



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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The Poultney Village Green: Preserving the Old Blacksmith Shop and Melodeon Factory Through Archaeology

*by Kathleen Wheeler
Independent Archaeological Consulting
Portsmouth NH*

An archaeological Phase I survey was conducted at the melodeon factory in East Poultney for the Poultney Historical Society in July 1995. The archaeological investigation preceded the repair of the building, which is to include the installation of curtain drains to preserve the foundation of the structure. Funded with state grant monies through the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the project was overseen and administered by Kathleen Wheeler of Independent Archaeological Consulting, Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The melodeon factory is a National Register landmark and part of the East Poultney Historic District. The 2½-story structure started as a single-story brick building constructed ca. 1810 as a blacksmith shop by F. Giddings. His nephew, Amon Bailey, carried on his trade for some years in the old brick shop, next to the school house. The blacksmith business failed, and Bailey went on to other businesses and politics.

In 1849, Paul Ross and Elijah West bought the structure and by 1852 had added a wooden frame, 4-bay clapboard second story to build melodeons, or reed organs. Ross was a harness maker by training, but he and his partner were involved in the manufacture of reed organs at the factory until his death in 1870. The blacksmith shop/melodeon factory was an integral part of the industrial/commercial/social center of East Poultney until it was usurped in importance by the West Poultney village in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Because of the proximity of the melodeon factory to the town's first school building, the Union Academy, the location of intensive archaeological study was the small area shared by the two buildings. The south side of the melodeon factory is separated by only 4.0 m (13') of space from the north wall of the academy. A total of three trenches were excavated within this area, from the south wall of the factory to within one meter of the old academy. A total of more than 2,500 artifacts was retrieved, most of it window glass, brick, and nails, relating to

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Adopt a Mount Independence Artifact

by Audrey Porsche

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, together with help from the Mount Independence Coalition (the site's friends organization) is launching an "Adopt an Artifact" campaign for many of the objects excavated from Mount Independence State Historic Site. There are a wide range of artifacts including regimental and civilian buttons, saucers, ice creepers, canteens, and the infamous "James Hill" bottle. Sadly, this last item, a wine bottle with James Hill's signature and the year 1777 inscribed into it, is in many pieces (see artifacts on page 4). The temporary reconstruction work done on it during the 1992 field season has finally given way.

We need your help! If these and some of the other interesting and exciting artifacts are to be included in the exhibits that are currently being designed for the new visitor center, they will need to undergo cleaning, stabilization, repair and/or reconstruction. Conservation costs can vary widely from one hundred dollars to a few hundred dollars or more. We can match your budget and/or interests to an appropriate artifact or consider pooling your dollars with other donors. If you are interested in participating in the "Adopt an Artifact" program please contact Audrey Porsche, Regional Historic Sites Administrator, RD 1 Box 3546, Vergennes VT 05491; phone 802/759-2412 or fax 759-2547.

Construction on the Mount Independence Visitor Center is well underway and the Division has recently contracted with Le Groupe D.E.S. to develop and design the exhibits that will interpret the history and archaeology of this special Revolutionary War fort site. Groupe D.E.S. of Montreal has extensive experience developing and designing exciting exhibits, including those at Montreal's new history and archaeology museum at Pointe à Callière. Their writing team has worked on many projects worldwide and the principal content person previously served as the director of interpretation for Parks Canada in Quebec. VAS members who made the journey to Montreal during our inaugural bus trip in November 1994 can attest to the exciting and dynamic exhibits at Pointe à Callière, something we are also striving for at the Mount Independence Visitor Center and Museum.

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Address general inquiries concerning the Society to the
Secretary



Poultney (cont'd.)

the architecture of the melodeon factory. However, some early domestic remains were also recovered, including some creamware (ca. 1760 to 1790s), pearlware (1780 to 1830), and whiteware (1830 to 1850). These were found in association with the demolished remains of an earlier wall, which stood



Test Unit 1, located beneath the bricked-in window on the south side of the melodeon factory (Wheeler photo).

between the existing academy and factory. Because time did not permit testing of the complete span between the buildings, it is not known if the demolition debris continued beneath the academy.

However, the presence of 1830s ceramics in the debris covering the wall suggests that it was in use at least until this time as it stood adjacent to the old schoolhouse.

The discovery of a pre-1850 structure wall at the melodeon factory is significant and deserves more study. Could this be related to the blacksmith shop? As a shed or outbuilding? Is it an entirely different building? These questions have been raised and can be answered with additional archaeological investigation.

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Exposure in Test Unit 1 of the melodeon factory's slate foundation (Wheeler photo).

Notes From The State Archeologist

*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation*

The political and economic winds both in Washington D.C. and Montpelier are requiring major changes in how we conduct archeology in Vermont. The emphasis is on readily apparent public benefits and increased interpretation of what we have learned through the years of doing archeology with federal, state, and private dollars. Changes will be positive and challenging. I'm always fearful, though, that the day-to-day demands from so many directions will hamper our ability to change. The Division's two archeologists will not be the only ones to experience changes in the year ahead. Consulting archeologists, too, will take on more responsibilities under the federal regulatory process and will need to involve more of the public in all aspects of their work.

Day-to-day demands come from all quarters and suggest that archeology is important/interesting/relevant/legally required for many. It's always hard to measure accomplishments when one is busy but here are a few numbers from this last year (not in any particular order): Scott Dillon and I responded to over 800 requests for archeology-related information by phone; sent out nearly 300 packages of archeological information; did 12 public programs; shipped archeology education kits out to 8 teachers who worked with approximately 500 students; raised \$240,000 dollars to preserve and stabilize the Skitchewaug site in Springfield; reviewed and commented on over 150 federal, state, and Act 250 projects that had archeological issues; reviewed and commented on 115 Vermont Land Trust and community land trust projects that preserved farm lands or open space and archeological sites within them; issued 2 permits for underwater investigations; and distributed 74 different archeological reports to town governments, town libraries, and interested organizations and individuals.

