

VAS newsletter...

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Prudence Doherty, Ed.

VT-FR-8 Stabilization Update

David Skinas
Division for Historic Preservation

The Division for Historic Preservation's streambank stabilization project for the Monument Farms Site (VT-FR-8) in Highgate, Vermont was abandoned. As well as trying to implement a \$70,000 construction project with a mere \$15,000, I was unable to meet the permit conditions set forth by the Army Corps of Engineers with respect to the level of archaeological documentation required prior to commencement of the riprap project. Also, the Vermont Non-Game Natural Heritage Program determined that the project would impact the habitat of two endangered species, the spiny softshell turtle and the eastern sand darter.

With these concerns in mind, an alternative stabilization project was initiated to protect the ancient Abenaki habitation and burial site. A natural restoration of the riverbank to stabilize the site without destroying any cultural or natural resources was carried out. On July 19, 1991, the Division for Historic Preservation teamed up with The Nature Conservancy and the Abenaki Tribal Council to plant approximately 500 cuttings of willow, box alder and silver maple. Although the growing season was half over, we decided to go ahead with the project in hopes that a fair portion of the cuttings would take hold. The two-foot long cuttings were first immersed in a root hormone to facilitate growth and then planted at the toe of slope along approximately 300 feet of streambank. I

visited the site two weeks later and was pleased to see that about half of the 500 or so cuttings were sprouting new foliage.

The greatest erosional threat to the site results from ice scour during the spring thaw. We anticipate that ice scour during the 1992 thaw will damage the new plantings to a substantial degree. To combat the effects of ice break-up, we will plant eight to ten foot long, 4 to 5 inch diameter willow posts at the toe of slope later this fall. The posts will be set four feet into the ground, which will provide a more stable barrier to buffer the cuttings and streambank from the erosional force of the ice as it breaks up and flows downstream. We also expect the willow posts to sprout roots and new foliage during the 1991 growing season, helping to revegetate the streambank.

In April or May, 1992, we will replace all cuttings and posts damaged by the ice. We realize that this natural restoration approach is highly experimental in this region but felt that we had to protect the site with the resources that the Division, the Nature Conservancy and the Abenaki Tribal Council have at hand. All VAS members are invited to assist us with the natural riverbank restoration project by volunteering their time or donating materials (such as willow posts). If you have time or materials to donate to the cause, please call David Skinas at 802-828-3228.

Notes from the State Archaeologist

Giovanna Peebles
Division for Historic Preservation

The last year has been a challenge, at best, with more communities, more developers, more government agencies, more teachers, and more citizens needing our services, but with less money than ever available to help meet these needs.

Dave Skinas and I are the only archaeologists on the Division staff, and I am putting all my creative juices to work to find alternative sources of funding and manpower to help with the great amount of work that needs doing. We remain indebted to various volunteers who quietly contribute information and help and ask for little in return. We certainly couldn't do what we are doing both on land archaeology and underwater projects without the help of volunteers such as Gordon Crandall, Ken Klingler, Dennis Hall, Bob Mitchell, Mike Badamo, Joe Zarzinsky, Bruno Frolich, Vic Rolando, and many others.

Our close working relationship with the Abenakis, developed over the last three years, has been particularly rewarding to the Division. The Abenakis are strong friends of historic preservation and archaeology, in particular, since so much of our protection and regulatory work is vitally important in protecting Native American sites of all ages and uses.

Large amounts of our time are expended on regulatory efforts such as review of Act 250 permit applications, review of federally funded or permitted projects, and a recent tidal wave of review of hydroelectric relicensing projects. Most of Vermont's utilities built dams and impounded rivers early in this century long before there was any environmental review. Based on recent studies conducted in Maine along hydroelectric impoundments, thousands of sites in northern New England have very likely been destroyed by flooding and erosion resulting from these projects.

Many of these hydro projects are now in the process of being relicensed and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requires that the utilities now evaluate their projects' impact on cultural resources. In the next Newsletters, I will give you progress reports on many of these programs and efforts, but you should feel free to phone David or me if you have any questions about any one of them.

