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The First Excavated Susquehanna Tradition Site in Northwestern Vermont

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Archaeological investigations at VT-CH-384 revealed a multicomponent site dating to the Late Archaic and Late Woodland periods. The recovery of a Genesee-like projectile point and an associated radiocarbon date of 3700±60 B.P. provides the framework for better understanding of local and regional cultural chronologies during the later part of the Late Archaic period.

The site, identified during the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway project, is located on a high, gently sloping, outwash terrace roughly 0.56 km south of the Winooski River. The north side of the terrace drops into a narrow valley drained by a small stream that flowed northwest to the Winooski River. To the east and south, a small spring-fed stream has incised a drainage channel which joins the larger stream along the north side of the terrace.

Artifacts recovered during the Phase 1 and 2 studies were located within three distinct loci. Loci 2 and 3 contained limited artifacts, including three quartzite flakes and a quartz core. Locus 1, where most of the excavations were focused, contained several artifacts related to hunting, processing, cooking and tool manufacturing activities. These artifacts include three projectile points or point fragments, three possible utilized flakes, one bifacial blank, 596 flakes, 361 pieces (14.0 kg) of fire-cracked rock, and 1.5 g of burned mammal bone. The majority of flakes are chert, with quartzite and quartz constituting a minority of the assemblage. Additionally, one deep cooking hearth was identified. Other shallow hearths were probably once present, but were destroyed by plowing. A radiocarbon date of 3700±60 B.P. (Beta-116685) was obtained from the cooking hearth. The calibrated date for the sample is 2270-1910 B.C.

Two diagnostic artifacts, a Genesee-like projectile point and a Madison projectile point, were recovered from Locus 1. The presence of these points, along with the radiocarbon date, indicates the site was occupied during the Late Archaic period and again roughly 3,000 years later during the Late Woodland period. Most, if not all, of the chert debitage was probably produced during the Late Archaic period

see Susquehanna Tradition Site →3

A Brief Report of Continuing Phase III Data Recovery Excavations at the Cloverleaf Site in Bennington, Vermont

Belinda J. Cox

Field Director, UMF

On August 10th, 1998, a team of archaeologists from the University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center (UMF ARC) began supplemental archaeological excavations at the Late Archaic Cloverleaf site in Bennington, Vermont. This supplemental fieldwork is being conducted for the Vermont Agency of Transportation Special Projects Unit - Bennington Bypass and the Federal Highway Administration.

Initial phase III excavations were conducted at the Cloverleaf site in 1997. These excavations were completed in approximately 58 days. As a result of the 1997 work effort, a total of 209 square meters of site sediment was hand excavated. In addition, six 1-meter-wide trenches of variable lengths were mechanically excavated by backhoe to enable stratigraphic and geomorphological interpretations across the site.

NOTICE

**VAS Annual Fall Meeting
Business, Reports, Elections, Papers, & Dinner
Saturday & Sunday, November 7 & 8
in South Burlington
Mark your Calendar Now**

Overall, the archaeological field work conducted in 1997 was extremely productive and further confirmed the significance and importance of the site in both local and regional contexts. The excavations resulted in the identification and documentation of 66 cultural features (for a combined site total of 92 features) that have been variably identified as hearths, refuse pits, storage pits, roasting pits, and lithic concentrations. In addition, several thousand prehistoric Native American artifacts were recovered including lithic (stone) tools, lithic debitage, fire-altered and fire-cracked rock and subsistence remains, including both flora (or charred plant remains) and fauna (or burned bone).

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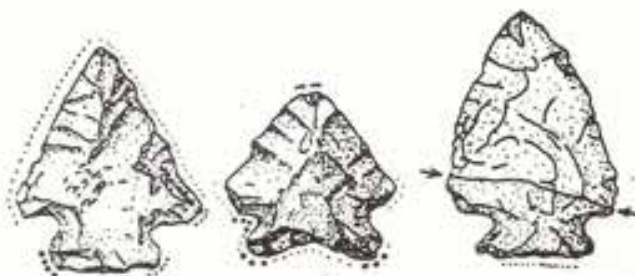
VAS Board Opportunities

One resignation and some end-of-term expirations have resulted in a few openings on the VAS Board. If you are interested in serving and are in good standing (no dues arrears), contact Robert Sloma at 862-5817 (h) or at geoarch@sover.net. The Board meets every 3rd Wednesday in Middlebury.

**Great Discoveries in Vermont Archeology:
The State Archeologist's "Top 10" Picks
(although there's more than 10!....)
Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation**

In September 1997, I signed myself up to do a special slide program at the Vermont Historical Society in honor of Vermont Archeology Week. Choosing Vermont's "most important" archeological discoveries was a challenge, and summarizing their importance in a few sentences and a handful of slides was difficult indeed. These are the sites I picked and the stories I told about them. Which sites would you have selected as contributing the most to our knowledge of past Vermonters?