Highlights of the past season are hard to weed out of the everyday business. One that immediately stands out is the action at Mount Independence. As many of you know, construction is well underway for the visitor center, a small but creatively designed structure that tucks into the hillside as you come up the road. Opening is scheduled for summer of 1996 and Site Administrator Audrey Porsche (also the VAS President!) is racing the clock to get the exhibits planned and on-line. Vermont Archeology Week 1995 was a great success and continues to be a standout program for getting more people interested in and involved in archeology. Stabilization of the eroding riverbank on Monument Road in Highgate was completed with the generous help of David Skinas (with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and members of the Abenaki community. An important prehistoric site and ancient burial ground that was

see **State Archeologist** →7

Windows to the Past: The 3rd Annual Vermont Archeology Week May 5-11, 1996

*by Kathleen E. Callum, GEOARCH
VAW '96 Coordinator*

Get ready to open the windows and let in the bright lights and festivities of our third annual Vermont Archeology Week! Planning and organization of Vermont Archeology Week is now officially under the domain of the VAS Education Committee, chaired by board member Frank Bump. Please contact Frank if you want to become involved in the VAS Education Committee and help plan the trends for future archeology weeks or any other activities (the annual bus trip, updating and distribution of the teacher's resource, etc.). We also officially on the track to hire an experienced fund-raising coordinator other than myself for next year.

At the behest of the education committee, VAS members chose "Windows to the Past" at the Fall '95 meeting in Burlington as the upcoming VAW '96 theme. This exciting slogan should make a great visual poster! Audrey Porsche of the DHP has been knocking on the doors of local college and university art departments for students interested in creating this year's poster. Those who are, or who know, likely artists wanting to forward a letter of interest and portfolio samples, contact Audrey quickly (note: addresses of VAS board members are listed on page 2, and VAW organizers are listed on page 13). Our back-up plan is to find a volunteer professional Vermont artist. Talented candidates, anyone?

VAW '96 Events: This year promises to bring a wide array of fabulous events through our community doors and windows. If you have an event to offer and have not received an event form by mid-February, please contact one of the VAW '96 coordinators. Event forms are due by March 1st. Tentatively planned special events that could use some planning-type help include an archeology awards ceremony in conjunction with the governor's proclamation of archeology week (contact Giovanna Peebles), artifact collections recording (contact Kathy Callum or the DHP), and an open atlant contest at Chimney Point State Historic Site (contact Audrey Porsche). I'm sure all of us would like to see a few more events in southeastern Vermont and the northeast Kingdom too, in addition to the great activities planned for the Champlain valley regions.

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Vermont Archeology Week

Needs Your Help

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

to VAS, address on back cover

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see Windows →5

Vermont Archeology Week

Needs Your Help

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

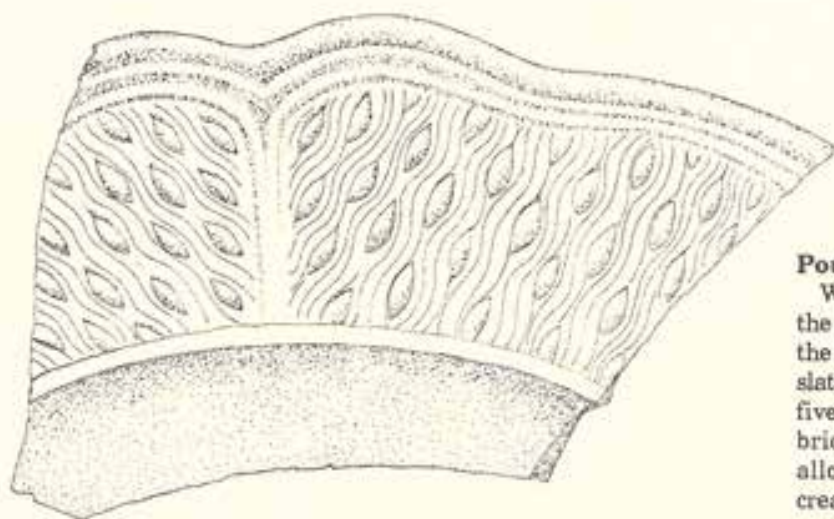
to VAS, address on back cover



Dark Green Bottle
with Inscribed Lettering



Two views of the James Hill bottle drawn by a 1992 field crew member. Research on James Hill has been inconclusive and we have yet to determine if he was an American or British soldier. The drawing shows the bottle intact and without break lines. This artifact and many others need repair work before they can be placed on exhibition (drawn by Sarah K. Waite).



Fragment from a salt-glaze stoneware plate that was recently conserved thanks to a donation by VAS member Ann Clay. The decoration is known as a barley pattern (drawn by Donna Howard).

Poultney (cont'd.)

We have further learned that the south yard of the melodeon factory was filled and leveled twice in the twentieth century, the first episode burying the slate foundation and the second covering more than five courses of brick. While the soil covering the brick is porous and well drained, the bricks still allow the wicking of moisture into the walls, thus creating deterioration and spalling by capillary action. The installation of curtain drains along the south side of the melodeon factory will not disturb significant deposits in the first 20 cm (8") of digging, but the second level of fill is more sensitive. If curtain drains are indeed necessary, they can be installed with a narrow trench excavated by hand rather than machine excavation, to minimize on those archaeological resources below 20 cm.

Windows (cont'd.)

The Governor's Proclamation is being coordinated by long-term volunteer Rob Florentin and photo-documented by Chris Schlosser of Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) at University of Vermont. Other events will include site tours, historic walks, slide presentations, and exhibit openings. The Archaeology Consulting Team, CAP, GEOARCH, and University of Maine at Farmington have already scheduled tentative offerings. The crucial VAW '96 calendar will boast a new look this year, designed by veteran volunteer team coordinator Megan Battey of Middlebury College and compiled by Chris Schlosser or another paid staff-member at CAP.

Funding VAW '96: Our ability to throw open the windows and let in a new archaeology week relies on the tireless dedication of VAS and VAW fund-raisers. Each VAS member's contribution to this effort is vital. VAS *Newsletter* editor Vic Rolando has provided a place to check off your individual tax-deductible donation (suggested \$10) to help fund this year's outstanding public outreach. State Archaeologist Giovanna Peebles rounded up some seed money via programmatic agreement with utilities to help pay a state-wide coordinator for organization and fund-raising, and offset some of the travel and telephone expenses of regional coordinators.

