

# VAS newsletter...

No. 61  
April, 1989

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Prudence Doherty, Editor

---

## Inventory and Analysis of Chimney Point Collections

Scott McLaughlin, a University of Vermont anthropology student, is completing a long overdue inventory and analysis of three very important prehistoric artifact collections owned by the State of Vermont and housed at the Chimney Point Tavern historic site in Addison, Vermont. McLaughlin is being assisted by Scott Dillon, Prudence Doherty and Peter Thomas, staff of UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program, and geologist Tim Mock.

The year-long project was initiated by Site Manager Audrey Porsche, of the Division for Historic Preservation, who is organizing exhibits on Vermont prehistory for the Chimney Point museum. Artifacts from the three collections will be used to illustrate prehistoric cultural periods and activities.

Many VAS members have long been familiar with the extensive collections of game warden Tom Daniels, once displayed in a small museum in Orwell. The Daniels collection was donated to the State of Vermont by Daniels's widow in the late 1960s. Daniels collected widely throughout the Champlain Valley. His collection contains material from several of Vermont's most important sites, including the KI site in Brandon, used to define the Vergennes Archaic period in Vermont. Material from the Daniels collection represents the largest portion of the Chimney Point project.

The other two collections are smaller, made by two former residents of Chimney Point. Millard Barnes, a former owner of the Chimney Point Tavern, and Richard Watson, Barnes's neighbor on the Point, apparently collected prehistoric artifacts from their lakeshore properties and from nearby farms.

McLaughlin is preparing a descriptive inventory and analysis of the well over 1,000 artifacts in the three collections. He is completing individual data sheets for each artifact which include descriptive (i.e., material, dimensions, condition, typology) and whatever locational information is available. (Unfortunately, provenience data for many of the items is very general, such as "Crane's farm". Others, particularly those collected by Daniels, are well provenienced.) Artifacts will be photographed as well. Data sheets for the Daniels artifacts are nearly completed; analysis remains to be done. The total inventory and analysis should be finished by the end of May. A project report will be finished by the end of August.

McLaughlin also plans to conduct an extensive research project on the sites Daniels identified. Although the Daniels collection is accompanied by a brief catalog, no field notes remain, despite the fact that Daniels did keep records on the various sites where he collected. If any readers worked with Daniels, Scott McLaughlin would appreciate hearing from you. Contact him at the UVM Anthropology Lab, Williams Hall, Burlington, Vermont 05401, 802-656-3029.

### Newsletter News

No news has definitely not been good news for the VAS. In many ways, the Newsletter is the Society's most important effort, as it is the only source of information on Vermont archaeology produced for the general public. In recent years, the Newsletter has faced difficulties for several reasons. First, communication is perhaps the weakest aspect of Vermont archaeology, especially among the professional community. Editors have not been graced with submissions from the academic, consulting and governmental archaeologists, despite the increase in projects undertaken at all levels. The demands of modern life have made it difficult for the editors to spend the time necessary to track down information from these sources, much less write the articles themselves.

Of course, all blame cannot be laid at the feet of the professional archaeologists. The VAS has sponsored woefully few participatory events and undertaken few projects during the last several years. This too has not served VAS members well; enthusiasm has dropped drastically.

The VAS Board grapples with these problems at every Board meeting. Hopefully, some steps have been taken to get the communication network flowing again. Prudence Doherty has assumed the position of Newsletter editor, and various Board members will serve as correspondents, channeling information and articles to the editor. Professional archaeologists will be formally contacted and asked to submit articles on their current projects. We will also explore modern means of production, utilizing microcomputers to enhance the appearance and decrease the amount of preparation time.

Finally, a brief note about spelling. The new editor spells archaeology **with** two a's--always has and always will! So, we'll reverse the rule established in the last issue.

---

Deadline for submissions to the next issue is June 15. The next issue should appear in early July. Articles planned for future issues include:

- \* Who are Vermont's archaeological consultants?
  - \* Isle LaMotte burial study.
  - \* Archaeology and the Champlain Pipeline.
-



---

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS ... VAS SPONSORED FIELD WORK OPPORTUNITY

Surface Collection--No Previous Experience Necessary

May 6, 1989, Saturday

Winooski River Intervale in Burlington

Meet at the Anthropology Lab, Williams Hall, UVM between 8:30-9:00

For information, contact Prudence Doherty or Scott Dillon, 656-3029, days

---

**Archaeology at the Ethan Allen Homestead**

Between 1978 and 1988, UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program has undertaken five archaeological surveys on the terrace above the Winooski river where the Ethan Allen Homestead is located in Burlington. Both prehistoric and historic artifacts and features have been recovered. These finds are recorded as two archaeological sites, VT-CH-96 and VT-CH-136.

