



Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



Oct, 2012

THE STUDY OF HISTORY FROM THE OUTHOUSE Robert E Lee III to Make presentation at October meeting

The October meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held on October the 30th 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.

Robert E Lee III will be presenting a very unique program about the artifacts and stories he has unearthed in his digs of historic era outhouses. Several of these excavations will be featured in his talk.

Robert started digging as a hobby to recover pottery for historical and educational displays he was creating. As with many amateur archaeologists, his interests started with the artifacts and excitement of the the find and grew into an interest in the stories and the information those items reveal. During the time he has been involved in finding and digging up old outhouses, he has developed a great appreciation of the history buried in these humble structures.

Robert studied art education and ceramics at Kutztown State College. He displays and /or demonstrates old pottery techniques at the Warrior Run Reenactments, conducts a public dig at the Danville Iron Heritage events and hosts a huge display at the Bloomsburg Fair. His goal is to add to the already known historical information from local communities and present them to the public. We are pleased that he will be sharing his experiences and knowledge with our members and guests at this month's meeting.

What a Difference a Year Makes

This time last year we were just beginning to deal with the results of the flooding at both our Coxtan yard site and the residual effects of the Duryea flooding on our borrowed meeting room. As previously reported, the dig site was quickly cleaned up with little interruption or loss and we have quickly been restored to our meeting space. This spring we were able to get an early start on our excavations due to the mildness of the winter and have made a great deal of progress in both the prehistoric and historic parts of the dig. Both areas have proven to be very interesting. Quite a few features have been turned up in the native American area and an old photograph from the mid 19th century of our historic site, which was found by John Dziak, has helped us to understand the increasingly complex nature of that area. With a little concerted effort on our part to publicize what we are doing we have also been able to increase membership, volunteers and visitors. We have hosted scouts, student groups and individuals, helping us to educate the public on the importance of our archaeological resources.

It's coming up on dues time again. Any dues paid from August on will cover membership through all of 2013. Please pay your dues as soon as possible and encourage other interested parties to join. Members are our life blood.

Dem Bones, Dem bones, Dem Dry Bones

October and skeletons seem to be a good match. The well preserved remains found on a Scottish island appear to fit the season perfectly in that it includes bones and a touch of weirdness. Two Bronze Age burials excavated about 10 years ago revealed that these skeletal remains were buried in a crouched position and gave evidence that the early Britons practiced some sort of mummification. What was even more intriguing was that it was clear to scientists that the male burial was comprised of the bones of more than one individual. Ten years of investigation and new technology has shown that the male and female were assembled out of at least six individuals and that the bones covered several hundred years in time. One theory is that they were pieced together as some sort of unifying ceremony between separate clans. It makes one wonder just what inspires a group of people to store their ancestors' skulls, femurs and ulnas like a box of old tinker toys in anticipation of a treaty with one's neighboring tribe. Would a simpler explanation, such as careless assembly from an ossuary with poor record keeping, please the investigators or does everything have to be ceremonial with ancient people?

Answer to What is this Object

Gun Flint

The flintlock rifle dates back to around 1612 in France and became the standard ignition system for military and hunting firearms for the next two hundred years. It was not until the advent of percussion caps in the early 19th century that they lost their popularity. However the flintlock still has fans to this day and their production while greatly diminished has never ceased. Gun flints were of course essential elements of these guns. They are normally manufactured of high grade French or English Flint which is of similar composition to chert which the native Americans used to produce blades and points. When clamped in the jaws of a gun's hammer, it would strike against a steel called a frizzen by a spring action when the trigger was pulled. This produced a spark which would in turn ignite the gun powder in the chamber of the gun causing it to fire the projectile. Two popular expressions owe their origin to the flintlock, "Flash in the pan" and "going off half cocked" neither of which was considered a good thing then or now.

FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

NEW MEMBER 2013 _____ RENEWAL FOR 2013 _____

ENCLOSED (CIRCLE ONE) CHECK FOR \$10 OR MONEY ORDER

PAYABLE TO: TED BAIRD, TREASURER

1123 Drinker Tpke. Covington Twp, PA. 18444