Michael Werner of Werner Archaeological Associates is spearheading the drive to recruit contributions from archeological or engineering and developing firms or other organizations. Please contact Michael if you would like to be listed as a major donor on this year's "Windows to the Past" poster (\$500 or more) or have suggestions. We are especially thankful for steady contributions from The Cultural Resources Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Hartgen Archaeological Associates, University of Maine at Farmington, John Milner Associates, Inc., the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and The Green Mountain National Forest and hope to add some more major contributor names to the poster sponsor section of our fund-raising drive.

Another positive funding effort has been our annual spring VAS auction. Last year's was especially fun and fruitful! Mark Miller of GEOARCH is coordinating the drive for VAW '96 auction donations. He needs all our help drumming up items of archeological, historical, or ethnographic interest such as books, art, reproductions, tools, videos, etc. If each VAS member knocks on the doors of four places we'll have an archeology extravaganza auction. Be creative and call Mark or a coordinator today with your offer of help or to make donations (auction item deadline for calendar thank-you's is mid-March). Also, remember to bring a friend along to the spring meeting to help make our auction successful.

Helpful volunteers who have signed up to write for grants for VAW '96 (and beyond) include VAS member Gordon Cawood and board members Bob Sloma and Frank Bump. We hope to successfully petition the Joint Rivers Commission, the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Rutland Cultural Alliance, and others for public outreach funds. VAS

board member Jane Gibbons and few more of you expressed an interest in trying your hand at grant authorship...any more? Please contact Kathy Callum with your welcomed offer of assistance. Other fund-raising efforts (or auction donors) involve local historic societies, community banks and businesses (contact VAS board member John Steele), the Preservation Trust of Vermont, and perhaps Certified Local Governments (contact Giovanna Peebles).

Publicity: Plans have been made to open the windows of publicity a bit wider than last year. Each of our contributions toward this effort is essential. Colorful flyers to post on your local community bulletin boards and help advertise the spring meeting and auction will be available from the VAW '96 coordinators. Similar flyers (they'll have a miniature of this year's poster on them) will be available at the spring meeting for you to copy from and advertise local events on those same community bulletin boards. Help tack up a few! See where to get VAW *Event Calendars*, and if brief notices about archeology week have hit your local paper by early spring. Advertisement copy will be available from any of the coordinators if you need to submit some to your local newspaper.

When the calendars are finished (early- to mid-April), they will be distributed to state-wide media. If archeology events are not given fair billing in local media, let's find out why! VAW event calendars will be available at the VAS spring meeting for paid members, and from the DHP, libraries, participating bookstores and museums, schools, and local chambers of commerce. Regional coordinators will also recap area events for the local papers, radio, or television. Some organization newsletters may carry a reprint of the calendar. This year, we also hope to hit the internet with our offerings, perhaps on the Vermont home page.

Behind The Scenes of VAW '96: In addition to the folks named above, feel free to contact state and regional coordinators with offers of assistance, resources, sponsorship, auction donations, events, publicity know-how, etc.: Megan Battey, Kathleen Callum, Sheila Charles, Victor Rolando, Rob Sanford, and Duncan Wilkie. The success of our 3rd annual state-wide public archeological outreach rests with each helpful VAS member, imaginative event hosts, enthusiastic fund raisers, and especially our generous sponsors. Hope to hear from you soon!

see List of Coordinators →13

DAR Mansion Update

by William C. Murphy

The second year of excavation at the 1796 John Strong Mansion in Addison, Vermont, started the day after Labor Day and ran for two weeks. As in the previous year, the amount of artifacts uncovered during the short time period amounted to over 15,000 separate items.

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DAR Mansion (cont'd.)

By far the majority of items recovered were 19th- and 20th-century farm and farmhouse material. One particular artifact, however, was of the Revolutionary War period—a complete pike end that was identical to pikes in the Fort Ticonderoga Museum collection and also illustrated in *Peterson's Book of the Continental Soldier*. As American troops had been bivouacked during the Revolution at Chimney Point and Crown Point, and Colonel Strong had been a volunteer in the Continental service, provenance, other than its location immediately to the rear of the mansion, can not be determined.

Probably the most rewarding site for both artifacts and interest was a 5-foot 9-inch by 4-foot vault, 2 feet deep, which was determined to be a privy. Its location immediately inside one of the barns (for protection from cold lake winds) and the fact that it was almost an exact replica of the many privies uncovered in an excavation at Utica, New York, led to this conclusion. It had a well-laid rock wall on all four sides that ran from the surface to bedrock, almost identical to some of the Utica privies. It is also interesting to note that the mansion is built on bedrock and excavations in the immediate vicinity of the house hit bedrock within 8 to 12 inches. This location was the only area where there was any appreciable depth for positioning a vault-type privy.

As in the previous year, referring to DAR request, area school children were invited to observe the dig and even become involved to the extent of helping to sift and carefully trowel under supervision of an experienced digger. Over 250 eager Addison County students came to the site and their enthusiasm and appreciation can only be expressed by the comment in one of the many letters sent to the group, "I had a wonderful time and learned a lot about archeology (sic). I wish I could come back, but I can't."



Bruce Hedin (left) and digging partner uncovering a section of the foundation at the DAR Mansion dig (Murphy photo).

A Standing Ovation for "Join Hands With the Past"

by Kathleen E. Callum, GEOARCH
Vermont Archeology Week '95 Coordinator

The 2nd Annual Vermont Archeology Week, like its predecessor, was an outstanding success. State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles says that "this week-long public outreach is one of the most exciting things we are doing collectively in Vermont to promote archeological education." There were far too many people and organizations involved to acknowledge individually for its success, but all event volunteers, sponsors, dedicated fund-raisers, and VAW organizers deserve an enthusiastic standing ovation for their gracious efforts. An outreach week of this magnitude and contributing such an impact on the local Vermont scene would not be possible without the vital volunteerism spirit fostered in our archeological community.

