



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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A Brief Report of Archaeological Work Related to the Bennington Bypass Project

*Brenda J. Cox, Research Supervisor
Archaeology Research Center
University of Maine*

Since January, 1995, a series of archaeological investigations have been conducted in advance of construction of the proposed Bennington Bypass Project by the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center (UMF ARC) for the Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT) Special Projects Unit — Bennington Bypass. The bypass will divert motor vehicle traffic away from sections of downtown Bennington and Old Bennington. The archaeological field work is being done in order to alleviate the effects of any potential disturbance to the region's prehistoric and early historic cultural resources which may be caused by construction of the bypass, and is being conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Previous archaeological studies related to earlier configurations of the bypass project have been conducted by several other archaeological consulting companies from 1979 to the present. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has primary oversight and review responsibilities for this project and all others of a similar nature. The UMF ARC is the contracting VAOT consultant for this work.

Under the direction of Dr. James B. Petersen, an archaeological phase I survey of the 10.7 mile (17.2 km) long project corridor was conducted during the 1995 and 1996 field seasons. As a result of this survey, a total of 31 archaeological sites were newly identified (19 prehistoric Native American and 12 historic Euro-American). In addition, three previously identified historic Euro-American sites were investigated during the phase I survey. Archaeological phase II testing was conducted during the 1996 field season at seven newly identified and two previously identified prehistoric Native American sites. As a result of the phase II testing, at least two of the nine sites were determined to be significant
see Bypass Project -4

Bennington Dig Unearths Historic Pottery Shards

Victor R. Rolando

Eighteen people converged on Bennington the week of May 26-30 and excavated thousands of pottery shards at the site of the 19th-century United States Pottery Company. The all-volunteer project drew people from all bordering states plus New Jersey and included five VAS members.

Object of the project was to determine if Parian ware at the Bennington Museum, determined to have been made outside Bennington, might in fact have been made here. It was hoped that enough shards of Parian ware might be found among the discarded material to match with the museum's pieces.

The pottery company started in 1847 as Fenton, Hall, & Co., becoming Lyman, Fenton & Park the next year, and Lyman & Fenton until 1853, when it became US Pottery, ending operations in 1858. The company made bricks, yellow and white ware, and porcelain. Parian was a highly vitrified type of porcelain, which was made into figures and pitchers. First made at Stoke-on-Trent, England, it was given the name Parian in 1845, after the white marble of Paros (an island in Greece). Fenton's is credited with being the first pottery in the country to make figures in Parian porcelain.

NOTICE

**VAS Annual Fall Meeting
Saturday, October 11
in South Burlington
Mark your Calendar Now**

The dig was held in the southwest corner of the Bennington Elementary School playground, which borders School Street on the west and the Walloom-sac River on the south. Old maps show this area was behind the wing of the pottery building that made the Parian ware. **see Pottery Dig -7**

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Address general inquiries concerning the Society
to the Secretary

Resignations and Appointments Reshuffle VAS Board

Due to personal reasons, Bruce Hedin reluctantly resigned as VAS president, but is remaining on the board. Bruce was elected VAS president at the January 23, 1997 board meeting. Elected VAS president at the April 9 board meeting was David

Starbuck. Bob Sloma remains vice president.

Board members Frank Steele and Herb Swift left the board and have been replaced by Jill Oliver and Scott McLaughlin, both of whom are filling the two terms until fall elections. Jill organized and ran this spring's very successful Vermont Archeology Week Awareness Auction; Scott is Staff Conservator at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

Four seats on the VAS board will be up for reelection this fall. If you are interested on serving on the board, please contact any board member listed (see left column).

Fall VAS Bus Trip

*Frank Bump, Chairman
VAS Development Committee*

The VAS is planning a fall bus tour. Possible destinations include a return trip to Pointe-à-Calliè, Montreal's recently opened museum of archaeology and history; Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, with holdings of Asian, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman art, early American paintings, portraits, and colonial silver-ware (a special exhibition "Picasso: The Early Years, 1892-1906" is scheduled for this fall); or the New York State Museum at Albany, whose collections include archeology, New York artifacts, militaria, Shaker, and N.Y. Indian ethnology.

More information will be forthcoming later on the date and time, selected destinations, and bus fees.