This past year has included several important projects and initiatives outside of our regulatory responsibilities. Highlights include:

- a six-week underwater archaeological field school directed by Kevin Crisman and co-sponsored by Texas A & M University, UVM Continuing Education, and the Division for Historic Preservation;
- using a special grant from the Soil Conservation Service, a three-month "archaeology on the farm" pilot project in Franklin County in which we evaluated the extent of SCS project impacts to archaeological sites;
- a one-week Youth Archaeology Program at Mount Independence;
- several archaeological testing efforts resulting from state "bricks and mortar" grants to historic public buildings;
- a state grant for acquisition of suitable land for reburial of Abenaki remains;
- the opening of a remarkable exhibit on the Native American and French occupations of the Champlain Valley;
- aerial mapping of the Mount Independence state historic site;

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1991 Industrial Archaeology Work in Vermont

Vic Rolando

Although my continuing survey of industrial archaeology (IA) sites in Vermont did not proceed as vigorously in 1991 as in past years, nine reports were written and sent to the Division and another is in progress. As they have been for the past six years, lime kilns and charcoal kilns were the focus in 1991.

The following sites were reported.

VT-BE-143, Southwest Sunderland Charcoal Kiln (a single-kiln ruin);

VT-BE-190, Northwest Glastenbury Charcoal Kiln (a single-kiln ruin);

VT-BE-191, Benedict Hollow Charcoal Kiln #1 (remains of charcoal kiln(s) up Benedict Hollow, Arlington);

T-BE- 192, Martin Lime Kiln (Arlington State Forest);

VT-RU-217, Conant Furnace (Brandon);

VT-RU-260, Bomoseen Lime Kiln (just east of Lake Bomoseen);

VT-RU-261, Chippenhook Lime Kiln (in southern Clarendon);

VT-WD-126, Vermont Lime Co. Lime Kiln (a single-kiln ruin in Whitingham);

VT-WD-127, Kingsley Lime Kiln (a single-kiln ruin in Whitingham).

Suspected lime kiln sites at Shoreham (Larrabees Point), Sunderland, and Colchester could not be found. The Colchester site is at Stave Point, reported in 1861 to be on the north side of the outlet of Malletts Bay. Inspection of the bay's north shore revealed many large limestone ledges but no evidence of a lime kiln.

The ruin of a lime kiln located in 1988 along Lime Kiln Road in Charlotte (VT-CH-365) was revisited and the bottom corners of the kiln's base were found to have eroded through the overburden, making measurements now possible. The 1988 report was updated accordingly.

In process is a report on a lime kiln site (VT-GI-27) at or near Fisk Point, Isle La Motte. Lime was burned here as early as 1864 and used for mortar in the construction of Fort Sainte-Anne. Chambers 1779-1780 map of Lake Champlain shows "Lime Kilns" at today's Fisk Point and "Lime Kiln Bay" immediately south. Archival records indicate lime was burned here as late as 1796. Two 1991 visits to the area resulted in finding no lime kiln ruins or definite surface evidence. However, some material that looks like burned lime was found just south of Fisk Point near the inactive limestone quarries of the Vermont Marble Company. Archival and field work is continuing at this site.

Slide-illustrated presentations on Vermont IA sites were given at the State House in March; the Manchester Historical Society in early May; to the digging crew at Rogers Island, NY in early August; and to the annual meeting of the Orleans County Historical Society at Brownington in mid-August. The Manchester presentation was followed by a hike to the charcoal kiln ruins near the abandoned village of Rootville the following Saturday. The all-day hike attracted some twenty-five people who braved the steep climb, muddy trail, and hungry bugs.

The Northern New England Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology (NNEC-SIA) recording project at the Pittsford furnace is described in a separate article.

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1991 IA Work, continued

request of its owner, Allen Hitchcock. David Starbuck was project leader.