The bright, "Join Hands With the Past" poster serving as our advertising centerpiece generated many enthusiastic comments. I was surprised to discover that this colorful VAW '95 poster even still hangs in bookstores such as Annie's Book Stop in Rutland and the Vermont Book Shop in Middlebury. Approximately 80 events were listed in last May's VAW *Calendar of Events*, many of them specifically organized by our imaginative archeological community to take place during the outreach week. Eight participating libraries and bookstores also collated pertinent archeology week exhibits. We joined over one in eight Vermont towns with their past during VAW '95, from Burlington to Sheffield.

We produced 7,000 free *Calendars of Events*, 2,500 each of *Archeology Through Libraries* and *Archeology and Education*, 1,000 posters, and 200 bumper stickers (minimal charge). Stacks of calendars and a copy of the poster were forwarded to libraries, museums, schools, some Vermont welcome stations, the VAS spring meeting, all VAS members, and VAW '95 event hosts for distribution to the general public. Event hosts also received a VAW '95 packet containing public relations information, advertising flyers, special archeology week newsletters, the VAS *Newsletter*, VAS membership brochures, upcoming field school flyers and other materials relevant to Vermont archeology. These materials were permanently displayed at most events.

The 1995 Vermont Archeology Week cost approximately \$6,000, the majority of which was funneled through the VAS coffers (rather than DHP). VAW '95 netted just over that amount, mostly subsidized by contributions from CRM firms, the spring VAS auction, various historic see **Standing Ovation** →7

Standing Ovation (cont'd.)

and preservation groups, and Vermont utilities. This figure does not include critical in-kind services from the DHP and other agencies that helped maintain our phone and mail communications, distribution postage, graphic design, and copying facilities. Approximately 15 volunteers provided hour estimates (perhaps 25% of all significant volunteers). Volunteer estimates totaled 691½ hours at an estimated monetary contribution of well over \$15,000.

What return do we see for our time and effort? Statistics have been compiled from event evaluation forms distributed with event host packets; 24 events were evaluated (30%). Approximately 757 event attendees were reported on the returned forms, and State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles conservatively estimates there were over 1200 direct participants in VAW '95. Almost all the official comments on forms included an audience response of "great," "very positive," "enthusiastic" (one "enthusiastic despite rain!"), and "please do it again." Only one slated event failed to materialize. Lack of other event failures, good attendance at most events, and high audience enthusiasm at all the other activities we can attribute to not only the helpful hosts and public oriented speakers, but behind the scenes quality control and enthusiasm on both the calendar and publicity fronts.

Some of the more dramatic successes of VAW '95 included Vic Rolando's plethora of industrial archeology tours (one guaranteed to open in a community near you!), "Excavations at the Caledonia County Courthouse—St. Johnsbury's First Cemetery" (so many people showed, 150 counted, that they had to quickly move the venue across the street to a bigger building), and the very popular and educational panel discussion "Petroglyphs in Bellows Falls" (boasting standing room only). However, even events attended by a handful received rave reviews. I think that the collective success of VAW '95 hinged on our ability to bring an activity or presentation to a given community that was relevant to that community. Our formula for successful future outreach events should factor in inspiring local involvement in planning and presenting archeological programs.

In just a few years, we have traveled a road from an grand idea to an even better realization of our dreams. Vermont Archeology Weeks have become high quality public outreach events the equal of those in any state. This is a vital effort in a state where heritage tourism and preservation of the past is an economic resource. We have helped many thousands of individuals "Join Hands with the Past," raised a general public awareness about local archeology (it doesn't just take place in Egypt), increased the media coverage of our activities, enhanced the quality of public archeological events, and contributed dramatically to information available at local community level. We're on the way toward touching each community in Vermont. We owe each other a standing ovation for our time, expense, and efforts.

Keep up the good work!

State Archeologist (cont'd.)

rapidly being destroyed by the Missisquoi River is now well armored. Historic and archeological resources of portions of the Ompompanoosuc River have been included in an "Outstanding Resource Water" designation by the Water Resources Board.

On behalf of the Town of Thetford and the Agency of Natural Resources, I testified to the Board about the historic/archeological significance of a 4-mile stretch of Ompompanoosuc River that includes the marvelous historic village of Thetford Center, about to be listed on the National Register, and numerous industrial archeology sites that fueled this community in the 19th century. The designation simply declares the importance of this waterway and associated resources and offers it a small measure of extra protection in some regulatory situations. Ongoing involvement with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) continues to benefit archeological resources. Grants were made to the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to study the impacts of zebra mussels on historic shipwrecks and to continue the lake-wide survey of historic shipwrecks. Zebra mussels are here and are not simply a threat; they will harm, and perhaps destroy, shipwrecks. Art Cohn and his staff at the Museum are working hard to get a handle on this enormous problem and document as many shipwrecks as possible before they are so covered with zebra mussels that documentation becomes impossible. This has already happened in the Great Lakes. A small grants program through the LCBP provided funds to develop an interpretive exhibit of the prehistoric settlement discovered at Grand Isle by the Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) during construction of the fish hatchery.

Many of the major accomplishments seem to be in the administrative/regulatory arena. They lack the excitement of archeological discoveries (mostly made by consultants and avocational archeologists, regrettably, rarely by Division staff...) but are critical since they improve long-term protection of archeological sites. A new close working relationship with the folks who run the federal Community Development Block Grant program (the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs, under which the Division is newly housed) will help grant applicants, such as towns, plan ahead for archeological studies and better integrate them into their grant projects (some of which include major new construction in highly sensitive locations). The old review process did not foster good planning to identify and consider archeological resources; rather, it was an afterthought to the whole grant application. If you could only imagine how much paper is generated and passed around by government you would go out and hug a tree right now. To reduce paper and save hours and hours of review time for Agency of Transportation (AOT) projects, AOT Archeologist Duncan Wilkie and I have monthly "jam" sessions where we do days' worth of reviews in several hours. An innovative Programmatic Agreement with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife was developed to

see State Archeologist →8

State Archeologist (cont'd.)

help the department comply with federal and state historic preservation requirements. The first such Agreement with a department in the Agency of Natural Resources, its purpose is to formalize a process whereby they hire their own archeological expertise to do their many project reviews instead of counting on Division staff (or not doing it at all).

