Keeler Bay Yields Late Woodland Pottery Vessel

On August 4, 1986, divers Duncan and Sandra Steeves of Milton, recovered about half a prehistoric pottery vessel from Keeler Bay in Grand Isle. The pot was found in approximately 28 ft. of water on the leeside of Kellogg Island, a small bedrock knob located in the north coastal portion of the bay. Recognizing the significance of their discovery, the Steeves followed proper conservation procedures, allowing the main body of the pot as well as associated fragments to dry slowly under moist conditions before notifying the Department of Anthropology at the University of Vermont. The pot was subsequently brought to the Anthropology Lab for further cleaning and analysis.

As can be seen in the accompanying photograph, the Keeler Bay pot is remarkably well...
preserved and consists of almost exactly half a grit-tempered, globular jar broken longitudinally. The vessel is slightly less than 20cm in height with an oral diameter of 14cm at the lip and 12cm at the neck. Maximum width is attained long the central plane of the body and approaches 18 centimeters. Surface treatment consists of smoothed over, cord-wrapped paddle impressions on the exterior portion of the body and base; the neck, as well as parts of the upper body, appear to be highly burnished. Interior surfaces are smoothed. The pot is simply decorated with a complete series of parallel incisions with an oblique orientation extending for 2cm below the lip. Based on this general morphology, it is clear that the pot dates from sometime during the Late Woodland cultural period (ca. A.D. 1000-1600).

To my knowledge, the Steeves' discovery is only the second such find recorded from Lake Champlain. In 1980, a largely intact castellated jar was recovered from the middle of Plattsburgh Bay by Diver Gary Allen. Currently housed at the Clinton County Historical Association Museum in Plattsburgh, New York, this vessel dates from the later portion of the same time period. A third Late Woodland pot was recovered in 1984 from 100 ft. of water on the Canadian side of Lake Memphramagog by Jacques Boisvert, and can be viewed at the Cultural Museum in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Although these finds probably represent isolated losses due to accidental swamping of canoes or dugouts, or intentional discards left on the ice during the winter months, they each have significant value in that they are rarely encountered, largely unbroken examples of a prehistoric technology that was utilitarian as well as aesthetically pleasing. Furthermore, each of these specimens (as well as others that will undoubtedly be found) serve as constant reminders of the maritime traditions reaching far beyond the recent past.

At present, the Keeler Bay Pot is unavailable for public viewing, however, tentative agreement has been reached for at least a temporary display this coming summer, possibly at the Basin Harbor Museum in Vergennes. In addition, the unlikely nature of the longitudinal fracture, the relatively fresh character of the broken edges, and the fact that at least two of the associated sherds articulate with the main body of the pot, strongly suggest that additional fragments may be present in the immediate vicinity of the find spot. As a result, the Steeves, in conjunction with David Skinas of the state Division for Historic Preservation, and me plan to revisit the site in the early spring to conduct a thorough reconnaissance.

S.D., Editor.
DHP Issues New Publication

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has recently published, Of Sailing Ships and Sidewheelers: the History and Nautical Archaeology of Lake Champlain, written and illustrated by Kevin Crisman. This 37 page volume is divided into five chapters that focus on periods of the lake's history and describe archaeological finds related to each period. Topics include prehistoric activities, European discovery and the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, settlement and the War of 1812, and the commercial era of the nineteenth century. Archaeological discoveries described include dugout canoes, a colonial period batteau, the British 16 gun sloop Boscawen, Benedict Arnold's flagship, the floating log bridge constructed between Fort Ticonderoga, New York and Mount Independence. In 1777, the steamer Phoenix, the canal schooner, General Butler, and a nineteenth century horse ferry. A selected bibliography that serves as a guide to further reading and a glossary conclude the volume. This publication is well illustrated, attractively arranged, and the information is concisely presented. It serves as an excellent summary of the historical research and underwater archaeology that has been conducted on Lake Champlain in recent years.

Copies of the publication can be obtained by writing to: Division for Historic Preservation, Agency of Development and Community Affairs, Montpelier, VT 05602. Copies will also be available at the VAS Spring Meeting.

Survey of Vermont IA Sites Continues

The IA survey of Vermont continued unabated during 1986, resulting in 43 sites of mixed industrial archeological subjects added to the state inventory. VAS member, Vic Rolando, assisted by wife Grace and friend Bob West of Manchester, located sites in Addison County (11), Bennington County (6), Chittenden County (2), Franklin County (1), Rutland County (14), Washington County (2), Windham County (5), and Windsor County (1). The sites included charcoal kilns (5+ mound types, 13 brick type, 6 stone type, 1 concrete block type, and 1 rectangular stone type), lime kilns (18), bloomery forges (7), foundries (6), iron mines (2), blast furnaces (2), plus 5.09 miles of abandoned railroad bed and an unidentified circular stone feature.

