

# ArkyFacts

Monthly Newsletter of the  
SOUTH SUBURBAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lecture meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at  
The Marie Irwin Community Center  
18120 S. Highland Avenue, Homewood

## FEBRUARY - 2022

Thursday, Christopher Fennell, Ph.D. ~ 7:30 PM  
February 17 "New Philadelphia, Illinois: From Archaeology Project  
to National Historic Landmark"

(NOTE: Dr. Fennell will be appearing in person at the Irwin Center.)

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM  
February 28 Mama & Me Pizzeria, Homewood  
Host: Barb McDonough

Deadline for material to be included in the next  
ArkyFacts is two weeks before the monthly meeting.  
Contact Susan Saric

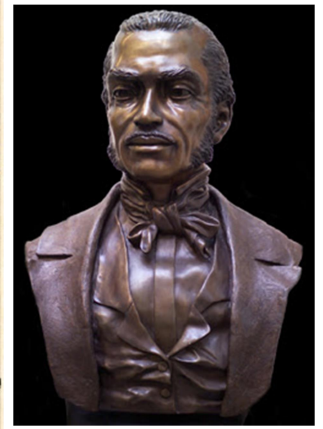
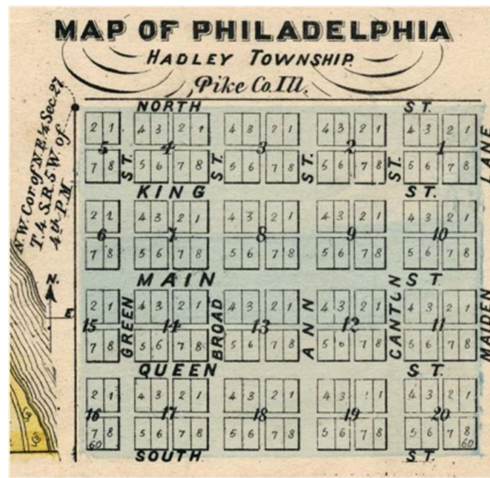
For more information about South Suburban Archaeological Society, or if you have a special need  
because of a disability, contact SSAS President Will Kelley

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Thursday, February 17 -7:30 PM

New Philadelphia, Illinois:  
From Archaeology Project to  
National Historic Landmark  
with Christopher Fennell, Ph.D.



In addition to overt acts of racism and racial violence, African-American communities in the 1800s combatted forms of structural racism which diverted economic opportunities away from them and presented challenges for households to overcome. This program, presented by SSAS in conjunction with African-American Heritage Month, examines such dynamics using examples from archaeological and historical analysis of New Philadelphia, Illinois. This community, established in 1836 by Frank and Lucy McWorter, was the first U.S. town planned in advance and legally founded by African Americans. Members of the local and descendant communities, archaeologists, historians, and genealogists have worked together to advance research into this remarkable crossroads of families, merchants, farmers, and artisans, and to enhance their focus in our national memory and heritage. This multi-year project employed cutting-edge techniques in archaeology, including aerial thermal, LiDAR, geoscience, and geophysical surveys. Civic engagement in such research projects also significantly aids the members of current-day communities to enhance the recognition and visibility of African-American heritage and accomplishments and to combat facets of structural racism they are experiencing today. Legislation is now pending for a proposal to create a "New Philadelphia National Historic Park" as part of the National Park Service.

Dr. Christopher Fennell specializes in historical archaeology, diaspora studies, and legal anthropology as a Professor of Anthropology and Law at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and as a yearly Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago Law School. His most recent book is "The Archaeology of Craft and Industry" (U. Press Florida, 2021) and he is the founding editor of the "Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage" (Routledge).

For additional reading on Dr. Fennell's research, visit

<http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/> Upcoming Events page, where you will find his recent article, "Pulpits and Stones: African American Terrains of Action and Memory."



**PLEASE NOTE: Dr. Fennell will be appearing LIVE and IN PERSON at the Irwin Center.** Please join us before the presentation for light refreshments! Masks, IDs and Proof of Vaccination (for at least 2 weeks) will be required for entry, per current Cook County regulations. Boosters are not required. For those who wish to view this presentation remotely via Zoom, please see our insert page.

Bookmarks! Find us online.....

**Search: "South Suburban Archaeological Society"**

**OR: <http://southsuburbanarchsociety.weebly.com/>**

**OR: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort, and financial support, and through the valued sponsorship of our friends at  nitel

## How to Remotely View our February 17 Program:

Interested in participating through Zoom?

