

VAS

NEWSLETTER

1975

The VAS Newsletter is published quarterly by the
Vermont Archaeological Society Inc. for its members.

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SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: Additions to the Loring Bibliography (pages 14,15)
Proceedings of the 1973 Annual Meeting of the ESAF

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YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD

COULD BE HERE

SEE MEMBERSHIP-
APPLICATION
ON
REVERSE SIDE

ENROLL A FRIEND. SEE APPLICATION FORM ON REVERSE SIDE!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Members and Friends:

I would like to thank you all for your support and confidence, resulting in my election as President of the Vermont Archaeological Society. I do not take this responsibility lightly. As a devoted part-time Archaeologist, I feel strongly about the position and role the V.A.S. must play in the development of our understanding of Vermont's pre-historic and historic past. We have a duty and obligation to ourselves and to students and scholars in the future to assure a mature growth in the sphere of influence that can be exerted by the V.A.S.

I expect dedication from the Board of Directors. They too have a great responsibility. I expect cooperation from members. I expect criticism from them both. Unfinished projects and overdue problems are being and will continue to be taken care of. As a result, we will be able to settle down into a pattern of organized stability. Our future can and should be a valuable asset to Vermont and the Northeast. It is my aim and goal to lead the V.A.S. into the New Horizon. You will all at one time or another be asked to help. Please be ready with advice, complaints or praise. All will be needed. I would enjoy hearing from you with your thoughts and suggestions. My address is:

Richard K. Adams
Vergennes, Vermont 05491
Tel. 877-3193.

Again I thank you and assure you that I will not destroy your confidence in the Board or me.

Yours truly,

(signed) Richard K. Adams
President

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The objects of the Society shall be to stimulate the study of Archaeology, particularly in Vermont; to promote research; to conserve archaeological sites, data, and artifacts; to disseminate archaeological information; to seek through education the promotion of intelligent archaeological activity; to prevent the commercial exploitation of archaeological sites and specimens; and to foster public understanding of the aims of archaeological research. Article 1, Constitution and By-Laws.

I subscribe to the purposes of the Society and hereby apply for election as

a _____ member.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____ Age if student _____

DUES SCHEDULE

Individual.....\$3.00

Family.....\$5.00

Sustaining.....\$10.00

Student.....\$1.00 (under 18 only)

Institutional..\$15.00

Life.....\$100.00

Make Checks payable and mail to :

Secretary

VAS, Box 663, Burlington, Vermont

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members and Future Members,

As you can see by our new cover the VAS Newsletter has begun its second volume. This change is notice to you, our members and friends, that things are different in the VAS. The Society has begun to move, establishing itself as the spokesman for all Vermont archeologists. It has assumed the duties and responsibilities this entails.

This Newsletter will serve as a forum during this change. Not only will it carry news of the Society and its Chapters, but news of developments throughout the East, articles submitted by members, and features including letters, reviews, humor and publications.

In order for this endeavor to succeed, the aid of the membership is needed. Read an interesting book? Tell us. See something in the paper? Let us know. Taken a trip or started fieldwork? Let other members share your experience. We will soon have the ability to reproduce drawings and will be able to verbally and visually report your interests.

Please direct all questions, comments, and submissions to me at the Society's address: The Editor
Vermont Archaeological Society
P.O. Box 663
Burlington, Vermont 05401.

Sincerely,
REUBEN S. SHERMAN (signed)
Reuben S. Sherman, Editor

COMING IN THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE VAS NEWSLETTER

A comparison of Vermont and Quebec Archaeological protection laws.

By-Law Revisions proposed.

Indiana Prehistory -- book reviews by Marjory Honerkamp.

New and old publications available through the VAS.

Bone Foreshafts from a Clovis Burial.

Announcement of the Society's Spring Meeting.

WANTED BY THE VAS

A good used mimeograph machine for VAS use only. Price: preferably as donation or as economical as possible. We assume any donations will be to a non-profit organization by the end of the year. Please contact the Secretary, VAS, P.O. Box 663, Burlington, Vermont 05401.

REPORT OF THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DECEMBER 7, 1974. BIXBY LIBRARY, VERGENNES, VERMONT.

This year's annual meeting, hosted by the Vergennes Chapter, was extremely well attended despite the late date and unsure weather. For those who could not attend and for others who would like a record of the occasion the speakers have provided summaries for this report.

VERGENNES CHAPTER REPORT -- Richard K. Adams, President of the Vergennes Chapter.

The Vergennes Chapter will hold its annual elections at their January meeting. The proposed slate of officers is Ruth O'Connor, president, P. Pollander, vice-president, and Pat Ganson, secretary and treasurer.

