

VAS newsletter...

A PUBLICATION OF THE
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Prudence Doherty, Editor

VAS, NHAS to Hold Joint Meeting

Jan Warren and Muriel Farrington of the VAS and Victoria Kenyon of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society have planned a joint meeting of the two groups that promises to be one of our best meetings yet. The meeting will be held on Saturday, April 16, 1983 at the Dartmouth Outing Club in Hanover, N.H. Four speakers will represent each society, and there will be a catered lunch and time for socializing both before and after the meeting. For more details and registration forms, see inside. Hope to see you all there!

See Program, p. 3

EDITORIAL

PURPOSE, CONTENT, FORMAT OF VAS NEWSLETTERS

Recently there has been some discussion about the purpose, content and format of the VAS publications. Some people feel that the Newsletter should be more "newsy", with short announcements and no long, substantive articles. Others have suggested having a bimonthly newsletter and a bimonthly publication with longer articles. Another concern has been that articles be intelligible to all, that is, that they avoid unnecessary jargon. I would like to explain 1. what I see as the Newsletter's purpose, and 2. why the articles range in topic and length.

Above all else, practical realities dictate the content and format of the newsletter. It has been my experience that two types of articles are generated--longer ones that describe the archaeology of a particular area or the results of a specific project, and shorter ones that announce events, publications and news items of interest to members. Neither of these types are produced on a regular basis. Sometimes I have no news and one long and important paper, and other times I have no major article(s) but only a collection of tidbits. In addition, very often I have to produce all the text myself, although recently I've been delighted with the number of excellent contributions. In other words, the present Newsletter content and format reflects all there is--it would not be possible to produce regular issues without the mix of articles.

The Newsletter is the only forum that exists for providing information about all aspects of Vermont archaeology at this time.

ABENAKI INDIANS OF VERMONT PROGRAMS ON THE SURVIVAL STORY

The Abenaki Self-Help Association (ASHAI) has arranged a series of public programs on Vermont Abenaki history and survival which should be of great interest to VAS members. During three different programs to be held in three different communities, a number of speakers will reveal the different dimensions of Vermont's Native American heritage, including its ancient roots, its recorded history, and its relevance for understanding the contemporary identity of all Vermonters.

The general theme of the series is the place of the Abenaki Indians in the history of Vermont. At the first program, "Ancient People - Ancient Places", Bill Haviland and Peter Thomas will discuss the role of anthropology and archaeology in illuminating the lifeways of Western Abenakis before contact with Europeans in the 17th century. They will focus their presentation on the ways in which these people related to the environment in which they lived. Haviland will provide a broad cross-cultural perspective on hunters and gatherers and the importance of place. He will stress how important it is for such people to have a detailed knowledge of the resources of a particular place, how they use those resources, how "place" is defined, and how the people perceive their relationship to that place and its resources. Peter Thomas will use slides to describe traditional Western Abenaki culture and its antecedents.

The second program, called "Northwest Passage, Rogers' Raid and the Lonesome Song", will focus on Indian-White conflicts of the 18th and 19th centuries and the distorted history that resulted. Marshall True, of the UVM History Department, will provide an overview of 19th century Indian-White relations. John Moody will detail the various means which have been used to create an accurate history of the local Abenakis, a history which illustrates the struggle of a people to survive in their ancient homeland.

The third program, "Finding One's Place Today" will examine the continuing significance of Abenaki world-view and history. John Lawyer, a Native American, and John Moody, a Native Vermonter, will discuss their attempts to discover the wider moral and metaphysical dimensions of their homeland. General audience

1 → Editorial Policy

I see it as the place to record all Vermont projects and at least summarize their results; provide VAS members and the general public with information about all VAS activities; and share information about publications and regional activities of interest to VAS members.

My "editorial policy" has been to include all kinds of articles whenever they are available. I particularly like the balance of issue #42 (Jan., 1983), but I rarely have that balanced combination of articles to present. I suggest that the present content and format be maintained. However, I am very concerned about the opinions of member readers. Feel free to write about this or any other matter.

1 → Abenaki Programs

participation will be an important part of this program.

The three programs will be held in St. Johnsbury at the Fairbanks Museum, in Swanton at the Episcopal Church, and in Burlington at the Fletcher Free Library. At this time only the schedule for the first program is available to the newsletter--see below.

St. Johnsbury, Fairbanks Museum	March 18, 1983	call for time
Burlington, Fletcher Free Library	April 4	7 - 9
Swanton, Episcopal Church	April 7	7:30- 9:30

Information on the rest of the program should be available from the institutions or from the Abenaki Self-Help Association, P.O. Box 276, Swanton, VT 05488, 802-868-2559, 868-7146, 868-4033.

