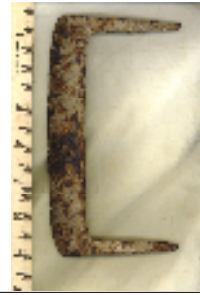




Can you identify this object?

See the back for answer



October, 2013

John Dziak to Moderate the Future of Our History Discussion Group

The October meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held at the Duryea municipal building at 315 Main St., in Duryea from 7:00 PM to about 9:00 PM. on October 29th.

Where will our local history be in 20 years and what can we do now to preserve it? How can Northeastern Pennsylvania enhance our knowledge of the past? How can we present it to current and future generations in a way that fosters a greater appreciation for what we know and a desire to uncover what we have forgotten? Too many people think of the study of history as the mind numbing memorization of famous peoples' names and the dates of battles. While names and dates are the meat and potatoes of history, it is the life of ordinary people that add spice and flavor to the banquet of our past. What role does research, archaeology, genealogy and oral history have in keeping our past alive and relevant to future generations? These are questions we hope to address and answer.

Our moderator, John Dziak was born, raised and is currently living in Pittston Pa. He graduated from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science which led to a 35 year career in the hospital and retail pharmaceutical profession. He then worked an additional 10 years in computer related activities. He is now retired is devoting his time to his love of history. He is particularly interested in WWI, genealogy, mining and all aspects of local history.

Open House a Big Success

While our open house is generally well attended every year, it was exceptionally true this year. Not only did we have a large number of visitors, but most of them stayed around, pitched in, asked questions and exhibited a great deal of interest in what we are doing at the Coxtan Site. The prehistoric portion of the site is in full swing now that the rail yard overburden and disturbed upper layer has been excavated. The overburden is being sifted and unprovenienced artifacts are being recovered. This portion will be finished before winter sets in. The historic portion of the site is moving on and to say that each weeks' work raises new questions would be an understatement. Two overlapping foundations and a very shallow rock wall to the west of them both, have scenarios and explanations flying around. The dig is approaching an area which should reveal a well or outhouse sometime soon. The residents had to have them and they should both be close to the dwellings. We are assuming that the back of the house faced the river and both these important structures would normally be in the backyard. If we find one, it could help point to the location of the other, since it would not be likely for them to both sit on the same side of the yard.

As the year grinds to an end, it is once again time to renew membership for the next year. Any dues paid from this point on will be for the 2014 calendar year. If you do not receive your newsletter via Email consider doing so. It greatly reduces the cost to the chapter, maximizing the impact of your dues.

Women had a hand in Ancient cave drawings, literally

A Penn State archeologist has floated an intriguing theory about ancient cave art. He thinks most of the artists were women. If true, it would upend long-held notions about cave paintings given that they often depict hunts and animals, and have been traditionally ascribed to ancient men, reports *National Geographic*. The new theory comes about from a relatively simple study: Dean Snow's team measured the fingers of stenciled hands found in caves throughout Europe and concluded that three-quarters of them belonged to women.

Generally speaking, women have ring and index fingers of about the same length, unlike men, and that turns out to be even more pronounced in our prehistoric ancestors, says Snow. In other words, he's positive that most of these hands belong to women. "There has been a male bias in the literature for a long time," he says. "People have made a lot of unwarranted assumptions about who made these things, and why." If it holds up, the research could change ideas about traditional gender roles in ancient societies.

What is this Object ?

Staple Dog

This device would be one of several you would have to use to hold a log steady while you used a broad ax and chisel ax to square the sides. A round log would initially be scored at intervals along its length with an adze and a broad or chisel ax would remove the rounded sides creating the squared beam with which a building could be constructed. Since the logs would have a tendency to roll, making the work difficult, staple dogs were driven into the side of the log being worked and another log running perpendicular to it. These were also used to clamp down a log while it was being milled or sawed. It was a simple tool, but one that was essential for constructing buildings which were level and stable.

**FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11
2014
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