



**Special Points of Interest:**  
**Looking forward to *America 250* - *A Look Back at Connecticut's Revolutionary Period Artifacts*, by Tom Ford.**

FRIENDS OF THE OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY, INC.

# Member Newsletter

## President's Letter



### *Greetings, fellow FOSA members!*

I have to say that the highlight of the year was our Annual Meeting, which was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Farmington High School. There were about fifty members in attendance at the business meeting and about a hundred for our speaker. Nick Bellantoni, State Archaeologist Emeritus, was our featured speaker talking about his new book, "Hiking Ruins of Southern New England," co-authored with FOSA

member Barbara Ann Kipfer, who was unable to attend. Nick highlighted ten of his favorite hikes which were all very interesting and, I would bet that most attendees have been inspired to go out and explore those sites. This was a popular subject and Nick sold ALL the books he brought with him! If you didn't purchase one, the book is available on Amazon. Our website at [www.fosa-ct.org](http://www.fosa-ct.org) has photos of the meeting and talk, and a recap posted for those who are interested to learn more.

FOSA Vice President, Tom Ford, completed teaching his four-week Zoom class (which turned into five weeks!): "Pre-Clovis - A Critical Review." It was well-received and a great activity to keep us engaged through the winter. Tom always does a wonderful job creating and presenting educational opportunities for our membership. And remember, we are open to ideas for future classes or even a one-day event. Just send a note to us at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com).

We have a busy year ahead, with CNEHA (Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology) coming to New Haven and ESAF (Eastern States Archeological Federation) coming to Rhode Island later this year. Check our website (under Upcoming Events) for more information if you'd like to attend and, we may need some help so if you'd like to volunteer, let us know through the email address above. Also, Tom Ford is spearheading a project for the America 250 Celebration in 2026 and will need volunteers to do some research and writing, so please send an email to the address above with the subject of "America 250." For further information the email address for America 250 is: <https://america250.org/>. The Connecticut website is: <https://ct250.org/>

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Finally, we are ready to start our season of field work, so if you have checked off “Archaeological Field Work” as an interest on your membership form, you should have already received an email outlining the tentative schedule. If you did NOT receive this notification, please send an email to the address above with the subject of “Field Work.” Hope to see you out in the dirt soon!

Respectfully,

Glenda M. Rose

*FOSA PRESIDENT*

## News from the Office of State Archaeology Greetings FOSA members:



The spring is off to a busy start! We’ve already been out in the field a few times, completing a magnetometry survey at Bolton Heritage Farm at Rochambeau Camp #5 in March and a visit to the Grannis Island Site in New Haven in April. Grannis Island is a pre-contact Native American site with Archaic period components, and a Woodland period shell midden. FOSA has supported recent research on the collections from the site, including re-analysis of the artifacts and radiocarbon dating. Now we are hoping to carry out a soil coring project there with students and faculty from UConn Geosciences to learn more about the site formation processes and the impacts of sea level rise on both the landform and the people who lived there.

In May, we completed a one-day dig with middle school students from RHAM School in Hebron at the Cesar and Sim Peters Site. The students are working on projects about the African-American history of Hebron for class. We will bring the materials recovered during the dig, along with some artifacts from our past excavations at the site, to the Hebron Juneteenth celebration on June 15<sup>th</sup>. I’ll also give a short presentation there on some of the work we’ve done at the site since 2020.

We accomplished a lot in the lab this winter, and got almost all of the material collected in the field in 2023 processed. We’ve been learning about artifact conservation and working on re-sorting the large collections from the Hollister Site by artifact type to facilitate analyses. We’ll be back out in the field at the Hollister Site in South Glastonbury this May and June. This year, we’re going to try a new strategy: each Friday we’ll have a lab day, to better stay on top of the lab work. We also plan to begin a large project to cross-mend ceramics and other materials from the 2016-2019 field seasons at the site. OSA and FOSA will also be working with Dr. Kevin McBride and the UConn archaeological field school at Hollister, and we hope this plan will give the students some valuable laboratory experience to supplement what they learn in the field.

We don’t have the rest of the field season completely planned out, but we will hold an adult field school through the Connecticut State Museum of Natural History in the second week of August, and we’ll do our annual day of excavations at the Thomas Lee House in East Lyme in mid-August. We’ll also be out at Putnam State Park in Redding in early September to work on a small survey focused on a previously unexplored part of the Revolutionary War encampment. Although it’s still a long way off, we now also have a date and location for the 2024 Connecticut Archaeology Fair. It will once again be held at the Whitfield House in Guilford, on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Once we’re done with the Hollister Site fieldwork, we plan to spend the middle part of the summer working at UConn with the collections and in the lab. While FOSA volunteers have largely relocated all of the collections into one building on campus, we still need to sort and move the OSA library, which is a big task! Now that the work to spruce up the collections building and install new shelving is complete, we can tackle the library this summer and then begin the work to organize and rehouse old collections in new curation bags, trays, and boxes. Our iCRV Radio show, the Archaeology of Connecticut, is still going strong. We’ve had three new episodes this spring, in March, April, and May. The March and April episodes focused on archaeology in the New Haven area. In March we hosted Dr. Bill Farley (SCSU), Dr. Julia Giblin (Quinnipiac University), Paul Wegner (Institute for American Indian Studies), and historian and archaeologist Jim Powers (Quinnipiac Dawnland Museum, Dudley Farm) to talk about their Quinnipiac River Valley Cultural Heritage Project.

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In April, we were joined by archaeologist and UConn Anthropology graduate student Brianna Rae Zoto for a discussion of our ongoing work with the Grannis Island collection. Our most recent show, in May, included guests Drs. Kevin McBride and Ashley Bissonnette. The discussion focused on King Philip’s War, a devastating conflict that decimated colonial settlements and Indigenous communities in 1675-76. This is a topic that we’ve been thinking about a great deal, since we discovered part of the King Philip’s War-era palisade at the Hollister Site. If you missed a past show and want to catch up, they are all archived on the FOSA website at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV\\_Slideshow\\_1.htm](https://www.fosa-ct.org/iCRV_Slideshow_1.htm).

