



Frank L. Cowan

August 15, 1951 - August 11, 2020

CANAAN – It is with sadness that the family of our brother, father, and friend, Dr. Frank Locklin Cowan, PhD., passed away on August 11, 2020.

The eldest child of Frederick and Joan (Locklin) Cowan of Canaan, VT, Frank was born on August 15, 1951, beginning a lifelong fascination with the history left behind by others.

After a brief detour as a Colorado ski instructor and a logger in Alaska, Frank completed his degree in anthropology at the University of Vermont while helping to unearth Abenaki settlements in nearby Winooski. He met his wife, Lyn Kraus, a fellow archaeologist, during their time with the Center for American Archeology in Kampsville, IL. They later moved to Rochester, NY, where their daughter Brit was born, and then to Buffalo, NY, where Frank completed his MA and PhD from SUNY Buffalo before becoming a professor of anthropology at Loyola University in Chicago.

After Lyn's untimely death following a long battle with cancer, Frank and Brit relocated to Cincinnati, OH, where he worked as the curator of anthropology for the Cincinnati Museum Center and participated in archaeological excavations throughout the Ohio River Valley. He was particularly proud of his work with the Hopewell Mound Group and the Stubbs Earthworks sites, 2000-year-old Native American settlements from the Middle Woodland Period. An

expert flintknapper, Frank also contributed to a Cambridge University study on the relationship between stone tools and the origins of percussion music.

In recent years he returned to Canaan to care for his aging parents where he continued editing various archaeological publications and remained involved in the Vermont Archaeological Society.

Frank is survived by his daughter, Brit Cowan of New York City, along with siblings Stephanie Bellomo, MD, of Jericho, VT; Jonathan Cowan of Bethel, ME; and Timothy Cowan of Vergennes, VT. He is predeceased by his wife, Lyn, and his parents, Fred and Joan.

Condolences may be offered to the family on-line by going to www.jenkinsnewman.com.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the care of Jenkins & Newman Funeral Home, Colebrook, NH.

Cemetery Details

Canaan Village Cemetery

Christian Hill Road, VT Route 253
Canaan, VT

Tribute Wall

EZ

“ It is still very hard to believe that Frank died 3 years ago. I think of him and all the questions that we had for each other. I still have questions for him---archaeological, professional, and personal . Rest in peace my friend; Ezra

Ezra Zubrow - October 08, 2023 at 01:28 PM

MS

“ I decided to Google the names of some old friends and came upon Frank's obituary. I am very sad to learn of his passing. We were roommates while working for the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology in Kampsville on the FAP 408 project. I was with Frank when he met Lyn and he first initiated what would be a budding and life long romance. I feel bad for not keeping in touch with him over the years, but he will be fondly remembered.
Mark Sant - Silver Star, Montana

Mark Sant - September 02, 2022 at 11:49 AM

KS

“ So very sorry to hear of Frank's passing. I knew him while I was working in Buffalo for the Buffalo Museum of Science. Frank was one of most knowledgeable, friendliest, most inspiring, and easiest-going of our colleagues in Buffalo. I hadn't realized that he had passed until today. My condolences to all of his family. He was such a wonderful, great guy.

Kevin Smith - October 01, 2020 at 04:57 PM

MW

“ Had the pleasure of getting to know Frank a bit back in the mid 1990s when he was at the Cincinnati Museum. Really good guy, relentlessly positive about things. I'm sorry to say we lost touch over the years when I moved westward. As my move west was pending Frank regaled me with his "ski bum" days. My condolences to his family. Mark Warner, Idaho

Mark Warner - September 14, 2020 at 06:29 PM

BW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Betty Wilson - September 12, 2020 at 01:21 PM

BW

This photo was taken in downtown Cincinnati one sunny day after/before (?) Frank (and others) watched a baseball game at the stadium.

