

VAS newsletter....

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

1982 DUES ARE DUE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM (1982), p. 6. LIST OF ACTIVE MEMBERS, p. 5-6. LOOK FOR YOUR NAME!

MORE SITES LOCATED ON BRISTOL POND

In the summer of 1981, with the guidance of the State Archaeologist, Giovanna Peebles, I searched the area around Bristol Pond for prehistoric sites. I continued the work in the fall with the assistance of Laureen LaBar. Bristol Pond (also called Winona Lake) is located in the northeastern corner of Bristol, on the border with Monkton. Over the course of the year, three new sites were found (Vt-Ad-295, 296 and 302).

The first site (Vt-Ad-296) was noted in the summer as a low density flake scatter of grey Cheshire quartzite, which is plentiful in the vicinity, on the north side of the pond. In the fall, further observation of the field revealed at least two more low density flake scatters. An artifact was recovered from each area. The first artifact found was the broken base of a stemmed point. The second was an end scraper. Both are made of quartzite. Due a limited amount of time, the field was not completely checked; Laurie and I walked only two rows through the cornfield (each about 270 meters long) to gain some idea of the magnitude of the site.

The second site (Vt-Ad-295) is located on a high terrace on the southwest side of Bristol Pond. I was directed to this location by the landowner, who had previously allowed a collector on the property. That collector apparently had concentrated on this particular field. Here, a low density flake scatter covered the entire field. All stages of tool manufacture, from cobbles to flakes, were evident. In one particularly high density flake scatter, eight artifacts were found. They are all made of quartzite, and include 5 broken bifaces, one whole biface, one Levanna point, and a utilized flake which was bifacially worked on one end.

In regards to the last site, we may have been too late. All cultural material at Vt-Ad-302 was found either in a drainage ditch next to the road or on the clay surface of a bank which had been scalped. The material re-

covered from these areas includes: 5 quartzite flakes, a large quartzite cobble with definite use, 2 slate pieces and one chert chunk. It has not been determined if the slate and chert pieces resulted from natural or human action. Historic artifacts were also found, including a horseshoe, and two teeth, probably horse.

These three new sites, along with the many others previously identified around the pond by Gordon Nielson and Maurice Crandall, indicate a lengthy prehistoric occupation of the area. Sites dating from Paleo to Woodland have been found. An intensive survey of this area may reveal important information about prehistoric activity around this small inland pond.

Steve Nelson

Pursuing the Students of Vermont's Prehistory

Several VAS members have recently developed interest in some of our predecessors--earlier students of Vermont archaeology. While doing research on a non-archaeological topic, Gina Campoli discovered the letters and papers of one of the founders of the Champlain Archaeological Society, John Clements of Rutland. She has promised to read the parts pertinent to archaeology and report to us.

At the fall meeting, Peter Thomas summarized the work of Eric Jackson, who wrote a dissertation on archaeology in the Champlain Valley in the 1920s. Several people wondered who Jackson was, and how he became interested in Vermont prehistory. Kevin Dann, a graduate student in geography, found several other articles written by Jackson. One of those noted that it was published posthumously, after Jackson's accidental death in Europe only several years after he finished his dissertation. That provides the unfortunate explanation of why Jackson did not do any further work in Vermont prehistory. Jackson attended the University of Chicago, which is also the alma mater of the Newsletter editor. I wrote to the Geography Dept. there to see if Jackson's student files might tell us more about his interest in Vermont archaeology, and am waiting to hear from them.

If any VAS members have more information on either of these two people, or if anyone knows about other early students of Vermont's prehistory, please pass the information along.

Spring Meeting Preview

Prudence Doherty has begun to organize the Spring Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, April 17. Talks at this meeting will focus on techniques used to analyze artifacts and sites. Tentative speakers include Bill Haviland on faunal analysis, Peter Thomas on soils, Aulis Lind on remote sensing, and Ken Morris on conservation methods. The speakers have been encouraged to make their presentations more active, with "hands on" opportunities for the audience. Because the meeting will be more informal than usual, it will be held in the Anthropology Department in Williams Science Hall at UVM, where we can feel free to strew bones about and spread soil samples on the tables. A wine and cheese get-together will follow the talks. More details in the next newsletter!

VAS PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

President Bill Noel prepared this summary for the annual meeting.

In order to explain what the Society has done this past year, it is helpful to look at the past activities of the Society.

Looking back over the years that the VAS has been in existence, one can see that an evolution has occurred. The VAS was started, among other reasons, "To stimulate the study of archaeology...to conserve sites...and to foster a public understanding of the aims of archaeological research".