We’re looking forward to a busy and interesting summer!

Sarah Sportman, Connecticut State Archaeologist

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### FOSA2023AnnualTreasurerReport

01/01/23	Opening Balance	Expenses	Income	\$66,458.91
	Annual Meeting Speaker Expenses	\$1026.31		
	ATT Web Hosting	\$241.95		
	Corresponding Secretary Expenses	\$70.00		
	Dr. G. Logan, Use Ware Analysis	\$600.00		
	Fiona Jones, Conservation of Rochambeau Buttons at the Bolton, CT. encampment	\$1000.00		
	ICRV Radio Donation	\$1000.00		
	Mohawk Hudson Humane Society, Memorial to Sarah's Mother	\$100.00		
	Newsletter Postage	\$116.70		
	FOSA yearly PO Box fee	\$265.00		
	Print Hub	\$315.20		
	Sarah Sportman cellphone	\$450.00		
	Field Supplies	\$8959.31		
	CT. Secretary of State; yearly fee for declaration of FOSA as a nonprofit	\$50.00		
	The Hartford: FOSA Insurance Policy	\$532.00		
	University of Cal. At Irvine; Grannis Is. C14 dating	\$3870.00		
	ZOOM membership fee	\$159.42		
	Albert Morgan Society Donation		\$2095.82	
	Amazon Smile		\$31.88	
	Annual Meeting Gate		\$163.00	
	ASC reimbursement for Annual Meeting expenses		\$513.00	
	Historical Society of Glastonbury, Grant for Hollister Site		\$5100.00	
	Eversource Energy Foundation		\$300.00	
	Konstantin Family Fund Donation		\$200.00	
	PayPal Giving		\$6.00	
	Society of Cincinnati in State of Connecticut		\$3550.00	
	FOSA Hat Sales		\$200.00	
	Membership fees with extra donations to funds		\$5448.91	
12/31/23	Totals and closing balance	\$18,755.89	\$17,598.61	\$65,301.63

## Of Interest to FOSA Members and the General Public.



Field Work and



Laboratory Work

FOSA members who have expressed an interest, in the Interest Inventory of the "Membership Application" form in field work and/or laboratory work will be notified of particulars as the date approaches.

> If you are a FOSA member and might nevertheless like to contribute in the work, please email Scott at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com).

> If you cannot excavate, we have a need for individuals who can assist with screening, unit paperwork, photography, drawing, etc. Let us know what you would be interested in.

> **If you are not a FOSA member**, to participate you must first join FOSA. To do so, please access the 'Join Us' page by clicking [Join Us](#). Normal cost for joining is \$25.

> **For those new to field work**, please be aware that there may be limited time available for instructional purposes. We also urge you to review the "Field Health and Safety", "Frequently Asked Questions" and the "Field Paperwork Review" chapters of the "FIELDWORK ACTIVITIES" section on our website.

[https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_home.html](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_home.html)

**NOTE:** If a Town is mentioned in any of the activities on this page (especially excavations) and you're not sure where it's located, please

click [Find A Town](#) to get a general location in the state.

*The current projected field work and lab work schedule is...*



- May 20 thru June 14 - South Glastonbury - 9:00 - 3:30 (Mon-Fri)



- August 12 thru August 16 - South Glastonbury - 9:00 - 3:30 (CSMNH Field School for Adults) (Mon-Fri)



- August 17 - East Lyme- 9:00 - 3:30 (Sat)

**FOSA members who have an interest in helping out at the FOSA Outreach Table** can locate events where the Table will be set up at. If you would like to help out at one of these events and haven't been contacted by the FOSA Outreach Coordinator, you can get the particulars by sending an email to [fosaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:fosaoutreach@gmail.com).



## In Remembrance Dreda Hendsey



Dreda took her initial college course in archaeology with State Archaeologist Dr. Douglas Jordan at the University of Connecticut, in the 1970s. Her interest was piqued and evolved beyond the classroom by assisting Doug in the field rescuing sites threatened by economic development. When construction for a major condominium unearthed a series of Adena Culture burials dating to 2,000 years ago in Glastonbury, Dreda volunteered to assist in their recovery before a bulldozer could destroy them. Lise recently told me that Dreda had been accepted into the Anthropology department's doctoral program at UConn, something I hadn't known, but was not surprised to hear. Though she was never able to pursue her degree, Dreda had found a lifelong passion.

When the Albert Morgan Archaeological Society formed, Dreda became an active member and soon befriended Dave and June Cooke, among many others. In the 1980s, Dreda excavated at the Morgan Site in Rocky Hill, a 1,000-year-old Native American settlement, probably the largest Native American village of its time in all of New England. In the field, Dreda conducted her excavations methodically, meticulously, and painstakingly, with the skill of an engineer working on a blueprint, recording with precise notes and measurements. I met her there prior to my becoming the second State Archaeologist, her head down working in an excavation unit. A decade later, when June Cooke founded the non-profit Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc. (FOSA) in 1997, Dreda not only enlisted as a charter member, but volunteered immediately to become the group's first treasurer, a time-consuming position she held for over twenty years.

Although her demanding work schedule with investment and paralegal firms no longer permitted her to actively conduct the fieldwork she so loved, Dreda found other diverse ways to contribute to Connecticut archaeology. Using her contacts in the political and legal world, she elicited support for the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) from legislators. For example, she personally escorted Rep. Christopher Caruso, a highly regarded lawmaker in the state's Democratic Party, to travel to UConn and meet personally with us, reviewing the state's archaeological collections and providing us an opportunity to express our budgetary needs to fulfill our mandated cultural resource preservation responsibilities. As a result, Rep. Caruso made clear his support for our office to the University and the legislature, and this effort in part led to the development of the Archaeology Center at UConn. Without Dreda that does not happen. Dreda continued to utilize her influential contacts to lobby for archaeological causes and presented cogent arguments for the State of Connecticut to support the preservation of archaeological sites.

