

VAS newsletter...

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

1981 DUES ARE DUE !
see p. 3
"LOST SHEEP" LIST,
see p. 2

VAS MEMBERSHIP OVER 100, BUT...

The Vermont Archaeological Society has 107 members in good standing as it enters a new dues year (calendar, 1981) and implements a new dues schedule. The modest increase and the new dues structure was approved by membership without a single dissenting vote in recent mail balloting.

Seventy-four members are paid up through 1980. Of these, eight are institutional and two are contributory. In addition, twenty-eight members accidentally or purposefully (anticipating a dues increase) are already paid up for the 1981 membership year. That fact will markedly affect income from dues for the next twelve months. A list of the "pre-pays" is given below. Should any of them wish to make a contribution (not dues) to VAS to help offset this dues-income shortfall, it will be greatly appreciated.

Even more disquieting is the fact that thirty-eight former members, paid up through 1979, failed to renew their memberships in 1980. Their names are also listed below in hope of retrieving these "lost sheep". Unless these ex-members re-join within the next month, they will be dropped from the rolls and will no longer receive the VAS NEWSLETTER or meeting announcements.

VAS now boasts five life memberships, the most recent of which is Robert SCHUYLER of Philadelphia. The others are: Mr. & Mrs. Lucien HANKS (North Bennington); Mr. Sanborn PARTRIDGE (Proctor); Mrs. Durwood (Sue) SMITH (Burlington, and soon to be of Kalamazoo, Michigan); and, Mr. Kenneth VARNEY of Hampden, Maine. Over the past twelve years, VAS has awarded at least two honorary life memberships (one recipient now deceased), but the information does not appear in the membership files. When this information is confirmed by the executive board, it will be published in the NEWSLETTER.

Annual Meeting Includes Slide Talks on the Andes and Egypt, and Gordon Day on the Indians of New England

Approximately 40 people attended the Society's fall meeting, which was held October 18 at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington. The afternoon program began at 2:00, and included talks and slide presentations. Kevin Crisman provided "A Brief Look at Andean Prehistory", with slides of a number of archaeological sites he visited and worked at in the summer of 1980. (Brian Alberghini travelled with Kevin and took many of the excellent slides, but was unable to attend the meeting.) Kevin was followed by Giovanna Neudorfer, who presented the State Archaeologist's report. She described what she sees as her contribution to Vermont archaeology including the establishment of alternate systems for dealing with state resources and the serious shortage of state employees. These alternatives are the UVM Anthropology Department, the contract archaeology program at UVM, the Champlain Maritime Society and the recently completed Education Outreach project. Sandy Partridge took the audience far from home again with "Glimpses of three Egypts", a fascinating picture of ancient to modern Egyptian life from the perspective of a trip up the Nile River. Peter Thomas returned the focus to Vermont as he outlined recent archaeological discoveries in the Lamoille and Missisquoi watersheds. An astonishing number of previously unknown sites have been identified by field crews working on hydro projects on the two rivers.

Happy hour and dinner followed the four talks. The ballots for six Board of Trustees vacancies were tallied during the afternoon.

The following new trustees were elected:

Kevin Crisman (term expires 1981)
Gina Campoli (1983)
Prudence Doherty (1982)
Gordon Nielson (1983)
Dee Brightstar (1983)
Sanborn Partridge (1983)

The evening's featured speaker was Gordon Day, ethnologist for Eastern Canada at the Museum of Man in Ottawa, Ontario. His talk provided an overview of the various Indian groups of New England, and what becomes of them. He cited examples of the ethnohistorical problems inherent in tracing the different groups, such as name changes over time.

1 ♦ VAS MEMBERSHIP

1981 DUES SCHEDULE

Individual	\$ 7.50
Family	10.00
Student/Senior Citizen*.	3.00
Contributing	15.00
Sustaining	50.00
Life	125.00
Non-profit Institutional	10.00
Institutional	15.00

*Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES IN ANDANCE FOR 1981

Deanna Brightstar (Martin)	Stephen Nelson
Fred & Joan Cowan	William Noel
M/M John Daniels	Norwich U. Library
Leon Dean	Vic Rolando
Warren Dexter	Frederick Royce
Muriel Farrington	Rutland Hist. Soc.
Frank Gonzalez	Rosamond Sheldon
Carleton Howe	David Starbuck
Edward A. Krause	John M. Steele
Gale Lawrence	Peter Thomas
Thomas & Joan Lawrence	Dean Vittum
Ronald Morgan	Richard Ward
Louise Morris	Jan Warren
M/M R. Napoli	Robert & Faye Wener