Work generally concentrated on locating and recording sites in higher-development areas. Field and archival clues to many other IA sites will be investigated through the winter with further attempts at locating and recording them planned for 1987. Thematic nomination of the ironworks sites to the National Register is also planned for 1987. The value of Rolando's time and effort donated to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation for the period October 1, 1985 through November 30, 1986, will total $10,500. This amount is federally matched with cash for DHP projects (V1c's is the 70%).

On November 1, 1986, Rolando presented a paper to the 20th annual meeting of the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) at Troy, New York, titled "Variability in Design of 19th Century Charcoal Kilns in Vermont."

DHP Introduces Heritage 91 Program

Included in Governor Kunin's Fiscal Year 1988 budget is an historic sites development plan called "Heritage 91." Developed by the Division for Historic Preservation, this plan involves increased state funding which will allow each major state historic site to become an educational center on the history and heritage of Vermont. As currently envisioned, the plan should greatly enhance the public enjoyment of the sites and stimulate additional tourism. A full-time professional administrator with an archeological background will be based at Chimney Point State Park to draw up interpretative plans for that site as well for Mt. Independence and the Hubbardton Battlefield. Capital construction monies will be used to build exhibits and a visitor's center at Mt. Independence in the next four years.

The Division will keep you informed of the progress of the "Heritage 91" program through the Legislature and anyone wishing more detailed information may call DHP staff at (802) 826-3226.

SD
Sheldon Museum Project in Early Vermont Archaeology

by James Consler

(This is the text of talk given by the author at the Fall, 1986 VAS meeting in Middlebury.)

I would like to introduce you to the Sheldon Museum Project in Early Vermont Archaeology. Since the project began recently, I can present you only a summary of its history, goals and methods that is brief. The project began when ten amateur and professional archaeologists, several faculty members of Middlebury College and Middlebury Union High School, Polly Darnell of the Sheldon Museum, and Giovanna Peebles from the Division for Historic Preservation held several meetings in Middlebury. This group was interested in organizing an archaeological research project which would involve both local community members and serve preservation goals. After several discussions, it was decided that an historic archaeology project would draw the needed community support as well as benefit from the extensive collections of the Sheldon Museum.

The historic period was selected in part because we think that the study of the shift from subsistence to market-oriented farming, which began during this time, is relevant to contemporary problems with family farm foreclosures and large-scale agricultural production. Also, after a review of the State Historic Preservation Plan, it was clear that researching the early settlement of Vermont would greatly contribute to the understanding of this infrequently investigated period of Vermont historic archaeology. At the suggestion of Giovanna Peebles, we obtained the participation of Suzanne Spencer-Wood, an historic archaeologist at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, who has conducted several projects in Vermont. In the fall of 1985, we submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities and were awarded a $7,500 planning grant. This grant has enabled five researchers to begin organizing a community-based historic archaeology project.

The main goals of this project are to heighten the general public's awareness of the need for historic preservation and archaeological research and to provide interested community members with the opportunity to actively participate in a field project. We are also seeking to make developers, building restorationists, and town and state officials sensitive to the need for preservation of cultural resources and to the value of archaeological investigations. Finally, with the preservation goal in mind, we will focus our research on archaeological resources threatened by development.

For purposes of the planning grant, we are confining our research to the towns of Middlebury and Shoreham, Vermont, where we have good documentation. We have divided our research into two phases: first, a general historical overview, and secondly, site-specific documentation. The preliminary work will provide information on the time needed to conduct various activities and will allow us to determine how members of the community can participate in gathering background information, both of which are necessary in planning future projects.

The general, historic overview phase of work consists of inventorying documents and artifact collections held by the Sheldon Museum, local historical societies and private individuals. This will provide us with an overview of the existing historic documentary and artifactual data base. We are also compiling a list of previous historical and archaeological research concerning early settlement in the Middlebury/Shoreham areas. Federal and state census data will be employed in constructing populations, manufacturing and employment profiles. All of this information will aid us in developing an explicit research design to guide future archaeological research designs.