In her role as FOSA treasurer, Dreda oversaw the organization's financial commitment to the Office of State Archaeology, whose state appropriation at that time was a mere \$6,000 annually, a budget far below what was needed to fulfill its legislative obligations. When the technology of cell phones first became available, Dreda recognized that this would be an important tool for the State Archaeologist in communicating with town officials, developers, and the public, especially since we were on the road so often. She supported the allocation of funds within FOSA's board of directors when the state's OSA budget did not allow for such an expenditure. This, of course, was a time when those early cell phones were just that, a phone - not a camera, radio, video, GPS, provider of internet access and all the other unimaginable roles they play in our lives today.

So, every month, after Dreda retired, I would visit at her home on Terry Street in East Hartford and deliver the phone bill to her as FOSA treasurer. The visits would always start with the dog barking upon my arrival. Opening the front door, Dreda would hand me a treat to give the dog with my command to "Sit!" Obviously, at that point, I was fully accepted into the house. Dreda loved her dogs, caring and training them properly. They provided great companionship and security.

We used the opportunity to spend time together. I would catch her up on the latest archaeological projects in the state. She would offer advice. We reminisced about the "old days" when she was active in the field and our many friends who had sadly passed. And I would watch her, standing at her secretary, meticulously recording the phone bill's entry into her treasurer's ledger in a beautiful, precise, and envious penmanship. She did not use a computer to compile her account book, there was no texting, no emails, only exacting, longhand, and that's how she presented her treasurer's report - handwritten even in the day of personal computers! And in some striking manner that made her reports so singular. It was as if your aunt had taken the time to hand sew a Christmas sweater for you instead of pulling one off the rack in a department store. Her reports were personal, intimate; not detached, not typed out by a printer on commands from a processor. You could feel Dreda's commitment and dedication to the financial detail in her calligraphy. She always took the time to do it legibly and perfectly!

In retirement, Dreda also volunteered her talents to East Hartford's Raymond Library where she helped organize their book collections. I recollect listening to her reviews of the latest volume she was reading. Dreda would edit in the manuscript's margins, even if she didn't own the book!

There, she had neatly written her comments/criticisms in pencil. I always imagined someone later borrowing that book from the library and wondering who was composing the comments in the margins, but also, I am sure, recognizing the appropriateness of the remarks. She was a stickler for proper grammar and coherent written language. As a result, I sometimes dreaded to show Dreda my own writing! But I confess, her reviews of my work undoubtedly improved the quality of our official and unofficial reports. Throughout our history and many visits, Dreda and I developed a longtime, lasting friendship. And we could talk to each other as close companions, which meant she would not hold back if she had a concern about how certain issues were being conducted. She was adamant at times, and most always correct in her feelings. She was devoted and enthusiastic. We laughed often. Her honesty was unmistakable in every discussion. We embraced after every visit, and she would stand silently at the front door waving as I drove away.

Once I retired and started spending more time with my family in California, our monthly meetings were no longer feasible, but we stayed in communication through regular phone calls and the occasional visit.

When Dreda's health declined, the calls and visits unfortunately became less frequent. But fond memories of our times spent together remain.

In California, my kids have three dogs, and it is impossible for me to give one of them a treat and command "Sit!", without my thinking of Dreda. We miss her.

**Nick Bellantoni**

**CT State Archaeologist *Emeritus***

## New Archaeological Investigations of the Revolutionary War-Era Rochambeau Camp #5, Bolton, Connecticut

Sarah Sportman, Office of State Archaeology

In 2023 the Connecticut Office of State Archaeology (OSA) directed a new archaeological investigation of the 1781 Rochambeau Camp #5, in Bolton, Connecticut, in collaboration with the Connecticut State Library's Digging into History Program for high school students from Connecticut and France. The 2023 work was the follow-up to the 2019 program that brought Connecticut high school students to Seicheprey, France, where they worked with French students to clear and restore a section of WWI-era trenches once occupied by Connecticut soldiers. This time, the goal was to find an archaeological site in Connecticut with a French connection, where the students could learn about archaeology, as well as the historical relationship between the U.S. and France. In collaboration with the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CTSHPO) and the town, we settled on Camp #5 in Bolton.

Camp #5 is one of several stops along what is today known as the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route. The route marks the path taken by allied French Expeditionary forces under the command of Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, in 1781 as they moved from Newport, RI, across Connecticut to Phillipsburg, NY, to meet up with the Continental Army. From there, the combined French and Continental forces continued south to Virginia, where they defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown, a decisive victory in the American fight for independence.

The French Expeditionary Forces crossed Connecticut in four divisions, marching one day apart. Most of the daily marches were about 15 miles, and the troops then set up camp each night at pre-determined locations along the route. Each succeeding division stayed at the same campsite, so each camp along the route was occupied for four days. The French army camped at Bolton between June 21 and 25, 1781. Each night the artillery detachment camped on the south side of Bolton Center Road, while the Infantry camped at what is today

Bolton Heritage Farm, on the north side. The general layout of the camp is depicted on a map from the journal of Louis-Alexandre Berthier, who served in the French Expeditionary Corps (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Map of Camp #5, Bolton, CT from the journal of Louis-Alexandre

The Camp #5 infantry camp site is located on what is today Bolton Heritage Farm in the town of Bolton, Connecticut. The property is a designated State Archaeological Preserve and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The fields comprising the site were used for agricultural crops and pasture and have never been developed, so they retain much of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century landscape and character. To lay the groundwork for the students' project in July of 2023, OSA worked with several collaborators to locate a portion of the site where limited, targeted excavations had the potential to provide new information about the site.

Our work built upon previous research at Camp #5 that was carried out by PAST, Inc. and Keegans Associates, LLC in 1998 (Harper et. al 1999). In 1998, the State of Connecticut sponsored research to identify the route and campsites of the French army in Connecticut. The work included historical research, mapping, and archaeological investigations to confirm, define, and evaluate the integrity of eight of the campsites, including Camp #5 in Bolton. This project verified the location of Camp #5 and included a systematic metal-detecting survey of the site to search for material culture associated with the 18<sup>th</sup>-century French troops. The researchers verified the location of the French infantry camp on what is now Bolton Heritage Farm, and recovered over 50 objects likely related to the encampment, including musket balls, regimental buttons, 18<sup>th</sup>-century coins, and draught animal hardware (Harper et al. 1999). Unfortunately, all data regarding the specific locations of the recovered artifacts has apparently been lost, so we knew that artifacts were found across the site, but we had no information about their spatial distribution.