Discovering 10,000-year-old grooved spear points in a sandblow in East Highgate remains one of Vermont's greatest archeological discoveries. Discovered by two St. Albans amateur archeologists, Bill Ross and Benjamin Fisher in the 1920s, the Reagan Site lies high above the Missisquoi River Valley. Its importance was that it confirmed conclusively that Native Americans first occupied Vermont approximately 10,000 years ago. In 1979, in Swanton, the Vermont Agency of Transportation initiated professional archeological studies on a small rocky knoll above the Missisquoi River prior to replacing an aging (and historic) bridge on Route 7. A small Native American campsite was discovered by the University of Vermont's Consulting Archaeology Program. At first, we believed it to be a relatively common-place 5,000-year-old small campsite similar to others known throughout the Champlain Valley. Then the radiocarbon dates from a sample of charcoal made Vermont's archeological community sit back. The John's Bridge Site seems to have been occupied several times about 8,000 years ago. It drafted



a whole new chapter of Vermont's history about which we had known nothing. This site in Swanton was the first professionally excavated and reported site in Vermont and gave us a small but clear glimpse into Vermont's remotest human history. In this place on the Missisquoi River, approximately 8,000 years ago, one or two small families spent days or weeks making corner notched spear points, repair-
see Giovanna's "Top 10" Picks -96



Archaeologists excavating VT-CH-384, Locus 1 (CAP-UVM photo).

Susquehanna Tradition Site (continued)

occupation. No other artifacts besides the Madison point could be explicitly associated with the Late Woodland period occupation.

The recovery of a Genesee-like point next to a feature dated to 3700 ± 60 B.P. indicates that Locus 1 was occupied during the latter part of the Late Archaic period, or to what Snow has called the Terminal Archaic period (Snow 1980). Genesee-type points are stylistically related to a variety of generally large, broad-bladed points with straight to slight contracting stems. They are variously known as Atlantic (in eastern New England and north to the central Maine coast) or Snook Kill (in eastern New York and western New England) points. Both are associated with the earliest phase of the broader Susquehanna tradition of the Northeast. In New York, Funk (1976) associates Genesee points with what he refers to as the Batten Kill complex. He dates this complex to roughly 3850–3500 B.P. (1900–1600 B.C., uncalibrated), or roughly contemporaneous with the Snook Kill phase of the Susquehanna

tradition as originally defined by Ritchie (1969:134–142). Snook Kill points and related artifacts occur with some frequency at sites in the middle and upper Hudson Valley where they have been dated at 3420 ± 100 B.P. (1470 B.C., uncalibrated) at the Snook Kill site and 3620 ± 130 B.P. (1670 B.C., uncalibrated) at the Kuhr site (Funk 1976:259). The weighted average of a host of standard and AMS radiocarbon dates of ca. 3665 B.P. from Atlantic phase features at the Turner Farm site on the central Maine coast strongly suggests a rapid spread of this point style throughout New England (Robinson 1996). The date of 3700 ± 60 B.P. derived from VT-CH-384 is significant for Vermont because it is the only date that can be directly associated with a Genesee-like point. Falling squarely within the time range estimated by Funk, this date reinforces the idea of a regional chronology.

Excavations at VT-CH-384 have provided information about a significant aspect of cultural chronology by establishing an approximate date for the occurrence of Genesee-like projectile points in Vermont. Studies at VT-CH-384, the only excavated

Susquehanna tradition-related site in the Winooski River valley, have provided an essential beginning, but more sites of this cultural period must be excavated before the broader picture comes into focus. (For more information about the site, contact the Consulting Archaeology Program at the University of Vermont.)

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Book Review

(submitted by Christopher A. Roy, VAS)

(Reviewed for H-Ethnic by Philip A. Korth, korth@pilot.msu.edu, Michigan State University. Copyright (c) 1998 by H-Net, all rights reserved. This work may be copied for non-profit educational use if proper credit is given to the author and the list. For other permission, please contact: H-Net@H-Net. MSU.EDU.)

Colin G. Calloway. *New Worlds For All: Indians, Europeans and the Remaking of Early America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997. xxi + 229pp. Maps, timeline, bibliographic essay, and index. \$14.95 (paper) 0-8018-5959-X.

Most books today fill out the landscape or shine light into the dark interstices of existing paradigms. A few take the reader on a journey guided by a new map. A very few provide a reader a new atlas informed by new perspectives and new information. Colin G. Calloway's *New Worlds For All* synthesizes the recent work of ethno-historians and historians of the colonial period into a coherent and convincing, new historical and cultural atlas of the first 300 years of contact between Europeans and the indigenous peoples of North America. This book rewards the avocational historian who will find flashes of insight and interpretative brilliance in every one of the ten

chapters. It also rewards the professional historian who will find in it linkages and evaluations that bring coherence to new historical research. It is a fine work, suited to a general audience, but most appropriate for any audience interested in historical interpretation.