We worked closely with CAP and the Vermont National Guard to develop a Programmatic Agreement for the Ethan Allen Firing Range, a 6000-acre property in Bolton, Jericho, and Underhill, which contains numerous historic and prehistoric sites and historic structures from different periods. Presenting archeology training programs for organizations and students is on-going but one stands out. In October the Division, in cooperation with the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, hosted an all-day Workshop on the federal Section 106 process that formalized our new approach to this federal review. Over 150 people attended to learn more about this process and understand their roles in it under the law. The federal Section 106 review is one of the many regulatory programs in which misperception and misunderstanding of the program has posed major challenges to the Division in the past.

I welcome any ideas you may have as we move into new endeavors that involve more Vermonters and enhance knowledge of prehistory and history. Vermont Archeology Week is the kind of positive, non-regulatory effort that raises awareness about archeology and history and involves a wide spectrum of people and organizations. I encourage you to take an active part in Vermont Archeology Week 1996 by supporting it with your volunteer time, donations of money or auction items, or all of the above!. Best wishes for the new year.

Classified Advertisement

WANTED!! Auction Donations for 1996 Vermont Archeology Week Auction. Support Vermont Archeology Week 1996 by donating to the Auction! Last year's Auction raised over \$1200 to help pay VAW bills. The Auction has proven to be a great fundraiser but we need your support. The next Auction will be held during the VAS 1996 Spring meeting (date and place to be announced). In the next few months, be a donor; at the Auction, be a buyer! Ideas for donations include: T-shirts, videos, books relating to Vermont history/archeology/other, art work, services, equipment, etc. Go to your favorite bookstore/country store/video store/bed and breakfast and ask for a donation for Vermont Archeology Week. Contact Kathy Callum (247-8127), Giovanna Peebles (828-3050), or Mike Miller (207/832-4903) to volunteer help or to donate items. paid GP, 12-29-95

Charles R. Lord (1922-1995)

submitted by Richard W. Ward

Long-time VAS member Charles R. Lord died suddenly on Sunday, September 24, 1995. Born in Plattsburgh, NY, he attended city schools, served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and graduated from Union College, Schenectady, in 1948. A member of many service organizations, he was employed as Executive Director of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for Clinton, Essex, and Franklin Counties in New York until retiring in 1988. In retirement, he drew upon his deep interest in history to work part time as title searcher for Clinton Abstracts, continuing until a week before his death.

Charlie had a life-long interest in all phases of archaeology. He joined the VAS in 1970, but even before that he dug with Roland Robbins at Crown Point Historic Site. As a VAS member he dug at Boucher, John's Bridge, and other Vermont sites. He was a charter member and the only vice-president of the former Adirondack Archaeological Association. Through his interest in archaeology, he learned scuba diving, then taught scuba classes at the Plattsburgh YMCA. Although never involved in a formal underwater archaeology site, he dived on numerous Lake Champlain shipwrecks and was an avid student of that discipline.

The Clinton Masonic Charities Corporation has established a Charles R. Lord Memorial Scholarship Fund to fund scholarships for graduates of the two Plattsburgh high schools. Mail donations to Gerald Dominy, 21 Lozier Place, Plattsburgh NY 12901, payable to Clinton Masonic Charities Corporation. His widow, Ortheal Lord, lives at 50 Lorraine Street, Plattsburgh, NY, 12901.

With the Committees: Development Committee Report

by Paul S. Anderson, Chair

At the September VAS board meeting, a decision was made to create a committee that would concern itself with items that could be sold by the VAS to help garner some income. Ann Clay, Bruce Hedin, and Paul Anderson were named to the Development Committee, and Paul Anderson appointed chairman.

The members of this committee have been in touch with, and have been searching for, prices and availabilities of such items as pins, mugs, and T-shirts. We have found some acceptable merchandise, priced within a range we feel the VAS could purchase and make a modest profit. Now we are searching for a design suitable for a T-shirt, etc. We are open to general membership suggestions as to what this logo could be. If you have any ideas, drawings, or opinions on this matter, contact any of the above-named committee members. →9

Membership Committee Report

by Jane Gibbons, Chair

The people currently serving on the Membership Committee are myself and Herb Swift. We were appointed in the spring of 1995 by the board and first met in June to decide what we should be doing. We also met with Joe Popecki and discussed society finances and membership information.

Our goals are to increase the membership of the society by attracting new members while keeping our current members from dropping out. To that end, we came up with several things we can do. One of these is to get more press coverage to attract new members to the spring and fall meetings. Also, I hope to get people who have dropped their memberships to rejoin by contacting them individually (this has been done with some success).

I confess that it was only when asked to write a report for this newsletter it occurred to me that maybe the Membership Committee should also be the contact point between the board and the membership. I added that to what we do and offer to respond to members and relay information to the board from members who have suggestions, inquiries, or complaints that they wish to express.

Current VAS membership is nearly 200 and we gained six new members at the fall meeting. I am currently compiling a list of summer field schools and information about archaeological sites open to the public this summer for anyone interested and will have something for the spring newsletter.

News From the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum:

by Donovan N. Andrews

1812 Military Vessels Threatened by Zebra Mussels

In 1982, a diving project in southern Lake Champlain led to the discovery of three surviving hulls from the War of 1812 naval fleets. What followed was a multi-year documentation study on the U.S. brig *Eagle*. This year, with these shallow water sites threatened by zebra mussels, a major grant from the Navy Historical Center's Legacy Program made it possible for the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM) to complete the field study on the other two vessels. This grant is being administered with the assistance of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

During a five-week LCMM field school, co-sponsored by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M and UVM, a team of ten student archaeologists under the direction of Kevin Crisman and LCMM director Art Cohn, descended on the old channel to examine the U.S. gunboat *Allen* and the British brig *Linnet*.

Working long days in limited visibility, the vessels were first exposed, then documented. Any artifacts remaining on board were carefully plotted, then removed and cataloged for conservation back at the Museum's new Nautical Archaeology Center lab. John Bratten, LCMM conservator from the Mount Independence project, helped to get the new lab up and running. Scott McLaughlin effectively took over the lab operation when John returned to his conservation responsibilities with the State of Florida.