In preparation for the most recent work at the site, OSA coordinated with several collaborators to carry out metal-detecting and geophysical surveys of the property. Because it is a State Archaeological Preserve, our goal was minimal ground disturbance. First, we worked with battlefield archaeologist Dr. Kevin McBride (UConn) to arrange an intensive metal detector survey of the previously identified encampment area at Bolton Heritage Farm. This work was carried out to identify concentrations of late 18<sup>th</sup>-century and/or military artifacts to help guide the locations of subsurface archaeological testing and geophysical survey. This time, with the benefits of modern technology and detailed record keeping, the locations of all recovered artifacts were recorded with a hand-held GPS device, to facilitate mapping of artifact distributions across the site. Following the metal detector survey, OSA worked with remote sensing specialist Dr. David Leslie of Heritage Consultants, LLC, and TerraSearch Geophysical, LLC, to carry out ground-penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry surveys of the encampment area. These non-invasive geophysical techniques provide information about potential buried cultural features, like hearths, that may be related to the encampment.

The results of the metal-detecting and geophysical surveys were then mapped and overlaid in GIS, to help us identify areas of archaeological interest at the site. The metal detecting survey identified 52 objects that are potentially related to the encampment. These objects, which are similar to those recovered during the initial survey in 1998, included regimental buttons, dropped musket balls, buckle fragments, 18<sup>th</sup>-century coins, and fragments of molten lead (Figure 2). Several concentrations of artifacts were identified, including clusters of regimental buttons.

The GPR survey identified what appears to be the remnants of a large, circular trench feature, approximately 4.5 meters (~15 feet) in diameter. When both the GPR data the metal detecting finds were mapped together, it was clear that one set of regimental buttons and other artifacts clustered around this feature. Given the size and shape of the feature, our working theory was that it might represent an earthen camp kitchen. Magnetic anomaly readings recorded during the magnetometry survey also indicated an area of elevated magnetic readings in this area; heating soils in a hearth or earth oven transforms iron that may be weakly magnetic into more strongly magnetic forms, suggesting another possible line of evidence pointing to an earth oven. These camp structures were commonly used by 18<sup>th</sup>-century American and European troops, even during short-term encampments. In fact, there is a first-person account of French troops building and using such kitchens on the March across Connecticut. In June of 1781, Captain Samuel Richards (1090:74-75), a first lieutenant in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Connecticut Regiment, recorded the following observation:

*“Rochambeau with his five thousand soon moved on: as they passed thro' Farmington in Connecticut I being there at the time - had a fine opportunity of seeing them ... I viewed their manner of encamping over night, the perfect mechanical manner of performing all they had to do: such as digging a circular hole & making niches in which to set their camp kettles for cooking their food.”*



Figure 2. Representative sample of metal detector finds from 2023 investigations at Camp #5. A. dropped musket balls, including two exhibiting marks that show they were removed from the barrel; B. fragments of molten lead, likely dropped during the manufacture of lead shot at the site; C. a sample of French regimental buttons representing 13<sup>th</sup> (Bourbonnais), 41<sup>st</sup> (Soissonais), 74<sup>th</sup>, and 85<sup>th</sup> (Saintonge) divisions; D. a fragment of large iron kettle.

Given the cluster of artifacts and the potential GPR and magnetic feature, this location was chosen for the student excavations. Our plan was to excavate several 1m-x-1m units to the base of the plowzone, to look for traces of the feature identified in the GPR survey and hopefully find additional period artifacts. Unfortunately, the weather last summer didn't cooperate. When the French and Connecticut high school students visited in July, we had several inches of rain. Our attempt at excavations failed due to the wet conditions. We only got a little way into the plowzone before we had to call off the dig. Instead, we worked with the students to teach them about metal detecting, geophysical survey methods, and archaeological laboratory methods, using artifacts from other OSA projects. While the archaeological excavation portion of this project was unsuccessful, the students enjoyed the experience and learned a lot about archaeology. Additionally, the metal detecting and geophysical surveys provided new information about the site and indicate that despite centuries of plowing, Camp #5 retains some potential for intact archaeological features. This is important information, as there have been some concerns that 20<sup>th</sup>-century agricultural practices at the site may have obliterated any cultural features.

## References

Harper, Mary, Bruce Clouette, and Ross Harper. 1999. *The Rochambeau Project: Historical and Archaeological Documentation of the French Army's Marches Through Connecticut in 1781 and 1782*. Prepared for the Connecticut Historical Commission, PAST, Inc. in association with Keegans Associates, LLC.

Richards, Samuel. 1909. *Diary of Samuel Richards*. Captain of Connecticut Line War of the Revolution 1775-178. Philadelphia, PA.

*Editor's Note: This is a slightly condensed version of the same article that appeared in the ASC News, April 2024.*



## Looking Forward to *America250* - A Look Back at Connecticut's Revolutionary Period Artifacts

By Tom Ford<sup>1</sup>

The United States Semiquincentennial and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution is but a few years away. Undoubtedly this event, branded as "*America250*", will pique public interest in the history and archaeological evidence of the State of Connecticut's [Revolutionary Period](#)<sup>2</sup>. As an organization we have begun to formulate ideas for FOSA programs to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Ideas under consideration include (i) traveling education sessions, (ii) posters for school outreach, and (iii) production of an illustrated pamphlet of Revolutionary period artifacts within the OSA collections. To explore the idea of producing an illustrated pamphlet discussing artifacts, the balance of this article focuses on two recently found artifacts from eastern Connecticut with direct connection to the Revolutionary Period.