Ethan Allen lived at the homestead from 1787 until his death in 1789. For most of the following 200 years, the homestead was farmed, apparently by tenants of non-resident owners. In the late 1970s, the Winooski Valley Park District was formed to preserve land in the Winooski River valley for public use. Part of the Park District's extensive holdings include the 7-acre terrace promontory where the Allen homestead is located. The Ethan Allen Homestead Trust, which manages the historic site, has been actively developing it as a pioneer farmstead and memorial to Ethan Allen.

Most of the archaeological surveys conducted so far were undertaken before various site construction projects began. One survey was initiated during planning for the Burlington North Connector, which now crosses the Intervale near the Allen homestead. Numerous historic artifacts and several features dating from the late eighteenth/early nineteenth through the twentieth centuries were recovered from a fairly wide area, with increased density near the Allen house. Items range from a 1770s coin to barn hinges and a hoe. Prehistoric material, including stone flakes and tools, have been found across the terrace. Two projectile points found at the eastern end of the terrace--one side-notched and the other small stemmed--date from the Late Archaic period (3,500-2,500 B.C.).

Although the various reconnaissance surveys clearly indicated the high archaeological sensitivity of the terrace where the Homestead is located, time and financial constraints made it difficult to prepare a research design or comprehensive excavation plan. Because the Ethan Allen Homestead Trust is very interested in starting ongoing excavations open to the public, Site Manager Scott Stevens has hired a historic archaeology graduate student to develop a research design and excavation strategy. This summer the immediate focus will be to identify former outbuilding locations. Anyone interested in archaeology at the Ethan Allen Homestead should contact Scott Stevens, Ethan Allen Homestead, Burlington, Vermont 05401, 802-865-4556.

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING

Co-sponsored by the  
Northern New England Chapter, Society for Industrial Archeology

April 22, 1989

Saturday

9:00

Brandon Inn, Brandon, Vermont

PROGRAM

- 9:00-9:30 Registration, Coffee, Doughnuts
- 9:30-12:00 Morning program will include presentations on Vermont prehistoric and historic archaeology. Due to unexpected cancellations, the program is still being developed.
- 12:00-1:00 LUNCH. On your own--brown bag, at the Inn, or try a local deli or restaurant
- 1:00- WALKING TOUR of the state-owned Forestdale Ironworks site, led by Vic Rolando and David Starbuck. Wear work clothes and sturdy footwear. If the weather doesn't cooperate, Vic will give a slide presentation on the site at the Inn.

Registration for VAS and NNEC-SIA members, \$3.00.

For non-members, \$4.00.

Preregistration not required.

The public is welcome to attend.

## Update on Highgate Burial Land

As reported in local newspapers last year, the State of Vermont successfully stopped a developer from building on a prehistoric burial site in Highgate. Human skeletal remains and associated archaeological data from the site have major archaeological and cultural significance. The Nature Conservancy was able to purchase the land to protect it from immediate development. The Nature Conservancy offered to hold the land for approximately a year, allowing the State and other interested parties to find a purchaser who would be able to preserve and protect the burial site. In addition to the threat of construction, severe riverbank erosion also threatens the burial area.

State Archaeologist Giovanna Peebles prepared the following statement of significance for the Highgate burial site in July, 1988.

"The existence of this archeological site at the confluence of Dead Creek and the Missisquoi River has been known since the 1920's. This site has been designated VT-FR-8 in the State Archeological Inventory. A remarkable assortment of cultural materials was collected in this locale in the 20's, although collectors probably visited this site over many decades. A wide range of chipped stone and ground stone tools, representing over 6,000 years of Native American occupation and land use, have been collected from this locale. Artifacts represented both utilitarian objects and non-functional varieties, perhaps used in ceremonial or ritual activities. Fire hearths were apparently evident in exposed stretches of riverbank.

A variety of historic cultural material dating from the 18th century has also been collected from this site. This locale is acknowledged as the first major Catholic mission established by the Jesuits in about 1774.

Portions of the site contain Native American and perhaps Euroamerican burials. In fact, the emergency recovery of human skeletal remains eroding out of the riverbank in April, 1988 prompted the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's immediate response to attempt to protect this archeological site and unmarked cemetery from housing development.

This site has the potential for providing very important and irreplaceable archeological information on how prehistoric Native peoples lived in this region over thousands of years, how Native culture interacted and was affected by early European settlers in Vermont, and how the first mission in Vermont influenced long-held Native spiritual beliefs and converted these beliefs to Catholicism.