"LOST SHEEP", PAID THROUGH 1979 ONLY

George Aldrich (Montpelier)
M/M William Bayreuther, Jr. (Maine)
Pam Bumstead (U Mass)
Debra Burbank (Moretown)
Mary E. Bushey (Williston)
George Butts (Chittenden)
Elizabeth Coffrin (Burlington)
Warren Cook (Castleton)
James Davis (Tilton, NH)
Elaine Dixon (Putney)
Bruce Flewelling (Rochester)
Pat Fowler (Killington)
Susan Graham (S. Newfane)
M/M Douglas Grant (Sheldon)
James Griffin (Rutland)
Bill Haddock (Burlington)
Earl Harris (Camden, NY)
William Haviland (UVM)
Richard Hayes (Pt. Washington, NY)
Clark Hinsdale, Jr. (Burlington)
M/M Sidney Hurlburt (S. Burlington)
Jeffrey Kelley (Whitehall, NY)
M/M Waymer Laberee (Cookshire, Que.)
Bruce McAllister (Hanover, NH)
Barbara McMillan (Hanover, NH)
Barbara Mills (Hartland)
Floyd Musgrove (S. Newfane)
Daniel Plummer (Graniteville)
June Potts (Newport)
Marjory Power (Underhill)
Jon M. Pringle (Essex Jct.)
Public Broadcasting (Boston, MA)
William Richmond (Montpelier)
Sarah Scotch (Montpelier)

Wendy Simpers (Colchester)
Elizabeth Sincerbeaux (Woodstock)
Virginia Teague (Burlington)
Denise Wilder (Johnson)

If there are any questions about your membership, contact the Treasurer,
Joseph T. Popecki
VAS
Box 663
Burlington, VT 05402

MISSISQUOI RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

by Kevin Crisman

This past June, I began a survey designed to locate prehistoric and early historic Indian sites on the lower portion of the Missisquoi River. Initiated and supervised by Dr. William Haviland, this work is intended to supplement the contract work done in the area by the contract archaeology program at the University of Vermont. The work was based on a combination of field, archival and informant research, and if all goes well, it will be finished in April, 1981, in the form of an honors thesis in Anthropology at the University of Vermont.

The lower Missisquoi River constitutes an important area in Vermont prehistory, as it contains some very interesting sites. One of the earliest known sites in the state, Reagan, was situated on a sandy hill that was once on the shore of the ancient Champlain Sea. The earliest carbon-dated site in the state, the John's Bridge site in Swanton, was excavated during the past two summers and yielded c-14 dates of approximately 8000 B.P. (years before present) Two Adena-related cemetery sites, Frink Farm and Boucher, have provided valuable information about regional interaction in Early Woodland times. The substantial amounts of Middle and Late Woodland materials found indicate that the region continued to be an important habitation area. The Lower Missisquoi region was also the supposed location of "Greylock's Castle", the base of operations of the famous war chief of Dummer's War in the 1720s. The lower end of the river also served as a center for the gathering of Indian refugees from the rest of New England and New York during historical times.

Funded by three generous grants from the Vermont Historical Society, the William Bryant Foundation, and the Cecil Howard Charitable Trust, this summer's work included several areas of investigation.

1. Collectors of prehistoric artifacts from the Missisquoi River area were one source of information. These people had never before been systematically sought out and had their collections recorded. The ultimate aim, of course, was to obtain new site locations through them. This occupied much of my time over the summer and provided some mixed

- results.
- Field checking previously reported sites was another aspect of this summer's work. This too had never been done systematically before. The results of field checking will be useful for updating state files, and for adding data to my thesis.
 - Literature and informant search was the third area of investigation. The goal of this was to locate sites discovered and noted in earlier times. Contemporary sites recorded in early historical literature were also sought, but most accounts of this sort have to date been too vague to be useful. Interviewing local citizens about sites they might have heard about located a couple of new sites, although I was told about Boucher several dozen times.

