

# VAS NEWSLETTER

④  
NUMBER 4, JANUARY 1971

PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY BY THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## CALL FOR DUES!

Happy New Year! Do you have any money left after paying the Christmas bills, and before you calculate your income tax return for 1970? Somehow, the call for dues, which should have been sent out to the members prior to July 1, 1970 was overlooked. Please fill out your dues form (enclosed with this NEWSLETTER), write a check as instructed on the bottom of the form, and send it back right away. We'll send you your 1970/71 membership card with the next issue of the NEWSLETTER. By the way, do you know anyone in your neighborhood who would like to be, or should be, a member of VAS? We have just printed up a new batch of application forms and we'll be glad to send you as many as you need.

## VAS SEARCH FOR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HITS PAY DIRT!

For more than a year, the members of the Board of Trustees of VAS have realized that one great drawback to efficient operation of the Society was the lack of a director who would be available to do all the things that need doing, at the time they should be done. All the members of the Board, and consequently its officers, devote full time to their regular occupations and professions and try to sandwich in the duties of the Society in their spare time.

Many older societies similar to the VAS are wealthy enough to have operational budgets that include a director and a headquarters staff. A good example of this is the Vermont Historical Society, whose day to day business is supervised ably by Charles Morrissey (who also happens to be Vice President of the Vermont Archaeological Society). VAS funds to date have barely managed to pay the cost of our publications and office supplies, as well as a welcoming cocktail this year at the annual meeting. (See, you should have come!) The specifications we wrote for the job of VAS Director seemed to all of us nearly impossible to fulfill.

We were looking for someone intellectually and physically capable of running the Society, its many board and general meetings, of travelling about the state as necessary, and editing the Society's publications. In addition, we wanted someone with a deep and abiding interest in the aims and purposes of the Society. Most important of all, our candidate would have to be able to do a demanding job on a volunteer basis. Believe it or not, through the help of one of our newer members, Maurice Crandall of Springfield, we found, as one member put it, "our pigeon".

George Leitch doesn't mind the appellation though. He knows full well that he is taking on a big job. More to the point, he

admirably fulfills every aspect of his position description and then some. George is presently a resident of Springfield; he and his wife, Sandy, summer at their home in the Heroes. You see, he already covers the state. George Leitch is retired from the machine tool industry in Springfield; he worked there as well as with many steel companies around the nation as a metallurgist. His attitude of professionalism and competence extend, however, to many other areas of interest to archaeologists, including geology. In fact, just try to find something he isn't interested in, including cooking and playing the part of a good host.

Little by little, the operational aspects of the VAS will be shifted from the office of your President to that of the Director. George is already active, and you may reach him (during the winter months) at 17 East Lane, Springfield, VT 05156. WELCOME ABOARD!

### ARCHAEOLOGY'S WIDE HORIZONS - THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VAS

The theme of the third annual meeting is ascribed by Doug Egeland in his report following. Those of you who attended the meeting (about 45) probably remember the meeting motto sported on a pin by President Joseph Popecki. If you missed it, we've reproduced it at left. This one is hand made; how would you like one of your own to wear?

**VAS**  
**happiness**  
**is a hole in**  
**the ground**

Featured at the Third Annual Meeting of the Vermont Archaeological Society were three fine speakers, who's informative lectures brought us to a better understanding of the multiformity of archaeological work.

Captain David E. Mize delivered the morning paper on underwater archaeology. At the present time, Captain Mize is concentrating his work in the Lake Champlain region. His is a comparatively new field of archaeology, but one of great importance to the historical past of Vermont.

Underwater archaeological work utilizes, as the Captain pointed out, quite a different method of recovery and preservation of artifacts than we are familiar with in land archaeology. Since he is dealing with more recent history he is able to research the "wrecks" he discovers and often can establish his own theory about an historical event through his findings. His illustrated lecture concentrated on one such event during the French and Indian War and helped us all see a piece of history reconstructed.

After lunch we were taken from the cold depths of New England's Lake Champlain, on an archaeologist's eye-view tour of the Mediterranean area.