If you are interested in joining us, please write to VAS Development Committee, 4 Church Street, Brandon, VT 05733-1108, phone 802-247-6980, or e-mail me at mclaugh@zoo.uvm.edu with your preference and/or suggestions. Bus seats are limited to 47.

New VAS T-Shirts Have Arrived

Our new Vermont Archaeological Society T-shirts arrived in time for the VAS Spring Meeting. Made of 98% heavy-weight cotton, the T-shirts will make you the center of attraction on any dig (see page 9 for design). Casual enough to be worn with sneakers, the T-shirts are great for the aerobic or workout room.

Medium, large, and X-large cost \$10; XX-large is \$11. To order, write: VAS Development Committee, 4 Church Street, Brandon, VT 05733-1108. Make check payable to VAS and please include \$3 for packaging and postage.

DHP Seeks Your Comments on Draft Historic Preservation Plan

*Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation*

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has just issued "Keeping Vermont a Special World," the 74-page Draft Historic Preservation Plan. In his cover letter introducing the plan, Townsend H. Anderson, State Historic Preservation Officer, wrote:

"Nearly 30 years ago, *Vermont Life* magazine published *Vermont: A Special World*. It was a landmark publication, capturing with remarkable clarity the qualities of Vermont that distinguish it from other places. One such key distinguishing quality is Vermont's unparalleled historic character. Assembled in a community, clustered in a village or neighborhood, or scattered on the countryside, this state's historic resources give it an integrity of place different from most other places in America. Good and active stewardship of Vermont's intact historic villages and cities, historic farmsteads, historic landscapes, and archeological sites will keep Vermont a special world unto the twenty-first century. Such stewardship results from a dynamic historic preservation program with strong leadership and many partners.

As we enter the new century, the State of Vermont proposes to direct its historic preservation efforts toward three goals that aim to keep Vermont special. These goals emphasize:

- learning about and valuing Vermont's historic and archeological resources
- promoting statewide and community policies and actions that recognize these resources as important community assets for economic and community development
- creating defensible and sustainable historic preservation regulatory review programs that protect significant resources and involve property owners and developers as preservation partners."

The plan lists 65 "key historic preservation partners" that play an important role in the future of historic preservation in Vermont. The VAS and its members are identified as important partners in this effort. If you wish to receive a copy of the draft plan, contact the Division at 828-3226. Comments must be received in writing by July 7, 1997.

30th Fall Annual Meeting Plans are in the Works

Plans are underway for the Fall Annual Meeting, on Saturday, October 11, which will be held at the Windjammer Conference Center (same place as the last few years). A few speakers have already been lined up but slots are still open. Contact VAS president David Starbuck at 518-747-2926 if you are interested in presenting a paper.

VAW '97 Plans are Proceeding

*Cheryl Fregeau and Christopher Roy
VAW Coordination Team*

Preparations for Vermont Archaeology Week '97 (September 21-27) are in full swing. The successful Archaeology Awareness Auction kicked off our fundraising campaign, which is now in full swing. Many thanks to fabulous auction coordinator and VAS board member Jill Oliver and all the wonderful VAS members who helped solicit items and set up and/or run the auction. If anyone would like to make a donation or has any fundraising ideas or energy, please contact Cheryl (see below).

Event forms are circulating around the State, and if you didn't receive one, but would like to host an event, please contact Cheryl or your regional coordinator (see Feb. '97 VAS News, page 11). We need to get these back as soon as possible in order to get the calendar of events to the printer on time.

On another front, new VAS board member Scott McLaughlin is organizing this year's Vermont Excellence in Archaeology Awards, which will be presented in conjunction with VAW. If you haven't received a form, but would like to make a nomination, please contact Scott at 475-2022 or Cheryl at 868-2086.

We're not only looking forward to a wonderful Archaeology Week, but also to working with all of you over the next couple of months to make it all happen.

Welcome New VAS Members

Tim Abel, Philadelphia, NY
Ilaria Busdraghi and P. Broucke, Middlebury
Caroline Dawson, Peru, NY
Thomas R. Jamison, Rensselaer, NY
Lauren Van Nest, Barton

Members not heard from since 1995 were dropped from the active list, leaving 202 paid members.