The Society began strongly, with great interest and involvement of amateur and professional archaeologists throughout the state. The Society sponsored, in whole or in part, several excavations of prehistoric sites, including Auclair, Ewing and Boucher. These excavations were undertaken seriously and were executed on a very professional level. But as everyone who has dealt with archaeological sites knows, excavations require much more than fieldwork. Unfortunately, cataloguing of the artifacts recovered from these sites was not completed, and site reports were not written. For these reasons, and also because of the recent stress on conservation rather than excavation, excavation of the Ewing site was halted. Further, the Society made a policy that it would not excavate non-endangered sites.

Recently, some VAS members have complained that with the end of excavations, there is not any way to be actively involved in archaeology. In response to these complaints, the VAS Board has initiated or formalized three programs this past year. These include:

1. Excavations. VAS members can once again work on archaeological sites. We have worked at two sites recently. Peter Thomas requested volunteers to work at the John's Bridge site

in Swanton--the first documented Early Archaic site in Vermont. Giovanna Peebles asked the VAS test a site on Muddy Brook in South Burlington that was scheduled to be bulldozed. We will continue to organize volunteer crews to work at threatened sites.

2. Exhibits. The Society produced an exhibit on prehistoric and historic archaeology that was set up at the Lawn and Garden Show at the University Mall in South Burlington. We plan to develop it into a self-contained traveling exhibit, and display it at several locations each year.

3. Lab Work. VAS members have undertaken the task of washing and cataloguing the artifacts from the Ewing site. We are using the ARDVARC computer cataloguing system. We are cataloguing the entire collection of artifacts, including those few previously catalogued. We are meeting twice a month in the Anthropology Lab in Williams Science Hall at UVM.

I personally want to say that I have enjoyed serving as president, and that I will continue to serve in any capacity that the Society wishes me to in the future.

(Editor's note: The Board expressed its appreciation of Bill's leadership by reelecting him as President. Also, the Ewing lab work will continue through the spring. See the schedule below.)

Dann Looking for Soapstone Finds

Kevin Dann, a graduate student in geography at the University of Vermont, is doing research on prehistoric use of steatite (soapstone) in Vermont and the rest of northern New England and southern Quebec. He is interested in knowing about any steatite finds that are not recorded in the state site files. If you have any information, please contact him at the Geography Dept., Old Mill, UVM, Burlington (656-3060, 9-3, Mon.-Fri.).

CANOE DATED TO 1500s, AD

As reported in these pages, dugout canoes were removed from Shelburne Pond in November, 1977 and in the late fall of 1979. The results of radiocarbon dating have been received for samples from both canoes. Radiocarbon samples submitted to Beta Analytic Inc. produced dates of 100 ± 70 B.P. (Beta-2501) for canoe #1, and 440 ± 60 B.P. for canoe #2. These dates suggest that at least one of the canoes is older than the European colonization of New England, its use falling somewhere between A.D. 1450 and 1570. The more recent canoe may have been used for muskrat hunting by nineteenth-century local residents.

Introduce a New Member to VAS in 1982

BOARD ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1982

At its monthly meeting in November the Board elected new officers. Bill Noel was re-elected President, Jan Warren was chosen as Vice President, Joe Popecki was retained as Treasurer, and Sue Gallagher was elected to be Secretary.

The Board decided at this meeting to change the duties of the vice president. In the past the vice president was responsible for planning the spring and fall meetings. However, because this has proved to be a monumental task, individual Board members will now serve as meeting chairmen, and will be assisted by other members. Prudence Doherty will coordinate the April, 1982 meeting. Lauren Kelley and Gordon Nielson have volunteered to plan the Fall meeting for October, 1982.

McMillan, Cohn, Moeller Guest Speakers at Annual Meeting

The annual fall meeting was held on October 17, 1981 at the Holiday Inn in South Burlington. President Bill Noel opened the afternoon session with an annual report which is included in this issue of the Newsletter. Giovanna Peebles, the State Archaeologist, gave a brief summary of the year's activities in her office, and showed the audience what steps are taken when an archaeological site is reported to the State Archaeologist. Bill Haviland reflected on the thinking and writing processes involved in producing The Original Vermonters.

Peter Thomas traced the archaeology of the Lower Winooski valley during the last 150 years, citing historical sources to provide a sense of the awareness which Vermonters once had about the archaeological resources in the state. With evidence from nineteenth and early twentieth century local and state histories, from the work of George Perkins, Eric Jackson and from the activities of the Vermont Archaeological Society, the Chittenden County Archaeological Survey, and UVM's contract archaeology program, Thomas concluded that most of the prehistoric artifacts that early nineteenth century Vermonters could collect by the bushful have been destroyed by the growth of towns in this part of the Winooski Valley.