Thanks to Professor Jean Davison's contagious enthusiasm, the audience enjoyed an educational lecture on the Professor's work and inquiries, not only in some well known areas of the Mediterranean, but also some equally interesting, lesser known sections.

She brought our attention to both the advantages and the disadvantages of excavating in the more arid countries. She illustrated the diversities in art, architecture and culture of the various civilizations and gave a wealth of information on the different types of burials during several periods in history. Her learned discourse brought us all closer to the mythological and historical residents of ancient Greece.

After dinner we were both entertained and enlightened by Miss R. Carol Barnes who spoke on a subject near to our hearts. She discussed her amateur archaeological group, its organization and its work.

She centered her talk on the group's excavation of the Wapannucket 8 and Bear Swamp sites in Massachusetts. Not only did she include much technical information about management, methods, equipment, data recording, etc., but she offered many suggestions as to what social and organizational aspects were important to establishing and maintaining an effective society.

This talk was singularly important to our Society because we are still in our formative years and her topic was in our area of concern, land archaeology in the Northeastern United States. It is regrettable that more members of the Society were not able to attend the meeting to hear this talk and to participate in the worthwhile question and answer period afterward.

Douglas G. Egeland  
14 Pine Street  
Windsor, VT 05089

P.S. We hope Carol will re-write her talk as a forthcoming VAS Monograph.

BFP 15 SEP 1970  
Archaeologists  
To Meet Friday

BOLTON — The Vermont Archaeological Society will hold its third annual meeting at the Bolton Valley Lodge Friday.

Papers and talks will be presented by Ruth Barnes, instructor in anthropology, Rhode Island College, Lt. David Mize, underwater archaeologist, and Jean Davidson, professor of classical history at the University of Vermont. Miss Barnes will be the speaker at the dinner scheduled for 7 p.m.

The Society has 165 members, most of whom are amateur archaeologists. There are members in 12 of Vermont's 14 counties, in eight states and in two foreign countries.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Guests are welcome for the entire day's program. Reservations are necessary for the banquet.

## Archaeological Society Reelects Top Officers

BFP 26 SEP 1970

BOLTON — Joseph T. Popecki was elected to a third term as president of the Vermont Archaeological Society at the annual meeting at Bolton Valley Lodge. Popecki is director of libraries at St. Michael's College.

Also continuing in office will be Charles Morrissey as vice president, director of the Vermont Historical Society, and Durwood J. Smith as treasurer, professor of pharmacology at the University of Vermont. Inez Harlow, town clerk of Putney, was named secretary by the Board of Trustees.

Three vacancies on the Board of Trustees were filled by Kenneth Varney, associate agronomist at UVM, Inez Harlow of Putney and Ralph N. Hill, a Burlington author.

During the business session plans were discussed for the acquisition of museum space for archaeological exhibits, the establishment of a regional leadership to encourage local excavation and educational programs, a continuing publica-

tions program, and the initiation of a speaker's bureau available to schools and fraternal organizations.

Other members of the Board of Trustees not mentioned in the Free Press report are H.N. Muller, Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UVM (and former Secretary of VAS), Ralph Roberts, one of the Society's founders and presently a graduate student, and Dr. M. C. Twitchell, a Burlington ophthalmologist and VAS pioneer.

At each annual meeting of the membership, the Board of Trustees must meet to examine the report of the Nominations Committee and attend to other essential business. In the latter capacity it meets several times during the year and at various locations around the state. According to the Constitution and By-Laws of the VAS, three new board members are elected each year to replace three whose terms expire; a board member may be renominated and re-elected, however. From its own membership, the Board elects the Society officers for the year. The results of that election are reported in the Burlington Free Press clipping above.

In addition to its prime business, the Board heard the reports of officers and committee chairmen. It deferred the specification of the year's program to a subsequent board meeting to be held in November. (The report of the November 4 meeting is given below.)

