

## Christopher L. Nagle Obituary

Christopher L. Nagle, a North American archaeologist who specialized in lithic analysis, GIS, and archeometry, and did his most important work in the Arctic, passed away on March 30, 2017. Chris died from complications resulting from a brain diminishing disorder that went undiagnosed for decades.

Chris grew up in Pennsylvania and graduated from Central Bucks High School in 1968. He attended Brown University, graduating in 1972 with a BA in anthropology, archaeology, and statistics. His graduate work at Brandeis University supervised by George Cowgill stimulated his career focus in archaeological informatics and led to his 1984 dissertation, "Lithic Raw Materials Procurement and Exchange in Dorset Culture Along the Labrador Coast." This cutting-edge analysis of Dorset culture trade and exchange of Ramah chert and soapstone along an 800-mile Labrador coast is one of the most detailed applications of "down-the-line" exchange models in archaeology. The study was based on quantitative metrics and weight analysis of chipped stone tools and debitage, and chemical trace element analyses of steatite lamps and cooking vessels. He was the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, including a postdoctoral fellowship in materials analysis at the Smithsonian Institution's Conservation Analytical Laboratory (now Museum Conservation Institute).

Chris began his archaeology career in Alaska before transitioning to work with William Fitzhugh in Labrador, Canada. He was a key member of the 1977-78 Torngat Archaeological Project, a joint Bryn Mawr College-Smithsonian Institution archaeological survey of central and northern Labrador. In the 1980s he focused on archaeological and archaeometric studies of soapstone, chert, and nephrite artifacts, and conducted field and laboratory studies identifying their geological sources. With chemist Ralph O. Allen he published papers on rare earth element analysis of Labrador soapstone quarries and identified the likely source of a Dorset lamp found in the Norse smithy at the L'Anse aux Meadows site in Newfoundland. Following his Torngat Project work he organized the first computerization of the Smithsonian's anthropology collections. In the 1990s Chris began doing cultural resource management fieldwork in the mid-Atlantic region as well.

Throughout the early part of his career Chris taught archaeology, GIS, quantitative methods, and computer applications courses at a number of institutions, including Catholic University, University of Maryland at College Park, and Georgetown University. He was equally comfortable working with undergraduates and graduate students, and assisting faculty, administrators, researchers, and budget managers, for whom he custom-designed, ran, and managed computer and statistical programs.

In the late 1980s Chris began to lead a peripatetic life, which at the time family, friends, and close colleagues found inexplicable, but is now understood as early symptoms of his increasingly debilitating brain disease. In 1998, upon the birth of his son Robert, he became an extremely proud and devoted father who, over the years, regaled friends with stories of his son's achievements.

In addition to adjunct teaching, in 1989 he was employed as a computer analyst by the Federal Aviation Administration and from 1990-1992 as senior statistical consultant at University of Maryland College Park. He did cultural resource management work for Dames & Moore from 1992-93. Between 1995 and 2003 Chris served as the Manager of Network Integration Services and Academic Technology/GIS Coordinator at Georgetown University. From 2003-2008 he operated Nagle Research, a consulting firm, before moving to Arizona where his former Brandeis colleague, Jeffrey Autschul employed him as a project director and senior lithic analyst at Statistical Research, Inc. In 2010 he returned to the mid-Atlantic region, settling in Virginia.

Christopher Lippincott Nagle was born December 5, 1950. He was predeceased by his parents Robert E. Nagle and Ruth L. Nagle, and by his ex-wife Ann Rebecca Myles. He is survived by his son Robert Nagle, stepdaughter Elise Hoffman, twin brother Malcolm Nagle, sister Suzi Hesse, and first wife Greta Hansen. He spent the last two years of his life in the home of his loving caregiver Sandra Scott and her family who valiantly sought to reconnect him with some of his friends, colleagues, and family.

Chris will be remembered as a rigorous and innovative researcher who understood the mechanics of lithic production and the growing array of statistical and analytic techniques required to study them. His background ensured these methods and the results of analyses were grounded in sound anthropological theory. His friends and close colleagues remember him as a gentle, fun, and generous person whose good humor, harmonica playing, and singing enlivened many a gathering be it in living rooms, boat fo'castles, or fishing shacks along the Labrador coast.