Bypass Project (continued)

and hence, eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Phase III data recovery excavations were recommended at these two sites, the Silk Road site (VT-BE-33) and the Cloverleaf site (VT-BE-233), in order to mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed bypass construction. This phase III field work has been scheduled to be undertaken during this, the 1997 field season.

The Silk Road site was first identified in 1979 by the University of Vermont Archaeological Consulting Program and, subsequent geomorphological and archaeological testing, through mechanical excavation, was conducted in the site area by Dr. G. Robert Brakenridge and Werner Archaeological Consulting in 1994. In 1996, the UMF ARC excavated 20 square meters of sediment and recovered over 6,000 prehistoric Native American remains at the site. Of the total artifact count, at least 42 stone tools or tool fragments were identified. Some of these tools exhibit characteristics that allow their assignment to a particular period in prehistory. Based on these "diagnostic" tools, the Silk Road site may be attributable to repeated, or continual prehistoric Native American activity that spans a long period of time which took place between 7,000-350 years ago. It seems extremely likely that thousands more stone artifacts will be recovered at the site through the phase III data recovery excavations and it is hoped that charred floral remains (charcoal), as well as calcined (burned) animal food remains, will be recovered, which will allow for radiocarbon dating of the site deposits and, will provide information about the types of food resources that were available and being consumed by the site's prehistoric inhabitants.

Following the completion of phase III field work at the Silk Road site, similar, but more substantial, excavations will be undertaken at the Cloverleaf site, which lies directly across the Walloomsac River, to the east of the Silk Road site. The Cloverleaf site was first identified in 1995 by the UMF ARC. The following year, 1996, the UMF ARC excavated 18 square meters of sediment and recovered over 2,500 prehistoric Native American remains. Of the total artifact count, at least 22 stone tools or tool fragments were identified. Only a few of the tool fragments are diagnostic of a particular period in prehistory.

In addition to the stone artifacts, a total of 26 prehistoric cultural features have been identified, to date. Features, often designated as "nonportable" artifacts, are very valuable for archaeology in that they often represent "time capsules," allowing resolution of typically short-term events. The

features encountered at the Cloverleaf site represent the remains of a variety of activities including hearths, storage/refuse pits and possible house pits, or floors. Six of these features have been radiocarbon dated. Based on the results of the radiocarbon dating and the diagnostic stone tool fragments, the Cloverleaf site apparently preserves evidence of one or more prehistoric occupations within a relatively brief period of time (about 300-400 years) which took place 3,500-4,000 years ago. It is highly likely that numerous additional cultural features and other prehistoric remains will be encountered during the extensive phase III excavations and these should provide copious evidence of prehistoric subsistence (including calcined (burned) animal food remains and charred plant remains) technology, social interaction and settlement patterns.

A full-time public education and outreach person will be employed at both sites. This individual will be available to provide tours and answer questions on visiting days set aside for the public, and any private organizations that may be interested in scheduling a visit. The public visitation days have been tentatively scheduled for the weekends of August 23, September 6, September 20 and October 4, 1997, and additional days during the 1997 Vermont Archaeology Week (VAW) will be announced, in advance, in local newspapers. Also, at the Cloverleaf site, a volunteer effort will be coordinated by the UMF ARC. Volunteers will be asked to commit to a minimum of one full day of field work. Details concerning both the VAW activities and the volunteer effort will soon be determined and anyone interested in either of these may contact the UMF ARC, in Maine, at (207) 778-7012. Visit our new Web page for updates on the Bennington Project at:

<http://www.umf.maine.edu/~umfarc>

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you in the field!

Twenty-five Years Ago in the VAS

Mrs. Darrell (Barbara) Casteel, our new volunteer Director and Editor, came on board to undertake the work previously assigned to our first volunteer director, George Leitch. In addition to organizing meetings of the membership and the Board of Trustees, her major assignment was to edit the *VAS Newsletter* and the Monograph series.

Announcement was made that VAS Monograph No. 2, titled *Mounds in Vermont: Prehistoric or Historic?* by Dr. William Haviland, was about to be published.

**Walking Through Time:
Heritage Resources Within
the Appalachian Trail Corridor**

*David M. Lacy, Forest Archeologist
Green Mountain National Forest
and*

*Karl Roenke, Forest Archeologist
White Mountain National Forest*

(This paper was originally presented at the 10th annual Northeastern Research Conferences, April 7, 1997, at Bolton Landing, NY.)