Dr. Durwood Smith, Treasurer and Chairman of the Museum Committee, reported on the progress of a project to find a place for the VAS

to exercise its energies and gain experience in the museum aspect of archaeology. Slides illustrated a report of a meeting between the Committee and the Vermont Board of Historic Sites, which governs the Chimney Point Tavern site. The meeting was attended by Dr. Smith, Ken Varney, Joe Popecki, and Charles Morrissey, who was present also as a member of the VBHS. The fundamental question of a cooperative venture between the two groups was approved by all and a motion called for the drafting of a document of agreement that could be signed by both parties. William Pinney, Director of the Board of Historic Sites, explained to the members the position of the VAS, which presently has no real estate nor a collection of archaeological findings. The VBHS is in the process of acquiring several collections, which must be prepared for exhibit and which can be exploited for educational purposes. From this situation flows the logic of a partnership between VAS and VBHS.

In raising the question of the need for a membership chairman, Mr. Popecki offered the following analysis of VAS membership as of September 1970:

COUNTY	MEMBERS	CITIES/TOWNS
Addison	10	6
Bennington	4	3
Caledonia	2	2
Chittenden	78	12
Essex	0	0
Franklin	3	2
Grand Isle	1	1
Lamoille	6	5
Orange	1	1
Orleans	0	0
Rutland	5	5
Washington	13	6
Windham	11	7
Windsor	7	5
SUBTOTAL		55
Other States	22	8 (states)
Foreign Countries	2	2 (countries)
TOTALS		65

Ken Varney, Chairman of the Activities ("Digging") Committee, reported on the experience of the summer's work at the Shelburne Pond site. He stressed the need for an artifact record card, and possibly, of a collector's envelope. The need for proper organization and supervision of small groups was a matter uppermost in Ken's mind. His

pleas in this regard were to stir more response than they have in all of the Society's short history. The problem of saving sites that are in the way of "progress" continues to trouble the VAS. It was decided to continue the discussion of these matters at the next Board meeting.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING, NOVEMBER 4, 1970, WOODSTOCK

With much of the momentum generated by the annual meeting still much in evidence, the Board met on November 4, in the Canaday Gallery of Dana House, which is the headquarters and museum of the Woodstock Historical Society. As a meeting site, Woodstock is fairly near a central point in the State, and the welcome extended by Executive Secretary, Eleanor C. Leonard, encourages the idea of having at least some of our future meetings there.

The meeting, convened at 2 p.m., was attended by Board members Joseph Popecki, Charles Morrissey, Inez Harlow, H.N. Muller, Ralph Hill and Ken Varney. Attending as consultants to the Board were Maurice Crandall, George Leitch, Darrell Casteel and Doug Egeland.

The business of the day began with the introduction of George Leitch and the formalization of his appointment as Director of VAS. The move was no surprise to the members, but not all of them had had a chance to know George. Discussion followed on the general nature of the Director's duties and the observation was made that the By-Laws would have to be amended to provide officially for the existence of a "career" officer. The approval of both the position and the candidate was enthusiastic and unanimous by the Board.

Next, discussion turned to the consideration of forms for recording materials collected by members on VAS "digs" or for artifacts donated to it. A proposed 5 x 8 inch record card and a collector's envelope had been shown at the annual meeting. Both were further refined by Ken Varney and Ed Bacon. Although both revised samples satisfied the group, it was decided to print only the record card, and to continue the use of a variety of bags and envelopes for findings, as is now done by individual habit. The new form, available to members for a penny each, is shown at the end of this report.

Joe Popecki presented for the Museum Committee a draft of an agreement with the Board of Historic Sites on the use of the Chimney Point Tavern upper floor as a museum and workroom for VAS. The Board approved the fundamental expression of the agreement, and this approval has since been transmitted to Bill Pinney so that the final document can be drafted. VAS has not yet had a response on it from VBHS.

At present, there are about 25 surplus copies of each publication of VAS. The question of distribution of these copies to non-members (individuals and institutions) was presented. A few obvious recipients were noted but there was no general agreement on a distribution list. A final decision was deferred for another meeting; in the meantime, your suggestions for distribution of publications is solicited by the Board.