Barbara MacMillan, from Dartmouth College, described her search last summer for Paleo and Early Archaic sites in the Upper Connecticut River valley, in Lyme N.H. The possibility of such early sites was suggested by the geomorphological history of the area. Several glacial lakes had filled the valley, and it is possible that prehistoric groups had occupied the lake shores. Although no Paleo sites were found, Early Archaic sites were tentatively identified.

The afternoon session ended with a presentation on the recovery and conservation of artifacts from the General Butler by Art Cohn and

Jan Warren. Cohn discussed the diving and recovery methods used to collect the artifacts which Warren and others have been conserving. Warren described the techniques being used to clean and preserve the various items that were removed from the marble schooner which sank off the Burlington breakwater in the 1870s.

After dinner, Roger Moeller of the American Indian Archaeological Institute in Washington, Connecticut gave an excellent talk on discovery of a Paleo-Indian site in western Connecticut. Moeller found the site during the course of a field school, a situation which he didn't anticipate. The site has been carbon dated to 10,900 ± 300 B.P. Moeller noted that this was a single component, single occupation site, based on the distribution of the chippage. Artifacts found were made of waterwashed flint cobbles that did not come from the Hudson River valley. Moeller suggested that the discovery of this early site in a small forested (deciduous) area indicates that tundra/taiga environments are not the only areas where Paleo Indians existed. As Moeller said, "Man can't live by mammoth alone!"

A concise summary of the fall meeting appeared in the November issue of the N.J. archaeological society. Ed Lenik, former president of the N.J. group and VAS member, wrote that he attended the Vermont meeting, and that "It was good, but a small turnout."

FROM WHENCE COME OUR MEMBERS

Joe Popecki has prepared an analysis of the VAS membership as of Dec. 1, 1981. At that time there were 91 active members. Of these, 9 were founding members, 26 joined between 1970 and 1977, and the rest joined in 1978 or later.

Contrary to popular belief that "they all come from Chittenden County", VAS members come from 44 Vermont communities, nine states other than Vermont, and one foreign country.

Here's how the Vermont communities tally: Burlington- 7; Rutland- 6; Montpelier- 5; Westford- 3; Richmond- 3; two each from Williston, Jericho, Colchester, Hinesburg, Middlebury, Milton and Waterbury. There is one member in each of the following Vermont communities: Danby, Grand Isle, Chittenden, Fairfield, East Montpelier, Castleton, Canaan, Essex Junction, Huntington, Stowe, White River, Rochester, Lyndonville, West Brattleboro, North Bennington, Manchester, Island Pond, Waterbury Center, St. Albans, South Barre, St. Johnsbury, Northfield, Proctor, Salisbury, Pittsford, Underhill, North Ferrisburg, Marlboro, Woodstock, Cuttingsville, Fair Haven and West Rutland.

Out-of-state members line up like this: New York- 5; New Hampshire- 4; Massachusetts- 2; New Jersey- 2; and one each from Michigan, Maine, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico and Texas. We have one Canadian member in Quebec, and one in Ontario.

ARCHEOLOGISTS WILL DATE
ANY OLD THING

Searchers Find More Vermont Furnace Sites and a Standing Ruin in 1981

by Vic Rolando

The search for Vermont blast furnaces continued in 1981 both in the libraries and in the field. Four suspected blast furnace sites were located and documented with results that contribute to further understanding of the extent of this industry in Vermont. In Highgate, a previously unrecorded blast furnace was found. Along Furnace Brook in Bennington, a known but unlocated furnace site was finally found. At Orwell, a suspected furnace site was found in the field, and belatedly in the files at the Division for Historic Preservation. At North Dorset, another suspected blast furnace site yielded a previously undocumented standing furnace ruin. These have all been written up, mapped and reported to the Division for Historic Preservation.

I learned about the Highgate site from R. John Corby of Ottawa. There are some historical references to Abel Drury, Israel Keith, and a furnace (but not a blast furnace) in Highgate (Hemenway 1871:254, 285; Thompson 1842:89). Keith also built furnaces in Pittsford (1791) and Sheldon (1799). Corby said that the lessee of the furnace property estimated the site to date to the "Hessian-British period", circa 1720, but that he did not offer any evidence for this claim. It was also Corby's understanding that the furnace was thought to have been built in Quebec, but was in Vermont after later border definition. Based on the Drury/Keith connection, I estimate that the furnace was in operation from about 1790 -1820, if this is the same furnace site at all.

