

VAS newsletter...

Welcome Back "Old Timers"

No. 59
Autumn 1988

A PUBLICATION OF THE
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Sharon Murray, Editor

Newsletter Indexing Project on Schedule

by Victor Rolando

If you really want to get to know an organization, then do an index of all its publications. And so, I have come to learn about the VAS and to take a new perspective on what VAS is all about.

I started working on the index with my own copies of the newsletters, starting with the September 1978 issue (I joined in October 1978). Indexing started with merely noting titles of articles and items, and cross-referencing to authors. In this manner I quickly ran through a dozen Newsletter issues. But as I thought about it, I realized other things should be indexed: geographic names, site names, place names and people associated with these. And soon, my index subject list expanded to include even soil types, site numbers, point names, lithic features, etc.

Do you know what VAS archeological word has been cropping up most so far in the indexing—chert, Winoski, artifact? Think about it; I'll tell you later.

To date (June 22), I have indexed Newsletter issues 1-6, 25-26, and Monograph #1. Since then other issues have been loaned to me, and I'm sure more may show up. (Editor's note: Vic now has a complete set to keep him busy.)

Most interesting for me has been to discover who was involved in the formation of the VAS back in 1968 and as I work my way up through the issues, it is fascinating to see the names of recently-made

Vermont friends start to appear in the Newsletters.

Since I am more historical/industrial archeology oriented, some may think my indexing a prehistoric-oriented Newsletter inappropriate. Will I miss some significant terms to index? Maybe waste index space with less than significant data? I think not. Although my field experience in prehistoric work is limited (weekend sifting sessions at John's Bridge

remain my high water mark in prehistoric archeology), I do read much prehistoric writing and feel that I have a good grasp on the terminology. At least it will do until I get into the 1980s Newsletters and can deal with such terms as blast furnace, slag and cast iron kiln vents.

I have tried a few schemes to create and record my index, including home PC software that really was not designed for this purpose. But because I do most of my indexing during lunch time at work, away from my PC at home, I am indexing with 3x5 inch cards. I

can carry the five inch stack of cards to work and home more easily than struggling to convert between incompatible GE and home PC software. When indexing is completed, I will input the data and record it on a floppy disk, then print camera-ready copy on my daisy wheel printer. At my present rate of work, I know of no reason why the index can't be printed out in time to be published by the fall annual meeting.

Oh yes, the most common VAS archeology-related word in the indexing so far? It's "Popecki", of course.

(Editor's note: we expect to have copies of the index on display, if not published by then.)

20 Don't Miss It!

Vermont Archaeological Society TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY Annual Meeting

Sheraton Burlington Inn
I 89, Exit 14
October 15, 1988

LOOK FOR THE MEETING PROGRAM
AND RESERVATION FORM INSIDE.

Twentieth Anniversary Meeting Program

9:30 AM	REGISTRATION, COFFEE
10:30 AM	BUSINESS MEETING Reports and Announcements Results of the Trustee Election Other Matters Proper When Met
11:00 AM	REPORT OF THE STATE ARCHEOLOGIST <u>Giovanna Peebles</u>
11:30	CURRENT PROJECTS REPORTS "The Ferris Site", <u>Art Cohn</u>
12:30 PM	DAGWOOD'S DELI BUFFET (Reservation, Please)
1:30 PM	CURRENT PROJECTS REPORTS (Continued) "Prehistoric Settlement/Procurement Patterns Evident at VT-CH-293 and 294, Winooski", <u>Doug Frink</u> .
2:15 PM	"Prehistoric Utilization of Outwash Terraces Along the Lamoille River", <u>Peter Thomas</u> .
3:00 PM	"Chert Procurement from the Hathaway Formation: Preliminary Evidence from VT-CH-173 and 176, St Albans", <u>Scott Dillon</u> .
3:45 PM	"Learning About Landforms and Evalu- ating Field Methods: 1988 State Survey in Chittenden County", <u>David Skinas</u> .
4:30	The Archaeology of European Expan- sion: Flowerdew Hundred, Virginia", <u>Marjorie Power</u> .
5:00 PM	HAPPY HOUR (Buy an Old Timer a Drink)
6:00PM	BANQUET DINNER BUFFET (Reservations)
7:00 PM	GORDON DAY AND THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Kevin Dann. Presentation of Honorary Membership to Gordon Day. VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Visual Highlights of Twenty Years, <u>Joe Popecki</u> .

