

The Vermont Archaeological Society



Newsletter

Number 86

May 1999

Hints and Glimpses North of the Border: Preliminary Results of the Upper Richelieu (Quebec) archaeological project

*Summary of a paper presented at the
Vermont Archaeological Society Annual Meeting,
Burlington, November 8, 1998, by: Daniel St-Arnaud
President, Archeo-Richelieu Foundation*

Introduction

The "Project for the Inventory and Promotion of the Paleohistoric Heritage of Upper-Richelieu" began in 1997. Its aim is to document the pre-colonial occupation of this south-western region of Quebec, of which very little was previously known. It encompasses both research and cultural resource management objectives. A main focus of the archaeological survey of the region is to locate sites that may be endangered by urban and industrial development. Also, at its conclusion, the project will hopefully lead to an exhibit and publications for both the scientific community and the general public. The Archeo-Richelieu Foundation, a non profit organization, was created in order to provide an administrative structure to the project which is a joint effort by the Foundation and the Departement of Anthropology of the Université de Montreal.

The Upper Richelieu region

Upper Richelieu is in the southernmost region of western Quebec, its northern extremity being approximately 35 km southeast of Montreal. Its southern edge, coinciding with the U.S./Canada border, marks the beginning of the Richelieu river, at Lake Champlain's northern extremity. It is therefore contiguous to the Lake Champlain watershed and shares many of its ecological characteristics. Prior to our project, only five paleohistoric sites had been recorded in this vast region (approximately 1000 km²). Furthermore, no extensive excavation had ever been undertaken in Upper Richelieu, with the exception of

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OH NO! A NEW EDITOR

Victor R. Rolando has, after many years as the editor of the society newsletter, decided to step down. Vic has been the driving force behind the production and dissemination of the VAS newsletter. His efforts on behalf of the VAS can not be adequately rewarded but I would like to take this opportunity to thank him personally and express the thanks of the VAS board of directors for his consistent and generous donation of his time and energy. Vic's work was not easy and the rewards more spiritual than practical. I'm sure that Vic would appreciate a word of thanks from any other members of the society who happen to cross his path (a check is always nice. U. S. dollars or Swiss francs).

The new editor (that being myself) is Todd

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BARRE GRANITE CENTER AND HERITAGE MUSEUM

By Sheila Charles

A Phase I Identification study was conducted on the proposed site of the Barre Granite Center and Heritage Museum to identify archaeologically sensitive areas. Field investigations, oral history, and archival research indicated the project area has a *low sensitivity for prehistoric and early European-American cultural resources and a high sensitivity for historic industrial resources*. Substantial industrial development of the site began as early as 1894 in association with the Jones Brothers Company granite manufacturing activities. Archaeological evidence of former activities are hidden on and below the site which is strewn with discarded granite and historic artifacts. To avoid losing an important part of the granite industry story and resolve unanswered questions that this significant industrial archaeological site (VT-WA-126) hides, archaeological field investigation should precede in areas which will be impacted by subsurface construction activities. Future archaeological investigations, such as surface collections and shovel testing, can integrate community involvement.

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BIG NEWS & V.A.S. BID'NESS

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 1999 Explore the Past

September 19-25, 1999

By Herman C. Brown

The Society formed a Vermont Archaeology Week (VAW) 1999 Task Force in mid-January. Since then the Task Force has initiated and completed the preparatory tasks required to organize this event. The major co-sponsors of VAW 1999 are the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT), the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation and the Vermont Archaeology Society. The Consulting Archeology Program (CAP), University of Vermont has submitted a formal Proposal for Administration and Coordination of VAW 1999. That proposal was approved by the VAS Board of Directors at their meeting on March 10, 1999. As we go to press, formal VAOT approval and UVM clearance for CAP to proceed is pending. CAP's anticipated start Date is April 1st. Stay tuned to the Vermont Archaeology Society's Web Page: (<http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org/vas/vas.htm>) for the latest news on VAW 1999.