The book is organized into ten thematic chapters which examine both ideas and practice in such diverse areas as medicine, warfare, theology, international relations, demographics, and ideology. Each area unfolds to show the interplay of culture, personality, and the land. Calloway marshals examples from a wide range of well known historians such as James Axtell, Bernard Bailyn, Jennifer S.H. Brown, James Clifton, Denys Delage, John Mark Faragher, Frederick Hoxie, Francis Jennings, Philip Morgan, Jacqueline Peterson, Margaret Szasz, Ruben Thwaites, Frederick Jackson Turner, and Richard White, to name only the most prominent. It concludes with an excellent bibliographic essay to guide readers on additional explorations into current scholarship.

A century ago, Franz Boas observed that when two cultures meet neither culture remains unchanged. The central point of Calloway's fine book demonstrates convincingly that historians should have attended to Boas all along, for the record of cultural borrowing, adapting, adopting, rejecting, modifying, and creating that recent historians have identified adds a wonderful richness to our understanding of American culture. The historiographic tradition that favored tracking the triumph of European and then American culture over Indian cultures mapped at best only part of the terrain. Calloway corrects that imbalance offering a more complex and sophisticated analysis. He does so without feeling compelled to attack older historians and herein lies a significant virtue of the book: its tone. Calloway's voice is confident, but balanced. He resists overstatement, even dampening overstatement when he finds it in his sources. He resists taking gratuitous slaps at historians whose work seems now outdated, preferring rather to rescue elements of their work worth attending to now.

In sum, this is a positive, moderately, even modestly stated account that convinces through solid example and clear detail gleaned from respected historians working on the cusp of modern scholarship of the first three centuries of European-Indian contacts. It is an impressive achievement.



Cloverleaf Site (continued)

Based on radiocarbon dates returned for 15 of the 92 cultural features excavated, we can confidently state that the vast majority of cultural deposits may be reliably assigned to a very short span of time between ca. 2070-1860 B.C. The radiocarbon dates and the projectile point assemblage, which includes over 30 Normanskill-type points, clearly establish that the majority of the prehistoric occupation now preserved at the Cloverleaf Site can be assigned to a late portion of the Late Archaic period called the River phase, which dates to ca. 2000-1800 B.C.



Excavations at the Cloverleaf Site during the summer of 1997 (Rolando photo).

Based on preliminary analysis of a select sample of cultural and natural materials, the Cloverleaf Site represents a relatively large archaeological site that preserves the remains of a prehistoric Native American village dating almost exclusively to a brief span in time during River phase. As such, it provides an unusually detailed view of this particular time that has never been matched for this period and most others in local and regional prehistory.

Besides the recovery of important archaeological data, perhaps one of the greatest impacts of the 1997 phase III effort at the Cloverleaf site was in the area of public education. Over the course of the field season, roughly 2,000 individuals received in-house lectures and/or visited the site. In addition, about 41 volunteers contributed to the initial phase III effort.

This season once again, the UMF ARC invites you to join in the discovery and excitement of digging the prehistory of Bennington. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, or your group would like to schedule a lecture and/or tour of the site please call

our Public Education and Outreach Coordinator Poppy Baldwin, at the UMF ARC lab in Bennington at 802-447-7391, or visit our web page at [HYPERLINK http://www.umf.maine.edu/umfarc](http://www.umf.maine.edu/umfarc). The dig ends October 23. Hope to see you there!!

Much Found During Recent Exploratory Excavation of U.S. Pottery Co. Site, Bennington

*Catherine Zusy, Project Director
Cambridge, Massachusetts*

Much was found during the August 7-21, 1998 exploratory excavation of the U.S. Pottery Company site (VT-BE-263), now the location of Bennington Elementary School. Volunteers, digging under the leadership of Victor Rolando and David Starbuck, dug ten pits in the playground south of the school. It is estimated that over 20,000 ceramic objects were found, at least as many sherds and bits of kiln furniture as were excavated during the May 26-30, 1997 dig (in the southwest corner of the yard).

The U.S. Pottery Company (1847-1858) was not only the earliest and largest 19th-century pottery in New

England, but it was also the first American pottery to produce figures in parian. While much is known about the pottery - it was the subject of some of the earliest monographs on American ceramics - less is known about the firm's production, and particularly its parian porcelain production.

Finds include thousands of fragments of bisque yellowware, parian porcelain, Rockingham, flint enamel, agate ware, glazed yellow and white wares, and kiln furniture. Fragments of the following known parian pitchers were found: tulip & sunflower, charter oak, pond lily, wild rose, palm tree, Paul & Virginia, cascade, and the design Richard Carter Barret illustrates on p. 81, the bottom right-hand corner in his *Bennington Pottery and Porcelain*.