By the end of the season most of the material recovered in this project had been conserved. The larger wooden objects are undergoing continued stabilization and will be completed in the spring. This material will be on exhibit at the LCMM in 1996.

LCMM's Nautical Archaeology Field Program '95

In June, the Maritime Museum completed a multi-year study of the sailing-canal schooner, *General Butler*. Built in Essex, New York, in 1862, the *Butler* sank in 1876 after being caught in a violent December gale. This season's project, funded by the City of Burlington, as part of their new wastewater outfall project, focused on specific construction questions about this schooner, still laden with a load of marble from Isle La Motte. In the course of the study, numerous artifacts were located, recovered, and conserved. These were immediately available to the public during the stabilization process in LCMM's new Nautical Archaeology Center lab.

A companion study, sponsored by the DHP, took place on the canal schooner *O.J. Walker*. The *Walker* is of the same class and was built in the same year as the *General Butler*, but constructed by Vermont shipwright Orson Spear in Burlington. The Museum's study not only examined the construction of the schooner, carrying bricks and tiles from Mallets Bay to Burlington when she sank, but also focused on the feasibility of this site being incorporated into the Vermont Underwater Preserve program in the years to come. A management discussion about the vessel's future has already begun.

The Gunboat *Philadelphia* and the Defense of Lake Champlain

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum is thrilled to announce that the long awaited republication of Dr. Philip K. Lundeborg's book on the gunboat *Philadelphia* is now available. Since the first booklet was published by the Smithsonian Institution in 1966, new research has uncovered additional details about the vessel, its captain, and crew, as well as the pivotal engagement of Valcour Island in October, 1776. This edition is greatly expanded to include this important information, with the added visual support of contemporary and new illustrations. Also contained is an Afterword by museum director Art
see *Philadelphia* → 10

Philadelphia (cont'd.)

Cohn, detailing the Museum's own *Philadelphia* project. This new publication is a great addition to any bookshelf and a perfect gift for your favorite history enthusiast.

Help Wanted-LCMM Wants YOU!

The Lake Champlain Maritime Museum has come to realize throughout the years how volunteers are a vital and incredible resource for a non-profit organization such as ours. We are always thrilled to add to our already diverse community of volunteers. There is a wide variety of ways that you can help, including lending a hand in our summer education programs, helping out in the office, grounds work, interpreting exhibits, or assisting in our Conservation or Zebra Mussel labs. There are many more opportunities, ones which you may feel are important, so please feel free to share your ideas with us. For information on how you can become a part of the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, call us at 475-2022, or write: RR 3 Box 4092, Vergennes VT 05491.

Book and CD-ROM Reviews

America's Ancient Stone Relics: Vermont's Link to Bronze Age Mariners. By Warren W. Dexter and Donna Martin. Rutland: Academy Books, 1995. xvi +210pp., illus., notes, glossary, index. \$29.95 (cloth)

reviewed by Victor R. Rolando

Jean Davison, Consulting Editor for the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences, wrote the Preface for *Ancient Vermont* that "the Academy...feels an obligation to encourage activities which involve fuller use of the cultural and intellectual resources of Vermont." *Ancient Vermont*, and the 1977 Castleton State College Conference by the same name that examined evidence related to Vermont's numerous stone chambers, was roundly ballyhooed by many archeologists and historians who saw themselves more mainstream to their disciplines. The "ancient Vermont" event, however, did encourage a more open-minded approach to possible explanations of stone chambers, inscriptions, and alignments.

The conference brought together Warren Dexter and the late Dr. Warren Cook, who combined resources to make the conference work. Dexter wrote *Ogam Consaine and Tifinag Alphabets* in 1984, which discussed the use of these two ancient alphabets. In 1989 he coauthored *Vermont: Wilderness to Statehood, 1748-1791* with Barbara Hanson, which "pictured" what 18th-century remains still exist in 20th-century Vermont. Donna Martin, who also attended the conference, is a summa cum laude graduate in history from Johnson State College, and is the Vermont Coordinator for the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA).

In *America's Ancient Stone Relics*, the authors

attempt, through 238 photos, drawings, and maps, to make a case for "the presence in Vermont of ancient people from Europe, Africa and Asia during the early Bronze Age, at least 3300 B.C." by comparing stone shapes and inscriptions found in Vermont to those found elsewhere in the world. A professional photographer by training and occupation, Dexter's expertise shows through in his detailed photographs. Everything he writes contains a comprehensive amount of data and illustrations, a reflection of his exhaustive research.

The book presents a definitive overview of some of the more mysterious lithic features from around the world. The text weaves an intriguing trail of evidence that starts with exploration of ancient people to ice-free Antarctica, building on this capability of early transoceanic explorers to explain lithic records of a quest for copper by ancient people in the Lake Superior region, thereby explaining inscribed stones and lithic features found along waterways in North America, the Northeast, and Vermont. Evidence is presented to prove astronomical alignments of Vermont stone chambers that NEARA and others claim to record the winter solstice, and stone inscriptions that can be read in ogam, thus alluding to the presence of Bronze Age people in Vermont. Unfortunately, no data is provided to explain the orientation the many other stone chambers that are aligned to different points of the compass.

Financed in part by the Eva Gebhard-Gourgaud Foundation and the Cecil Howard Charitable Trust, no expense was spared in producing this handsome book. The bright-red cloth cover and spine are imprinted in gold lettering and cloaked by a colorful, eye-catching dust jacket. But I have problems with the inside, which betrays the lack of a sound edit. The grammar and punctuation are inconsistent, the presentation is nonstandard, and there are organizational problems, typos, and errors, e.g., "about 4,350 years before the present...or about 1,700 B.C." (pg. 28). The text doesn't flow smoothly, switching back and forth between seemingly unrelated subjects. The authors assume too much of the reader; it is not always clear what point they are trying to make. Words and phrases are boldfaced for emphasis, some in larger fonts, which I found distracting. I rather the point be adequately explained.

There is also some confusion about copper mines. The Elizabeth mine is in Strafford, not Thetford (fig. 79). While discussing the Ely mine, it is mentioned that during World War II, it was worked to below sea level. Actually, that was the Elizabeth mine; the Ely mine was long closed by then.

