



YARMOUTH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# Yarmouth's Rich Archaeological History

## STONE AGE TOOL.....



This miniature stone adze dates to 3500BP and is believed to be a toy.

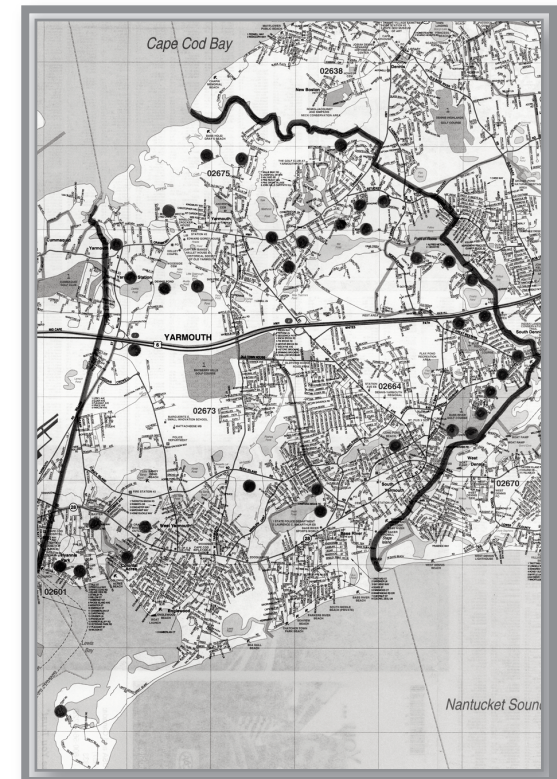


Representation of how the miniature stone adze may have been hafted.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....

*Caring for our history is the goal of the Town's Historical Commission and nonprofit groups like the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth and the Taylor-Bray Farm Preservation Association. This work is supported by the people of Yarmouth whose tax dollars fund the Community Preservation grants which protect historic resources and contribute to the quality of life for those who live here.*

Thanks to Pat Tafrá for her graphic designs and production of the informative brochures and posters for this exhibit.



General locations of some archaeological finds in Yarmouth.

---

***The Town of Yarmouth, which has its roots in the early years of Plymouth Colony, is planning special events throughout the year 2020 as part of the Plymouth 400th anniversary commemorations.***

A key part of town history is the well-established presence of Native peoples, a story reflected in the town's rich archaeological record beginning 10,000 years ago.

Wampanoag Federation tribes living in Yarmouth at the time of European contact included the Pawkunnawkuts on both sides of the lower Bass River, the Hokanums in what is now northeastern Yarmouth, and the Cummaquids in what is now western Yarmouth. In the Wôpanâak language, the Yarmouth area was called "Mattacheese" (see Town Seal) which in the native tongue means "old lands by the border of water".

**TOWN HALL ARCHAEOLOGY EXHIBIT.....**

Important aspects of the town's past are reflected in this exhibit of Native and Colonial artifacts unearthed during community archaeological digs from 2010 to 2017 at the town owned Taylor-Bray Farm in Yarmouth

Port. The recovery of several thousand artifacts have begun to tell the story of the Native peoples who lived at the farm site on a seasonal basis going back millennia. Artifact discoveries include projectile points, knives, drills, scrapers and other stone tools. These objects help us appreciate what Native people's lives entailed on a day-to-day basis when it came to farming, fishing, hunting, trading and collecting food.

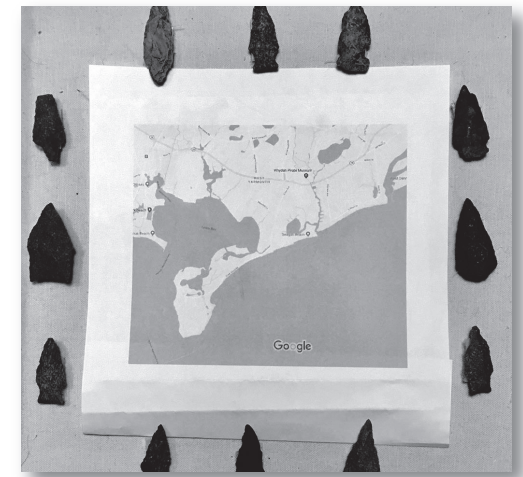
**THE COLONIAL PAST.....**

Archaeologists have located the original 17th century homesite of Richard and Ruth Taylor, the first of seven generations of Taylors who lived at the farm. Excavations of the site produced an amazing array of household artifacts ranging from the practical to more finer goods reflective of a middle income colonial family.

**ARTIFACT DONATIONS.....**

Our exhibit includes a collection of projectile points [5500-1000BP] discovered in West Yarmouth in the 1970s and donated to the Yarmouth Historical Commission. Donations such as these add important information and perspective on where Native peoples congregated in Mattacheese over the millennia.

If you have discovered archaeological artifacts in Yarmouth, please reach out to the Historical Commission(508-398-2231 X 1292)and we will help you identify the artifacts. Though the Commission appreciates donations, you do not have to donate your artifacts for us to assist with their identification.



12 of the 22 West Yarmouth points donated to the Town.

**ARCHAEOLOGY IDENTIFICATION DAY.....**

Craig Chartier is the archaeologist who has led the meticulous digs at the Taylor-Bray Farm producing breakthrough discoveries about the original early 1640s Taylor family settlement as well as confirming ancient Native peoples activities.

Mr. Chartier will be at the Farm on Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 1:00 – 2:00 PM to answer questions about artifacts you have discovered.

To estimate how many people are interested in talking with Mr. Chartier, please email a photo of your artifacts and indicate where they were found to Jack Duggan at: [jack@taylorbrafarm.org](mailto:jack@taylorbrafarm.org).