

VAS newsletter....

NO. 51
MARCH 1985

A PUBLICATION OF THE
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Prudence Doherty, Editor

From the Editor...

Board members Steve Nelson and Doug Frink have planned an exciting and different Spring meeting. All the presentations will focus on historical archaeology projects in Vermont, and the meetings will be held at Historic Windsor. Following the meeting, a tour of the American Precision Museum will be held. Hope to see you there!

This is the last issue of the Newsletter that I will be preparing, as I am moving to the Bangor, Maine area at the end of April. Of all the VAS projects that I have been involved with, editing the Newsletter has been the most satisfying. I feel that providing information about archaeological projects and resources in the state is one of the Society's most important goals, and that the Newsletter is the most suitable method of spreading that information.

Scott Dillon, assistant archaeologist for the Consulting Archaeology Program at the University of Vermont, will succeed me as editor. I look forward to receiving future issues in Maine!

UVM to Offer Summer Field School

The University of Vermont's Department of Anthropology will offer a field school in archaeology this summer. The 6-credit course will be taught by Dr. James Petersen, presently on the faculty at the University of Maine at Farmington. The course will include techniques of archaeological investigation in field situations and laboratory analysis of data. The field school will be held from May 20 to June 20, 1985. For more information, contact the Department of Anthropology, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405.

ANNUAL MEETING ISSUE

See Program, p. 4
Abstracts of Talks, p. 2-3
Bring a Friend

Fifty-one Sites Added to Chittenden Inventory

In 1984, the Consulting Archaeology Program at the University of Vermont conducted an archaeological reconnaissance survey along the 13.5 mile corridor of the proposed Chittenden County Circumferential Highway. Under the direction of Peter A. Thomas, large field crews surveyed a variety of environmental zones using both surface collection and test pits. Fifty-one previously unrecorded prehistoric sites have been added to the State Site Inventory as a result of the summer's survey. The site inventory was substantially increased in environmental zones which had been very poorly sampled prior to the CCCH survey.

Nearly all sites identified appear to be relatively small and contain fairly low densities of artifacts. This is particularly true along the high sandy bluffs overlooking the Winooski River intervale in Colchester. Here, sampling was intensive enough and artifact density was sparse enough to conclude that few residential sites of any size exist along the bluffs. Rather, artifacts appear to represent many episodes of specific and short-term activity carried out by people living on the intervale. The random loss of tools over a 4,000-6,000 year period may account for many of the artifacts recovered today.

In much of the project area, small sites are clearly focused along major streams or their smaller tributaries. Many of these sites appear to be single component, although cultural deposits related to several periods of occupation are known to overlap within at least six sites.

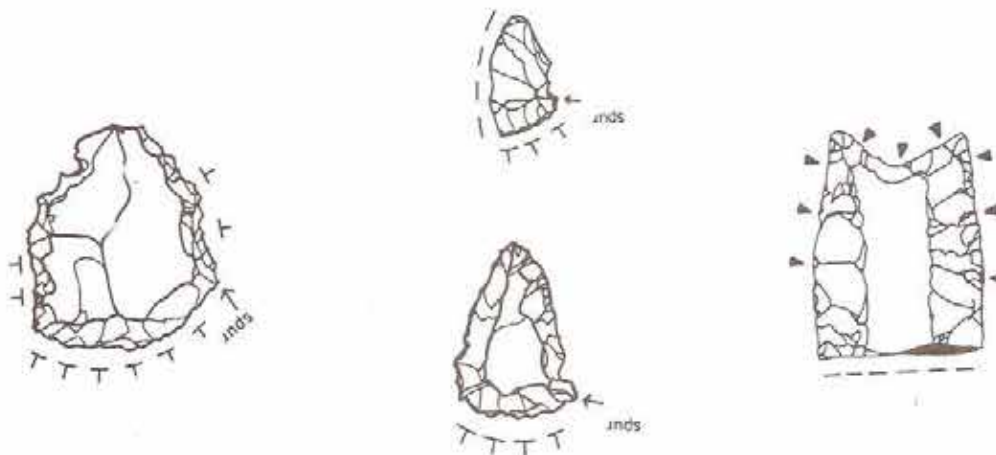
Nearly all cultural periods are represented in the inventory of recently discovered sites: Paleo-Indian 2 (4); Early Archaic 1 (3); Laurentian Archaic 6; Late Archaic stemmed 2 (7); undefined but probably Archaic 5; Terminal Archaic 1; Early Woodland 1 (1); Middle-Late Woodland 4; Late Woodland 1; Contact, possibly one. Numbers in parentheses represent possible cultural association. Of the 51 newly identified sites, age estimates cannot be made for 28 (55%). Additional testing at these sites might provide additional diagnostic information.

