

*45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology*  
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**Symposium: Knowledge Woven of Many Threads: Interdisciplinary Investigations at the National Historic Landmark Site of New Philadelphia, Illinois**

Organizers/Chairs: *Kathryn O. Fay*

The New Philadelphia, Illinois archaeological site has been the focus of a multiyear interdisciplinary project, bringing together researchers from a number of universities and organizations, as well as field school students from across the country. One of the main missions of this community-engaged project has been to collect data from as many differing sources as possible, including oral history interviews with family descendants and local community members, historical documentary research, archaeological excavations, geophysical surveys, cultural landscape analyses, geosciences investigations, and zooarchaeological studies. This symposium presents several examples of the different types of research which are still ongoing at the site, and discusses the benefits of such an interdisciplinary approach, especially for large-scale, multi-year projects. The New Philadelphia project has been supported by the National Science Foundation's program of Research Experiences for Undergraduates, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the National Endowment for the Humanities, among others.

*Kathryn O. Fay (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)*

**Historic Beginnings: The Site of New Philadelphia, Illinois and its Archaeological Project**

The site of New Philadelphia, Illinois has been the subject of a multi-year research project which uses many facets of archaeology and history to gather information focusing on the town site and its surrounding area. It also involves researchers and participants from universities and institutions across the country, as well as local community members and the descendants of multiple families who lived within and around the town. This paper will serve as an introduction to the symposium, providing a short background history of both the site of New Philadelphia and the archaeological project which has been taking place there since 2002, resultant in both National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark recognition. The foci of each presenter's paper will be addressed as one of the important facets of this interdisciplinary project.

*Claire Fuller Martin (Illinois State Museum), Anna Agbe-Davies (University of North Carolina)*

**“Demanding a Share of Public Regard:” The History and Archaeology of Early Schooling at New Philadelphia, Illinois**

New Philadelphia, in Pike County, Illinois, is believed to be the first town in the US formally established by an African American. Among founder “Free Frank” McWorter's priorities was for members of his family to attend school, years before state law guaranteed public education for non- “white” children. Oral histories and written reminiscences provide a contradictory account of New Philadelphia's earliest schools. While it is established that the “new” schoolhouse (early 1870s) was racially integrated, conflicting interpretations of the extant documents raise questions about the way in which the first schoolhouse (ca. 1850) was used by the African- and Euro-American families of the town. The location of the first schoolhouse has been the focus of recent archaeological and documentary investigations. Here, we report on the results of archaeological and documentary research into the history of education at New Philadelphia and the search for the locations of its earliest schoolhouses.

*Annelise E. Morris (University of California Berkeley)*

### **Social Histories at New Philadelphia and Comparative Communities**

A community's social histories and networks can span years, decades, or millennia. They can form around churches, communities, homes and experiences. They shape every day life and culture in multi-faceted ways, and can in some cases continue to exist long after the spatial location of the community has drastically changed, changed, or ceased to exist. In this talk, I examine how the religious and social networks at New Philadelphia created and shaped community life through time.

Comparatively, I discuss how these observations can shape our understandings of formation and memorialization of social life in other African-Diaspora communities throughout their histories and practices.

*Amanda A. Burt (University of California, Berkeley), Terrance J. Martin (Illinois State Museum)*

### **Animal Remains from Block 13 at the New Philadelphia Site**

The major focus of investigations at the New Philadelphia Site in west central Illinois during 2010 and 2011 was on Block 13, where the foundations of Louisa McWorter's house and associated well were revealed. Along with groundtruthing of geophysical anomalies, a sample of the cellar was excavated culminating in a large artifact assemblage and a modest but well-preserved collection of animal remains. This sample is examined in order to provide information on the inhabitants' subsistence practices and to look for dietary patterns that may be related to various residents' regions of origin.

*Jamie M. Arjona (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Christopher Fennell (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)*

### **Diverse Methods and Landscape Analyses at the New Philadelphia National Historic Landmark**

Multiple analytic methods have been employed and compared and contrasted with one another over several years of interdisciplinary research at New Philadelphia, Illinois. This paper provide an overview of studies concerning potential large-scale impacts of racism on landscape development, and comparisons and contrasts of data obtained through ground-based geophysics, aerial thermal surveys, and light detection and ranging (LiDAR) methods for creating high resolution, microtopographic models. Uses of LiDAR at New Philadelphia will be compared with use of similar a survey at a new project in Edgefield, South Carolina. The results of such high-technology methods at New Philadelphia were also analyzed in comparison with historical maps, plats, surveys, and past aerial photographs. The New Philadelphia project has provided a unique laboratory for testing and comparing such diverse methodologies through ground-truth excavations and systematic surveys undertaken with the support of the National Science Foundation's program of Research Experiences for Undergraduates.

*MaryKathryn Rochefort (University of Iowa)*

### **The "Dirt" on the History of New Philadelphia's Cultural Soilscape**

Landscape modifications for early Historic land-use activities began with the clearing and burning of "natural" vegetation. Soil is the medium upon which the interactions of cultural land-use activities and the "natural" environment are imprinted. Yet little work has been done to document how Midwestern soils have responded to the early stages of historic land-use. In addition, the landscape at the National Historic Landmark of New Philadelphia, Illinois has been significantly disturbed by agricultural activities. However, archaeological investigations have revealed buried features and cultural material with excellent preservation in the soil below the modern plow zone. The physical, biological and chemical processes of soil are differentially impacted by different land-use activities which are preserved long-term in cultural soils and can be observed and quantified. These data are used to reconstruct the history of land-use activities and provide important insights into the activities of the inhabitants of New Philadelphia.

*Charlotte King (University of Maryland, College Park)*

**National Historic Landmarks and New Philadelphia: Iconic Representations of American**

The National Register of Historic Places includes more than 86,000 properties, all culturally important and deserving preservation for the story they tell of our country and people. Fewer than 2,500 of those historic properties are designated National Historic Landmarks (NHL), recognition reserved for properties deemed extraordinary representations of our country's rich heritage. New Philadelphia ranks among national icons such as George Washington's Mount Vernon, the majestic Grand Canyon, and Olson House - influential in the life and work of artist Andrew Wyeth. NHLs are insights into historically significant people, trends, events, concepts and accomplishments that created our history and shaped our country's character. This presentation will discuss National Historic Landmark significance, New Philadelphia's qualifications, nomination and designation procedures, and implications of NHL status, acknowledging that NHL designation is an achievement and part of a dynamic process, not a static conclusion.

*Cheryl LaRoche, Discussant*

In addition to the symposium, one of the 2010 undergraduate field school students presented a poster on January 5<sup>th</sup> based on research she carried out on a portion of the New Philadelphia archaeological collection.

*Elizabeth A. Usherwood (New College of Florida)*

**Drink This and Call Me in the Morning: Medicinal Bottles at a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Home in New Philadelphia, Illinois**

New Philadelphia, in Pike County, Illinois, was a vibrant multiethnic community throughout the 19th century. Recent excavations through the New Philadelphia NSF-REU field school have unearthed a collection of artifacts that help create a portrait of this small community. Using artifacts from the 2011 field school, this poster presentation focuses on commercial medicinal remedies and cures at a female-headed household in the New Philadelphia town site. By analyzing the remains of the bottles originally containing these remedies, I provide valuable information about 19th century healthcare while exploring health remedies used by individuals at the Louisa McWorter homestead. Through this presentation, I will add to conversations about both the New Philadelphia town site and the use of 19th century commercial medicines.