The final item of discussion centered around the development of field projects ("digs") for the coming year, and of their proper supervision. Through the efforts and cooperation of its "consultants" an ambitious and attractive plan evolved for the summer of 1971. Since it now exists only in outline form and will require much more developmental work, this entire matter will be the feature of the next NEWSLETTER.

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m. and those who were able to stay repaired to the Woodstock Inn for dinner and further discussion of the day's business.

SITE

SECTION

DEPTH

OBJECT

MATERIAL

CHARACTERISTICS

ARTICLE NO.

FEATURE

REMARKS

SCALE

PHOTO DATA

EXCAVATOR

DATE

Vermont Archaeological Soc., Inc. - 1270/3M

## THE REGIONAL CONCEPT OF VAS MEMBERSHIP

As the VAS slowly grows out of its infancy, many members have observed that the basis of real success of the Society will ultimately be close-knit activity at the local level to complement its statewide interests. This concept has already been implemented in the organization of field activity, but the real hope of formal organization has come from a group in the Vergennes-Middlebury area.

About 25 people from the Vergennes area (many of whom are already VAS members), headed by Dick Adams, met with Joe Popecki, Ken Varney and Bill Haviland. George Leitch came from Springfield for the meeting, on his first official mission as VAS Director. The enthusiasm of the Vergennes group was sustained and infectious. They will hold another meeting on January 15, 1971, and an attendance of 35 is expected. If all goes well, and the By-Laws are properly amended, Vergennes/Middlebury may well become the first regional chapter of the Vermont Archaeological Society.

## VAS HAS ROOTS

In addition to its negotiations for a museum/workshop site, VAS now has a permanent mailing address. It is Box 52, Burlington, VT 05401. You may still address individual officers and committee heads at their homes if you wish, and please note that your dues are to be mailed directly to the Secretary, Mrs. Inez Harlow, RFD 3, Putney, VT 05346.

## UVM SABBATICALS

Two VAS members who are part of the faculty at the University of Vermont have earned one year sabbaticals for 1971/72. They are William Haviland of the Department of Sociology-Anthropology, and Dr. Durwood Smith (our Treasurer), Department of Pharmacology. We hope that part of that year of battery recharging will continue to be devoted to furthering the interests of the VAS.

## MISCELLANY

With the NEWSLETTER you receive Bulletin 29 of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (July, 1970). As members of VAS you have been enrolled automatically as members of the Federation and receive select publications and news during the year. A Vermont report will appear in future issues.

In February, 1971, Charles Tuttle Publishing Company of Rutland and Tokyo, will republish John C. Huden's, ARCHAEOLOGY IN VERMONT. It was originally published in 1960 as a mimeographed paperback. The new version, also a paperback, will be reset and contain 45 monochrome photographs, 5 line drawings and information on 14 new sites in Vermont. Price: \$3.50.

The Essex Publishing Company, of Essex, Vermont, has begun distribution of a new item with the format of a tabloid newspaper and the title, VERMONT TRAVELLER; volume 1, number 1, treats the subject of Vermont Indians. Although meant primarily as a tool for the school teacher, it makes interesting reading for adults too. A sample copy is 35¢.

## THE VERMONT SITE SURVEY: A PROGRESS REPORT

Two and a half years have passed, now, since the Vermont Site Survey was instituted. Charter members of the VAS may recall that the

society itself was an important by-product of the survey in its first few months. Since then, the project has been of value in other ways, to be described below.

The Vermont Site Survey was originally described in a newsletter put out by the VAS in June 1968. Further information is contained in VAS NEWSLETTER, Number 1. For the benefit of newcomers to the Society, the way the survey works is this: site forms will be mailed out from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Vermont, to anyone who requests them. They are then filled out as fully as possible, and returned. If the site is already known, the individual is notified of the official designation, and existing forms are up-dated. If the site is a new one, the information is added to the file and the new designation sent to the discoverer. One important point must be kept in mind: the site survey data must be kept confidential. This is to protect the discoverer, the land owner, and the site itself. The danger is that unauthorized looters may ruin a site, and scientific information is lost forever.

