



Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State

By Richard F. Veit

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When people think of archaeology, they commonly think of unearthing the remains of ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece, Rome, Central or South America. But some fascinating history can be found in your own New Jersey backyard ¾ if you know where to look.

Richard Veit takes readers on a well-organized guided tour through four hundred years of Garden State development as seen through archaeology in *Digging New Jerseys Past*. This illustrated guidebook takes readers to some of the states most interesting discoveries and tells us what has been learned or is being learned from them. The diverse array of archaeological sites, drawn from all parts of the state, includes a seventeenth-century Dutch trading post, the site of the Battle of Monmouth, the gravemarkers of freed slaves, and a 1920s railroad roundhouse, among others.

Veit begins by explaining what archaeologists do: How do they know where to dig? What sites are likely to yield important information? How do archaeologists excavate a site? How are artifacts cataloged, stored, and interpreted? He then moves through the states history, from the contact of first peoples and explorers, to colonial homesteads, Revolutionary War battlefields, cemeteries, railroads, and factories. Veit concludes with some thoughts about the future of archaeological research in New Jersey and with suggestions on ways that interested individuals can become involved in the field.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

When people think of archaeology, they commonly think of unearthing the remains of ancient civilizations in Egypt, Greece, Rome, Central or South America. But some fascinating history can be found in your own New Jersey backyard -- if you know where to look.

Richard Veit takes readers on a well-organized guided tour through four hundred years of Garden State development as seen through archaeology in *Digging New Jersey's Past*. This illustrated guidebook takes readers to some of the state's most interesting buried treasures and tells us what has been learned or is being learned from them. The diverse array of archaeological digs, drawn from all parts of the state, includes a seventeenth-century Dutch trading post, the site of the Battle of Monmouth, the gravemarkers of freed slaves, and a 1920s railroad roundhouse, among others.

Veit begins with an explanation of the basic techniques used by historical archaeologists. He explains how they know where to dig and what sites are likely to yield important information. He then describes excavation techniques: How do archaeologists go about excavating a site? What happens to artifacts after they have been removed? How are they cataloged, stored, and interpreted?

The book then moves through the state's history, from the contact of first peoples and explorers, to colonial homesteads, the Revolutionary War battlefields cemeteries, canals and railroads, factories and laboratories of early inventors. Such excavations help us to better understand poorly documented historic episodes, the lives of disenfranchised people, and the realities of day-to-day life in the past. Veit concludes with some thoughts about the future of archaeological research in New Jersey and with suggestions on ways that interested individuals can become involved in the field.

About the Author

Richard Veit is an assistant professor in the department of history and anthropology at Monmouth University and the director of the university's Center for New Jersey History.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Vera Pinckney:

This Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is actually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State without we understand teach the one who looking at it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't end up being worry Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' come to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even telephone. This Digging New Jersey's Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State having very good arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

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