It is necessary to emphasize that the boundaries of site VT-FR-8 are not known. The landform within which this site is located comprises an extensive high terrace abutting the



Missisquoi River, on the west, and a vast wetland, to the north. Evidence of prehistoric Native American occupations are found throughout this landform wherever anyone looks. One site, located about one mile to the southeast of VT-FR-8 and on the same landform, consists of a rare, extremely important, 3000 year old cemetery. There is no doubt that the parcel of land immediately at issue is but a small portion of a much larger archeologically sensitive area."

The Division for Historic Preservation included money for purchasing and stabilizing the burial site in its FY 1990 budget submitted to the Legislature recently. \$28,750 was requested to purchase the site, and \$15,000 was requested to cover bank stabilization and erosion control.

Unfortunately, the House Institutions Committee, the first legislative committee to deal with the request, eliminated the \$28,750 purchase price, leaving the \$15,000 for bank stabilization and erosion control. The budget is now being considered by the Senate, without a request for the purchase price. At this time, the fate of the burial land remains up in the air.

---

#### Upcoming Regional Meetings

**April 15-16, 1989** Massachusetts Archaeological Society will hold its 50th Anniversary Meeting at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

**April 14-16, 1989** 73rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Association, Howard Johnson Inn, Norwich, NY.

**April 22, 1989** VAS/Northern New England Chapter, Society for Industrial Archeology meeting, Brandon, Vermont.

**April 23, 1989** Maine Archaeological Society spring meeting, Mt. Ararat School, Topsham, Maine

**April 29, 1989** Spring Meeting of the New Hampshire Archaeological Society, Kimball Jenkins Estate, 264-266 N. Main St., Concord, NH.

**May 24-28, 1989** World Summit Conference on "The Peopling of the Americas" at the University of Maine, Orono.

**June 1-4, 1989** Annual meeting of the Society for Industrial Archeology, Quebec City, Quebec.

---

## Policies for Treatment of Human Remains

In late January, a group that included Vermont archaeologists, representatives of the Abenaki Nation, and others met to discuss the draft of "An Action Plan for the Treatment of Human Remains on the Green Mountain National Forest". Forest Archaeologist David Lacy prepared the draft and distributed it for comments prior to the meeting.

The Forest Service action plan is designed to allow the Green Mountain National Forest to preserve known human remains on any lands which they manage. The plan aims to strike a balance between scientific study and the dignity of the dead and their descendants. A core advisory group, potentially consisting of genetic/cultural descendants of the deceased, representatives of the Abenaki Nation, the State Archaeologist or Division for Historic Preservation staff, members of the archaeological and physical anthropology communities, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, state or local historical societies, and the State Medical Examiner. Members of the advisory group will decide appropriate treatment of any human remains found on a case by case basis.

The assembled group also discussed the need for written guidelines to be followed when human remains are encountered during archaeological surveys mandated by state and federal laws. A task force was established to study problems and precedents and to prepare a draft policy. Task force members include Tom Baker (University of Maine, Farmington), Dan Cassedy (DHP), Scott Dillon (Consulting Archaeology Program, UVM), Douglas Frink (Archaeological Consulting Team), Geraldine Kochan (CAP, UVM), Jim Petersen (UMF), and Frederick Wiseman (Johnson State College). The task force held its first meeting in March, and expects to have a policy developed by early summer.

---

## Volunteer Opportunities at State Historic Sites

**May 17-21, 1989** Hubbardton Battlefield. Excavation will be done at the visitor center and possibly at the Selleck cabin site (where wounded American, British, and German troops were treated).

**May 26-29, 1989** Forestdale Ironworks recording project, described in the last issue of the Newsletter.

**June 5-9, 12-16, 1989** Morrill homestead. Excavations will be conducted at the sites of the icehouse and the old gazebo. The icehouse, presently located off the homestead, will be returned to its original location.

**July 3-August 11, 1989** Mt. Independence, also described in the last Newsletter.

**Fall, dates not set** Plymouth, Chimney Point.

Volunteers are welcome and needed for all projects. Contact David Starbuck, Division for Historic Preservation, 58 E. State St., Montpelier, VT 05602 (802-828-3226) for applications and information.



Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.  
Application for Membership

(or Renewal)

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

The Dues Year is the Calendar Year



- [R] Regular (Individual) \$7.50  
 [F] Family \$14.00  
 [S] Student (under 18) or Senior (65- ) \$3.00  
 [C] Contributing \$15.00 (Circle one)  
 [L] Life \$125.00  
 [I] Institutional \$15.00

New  Renewal

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please send membership form and check to: VAS, Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402 0663. Application for membership implies agreement with VAS aims & purposes.

Vermont Archaeological  
Society, Inc.  
Box 663  
Burlington, VT  
05402 0663



FIRST CLASS MAIL

TO

Giovanna Peebles  
P.O. Box 1115  
Montpelier, VT 05602

Send inquiries about membership status to the Treasurer at the above address.