Betty Wilson - September 12, 2020 at 02:21 PM

BW

“ Frank was every bit as kind, patient, thoughtful, and generous as he was brilliant. So, dear Brit, Stephanie, Jon, Tim—and all other of your kin—please except my heartfelt condolence at this time of unimaginable loss.

In 2005, my friendship with Frank began. We met as he led the excavation of the “ Stubbs Earthworks” site in Southwestern Ohio. I was one of the many volunteers he taught to glean archaeological data from post molds and the ashes of ancient fires.

We spent lots of time together, but eventually, job offers caused each of us to except positions far away from Ohio and in two different states. As the years passed, we still kept in touch. I’m so glad our final, early August emails were especially lighthearted. I’ll miss him always.

Betty Wilson

Betty Wilson - September 12, 2020 at 12:57 PM

KP

“ I was saddened to hear of Frank's passing. Frank was such a good friend. I don't have how many miles he and I walked on snowy winter nights. We often ended up at the Spa Restraunt. In those days they served homemade bread. We would order homemade toast with peanut butter and a cup of tea.



When we both worked at Jackson's Lodge he patiently tired - with no luck - to teach me to play chess.

And, of course, I have such happy memories of his portrayal of David to my Lisa in the school play.

We were able to connect overlunch when I was in Cincinnati on busiiness. And I am so glad he attended the class reunion last year. Although Frank did not graduate from CMHS, he was a member of our class.

My heartfelt sympathy to the family. He will be missed and fondly remembered for a long time to come.

Krista Bunnell Perry

Krista A Perry - August 30, 2020 at 12:29 PM

BW

“ To all of you in the Cowan family: Thinkingi of you as I always am. In fact, not having talked with Frank since the lockdowns, I literally was just about to phone him to see how things were going in Canaan.

Then, I saw yesterdays Chronicle notice.

Blessings and strength to you all once again!

May Frank, your brother, Rest in Peace. Bren, Brunswick VT

Brendan J. Whittaker - August 29, 2020 at 08:28 PM

KI

“ Taffy, Jon and Tim and families:
Please accept my deepest and sincerest condolences. Frank was a fellow student with my oldest sister Catha; and all of the other Cowan siblings were the same ages as the rest of of Hughes kids, so we share many memories. I remember Frank as a kind hearted-soul with a warm smile and an infectious laugh. To be sure he will be missed greatly in your family. I am so sorry for your loss.
Karen Hughes Irvine

Karen Irvine - August 29, 2020 at 11:16 AM

TL

“ Frank was incredibly patient, kind and engaging as our production team documented some of his archaeological investigations for the Ohio Archaeology book. I was struck by his infectious passion when describing the discovery of Stubbs Earthworks in Ohio, his reverence for ancient American Indian cultures, and his deep appreciation of all knowledge. His work will inspire future generations, forever. Tom Law, President, Voyageur Media Group, Inc.



Tom Law - August 28, 2020 at 02:20 PM

LH

“ Please accept my heartfelt sympathy and condolences. Frank was such a kind and gentle person, and a wonderful archaeologist. I will very much miss him.
Lynn Hanson

Lynn Hanson - August 26, 2020 at 10:59 AM

RG

“ Frank was a breath of fresh air when he came to the Cincinnati Museum Center in 1996. Always a smile and that wicked laugh. He was a damned good archaeologist and a better friend. I know you hear people say so-and-so was the "nicest person in the world", but Frank was. He would do anything for anyone. Miss ya Frank!

*Bob Genheimer
Curator of Archaeology
Cincinnati Museum Center*

Robert A Genheimer - August 26, 2020 at 09:33 AM

CJ

“ *Taffy, Jon, Tim and families,
We were so saddened to learn today of Frank’s passing. We had a couple of nice conversations with Frank and your mom when she was still alive, but I hadn’t seen Frank since Joan’s celebration of life.*

Please accept our sincerest condolences, and apologies for not keeping track and knowing sooner. Frank was a good person. My heart goes out to you all!

Connie Jackson - August 25, 2020 at 08:38 PM