Some field searching was done to locate new sites (independent of the above sources), for instance, by canoeing river banks and walking over plowed fields. Because of time limitations and a small field crew (myself alone), this yielded minimal results. No subsurface testing was undertaken, for the same reasons.

Although there were some dead ends in the research, there were also some shining spots. A previously unknown collector was found with an extensive and interesting collection that was complete with locational data. This collector was in the process of breaking up his collection to give to his children, so the recording of it occurred at a timely moment.

Another high point in my work was a field check of VT-FR-7, on the lower Missisquoi. Here sherds from at least four jars, a Fox-Creek - type lanceolate point, and a gunflint, along with a quantity of chipping debris, were found eroded out of a bank. The ceramic sherds are all Fox Creek Phase (Early Middle Woodland) according to Vermont ceramics expert James Petersen (personal communication), and date between 100-400 A.D. The gunflint would seem to indicate use of the site during the contact period. This detailed information about the site is much more useful than the original collector's notations of "Iroquois and Algonkian pottery" and "notched and triangular points", which is all we had to go on.

Information on the geology and climate of the region, along with data on the floral and faunal resources, is being gathered to help round out my investigation of the Lower Missisquoi. Hopefully, a complete (as far as the present state of our knowledge allows) overview of the prehistoric occupation of the area can be assembled from all of this work. Hypotheses concerning trends in occupation over time, in subsistence patterns, etc. can then be formulated. Future archaeological work in the region, it is hoped, will be able to use those hypotheses in planning survey and excavation strategies.

Readers who have any information on, or collections from, any sites in the Lower Missisquoi region are encouraged to contact me at the Anthropology Department, University of Vermont.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NEW
 RENEWAL

1981

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY OR TOWN _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ DATE _____
AGE _____ (If Student or Senior Citizen)

DUES SCHEDULE (Please check category)

Individual.....	\$ 7.50
Family.....	25.00
Student/Senior Citizen*.....	3.00
Contributing.....	15.00
Sustaining.....	50.00
Life.....	125.00
Non-profit Institutional.....	10.00
Institutional.....	15.00

*Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC., AND MAIL TO THE SOCIETY, BOX 663, BURLINGTON, VT. 05402.

KELLEY COMPLETES EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

At the VAS annual meeting in the fall of 1979, Lauren Kelley outlined a year-long project designed to effectively and accurately introduce the public to Vermont's ten thousand-year prehistory. At the following Spring meeting, she previewed one part of the ambitious project, a slide show and script that provides an outline of developments in Vermont prehistory. By the fall of 1980, all planned elements of the project had been successfully completed.

One major component of the project is intended for use in Vermont's elementary and secondary schools, for grades 4-12. The slide show provides a prehistoric background for the students, and 3 "hands-on" kits introduce them to archaeological methods. One kit, "What is a tool?", is designed for use by younger students. A second kit, "The Culture History Mystery" can be used by students at all levels. The third kit allows upper grade students to experiment with excavation strategy.

Teachers may obtain the slide show, kits and a teacher's manual from two sources: The Discovery Museum in Essex, and the Washington West Resource Center in Waitsfield. There is a waiting list of almost 20 teachers now. The kits and slides have been favorably received by those who have used them in social studies programs so far, and helpful comments have been offered.

The second major aspect of the Education Outreach Project involved producing two booklets to inform the general public about prehistory and archaeological resources in Vermont. Lauren Kelley and Peter Thomas coauthored the booklets, titled "An Archaeological View of Vermont's Past" and "The Preservation of Vermont's Archaeological Resources". They are available from the Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont.

The booklets have received praise from other professionals in the field. Charles R. McGimsey III, Director of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey, wrote State Archaeologist Giovanna Neudorfer: "They (the booklets) do a very nice job of conveying the essentials in an engaging, understandable manner. The two authors are to be congratulated, as are you. I know all too well how hard it is to put together a package like that and bring it to a successful conclusion." The popularity of the booklets is demonstrated by the fact that the first printing of 500 is almost exhausted.

A grant from the Division for Historic Preservation made the Education Outreach Project possible. Knowledgeable individuals in the fields of archaeology, education, museum science & wildlife biology provided advice and support, but Lauren Kelley deserves credit for successfully designing and completing this important contribution to educating Vermonters about their own prehistoric heritage.