A well-preserved musket ball (**Figure 1**) was recovered by a metal detecting survey performed under the direction of Kevin McBride and Sarah Sportman at The Rose Farm / Rochambeau Encampment, in Bolton CT. This survey was an outgrowth of the week of excavations performed by French and U.S. high school students taking part in the Connecticut State Library's award-winning experiential education program, "Digging Into History: On the Road with Rochambeau." The Rose Farm property was the camp site of four French regiments on June 21, 22, 23, and 24, 1781, as they advanced from Newport Rhode Island on a 600-mile march to Yorktown, Virginia.

This lead musket ball weighs 26 grams (0.917 ounce): equivalent to 0.66 caliber.<sup>3</sup> The white and light tan surface evident in the photograph are corrosion residues consisting of lead carbonates, sulfides, and oxides.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

The ball is spherical, showing no deformation, indicating it had never been fired. The surface shows noticeable triangular facets or flattened areas – possibly due to smoothing and finishing after casting. Or alternatively they may reflect deformation of the internal surface of the bullet mold.



**Figure 1. Lead Musket Ball excavated at The Rose Farm / Rochambeau Encampment, Bolton CT.**

Characteristic casting lines, where the mold halves met, are not evident, suggestive of surface finishing after the ball was taken from the mold. A circular depression and dimple, faintly defined by a brown spot within a white field in the photograph, probably is where sprue was cleaned from the ball.<sup>7</sup>

Sprue of solidified lead occurs at the bullet mold fill hole. The molten lead is poured into the mold. Once the mold is filled, a little amount backs up into the fill hole and cools. This excess lead is trimmed off the ball after casting. Lead sprue is a common archaeological indicator of casting activities and the circular depression may have been the result of sprue trimming or may instead have resulted from the use of a worm screw to extract the ball (or the entire cartridge) from the musket barrel in the process of unloading the weapon. The worm screw (a device attached to the end of a ram rod), is pushed down the barrel and twisted, snagging the paper cartridge, and possibly scratching the ball in the process. But why would a loaded gun even be present in a military bivouac? Soldiers were not allowed to handle loaded weapons in camp unless they were on sentry or guard duty. It is easy to envision that this ball had been inadvertently dropped when a soldier, completing his sentry assignment, unloaded his weapon.

The musket ball is the archaeologically surviving part of an early paper cartridge made of gun powder and a bullet wrapped in paper and tied at the ends. Holding the musket horizontal, the soldier bit off the folded end of the cartridge, shaking a small amount of powder into the flashpan. Locking the flashpan cover, the musket was repositioned upright. The remaining gunpowder followed by the paper cartridge with the ball were then placed in the musket muzzle, and the charge then forced down the barrel by the ramrod.<sup>8,9</sup> Archaeologically recovered musket balls are common to Revolutionary Period military sites.<sup>10</sup> Relatively rare, however, are surviving 18th century paper cartridge specimens.<sup>11</sup>

A paper cartridge was found in the Gager Family Collection of papers, donated by Polly Hinkley in 2005 to the Ashbel Woodward Museum / Franklin Historical Society of Franklin CT. This cartridge (“FHS Cartridge”) is made up of a single ball and gun powder encased in a paper wrapping (**Figure 2**). Its dimensions, as pictured, are Length, 13.2 cm; Width: 1.7 – 2.1 cm. The paper is tied using fine cord at three locations. The ball diameter, including the paper wrap, was measured by calipers as 17mm (0.669 inches).<sup>12</sup> Subtraction of one mm for the wrap thickness, gives us 16mm (0.630 inches). This 0.63 caliber suggests the cartridge may have been intended for use with a French Charleville-style musket. Charleville muskets were the standard French military issued weapon of the time, and a quantity were supplied to the Continental Army. It has a 0.69-inch bore but generally took a 0.63-inch ball.<sup>13,14,15</sup> In contrast, the British Land pattern musket, commonly known as the Brown Bess, had a 0.75-inch bore and took a 0.710-inch ball (sizes range from measured specimens: 0.68 – 0.71 inch).<sup>16</sup>



Figure 2. FHS' 18<sup>th</sup> Century Paper Cartridge, 0.63<sup>17</sup> caliber ball

To make a 0.69 caliber cartridge, a sheet of paper 4.3 inches wide by 5.25 inches long was wrapped around a 0.65 diameter stick. The stick was slid back to allow the tube end of the paper roll (the case) to be tied. Then the stick was removed, allowing insertion of the ball, followed by reinsertion of the stick to keep the paper's tubular shape while the ball was secured by twine, creating a neck. The stick was then removed and gunpowder poured into the case. The open end of the case was then pinched flat, bent 90°, and the tail end of the flat section folded back against itself. When loading the musket, the soldier would have torn off this flat flap with his teeth, opening the cartridge tube to permit pouring of the gunpowder. Note that the end of the FHS cartridge pictured here was twisted, and then tied instead of being flattened and folded. This deviation from standard military practice may reflect a lower level of military training consistent with local colonial militia or may simply have been an individual's idiosyncratic behavior.<sup>18</sup>

The paper wrapping is a repurposed sheet of newspaper or magazine dating from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>19</sup> Interestingly, the legible text helps us identify the story as one widely circulated in the 1770s, extolling how a simple down and out laborer enlisted in the British army and through hard work, courage and dedication to his country climbed the ranks of the military.<sup>20</sup> Central to the story is the Duke of Marlborough's victory over the French army of Louis XIV at the Battle of Ramillies (12th May 1706), the War of Spanish Succession (Queen Ann's War, 1704-13).<sup>21</sup> In this engagement, the lowly hero of the story is credited with defending his regimental colors (flag) against four French soldiers. His career, as a result, flourished. Popular as a patriotic story that encouraged out of work young men to enlist in the British military, it also offered tongue-in-cheek social class satire. Only in fiction could an ill-bred youth rise, either through commendable accomplishment or in “Peter Principle” fashion, up through the very ranks of the army which then was inextricably tied to social class standing.