Introduction: Parts of the Appalachian Trail (and nearly half of Vermont's Long Trail) are located on New England national forests and are managed in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conference, the Green Mountain Club, and other volunteers. The evocative description of the Appalachian Trail as a "footpath in the wilderness" reflects the recent history and condition of much of the area traversed by both Corridors.

Hidden from view and memory is the evidence of historic activities in the landscape. People have transformed the "wilderness" into active, vital portions of the larger working environment throughout history. Since the Trail Corridors are linear, if serpentine, samples of northern Appalachian highland environments, it should not be surprising (at least not to VAS members) that they often run on, over, along, and/or through a variety of Heritage Resource sites reflecting this rich land-use history. So, as the senior author was accurately (perhaps unfortunately) quoted in the *Burlington Free Press* last summer, "It's really a footpath-through-the-re-growth." (Pollak, 1996).

The physical remains of activities within the trail corridors—evidence of hunting, farming, mining, logging, travel, worship, recreation—are largely the realm of archaeologists today. Native American sites, cellar holes, logging camps, fire towers, abandoned travelways and other physical, vegetative, and sometimes spiritual "artifacts" are our guides to the past. Preservation of significant sites promotes greater understanding of the past uses and conditions of the trails's environment, and an appreciation of the lives and values of our forebears.

As Forest Service archaeologists, we wanted to share a success story about how the management of a "special area"—the Appalachian Trail/Long Trail (AT/LT) corridor—has accommodated the needs of more than one resource area and user group at the same time; in this case, the hiking, recreation, and heritage constituencies. The com-

ination of a good data base, a mutual understanding of project impacts, an awareness of pertinent laws and regulations, and a reasonably advanced planning cycle resulted in "win-win" management.

Regulation: The National Scenic Trails Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) were all passed in the late 1960s. Within New England's national forests (and under Park Service administration of much of the Trail Corridor), the application of NEPA and Section 106 of the NHPA to trail management activities appears to have been a hit-or-miss affair until the mid- or late-1980s. Certainly on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), the only trail activities subject to regular archaeological review were re-routes of significant stretches of the trail (i.e., instances of completely new ground disturbance). Small relocations, reconstruction, and maintenance projects were not reviewed. During the 1980s, there was a push to have more interdisciplinary environmental review (that is, compliance with NEPA) for all types of recreation projects, on a par with the scrutiny that timber and engineering projects traditionally received.

Inventory Efforts: The combination of this trend toward more environment review of the projects, the transfer of AT administration from the Park Service to the Forest Service, and a one-time "President's Initiative" grant gave the authors the opportunity to sponsor and conduct an LT/AT Corridor Inventory starting in 1992. Our goal was to be better able to predict which projects needed field work. The Vermont portion of the survey, completed in 1993 (Lacy & Bowman, 1993) covered 200 miles, all of the AT within Vermont, and the LT north to Mt. Ellen. We documented 57 historic archaeological sites, 25 locations sensitive to prehistoric use, and photo-documented 30 LT shelters. Based on our methods, track record, and subsequent experience, we believe we accounted for about 90% of the historic sites within the corridor, and a majority of the area sensitive to prehistoric use. Collection and synthesis of site data for the White Mountains National Forest is on-going.

Site Types: As a baseline, we acknowledged that the summit regions of Greylock, Stratton, Killington, Moosilauke, Mt. Washington, and numerous other mountains along the way to Katahdin, all the way at Trail's End, are considered sacred and/or spiritually powerful places by Native American groups who did and still live here (see Engle, 1993; Lacy, Moody, and Bruchac, 1992). This special character is not necessarily reflected in "sites" containing artifacts, but exists as a status of "place"

and is established through oral history and continued traditional use. Other, more mundane activities—hunting, camping, quarrying—commonly took place elsewhere within even the most mountainous portions of the corridor and are represented by generally small (with significant exceptions) archaeological sites (Lacy, 1994). These sites are generally near the surface (since there is little or no soil development to cover them at these elevations) and predictably consist of stone tools and the byproducts of their manufacture (the organic materials once present having long since decomposed). Given their low visibility and nearness to the surface, they are especially vulnerable to unintended impacts.