Given the confidential nature of the data, and the dependency of the project on amateurs, the question may be asked: What is in it for a member of the VAS? The answer is a number of things. Most directly:

1. While a VAS member cannot request the locations of sites in his part of the state, he can ask about a specific site. Then, he can be filled in on any published information on that site, and he can also learn the location of any existing collections of artifacts from that site.
2. The system of site numeration provides a convenient way for amateurs to catalog their surface finds from sites. For example, any artifact from site VT-CH-1 may bear this trinomial in front of its actual catalog number, so that one will always know which site produced the artifact.
3. If there is not a central file of archaeological sites for the state of Vermont, we are in no position to know when and where sites are endangered by road building and the like. It then becomes impossible to mount a salvage project, and valuable data are lost. This happened recently with the burial beneath a fishing access road of a site at Bristol Pond, and the bulldozing of a site at Colchester Point. On the other hand, the existence of the site survey alerted us to danger in the case of Pine Island, which resulted in some salvage work.

In a more general vein, the site survey has proven its utility in other ways. Last year, I prepared a report on the archaeological resources of the Champlain Valley, with suggestions for the protection of those resources. This will appear in the series of Lake Champlain Basin Studies. Such a report could not have been

prepared in the absence of the site survey records. I was also contacted by William B. Pinney, Director of the Vermont Board of Historic Sites, who indicated that requests for federal grants for historic preservation were in jeopardy unless we could furnish Washington with a list of archaeological, as well as historical, sites in Vermont. The problem was handled with dispatch only because of the existence of the site survey project. Finally, the site survey records have made possible a brief, explanatory introduction to a reprint of John Huden's Archaeology in Vermont. In all of these areas, members of the VAS have a stake.

VAS members may be interested in a summary of site distributions as presently known in Vermont. There is sufficient information to know that there were two important areas of Precolumbian habitation: the Connecticut River Valley and the Champlain Valley. We know much more about the latter, from which we have records of over 70 sites. There is every reason to suppose that more will be found in the future.

A considerable chronological spread is represented by known sites. In Franklin County, there is a small campsite of Paleoindians who camped on the shores of the Champlain Sea some 9,000 years ago. From the same county, is a burial ground which Ritchie attributes to Adena peoples, who he thinks migrated here from Ohio a few thousand years ago. An aboriginal Chert quarry and late pre-historic villages are also known.

From Grand Isle County, the so-called Archaic is represented by a burial ground of the Glacial Kame culture, which dates about 1600-1000 B.C. On Isle La Motte are the remains of a village which was inhabited at the time of Champlain's visit in 1605. Chittenden County boasts at least 30 sites, none of which has been adequately investigated. Currently, a small group of the VAS is working on one site which contains material perhaps as old as 2000 B.C. Most of the known sites seem of more recent vintage.

Addison and Rutland Counties are particularly rich in Archaic sites. These people seem to have favored Knolls along the Otter Creek for their campsites, and one of these was dug by the late Thomas Daniels some years ago. Archaic and more recent materials together have been excavated from two sites where Dead Creek and Otter Creek join. The material from one of these, the Rivers Site, is currently being pulled together by VAS member, Pamela Currence, a student at Goddard College, under the direction of Louise Basa. A skull from a burial at this site is currently being mended and studied in my spare time.

As indicated, information on the eastern part of Vermont is skimpy and the northeast, in particular, is a void. Information here is desperately needed. The files contain information on ten sites, which include pictographs along the Connecticut River. So far, none of

these are earlier than about 1000 B.C., and most are probably more recent. But with so small a sample, who knows what may be found in the future?

By way of conclusion, I wish to stress the importance of continuing the site survey project. I will be happy to hear from anyone who wishes to help out. Let me add, also, from the amateur's standpoint, surface collecting while searching out new sites is one of the easiest and fastest ways of building a collection of artifacts. And, it does not cause any destruction to the site itself.

William Haviland  
Chairman, Site Survey Committee

## BOOK REVIEWS BY DURWOOD SMITH

BROTHWELL, D. and E. Higgs Eds. Science in Archaeology, Second Edition. New York, Praeger Publishers Inc., 1970. 720 pp., illus. \$22.50.