Send an email requesting access to [southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com](mailto:southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com). Those who are not SSAS members are also welcome to use Zoom, but should include enough information in the email to verify their identity.



A day or two before the program, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom. For questions about remote viewing, contact Will Kelley.

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## Business Notes

### 2022 Membership

A Membership Application is again included in this newsletter for any member who has NOT yet renewed for 2022. For more information, contact Membership Chairman Milan Saric.

### Officers' Meeting

Our next business meeting will be on Monday, February 28 – 6:00 PM, at Mama & Me Pizzeria in Homewood. Our host will be Barbara McDonough.



It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to 35-year SSAS member Barbara Milwee, who passed away on December 19. One of the earliest members of SSAS, Barbara (along with her husband John Milwee, who survives her) worked tirelessly to help build the society, serve on the Board and volunteer whenever she was needed. She was warm and welcoming without fail, and was a gracious lady with a quick smile and a terrific wit. Barbara will be missed tremendously and dearly remembered by all of us at SSAS. Our deepest condolences go out to John and her entire family.

The following poem was penned by Barbara many years ago, after she had participated in a dig at an Oneota site, lead by Illinois archaeologist Alan Harn.

### Reflections at an Oneota Dig

My sister of long ago, I think of you  
As I sit before your hearth  
And slowly peel back the years  
With my trowel.

Among the charcoal are potsherds  
With cordmarkings...but no big find.  
Was this shard from a pot you taught your daughter to mold,  
Tempered with shells and fired to hardness?

I see life was primitive, my sister,  
And hard for you.  
May you and your tribe now have sweet rest  
In a plentiful Hunting Ground.

- **Barbara J. Milwee**  
(1930-2021)

## LECTURES & EVENTS

**Saturday, February 5, 1:00-2:00 PM CST**

*The Archaeology of Tattoos & Skin Art*

Speaker: Dr. Aaron Deter-Wolf, Tennessee Division of Archaeology.

This is a virtual event hosted by the St. Louis Chapter of the AIA (Archaeological Institute of America). For more information and to register, visit [AIA Event Listings - Archaeology of Tattoos and Skin Art - AIA-St. Louis Society \(archaeological.org\)](#).



**Thursday, February 24, 2:00-3:00 PM**

**Orland Park Public Library**

*The Great Migration of African Americans from the Rural South to the Urban North, 1915-1970 (Live Event-Adults)*

Speaker: Dr. William Barnett

Between 1915 and 1970, six million African Americans moved North from the rural South, transforming all aspects of American culture. Some Black leaders now suggest that a return to the South could be the path to a better future. Please register in advance by calling (708)428-5112 or email [asimmons@orlandparklibrary.org](mailto:asimmons@orlandparklibrary.org). Seating is limited. Non-OP library card holders will be placed on a waitlist.

Orland Park Public Library  
14921 Ravinia Avenue  
Orland Park, IL 60462  
(708)428-5100

## IN THE NEWS

**Ancient people may have sipped beer through gold and silver drinking straws!**



In 1897, archaeologists excavating an ancient burial mound near Maikop, Russia, unearthed eight tubes made of gold and silver. Each object measured more than three feet long and about a half-inch in diameter.

For decades, researchers were unable to determine the purpose of the artifacts; however, after extensive study, archaeologists from the Russian Academy of Sciences determined that ancient people likely used these tubes to sip on a communal pot of beer. This means that the 5,500-year-old items could be the oldest-known drinking straws in the world, the archaeologists claim in their study, which was published recently in *Antiquity*.

Lead study author and archaeologist Viktor Trifonov reported that he and his team began to reexamine the tubes after realizing that existing literature failed to “convincingly [explain] all specific features” of the artifacts. For instance, the thin-walled cylinders bear small holes near one end, a detail that had previously gone unexplained.

The team arrived at the conclusion that the items were straws when they discovered traces of ancient beer—namely, barley starch granules and pollen grains—in the residue lining the tubes’ inner walls. Four of the straws feature decorative bull figurines that can be slid up and down the length of the pole. These items might have had a practical purpose, allowing the user to balance their straw on the side of the pot as they sipped.

A large beer vessel discovered near the straws would have enabled eight people to consume about seven pints of beer apiece.

Excerpted from *Smithsonian Magazine* / Nora McGreevy