NEWS FROM THE VAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

From Sabrina Thomas

Dear Fellow VAS Members, I am writing to inform everyone that I am currently working on creating a newer and updated Vermont Archaeological Educator's Resource Guide. This project will take some time to complete but I hope to have a submission form sent out to all members. I also hope that everyone will send me comments and suggestions regarding the 1995 guide and what types of info people want in the newer guide. Thank You,
thomas_sabrina@hotmail.com

A Call for Member Participation in the VAS

Several key positions in the VAS are currently available and we encourage any of you who are interested in serving the society come forward and contact the President, Kathy Callum, or other members of the Executive Committee and/or Board to express your willingness to serve.



Vice President's Report

by Jim Petersen

I agreed to serve as Vice President of the VAS this winter when our past President, Scott McLaughlin, unfortunately had to step down due to his commitments at Binghamton University. With the ascension of the past Vice President to the position of President, this position became open and I agreed to serve in this capacity because I believe in the VAS and I realize how difficult it has become to find eager and willing officers and members of the Board in general. My relatively new position as an Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology at UVM has kept me very busy over the past 18 months and so, I was a bit reluctant to take on such a position, but hopefully with help from other Board members and the general membership I can serve the VAS in a useful fashion as Vice President.

The VAS seems to be facing a time of transition at present and some would say, it is a time of maturation and new professionalization for the society. Well, to those of us who have known the VAS over a number of years this may be welcome news, as the VAS explores new ways to play a role in Vermont archaeology. Alternatively, some of the membership may be concerned about discussion of this increased professionalization, given that they may assume this means some sort of take over by "professional" archaeologists, or some other equally distasteful loss of support for avocational archaeologists or their management of the society. To any of you who are worried about the latter, let me strongly reassure you that this is not the intent of your current officers, nor is too much professionalization a healthy thing in my view. The VAS, as with all other state archaeological societies, was created, in part, by and for avocational archaeologists and our society has been successful over the years for the most part due to its dedicated avocationalists from the time of Ken Varney in the 1960s and 1970s onward.

Personally, I look forward to working with as many of you as possible in the future. Feel free to contact me by phone: (802-656-3884) or e-mail: jpeterse@zoo.uvm.edu if there is anything you want to share with me. I may not always get back to you right away, but will try to do so as soon as possible. Best wishes to one and all!

Report of the Preservation Committee by Jim Petersen

The Preservation Committee exists to ensure adequate, long-term storage (or curation) of two distinctive aspects of the holdings of the VAS, namely, 1) the corporate records of the VAS, such as the meeting minutes,

newletters and other publications, and other such items resultant from the society's activities over the past 30 years, and 2) the artifact collections and related documentation that have been produced by various field projects undertaken sporadically by the society.

Given many, many other more pressing issues in recent months, the Preservation Committee has been slow to get started. However, this winter a core group of two of us, myself and Herman Brown, have begun to look into various preservation related issues. Our first line of business is to comply with the VAS Bylaws, so we plan to draft two action policies in compliance with the Bylaws, one related to the corporate records and the second related to artifacts and associated documentation. Later this year, we will be looking for help with VAS preservation issues and we hope that some of you who have volunteered to help us in the past will still be willing to help us in the future. Please feel free to contact me at UVM if you have any questions.

A Call for Member Participation in the VAS

Several key positions in the VAS are currently available and we encourage any of you who are interested in serving the society come forward and contact the President, Kathy Callum, or other members of the Executive Committee and/or Board to express your willingness to serve. We will be happy to discuss these positions with you at the Spring meeting or at your convenience. The currently unfilled positions include several slots on the Board as Director and several committee chair positions for the Education Committee and the Nominations Committee, and other chair positions will be opening in the near future as well. We are also looking for a chair of the Vermont Archaeology Week Task Force for 2000. These are described below briefly.

VAS Director

Directors of the VAS serve as members of the society's principal governing body, the Board of Directors. The Board is composed of 12 members who meet monthly to conduct much of the business of the society and to plan the society's annual events and other activities. Board members typically also serve as committee chairpeople.