Rarely seen grains of 18th century gun powder, spillage from the folds of the FHS paper cartridge (**Figure 3**), is tangible evidence of the complex inter-relationships of technology, mill production, British law and international commerce leading up to and through the American War for Independence. The gunpowder pictured here is a mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and potassium nitrate.<sup>22</sup>

Prior to the War for Independence, colonial gun powder production was practically nonexistent because of imperfect technical knowledge, Britain's industrial production and the Navigation Acts. Combined, these factors made powder importation cheaper than producing it here. Understandably, the Revolution severely constrained imports from England. Production in the American colonies was negligible compared to need. Only three powder mills, the Frankford Powder Mill, outside Philadelphia, the Pickeland Powder Mill, about 30 miles northwest of Philadelphia; and the Jacob Ford Jr. mill outside Morristown, NJ were in production in 1775.<sup>23,24</sup>

The Continental Congress encouraged the colonies to develop new powder mills, while also sending representatives, including Silas Deane, to Europe to negotiate purchases. As a result six attempts at startup



Figure 3. Gun Power Grains from the FHS Cartridge.

gunpowder milling are known in Connecticut.<sup>25</sup> Local newspaper articles also encouraged do-it-yourself gunpowder production by providing detailed at-home instructions.<sup>26</sup> American powder production was hampered primarily by the lack of nitre (potassium nitrate) due in part, to imperfect knowledge of the chemistry of nitre production.<sup>27</sup> Thus, demand for gunpowder was always greater than colonial production capabilities. Throughout the conflict, the Colonies depended almost entirely on imported gunpowder – receiving more than 90% of their powder from French and Dutch sources.<sup>28</sup>

While Connecticut experienced few Revolutionary War battles within its borders, its citizens still were major participants in the conflict. Artifacts, such as the discussed musket ball and paper cartridge found in Connecticut, offer us small, yet tangible connections to the state's revolutionary past.

As FOSA prepares for the upcoming America 250 celebrations, we invite members to call attention to

other artifacts representative of the period. It is our hope to bring together a compilation of artifact descriptions into one or more public outreach presentations.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>This article was prepared by Thomas Ford with contributions and edits by Scott Brady, Kevin McBride and Matt Novosad.

<sup>2</sup>The "Revolutionary Period" spans ca. 1765-1785.

<sup>3</sup>McBride, Personal Communication, 25 Sept 2023.

<sup>4</sup>Attribution of a specific caliber ball to military rifles is inexact. A range of ball diameters were produced and used. The French Charleville style muskets, which were supplied to the Continental Army, had a 0.69-inch bore and generally took an 0.63-inch ball. The British Land Pattern musket (a.k.a. Brown Bess) had a 0.75-inch bore and generally took a 0.71-inch ball.

<sup>5</sup>Sivilich, Daniel M., 2017. "How to Identify Revolutionary War Musket Balls," 21 Jul 2017, <https://classroom.synonym.com/tell-original-arrowheads-6566904.html>

<sup>6</sup>Sivilich, Daniel M. 2016 *Musket Ball and Small Shot Identification*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

<sup>7</sup>Attribution of a specific caliber ball to military rifles is inexact. A range of ball diameters were produced and used. The French Charleville style muskets, which were supplied to the Continental Army, had a 0.69-inch bore and generally took an 0.63-inch ball. The British Land Pattern musket (a.k.a. Brown Bess) had a 0.75-inch bore and generally took a 0.71-inch ball.

<sup>8</sup>"Sprue" is a channel through which metal is poured into a mold. It is also the piece of metal that has solidified within the channel, often attaching to the molded object or joining, string like, a number of molded items.

<sup>9</sup>Jefferys, Charles W, 1945. "Brown Bess" or "Tower" Musket, *The Picture Gallery of Canadian History Vol. II*, p.14, Library and Archives Canada, Acc. No. 1972-26-645.

<sup>10</sup>For a short, concise demonstration, see YouTube.com, "Loading and Firing the Flintlock Musket," produced by the Museums of History, NSW, April 9, 2014. Filmed at the Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

<sup>11</sup>Sivilich, Daniel M., 1996. "Analyzing Musket Balls to Interpret a Revolutionary War Site," *Historical Archaeology*, 30(2):101-109. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25616460>.

<sup>12</sup>Occasionally paper cartridges are found in museums and in antique gun auction catalogues. For a cartridge specimen like the Connecticut item discussed herein, see the Valley Forge National Historical Park, The George C. Neumann Collection, Accession #VAFO 928 and in Michael Barbieri, "The Complete Cartridge," *Journal of the American Revolution, Techniques & Tech*, March 3, 2015. <https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/03/tin-canisters/>

<sup>12</sup>Silivich, 1996, advises ...*when measuring the diameter, use an imperial measuring tool (vernier caliper or micrometer) & take around 8-10 measurements & average them out. Keep in mind that there must be a tolerance allowed for age, wear & out of round.*

<sup>13</sup>Danielski, John, 2000. "The Charleville Musket – How France's Legendary Long-Arm Made Its Mark on History," Military History Now, April 5, 2020, <https://militaryhistorynow.com/2020/04/05/>, *The Charleville fired a .63 lead ball that weighed .82 of an ounce (23.2 grams).*

<sup>14</sup>Danielski, John, 2020. The French Charleville musket was named for a French armory, one of four in which the Charleville pattern was manufactured. The Charleville 1763 and 1766 patterns were supplied to the Continental Army - in March 1777, the Marquis du Lafayette brought the first French aid to America's Continental Army in the form of 25,000 muskets.

<sup>15</sup>National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Collection French Charleville Model 1763 Flintlock Musket, Surcharged, "US", Collection ID / Accession: 1985.0783.21 [https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah\\_438624](https://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_438624).

<sup>16</sup>Sivilich, 1996. Note the wide variation in ball caliber - *the load usually consisted of a .50 to .75 caliber round lead musket ball.* The smaller ball often being combined with several buckshot pellets. This range in size makes attribution of a musket ball to either the British Land Pattern or French Charleville musket more problematic. Daniel M. Sivilich, "How to Identify Revolutionary War Musket Balls," 21 Jul 2017, <https://classroom.synonym.com/tell-original-arrowheads-6566904.html>.