During the Annual Meeting, Mrs. O'Connor was presented with a gavel by the Vergennes Chapter for her "never ending endeavor in Historical Research." The gavel was made by Lester Flemmings of wood taken from Benedict Arnold's ship, Congress, sunk in Arnold's Bay after the Battle of Valcour Island.

A slide presentation by Dick Adams on the progress of the Garrison House Salvage and his description of the "dangers" involved evoked laughter and applause from those present. Mr. Adams expects excavation of the site to begin in the spring and promises a detailed report of the results of this work for a forthcoming newsletter.

BURLINGTON CHAPTER REPORT -- Edgar Bacon, Site Director for the Burlington Chapter.

[This report is presented in full at the request of past president H. N. Muller. The Chapter wishes thanks expressed to Mr. John Ewing "for his kind permission to excavate this site and for his cooperation." -- Ed]

VT-CH-5, THE EWING SITE, SHELBURNE, VERMONT

This is a small campsite on the north edge of a swamp which Muddy Brook flows through as it leaves Shelburne Pond.

The entire area is probably one half an acre in extent, or less. It is divided into three parts by the physical features of the terrain. The lowest area, designated as Vt-Ch-5, lies just above the swamp, about 50 feet from it, on gently rising ground, currently covered by Hemlock and White Pine. Vt-Ch-5A lies to the north of Vt-Ch-5. It is 40 to 50 feet higher on the crest of an East-West ridge of limestone. Vt-Ch-5B lies 20 to 30 feet higher than Vt-Ch-5 and to the Northwest of it, on a lower but similar portion of the same ridge.

Limited sampling during the Spring of 1974, revealed that essentially the same artifacts, chippage, and debitage are to be found in all three areas. The history of this site is related to Ken Varney's interest in Shelburne Pond and its drainage. Ken dug an area of about 30 x 40 feet, south of our current excavation in a small flat grassy area. It lies about 20 feet from the swamp. This was accomplished during the early '60's. By analysis of his excavation diary and comparison of the artifacts in his possession, there is great similarity to our data, although the stratification of his area was in part quite different from ours.

This summer's work consisted of laying out the site, and the excavation of five, 2-meter squares, along a north-south line from Ken's boundary toward the northern limit of this portion of the site. The squares were chosen partly to incorporate the original test samples and partly in squares not occupied by trees. Although the soil is very easy to remove, progress was very slow due to two factors, a plethora of roots and large glacial cobbles found just under the present surface.

The general stratigraphy of the site as we know it is a mantle of dark forest humus averaging 30 cm. in depth, wherein most of the artifacts are found. Below this lies a second zone of about 20 cm. in depth of water worn cobble, broken up and degraded limestone in a sandy gravel matrix. Underlying this is the third zone of unknown depth of clay, presumed to be the old Champlain Sea bed. The second zone has yielded but a few artifacts, possibly transported by animal burrow or tree root disturbance. The underlying clay is devoid of artifacts.

The lithic artifacts show that the primary occupation was of the Woodland period, with a scattering of Archaic points randomly about the site. The large amount of small lithic chips and flakes, predominately quartzite as are the artifacts, indicates tool manufacture at the site or at least finishing imported blanks. Quartzite is not found at the site except as cobbles which are not of sufficient quality to make tools. The rest of the lithic materials embrace knives, scrapers, and choppers which as yet do not allow themselves to be placed in any definite time period. Two attributes of the site which are new in our experience for this area are: 1. a quartz tool industry consisting of scrapers and other edged tools, utilizing both white and crystal quartz, naturally found at the site; 2. a small, narrow bladed, "small-stemmed point," sometimes unifacially and sometimes bifacially flaked. When viewed edge on in long section, they are almost all concave-convex. They are scattered throughout the site in association with the Woodland material; they also occur in Ken Varney's material.

The pottery types range from undecorated vessels to an incised line decorated pot with an applied collar, very similar to the Chance Incised pattern, as it is known in New York. It is postulated to have occurred prior to and in parallel to Iroquois pottery types or is included with Iroquois types. This would place our site as being inhabited, in part anyway, fairly late, possibly into the middle 1500's. There is no indication, as yet, that pottery was made at this site.

Faunal remains include bones and/or teeth from white tail deer, bear, beaver, muskrat, and smaller as yet unidentified mammals. Turtle, fish, and bird bones are present, but sparse. The major bulk of the bone is finely broken deer bone. A few pieces of worked deer long bone have been found as awls and a chisel ended form which has not yet had a use ascribed to it.

As yet we have not disclosed any features, such as pits, hearths, post-molds, etc. Animal burrows are plentiful, as are root molds.

