



Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



Nov, 2012

## Durland Siglin to Discuss Native American Ways

The November meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held on November the 27th at 7:00 PM in the Duryea Municipal building at 311 Main St. Duryea, PA. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free of charge. This months guest will be Durland Siglin.

Mr. Siglin has been very involved with local Pow-Wows over the years and has made many contacts and friendships with members of Native American bands. He has had the rare privilege of being an invited guest to meetings and social gatherings of quite a number of tribal groups. He has, as a result, some very interesting first hand knowledge of how our indigenous peoples live, view the world around them and relate to one another. It is this insight that he will be sharing with us. The meeting will be in the form of a question and answer session, so everyone is encouraged to come equipped with topics that they wish to know more about. Anyone who has come to our open houses at the Coxton Yard Site knows that Mr. Siglin is a very easy going, easy to talk with man and the meeting will be informal.

Durland Siglin, while not an official member of any tribe, does have a rather extensive Native bloodline. His maternal ancestors include Mohawks of the Bear Clan, Shawnees and Oneida. Born and raised in Noxen, Pennsylvania he has lived there his entire life.

### Winding Down for the Season

The middle of November always brings up the question of when the Coxton Yard excavation will be closing down for the winter. The answer is always the very vague "We don't know". November and December can be either brutal weather-wise or absolutely ideal. This Fall it has been both, but so far our Sunday dig days have been pretty good to great. We normally are shut down by the middle of December and this year should be no different, barring a sudden freezing of the soil. Come on by over the next couple of weeks and see the progress of the Native American site and take a look at the second foundation uncovered at the historic site.

We have been able to increase membership a little this year by working harder to publicize our activities and ask that members also spread the word to those you know who share our interest in this region's history. Remember archaeology isn't only for those interested in our Native American predecessors, but railroaders, canal fans, and students of early European settlement have something to learn and share.

A special thanks to new member John Cleveland for donating a soil auger and meter grid frame to our Chapter. Oh! and for donuts and coffee on cold days.

**Sorry that Hurricane Sandy caused us to cancel last month's meeting. Those who we had Email addresses for were notified. We hope our snail mail folks did not attempt to attend. We are trying to reschedule our intended speaker.**

## Now We Have to Worry about People Adding Things to Sites

Officials with an Ohio historical organization expect to file charges soon against three to five people who they say vandalized and desecrated a 1,000-year-old site. The suspects allegedly acknowledged in an online video that they buried small shiny objects called orgonites at the 63-acre Native American Serpent Mound. Three of the objects, made of resin and embedded with quartz crystals and aluminum foil, have been found so far. There may be hundreds more. "Adding things to the property is just not acceptable," said George Kane, director of historic sites and facilities for the Ohio Historical Society. Orgonites are crafted from metal filings, such as aluminum, and quartz crystals, cast in a resin base, often in a muffin tin. Websites that discuss making and using such devices claim they draw in negative energy and exude positive energy. The people who apparently buried the objects showcased their actions in a YouTube video, acknowledging they "did some work" in September at the site to help "lift the vibration of the Earth so we can all rise together,". The video, which has since been removed from the site, included comments from people who described themselves as "light warriors" and say they took several days planting the orgonites at the snake-shaped Serpent Mound to "reactivate it."

## Answer to What is this Object

### Hoof Hook

A hoof hook is a tool used to remove stones, mud, ice or any other debris from a horse's hoof around the horse shoe. It is meant to increase the comfort and safety of the horse. It could be likened to checking the inflation and wear of your automobile tires, only it would have to be done more frequently. There are many several different styles of hoof hooks, with the more common one being a simple metal hook with a handle. The example shown here has a flattened metal blade with a slight curve from the hand made bone handle up to the squared off end. The metal is rather corroded and would have been somewhat thicker and sturdier. With unpaved roads for saddle horses and extensive field work for working horses this would have been an important everyday piece of equipment

## FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11

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