While formal analysis of artifacts has not yet begun - this will happen after all of the objects found are washed and sorted - the following are significant finds:

- fragments of a parian pitcher decorated in relief with Lily of the Valley flowers and small clusters of grapes, (a design not previously identified with Bennington)

see U.S. Pottery Dig -10

Giovanna's "Top 10" Picks (continued)

ing hunting equipment broken when hunting game with spears and spear throwers, called atlatls, fishing, and living off the land's abundant resources. Now that we recognize these small notched spear points as being 8,000 years old, a veil of ignorance came off our collective archeological eyes and we began to recognize a lot more of these 8,000-year-old sites elsewhere in the Missisquoi watershed, throughout the Champlain Valley, and in several sites along the Connecticut River.



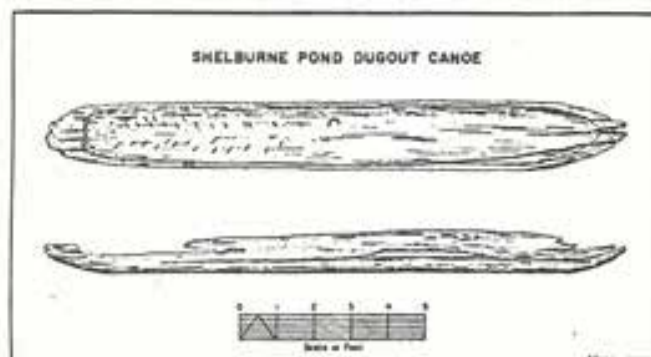
One of the most important discoveries made in the 1980s was that ancient Native Americans used all parts of the Vermont landscape, every environment and micro-environment, from the high mountains to the river bottoms and to every small drainage in between. At high elevation in the Green Mountain National Forest on the west flank of the Green Mountains, Forest Service Archeologist David Lacy made an amazing discovery in 1987. Hiking along the Long Trail at nearly the 2,000-foot elevation, David noticed a thick layer of quartzite flakes up and down the trail and to the side as far as he could see. What he had discovered was one of the largest prehistoric stone quarries in all of New England, used by Native Americans for probably thousands of years as a source of quartzite. Up until this discovery, and many subsequent others up in the mountains, it was believed that the ancient Native people never occupied the mountain environments. The Homer Stone quarry discovery dealt one more blow to our ignorance.

Recent excavations and discoveries sponsored by the Vermont Agency of Transportation at the Cloverleaf Site in Bennington are providing enormous and unique detail to a major chapter of Vermont history. While thousands of Late Archaic spear points have been gathered by collectors from the surface of cornfields throughout most of Vermont, we didn't have a lot of information about the people who used them. How did they live? What did they eat? What did they do besides hunt? What did their settlements look like? The careful excavations at the Cloverleaf village site provide a clear glimpse of peoples' lives on the Walloomsac River 4,000 years ago. With its dozens of intact fire hearths, garbage pits, tool making areas, nut roasting pits, and rich botanical

and animal remains, this site is the largest, most intact, and data-rich site of this period known in the entire northeast. The Rivers Phase, Late Archaic Site has yielded an extraordinary number of radiocarbon dates from pits and hearths and other site areas full of charcoal. This large ancient village site was occupied for a very short period of time; the carbon dates tell us that instead of being a cluster of small camps occupied over a long period, it seems to have been an extensive village occupied perhaps one time.

How many Vermonters have ever been to Canaan, in the northeastern-most corner of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom? Prior to removing an aging bridge across the Connecticut River and building a new one slightly downstream, the Vermont Agency of Transportation contracted for an archeological investigation of the Vermont site of the construction project. Archeologists discovered a rare and intact 3,000-year-old Early Woodland campsite lying buried and undisturbed in the floodplain of the Connecticut River. Careful professional excavations at the site yielded fire hearths in several locations with enough charcoal fragments for radiocarbon dating. Besides confirming the ancient use of this cold and most northeastern corner of Vermont, linking specific stone tools with radiocarbon dates finally gave us the ability to recognize sites and artifacts for this 3,000-year-old narrow slice of Vermont history.

We were finally beginning to get detailed glimpses of Vermont's rich Native American heritage prior to European contact. These vignettes of pre-history show people hunting, fishing, gathering plants, trapping, and successfully exploiting all environmental resources and niches. Massive riverbank erosion at a site in Springfield, Vermont, on the Con-



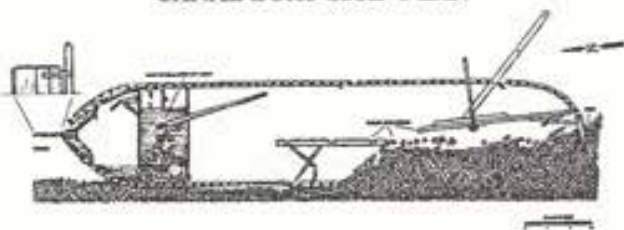
necticut River, led us to two very significant discoveries in the late 1980s that widened our window of information and gave us fresh and exciting insight into ancient lifeways. Archeological investigations at the site which we call Skitchewaung, funded by New England Power Company, yielded Vermont's first evidence of Native American farming. In fire pits, archeologists from the University of Maine Farmington discovered tiny burnt corn cobs together with evidence of beans and squash cultivation dating to 1120 A.D. Thus, 370 years before Columbus arrived

in America, Native Americans were farming in Vermont. The long, black, thick layers of soil at the site provided Vermont's first solid evidence of prehistoric shelters. These comprised circular or oval homes which we call wigwams. The Skitchewaung site in Springfield confirmed yet again that at least some of Vermont's archeological patrimony remains remarkably intact by having been deeply buried under floodplains. Plowing, erosion scouring, logging, nor artifact looting have disturbed these deeply buried sites so we still have the chance to carefully unravel the stories they can tell about our history.