<sup>17</sup>Accession #2020.8.1, Ashbel Woodward Museum / Franklin Historical Society of Franklin CT XVIII:

<sup>18</sup>Connecticut required mandatory militia participation of all men, generally 16 yrs. of age and older (upper limits varied from 45 to 60), with notable exceptions. However, militia participation was often more social and training haphazard. There were different military organizations, each with its own level of emphasis on marital training and protocol – ranging from the often poorly trained militia trainbands (or companies) to the well drilled Connecticut Provincial Regiments and Continental Army Connecticut Line. Robertson, John K., "Decoding Connecticut Militia 1739-1783," Journal of the American Revolution, July 27, 2016.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/2016/07/connecticut-militia-1739-1783/>

<sup>19</sup>Novosad, Town of Franklin (CT) Historian, Personal Communication, email dated Sept 24, 2023. "...If I were to take a guess, ... [it] was older newsprint, likely from the *New London Gazette* or the *Connecticut Gazette*."

<sup>20</sup>Novosad, Personal Communication, August 10, 2023.

<sup>21</sup><https://www.britishbattles.com/war-of-the-spanish-succession/battle-of-ramillies/>

<sup>22</sup>Dick, Jimmy, 2013. "The Gunpowder Shortage," Techniques & Tech, Journal of the American Revolution, September 9, 2013. <https://allthingsliberty.com/>

<sup>23</sup>Dick, Jimmy, 2013.

<sup>24</sup>Schenawolf, Harry, 2014. "Gunpowder and its Supply in the American Revolution," Strictly Military, Weaponry & Munitions, November 30, 2014.

<sup>25</sup>Connecticut General Assembly. *At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut...Holden at New-Haven, on the Second Thursday of October,1776. An Act for Regulating the Inspecting and Vending of Gun-Powder....* New London: Printed by Timothy Green, Printer to the Governor and Company,1776. The Robert Charles Lawrence Fergusson Collection – as exhibited at "Connecticut in the American Revolution, An Exhibition from the Library and Museum Collections of The Society of the Cincinnati, Anderson House, Washington, D.C., October27,2001-May11,2002, Text by Ellen McCallister Clark and Sandra L. Powers. [Connecticut American Revolution Institute.org](http://ConnecticutAmericanRevolutionInstitute.org). Accessed 13 Aug 2023

<sup>26</sup>Novosad, Personal communication, August 10, 2023. Discussion of an article on making gun powder printed in the Norwich Packet circa 1777.

<sup>27</sup>Dick, Jimmy, Sept 10, 2013: 10:50 am Reply. Comment / Message string under Dick, Jimmy, "The Gunpowder Shortage," Techniques & Tech, Journal of the American Revolution, September 9, 2013.

<https://allthingsliberty.com/>

<sup>28</sup>Schenawolf, Harry, 2014; Dick, Jimmy, 2013.

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FOSA member Tom Ford compiled a display of **18<sup>th</sup> Century British Tea Pots** in conjunction with **The Ashbel Woodward House & Museum's** 2024 season kickoff event **Taste of History: Tasting Teas of the Boston Tea Party.**

The ceramics will be displayed from April through October 2024. The Ashbel Woodward House & Museum is located at 387 Route 32, Franklin CT. Parking and Museum access is by the CT DEEP property off Plains Road.

For hours or to make an appointment, consult the website

<https://sites.google.com/site/ashbelwoodwardmuseum>

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## FOSA Officers and Board

Glenda Rose - President  
 Thomas Ford – Vice President  
 Scott Brady - Recording Secretary  
 Sandy DiStefano - Corresponding Secretary  
 Jim Trocchi - Treasurer  
 (*Assistant Treasurer - Open*)  
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 Deanna Rhodes - Board Member  
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 Archaeologist (OSA)  
 Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni, *Emeritus*  
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 Dr. Janine Caira, Director, CSMNH  
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**Membership:** Mike Raber (Chair), Glenda Rose, Sandy DiStefano (Corresponding Secretary)

**Newsletter:** Jerry Tolchin (Chair), Jim Trocchi, Zackary Singer

**Nominations:** Deanna Rhodes

**Outreach:** Kathy Walburn (Chair), Bonnie Beatrice, Ken Beatrice

**Volunteer Coordinator:** TBD (Chair), Glenda Rose


**Website:** Jim Hall (Chair), Lindsay Kiesewetter

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

NEW FOSA MEMBERS SINCE 10/31/23

Chris Alevrontas	Diana Gerberich	Bianca Planeta
Allison R. Anderson	Leslie Holbrook	Gaden Romer
Trish Barrios	Bhaavni Krishna	Isabel Saballos
Anne Beon	Kathleen Mahoney	Barbara Savage
Stefon Danczuk	Daniel McCloskey	Jeff Wilson
Diane Gawronski & William Telensky	Theresa McDermott	
Ashley Elizabeth Geissler	Tara Melendez	
	Terez Murphy	
	Gregory Pickett	

We have had 21 new members from November 2023 through early April 2024. Beginning in late March 2020, we introduced and fine-tuned electronic membership services on the FOSA website. This allows new and renewing members to enter their membership information and volunteer activity preferences, and to pay via PayPal if desired. An increasing number of members are using this service, including over 50% of those who renewed or joined since mid-October 2021. Since early November 2023, we have had 97 renewals, most made after mid-March 2024 in response to a snail mailing of renewal forms and annual meeting flyers. This is over a third of our current membership!



The FOSA Members Newsletter is published by The Friends of the Office of State Archaeology, Inc.  
 Printing by The Print Hub  
 97B Pierson Lane  
 Windsor CT 06095 (860 580-7907)

## FOSA 2024 Annual Meeting

The 2024 FOSA Annual Meeting was held on April 14, 2024 at Farmington High School, 10 Montith Drive, Farmington, CT It began with the business meeting (details are below), followed by a lecture by Dr. Nicholas Bellantoni (Connecticut State Archaeologist *Emeritus*). The lecture entitled "**Hiking Archaeological Ruins in Southern New England**" provided highlights of some of the hiking trails with views of ruins in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island published in the book of the same name by Dr. Bellantoni and Barbara Ann Kipfer (Lexicographer and Registered Professional Archaeologist).