This is a major work of archaeological and scientific scholarship. The first edition of this book soon became widely accepted as a standard reference work, indispensable to the archaeologist and prehistorian. It is a lucid and authoritative conspectus of the interrelation between science and archaeology. The book, however, is addressed not merely to students of archaeology and of natural science, but to all those who follow with fascination the unfolding of new and ever-widening perspectives of human history. It aims to show how the different branches of natural science can make their own contributions to our understanding of the past, allowing us to view the achievements of our forebears in far greater depth and detail than was possible only a few years ago. The contributors have been drawn from many countries, and are all leading authorities. Many have been the pioneers in their own fields of study; others have been responsible for developing these fields and for extending their limits. The book is divided into sections on Dating, Environment, Man, Artifacts, Prospecting, Microscopy and Radiography, and Statistics. Each chapter within a section presents the basic facts, assumptions, and arguments of the subject concerned, and assesses (with full bibliographical references) the results of research. It is a fascinating and tremendously stimulating book. It is not light reading [the volume weighs 3 lbs 14 ounces].

COLES, J. M. and E. S. Higgs. The Archaeology of Early Man. New York, Frederick A. Praeger, 1969. 454 pp. illus., \$16.00.

Paleolithic archaeology provides the material for this scholarly and comprehensive survey of primitive behavior. The first part deals with the chronology, ecology, and economics of the Old Stone Age. Subsequent sections interpret data from the most important sites of Africa, North and South America, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The technological record runs from the earliest known stone tools of hunter-gatherer communities to the invention of pottery and advanced agriculture. Of value to archaeologists, anthropologist, and sociologists, as well as laymen, it explores the evidence for behavioral phenomena in earliest times.

HUME, I. N. Historical Archeology. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1969. xiii + 355 pp., illus. reg. Ed. \$10.00, Textbook Ed. \$7.00.

This book is a must for any of our members who are planning to visit Williamsburg, Virginia. The author is director of the Department of Archeology of that famous historical restoration. His book furnishes complete and authoritative guidance in the modern techniques of organizing and executing a historical (as opposed to a prehistorical) "dig." Mr. Noel Hume's instructions cover every phase of digging a site--step by step, detail by detail. He tells how to prospect for a likely spot and how to organize the dig. He outlines the work of each member of the team and describes both the planning and execution of the work. Using photographs and diagrams to supplement his text, he draws from his own wide experience to instruct the reader in surveying, plotting, and digging a site, in photographing, cataloging, and preserving the artifacts unearthed, and in making the final report on the dig. I found some of his detailed instructions most interesting. In discussing taking photographs of "someone finding something" the following caution is inserted: "In the excitement of the moment such pictures are frequently marred by loose strings at the edge of the square, by spectators' feet standing on the adjacent balk and, if the excavator is a girl, by the unseemly display of underwear or anatomy." (pp. 213.)

SILVERBERG, R. Mound Builders of Ancient America. Greenwich, Conn., New York Graphic Society Ltd., 1968. viii + 369 pp., illus. \$10.00.

The mounds of the Mississippi Valley and southeastern United States are major monuments of the prehistory of North America. Nearly every important waterway in the Midwest is rimmed by clusters of mounds, ten thousand of them in the valley of the Ohio alone. The author reviews at length [141 pages] the various theories put forward by the early white settlers to explain the origin of these mounds. The Mound Builder legend was finally laid to rest by the early work of the Smithsonian Institution, whose excavations and studies of mound sites laid the foundations of accurate knowledge of North American prehistory. This book chronicles the establishment of archaeology as a science in America as well as the lore of the myth. It offers also a comprehensive survey of the present state of knowledge of the various Indian groups who produced the mounds: the rich and creative Hopewell and Adena peoples with their far-ranging trading "empire" based in the Ohio Valley and the various cultures of the upper and lower Mississippi who produced the flat-topped Temple Mounds and a remarkable and mysterious assortment of "death cult" objects of art.