Two discoveries over the last 20 years were especially poignant. While excavating at the Native American village of Winooski, representing 4,000 years of occupation, one of the archeologists on the University of Vermont team discovered a 1,000-year-old pottery fragment with the potter's fingerprint baked into it. Unusual artifacts such as this one add a very human presence to an artifact and remind us that archeology, after all, is the study of past people through the remains they have left behind. We know that Native Americans used dugout canoes for thousands of years as transportation on Vermont's lake and river highways, but finding two dugout canoes in Shelburne Pond in 1978 confirmed use of these traditional craft that dated, in these two cases, to the 15th and 19th centuries. About a dozen dugout canoes have been discovered thus far in Vermont. These and many other archeological discoveries of the last 20 years have helped Vermonters of European ancestry begin to understand in greater depth the rich and ancient traditions of Vermont's original inhabitants.

Archeological sites of the historic period involve a different kind of discovery. Whereas our primary knowledge of ancient Native American history is from the study of the sites themselves, there are written records for many aspects of the last 250 years. Historic maps, documents, and photos give us clues about past industries and activities. So for the his-

CANAL BOAT SITE PLAN



toric period, the concept of "discovery" has to do with "rediscovery" of places whose stories were well known to many others at one time and are simply unknown to most of us today.

The Ely copper mine in Vershire is a unique site in New England that many Vermonters have not yet

discovered. The 1870 map shows a thriving mining community with mine operations, tenement houses, shops, school, church, stables, and all the other parts of a vital community. The Ely copper mine site today is a lunar landscape defined by ruins of the 19th-century copper mining operations and town: roasting beds, the mile-long flue, the entry to the mine shaft, and many other intact remains represent one of New England's great, "rediscovered" towns.

Vermont historian Victor Rolando, working as a volunteer, has rediscovered a rich part of Vermont's industrial past. He has inventoried all of this state's blast furnaces, such as those in Dorset and Brandon, and written the fascinating story of Vermont's remarkable iron, charcoal, and lime industries in his book, *200 Years of Soot and Sweat*.



In Bennington in 1991, Hartgen Archeological Consultants, Inc., working for developers applying for an Act 250 permit, discovered one of the 19th-century Bennington potteries under a 1940s concrete flooring from a car sales lot. One hundred years after its manufacture, an intact pot, made by the famous Norton pottery, sat undisturbed in a kiln that had been used as a footing for the sales building.

In 1979, archeologists and maritime historians started looking more carefully at Lake Champlain and rapidly made more and more remarkable discoveries on the lake's bottom. The 1997 discovery by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum of one of Benedict Arnold's intact gunboats from the October 13, 1776 Battle of Valcour was the most exciting in a long chain of great discoveries in this lake. The ability to use sidescan sonar technology, which provides a sonar image of a shipwreck, has allowed rediscovery of the Lake's great maritime history.

First found by two divers in 1980 off the Burlington Breakwater, the *General Butler* proved to be our first glimpse of what was actually a very common vessel, although unique to this lake, the sailing canal boat. Also very common was the horse powered type vessel, one of which was rediscovered in 1985 off Burlington. This is the only horse-powered shipwreck to have been discovered so far in America; so unique, that the National Geographic featured an article on it in the October 1985 issue of the magazine. A few exceptional Vermont sites have

combined a great land discovery with a great underwater discovery. At Mount Independence in the town of Orwell, home to thousands of American soldiers in the Revolutionary War for part of the winter of 1776 and 1777, dozens of intact sites representing the hospital, fortifications, barracks, butchering sites, and many others, tell the story of Vermont's critical contributions to the birth of the American nation. In 1991, a unique Revolutionary War cannon and shot were recovered by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum during an intense underwater archeological study. The rediscovery of this important Vermont site by Vermonters and Americans of all ages is just one example of how our archeological discoveries have helped spark greater interest in this state's very special and very long history.

