

Title:

Merchants, Masters, and Servants: The History and Archaeology of Social and Economic Relationships on Smuttynose Island in the 17th Century.

Abstract:

While the popular perception of the Isles of Shoals, a small archipelago located six miles offshore of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, is that of a refuge for rogues, renegades, and apostates, the inhabitants of the Isles were, in fact, a key node in a complex web of unequal social, economic, and political relationships. These included not only the fishing masters who called the Isles of Shoals home but also their fishing servants and merchants from mainland ports such as Ipswich and Salem, located in the Massachusetts Bay colony. This presentation presents the results of nearly two decades of research using historical records and archaeological excavation to examine these relationships in a new light. Archaeology has shown the role of commensurate politics and conspicuous consumption in labor and trade negotiations, while a re-examination of court and probate records illustrates not only the uphill challenges faced by the **Isles of Shoals fishing masters but also highlights the differences between a fishing master and one of his fishing servants. Together, these lines of evidence present the Isles of Shoals not as a den of outcasts and refugees from the mainland but as a small but important part of a trans-Atlantic economic network that turned New England fish into continental products such as wine, wool, and luxury foods.**

**About the Author:**

Arthur R. Clausnitzer Jr., Ph.D., is a historical archaeologist specializing in early modern New England, particularly the role of cod fisheries in the settlement of New England and the development of a distinctly New England lifestyle. Art graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 2008 before earning his master's degree in 2011 and his doctorate in 2018, both from Memorial University of Newfoundland. Besides working in every New England state north of, and including, Massachusetts, Art has participated in digs in Newfoundland, Canada, and Ireland, with some of the more noticeable sites being the Rebecca Nurse Homestead in Danvers, Massachusetts, the Isles of Shoals in Portsmouth, NH, and Kittery, ME, and the Colony of Avalon in Ferryland, Newfoundland, Canada. Art currently works as a **historical archaeologist and serves as a principal investigator for the Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc., based in Farmington.**