Nominations Committee Chair

The Nominations Committee chair, in conjunction with two to four other committee members, proposes candidates for various positions on the Board and brings these candidates forward to the Board and membership, as appropriate and in accord with the VAS Bylaws. This committee only has intermittent work to do, but it is an important entity in that it ensures that a broad range of candidates are considered for available Board positions.

Education Committee Chair

This committee plays a large part in the overall role of the VAS. It is charged with "educating the public" about

Vermont's rich archaeological record, methods used in studying that record, preservation and protection of that record, and the existence and activities of the VAS itself, potentially through lectures, workshops, exhibits, etc. The Education Committee has also played a large role in Vermont Archaeology Week in recent years. Since this is such an important part of the overall mission of the VAS, we hope that we attract a new chair to work with the sizeable number of people in the society who share a common belief in public education.

Vermont Archaeology Week 2000 Task Force Chair The chair of the VAW 2000 Task Force will assume responsibility for ensuring linkage between the VAS Board and the VAW 2000 Coordinator(s) and the task force in general will help in the selection of the coordinators. In other words, this is a facilitator position specifically related to VAW 2000 and this chair will work with other task force members to help plan and oversee the important set of events related to Vermont Archaeology Week.

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Hints and Glimpses North of the Border

Charles Martijn who excavated a sector of Government Point site in 1960, and the more recent emergency excavations on Ile-aux-Noix sites by Parks Canada (Patrimoine Experts, 1996).

The importance of Government Point in terms of size and artefactual density had been noted as early as 1937 by William Wintemberg (Wintemberg, J. n.d.). James Pendergast also commented on the site's importance a few decades later (Pendergast, 1963). Martijn's 1960 excavation serves to confirm these observations (Martijn, 1960), as do amateur archaeologist Rene Levesque's 1961 intervention (Levesque, 1962) and local private collections of artefacts, some of which are as imposing as they are frustrating to professional archaeologists.

The fact that Government Point is formed by the meeting of the Richelieu and South rivers (Figure 1), two major waterways, goes a long way in explaining the strategic location of this site. 18th century documents and local tradition combined with the higher water level in Ancient Archaic and Paleo-Indian times, we should not expect to find older sites than those of the Laurentian Archaic, as the whole region was then

under water.

All this considered, it will be of no surprise that Government Point was deemed central to our project. Our first year we therefore had two main objectives. The first was the evaluation of Government Point site, through which we hoped to circumscribe specific areas of occupation on these immense grounds. To give you an idea, just the open field area covers approximately 45,000 metres² so coming to terms with such a vast space was essential. The second objective was the archaeological survey of the region in the hopes of locating new sites. The survey would also serve to verify a 1994 study of the region that identified several zones of high archaeological potential for the paleohistoric period (Larose, 1994), as well as to investigate the possible location of Iroquoian villages that was postulated by archaeologists in the course of the Brome-Missisquoi Archaeological Project (Chapdelaine et al., 1996).

The Government Point site

After initial surveying and the establishment of a reference grid based on pre-existing permanent surveying Bench Marks, we arbitrarily divided the area into Sectors, using features such as roads and paths. We then proceeded to explore these sectors by digging 50 cm² test pits at 20 metre intervals in non-productive areas, and at 10 metre intervals where paleohistoric objects were encountered.

During our first season, approximately 5,200

paleohistoric objects were collected, including 62 rim sherds and 82 lithic tools (Figure 2) of various types, the rest consisting mostly of debitage and body sherds. But most importantly, we were able to delimit three specific areas of artefactual concentration, in sectors 2, 3 and in the Ecological Reserve (Martijn Beach Sector).

Sector 3

Sector 3 proved to be the richest and points to the most intense occupation on the site. Forty-five 50 cm² test pits were dug and forty-two of these yielded paleohistoric objects. A total of



Figure 2



Figure 1

3,246 objects were gathered for a relative artefactual density of 265 objects / meter². However, the heart of this sector reveals a relative density of over 800 objects / meter². This is a multi-component sector, with objects from the Post-Laurentian Archaic (4000 BP - 3000 BP), all the way through the Late Woodland (1000 BP - 400 BP), with the notable absence of any typical Early Woodland (3000 BP - 2000 BP) artefacts. The disadvantage of this sector is that up to about 10 years ago, it had regularly been plowed for decades when the farm owned by the Beaudin family was still in operation. So the context is artificially mixed and is therefore less significant in terms of its interpretative potential. One exception to this observation would be the zone included in the strip of forest on the east side of the sector which has never been cleared or plowed, but which also is not as rich as the open field zone.

