

BURIAL SITES FROM THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Presented by: Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.

Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 2:45 p.m.

2:00 p.m. FOSA Annual Meeting

Farmington High School Auditorium

10 Monteith Drive, Farmington, CT

Speakers



Sarah Sportman
Connecticut State
Archaeologist

OSA UPDATE ON POSSIBLE BATTLEFIELD BURIALS FROM RIDGEFIELD, CT.

2019 construction activities uncovered burials under the cellar of a private residence in Ridgefield, CT. Excavations by the State Archaeologist yielded remains of five adult males, four of whom were hastily buried together in a common shallow grave within the Battle of Ridgefield (April 27, 1777) battlefield. Recovered buttons dated the remains to the last quarter of the 18th-century. The working hypothesis is that these men were victims of the battle. This presentation provides a brief overview of the discovery, and an update on the analysis of the burial site skeletal remains and material culture.



Wade P. Catts
President, South
River Heritage
Consulting



Jennifer Janofsky
Prof. of Public History
Rowan University

“NAKED AND TORN BY THE GRAPESHOT”:

THE RED BANK BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

During the summer of 2022, a mass burial space was discovered at Red Bank Battlefield Park in Gloucester County, New Jersey. The burial is believed to contain remains of Hessian soldiers who died during the October 22, 1777 attack on Fort Mercer. This presentation summarizes Park and battle history, and the archaeological fieldwork and forensic research. The multi-disciplinary project team's work is continuing, and we will highlight some of the team's analyses.



Lisa Anderson
Curator of Bioarchaeology
New York State Museum

“SMALLPOX IN OUR NORTHERN ARMY CARRIES WITH IT MUCH GREATER DREAD THAN OUR ENEMIES”: THE QUEBEC CAMPAIGN & COURTLAND STREET BURYING GROUND

In 1776, Governor Jonathan Trumbull wrote about smallpox plaguing troops returning from a failed campaign to invade Quebec. The army established a general hospital at Fort George to isolate the sick. In 2019, unmarked graves believed to be associated with the general hospital were disturbed by construction in the Village of Lake George, NY. A major salvage effort recovered the fragmentary and scattered remains of over 40 individuals. Subsequent work has focused on reconstructing and interpreting the lives of soldiers and plans to honor them in 2026.

Directions to Farmington High School

From I-84 East or West:

- 1) Take Exit 39, proceed west on Route 4/Farmington Avenue for 3.9 miles, crossing Route 10 at about 1.5 miles.
- 2) Approximately 2.4 miles past Route 10, turn right on Monteith Drive.
- 3) Drive to top of hill and park in lots accessed to immediate right or left. Follow signs to school entrance and auditorium.

From Route 4 East

Drive 1.25 miles east of Route 177, turn left on Monteith Drive. Follow step 3 directions above.

General Admission - \$10.00

Non-Farmington Students with ID - \$5.00

FOSA, ASC, Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Farmington students & faculty admitted free with ID

Co-Sponsored by: *Archaeological Society of Connecticut*

EVENT IS RAIN OR SHINE