To guide our selection of sites for the second phase of the project, we are working on a series of maps locating house and mill sites compiled from the series of Walling and Beers nineteenth century maps. In order to map locations for the earliest house sites, for which we have found very little precise information, we are using a combination of local history sources, census data and land ownership records. However, many times exact house site locations will be unknown without actual field surveys. This series of maps showing potential site locations will provide excellent settlement pattern data, indicate the potential number of site types available for study, and, when combined with current town zoning maps, will allow us to pinpoint areas where future development threatens early historic archaeological sites.

The second phase of our investigations, the site-specific documentation, will focus on these areas of potential development. For sites located in areas of high development, we will attempt to locate specific documents such as diaries, probate records and account books, as well as artifact collections, to individual sites. This information will be compiled into a file so that researchers may efficiently determine what documentary and artifactual materials exist for a particular site and how many other sites of its type exist. Since we would like this to become an ongoing research program, we intend that this file will be continuously updated and expanded.

In order to guide us in selecting sites for preliminary field investigations and any future decision of preservation or mitigation, we will employ criteria based on the degree of disturb-
bance at a site, the amount of site-specific documentary information and the number of existing, similar sites available for study. Since most of the work of this grant is concerned with gathering preliminary background information, we will not be conducting extensive field investigations.

This project, through the Sheldon Museum, will lay the groundwork for future historic archaeological investigations and will allow the community opportunity to actively participate in archaeological research. We would appreciate any comments and suggestions; contact Jim Consler, RD 1, Box 146A, Shoreham, VT 05770.

**DHP Update**

As all of you know, the National Park Service (NPS) partially funds the state historic preservation programs on a 50/50 cost share basis. Accordingly, NPS conducted a Program Review of our Division in November 1985, in compliance with federal regulations. At that time we were told that we did not satisfactorily meet the Review criteria in a variety of programs (i.e., Survey, Review and Compliance, National Register, Survey and Planning subgrants, etc.) NPS's written comments on the November 1985 Program Review were finally submitted to us at the end of August 1986. Their written comments detailed all the reasons why we failed the Program Review. One reason for unsatisfactory performance, for example, was poor record keeping for the mandatory End-of-Year report to NPS.

Other reasons included:
- A number of project reports resulting from Survey and Planning subgrants did not meet the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines;
- Principal project personnel on several subgrants did not meet the requirements in federal regulation 36CFR61; this requires that the principal project archaeologist have a Master's degree, at minimum;
- Survey and Planning subgrants were not adequately monitored; performance criteria were not clear; action and/or penalties for non-performance were neither clear nor carried out.

Accordingly, we have revised many of the old ways of doing things in response to NPS's review. Some of the revisions are simply required and the option of doing things the old, informal way does not exist. Other program changes, required or voluntary, are welcome and will improve consistency, performance standards and internal operating systems. Unfortunately, these changes also bring more paperwork, especially for the Division staff, and more regulated behavior for all of us.

In addition, the Reagan Administration has rescinded fiscal year 1987 NPS funds to the states. As of today, we are to receive only 25% of the monies that Congress authorized for the historic preservation programs. As a result, for the second year in a row we will be unable to fund the Survey and Planning subgrant program.

On a more positive note, I'm pleased to announce that the Division has hired two archaeologists within the last six months. Cindy Cook, a native of Burlington, is our Review and Compliance Coordinator; David Skinas, formerly from New Hampshire and more recently Maine, is our Survey Archaeologist. Archaeologist Shelley Hight, who worked with us for several years on a number of projects, has been hired by the Division as the full-time, permanent, Bennington Monument site supervisor.

Today, I send you [VAS] a copy of the Division's most recent publication, written and illustrated by Kevin Crisman. [See review in this issue, Ed.] Of Saltich Ships and Side-wheelers is the culmination of many years of joint projects by the Division and the Champlain Maritime Society, and a number of individual researchers such as Kevin. We are very proud of this booklet. Within several months, we hope to complete a teaching unit on Lake Champlain maritime history and archeology, based on the booklet, for distribution to Vermont teachers.

Best wishes for the New Year, Giovanna Peebles.

**Cole Twitchell, 1912-1987**

Dr. M. Coleman Twitchell, 74, of Burlington, died January 23 of complications following surgery. A lifelong Burlington resident, Cole was one of the founding members of the Vermont Archaeological Society. The Society extends its sympathy to his wife Laura, his son, two daughters and four grandchildren who survive him.

Cole was an ophthalmologist and it was partly his skills in that field that enabled life-member Ken Varney to establish such a high reputation in the walking archeological survey. Cole had prescribed for Ken a pair of bifocals that offered him perfect focus the exact distance from his eyes to the ground. The "old timers" will miss you, Cole.

