



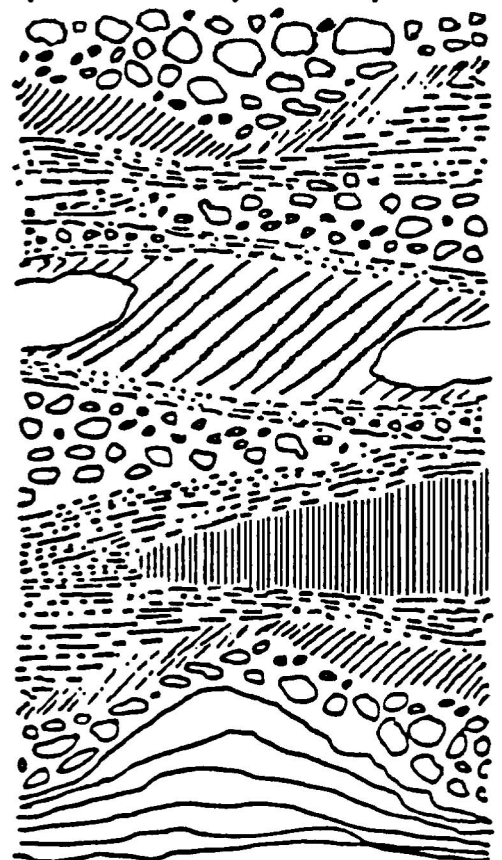
*Symposium on the*

# **ARCHAEOLOGY of NEW YORK CITY**

## **The History and Archaeology of the World Trade Center Ship**

32nd Annual PANYC Public Program  
Museum of the City of New York  
Sunday, April 22, 2012

*open to the general public*



Professional Archaeologists of New York City, Inc. (PANYC) is a non-profit organization of local professional archaeologists concerned with conserving and protecting the archaeological and historical resources of New York City and educating the community about our cultural heritage.

We would like to thank all those who made this year's PANYC Public Program possible. As always, we extend our thanks to the Museum of the City of New York and its staff, for co-sponsoring this year's public program, especially Laura Bintzer, Program Manager. We also thank the Port Authority of NY and NJ, Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, AKRF, Inc., Arnold Pickman, Shelly Spritzer, Kelly Britt, and Lynn Rakos for their assistance with the program. Thank you also to the speakers. We look forward to seeing you all again next year and please consider membership in the museum.

Please visit our website: [www.PANYCarchaeology.org](http://www.PANYCarchaeology.org)

# The History and Archaeology of the World Trade Center Ship

32nd Annual PANYC Public Program  
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*April 22, 2012*

**1:00**

**Diane Dallal, AKRF, Inc.**

[Opening Remarks and Welcome](#)

**1:10 – 1:25**

**A. Michael Pappalardo, RPA, AKRF, Inc.**

[Discovery of a Ship at the World Trade Center](#)

As part of the rebuilding effort, AKRF has been providing environmental Services at the World Trade Center to the Port Authority and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation since 2004. After determining that the two blocks south of the WTC were sensitive for 18th and 19th century landfilling features, AKRF archaeologists prepared and implemented a monitoring plan. The most exciting discovery made during three years of intermittent monitoring was the WTC Ship, the remains of a late 18th century wooden vessel discovered on what was once the Hudson River bed, beneath 15 feet of historic landfill.

**1:25 – 1:40**

**Elizabeth D. Meade, RPA, AKRF, Inc.**

[A River Ran Through It: the Historical Context of the World Trade Center Site](#)

From its dramatic transformation from open water to a hub of the city's maritime industry and finally to one of the world's most prominent commercial centers, the World Trade Center site has had a rich and varied history. This talk will describe the history of the site, focusing on the history of landfilling along the shores of the Hudson River and the individuals who owned and first developed the newly-created land.

**1:40-1:55**

**Carrie Atkins Fulton, Cornell University**

[The World Trade Center Ship in 3-D: Digital Recording Techniques and Construction Details](#)

The timbers of the WTC Ship have much to offer about late 18th-century shipbuilding. Therefore, good recording techniques are vital in order to accurately study the ship. This presentation will highlight

new digital recording procedures and discuss the components of the hull in the order it was likely built. The timbers were recorded using traditional approaches to measuring alongside stereoscopic photography that can be used to create digital, three-dimensional models of each timber. Because these models preserve a high level of detail, this information will provide important data for researchers as they continue to unlock the mysteries of the construction and function of this late 18th-century vessel.

**1:55-2:10**

**Anne-Marie Cantwell, Ph.D., Rutgers University**

[Alexander Nazaryan](#)

The Professional Archaeologists of New York City Special Award For Outstanding Contributions Made by a Non-Archaeologist to New York City Archaeology.

**2:10 – 2:25**

**Molly McDonald, RPA, AKRF, Inc.**

[Dendrochronology and the World Trade Center Ship: What Tree Rings Reveal about the Vessel and its Context](#)

While so much of archaeological analysis involves interpretation and conjecture, dendrochronology offers a rare opportunity to access relatively precise and definitive information about the past. AKRF archaeologists and their colleagues made use of this tool at the World Trade Center site, taking timber samples from both the ship and the wood wharves and landfill retaining structures that surrounded it. Analysis performed by the Tree Ring Lab at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory allowed archaeologists to identify an approximate date for the ship's construction as well as a building chronology for the surrounding shoreline structures. Tree Ring analysis and wood species identification yielded other surprising clues regarding the origin of the ship, its method of construction, and how long it may have been afloat. In some cases, the dendrochronology confirmed archaeologist's initial interpretations, while in others it has prompted revisions to our original theories and pointed towards new and unexpected avenues for further research.

**2:25-2:40**

**Diane Dallal, RPA, AKRF, Inc.**

[A Ship Buried in Landfill: Considering Artifacts from the Site](#)

To maximize data recovery during the documentation and disassembly of the WTC Ship, archaeologists water screened the soil around, above, below and between the timbers. A number of ship-related objects were recovered as well as a surprising amount of 18th century ammunition — bird shot, grapeshot, buckshot and musket balls — and a pewter button from the uniform of a member of the British 52nd Regiment of Foot stationed in America during the Revolutionary War. Botanical and faunal remains were also present. Were these artifacts the remnants of life aboard ship or were they simply trash that had accumulated as part of the landfilling process?

**2:30**

[Questions and Answers](#)