The following article provides explanatory information for the Putney reburial and the Governor's Conference on the Future of Vermont's Heritage resolution discussed in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Sacred Sites and Reburials

by John Moody

At the recent Governor's Conference on the Future of Vermont's Heritage, a resolution was passed to 1)"recognize through research and protect by choice ancient and contemporary sacred places, especially burial grounds; 2) avoid, unless absolutely necessary, any development or archaeological digging in such a place, and if a site must be worked, or has already been worked, and sacred objects or burials exhumed, to arrange with Native American cooperation a proper reburial at a suitable place with suitable preservation of the site."

There is a substantial national context for this resolution based both in Native American tradition and in anthropology. It was submitted and passed in the spirit of cooperation that marked the recent Putney reburial (see Laura Heller's article, last issue). Elsewhere in the country on state and national levels there have lately been a number of political and legal changes in the same direction.

Freedom of religion is the heart of the issue from the Indian perspective. In August, 1978, Congress passed into law the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (92 Stat. 469 in UNITED STATES STATUTES AT LARGE), which made it the policy of the federal government to "protect and preserve for American Indians their traditional religions ... including, but not limited to, access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites." An outgrowth of the substantial political struggles for recognition and treaty rights of the 1960s and 1970s, this law has stimulated similar efforts in several states.

As of January 1, 1983, California will enforce a strong law which protects all burial grounds from desecration, as well as requiring Native American involvement from beginning to final reburial if necessary. The law generated considerable controversy in the archaeological community, but there is general agreement in anthropology that this kind of protection is necessary. The California law does not affect prior collections, nor does it prevent exhumation and study of burial sites.

Many archaeologists support this law and similar legal efforts because they strengthen the protection of important sites and increase public awareness of the issues involved. In Vermont, thus far, the State Archaeologist and contract archaeologists have both cooperated with the Abenakis to this end.

Most Indian communities are now actively pursuing the sacred materials and remains kept in museums to properly take care of them. The recent Hopi visit to the Smithsonian, controversy about an old burial mound in Hoosic Falls, New York, and the Putney reburial are but three examples of this broad phenomenon. Efforts to pass legislation to protect sacred sites and encourage reburial are current in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as other states.

OOPS !

Edward Lenik's article in the last issue of the Newsletter, #42, suffered in the publication process we use. Entirely inadvertently, all the paragraphs were printed out-of-order. We apologize to him, and list the correct order here. Please number the paragraphs as they are arranged as follows: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, *1, 2, 3, 4, and 10. That should make the sequence of Ed's writing appear much more logical. Again, our apologies.

You're Invited

**VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND
NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

JOINT

**SPRING MEETING
Saturday April 16, 1983**

Program

9:30-10:00 REGISTRATION, Coffee and Donuts

10:00-12:00 MORNING SESSION - VERMONT

1. GIOVANNA PEEBLES, Vermont State Archaeologist.
"Vermont Prehistory: Some Things Old, Some Things New"
2. PETER THOMAS, Anthropology Department, University of Vermont.
"Evaluating Archaeological Sites in the Changing Landscape"
3. JAMES PETERSEN, Department of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh.
"1982 Reinvestigation of the Hornblower II Site, Martha's Vineyard"
4. WILLIAM BAYREUTHER, Underwater Archaeology Program,
Texas A & M University.
"The Gondola Philadelphia : Old Wood and Dusty Pages"

12:00-1:00 LUNCH

1:00-3:00 AFTERNOON SESSION - NEW HAMPSHIRE

1. DAVID STARBUCK, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.
"Overview of New Hampshire Archaeology"
2. HOWARD SARGENT.
"Preliminary Report of Archaeology in the Lake Sunapee Region"
3. BILLEE HOORNBECK, Archaeologist, Green and White Mountains
National Forests.
"Archaeology of the Green and White Mountains"
4. BARBARA McMILLAN, Department of Anthropology, Dartmouth
College.
"Upland Sites in the Connecticut Valley"

3:00-4:00 WINE AND CHEESE

* SEE MAP FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE DARTMOUTH OUTING CLUB.

LUNCH: SOUP / SALAD / SANDWICH / DESERT, \$4.00. PLEASE SEND IN YOUR
RESERVATION FORM BY APRIL 11.

THERE WILL BE EXHIBITS, BOOK SALES AND T-SHIRT SALES (NEW COLORS).

Dartmouth Outing Club, Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH

BRING A FRIEND

Brattleboro Museum Exhibits Valley Native American History

From mid-April through July, 1983, the Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center will present **THE RIVER AND THE VALLEY**, an exhibition and lecture series designed to illustrate the importance of the Connecticut River in the tristate region of southeastern Vermont. The project will explore the relationship between the river and man by examining its history from Deerfield, Massachusetts north to Bellows Falls, Vermont/Walpole, New Hampshire. Important factors to be examined include the Valley's geological and ecological history, regional Native American occupation and activity, the influence of European immigration, and the industrial and cultural development of towns along the river. Artifacts, photographs and documents will be used to illustrate these topics. In addition, 19th and 20th century paintings and graphic arts will portray visual artists' perceptions of the Valley.