Concepts of Wilderness in Some Recent Popular Books

David Lacy, Forest Archeologist
U.S. Forest Service, Rutland

Over the last year or so, I've been able to steal more time than usual to read. This reading has been outside of, but related to, archaeology and – whether by coincidence, design, or misperception (in which case this article is moot!) – I've found that my choices in reading have a common thread of confronting real and perceived "wildernesses." Perhaps I am simply "seeing" this theme in the following books given my interest in culturally affected landscapes, my perception that society doesn't give credence to the length of time that people have been affecting their environments, and any professional involvement in managing several thousand acres of Congressionally designated "Wilderness" on the National Forest. Be that as it may, the following books (listed in the order that I read them) may be of interest to you for professional and/or recreational reading.

I started with the popular and exhilarating *Into Thin Air* by John Krakauer and followed that up with the same author's earlier, well-written-but-frustrating *Into the Wild*. While the former riveting account of the disastrous interface between people and the elements on Mount Everest has been reviewed from here-to-eternity, the latter exploration of one young man's rather disaffected search for meaning, maturity, and vision – resulting in his unnecessary death in the Denali Wilderness – has been trumpeted to a lesser degree. For anyone who has been a participant in a difficult coming-of-age scenario or who is wondering if there is or could be a modern Thoreau, this book provides some compelling reading; and as the author points out in the beginning of the book, the reader is left with the challenge of deciding if the protagonist's fate is tragic or foolish. In both books, the undeveloped wild-lands

are as essential to the story as the protagonists.

Next on my list was Richard Ketchum's *Saratoga*, no doubt already read and appreciated by many VAS members. It too has been reviewed extensively elsewhere, and I liked this book for all the normal reasons – but also for the effective portrayal of just how undeveloped our backyard environs (the Lake Champlain/Lake George corridor) really were just a "short" time ago. Reading this book gave me occasion to think about the concepts of "wilderness" and "frontier," and how time and history have wedged those concepts further apart than they may have been a mere two hundred years ago.

Following another historical transect, I read Howard Coffin's *Full Duty*; upon reviewing it for my colleagues here on the Forest, Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* was recommended to me. Interestingly, I got much the same feel for the mountains of the Carolinas from Frazier that Ketchum lends to the Champlain Basin nearly a hundred years earlier. The patterns of social interaction and land use that archaeologists are often interested in are represented as far more violent, dispersed, and idiosyncratic than many of us (my perception of "us"/archaeologists as having largely white, middle-class, semi-suburban backgrounds) seem to expect or document in our interpretations of the historical past.

Reading the Mountains of Home by John Elder (Middlebury College Professor of English and Environmental Studies) is a work reflecting the author's attempt to inter-weave his personal explorations of concepts of wilderness and the ironies of environmentalism, with his physical (and metaphysical?) experiences in wilderness areas (most especially the Bristol Cliffs area of Vermont); an in-depth analysis of Robert Frost's poem *Directives*, and the geological and social history of the area; and, . . . well, you get the picture. Whew! It's quite an undertaking, but he does a wonderful job of putting himself, and thus the reader, into an interesting place where time-depth, semantics, perception, and peoples' understanding of their role in defining and affecting the world all come into play when discussing "wilderness."

While on vacation this summer I thought I would take a break from this seeming immersion in wilderness-related reading, so I took along Tony Hillerman's most recent southwestern "who-dunnit," *First Eagle*. No sooner did I start reading it than I realized that peoples' relationships to their environment in the reservation vastness in which Hillerman's stories are embedded have many of the elements of wilderness that northeasterners value in their woods – lots of acres, minimal development, low visual impacts, limited population. But is the desert southwest a "wilderness"?

Without answering that question (I was still on vacation!), I took a big leap back to the Northeast to Gloucester, Mass., and read Sebastian Junger's *The*

Perfect Storm, about the ill-fated fishing vessel *Andrea Gail*. This best-selling tale of men (and women)—against-the-sea really leant some perspective to my other readings. I mean, these folks are OUT there (hundreds of miles out to sea, that is)! And still, cultural impacts were affecting their environment (i.e., the fisheries are dying out), although not the physical/meteorological dynamics that sealed their fate.

In any case, back from vacation and shortly after recommending *Saratoga* to Forest Service folks, someone suggested I would enjoy a new book about the Adirondacks — Paul Schneider's *The Adirondacks: America's First Wilderness*. Well, by now, how could I resist? As I write this I am nearly through this volume and find that it conveniently reflects many of themes triggered for me in the other books (even though I have several political bones to pick with the author); the high peaks adventure of Mount Everest (although less daunting . . .); the sense of forbidding wilderness and independence sought in *Into the Wild*; a history of occupation, exploitation and development of "wilderness" just to the west of the *Saratoga* saga; the isolation of historical residents comparable to that portrayed in *Cold Mountain*; some strikingly undefined uses of the term "wilderness," which sets up a dialogue (in my head, any way) with Elder's in-depth treatment of the concept in *Reading the Mountains of Home*; the intimacy that up-state residents seem always to have had with their "wilderness" park, reminiscent of Hillerman's characters' familiarity with their very different landscape; and finally, a sense of disconnectedness from the rest of the Northeast that — despite its more intimate geographic setting — must seem like the dwarfing immensity of the *Andrea Gail's* North Atlantic to those "mountain men" who first trapped and guided in the Adirondacks.