During the course of the summer, we have had a number of visitors, including groups from Johnson State College and Plattsburgh State College, as we appear to have the only site currently being excavated under controlled conditions in Vermont, North-eastern New York State or Northern New Hampshire.

Currently the chapter meets Saturdays in the Anthropology Lab in Williams Science Building on the UVM Campus, cataloguing and compiling this summer's data. Next year's plans are to return to the site for further excavation of Vt-Ch-5 and a suspected adjunct feature.

Anyone wishing to join us this winter or later in the Spring is most welcome. We underwrite our own costs for tools, supplies, transportation, etc. Our dues are \$1.00 per year which corresponds to the VAS year.

THE BOUCHER SITE (Vt-Fr-26): A Progress Report -- Louise Basa, Project Director

The Boucher site was excavated under emergency salvage conditions during the summer of 1973. The imminent construction of a private home, which activity had already partially destroyed an ancient burial ground, was halted for a short period of time to permit controlled archaeological rescue. In order to shorten the field time necessary to conduct precise archaeological excavation, burials were carefully removed en masse, encased in their original soil matrices. This procedure enabled us to transport the excavation site to a more convenient location while retaining exact in situ relationships. In addition to allowing us flexible access to any portion of the burial, this procedure has maximized the information on skeletal positions and the organic materials contained within these unique 2,000 year old burials.

Although excavation of the burials is not yet complete, preliminary analysis of the physical anthropology of the human skeletal material has begun. Dr. William A. Haviland of the Anthropology Department of the University of Vermont has noted several differences in the skeletal structures of the people buried in this cemetery. These individuals undoubtedly belong to a prehistoric American Indian population. Two basic head forms have been provisionally delineated -- a short, round head type and a long, narrow head variety. In addition, other structures differentiate between the two groups, i.e. certain mandibular and long bone traits. Whether or not these represent two genetically distinct populations is impossible to determine at this stage of analysis.

In the summer of 1974, Mr. Russell Barber (a Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at Harvard University) began intensive analyses of the manufacture and micro-wear patterns of the ground and chipped stone artifacts which accompanied the burials. In general, stone objects buried with the dead were deposited in different stages of manufacture and use: apparently unfinished and unused; finished, but never used; finished and heavily worn through extensive use; used resharpened and not reused. It has been possible to determine that objects designated "pendants" because of their basic shape and one-hole were indeed suspended by a thong. A number of these "pendants" also exhibit use marks which can be interpreted as needle sharpening marks. The "Adena-style points" are all characterized by grinding at the shoulders. On the surface of flat, tabular pieces of sandstone and slate, rotary grinding marks are present. Associations of these "tablets" with fragments of red ochre and graphite hint at the use of these items as pigment grinding stones. Some of these sandstone and slate "tablets" also show narrow sharpening marks identical to those found on the "pendants". It should be stressed that this work on the Boucher site artifacts is still in its preliminary stages.

Laboratory work on the excavation of burial pedestals and other materials is continuing. Anyone interested in more information, or interested in assisting in the laboratory excavation or other work is asked to contact Louise Basa at the Society's address: P.O. Box #663, Burlington, Vermont 05401.

BUSINESS MEETINGANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The following members were elected by the members to the Board and were installed on December 7, 1974. Officers were elected by the Board in their December 7th meeting. Terms of office for new trustees were fixed during the December 19th Board meeting.

All Trustees may be contacted through the Society: %VAS, Box 663, Burlington, Vt. 05401.

<u>TRUSTEE</u>	<u>TOWN FROM</u>	<u>TERM</u>	<u>OFFICE</u>
Richard Adams	Vergennes	thru 1977	President
Edgar Bacon	Burlington	thru 1977	Vice-president
Armand Beliveau	Williston	thru 1977	
William Haviland	Jericho	thru 1977	
Barbara Lewis	Shelburne	thru 1976	(designated Recording Secretary)
Ray Precourt	Shelburne	thru 1976	
Joseph Popecki	Burlington	thru 1976	Treasurer
Dennis Hall	Vergennes	thru 1975	

Continuing on the Board:

Louise Basa	Burlington	thru 1975	Secretary
J. Robert Maguire	Shoreham	thru 1975	
Darrell Casteel	St. Johnsbury	thru 1975	
H. N. Muller	Burlington	<u>ex officio</u>	past President
Reuben Sherman	Montpelier	<u>ex officio</u>	Editor (by appointment)

TREASURERS REPORT December 7, 1974

	<u>FUNDS</u>					
	General	Highgate	I-91	Field School	TOTAL	
Balance 3/25/74	\$274.21	150.00	56.33	199.75	680.29	
Income thru 12/7/74	+528.98	+0.00	+0.00	+0.00	+528.98	
Expenditures 12/7/74	-286.84	-0.00	-56.33	-0.00	-343.17	
Balance 12/7/74	<u>516.35</u>	150.00	0.00	199.75	<u>866.10</u>	

Respectfully submitted,
(signed) Edgar L. Bacon
Treasurer

SITE SURVEY REPORT William A. Haviland

Mr. Haviland commended Gordon Neilson for his work and noted that the number of entries in the survey had doubled. The survey is currently kept by Marjory Honerkamp, Dept. of Anthropology, UVM.