Bill Haviland and Peter Thomas of the University of Vermont Anthropology Department are serving as consultants for the Native American component of the project. They will use artifacts from Thomas's 1970-74 excavations of Fort Hill, a fortified Squakaeg village in Hinsdale, N.H. that was occupied

from the fall of 1663 until the following spring, to illustrate three main themes about Native American activity and occupation in the Connecticut River Valley.

Faunal and floral remains recovered during the Fort Hill excavation indicate how the Indians were using the river system for food resources. The presence of French and English trade items, including Jesuit rings and French gunlocks from the St. Lawrence Valley and English copper kettles, kaolin pipes and lead shot from the south, show that Indians used the river as a transportation route for trading activities. The Fort Hill artifacts will also be used to consider the issue of continuity and change in the Indian way of life after the arrival of the Europeans and the introduction of new ideas and technologies.

A lecture series is being planned as part of the project and will include a talk by Haviland and Thomas on Native Americans in the Valley. Other speakers will lecture on topics such as settlement of the Connecticut River Valley, changing perceptions of the river, artists' interpretations and writers' views of the river and its valley, and historical overview and current concerns of the river's ecology.

For dates and times of the exhibit and lectures, contact the Brattleboro Museum and Art Center, P.O. Box 662, Brattleboro, VT 05301, 802-257-0124.

Education Committee Starts Youth Outreach Program

For several years Board members Bill Noel, Lauren Parren, Prudence Doherty, Jan Warren and Gordon Nielsen have been trying to develop an archaeology program for use by Vermont 4-H groups.

On January 26, 1983, the group finally met with the county youth agents who supervise such programs. We described the goals and activities of the VAS, described the slide show, kits and teacher's guide that Lauren developed, and presented a list of questions and concerns about what kind of program could be developed for use by 4-H groups.

Three youth agents (from Franklin, Addison and Rutland Counties) were particularly interested in the concept, so we arranged to meet again to try to devise specific programs. Given the nature of 4-H groups, we agreed that introductory experiences designed to gauge the interest level and stimulate awareness are what we need at this point.

Four types of activities are currently being planned to do this. 1) We and/or an exhibit will try to be available at county field days and at conservation field days. 2) Munro Brook, the Addison County youth agent, will investigate adding an Indian unit to the 4-H summer camp activities. 3) He would also like to have a copy of the slide show for distribution; we will find out

if the Extension Service could fund reproduction. 4) Finally, Munro would like short articles on Indian life and activities in Vermont for a newsletter he produces. We have been discussing similar articles for some time.

At this meeting Bill, Lauren and Prue stressed that they cannot individually develop and present all the programs discussed. We need more volunteers if we are to present programs with high levels of quality. We would like to find VAS members and others throughout the state who might be able to help with various aspects of these programs. Please, send us your names and ideas!