The types of artifacts recovered during the CCCH survey mirror the artifact frequencies known to exist within other sites in the general area. Artifact categories include lithic flakes

FIFTY-ONE SITES ADDED

at 47 sites, projectile points at 23 sites, lithic material in various stages of reduction at 13 sites, scrapers at 10 sites, utilized

were using those areas of high resource density along the lakeshore, the lower reaches of the Winooski River and around Shelburne Pond. How they were using these non-riverine sites, during what seasons, by how many people, or whether the pattern changed during this 1,500-



Paleo-Indian artifacts found during the CCHH reconnaissance survey. Base of a chert fluted point is shown to the left. Other drawings represent three spurred end scrapers. The two in the middle are made of chert, the one on the right is quartz. Symbols around

the artifacts represent the following: edge stepping, crushing or flake removal from tool use (||||); intentional grinding to dull edges, primarily for hafting (▲▲▲); and breakage (- - -). All drawings are actual size, and were prepared by Geraldine Kochan.

flakes at 18 sites, a celt fragment at one site, hearths at 12 (possibly 15) sites, bone at 4 sites, and ceramics at one site.

The extremely low incidence of ceramics at sites in the smaller drainages, in contrast to the fairly high frequency of pottery at Middle-Late Woodland period sites adjacent to the Winooski River and around Shelburne Pond, is striking. These data suggest that people during the Middle-Late Woodland were using these areas in a decidedly different way than they

year period remains to be determined.

The site inventory from this reconnaissance survey, when added to the inventory of previously identified sites, greatly increases the archaeological potential for this part of northwestern Vermont. Through extended excavations at selected sites, we are approaching the time when we can begin to address the broader issues of annual settlement and subsistence patterns over a long stretch of time.

-Peter A. Thomas

Abstracts of Annual Meeting Talks

Socioeconomic Status and Ceramics of the Green Family, Windsor, Vermont 1788-1956

Archaeological excavations at the Green Mansion and Store site were undertaken at the invitation of owners Larry Bowser and Holly Taylor. The historical archaeological research by Dr. Suzanne Spencer-Wood and Scott Heberling has established a correspondence between the wealth of the Green family and the ceramics they discarded at their house site. Documentary research established that the Greens were one of the wealthiest and most socially prominent families in 19th century Windsor. Tax records and inventories revealed that most of their money was invested in land rather than in consumer goods. The research question was whether or not the Greens' ceramics would reflect their socioeconomic status. Results of various analyses indicated that although the Greens

spent very little of their income on ceramics, the value of their discarded ceramics reflected the Green's relatively high socioeconomic status. This good correspondence between the value of consumed ceramics and status is due to a number of factors, including the relatively high market access of Windsor as a crossroads entrepot and the operation of a dry goods store by the Greens.

Historical Inquiry into the Goodenough-Wheeler Farm, Kent's Corners, Calais, Vermont

During August, 1984, the Vermont Historical Society sponsored a historical inquiry into the Goodenough-Wheeler farm located in Kent's Corners, Calais, Vermont, near the Kent Tavern Museum. The site is comprised of the foundation walls of the cellar hole of a large farm house, the foundations of several possible attached farm buildings,

the stone foundations for a big timber frame barn, a small standing but dilapidated house, and a dry stone well with a large slab covering. Members of the museum staff researched deeds and other documented data prior to a weekend workshop of field survey and excavation on the site. Eighteen participants, nearly all from Vermont, helped excavate 5 meter-square areas for two days in August with a follow-up day in October. They uncovered a variety of nineteenth and twentieth-century artifacts, and members of the group are concluding artifact analysis this spring. This dry statement does little to convey the excitement of discovery which the group enjoyed. The excavation was led by Eleanor Ott, who recently excavated a comparable site in Calais not far from Kent's Corner, and who participated in the National Geographic Society-sponsored excavation of an early farm complex in South Royalton in 1980 (reported on in a previous issue of the Newsletter).

Ironworks Research in Vermont: An Update

Two more blast furnace ruins and one furnace site were located in Vermont during 1984, along with a number of charcoal kiln ruins, and a bloomery and iron mine site. These, plus the author's recent purchase of an IBM PCjr and its adaptation for use in recording and analyzing research data, will be described.