Martijn Beach Sector

This is in the general area of Charles Matijn's 1960 intervention. Twenty-eight 50 cm² test pits were excavated, and all of these yielded paleohistoric objects, for a total of 1,248, or a relative artefactual density of 612 objects / metre². This area attests to an occupation during all the Woodland period, including Vinette 1 Early Woodland pottery. It has never been plowed and is therefore a promising sector since the context seems intact. However, since it is part of the Ecological Reserve, it will be difficult to convince the Quebec Environment Ministry to excavate an extensive area in this sensitive sector. The Ministry is extremely protective of the rare plants that grow there, some of which are small in size and in very limited numbers.

Sector 2

Our first summer in this sector (1997) we dug a total of forty-one test 50 cm² test pits, twenty-three of which were positive. 808 artefacts were found in the course of this first season, for a relative artefactual density of 130 objects / metre². This was also a multi-component sector, but the richest zone seemed to be dominated by Early Middle Woodland PSS (Pseudo Scallop Shell) decorated pottery (2400 BP - 1500 BP).

During the 1998 season, we excavated 21,5 m² in Sector 2. A total of 9,219 paleohistoric objects were collected. The total of 4,461 flakes that we found in this area certainly isn't sufficient to associate it with any extensive tool making activities. As for 20 cores, most are made of, as yet, unidentified whitish-grey fine grained quartzite and many of these barely show traces of flintknapping. In addition to these cores, we found many rather large chunk-like flakes in the type of quartzite is certainly obvious that this material was brought here, as it isn't local. Indeed some of the tools we found are made of this quartzite, even if there are very few. Maybe the presence of these cores and chunks point to trading activities. Or maybe these simply represent a class of large debitage bi-products in the context of abundant lithic

resources.

We also found some larger tools, an axe-head, a hammer stone, and a polishing stone, as well as various bifacial tools. Four of these bifaces are made of a type of very granular reddish-yellow quartzite. To our knowledge, this material has not yet been identified in Quebec and may represent evidence of trading or, together with the whitish-grey quartzite, may even point to an occupation by populations of the Lake Champlain area, as opposed to populations Quebec archaeologists are more familiar with further north (in the Saint-Lawrence valley for example). At this time however, this is all conjectural, and only more extensive analysis will resolve the issue.

Finally, and probably the most interesting enigma, is the unusually high number of triangular projectile points, mostly akin to the Levanna type. We find it curious that most identifiable tools are these points, generally associated with the Late Woodland period and the latter part of the Late Middle Woodland, whereas the pottery is almost exclusively of the Early Middle Woodland variety. We had run in to a similar puzzle in Brome-Missisquoi at the Macfarlane site (BgFg-8) at the mouth of the Pike river in Missisquoi Bay (Chapdelaine et al., 1996). We had hypothesised that the site may indicate differential modes of occupation. During the Early Middle Woodland, nomadic family units on the move in the course of their seasonal foraging cycle would have stopped over at this site. The presence of women would explain the large amount of PSS pottery found there. In the later periods, bands of male hunters would occupy the site, with the women and children staying in the more permanent base camps or even, in the case of Iroquoian populations, in their villages. The absence of women would explain the fact that little Iroquoian pottery was found. This pattern may also apply to Government Point and is consistent with our ethnohistorical understanding of Iroquoian behaviour in terms of the sexual dichotomy in subsistence strategies. It also takes into account the archaeological evidence for the nomadic hunting-foraging patterns thought to be characteristic of the Early Middle Woodland in this region.