Contact with the Highway Department during the summer was described. Mr. Haviland explained the practice of giving the Highway Dept. only "zones of sensitivity" of archaeological resources without pinpointing sites. In discussion following, it was remarked that all riverbeds should be marked sensitive, that sites don't have neat boundaries for the Highway Dept. to plan routes around, but that the Highway Dept. does need more specific information in their planning. It was noted that a State Archaeologist could do much to alleviate the problem.

NEW BUSINESS: A straw vote directed the Trustees to consider revision of the dues schedule. Discussion noted that dues had not been changed since the Society's inception. A suggestion was made to make separate charge for dues and publications. The question will be brought before the Society at its next Annual Meeting.

THE OLD RED MILL

Presented By Miss Blair Williams for the Jericho Historical Society, this film, produced by Yudis E. Bennett, follows the history of the Chittenden Mill in Jericho. The film intermingles a history of Jericho, of all Vermont towns, and of Vermont's links to the development of the American mid-west. It also expresses the vitality of the Jericho Historical Society in their efforts to preserve the Chittenden Mill and utilize its potential for the benefit of their community. Miss Williams answered several questions following the film and invited interested persons to contact her in care of the Jericho Historical Society, Inc., Jericho, Vermont 05465, for further information on the Mill and the Society..

REPORT ON LEGISLATION William Pinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historic Sites, State of Vermont.

Mr. Pinney described for the meeting pending actions before the current Legislature of interest to VAS members.. The bill is a combination of two bills which were presented to, but not acted on during the past session. Mr. Pinney described portions of the bill relating to the statutory authority granted his division, the authority of the advisory council including the issuance of permits for archaeological excavations, and provisions for the protection of artifacts.

He described the tactics to be used in getting the proposal through a fiscally stringent legislature, including bi-lateral introduction of the bill. Interested VAS members are urged to contact Mr. Pinney in care of the Agency of Development and Community Affairs, Division of Historic Sites, Pavillion Bldg., Montpelier, Vt. 05602, and to contact their local legislators regarding the progress of the bill.

PERUVIAN CULTURAL HISTORY Evening Program presented by Dr. Mark Cohen, Plattsburg State College, SUNY

A number of circumstances combine to make the Peruvian coast an ideal location to test historical trends and processes. Cold ocean temperatures create dry winds over the Peruvian coastal desert. In the absence of rain, not only bone, stone and metal are preserved, but archaeologists commonly find textiles, mummified flesh of humans and animals, seeds, fruit rinds, vegetable debris, and even human and animal feces. As a result, diet and economic patterns can be accurately worked out over several thousand years.

Absence of ground cover and of geological processes in the desert give the archaeologist an unobscured view of the remains of human habitation. I have in fact surveyed sites dated to approximately 10,000 B.C. which are sitting on the ground surface. It is not surprising that Peruvian archaeologists developed settlement pattern archaeology where the distribution of sites is studied as a means of analyzing prehistoric social and environmental relationships.

A third factor is simply the extent of research already done in the area. Necessary background information for one's own questions are readily available from existing studies.

I went to Peru in 1970 to find out why people shifted from hunting and gathering to agriculture as a means of subsistence. The traditional answer is that we lived as hunters until we "discovered" how to farm. Since farming provided food safely and reliably with less work, we adopted this new lifestyle. However, recent studies of modern hunting and gathering people indicate that they work less, have a more varied diet, and eat more meat and fruit than farmers. Farmers eat mostly grains which are considered a second rate food throughout the world. The only clear advantage of agriculture is that it provides more total calories per acre than wild foods and thus can support More People. It has been

suggested that agriculture will appear only when the "population pressure" exhausts the resources necessary to sustain a hunting and gathering society.

To test this hypothesis, I went to the Ancon-Chillon region of the central coast of Peru. Archaeologists had previously mapped about 300 sites in this river valley oasis spanning 14,000 years. It immediately became obvious that agriculture did not appear in the Ancon-Chillon region until nearly 2,000 years after neighboring mountain regions began farming. Why did the Ancon people take such a long time to apply the agricultural techniques of regions with which they had substantial trade and culture contact?