So what do we mean by "wilderness" in a region that (like most everywhere else) has been occupied for at least 10,000 years? Does it have a bio-physical definition (age, diversity, integrity of the biotic populations)? Can we recognize it (and agree about it) when we see it? Is it an entirely artificial social/philosophical construct? Is it different now than it was 200 or 300 years ago (why, for example, do we embrace wilderness now when our ancestors feared it and cast it as an enemy to be overcome)? Or can we understand it, in the present, to be simply a process, a state of being-and-becoming for a part of our landscape?

My readings have got me thinking about concepts of wilderness in ways that parallel the historic preservation movement's shift in its posturing. Over the last several years, historic preservation has attempted to recast (and re-emphasize) its role as part of the economic fabric of community development. Similarly, perhaps, environmental and wilder-

ness advocates are beginning to acknowledge that people are and always have been integral parts of our ecosystems, therefore precluding the existence of true wilderness in the pristine, undisturbed sense that earlier advocates envisioned. Concepts of wilderness that do not incorporate the human/social element will be always be false constructs, and misguided attempts to erase evidence (sites, features, and cultural landscapes) as has been advocated from time to time, will not alter that; but areas reflecting ancient land-use, now left to evolve without direct intervention by people, may provide us with the relatively isolated, unstructured, aged contexts which trigger inner visions of an idyllic past and place our "civilized" existence in some dramatic contrast to those past and present parts of the world that do not readily submit to our taming hands.

Vermont Archaeology Week Steaming Ahead!

Kathleen E. Callum/Robert A. Sloma
VAW '98 State Coordinators

The Vermont Archaeological Society and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation are launching Vermont Archaeology Week, September 20-26, 1998! This year's theme, *Journey Into the Past*, celebrates the 5th Vermont Archaeology Week, the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Archaeological Society, and the 150th year of railroads in Vermont.

Vermont Archeology Week Needs Your Help

Suggested Donation: \$15.00
to the VAS, address on back cover
Contributions to VAW are Tax-Deductible

Vermont's leading heritage tourism outreach publicizes over 70 educational historic preservation events and exhibits, most free and open to the public. Make your own atlatl (a prehistoric spear-thrower



used to hunt caribou), learn what Native Americans ate for dinner in the past, take part in a panel discussion on the future of Vermont's railroad sites, and dig into many other aspects of Vermont's archaeology.

Activities that promote stewardship of Vermont's fragile archaeological and historic sites and structures are publicized through distribution of event calendars and posters to event participants, libraries, schools, museums, and chambers of commerce. This year's poster features a collage of transportation sepia-toned "photographs" penned by Robert K.

Carsten of Springfield, Vermont.

Vermont's important sites include 12,000-year-old Paleoindian camps on the shores of glacial lakes, revolutionary war ships, stage coach inns, abandoned quarries, and railroad roundhouses. The effort to identify and protect these diverse resources is shared by all. Archaeological projects draw on the skills of local historians, biologists, architects, woodworkers, folklorists, Native Americans, and countless others to achieve an understanding of Vermont's past lifeways. Grassroots outreach through Vermont Archaeology Week enables over 10,000 folks to annually enjoy and learn more about Vermont's significant, non-renewable archaeological sites and help protect them.

The Green Mountain State's rich and ancient heritage provides a tangible link to the past, sense of identity, and tremendous economic growth potential through heritage tourism. Vermont's business community, government agencies, non-profit organizations, historic preservation consultants, and many others participate as sponsors, hosts, and speakers. Begin your Journey Into the Past with "artiFACT or FICTION?," "Pedal Power," "Logs on Rails," "Traveling in the Old Days," and much, much more.

To receive a free Event Calendar, contact the Division for Historic Preservation, National Life Building, Drawer 20, Montpelier VT 05620-0501, phone 802-828-3119. For general publicity information, contact Kathleen E. Callum/Robert A. Sloma, VAW '98 State Coordinators, c/o GEOARCH, Inc., 594 Indian Trail, Leicester VT 05733, phone 802-247-8127. For donation in support of VAW or a VAW '98 Poster (\$6, supply limited), send check or money order to: Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc., Attn Vermont Archaeology Week, P.O. Box 663, Burlington VT 05402-0663. VAS Web Page for more information and Calendar of Events: <http://www.uvm.edu/vhnet/hpres/org/vas/vas.htm>.