We will now briefly summarize the results of our archaeological survey of Upper-Richelieu. In the early stages, we located a small site (BgFh-23) on the opposite shore of Government Point site (Figure 1). No pottery nor typical tools were found there. It is obviously the site of very brief and incidental occupations, as less than 20 objects, mostly debitage and one projectile point were found there.

About 500 meters south of Government Point site, on a small terrace directly across Fort Lennox, Floyd-Bernier site (Figure 1) revealed the remains of an early 19th-century Inn (BgFh-22). It is local tradition that tells us there was an Inn at this place, and the nature of the objects retrieved certainly confirms this. The high number of military objects indicates that this establishment was closely linked with Fort Lennox (Figure 3) (F. Judging by the very large number of fire altered objects and the thick

layer of ashes in the stratigraphy, the Inn was obviously destroyed by fire while it was still in operation. It should be said that our mandate was for paleohistoric research and we had only gone to this site because we had been told that "arrowheads" had been found there, but traces of ancient occupations were not to be found. Lastly, our project brought us to Vermont. Although Province Point (BgFh-21) starts out in Quebec, most of it is actually in Vermont since the border intersects it. And sure enough, Vermont is where we found most of the paleohistoric artefacts from this area (Figure



Figure 4

4). On the tip of the Point is a small terrace about 2.5 meters above water level, where we excavated sixteen 50 cm² test pits. Of these, 5 were positive and situated near the edge of the terrace. In total, the pits yielded 20 paleohistoric artefacts and 18 assorted bones of recent origin. But to these we must add the 77 artefacts and 8 blanché bones that were found around the edges of the terrace and on the beach. Most objects were pottery, and the decorated sherds were almost all of the PSS variety, except for two Late Woodland sherds, one rim and one body. It seems obvious that if this site was of any importance, we will never know. Erosion has taken its toll and many cultural remains must have been swept away. It is well known that the level of Lake Champlain was a few feet lower in Woodland times, and the higher levels witnessed in recent times certainly explain a lot of this accelerated erosion, be it the work of early spring ice scraping or late spring and early summer erosion due to ever increasing boat traffic. Some Richelieu river sites are known to be endangered by this phenomena, and this was the main reason for the emergency excavations of Ile-aux-Noix paleohistoric sites by Parks Canada. For Province Point however, it unfortunately seems too late.

Conclusion

Hopefully, our project will continue on its merry way. Results so far are certainly encouraging and offer us a tantalizing glimpse into an important and little known chapter of southern Quebec paleohistory. Furthermore, our results, combined with research done south of the border, will help to bridge the artificial gap imposed by the



Figure 3

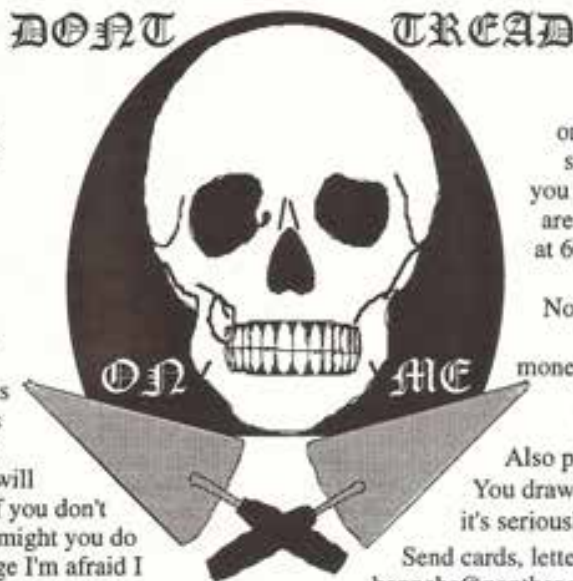
arbitrary and historically recent border between New England and Quebec. In the coming years, we can therefore reasonably expect to emerge into an enlarged regional perspective of the paleohistoric occupation of the Lake Champlain/Richelieu river hydrographic complex.