The answer becomes clear in studying the site distribution and refuse patterns prior to the beginning of agriculture in the region. The circle of sites (and the area presumably exploited for food) gets larger and larger, expanding from the mouth of the Chillon River, as the gatherers had to move increasing distances to support a growing population. Game animals and wood fragments disappear from the refuse of later sites indicating elimination of wild resources and degradation of the environment. Grindstones appear with increasing frequency along with quantities of grass seed, difficult to process into food, almost never preferred food of modern primitive peoples.

Thus several lines of evidence reveal a growing imbalance between a group of people and their environment; the area exploited gets larger, forests are replaced by grasslands, game disappears and reliance on unpalatable small seeds grows. Only after these changes occur does agricultural produce appear in the refuse. The Ancon people did not begin to farm with the development of agriculture among their neighbors. They continued hunting and gathering until they had significantly degraded their old resource base. The archaeological data thus appears to confirm the hypothesis that farming is a strategy of last resort rather than a sign of "progress."

TRUSTEE'S MEETINGS OPENED TO MEMBERS

In response to a questionnaire distributed at the annual meeting, the Trustees voted, at their December 19th meeting, to extend an open invitation to members of the VAS to attend trustee's meetings. The next scheduled meetings, as of this printing, will be held at 7:30 PM at St. Michael's College Library in Winooski on February 20th and March 20th. Please take this opportunity to lend your comments, criticisms, and aid to our new Board. Please inquire at the front desk for the designated meeting place.

REPORT OF THE DECEMBER 19th TRUSTEE'S MEETING, Williams Science Hall, UVM.

Following discussion of a lengthy agenda the Board moved:

To hasten action on non-profit status for the society. Obtaining this status was deemed essential to cut operating expenses and to obtain needed funds.

To accept Bixby Library in Vergennes as a repository for inactive records.

To create a committee to study by-laws revisions to report to the February trustee's meeting. The following members were moved to form this committee: Bill Haviland, Armand Beliveau, Ray Precourt, Joe Popecki.

To create a committee to investigate means of raising funds. The following members were moved to from this committee: Louise Basa, Ray Precourt, Joe Popecki, Bill Haviland. A preliminary report from Mr. Precourt was requested.

To postpone discussion of the site survey for a later meeting.

President Adams declared that any Trustee missing three consecutive Board meetings would be suspended from the Board.

A STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST? -- Report of the January 16th Trustees Meeting

Recent articles and letters in the Burlington Free Press have again brought Vermont Archaeology to public attention. An article by Dr. Haviland, Chairman of the UVM Anthropology Department, protested a news release from the Agency of Development and Community Affairs for its apparent "invitation to 'rip off' the state's archaeological resources", and called for the appointment of a state archaeologist in order for Vermont to utilize the funds and protection offered by the 1974 Federal Archaeological Conservation Act.

Donald Webster, Secretary of the Agency of Development, responding in the Free Press, said the Agency will ask the 1975 General Assembly to appropriate funds not exceeding \$5000 for salvage work in advance of state construction projects and for the creation of an unfunded state archaeologist's position.

Ray Precourt, in a letter to the Free Press, protested Mr. Webster's statements noting:

that Mr. Webster's minimal proposals are aimed only at insuring that his agency continues to have access to state historic preservation funds. The course of action outlined in Mr. Webster's proposals only perpetuates and does not improve the present situation in Vermont where archaeological emergency studies have to be undertaken on a part-time, "hit or miss" basis.

In response to these exchanges, the January 16th Trustees Meeting concerned itself almost entirely with the question of the proposed legislation. After extensive debate in which the merits (and demerits) of sections of the bill were analyzed and in which the motives of the Agency of Development and Community Affairs were questioned, the Board issued a short statement to the press. The statement centered basically on the funding of a state archaeologist, reading in part that "failure to fund such a position could cost Vermonters several hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal funds which are desperately needed by the state's sagging economy."

A report comparing the proposed bill before the Vermont Legislature and the "Cultural Properties Act" of Quebec will appear in the March VAS Newsletter.

The 1973 Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting in Dover, Delaware, was attended by Louise Basa and Bruce Morgan as representatives of the VAS. Readers are referred to page fifteen of the special ESAF attachment for the abstract of Louise Basa's paper on the Boucher Site in Highgate, Vermont.

Those of you who remember "Upper Paleolithic Notations" in the March '73 VAS Newsletter will enjoy the January 1975 issue of the National Geographic. "Exploring the Mind of Ice Age Man" by Alexander Marshack is recommended not only for its text but for unrivaled photography.