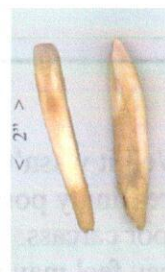




Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



Sept, 2012

SOCIETY FOR PENNSYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Frances Dorrance Chapter 11

Dr DeeAnne Wymer Will Present Talk on The Ceremonial Life of the Mound Builders

The September meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held at the Duryea municipal building, 311 Main St Duryea PA, at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday September 25th. The meeting is open to the public and the presentation is free of charge.

This past summer students from Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, under the direction of Dr. DeeAnne Wymer, Professor of Anthropology, were allowed the rare privilege of conducting test excavations at perhaps one of the most famous sites in North America. The Hopewell Site in Chillicothe Ohio, center of a vast earthwork complex, is recognized as one of the most unique and important sites in North America and offers a glimpse into the complicated and intriguing ritual lifeways of ancient America circa 2,000 years ago. This site is noteworthy for the burial mounds and materials recovered from those mounds in the late 1800s that served as the centerpiece of exhibits at the Chicago World's Fair celebrating the remarkable artwork and rituals of the native Americans of our continent. Their excavations took place directly outside the earthwork and helped uncover and document a remarkable encampment of the ancient peoples who built the earthworks and crafted special goods for ritual purposes. This presentation will reveal a glimpse into a unique lifeways and show the wondrous objects that were uncovered during the excavations.

Dr. Wymer's talk will be a rare opportunity to hear from an expert who has had the good fortune of being involved in a truly significant project in North American archaeology. We hope to see you there.

John B. Orlandini

We are sorry to announce the recent death of former chapter president and recent secretary, John Orlandini. John died September 5th after a 2 1/2 year courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a recipient of the coveted Archey award for his work in archaeology and was involved in the 1983 excavation of the Spring Hill woolly mammoth. His books "The Ancient Native Americans of the Wyoming Valley" and "Indians, Settlers and Forgotten Places in the Endless Mountains" are not only informative, but entertaining to read. John's passion for local history and prehistory was apparent to anyone who had the pleasure to meet him and his enthusiasm was not only obvious, it was infectious. He was involved with many other organizations such as the Luzerne County Historical Society, the Marine Corps League, Pittston River Fest, and the Mineralogical Society. These groups and our own will feel the loss of a dedicated and energetic worker, but most of all we will all miss the friendly smile and the stimulating conversation of a good and dear friend.

There is still plenty of good weather ahead. Everyone is welcome to visit the Con-rail Site to see first hand what we are doing there. Remember, you only have to dig if you want to. Stop by for a glimpse of archaeology in action

A horse! A horse! My Kingdom for a horse!

Well it wasn't a horse that Richard the III appears to have gotten. It is becoming increasingly possible that what he did get was thousands of automobiles parking over his poor carcass. Archaeologists in Leicester England have discovered the remains of who they feel may very well be the ill fated king immortalized by Shakespeare. The skeleton shows a man, killed in battle, with evidence of severe scoliosis. This would coincide with the historic description of a hunchbacked king, or as the Bard put it "deform'd, unfinish'd", killed at Bosworth Field in 1485. Discovered where Grey Friars Church is believed to have stood, the bones are being tested using DNA from a known descendent of the kings' older sister as a possible match. There is also a record that King Henry the VII, the victor at Bosworth Field, commissioned a memorial for Richard's grave in the choir or eastern portion of Grey Friars' Church in 1495. Digging in the parking lot began about a month ago behind the Leicester Council building after map regression studies and ground penetrating radar were used to pin point the most likely spot for the location of the ancient friary.

Answer to What is this Object

Pig incisor

The field of archaeology doesn't only deal with man made items. Biological evidence is also important to understanding the past. What did the people we are trying to understand eat? What sort of materials did they use to make containers or clothing? Did they have pets or for that matter did they have pests?

A simple thing like an identifiable tooth can go a long way to answering this sort of question. So what if you are not an animal physiologist, simple clues can lead to an easy search of the internet or field guide. The fact that this tooth was found along with obviously butchered bones made it a simple task to examine materials which showed various domesticated livestock teeth. A quick comparison led to a positive ID and the conclusion that these folks ate pork that was probably home grown.

FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11

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