

# CAPE ANN Museum

## ***Indigenous Perspectives on Archaeology Panel at Cape Ann Museum, part of larger programs and displays***

*Programs and displays through July 2022*

GLOUCESTER, MASS. (March 2022) – To better tell the continuing story of life on Cape Ann and in the region, the Cape Ann Museum has updated and expanded its exhibition of artifacts related to Indigenous peoples who inhabited the area. The exhibition includes pieces from the Museum’s own collection and from the collection of the Annisquam Historical Society.

The updates were made in connection with an upcoming panel discussion on Saturday, April 16 at 1:00 PM titled ***Indigenous Perspectives on Archaeology*** featuring Linda Coombs, author and historian from the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah); David Weeden, THPO/Director of the Tribal Historic Preservation Department for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; and Eric Lott, archaeologist and board member of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society at the Robbins Museum of Archaeology. To register for this program, please call 978-283-0455 or visit [capeannmuseum.org](http://capeannmuseum.org).

Archaeological evidence dates the first known human activity in this region to at least 10,500 to 11,000 years ago. The oldest known site of Native people on the New England coast is the Bull Brook site, dated to about 11,000 years ago and located in modern-day Ipswich. More recently, and at the time of European contact, people who came to be known as the Pawtucket lived here, first on a seasonal basis and later in permanent agricultural villages. Native people continue to live across the Commonwealth today.

When French explorer Samuel de Champlain surveyed the coast of Cape Ann in 1604 and 1606, he observed signs of permanent settlement; he also encountered “two hundred savages.” Champlain’s map of Cape Ann, on display here, along with archaeological artifacts like those exhibited here, are among the few archival remains from this early period. Deeds from the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and records of the Dorchester Company also provide important information about early and disastrous encounters between English colonizers and Native Americans.

The artifacts displayed here were collected by amateur archaeologist N. Carleton Phillips. Between 1930 and 1941, Phillips and a team of assistants explored known and suspected archaeological sites across Cape Ann. Their efforts resulted in an extensive collection of artifacts including pottery shards, and stones sharpened into a variety of shapes for different purposes including fishing, hunting and food preparation. From Phillips’ collection, important assumptions can be made about the living patterns and daily lives of Native Americans on Cape Ann and throughout coastal New England. In addition to pieces

found by Phillips, also on display here are artifacts unearthed in the Annisquam neighborhood of Gloucester and placed with the Annisquam Historical Society.

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*The Cape Ann Museum, founded in 1875, exists to preserve and celebrate the history and culture of the area and to keep it relevant to today's audiences. Spanning 44,000 square feet, the Museum is one of the major cultural institutions on Boston's North Shore welcoming more than 25,000 local, national, and international visitors each year to its exhibitions and programs. In addition to fine art, the Museum's collections include decorative art, textiles, artifacts from the maritime and granite industries, three historic homes, a Library & Archives and a sculpture park in the heart of downtown Gloucester. In Summer 2021, the Museum opened the 12,000 square foot Janet & William Ellery James Center at the [Cape Ann Museum Green](#). The campus also includes three historic buildings – the White-Ellery House (1710), the recently acquired Babson-Alling House (c.1740), and an adjacent Barn (c. 1740), all located on the site at the intersection of Washington and Poplar Streets in Gloucester. CAM Green will re-open in the spring.*

*The Cape Ann Museum is located at 27 Pleasant Street in Gloucester and is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 Cape Ann residents, seniors, and students. Youth (under 18) and Museum members are free. Cape Ann residents can visit for free on the second Saturday of each month. For more information please call (978)283-0455 x110 or visit [www.capeannmuseum.org](http://www.capeannmuseum.org). For a detailed media fact sheet please visit [www.capeannmuseum.org/press](http://www.capeannmuseum.org/press).*

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