Evidence for historic (i.e., late 18th- to mid-20th-century) land-use and settlement tends to the more diverse and visible to the uninitiated. Home and farmsteads leave tell-tale signs such as cellar holes, barn (and other out-building) foundations, field stone piles and stone walls (now running through maturing forests), wells, drives and roads, and, on occasion, instructive landscapes and altered vegetative mosaics. In addition, the remains of more "industrial" activities are quite visible and numerous, for example, railroad beds, mill ruins, (e.g., raceways and dams), and especially along the Vermont portion of the trail, the remains of charcoal kilns.

More recent remains reflect the evolution of activities in New England, from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) huts in the high elevation areas of the White Mountains (Roenke, 1991) to the CCC-constructed campgrounds on both national forests and the even more recent proliferation of downhill and cross-country ski facilities throughout the area.

Last, but not least, the CCC-era fire towers reflect both the social and environmental dimensions of our economic history, built to address fire concerns created by an unregulated timber industry which used labor drawn from the massive ranks of the unemployed during the Great Depression.

Potential Impacts: By and large, archaeological sites inform us if (a) as much of the "stuff"—artifacts, features, and structural evidence—as possible is still there, and (b) the spatial relationships between all that stuff—where it was originally deposited—is still intact. Therefore, activities like trail relocation and construction, some reconstruction, digging new waterbars (and determining where they are aimed), borrowing soil and/or stones (e.g., from "conveniently" shaped squares?) to build steps, waterbars or other trail features, creating new camping spots which have key characteristics (level, well drained spots with

access to water and travelways), siting a new shelter or outhouse, and/or other soil-disturbing activities, all have potential to impact sites.

Adverse impacts to standing structures along the trails tend toward (a) neglect and vandalism, (b) removal or elimination, or (c) ill-considered replacement of the old with the new (e.g., shelters). The frequency with which these kinds of impacts occur can be dramatically reduced if the site inventories are conducted and site evaluations are completed. Sites determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) generally receive management befitting their status, once recognized. Examples along the AT/LT include the known prehistoric sites along the AT; high altitude AMC huts in the White Mountains; both the Smarts Mountain, N.H., and Stratton Mountain, Vt., CCC-era fire lookout towers; and structural features of the LT (primarily shelters, and landscapes and "character" features) that are significant "by association" since the LT itself was determined eligible for the NRHP.

It is also true, however, that different activities in different locations will not be equally critical. So, for example, a new outhouse in an area of low-site potential is not a problem, nor are most regular maintenance activities, even if they take place in the vicinity of a significant site. In addition, replacing components of historically significant huts and shelters, bridges, or fire lookouts, with in-kind materials, methods, and styles makes perfect sense in cases of deterioration.

Conclusion: The good news, and the reason for this paper, is our conclusion that with a little planning and sensitivity, the Trail and Heritage communities make great partners. By understanding the nature and range of project impacts and having an inventory of sites (lacking this, a good predictive model) archaeologists can narrow the scope of their review. By being aware of the presence and fragility of archaeological and historic sites, trail managers can make their NEPA planning more timely and comprehensive (e.g., they can ensure that an historic preservation specialist is involved). Both trail and heritage specialists have a role to play in seeking reasonable alternatives (or palatable compromises) in cases where there is conflict between trails and sites, and first hand experience on our forests has shown that this is a simple matter of communication. Archaeologists have an additional responsibility to raise the awareness of trail crews, volunteers, and users as to what to look for, and why these resources are meaningful. It has been the authors' experience that it is the rare exception to encounter folks in any line of work who intentionally destroy historic

sites; rather, it is a lack of awareness that leads to accidental and unintentional impacts.

In conclusion, the AT and LT corridors contain evidence of land-use histories documenting changing ecosystems from several thousand years ago to the Great Depression. By investing in baseline inventory data, having a mutual understanding of potential project impacts, and implementing the NEPA planning process, both the hiking and preservation agendas can be served, as has been demonstrated on New England's national forests.