Historical Archaeology at Chimney Point: Results of Summer 1984 Survey

The Consulting Archaeology Program at UVM conducted archaeological reconnaissance surveys at the state-owned Barnes Tavern site at Chimney Point in Addison, Vermont during the summer of 1984. The survey was designed to identify evidence of prehistoric and historic occupations at the site. Specifically, the investigations were focused on finding evidence of the British fort built here in the 1690s, a French fort and related settlement from the 1730's and features and structures related to the tavern which apparently operated from the late 1700s into the nineteenth century. Artifacts from prehistoric occupation were found in most excavation units. No artifacts from a seventeenth-century occupation have been identified, and only a few items possibly related to the 1750s French settlement have been identified. Most items recovered seem to represent the period from 1790-1820. Later nineteenth century material was also recovered. These items will be described and related to the known history of the site.

Sharing Vermont's State Parks: Early Indians, Nineteenth-Century Industrialists, and Modern Campers

Shelley Hight of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation will discuss the results of her research on the prehistoric and historic archaeological potential of a number of Vermont's state parks.

VAS Volunteers Assist in Milton Survey

From May through August, 1984, a Phase I reconnaissance survey was conducted on three parcels of agricultural land approximately 22 acres in extent. The land is located in Milton, Vermont. The project was directed by Scott Dillon, funded by a grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and involved VAS volunteers as well as others.

The fields are situated on a partially dissected portion of outwash plain (ca. 175-200 ft m.s.l.) and surround a marshy, spring-fed pond which represents the headwaters of an upper distributary of Allen Brook. Three prehistoric sites (VT-CH-101, 21 and 54) were known to exist on the landform. However, since the existing data base was based on largely unprovenienced collection by both amateur and avocational archaeologists, it was felt that a more extensive survey would add significantly to understanding of the nature of prehistoric use of this environmental zone. Chittenden County is undergoing rapid development, and while these types of upland sites are presumed to be fairly common, they are often threatened. As a result, crucial data on past settlement and subsistence patterns are increasingly lost.

The reconnaissance survey was based entirely on surface collection procedures. VAS volunteers and others recovered approximately 595 prehistoric artifacts from the three survey areas. Flakes of both chert and quartzite make up the bulk of the inventory, but diagnostic projectile points from the Late Archaic through Middle-Late Woodland cultural periods were also found. In addition to a general low density scatter of cultural materials which extended well beyond previously described site limits, a number of well defined intra-site loci were identified.

Although data are preliminary, the observed patterning has several implications. First, the overall high density of the cultural material implies that the prehistoric activity that has occurred in this locale was not incidental. While at least a 4,000-year time span has been identified, the presence of focal areas within each of the three sites suggests that at least some of the clusters represent single occupations with a fairly high degree of archaeological clarity.

Secondly, while tool production and maintenance are the dominant activities that can be inferred from the present inventory, surface collection is definitely biased in favor of the recovery of lithic items, and the concentrated nature of the distribution indicates that the remains of activities such as food processing and cooking are probably also present. Contrary to initial expectations, it is apparent that these sites represent a level of prehistoric usage that is somewhat unique within the Champlain drainage.

-Scott Dillon

You're Invited

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING

Saturday, April 20, 1985

11 am - 5 pm

Windsor, Vermont

11:00-11:45

REGISTRATION

\$2 for meeting; \$1 additional for tour of American Precision Museum at 4 pm.

11:45-12:30

BUSINESS MEETING

12:30-3:30

PRESENTATIONS

4:00-5:00

TOUR OF AMERICAN PRECISION MUSEUM

DINING

Coffee, donuts and snacks will be available during registration and breaks. Meals are on your own. A list of local restaurants will be available at the registration desk.

SPEAKERS

*SUZANNE SPENCER-WOOD, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Massachusetts, Boston. "Socioeconomic Status and Ceramics of the Green Family, Windsor, Vermont, 1788-1956."

*ELEANOR OTT, Professor of Anthropology, Goddard College, Plainfield, Vermont. "A Historical Inquiry into the Goodenough-Wheeler Farm, Kent's Corner, Calais, Vermont."

*MARGARET GIBBS, Consulting Archeology Program, University of Vermont. "Historical Archaeology at Chimney Point: Results of the Summer 1984 Survey."

*VICTOR ROLANDO, Independent Historical Researcher. "Ironworks Research in the United States, an Update."

*SHELLEY HIGHT, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation. "Sharing Vermont's State Parks- Early Indians, Nineteenth-century Industrialists and Modern Campers."