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Hannahs. This edition is a bit rough (but that means it will soon be a collectors item) and reflects my teething pains during the transition period. A larger and more polished edition will be along towards the end of summer /start of fall.. To the extent there is an editorial policy it is one of "don't look a gift horse in the mouth." So all submissions and suggestions will receive a friendly reception. I don't write this thing I just put it together. So if there is something you want to see in this newsletter then pitch right in and submit it. I won't promise that I will print it. But I can promise that if you don't send it I won't print it. And how might you do that you ask?... In this day and age I'm afraid I have to insist that I get the copy in electronic format. No Hard Copy! Send it by US mail on disk, or by email, either within the email itself



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BARRE GRANITE CENTER AND HERITAGE MUSEUM

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A preliminary Phase I Archaeological Identification study was conducted on the proposed site of the Barre Granite Center and Heritage Museum, located west of Route 302 in Barre, Washington County, Vermont. The study was conducted in accordance with requirements of the Section 106 review, Vermont's Guidelines for Archaeological Studies (Peebles 1989), and federal laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (PL 89-665) and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (PL 94-422). The goal of the review process was to identify archaeologically sensitive areas that might be destroyed by the proposed construction.

Tasks undertaken included field investigations, oral history interviews, and historic map and archival research. Sources were examined to identify existing surface archaeological features and assess the potential to encounter below ground archaeological resources. With the assistance of Dubois & King, Inc., global positioning system derived site maps were prepared revealing the site's physical features and the locations of former and existing buildings and features. The following overview summarizes the results of the preliminary survey.

Sensitivity for Prehistoric Resources

The proposed site of the Barre Granite Center and Heritage Museum encompasses a relatively flat flood plain terrace, lying at approximately 580 feet above sea level. To the west is the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River. Research directed at the Native American cultural history of

the area revealed the Winooski River was a familiar Native American water transportation route and the "Koas" or "Coos" trail developed by the Abenakis passed through Barre. However, the high speed, rocky nature of Stevens Branch, the distance from a river confluence, and the rechanneled character of the waterway in this region imply that the project area has a low sensitivity for prehistoric resources.

Sensitivity for Early European Historic Resources

The site's eastern boundary, Main Street (also known as the Barre Montpelier Road), has been a major transportation corridor providing east-west connections throughout Barre's European-American history. Research revealed the study area also lies less than one mile north of Twingsville, an early European American community established c.1800. Nevertheless, mid to late 19th century maps do not indicate the study area was occupied. It is likely that the flood plain and wetland environmental elements of the region hampered the growth of the neighboring community and delayed occupation of the project area. As such, no archaeological resources associated with early European American settlement period are expected within the construction limits.

Historic Period Industrial Development

Substantial historic period industrial development of the site was stimulated by a successful integration of water-power, the granite industry, and the Barre Branch Railroad (established in 1889) which linked the granite quarries and city manufacturing plants to the national market. Just 7 years earlier, Marshall W. and Seward W. Jones commenced the Jones Brothers wholesale monument business in Boston. They soon recognized the quality of Barre granite and the opportunities associated with their own

granite quarrying and manufacturing center in Barre. Successful negotiations with Mackie & Simpson of Barre in 1886 permitted the purchase of a dark granite quarry on Millstone Hill and the lease of a lot on Granite Street containing a circular cutting shed, blacksmith shop, and rail access. But the Jones Brothers Company, now headed by 4 brothers, had greater aspirations. Although deed research indicates they purchased the study area in 1895 from Alvin F. Sortwell (Warranty Deeds 2:525, 12:232, 17:425), the 1894 Sanborn Insurance Map already depicts the Jones Brothers Company water powered stonecutting operation on the site. Through time, map research revealed a variety of power generating systems and equipment were employed on the site over time: waterwheels, turbines, boilers, engines, air compressors, and generators. These were fueled at different times by water, steam, kerosene oil, hot air, coal, and electricity. Often more than one method was employed to generate and distribute the increasing power needs to operate the manufacturing machinery, as well as heat and light the growing number of buildings comprising the manufacturing plant. For many years during the peak decades of the demand for granite, the Jones Brothers Company's large scale operation with widespread distribution met with success. In addition, they were often innovators in the use or application of new technological advances.