Still, the authors provide a wealth of information and offer many plausible alternate explanations for most of Vermont's more controversial lithic features. I encourage you to take a good look beyond its production shortcomings at what this great book struggles to say about Vermont's prehistory. Agree or not, Warren Dexter and Donna Martin have captured center stage in the "ancient Vermont" controversy. Get your copy while they last.

→11

Exploring Ancient Native America: An Archaeological Guide. By David Hurst Thomas. New York: Prentice Hall Macmillan Co., 1994. \$25.00 cloth.

reviewed by Dennis Howe

Here is a book for the avocational archeologist. As the blurb on the jacket states, this "is a lavishly illustrated guide to more than 400 of the most important Indian archeological sites in the United States and Canada." But this volume is not a fluffy coffee-table book. It is well-written and thoughtful, providing an up-to-date perspective of Native American studies through archeological research.

The book provides a time-and-space narration of Native American history using impressive and accessible archeological remains and restorations as focal points. Interpretations of the most recent research, often enhanced with the Native American perspective, provide a fresh approach.

There are two aspects of this book that I especially liked. The first is Thomas's writing. He writes well, avoiding academic stiffness. His synthesis places ancient Native Americans in a light that not only reveals their cultural richness and diversity, but also adds an excitement to their achievements. For example, he treats North American prehistoric societies as "civilizations" rather than "tribes." He uses rhetoric that has been common in classical archeology texts, yet all too rare in writing about Native Americans who had the knowledge and ability to construct five-story apartment buildings, a huge 100-foot-high mound covering 14 acres as a perch for an elite ruler, and 500 miles of irrigation canals long before European discovery of the New World. It is appropriate that he refers to the individuals who implemented such construction as "engineers" rather than "primitives," a word (or a synonym for it) which appears in so many texts.

The fine style which makes this book such a pleasure to read is undoubtedly the result of Thomas's extensive editing and writing experience. He is a well-known archeologist who discovered and excavated hundreds of sites, and has been a curator at the American Museum of Natural History for twenty years. He has produced a lucid, fast-paced summary of 10,000 years of human achievement.

A second worthwhile aspect of the book is the use of many sidebars to provide technical information or explanations, which is helpful and does not bog down the narration. In sidebars, for example, are such details as radiocarbon dating technology, tree ring dating methods, diseases of Native Americans, and other subjects, with great clarity. Typical of some of the other sidebars are titles, such as "Can You Make a Folsom Point?", "How to Read Ancient Rock Art," and "Where Can I Dig?"

The book focuses on archeological sites that can be visited or toured with directions to find them. He connects the sites to his development of Indian history and includes museums that have significant collections of ancient Native American artifacts. As serious avocationalists, we can go to the sites, view the

museum collections, and see and judge for ourselves.

Don't look for specific Abenaki history or sites in this text. For this you should read *The Neville Site: 8,000 Years at Amoskeag* by Dena Dincauze (1976), *The Original Vermonters: Native Inhabitants, Past and Present* by William Haviland and Marjory Power (1994), *The Western Abenakis of Vermont 1600-1800: War Migration and the Survival of an Indian People and Dawnland Encounters: Indian and Europeans in Northern New England* by Colin Calloway (1990, 1991), and *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology*. The lack of Abenaki material is not necessarily a weakness. The book is helpful for placing continent-wide temporal events in context, and for comparing our region's archeology with that accomplished in other places.

The book is not "a comprehensive history of Native American people" as Thomas wrote in his Foreword, but it does "sketch both the diversity and texture of American Indian lifeways" and is the only comprehensive guide to important precontact and historical sites. It also avoids "the antiquated brand of cultural and racial narcissism still fostered in the too-common Eurocentric view of American history."

Thomas presents ancient Native America in a new way. We see advanced civilizations rather than primitive tribes, and a larger view of a population that reached an estimated 75 million people before Columbus's voyages. Reading the book should encourage you to visit archeological sites outside of our region. And if you buy the book, know that partial royalties are being donated to the Native American Scholarship Fund of the Society for American Archaeology to encourage and help more American Indians to become practicing archeologists.

Pointe à Callière in "The Archaeological Detective"
on CD-ROM

reviewed by Kathleen E. Callum, GEOARCH

Were you one of the excited participants on our 1994 VAS Education Committee bus trip to Pointe à Callière museum in Montreal? Have you been considering a trip north over the border to this excellent archaeological museum? Do you like archaeology and spinning through time with the CD-ROM drive of your computer? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then *Introduction to Archaeology* on multimedia CD by EMME Interactive is for you.

It seems like a stunning array of first generation CD-ROM titles became available this year; it is gratifying that a few archaeology ones are numbered among this bounty. It is even more gratifying that the *Introduction to Archaeology* adventure takes place only a few hours away from our doors, at one of our closer (and finer) cosmopolitan centers. Our task as archaeological detectives is to solve the mystery of one of the museum skeleton's archaeological origins: his or her time period, sex, age, ethnic affiliation, lifestyle, cause of death, and even name. As

see *Archaeological Detective* → 12

Archaeological Detective (cont'd.)

you might expect, this CD draws us back through time to the heyday of Montreal's 17th-century Fort Ville Marie and its first Catholic cemetery.

Introduction to Archaeology, alias "The Archaeological Detective," (©1995 by Micro-Intel of EMME) is available for \$33.98 from U.S. mail order companies such as Mac or PC Zone (1-800-258-2088) or the Home Computer Catalog (1-800-454-3686). EMME has divisions in the United Kingdom and France. Before you quake in your 20th-century shoes at the thought of using your rusty French, let me assure you that the CD is largely in English. Videos of museum archaeologists do feature the original lectures in French as background sound, but the English translation plays out on center stage. This method of presenting the flavor of both the early and modern Quebec through multimedia technology works well. The translation seems very British, however, because every so often the answer to a correct reply is a hilarious "spot on" or "bravo" rather than a more colloquial American response.