U.S. Pottery Dig (continued)

- a fragment of a parian figure of a dog
- several parian cane heads, with and without mustaches (as illustrated in Barret, p. 327)
- fragments of a parian curtain tie-back, similar to one illustrated in Barret, p. 137
- several parian sherds of the Paul & Virginia pitcher. We knew the pottery made this form because marked examples exist, but fragments of these pitchers were not found during May 26-30, 1997 and April 20-22, 1998 digs
- several fragments of known Bennington parian designs in yellowware
- several fragments of known Bennington parian pitcher designs in yellowware
- bisque yellowware faces and fragments of various Toby forms
- bisque yellowware head of a cow creamer
- more yellowware fragments which appear to bear

relief decoration not yet associated with the pottery

Fragments of parian vases and trinket boxes were not found at the site, but this is not conclusive evidence that the U.S. Pottery Company did not manufacture these items. Many fragments of other known pottery forms have not been unearthed during the total of twelve days of exploratory digging (1997 and 1998) at the pottery site. Furthermore, the exploratory excavations have concentrated in the area to the south of the pottery.

Digging under the pavement that surrounds the school and under the school itself could yield fragments of other forms and decoration. Other locations in Bennington - where the pottery either dumped materials or soil from the site was moved during the erection of the schools on the site in the 1870s and 1950s - could also reveal significant sherds.

Over thirty volunteers assisted with the excavation and washing, sorting, and cataloging of finds. Much more work remains to process and ultimately to know and understand the significance of these objects. Volunteers are now being recruited to help wash, sort, and catalog artifacts in Bennington during the weekends of September 19-20 and 26-27. Please contact me at (617) 868-0488 (or CathZusy@aol.com) to learn more about this volunteer opportunity.

Whither Industrial Archeology?

Scott A. McLaughlin, VAS President

A special conference on the current state of practice in the field of industrial archeology (IA) and on future directions for the discipline will be held at Lowell, Mass., November 12-14, 1998, sponsored by the Society for Industrial Archeology, the Lowell National Historic Park, and the Historic American Engineering Record. The conference will feature a series of commissioned presentations by some of the foremost practitioners of IA in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Topics will include critical reflections on the past quarter-century of practice, public agencies and IA, theory and interpretation in IA, education in IA, and new directions for IA. Those attending the conference will be encouraged to participate in special "break-out" discussion groups to evaluate various issues stemming from the formal presentations. Publication of papers and commentary from the "break-out" sessions is anticipated after the conference, which promises to provoke serious discussion about the contributions of industrial archeology to scholarship in other disciplines and about future prospects for the field.

For more information, contact Gray Fitzsimons, Park Historian, Lowell National Historic Park, 67 Kirk St., Lowell, MA 01852-1029, phone 978-275-1724, fax 978-275-1762, e-mail gray_fitzsimons@nps.gov.

New CAP Publications on Vermont Archeology

A Changing World: 8,000 Years of Native American Settlement along the Missisquoi River in Highgate, Vermont. Prepared by Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) for the Village of Swanton, this 504-page book contains lots of artifact illustrations and photos. \$30.00 including postage. Order from CAP, 112 University Heights, Burlington, VT 05405. Contact Prudence Doherty at 656-8224 for information.

Wood and Water: Mills in Searsburg, Vermont. Produced by CAP for VAOT, this 21-page publication describes the history and archeology of tannery and sawmill sites between the Route 9 and the Deerfield River in Searsburg. Contact CAP (above address) for ordering information.

New Archaeology and Science Magazine

Jeff D. Leach, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Discover Archaeology Magazine
(via Vic Rolando & many Emails)

I am pleased to announce the creation of a new archaeology magazine, *Discover Archaeology*, an illustrated, glossy bimonthly magazine about the latest discoveries in archaeology and the archaeological sciences. The magazine is written for those who are curious about archaeology and the sciences, and have a sense of discovery and passion for adventure.

Discover Archaeology will cover the archaeology of the world like no other magazine. Through informa-

tive articles, vivid graphics, and beautiful photos, the reader will take part in the latest discoveries from around the globe – both on land and under water. Each article will be carefully edited and accompanied by illustrations developed to enhance the reader's understanding of the subject matter.

The editorial content includes feature articles, essays and comments, a forum section and reviews. The editorial staff will strive to provide content that is broad enough for the general reader, but rigorous enough for the scientist. *Discover Archaeology* will soon build a reputation as an authoritative source for the latest breaking news in the archaeological sciences. The magazine will be available on newsstands throughout the United States and select foreign countries, as well as by individual and institutional subscription.

Information about the magazine, its content, and breaking news in archaeology will be provided on our magazine's web site – Discover Archaeology Online (<http://www.discoverarchaeology.com>). Note that the web site is currently under construction so when you visit us there, please excuse the mess. The first issue of the magazine will be available in late December.

We will always be looking for articles, both short news briefs (less than 750 words) and full-length submissions (1,000 – 4,000 words), and hope that you can contribute. Guidelines for submissions and subscription information can be obtained from our web site (above), phoning 877-347-2724, or via email at editor@discoverarchaeology.com. Thank you for your time; I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy our publication.

One Final Note . . .

Shoe



WITH APOLOGIES TO - Jeff MacNelly



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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. You may photocopy this form.

Make check (US Funds) payable to **The Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.** and mail to:
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