

# 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

## NOVEMBER - 2022

Thursday, Dr. Michael Gregory ~ 7:30 PM  
November 17 "Unearthing Chicago's Bronzeville Neighborhood:  
The Historical Archaeology of Residential Backyards"  
(This will be an in-person presentation AND also available via Zoom.)

\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER BREAK \*\*\*\*\*

Monday, Officers' Meeting ~ 6:00 PM  
January 2, PANERA BREAD  
2023 820 175<sup>th</sup> St., Homewood  
Host: Will Kelley

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



# ArkyFacts



November 2022

Thursday, November 17 – 7:30 PM

## “Unearthing Chicago’s Bronzeville Neighborhood: The Historical Archaeology of Residential Backyards” with Michael Gregory, Ph.D.

Archaeological investigations of three residential properties located in what became known as Chicago’s Bronzeville Neighborhood provide unique glimpses into the everyday life of African Americans who took up residence in this northern, industrial metropolis as part of the Great Migration beginning circa 1915.

Excavated deposits produced stratigraphically arranged layers rich in artifacts that speak to both the opportunities and constraints faced by the residents. In addition, archival collections complement the artifact assemblages, and together the two sets of data reveal emergent, interpretable patterns related to consumerism, intersectional identity, and public health. Such patterns demonstrate the relevancy of archaeology as a counter balance to a range of historical and contemporary forces that converge and work either to erase or to bias this period in public memory.

In these terms, the backyard excavations reveal the rich potential of the neighborhood’s archaeological record, and together, excavations and archival research will offer new or forgotten insights into the actions, attitudes, and consequences that shaped the 20<sup>th</sup>-century African American experience in Chicago, while also providing comparable data for similar studies undertaken in other northern and western cities where participants of the Great Migration settled.

Dr. Michael Gregory is a professional archaeologist who has worked in a variety of academic, governmental, non-profit, and cultural resources management settings during the past 40 years. He presently serves on the Board of Directors of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation, Inc., and is semi-employed directing excavations at Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency recovery sites through American Veterans Archaeological Recovery and SNA International, a forensic science consulting firm. In addition to his current research interest in Civil War-era Camp Douglas, he also focuses on later urban trends related to suburbanization and the Great Migration in the Chicago area.

**NOTE: Dr. Gregory will be appearing in person at the Irwin Center.** Please join us for light refreshments before the program! For those who wish to view this presentation remotely via Zoom, see our insert page.



**Search: “South Suburban Archaeological Society” or**

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

**SSAS on Tumblr: <http://southsuburbanchapter.tumblr.com>**

**South Suburban Chapter on Facebook:**

**<http://www.facebook.com/SouthSuburbanChapter2015>**



SSAS programming is made possible through generous contributions from our members of time, effort and financial support.

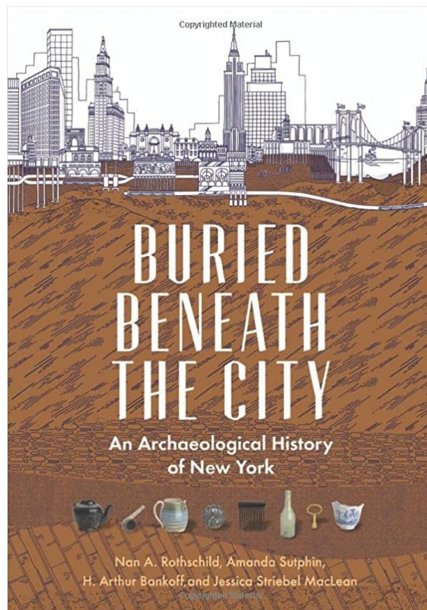
## NEW BOOKS

**“Buried Beneath the City:  
An Archaeological History of New York”  
(Columbia University Press, September 2022)**

While our focus this month is on the City of Chicago, you may also want to check out this new publication on the City of New York by Nan A. Rothschild, Amanda Sutphin, H. Arthur Bankoff and Jessica Striebel MacLean.

“Bits and pieces of the lives led long before the age of skyscrapers are scattered throughout New York City, found in backyards, construction sites, street beds, and parks. Indigenous tools used thousands of years ago; wine jugs from a seventeenth-century tavern; a teapot from Seneca Village, the nineteenth-century Black settlement displaced by Central Park; raspberry seeds sown in backyard Brooklyn gardens—these everyday objects are windows into the city’s forgotten history.