Efforts on producing 200 Years of Soot and Sweat: The History and Archaeology of Vermont's Iron, Charcoal, and Lime Industries is proceeding well. The book, in which the VAS is participating as publisher of record, documents my fourteen years of IA work in Vermont. Although I had hoped for publication by September, 1991, it now looks like release will be about the middle to end of November. Good editing (Joan Mentzer, Smithsonian Institution) and production (Dian Post of Post Scripts, Federalburg, MD) is time-consuming, and the quality of the book should reflect this.

And finally, after 34 1/2 years with General Electric, it's time to hang it up. My early retirement will officially start March 1, 1992. I plan to live in the Rutland area and continue my IA work in Vermont, finish indexing the VAS Newsletters, maintain my level of activity in the VAS and the NNEC-SIA, help out the Division for Historic Preservation with some volunteer office work, continue to talk about industrial archaeology in and around Vermont and about archaeology in general at the State House, work on the Rolando family history, and sell my book.

State Archaeologist's Report, continued

- the development of metal detecting policies for certain state parks;
- helping obtain designation for the Poultney River as an Outstanding Water Resource for its historic and natural resource values.

Most recently, the Lake Champlain Management Conference has approved two important grants for archaeological projects. One is for a survey of submerged cultural resources in the Mount Independence/Fort Ticonderoga area. The second is for a Basin-wide pilot study of how agricultural pollution control projects are harming archaeological sites and figuring out how to minimize such disturbances. Again, I will give you more detailed information on these projects in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

DUES REMINDER: If you don't have a ('91) or (L) or (X) after your name on the mailing label, you owe dues (see back page).

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TOUR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 9 AM-3 PM, ESSEX JUNCTION

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program is sponsoring an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, October 5, 1991 from 9am to 3pm. Everyone is invited to visit a prehistoric Native American site in Essex, see the excavation in progress, and examine a display of historic and prehistoric artifacts recovered from other sites in Vermont. Those who attend will have an opportunity to learn about Vermont history, watch archaeologists excavate a site from prehistoric times, ask questions and, time permitting, spend a few minutes helping an excavating team search for artifacts and information.

Parking and exhibits for the open house will be at 58 Susie Wilson Road, immediately north of the junction of Kellogg and Susie Wilson Roads. Please wear comfortable shoes and clothes. All ages are welcome. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT KAREN PORTER, 656-3029.

Blast Furnace Recording Session at Pittsford, Vermont

Vic Rolando

Approximately 20 members of the Northern New England Chapter of the Society for Industrial Archeology and the Pittsford Historical Society spent the Memorial Day weekend cooperating in a volunteer recording project at the ruins and grounds of the Granger Furnace in Pittsford, Vermont.

The furnace dates to 1827, when it was rebuilt from an earlier blast furnace at the same or approximate site (ca. 1791). The furnace was enlarged in 1853 from its original 27-foot height to 42 feet, which probably reflected the construction of the furnace-top ovens that preheated the blast to 600°. At the same time, the inside bosh diameter was also expanded from 8 to 9 feet.

Other structures and activities were located in the vicinity of the furnace, including a 24-foot diameter waterwheel; a foundry that cast an average of 300 tons of stoves a year during the 1850s; buildings that stored iron ore, limestone, and charcoal; a works office and store; and a blacksmith shop. The ironworks community of Grangerville grew to include a school, about 20 tenant houses for the ironworkers, an inn and the Granger homestead. The furnace last operated circa 1883, at which time the works were known as Titan Furnace.

The furnace grounds are today owned by Allen Hitchcock. The blast furnace still stands off Furnace Road, about one mile northeast of Pittsford village. The stack

retains most of its iron binders and archway brickwork. However, a top section of the stack was gouged out by a bulldozer about thirty years ago, exposing some of the internal structure relating to the heating ovens that once stood atop the furnace. Associated with the furnace ruin are partially caved in stone block walls, foundations, and the upstream remains of a dam and head race. The buildings where the ore was handled were torn down around 1953 and made into a sawmill. The company store, which stood near the road, is marked only by a cellar hole. Slag and broken firebrick abound in the area at the base of the furnace stack.