Education Committee Given Standing Status

In September, four VAS Board members (Noel, Kelley, Doherty and Nielson) formed an Ad Hoc Educational Outreach Committee to explore ways of involving more individuals in saving cultural resources, and to convey information about these resources to Vermonters, with particular emphasis on youth. In October, the committee indicated that they intended to investigate two ways of accomplishing these goals: 1. to generate printed materials to be distributed by the UVM Extension Service, and 2. to consider creating a semi-permanent traveling exhibit. The Board has voted to change the status of the committee from ad hoc to standing.

The Committee has been meeting on a regular basis to consider what sort of printed materials can be produced. Brief pamphlets describing prehistoric and historic archaeological resources in Vermont communities and on crafts associated with prehistoric life (for example, flint knapping, pottery, basketry) are presently being considered. These will be several pages long, and oriented to activities that young people can do themselves. The Committee hopes to find interested people to help plan & write brochures on related topics.

The committee also reserved space at the Lawn and Garden Show to be held March 5-8 at the University Mall. They will begin planning a semi-permanent exhibit on Vermont prehistory. The exhibit will use photographs, maps, drawings and artifacts to present Vermont prehistory, to indicate what cultural resources exist, and how to save them.

VAS members interested in assisting committee members in their projects are urged to drop a note to the Education Committee, Prudence Doherty, Department of Anthropology, UVM, Burlington, VT 05405. People with ideas and skills are also needed! The Committee will also need help manning the exhibit at the Lawn and Garden Show. If anyone can volunteer a few hours of their time (March 5, 6, 7, and 8), please let the committee know.

Annual and Spring Meeting Dates Permanently Fixed

The Board of Trustees has established a tentative schedule for future annual meetings. Spring meetings will be held on the third Saturday of April, and the fall meeting will be on the second Saturday in October. This year's Spring meeting will be held April 4, 1981, to allow the VAS to meet jointly with the Rutland Historical Society. At this time, the fall meeting is planned for October 10, 1981.

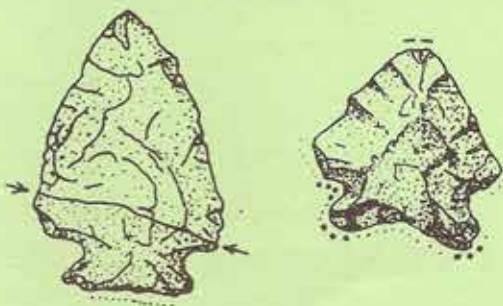
Muriel Farrington, the new VAS vice-president, has begun to plan the spring meeting program. The meeting will be held at the Rutland Public Library, and may focus on historical archaeology. The meeting will begin at 9:30

and end at 3:30. A catered lunch will be served. Farrington has begun to consider possible speakers.

John's Bridge Site Yields "Swanton Corner-notched" Point

The John's Bridge site (VT-FR-69) in Swanton, Vermont is adjacent to the Missisquoi River on two portions of a rock-defended terrace. Realignment of Route 7 and bridge replacement threaten the site, so archaeologists from the University of Vermont excavated it during the summer of 1979 and 1980. The site is an Early-Middle Archaic Period hunting and fishing camp, probably occupied during the spring or fall of the year. Based on three C-14 samples, the site dates to roughly 8,200 years B.P. (before present).

The site was determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places after the first season of field work. The second season of excavation proved that the site was significant for a number of reasons. Lithic tools found at the site display characteristics not recognized elsewhere. A new type of project point has been encountered. Because this point has been unrecognized elsewhere in New England and New York, the John's Bridge site has become a type site for this point, which has been named the "Swanton corner-notched" point. Although somewhat less diagnostic, preforms which exhibit low shoulders may also prove useful as a general prehistoric time marker. Some of the other lithic tools recovered at the John's Bridge site, including miniature notched flake tools, "nibbled" flakes, and large tabular knives, are uncommon in archaeological tool kits throughout the New England region.



Two examples of Swanton corner-notched projectile points. Both are chert. The one on the left was reconstructed from two sections. Dots around the point indicate edgewear; dashed line indicates broken edge.

Drawings by
Kevin Crisman

The stone tools would seem to indicate that hunting was a focal subsistence strategy. However, the recovery of two bullhead or catfish spines indicates that fishing was also an

activity carried out from this site. This diversity of exploration strategies is frequently predicted but only rarely demonstrated by excavations at New England sites. Various data show that a number of related tasks were undertaken at VT-FR-69, including the production and maintenance of hunting tool kits, butchering, hide processing and cooking.