Preceding the lecture was the business portion of the meeting.

- > Treasurer Jim Trocchi presented the 2023 Treasurer's Report.
- > Recording Secretary Scott Brady presented the highlights of the 2023 OSA activity for State Archaeologist Sarah Sportman, who was traveling.
- > The Cooke Scholarship Report was given by President Glenda Rose.
- > Lee West spoke about the activities of the Archaeological Society of Connecticut in 2023.
- > Nominations Chair Deanna Rhodes presented this year's Nominations for the Board of Directors to the FOSA membership in the audience. All were approved.

Jerry Tolchin and Mark Packard were recipients of this year's Certificate of Appreciation awards. Copies of the text of the awards can be found at: [https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_CertifApp\\_RecipientsList.html#2024](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_CertifApp_RecipientsList.html#2024)



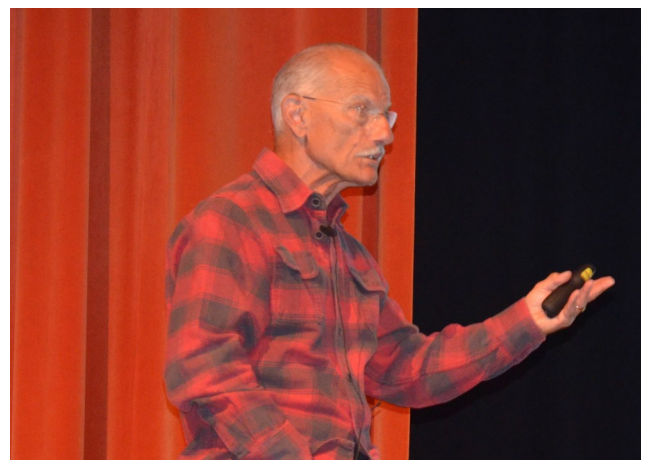
Jerry Tolchin receiving his award, pictured here with Jim Trocchi and Glenda Rose.



Mark Packard receiving his award, pictured here with Glenda Rose and Jim Trocchi.



Nick Bellantoni signing books at 2024 Annual Meeting



Nick Bellantoni presenting the guest lecture at the 2024 Annual Meeting

## What's New on the FOSA Website?

1. We've continued to record the "Archaeology of Connecticut" interviews given at iCRV radio, and to incorporate them, along with brief overviews of the subjects, into the website. These can be accessed at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/ICRV\\_slideshow\\_1.html](https://www.fosa-ct.org/ICRV_slideshow_1.html). At this writing 61 shows are listed.
2. We activated the Fall 2023 Newsletter. Note that we've been asked to wait 2-3 months after a newsletter comes out before activating it in the website.
3. We've modified the Home Page to incorporate 2 new items at the bottom of the 2-column icons: On the bottom left we've added "**FOSA Continuing Education**," which will get you directly to the Overview and Courses lists. This should allow a quicker access to this latest significant enhancement to the website and to FOSA itself. And on the bottom right we've added "**Annual Meetings**," both as a way of keeping the lengths of the columns "balanced" and to allow non-members of FOSA to get a quicker appreciation of what happens during the business segment and, afterwards during the Guest Speaker segment, of the meetings.
4. We've completed recording Tom Ford's "Pre-Clovis – A Critical Assessment" course sessions and incorporating them and their associated displays and Glossary into the website. This and any future such offerings are accessible via the new "FOSA Continuing Education" (with the mortar-board icon) link in the "Research Aids" group under "Resources" (accessible at the top of all pages) and the new "FOSA Continuing Education" icon at the bottom of the Home page.
5. Nick Bellantoni's "Remembrance" article for Dreda Hendsey has been incorporated into our "Remembrances" section under the "About Us" dropdown. To access the list of Remembered personnel, please click [https://www.fosa-ct.org/SpecialFeatures/FOSA\\_Remembrances\\_Index.html#Index](https://www.fosa-ct.org/SpecialFeatures/FOSA_Remembrances_Index.html#Index).
6. Updated the "Annual Meetings" page, at [https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_ann\\_meetings.html](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_ann_meetings.html), to include the 2024 Fair Flyer and pictures of the participants and guest speakers.
7. In the Spring 2024 edition of "Connecticut *Explored*" magazine there was a very interesting article by Dr. David E. Leslie titled, "*Ground Penetrating Radar: Excavations in the Digital Age*." We were able to get approval from the folks at "CT *Explored*" to incorporate the article as a PDF in the "[Selected Reprints](#)" section of the website.
8. We've included a new item on the "You Tube Videos" page which allows you to access a series of videos about archaeology by the Archaeological Institute of America. It's item 32, called "**Archaeology TV**" and can be accessed by clicking [https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA\\_youtube.html#32](https://www.fosa-ct.org/FOSA_youtube.html#32).
9. A small change has been made to the "About FOSA" dropdown under the "About Us" primary category, changing the one which had read "Archaeology Awareness Month" to now read "Archaeology Fairs & Archaeology Awareness Month". The reason for this is to reflect the fact that FOSA no longer coordinates other archaeology groups' activities during Archaeology Awareness Month but – more importantly – to allow users to more quickly access information on *FOSA's* Archaeology Fairs.
10. SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED: To reiterate from above and from previous "What's New..." articles, we continually look for input from users about the web site: What things can be added? Removed? Revised? Please send us an email, at [fosa.ct@gmail.com](mailto:fosa.ct@gmail.com), with your suggestions. Use "FOSA website" in the subject line.

**Thank you!**

*Jim Hall / Jen Glaubius*

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**We would like to hear from YOU! Please send your comments and ideas related to FOSA or the FOSA Newsletter to the Editor: Jerry Tolchin, at [jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jerrytolchin@sbcglobal.net)**

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Newsletter Committee: Jerry Tolchin (chair), Jim Trocchi