The purpose of the recording session was to provide Mr. Hitchcock with an accurate map of the furnace grounds. He needed the map in order to cut trails and open the site to the public for guided tours, as part of his Vermont Statehood Bicentennial Project. Recording was initially hindered by the amount of foliage that prevented accurate measurement and ground survey. Led by Mr. Hitchcock, one group cut and cleared the site.

The other group, led by Project Leader David Starbuck, made an accurate transit-assisted survey of the site and also supervised team leaders involved in the limited excavation of a few selected points of interest. Work progressed through alternating periods of muggy sunshine, rain, and bugs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINATIONS

There are four positions on the Board which must be filled. David Lacy, Louise Basa, and Fred Cowan have completed their terms and will not be running again. We thank them for their continued dedication to Vermont archaeology. Vic Rolando's term is up, but he is running for another one.

Four candidates have been nominated to fill the terms which will expire in 1994. They are Vic Rolando, Bruce Hedin, Ann Clay and Stephen G. Moore. Please vote for the candidates using the ballot below. You may mail it to the VAS, Box 863, Burlington, VT 05401, or you may bring it to the October 12 meeting.

Ann Clay Ann is a homesteader/farmer who has served on the Boards of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, the Vermont Sugarmakers, Mount Independence Coalition, and state and local advisory boards of the UVM Extension Service. She participated in excavations at Mount Independence and Rogers' Island and has taken archaeology courses through UVM and Johnson State.

Bruce Hedin Bruce is President of the Underhill Historical Society, which has been conducting an inventory of cellar holes in Underhill for the past 2 1/2 years. He has worked on the excavations at Mount Independence and at Rogers' Island. Bruce is employed by Lane Press.

Stephen G. Moore Steve is a native of Burlington who served in US Navy Pacific forces in WWII, then graduated from Dartmouth and entered banking in New York in 1947. He moved to Charlotte and banking in Burlington in 1955. Steve enjoyed semi-retirement in the late 1980s, is now mellowing and very busy in full retirement. He discovered a strong interest in archaeology in travels abroad. Other favorite pastimes include sports, puttering and family. He has given time to a number of charitable and civic organizations and is on the boards of several, including the Ethan Allen Homestead Trust.

Vic Rolando Vic has been a VAS member since 1978. He served as Vice-President from 1988-1989 and as President in 1989-1991. As his contribution to this issue indicates, Vic's dedication to documenting Vermont's industrial archaeological sites keeps him busy.

Please vote for up to four of the nominees.

- Ann Clay
- Bruce Hedin
- Stephen Moore
- Vic Rolando

EVERYONE INVITED!!

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FALL MEETING 1991

Saturday, October 12

Where: The Windjammer Conference Center (Econo Lodge),
Williston Road, South Burlington, Vermont
Exit 14E off Interstate 89

Schedule:

9:00 - 10:00	Registration, Coffee & Danish
10:00 - 12:00	Presentations
12:00 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 3:30	Presentations

Preliminary List of Speakers:

Abenaki Research Project
Dee Brightstar
Circumferential Highway Overview & Update
Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM) Staff
Ethan Allen Homestead, Summer '91
Jeffrey Jobe
Excavation of a Late Archaic Site on the Walloomsac River
Gordon Crandall
Green Mountain National Forest Projects
David Lacy and Shelly Hight
Rogers Island, Fort Edward, New York
Dr. David Starbuck

Cost: \$14 Includes Registration and Lunch
\$ 3 Registration only

**PLEASE PREREGISTER BY RETURNING FORM AND REGISTRATION FEE
BY OCTOBER 4 TO:**

VAS
c/o Louise Luchini
122 Patchen Road
South Burlington, VT 05403

PREREGISTRATION FORM Member Nonmember \$ Enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

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 *New* *Renewal*
 [I] Institutional \$15.00

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

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