The presence of deep pit features, two probable surface hearths, a possible shelter, and the high density of both tools and flaking debitage imply that the site was occupied for a period of more than a few days to probably less than a few months. This contrasts with the unusual picture which portray settlements in Vermont at this time as highly transient, due to the unpredictability of natural resources during a period of rapid environmental change. Considering that the size of the two terrace sections is restricted, it is inferred that only one or two extended families represent the social units which inhabited the John's Bridge site. The patterning of tools and the sharply clustered distributions of lithic debris, particularly in the workshop area, make it unlikely that the terrace was occupied more than once.

Although a major portion of the site has been excavated, preservation of the remaining segments is warranted. Since only portions of the butchering or hide processing area were identified, date recovery in adjacent sections would provide valuable comparative information related to appropriate spatial units of analyses. Other types of activities may not even have been identified yet. Given the limited size of the site, total excavation in the future could provide as complete a picture of this type and period of site as we are likely to get anywhere in New England.

Adapted from a report by
Peter Thomas and Brian Robinson

Orders Continue for Petersen Monograph

Requests for copies of Jim Petersen's The Middle Woodland Ceramics of the Winooski continue to come in.

The monograph has been well received by archaeologists in the Northeast. Robert Funk, New York's State Archaeologist, has commented that the "report represents an important contribution to archaeological research in the Lake Champlain-St. Lawrence region." David Sanger, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maine-Orono, stressed the potential value of the report for comparative ceramic studies. Others have expressed congratulations for a complete and well-documented study.

In addition to the copies distributed to members, VAS has sold 41 copies of the Petersen Monograph. Nineteen of these were sold to out of staters. Five of those customers "from

away" have subsequently become VAS members. Twenty-six copies were distributed to Vermont bookstores for promotional purposes. Sales in these outlets have been very disappointing, generating only two added sales. Thirty-six copies were sent by Jim Petersen to journals and acquaintances. It appears that this promotion has been the most fruitful to date.

Copies of the monograph are available for \$3.00 for members, \$3.75 for non-members from the VAS.

VAS Board Elects Officers

At the November 4th Board of Trustees Meeting, new officers were elected. Bill Noel, who has been acting President since Bill Bayreuther's departure for warmer climates, was elected President. Muriel Farrington was chosen Vice-president, and will be responsible for the Spring and Fall Meeting programs. Kevin Crisman was elected to serve as Secretary, and Joe Popecki was reelected as Treasurer.

COUNCIL FOR NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY FORMALIZES ORGANIZATION

The CNEHA Executive Board has decided to more formally structure and expand its activities by establishing a permanent mailing address and by creating several categories of membership. As the only regional organization concerned with the archaeology of the historic Northeast (New England, Mid-Atlantic States and Eastern Canada), CNEHA supports the development of all aspects of historical archaeology through conferences and publication of Northeast Historical Archaeology.

The Council, in the near future, will become the major regional outlet for the reporting and publication of archaeological research on the entire historic period (ca. 1600-20th century) including underwater as well as terrestrial investigations. Membership is open to all interested individuals and institutions and is available in one of six categories: (1 Individual \$10.00; (2 Student \$7.50; (3 Institutional \$10.00; (4 Joint (receives one copy of publications) \$12.50; (5 Fellow \$25.00; (6 Life \$200. Send Check to: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania, 33rd & Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

KELLEY OFFERS FOUR SESSIONS ON VERMONT PREHISTORY AT CHURCH CENTER

On Monday nights in July, Lauren Kelley, VAS Board member, taught a Church Street Center class on Vermont's prehistory. The four evening sessions included an outline of Vermont's prehistory, an explanation of how archaeologists work, a dig simulated through an excavation game Kelley devised, and lab work on Erving site artifacts (The Erving material has not been forgotten!). Class members also volunteered time to help with data recovery at the John's Bridge site in Swanton (described further in this issue).

Eight people with different backgrounds and ages participated in the course. To encourage VAS member attendance, the Board partially subsidized the tuition cost for VAS members. Half of the participants were members who took advantage of the offer.

Vermont Archaeological
Society, Inc.
Box 663
Burlington, VT. 05402

FIRST CLASS

TO