From the MAS President

Dear Members and Friends,

Several of you have reached out over the last several months to ask about the status of the newsletter and we appreciate your enthusiasm for this publication. As an all-volunteer organization, things take longer and we apologize for the delay in communicating with you. Our trustees and volunteers have been working to re-establish regular outreach to you in the midst of organizational change and trustee turnover.

Keep the feedback coming, and as we set a schedule for newsletters in motion, remember to check our Facebook page for news, chapter information, and other updates. See you ‘Round the Robbins!

Sincerely,

Philip J. Graham
President

MAS Spring Meeting on Saturday, May 7, 2016

The MAS held its annual spring gathering on Saturday, May 7. Participants at the Robbins Museum in Middleborough enjoyed a day of discussion and learning about the latest in local and global archaeological research. Speakers included Tim Ives, Kevin McBride, and Jay Waller who spoke on the impact of Hurricane Sandy on archaeological resources in Rhode Island and on Block Island. The afternoon program included McKayla Hoffman and Michael Zimmerman. Dan Sivilich, an historian and expert metal detector consultant, held a book signing for his new volume entitled Musket Ball and Small Shot Identification: A Guide.

Plans for the Fall meeting are underway. Stay tuned!
MAS Secures Funding from the Community Preservation Committee of Middleborough

The Trustees of the MAS are pleased to report that the Society recently secured a grant award of $30,000 for the repair and rehabilitation of the windows at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The award comes from the Community Preservation Committee (CPC), which vetted and supported a project proposal from the MAS to the Middleborough Town Meeting. The funding comes from the Community Preservation Act (CPA), a piece of Massachusetts legislation that enables cities and towns to add a surcharge to property owners’ property tax bills, and then set aside those funds for designated community projects.

In accordance with the town by-law, the Middleborough CPC received the MAS’ application for the replacement of the windows at the Robbins Museum facility. Over the course of the proposal review, the CPC and the MAS Trustees became aware of the historical status of the Robbins Museum building as a “contributing element” to the downtown Middleborough Historic District, as recognized by the National Historic Register. This status elevated the requirements of the project to adhere to standards and practices set by the US Secretary of the Interior for historic preservation. As a result, the proposal was modified from complete replacement of the windows to a scope that included a plan for significant repairs and preservation in place of the original windows (now more than 100 years old!).

The MAS Trustees presented preliminary and final applications to

Continued on page 4

Celebrating Our Donors

Our thanks to the individuals, families, and organizations that supported us in 2015-2016!

Clovis Contributors ($1,000 and up):
Donald Beal

Bifurcate Backers ($500):
Shirley Blanke
David DeMello
Curtiss Hoffman
David McKenna

Brewerton Boosters ($250):
Ted Ballard
Tim Fohl
Philip Graham
Bill Moody
Bob Trotta

Vosburg Volunteers ($100):
Sheila Lynch-Bentinen
Bridgewater Savings Bank
Frederica & David Dimmick
Tim Largy
Tonya & Tom Largy
Dan Lorraine

Vosburg Volunteers ($100):
William Napolitano
Robert Scheer
Douglas Sharpe
Alan Smith
Laurie Sundis
Fred Topor
Lee Varvaro

Squibnocket Supporters ($75 for the 75th!):
Mike Cavanagh
Fuzzy Downs
V. Taylor Ford
Jordan Kerber
Lloyd Keyes
Robert Plante
John Rempelakis

Other Contributors:
Tom Doyle
Martin Dudek
Elizabeth Goldberg
John Fitzgerald
Don Foberg
Dianne Gilbert
Judy Randall
Lindsay Randall
Colin Kennedy
Nancy Kennedy
David Richards
Mark Simonitsch
Dorothy Thayer
Douglas Wicher

NAGPRA Donors
Suanna Crowley
Eugene Winter Chapter
Phil Graham
Mary Ellen Lepionka
Greg Lott
David McKenna

Other Contributors:
Margaret Atkins
Bernadine Birch
Joan & Peter Bullard
Margot Cottrell
Charles Deknatel
Regional News from the World of Cultural Resource Management
Compiled by John Rempelakis

Data Recovery at the Halls Swamp Site in Kingston
Contributed by Dianna Doucette, PAL, Inc.