Three members of the Callum household reviewed "The Archaeological Detective" (David on an IBM PC compatible for the Windows version, Jean and myself on a Power Mac). Two of us finished the entire program in one sitting (45 to 60 minutes) while the other lost interest. I won't name which of us dedicatedly completed all five archaeological missions, but we were the same ones who completed all of our 4-H badges, and projects too. Unfortunately, the type who find the act of winning necessary would have been better off taking the CD missions in several sittings, because no grand finale bells, whistles, or trumpets played at the end. A special ending video depicting a reenactment of...say...17th-century Montreal, as our award for making it through all the missions with flying colors was conspicuously absent. We expected a bit more drama at the end. Other than that, all thought the process of being an archaeological detective on CD at Pointe à Callière was good fun.

Bells do go off when you provide the right answer while playing a "game," perusing a "document," answering a question, or listening to an "expert opinion." A buzzer sounds off when your answer is in error, but the program lets you try over and over until you get the right date, clue, name, or whatever. I was also pleased that the translation was as politically correct as possible. For example, in the text you find that the skeleton in question was "a person who suffered growth interruptions during their childhood" rather than the pretentious "his childhood" or the cumbersome "his/her childhood."

The reviewers at home made a brief list of things for Micro-Intel to work on before a new version of this CD comes out. Besides the depressing lack of grand finish, we found the program a bit difficult to install on the IBM PC platform. While installing the program was a breeze on the Power Mac, the PC Windows direction advised us to choose "execute" under the computer's program manager; the correct choice was "run." In addition, *Introduction to Archaeology*

is a misnomer; the text assumed we had either been to the museum (we had!) or knew quite a bit about forensic anthropology, archaeological tools, and that Jesuits are Catholics. EMME should stick with its advertising slogan, "The Archaeological Detective," a far more appropriate title.

Good resources to address a neophyte's lack of knowledge would have been either the "archaeologist's manual" or the "dictionary" furnished in the program, but both aids weren't as useful as desired. The term "Amerindian" and many others appear numerous times in the text, but were not included in the dictionary. The archaeologist's manual only gave us a sketchy outline of a typical archaeological toolkit and methods. For example, instead of telling us that certain skeletal markers could be used to determine the sex of the person in question, we would like to see creative multimedia entries under specific sexual markers, such as a mandible or leg bones that we could access during the program as needed.

Lastly, we found it a bit difficult to keep track of our progress through the program. It is a bit like wandering the maze-like corridors of the Pointe à Callière museum. Dave Callum concluded that "it certainly adds to the successful completion of the program to have been at the museum!" While it is great to have an archaeology CD out in this year of the multimedia show, *Introduction to Archaeology*, a.k.a. "The Archaeological Detective," is representative of the coming potential of the technology now available to our home computers. Because it is a first generation CD, there are a few problem areas that EMME could improve. But for now, if you were on that bus trip to Pointe à Callière museum in Montreal, or are anticipating a trip north over the border, or just like archaeology and CD-ROMs, then this program definitely is for you.

Audrey Porsche Elected VAS President

The following officers were elected at the November 16, 1995 VAS board meeting: President Audrey Porsche, Vice President Bruce Hedin, and Secretary Marjorie Robbins; reappointed were Treasurer Joe Popecki and Newsletter Editor Vic Rolando. Newly elected to the board is Gerd Sommer of Underhill, replacing out-going board member David Starbuck.

The board made note of the successful annual fall meeting. Logistics of the meeting were set up by Joe Popecki and the excellent program was arranged by David Starbuck. The board extends its thanks to David for his generous services to the VAS during his six years on the board.

Twenty-five Years Ago

The January 1971 VAS Newsletter reported that the search for a Director was successful, in the person of George Leitch; Joe Popecki was reelected to his third term as President; and the board met with Middlebury-Vergennes area members in anticipation of organizing a VAS Chapter for that region.

Vermont Archeology Week '96 State and Regional Coordinators

VAW '96 Coordinator

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VAW 1996 Poster

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Northwest Vermont Region

WE NEED **YOU** AS OUR
NORTHWEST VERMONT COORDINATOR!!!

VAW '96 Calendar, Governor's Proclamation

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Consulting Archaeology Program
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Grants Writing

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Welcome New 1995 VAS Members!

Vicki L. Acebo, Plainfield
Priscilla Backman, East Calais
Steven Bayly, Concord, NH
Rick Beck, Vergennes
Herman C. Brown, Grand Isle
Loren Bulick, Kaneohe, HI
Debra Burbank, Waitsfield
Daniel E. H. Carns, Plainfield
Frank Cowan, Glenview, Ill (rejoined)
Joseph Delecki, Grand Isle
Jessica Desany, Underhill
David A. Donath, Woodstock
Gwyneth A. Duncan, Jericho
Dan Farrar, Chester
Linda Gray, Calais
Peter E. Hayes, West Dover

Edith F. Hunter, Weathersfield
Hunter Research, Trenton, NJ
Maureen Kennedy, Queensbury, NY
Lois B. Lackey, Vergennes
Robert G. Mead, Arlington
Dawn Morgan, Beloit, Wisc
Gordon R. Neilson, Hinesburg (rejoined)
Paul Olsen, Hyde Park
Mark David Paleco, Kearny, NJ
Philippa D. Shaplin, Burlington
Scott C. Sommer, Underhill
Henry Z. Steinway, New York City
Jack Tabor, Londonderry
June Talley, Queensbury, NY
Monisha Tasker, Londonderry, NH
U32 High School (Barry Kopecky), Montpelier
Viki Van Valen, Antrim, NH
Robert Woolmington, No. Bennington

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

Application for Membership or Renewal

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY
(OR REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATEGORY CHECKED BELOW.

Signature

Please print or type:

NAME _____

MAIL ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

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COUNTRY _____ PHONE _____

DATE _____ AGE _____ (if senior)

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☐ Individual (\$12.00)

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☐ Life (\$250.00)

☐ Non-profit Institutional (\$25.00)

☐ Institutional (\$50.00)

*Senior: 65 years or over. Students must be full-time and provide photocopy of active student ID card.
Anyone wishing a membership card, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.
You may photocopy this form.

Make your check payable to **The Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.** and mail to:
PO Box 663, Burlington VT 05402-0663