Afterword: Heritage sites are increasingly popular, and even accessible, enhancements of the recreation experience (or in some cases are destinations in and of themselves). We know that trail users frequently think it's fascinating to know about past land use of the area they are hiking through or camping in. Our next step is to do a better job informing trail users and managers about what these histories tell us about the ecosystems through which the trail passes. We are at a point where it makes sense to connect the well-developed, environmentally sensitive trail constituency with the Heritage Tourism boom that has been sweeping the country. To this end, the senior author has received a small grant from the Eastern National Forests' Interpretive Association to develop and produce prototype trailhead posters on the GMNF. We look forward to sharing them with you when they're done.

Acknowledgements: Our thanks to Eric Bowman and David Mayhew for their dedicated field work.

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1996 Time Travel: From Stone Tools to Ski Trails. *Burlington Free Press*, July 7, 1996: 1, 4A.

Roenke, Karl

1991 Interpreting Historic Values of High Elevation Recreation Shelters and Cabins on the White Mountain National Forest: Past, Present, and Future. Unpublished manuscript; available from USDA/White Mountain National Forest, Laconia, NH.

Green Mountain National Forest "Plan Revision"

David M. Lacy, Forest Archeologist
Green Mountain National Forest

The National Forest Management Act (1975) mandated that all National Forests develop a Forest Land Management Plan, in consultation with the public that provides broad direction and specific standards and guidelines for what activities will take place on these public lands. The 1985-era Green Mountain National Forest Plan had a 10- to 15-year life expectancy, so we are now in the process of preparing a Revision that will carry us through the early part of the next century.

If you haven't have the opportunity to participate in the public meetings held throughout the state so far, but have issues, concerns, or ideas (including partnership opportunities) about how the Heritage Resource Program has been or will be conducted, please send them either directly to me or to the Forest Planner at 231 N. Main Street, Rutland, VT 05701, as soon as possible (i.e., this summer). If you'd like to talk to me about your ideas, phone me at 802-747-6711. Finally, in the event that there is torrent of VAS comments or concerns, I would be happy to give a presentation and Q&A session on this topic at the Fall Annual Meeting.

Pottery Dig (continued)

Project Director was Cathie Zusy of Cambridge, Mass., former Curator at the Bennington Museum; Chief Archeologist was Dr. David Starbuck, VAS president. Assisting VAS members were Ann Clay, Dennis Howe, Marjorie Robbins, and Vic Rolando.

Ten 1-meter pits yielded varying amounts of pottery materials, and the most productive pit was expanded to a 2-meter pit. Most of the best material was found in a layer that extended from about 20 to 40 cm deep. Throughout the dig, many school children, teachers, and passers-by stopped

to observe and ask questions. Although a few children asked if we were digging for dinosaur bones, most expressed serious interest in the project. The project received front-page coverage in the *Bennington Banner* (May 30, 1997) and the *Rutland Herald* (May 31, 1997).

Artifacts screened from the pits included Rockingham, white and yellow ware, and generous amounts of Parian. Also found were various sizes and shapes of kiln furniture, kiln shelves, saggars, brick, plus the usual nails, pieces of coal, cinder, glass, and a few pipe stems. Most pits bottomed into sterile earth at about 70 cm.

A temporary lab for washing and sorting the artifacts was set up at the Mount Anthony Union High School, but at the end of the dig, the lab was moved to my cellar where the volunteers continued intensive washing and sorting nearly every day for the next two weeks. At this writing, artifact processing is continuing.

Cathie Zusy will be publishing the results of her part of the investigation later this year, and David Starbuck will also write a report on the project. After more work and study, I hope to make a slide-illustrated project report for the Fall Annual Meeting on October 11.

Recommended Reading:

This Ragged, Starved, Lousy, Pocky Army: The Archaeology of Soldier's Huts and a Summary of Underwater Research at Mount Independence Historic Site, by Dennis E. Howe, published by The Printed Word, Inc., 24 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH, 1996, \$6.95 (soft cover, 5¼ by 8, 79pp, 36 illus, biblio.).

Dennis Howe opens his book with an explanation that the title is based on an entry in *The Revolutionary Journal of Col. Jeduthan Baldwin, 1775-1778*. "Baldwin had endured the intense hardship of the retreat from Canada while suffering smallpox, and soon after arriving at Mount Independence, exhausted and ill, bearing responsibility for constructing the defensive works, his trunk with all his clothing and prized personal items, including his surveyor's compass, was stolen. Upon discovering his compass 'broke to pieces' on July 17, he wrote, 'I am heartily tired of this Retreating, Ragged Starved, lousy, thevish, Pockey Army in this unhealthy Country.'"