Biographies of Trustee Candidates

LOUISE BASA. Louise joined the Society in 1969, the year after its founding. She has taught in the University's Department of Anthropology, and has served the Society in many ways- as a Trustee, committee and Task Force chair, and as Secretary to the Board. Louise is employed as a professional archeologist by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, but her roots are still planted in the Green Mountain State.

FRED W. COWAN and his wife Joan live in Canaan, in the far Northeast Kingdom, where Fred works as a forester. The Cowans became members in 1976 when son Frank was a UVM student. Fred is currently a Trustee and regularly makes the long drive to attend Board meetings in the Burlington area.

DAVID LACY is employed by the U.S. Forest Service in Rutland and was recently appointed Forest

Archeologist for the Green Mountain national Forest. He earned his BA at Boston University (1977), his MA from UMass in 1982 and is currently a doctoral candidate in Archeology at the same school. Dave's special interest is land use and settlement pattern.

VICTOR ROLANDO has been a VAS member since 1978 and has served as a Trustee and as Vice-president for two years. A frequent contributor to the Newsletter, Vic is in his tenth year as a volunteer in the Industrial Archeology Site Survey of Vermont. He is presently indexing the Newsletters through 1987.

RICHARD WARD. While Vic commutes to Board meetings from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Dick makes the trip from Plattsburgh, where he worked as a reference librarian until his recent retirement. Dick is very active in his regional historical association and has familial roots in Vermont. He has been a member since 1971.

Every Registrant will receive a free anniversary souvenir.

Ballot

There are four Trustee vacancies for 1988.

VOTE FOR FOUR. WRITE-INS MUST CONSENT.

- [] Louise BASA [] Fred COWAN [] David LACY
 [] Vic ROLANDO [] Dick WARD [] Write-in:

You may prepay or pay at the Meeting, but Reservations MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 13. Mail to VAS, Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402-0663.

REGISTRATION: Member(s) @ \$2 Non-members @ \$3

Lunch, Dinner Reservation (Required)

Both menus can accommodate VEGETARIAN requirements. (Includes tax, gratuity)

Dagwood's Deli Buffet (Lunch) @ \$8 Banquet Dinner Buffet @ \$14

NAME

ADDRESS

If you require overnight accommodations, contact the Inn at 802-862-6576.

Number in party

Mystery Artifact Still a Mystery

The March 1982 (No. 39) VAS Newsletter described and illustrated an unidentified artifact found by Edwin Colvin on a mountain top east of Shaftsbury (Giovanna Peebles, "Colvin Recovers Mystery Artifact", p. 1-2). One possible explanation came from a member of the Society for Industrial Archeology, who said it was a gravity washing machine, c.1910-12. The other possibility was that the machine banded barrels needed to hold lye "made from the wood ashes that resulted from charcoal manufacture."

Since the artifact was found in the vicinity of several charcoal kilns, the second explanation sounds better. But it was thought that "...more research is needed on the Shaftsbury charcoal kiln site... considering that it wasn't that long ago, it still comes as surprise that we can't always identify artifacts from the nineteenth century..."

With Ed Colvin's directions, I located the charcoal kilns in May 1985, about 2200 feet up the side of Glastenbury Mountain (VT-BE-62, 63). The answer to the possibility of the mystery artifact being connected to lye manufacture, however, comes not only from having inspected the kiln sites, but also in understanding the lye and charcoal manufacturing processes along with knowing when charcoal making ended in that area of Vermont.

Lye was made by burning wood, collecting the ashes, pouring water through or soaking the ashes, then boiling away the water until only small

crystals remained in the pot. This potassium carbonate was known as pearl ash or potash and was used for making soap, softening wool and other farm uses. Charcoal, however, properly made, does not produce the ash that results from the complete burning of wood and so there seems to be little connection between lye and charcoal manufacturing.

Charcoal kilns in the hills east of Shaftsbury are located on what were known as "the Burden lots", which supported the Burden Iron furnace three miles to the west at South Shaftsbury. The furnace shut down in 1873 and all known charcoal manufacture was phased out by the turn of the century.

Since logging is known to have continued in the area until well into the 1920s, Ed Colvin's mystery artifact might well have been some logger's washing machine.

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Bulletin

The CLINTON COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION will sponsor the Champlain Valley History Symposium on October 22 and 23, 1988. The meetings will be held at the College Center of SUNY Plattsburgh and are co-sponsored by four other groups including the VAS. The program is superb, but space prohibits printing it here. Remember our man in the CCHA is **Dick Ward**, who can be reached at RD4, Box 586, Plattsburgh, NY 12901-9754 (518-563-4181).

The Vermont Archaeological Society
Box 663
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