JTP.

**Spring Meeting Plans**

A group of Board members has begun to plan the spring VAS meeting. Tentatively, it will be held on April 25 in St. Albans. Speakers will discuss archaeological projects in the Missisquoi River watershed. Look for more details in the next Newsletter.
Developers Learn to Cope with Archeological Sites

By Rose Paul

Real estate developer Alan Palmer says he always wanted to go on archeological dig in Australia, but his wife wouldn't let him.

So, when he learned there could be archeological remains on the site of an office building he planned in South Burlington, Palmer took vacation time to help archeologists survey the 12 acre site.

He helped unearth the tips of arrowheads, quartzite flakes chipped off tools, and large chunks of Indian pottery. For Palmer, the archeological work was fun.

But a growing number of Chittenden County developers are finding that the prospect of archeological remains can interfere with their developments unless they plan ahead.

One criterion of Act 250, Vermont's primary development control law, protects archeological and historic sites. That means developers working in sensitive areas must take extra steps to identify and protect them. In 1986, about half the new developments proposed in Chittenden County were in potentially sensitive areas, according to Katherine Vose, environmental coordinator for District 4.

Vose says she doesn't remember precisely how many projects that was, but she offered the example of developments reviewed by the commission this month. Of the eight projects, four were in archeologically sensitive areas. The incidence is increasing, Vose said, because as development moves away from an urban center, it is more likely to occur near such topographical features as streams, which are associated with archeological deposits.

In addition, experts now are better able to predict where archeological deposits might be found, she said.

"We have some cases where the developer was not aware that the site was sensitive until he was well into the permitting process," Vose said. "In those instances it has been difficult for the developer when the state has asked for the archeological survey, due to the unexpected high cost and length of time it takes to do a survey."

While a survey is not always necessary, if it is, the price tag can range up to $7,000 for a site bigger than 50 acres. In Vermont, most archeological sites contain remnants of prehistoric Indian occupation from 300 to 10,000 years old. Sites vary from short-term encampments to permanent villages. If it seems likely that a site may contain archeological remains, Vose refers the developer to the state Division for Historic Preservation.

There, Cynthia Cook, the environmental review archeologist, inspects the site plans. In some cases she visits the site. "I look at a site to see its proximity to water, its slope, elevation, and soil types, and whether there are known archeological sites in the area," Cook said.

Cook then designates the site as low, moderate, or highly sensitive based on the likelihood it will have archeological remains. A low or moderately sensitive site can be developed as planned. If part or all of a site is archeologically sensitive, a developer has two choices. He can leave the sensitive acres undeveloped, working them into his plans as green space. If he still hopes to develop those sensitive acres, he must hire an archeological survey, like the one Palmer helped with. The survey will determine whether there really are any deposits on the site and whether they are important.

Cook said developers whose land includes a stream can second-guess this whole process by planning from the beginning to set aside a 200 foot buffer strip on each side of the stream. That area is almost certain to be archeologically sensitive. "The vast majority of archeological sites are associated with water. Indians used watercourses for transportation, for food resources like fish and waterfowl, and for plant resources like berries and basketry materials," Cook said.

Cook estimates that in 10 percent of the cases where she identifies sites as having sensitive areas, the developer chooses to have a survey done in an attempt to recover some of the land for development. Hiring an archeological consultant is the next step.

Peter Thomas, director of the University of Vermont Consulting Program in Archeology, does almost all of the survey work in Vermont for private developments. He also emphasized that developers need to plan ahead. "The field season for archeology is from early May to mid-November. Getting a jump on it can be a real financial benefit," he said.

The field work of a survey—like the one done for Alan Palmer—takes from one to four days. Archeologists sample the area for signs of ancient life by digging test pits or plowing long furrows. If artifacts are found, they are mapped, cleaned and identified. "It's not inexpensive, but if you consider that an acre of land in Williston can cost $80,000, it can be cost effective," Thomas said.

As an example, Thomas said that surveying a 20 acre buffer strip might show that only two acres have artifacts buried on them. The remaining 18 acres could be developed. Jeff Davis of J.L. Davis Associates of Burlington, hired Thomas to do just such a survey of a 20 acre site. For Palmer, the archeological work was fun.
buffer strip in a planned commercial park at Taft Corners in Williston. "They make a good example for other state agencies to follow. They were very clear about what my choices were," Davis said. "I was given a choice between no development or surveying a 20 acre buffer strip." He said, "The nice thing about it is it gives us developers a worst case scenario. That to me is a big step forward. Developers had a fear of archeological recognition in the past that wasn't justified."

