologists, local archaeological sites, and local archaeological artifacts. Much of this information comes courtesy of the talks presented at Explore Philly's Buried Past over these last 10 years. In honor of this event's 10th anniversary, we draw upon these online resources to take a brief look back at the last decade of Philly archaeology activity. (Patrice Jeppson)



**1:45 Reflections of Motherhood in 19th Century Philadelphia**

Fragile glass artifacts found during recent archaeological excavations along I-95 are shedding light on motherhood and infant feeding in the 19th century. Objects such as breast pipes, nipple shields and infant feeders reveal some of the difficulties nursing mothers encountered and represent some of the available treatment devices employed during this period. (Rebecca White)

**2:00 Two Headless Generals: Washington and Napoleon Figurines and the Creation of Identities**

*Two porcelain figurines, one representing George Washington and the other Napoleon Bonaparte, were recently excavated in Fishtown during a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation project. For various groups in the past, these objects signaled ideas about identity and social class and they symbolized ideologies, the meanings of which are different from those found today. This talk will explore who may have owned the figurines and why, highlighting what these figurines tell us about what these generals and statesmen represented to certain groups in the past. (Peter Matranga)*

**2:15 “The Clear Grit of the Old District”: Fire Company-Related Artifacts from Fishtown**

*Recent archaeological excavations conducted for PennDOT under Interstate 95 in the Fishtown section of Philadelphia have produced a number of artifacts related to the volunteer fire companies that once existed in the neighborhood. Between 1736 and 1857, over 150 volunteer companies came into existence across the city, and two of those were once situated within the current project area. The fire company-related artifacts recovered from Fishtown will be presented, as well as the stories of the local companies likely associated with them. (Thomas Kutys)*

**2:30 What’s in the Bag?**

*Archaeologists like to brag about the spectacular artifacts that they recover from their sites: the oldest, the most unusual, the rarest... But what is in the “typical” bag of artifacts and what might they tell an archaeologist about their site? In this presentation we will examine the contents of an average, random, bag of artifacts from the National Constitution Center Site. To keep things interesting, the presenter will not know in advance what is in the bag. (Jed Levin)*

**2:45 Lightning Round # 2**

● **Who watches the watch-fob?**

*Processing the archaeological collections excavated from the National Constitution Center site has revealed another amazing and meaningful piece of the past: a glass watch fob that is also a stamp seal. This artifact not only tells us about how people adorned themselves more than 200 years ago, but the neo-classical relief on the seal speaks to a changing American culture around the turn of the 19th century. (Alexander Keim)*

● **Occupied Philadelphia: The Quartering of British Troops, 1777-1778**

*A collection of colonial firearms and other weapons excavated from a privy at the National Constitution Center Archaeological site possibly point to the British occupation of Philadelphia in 1777-78. Did a British Officer and his staff take up residence in the home of Quaker Caleb Cresson? Were the artifacts from Cresson’s privy left behind by the retreating army? This presentation explores these questions while revealing a group of never before seen artifacts. (Debbie Miller)*

● **Dr. Jayne, Charlie Peterson, and the Remains of the Building Where Dr. Jayne Manufactured His Famous Potions**

*Dr. Jayne’s famous eight-story “sky scraper” once stood on the site where the Museum of the American Revolution will be built. The archaeological investigation of the site has turned up remains of the building including huge blocks of granite and an underground passage as well as a bottle or two of Dr. Jayne’s cure-all potion. (Rebecca Yamin and Tim Mancl)*

● **Buttons and Big Machines**

*As huge excavators and noisy drills shore the site where the new Museum of the American Revolution will be built, JMA archaeologists are finding small remnants of the site’s past. Bone blanks and shell cut-outs probably came from the Lippencott factory which was located on Ionic Street in the early twentieth century. (Tim Mancl)*

**3:00 Awards Ceremony**

**3:30 Program Concludes**