The site is on the Rock River, four miles northeast of Highgate Springs. The whole area around the site is involved in speculative drilling for gas and oil, and colored tapes and survey stakes are in and around the furnace site. A low mound near the river might be the actual furnace remains. Some blast furnace slag and charcoal were recovered at its edges. Photos of ironworks-related artifacts found here in 1973 and now in his possession have been loaned to me by Corby.

In 1793, Fassett and Hathaway built a blast furnace in Bennington at Furnace Brook, so named for the furnace built there (Spargo 1938:9). John Spargo wrote that this was not the first blast furnace in Bennington, but that Blodgett's was, which in 1786 advertised the sale of "best refined bar iron...the above articles will be given for good coal, ore or pot metal [scrap iron] delivered at the forge" (Spargo 1938:27). Whereas Blodgett's made bar iron, a bloomery forge process, Fassett and Hathaway advertised in 1794 that their furnace "is now in blast..they will begin to cast this day" (Spargo 1938:9). Spargo misunderstood this crucial difference between forge and blast

furnace. The 1793 Furnace Brook operation, therefore, was Bennington's first blast furnace.

It has never been known for certain where this important blast furnace is located. Whitelaw's 1796 map of Vermont places an ironworks symbol about 1½ miles south of the Shaftsbury town line. As it turns out, this is only a half mile too far north. Spurred on by the knowledge that fellow blast furnace researcher Richard Allen of New York was also looking for this site, I picked up bits of slag in lower Furnace Brook, and as weekends and weather permitted, sloshed upstream following the "trail" as finds of slag slowly increased in size and quantity, then suddenly stopped appearing. At this spot are the washed-out and collapsed remains of a dam and mill. Although it is not certain that the remains here are directly connected with the blast furnace, no more slag can be found for hundreds of feet upstream. Limited test pitting in and around the remains unearthed much slag and charcoal. Shallow trenching through an island in mid-brook immediately downstream from the dam also revealed a high density of typical multicolored glassy blast furnace slag.

Although it was learned soon thereafter that information already existed in the Division's files about an ironworks on East Creek in Orwell, the site was visited on Labor Day through independent research that has added to and clarified the Division's folder. In addition to his forges and blast furnace at Fair Haven, Matthew Lyon built a blast furnace in Orwell in 1788, working bog ore from nearby lake-level swamps and from Shoreham (Goodhue 1861:94). Whitelaw's 1796 map of Vermont identifies a "Furnace" at the site, and indicated a road north and south from it. Field inspection located the south road winding downhill to the site, where the ironworks remains consist of a few low mounds of partially exposed slag, a possible stone-lined wheel pit and shallow tail race, the head race leading from the falls above, and a shallow 2-foot diameter depression, possibly the furnace site, that yielded more slag, some brick, and a burned-end hearth stone. Judging from the disposition of the features and artifacts, the blast furnace was small--a pocket furnace--such as the "pup" at Bennington. The site is on the south side of East Creek near the base of a 30 to 40-foot falls.

A suspected blast furnace site in North Dorset was inspected in late September. Much foundry slag and some foundations of a foundry and a sawmill were located and documented. On the east side of Otter Creek, one of the largest fields (50 by 70 feet) of blast furnace slag that I have encountered was found, estimated to be six feet deep in some places. Some

► 5

4 More Furnace Sites

very heavy and unmoveable ironwork artifacts lie at the northern edge of this slag field. About 20 feet southeast of the field is the ruin of the blast furnace, with its outer walls collapsed. The circular bosh with its glazed internal walls rises above the rubble, looking like a medieval battlement. The construction date of the furnace is not known, but it was in operation in the early 1840s (Hodges 1849: 290-291), and out of blast by 1856 (Lesley 1859:76).

This North Dorset stack brings to nine the total number of identifiable blast furnace remains in Vermont. All except the Troy stack stand a few miles either side of Route 7, from Forestdale south to Bennington.

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- Whitelaw, J.
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HISTORY OF IRONMAKING--WALL CHART published by the National Park Service, provides a concise introduction to the history and techniques of iron production. The chart is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Single copies cost \$1.50.