*Buried Beneath the City* uses urban archaeology to retell the history of New York, from the deeper layers of the past to the topsoil of recent events. The book explores the ever-evolving city and the day-to-day world of its residents through artifacts, from the first traces of Indigenous societies more than ten thousand years ago to the detritus of Dutch and English colonization and through to the burgeoning city’s transformation into the modern metropolis. Lavishly illustrated with images of objects excavated in the city, *Buried Beneath the City* is at once an archaeological history of New York City and an introduction to urban archaeology.”



*Amazon Book Reviews*

## How to Remotely View our November 17 Program:

Interested in participating through Zoom?

Send a request to the email address shown below.  
**If at all possible, please send your request at least 24 hours prior to the program.**



Those who are not SSAS members are also welcome to use Zoom, but should include enough information in the email to verify their identity.

1-2 days before the event, the host will respond with an invitation to attend through Zoom. For questions about remote viewing, contact Will Kelley.

[southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com](mailto:southsubarkyzoom-request@yahoo.com)



## Please Note

This is our final newsletter and our final presentation of 2022. There is no programming scheduled for the month of December. Our first program of 2023 will be on **Thursday, January 19**. Look for details in your January newsletter!



## Officers' Meeting

Our first business meeting of 2023 will take place on **Monday, January 2 – 6:00 PM at Panera Bread (820 175<sup>th</sup> St., Homewood)**. Our host will be Will Kelley.

## **An Earlier, Virginia Thanksgiving?**

On December 4, 1619, 38 British settlers landed from the ship *Margaret* (out of Bristol, England) along the North shore of the James River in Virginia in order to found a new town in the Virginia Colony called Berkeley Hundred (after the Berkeley Company).

By order of the Virginia Company of London (known by various other names, such as The London Company) the settlers were instructed to hold a “Thanksgiving” celebration on that day and on every December 4<sup>th</sup> hence. “The day of our ship’s arrival...shall be yearly and perpetually kept as a day of Thanksgiving.”

The day was righteously honored as a Thanksgiving Day, and this occurred almost 2 years before the Pilgrims of the Mayflower and Plymouth Rock fame conducted their much more famous “Thanksgiving.”



The Berkeley Hundred settlement, along with many others in Virginia, was attacked by Native Americans in 1622 and 9 of the settlers were killed. The survivors fled to Jamestown, which had received ample warning and was not surprised by an Indian attack. The Berkeley Hundred lay abandoned by Europeans for several years, became part of the Charles City Shire in 1634, and was bought in 1636.

In 1676 the owner of the land was hanged after taking part in the Bacon Rebellion, and the Virginia Governor confiscated the property. The Harrison family eventually bought the land and kept it in their family for many years, the property getting the name “Berkeley Plantation.” It is the “ancestral home” of two U.S. Presidents-William Henry Harrison and his grandson Benjamin Harrison. A memorial has been constructed at Berkeley Hundred in Charles City County, Virginia to honor America’s first English-speaking Thanksgiving in 1619.

*Excerpted from Wikipedia and History & Headlines / Major Dan(2020)*

## **“Calumet Voices, National Stories”**

### **Opens November 11 at the Field Museum**

As the Field Museum was accessioning global artifacts from the 1893 World’s Fair, curators were captivated by a landscape much closer to home. The Calumet region has held the Field’s gaze ever since.

The geographic area drained by the Grand Calumet River and the Little Calumet River of northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana has been home to extraordinary biodiversity, colossal industry, Native American tribes and immigrants from across the globe. It includes the Indiana cities of Gary, East Chicago, Hammond, Highland, Griffith, Munster, Merrillville, Schererville, Hobart, Whiting, Crown Point, Dyer, Saint John, and Valparaiso. In Illinois, a number of cities and villages lie in the Calumet watershed, including the southernmost part of Chicago, Lansing, Calumet City, South Holland, Riverdale, Burnham, Calumet Park and Blue Island.

This exhibit will showcase the region’s stories told by those who know it best. Objects and specimens (nearly 20,000) from the Field’s collection are presented in combination with those from three previous Calumet exhibitions which were collaboratively curated by a Field-led partnership of over 15 local museums and history centers.

In this final show, visitors will be immersed in examples of the region’s complexity. An interactive element throughout the exhibition series asks visitors to share their own Calumet stories and memories. Responses then become part of the exhibition, to be encountered by future visitors. The Field Museum invites you to tell YOUR Calumet story! (*Excerpted from “In the Field” Fall 2022*)

<https://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibitions/calumet-voices-national-stories>