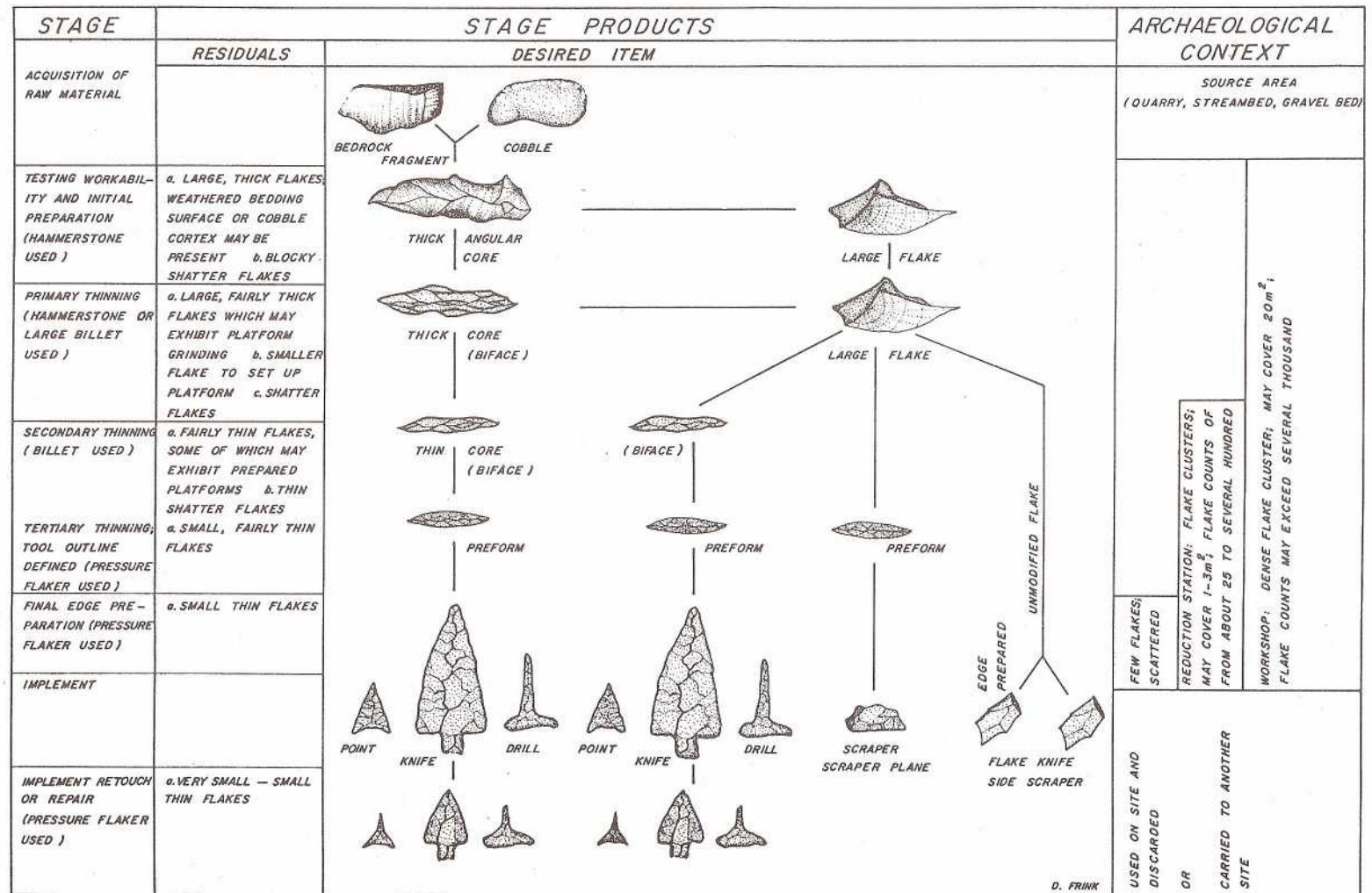
WHERE

Gerard Room, Historic Windsor House and Vermont State Craft Center, Main Street, Windsor, Vermont (Across from the Post Office).

BRING A FRIEND

Schematic View of Stone Tool Production

COURTESY OF PETER THOMAS, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT



New Underwater Archeology Publication Available

A Report on the Nautical Archeology of Lake Champlain: Results of the 1982 Field Season of the Champlain Maritime Society.

Edited by Arthur B. Cohn, with contributions

by William A. Bayreuther, Kevin J. Crisman and E. Jan Warren. 84pp., 111us.

Prepared for the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation by the Champlain Maritime Society.

Copies available from the Champlain Maritime Society, P.O. Box 745, Burlington, Vermont 05402 for \$5.00.



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1985

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* Under 18 or over 65 years of age.

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