EWING LAB SCHEDULE

Jan. 7 Thursday 7-9
Jan. 13 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Jan. 21 Thursday 7-9
Jan. 27 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Feb. 4 Thursday 7-9
Feb. 10 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Feb. 18 Thursday 7-9

Feb. 24 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Mar. 4 Thursday 7-9
Mar. 10 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Mar. 18 Thursday 7-9
Mar. 24 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Apr. 1 Thursday 7-9
Apr. 7 Wednesday 5:30-7:30
Apr. 15 Thursday 7-9

MEMBERSHIP

as of January 26, 1982. First column shows year for which membership has been paid. Second column shows type of membership. If "81" appears opposite your name, you owe dues for 1982.

81	Cont	Jim Adams
81	Sen	Irene E. Allen
81	Ind	Robert Atchinson
81	Ind	Louise Basa
81	Ind	William Bayreuther III
81	Ind	Marjorie Breton
81	Ind	Deanna Brightstar
81	Ind	George F. Butts
82	Sen	Lois Callan
82	Ind	Gina Campoli
81	Ind	Arthur B. Cohn
81	Sen	Grace H. Cook
81	Ind	Warren L. Cook
82	Fam	Fred & Joan Cowan
81	Sus	John & Joyce Daniels
81	Ind	Kevin Dann
81	Ind	Gordon Day
82	Sen	Leon Dean
82	Sen	Warren Dexter
82	Ind	Prudence Doherty
82	Stud	Sarah Doherty
81	Stud	David DuBrul
82	Exch	ESAF
81	Sust	John & Judith Farmer
81	Ind	Muriel Farrington
81	Ind	Carol Fitzpatrick
81	Ind	Bruce K. Flewelling
81	Ind	Suzanne Gallagher
81	Ind	Mary Gelinas
81	Cont	Frank Gonzales
81	Cont	James E. Griffin
81	Ind	Karla S. Hamilton
**	Life	Lucien & Jane Hanks
81	Ind	William A. Haviland
81	Ind	Billee M. Hornbeek
81	Sen	Carleton Howe
81	Sen	R. Arthur Johnson
81	Ind	Lauren Kelley
81	Ind	James N. Kennedy, MD
82	Ind	Edward A. Krause
81	Stud	Laureen A. LaBar
81	Ind	Gale Lawrence
81	Ind	James Lawrence
81	Fam	Thomas & Joan Lawrence
82	Ind	Charles G. Leeuw
81	Ind	Edward Lenik
82	Stud	Anna Louka
81	Ind	Lee Marion
81	Ind	Barbara McMillan
81	Ind	Raymond J. Maggio
81	Inst	Middlebury College Lib.
81	Ind	Jay Edward McMahon

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 81 Ind Ronald H. Morgan | 81 Ind James B. Petersen | 81 Cont Anne F. Spencer |
| 81 Ind Louise M. Morris | 81 Fam M/M William Pollard | 81 Ind David R. Starbuck |
| 81 Ind William Murphy | 81 Fam Jeanne & Joe Popecki | 81 Ind John M. Steele |
| 81 Ind Marjorie Napoli | 81 Ind William T. Potts | 81 Ind Michael J. Storrs |
| 82 Stud Stephen Nelson | 82 Ind Marjory Power | 81 Ind Clark Sykes |
| 81 Ind Giovanna Pebbles | 81 Stud Beth Proulx | 82 Stud Michelle Thibault |
| 82 Exch N.H. Arch. Society | 81 Ind Mary Lynn Rocketts | 81 Ind Peter Thomas |
| 81 Sen Graham Newell | 82 Cont Vic Rolando | 81 Ind Fran Tilewick |
| 81 Ind Gordon R. Nielsen | 82 Ind Frederick R. Royce | 81 Inst USDA Forest Service |
| 81 Cont Bill Noel | 82 Inst Rutland Hist. Society | 82 Ind Peter VanTubergen |
| 82 Inst Norwich U. Library | ** Life Robert L. Schuyler | ** Life Kenneth E. Varney |
| 81 Ind Mary Jo O'Sullivan | 82 Sen Rosamond S. Sheldon | 81 Ind Dean Vittum |
| 81 Ind Charles Paquin | 82 Ind John G. Simson | 81 Ind Rachel Walker |
| ** Life Sanborn Partridge | 82 Ind Elizabeth Sincerbeaux | 81 Ind Richard Ward |
| 82 Fam Philip & Miriam Peace | ** Life Sue M. Smith | 81 Ind Jan Warren |
| | | 82 Ind Faye Wener |



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NEW
 RENEWAL

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If you want a membership card, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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 PHONE _____ DATE _____
 AGE _____ (If Student or Senior Citizen)

DUES SCHEDULE (Please check category)

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*Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

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**VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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BOX 663, BURLINGTON, VT 05402



TO

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 Montpelier, VT 05602