In 2014, The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) completed fieldwork at the Halls Swamp Site in Kingston. The University of Massachusetts Archaeological Services (UMAS) documented the site in 2012 during an intensive archaeological survey of the area for the Town of Kingston. Following UMAS’s survey, PAL completed site examination and data recovery excavations, confirming that the site extends across an elevated glacial kame terrace surrounded by wetlands, and that it was intensively and repeatedly utilized during the Middle and Late Archaic periods (ca. 8000 to 3000 B.P.), and briefly during the Woodland Period (ca. 3000 to 450 B.P.).

Based on the distribution and density of artifacts such as chipped and ground stone tools, chipping debris, and burnt rock fragments, along with cultural features such as fire hearths, charcoal pits, trash/storage pits, post molds, and lithic workshops, PAL identified several concentration areas of Native American occupation suggesting the Halls Swamp Site was utilized for a variety of domestic and subsistence related activities (food procurement/processing and storage/disposal, and stone tool making), and possible ceremonial activities. The Halls Swamp Site represents a significant cultural resource and is unique in its pristine condition; the majority of the site was not disturbed by plowing and

Continued on page 4
News from the Region

Continued from page 3

and other forms of digging, erosion, or development. Almost eighty features were identified, including evidence possibly associated with Archaic Period house structures.

Update on the Waterman Site, Marshfield

Contributed by Ross K. Harper, A.H.S., Inc.

Research and analysis of the 17th-century Waterman house site is near completion (See MAS Newsletter Issue 40, No. 2, Fall 2014). The site was discovered by Archaeological and Historical Services, Inc. (AHS) during a cultural resource management survey in the Town of Marshfield. Excavations indicate the house was an earthfast "hut" or "cottage," and represents the earliest dwelling form in Plymouth Colony. Measuring approximately 15 x 20 feet, the somewhat trapezoidal-shaped house had a small cellar, as well as a sunken hearth situated almost two feet below the ground surface. Other house features include a circular subfloor food-storage pit, and an enclosed entrance.

Continued on page 5

MAS Wins CPA Grant

Continued from page 2

both the CPC members and a Town Meeting held in 2014. With town approval, the Massachusetts attorney general then formalized the grant agreement and established an easement requirement (rights to access and inspect the work paid for by CPA monies over a 10 year period).

The MAS Trustees reviewed several qualified bids for the project during 2015. Local contractor Al Gamache was selected and engaged as the lead on the effort. The MAS has remained in close contact with the CPC and will work with them going forward. The project is expected to begin in late spring of 2016 and be completed over the summer. The anticipated benefits of this program of updates will be increased security at the Robbins Museum and enhanced environmental control, both of which will lead to better protection for the archaeological and ethnographic collections housed within.

To learn more about how the trustees, members and friends of the Society are working to revitalize the organization for our visitors and our collections, visit our website at www.MassArchaeology.org to see how you can be a part of the effort. Thank you for your continued support.

AHS Archaeologists Exposing the Interior of the Waterman House.
Membership Secretary's Report by Curtiss Hoffman

As of April 2016, the Society’s membership was 355, including all categories of membership.

Patrons:
- Ted Ballard
- Shirley Blancke
- Ashton Bradshaw
- Lorri Ann Devlin
- Frederica Dimmick
- Fuzzy Downs
- Tim Fohl
- Elizabeth Greene
- SA Lynch-Benttinen
- Vic Mastone
- Ed Moreland
- William Napolitano
- Steven Pendery
- Diane Pereira
- Daniel Rourke
- Robert W. Scheer
- Frederic Topor