CNEA Meeting Rescheduled

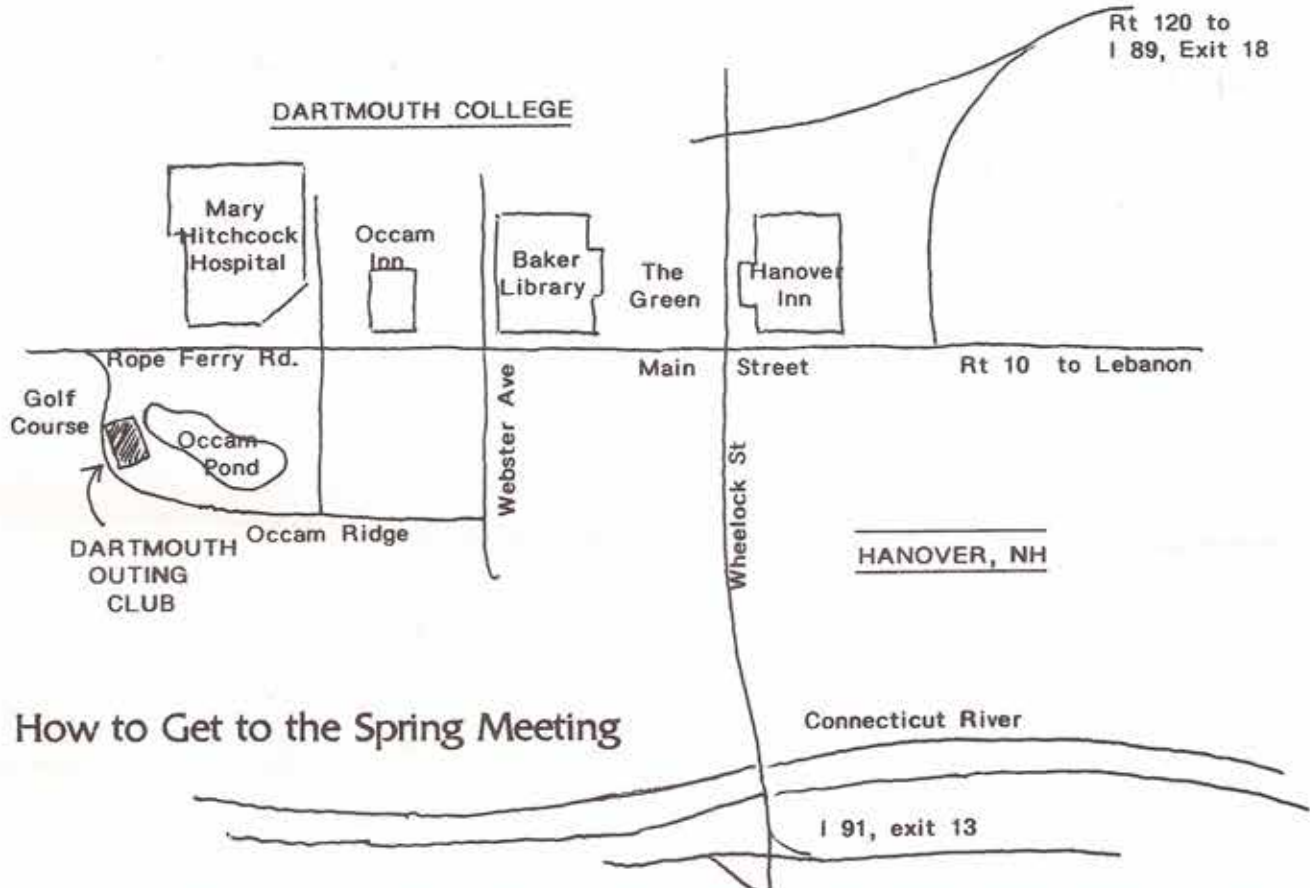
The Conference on New England Archaeology meeting announced in the last issue was canceled because of snow, and has been rescheduled for March 26 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass. A recent announcement says that the Conference "promises to provide a thought provoking analysis of the utility of 'households' for contemporary archaeological investigations." Conference registration for members is \$8 and for nonmembers is \$13 (includes \$5.00 membership). Registration will be from 8:30-9:30, and the conference will begin at 9:30.

We are glad to announce that Giovanna Peebles, who has been on an extended maternity leave since August, has returned to work as the State Archaeologist.

Mastodon Excavated in Western Massachusetts

According to the Conference on New England Archaeology newsletter (vol.2, no.2, Dec., 1982), "The American Indian Archaeological Institute, Washington, CT is preparing for the excavation of a mastodon in western Massachusetts. Roger Moeller [who spoke at the VAS fall meeting in 1981] has visited the site repeatedly to recover bone, ivory, seeds, white spruce cones, and arti-

facts. The site was discovered in the process of backhoeing a bog for a farm pond. The first item that caught the machine operator's eye was a large segment of pure white tusk. Subsequent examination of the small pile revealed large slabs of bone with apparent butchering marks. A three phase project is proposed: sifting and flotation in the spoil pile, a survey of the adjacent area for possible camp sites, and the actual removal of the remainder of the animal and associated faunal, floral and cultural data".



How to Get to the Spring Meeting

Spring Meeting Registration and Dinner Reservation

PLEASE ACCEPT _____ PREREGISTRATIONS @ \$2.00
 _____ LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS @ \$4.00
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED FOR REGISTRATIONS AND LUNCHEONS: \$ _____
 NAME of person making reservations or registrations: _____
 ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____
 OTHERS IN PARTY _____

PLEASE RETURN BY APRIL 11, TO VAS, BOX 663, BURLINGTON, VT 05402.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

NEW
 RENEWAL

1983

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY (OR REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATEGORY CHECKED BELOW.

Please print or type:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY OR TOWN _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
COUNTRY _____ PHONE _____
DATE _____ AGE _____ (If student or senior citizen)

Signature _____

DUES SCHEDULE (please check one)

- Individual (\$7.50)
- Family (\$14.00)
- Student or Senior Citizen* (\$3.00)
- Contributing (\$15.00)
- Sustaining (\$50.00)
- Life (\$125.00)
- Non-profit Institutional (\$10.00)
- Institutional (\$15.00)

If you want a membership card, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. You may photocopy this form.

* Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC. AND MAIL TO SOCIETY, BOX 663, BURLINGTON, VT 05402-0663

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FIRST CLASS

TO

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