This Ragged, Starved, Lousy, Pocky Army provides to the public the first details of archaeological research of an important 1776-1777 Revolutionary War cantonment of 10,000

Americans in Orwell, Vermont. Discoveries made by a team of archaeologists revealed how, under extreme conditions, the soldiers of the Continental Army organized their encampment and built their shelters. They learned about previously unreported soldiers' foodways and drug use. Included is a history of Mount Independence's fortification, its role in the defense of a new nation, and its final razing by the British. The richness of the extensive archaeological information contained on Mount Independence and its important place in American history is sure to bring it into public prominence on a level with such sites as Valley Forge, Morristown, and Yorktown.

Copies are available at the Mount Independence State Historic Site gift shop at Orwell (948-2000).

Prehistoric Golf Course?

Contract archeologists recently discovered some 4,000- to 5,000-year-old Native American campsites on proposed golf course property at Brattleboro. As reported in the March 8, 1997 issue of the *Bennington Banner*, the discovery was part of an Act 250-required search for cultural resources on over 100 acres of land belonging to the Brattleboro Retreat that will become part of the expanded Brattleboro Country Club.

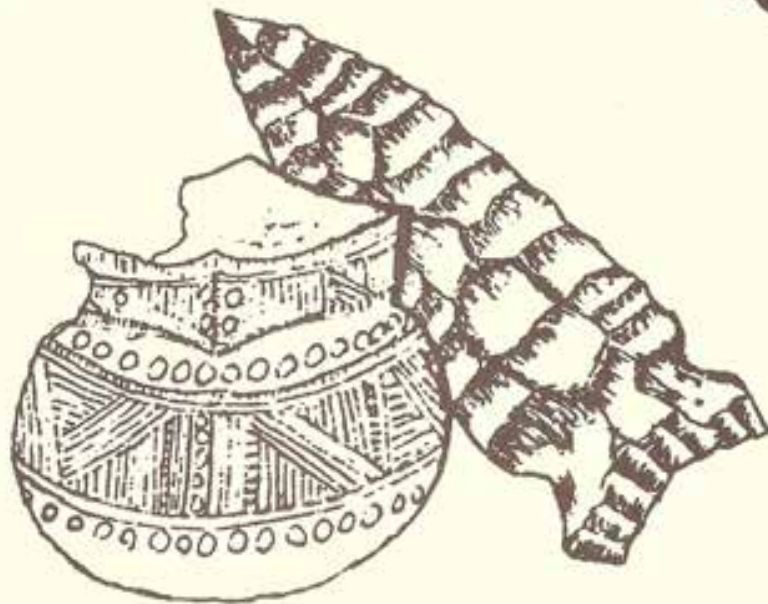
"We found a variety of quartzite-type material, a stone that Native Americans used to make tools... There are probably 100 of these campsites around Brattleboro, but what makes this one important is that we can document it." said Douglas Mackey of Hartgen Archaeological Associates of Troy, NY. More than 11 prehistoric tools and 85 stone fragments were recovered. Mackey speculated that the campers were ancestors of the Abenaki, one of the early peoples known to have occupied the region.

The prehistoric campsite occupies an estimated 4,000 square feet of the 177 acres slated to be purchased from the Brattleboro Retreat to expand the club's existing 9-hole golf course to 18 holes. Mackey estimated that the site was host to between 5 and 20 hunters at one time.

New Archeological Society

A new archeological society is forming in southern Vermont, taking advantage of the momentum of the recent Bennington pottery dig and capitalizing on the population of the tri-state corner area. An organizational meeting will be held 2 pm on July 13th at the Bennington Free Library. Contact Vic Rolando (442-0105) for further information.

Vermont Archaeological



Society

Founded 1968

Vermont Archaeological Society's new T-shirt design (shown at 78% reduction).

Vermont Archæological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 663
Burlington, VT 05402-0663

Membership Application, Renewal, or Change of Address

NEW RENEWAL CHANGE OF ADDRESS

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY
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*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.
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