



Can you identify this Object?

See the back for answer.



January, 2012

Hint: Metallic with some copper content. Scale shown is inches. Small holes in arc.

## Dominic Keating to Make a Presentation on the Early Tobacco Industry

Tobacco and the settlement of the New World go hand in hand. All students of American history are familiar with the role played by Sir Walter Raleigh and tobacco in encouraging the colonization of North America. As the settlers learned the art of growing this plant from the native population it quickly became the major cash crop of the English colonies. Tobacco has remained a large part of our country's economy from that time up to the present. Most people, however are unfamiliar with how the tobacco industry impacted our local economy and development. Our January presentation should prove to be an enlightening look at just how this industry affected our region and continues to do so to this day.

The January meeting of the Frances Dorrance Chapter of the Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology will be held at 7:00 PM at the Duryea municipal building 315 Main St Duryea Pa. on January 31st. The meeting open to members and the general public and there is no admission fee. Dominic Keating will be the guest speaker.

Mr. Keating is a life time resident of Dunmore, Pa. He is a graduate of the Scranton Preparatory School, College of Holy Cross and Dickinson School of Law. An employee of the Avanti Cigar Co. for 49 years he is the current president. Mr. Keating serves on two municipal authorities, Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Rail Authority and Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and does volunteer work at Steamtown National Historic Site and the Lackawanna County Historical Society.

### Elections, Artifact Labeling, and Dues

February is the time when we elect officers for the year and as a result we need to establish a slate of officers. Any one interested in serving the chapter as an officer or knows someone else that they would like to serve as an officer is requested to nominate them either at our January meeting or by mail (E or snail) prior to our February meeting. Officers must be members in good standing of the Society of Pennsylvania Archaeology.

This season also brings a need for volunteers to label artifacts from the 2011 excavation season at Coxtton. We are in good shape with our labeling, so it should only involve a few Sundays of work. Anybody that would like to help out is invited to contact Ted Baird at 842-2708 or tedbaird@verizon.net. We will teach you what needs to be done and would appreciate help for one session or all session. Labeling is usually done on Sundays 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Pan Cultural Associates Office in Pittston Pa. and will start sometime in February.

Just a reminder, the dues for our chapter of SPA for 2012 are now payable. Please renew your membership as soon as possible. Unpaid memberships are purged from our roles in March. As always, encourage your interested friends in joining us as members

If you are a surface collector or if you have an old family collection of artifacts make sure to document where they were found in a manner that will be clear to future generations. Once an artifact is picked up or moved it loses much of its importance if it is not documented. A little time taken means so much to the future.

## Pigs Tell a Different Story of the South Pacific

Scientists from Durham University and the University of Oxford, studying DNA and tooth shape in modern and ancient pigs, have revealed that, in direct contradiction to longstanding ideas, ancient human colonists may have originated in Vietnam and travelled between numerous islands before first reaching New Guinea, and later landing on Hawaii and French Polynesia. Using mitochondrial DNA obtained from modern and ancient pigs across East Asia and the Pacific, the researchers demonstrated that a single genetic heritage is shared by modern Vietnamese wild boar, modern feral pigs on the islands of Sumatra, Java, and New Guinea, ancient Lapita pigs in Near Oceania, and modern and ancient domestic pigs on several Pacific Islands. Archaeological evidence suggests that early farmers moved from mainland East Asia through Island Southeast Asia and on into Oceania, bringing their domestic plants, animals and specific pottery styles with them. Other sources of evidence, including human genetic and linguistic data, appear to support the traditional model that Pacific colonists first began their journey in Taiwan. Pigs are good swimmers, but not good enough to reach Hawaii. Given the distances between islands, pigs must have been transported and are thus excellent proxies of human movement. In this case, they have helped us open a new window into the history of human colonization of the Pacific. This research will inspire geneticists and archaeologists to consider both alternative colonization routes, and more complex, and perhaps more accurate, theories about the nature of human colonization and the animals they carried with them.

### Answer to what is this object

## Heel Plate, Shoe Cleat or Taps

This metal device is often made of brass or more currently steel. They can still be found usually in tap dancing shoes, but were common on street shoes well up into the 1960s. They were primarily a way of making a leather heel last longer. Much to the chagrin of school officials and teachers in the 1950's they were also popular with what were referred to as "greasers". They made a grand clicking sound in the locker lined hallways of schools which often resulted in their being banned by the dress codes. Of course their use dates to well before this time. Commonly called cleats, they were not cleats in the sense that they were used to increase traction. Some early heel plates, instead of just covering the wear points of the heel, covered the entire heel and had designs on them that would leave an imprint in the dirt covered walkways of the old days. Calvary men favored star designs and "working girls" favored hearts. Advertising has always paid off.

FRANCES DORRANCE CHAPTER 11

2012

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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