Davis said that most of the sensitive land on his site can now be developed. Palmer, too, was able to develop most of his land. Since the building he planned would have stood on the archeological site, Palmer had his project redesigned— he built smaller buildings instead. The archeological site will be a small picnic area between the two.

And he has the memory of his own archeological dig. "The only way it cost me was a little bit of labor, but I got it back in satisfaction," he said. "The archeologists were nice people. We learned a lot from each other."

News from Our Neighbors

From the Center for Northern Studies:

* The Center and the Abbe Museum of Bar Harbor, Maine, will co-sponsor an archeological field school on the coast of Maine. It will be conducted by Stephen Cox of the Center and Diane Kopec of the Abbe Museum. The field school will provide training in archeological field methods, analysis of recovered data, and northeastern prehistory. Course credit is available to students from the Center, Middlebury College, Bowdoin College and possibly other institutions.

Fieldwork will center on the Watson site, a multicomponent type on Frenchman's Bay on the central Maine coast.

Like Maine's Goddard site, the Watson site contains significant amounts of exotic raw materials, including cherts from Labrador, the Maritimes and the Great Lakes region. The site appears to have been occupied as summer village ca 1200-500 years ago. For more information, contact the Center, Wolcott, VT 05680-9726 or call (802) 888-4331.

* The Winter issue of the Center's Northern Raven contains a paper by Aron Crowell (National Museum of Natural History) entitled, "The Economics of Site Destruction on St. Lawrence Island (Alaska)." The paper was given at the Fifth Inuit Studies Conference at McGill University in November, 1986.

* An old friend of many Vermonters, Bill Osgood, is retiring from the Center for Northern Studies, where he created and operated the library and resurrected the "Northern Raven." He and his wife Thelma will operated a Bed and Breakfast business from their Northfield home.

From the New Hampshire Archeological Society:

* Justine Gengras of Tilton, New Hampshire has just taken over as president of NHAS from Don Foster. One new committee created by the Board is the Committee on Collections, chaired by Ed Mckenzie. Its job is to make a list of private collections of prehistoric artifacts located in New Hampshire.

* NHAS has a distinguished service recognition known as the Chester Price Award. Three were given at the Fall Meeting in October.

* NHAS now has 178 members, of whom 15 are life members. Dues is $10 a year for regular membership, but will likely be increased in the near future because "one issue of the Bulletin often costs more than one year's personal dues."

* NHAS just published a special issue of the New Hampshire Archeologist, which is editor David Starbuck's treatise, The New England Glassworks. David is also a member of VAS.

The edition was printed in 600 copies with the hope that proceeds from the sales of extra copies will allow an extra two issues of the Bulletin to be published each year. All publications of NHAS are free to members.

* NHAS has over $4,800 in its "General Fund" and almost $7,000 in five special funds, one of which is the "Life Membership Fund."

From ESAF

* The Archaeological Society of Virginia and Eastern States Archaeological Federation have teamed up to form the first archeological computer network directed toward the amateur archeologist. Anyone with a computer, modem and communications software can dial up and get the latest archeological news, current events and activities announcements. The hours are 6-11 PM, Monday through Friday and 10 AM to 11 PM, Saturday and Sunday. Communications settings are the same as for CompuServe except that you don't need any ID or password. For further details, write Jack Hranicky (ASV president) at PO Box 4190, Arlington, VA 22204. You can call him at 703-256-1304.

From the Society for Industrial Archeology:

* The Northern New England chapter of SIA will sponsor a tour of Yankee Typesetters, Inc., a complete hot type shop featuring Linotype machines in operation. The company is located on the second floor of the Page Belting Company, 10 Commercial Street, Concord, New Hampshire. If you aren't a member of SIA, call for more information to Dennis Howe, 603-225-6649 between 8 AM and 6 PM weekdays. Tour date is February 14, 1987. If there is a "severe snowstorm", the tour will be rescheduled.

JTP

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IF YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR DUES RENEWAL NOTICE OR ARE A NEW MEMBER, USE THIS FORM

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL

The Dues Year is the Calendar Year.
The annual membership list will be published in the next issue.

NAME: ____________________________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________

CITY OR TOWN ____________________________________________

STATE ___________ ZIP ___________

PHONE NUMBER ___________ DATE ___________

AGE _____ (If student or senior citizen)

DUES SCHEDULE:

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                      Family.............................. 8.00
                      Sustaining............................ 12.00
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The Secretary, Vermont Archaeological Society, PO Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402

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TO

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