New & Returning Members:
- George Brown
- Joan Bullard
- Peter Bullard
- Bree Bushee
- Drew Bushee
- Rolf Cachat-Schilling
- Erica Clavin
- Michael Crowley
- Anne Marie Dalbec
- Charles Devine
- Aaron Dougherty
- Jessica Dougherty
- Betsy Ehlers
- Matthew Emerson
- Richard Fitzgerald
- Erin Flynn
- Phyllis Foley
- James Freeley
- Dana Fuller
- Alan Giantassio
- Brook Gibbs
- James Gray
- Derek Gunn
- James Haskins
- Matt Howes
- Mark Kenney
- Paul Koczynski
- Sandra Locke
- Barry Lott
- Joan Lyons
- Karen Mack
- Lisa McLoughlin
- Lloyd Mendes
- Whitney Moody
- Barbara Murphy
- Chris Murphy
- Elizabeth Myers
- Michael Myers
- Virginia Myers
- Leonard Pelletier
- L.W. Pink
- Polly Pillsbury
- Stephen Polissack
- Jack Porter
- Jeff Robbins
- Christopher Seufert
- Dan Silvich
- Margaret Taft
- Christian Tryon
- Richard Volpe
- Ann Wood
- Michael Zimmerman

Supporting:
- Andre Cormier
- Donna Frehill
- Philip Graham
- Curtiss Hoffman
- Susan Jacobs
- Thirza Joost
- Royce Kahler
- Frederick Martin
- Diane Parent
- Darrell Pinckney
- Chester Soliz
- William B. Taylor

Sustaining:
- Carol Barnes
- Michael Cavanagh
- Bernard Cooper
- Stuart Eldridge
- Linda Engelmann
- James Haskins
- Sharl Heller
- Lloyd Keyes
- Mark Lyons
- Gerald Macomber
- William Moody
- Brona Simmon
- David Woolman

New & Returning Members:
- Robyn Baker
- Robert Balaschi

News from the Region

Continued from page 4

The house was built with two construction techniques: post-in-ground for the main structures, plus two palisado walls added to the south side of the house and entranceway. The palisade walls were likely built to buffer the house from the prevailing winds coming off the ocean. The hearth was likely recessed as a wind-resistant measure as well. The house had burned down after only a few years of occupation, a common fate of the period as indicated in primary documents. Thousands of domestic artifacts were recovered, as were significant quantities of botanical and faunal remains. Household-related artifacts include a Border Ware pipkin, red ware milk pans and storage pots, a brass skimmer, a goffering iron, a book clasp and many other items. The house is attributed to Robert Waterman and his wife Elizabeth, who married and settled in Marshfield in 1638. The house represents the only First Period house from Plymouth Colony to be extensively excavated and is revealing new information on the architecture and lifeways of the period. A full report is nearly complete.

CHAPTER MEETING DATES

NE/Gene Winter Chapter
7pm Meetings
R.S. Peabody Museum
175 Main St., Andover, MA

Central Chapter
7:30pm Meetings
Zion Lutheran Church
43 Whitmarsh Ave., Worcester, MA

Southeastern Chapter
7pm Meetings
Robbins Museum of Archaeology
17 Jackson Street, Middleborough, MA

More information on programs and directions available at www.MassArchaeology.org
MAS Spring Meeting Speaker Program
Saturday, May 7 at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology. Registration 9-10am.
Morning program 10am-12pm. Lunch on your own 12-1:30pm. Afternoon program 1:30-4pm.
Members $10/Non-members $12.

Scheduled speakers include:

Tim Ives: Window of Opportunity: Recording Archaeological Sites Exposed by Hurricane Sandy in Rhode Island

Jay Waller, Jr.: Hurricane Sandy and its Effect on Archaeological Sites Located along Rhode Island’s South Coast and on the Crescent Beach Site (RI 2555), Block Island

Kevin McBride: New Perspectives on the Native History and Archaeology of Block Island

Reception and book signing with Dan Sivilich, author of Musket Ball and Small Shot Identification: A Guide

McKayla Hoffman: The Remarkable Everyman: Stories Behind the Tools at Coggeshall Farm Museum

Michael Zimmerman: The Cultural Heritage Crisis in the Middle East: How Cultural Heritage in the Middle East is Being Lost, and How Archaeologists are Rethinking Cultural Heritage Protection in the Wake of this Crisis

Maurice “Doc” Robbins