Multi-Component Aspects of the Site

The proposed granite center and heritage museum site is the former site of the Jones Brothers Company Granite Manufacturing Plant, once a large complex of connected and separate industrial buildings. By 1919, Hugh Jones (1919:226) acclaimed the complex was "The Largest Granite Monumental Plant in the World." Although the extant granite shed and southern wing, the storage shed, the boiler house, office, and some ancillary structures remain, many of the plant buildings are no longer standing. Only surface and subsurface elements of many historic features remain to tell the complete story. These elements include side rails, and poured concrete foundations, pads, piers, and floors.

In addition, the Jones Brothers manufacturing plant site is strewn with discarded granite ("grout") and historic artifacts. Some of the granite artifacts represent imperfect quality specimens. The wide variety of granite colors are indicative of different quarries from different regions, states, countries. The wide range of granite debris includes specimens discarded during different stages of the process. Some granite specimens possess coring holes, cuts, and scars reflecting the use of different machines or representing different finished products. Other artifacts identified during the surface walkover include historic tools (e.g., cast iron files) or components of historic machines (e.g., metal, leather, plastic, rubber bearings and washers). Still other artifacts on the site represent architectural and structural elements (e.g., anchor bolts, window glass).

Recognized Site Value

The value of the Jones Brothers Company granite manufacturing site has been widely recognized. As an acknowledgment of the granite shed's part in historic and cultural development, it was determined to be an outstanding historical resource by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (Wadhams 1997) and subsequently nominated to the National Register of Historic Places (Burwell 1998). This former site of the Jones Brothers Company granite manufacturing complex has also been identified as a significant industrial archaeological site and assigned the number, VT-WA-126, within the Vermont Archaeological Inventory, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

Research has also shown that the history of this site is not limited to granite. It also includes stories of proprietors, plant and quarry personnel, their ethnic heritage, gender, health, and other issues relating to social, cultural, economic, and technological changes.

Recommendations for Further Archaeological and Historic Research

To avoid losing an important part of the granite industry story that this site hides, subsurface activities should be preceded by further archaeological field investigation. For although historic maps and documents include elements of the Jones Brothers Company activities, much has not been written and many questions remain unanswered, both specific to the Jones Brothers Company manufacturing complex and more widespread regarding the methods of processing rough blocks to the finished process. Without additional archaeological investigation, this information will be lost forever.

Historic and archaeological research can result in more accurate delineating of the boundaries, depth, content, and integrity of the cultural features, the historic landscape, and granite manufacturing activities. For example, existing concrete floors, piers and foundations can provide evidence of the boundaries of former structures, designated work areas, machine locations, and granite processing activities. The recovery of historic hardware and structural material has the potential to provide evidence for the authentic replication of original hardware and the accurate rehabilitation of historic structures. Artifact recovery and historic research may also help answer questions and resolve discrepancies found in the literature. Moreover, except for a few areas of the site (e.g., associated with the Kelley abrasive reclamation operation), archaeological features of the former Jones Brothers Company complex do not appear to have been compromised by later development and, as a result, appear to maintain an integrity of location, setting, feeling and association that adds to their interpretative value.

In addition, as New England historic archaeological research and cultural management studies have traditionally focused on the colonial period sites (e.g., military sites or estates occupied by famous historic figures), few 19th century industrial sites have been

researched. The proposed site of the Barre Granite Center and Heritage Museum represents a unique opportunity for research and interpretation. Many of these historic archaeological resources on the surface of the site can be incorporated into the museum plans for interpretive purposes. Further investigation should precede in areas with historic archaeological resources that may be threatened by construction. A wide range of future archaeological testing procedures could be employed under the direction of a staff archaeologist to maximize results and insure cost-effective practices: surface collecting, coring, shovel testing, trenching, and/or monitoring. Community involvement can also be integrated into the historic research and archaeological process.



What does the NFL have in common with VAS? Read on:

by Gary Shattuck

First, I am honored to have recently been elected to your board of directors and, as a result of our December 16 meeting, the chair of the newly created "Cultural Resource Protection & Quality" (CRPQ) committee. Fortunately, what initially started out as a committee of one (yours truly!), it has begun to expand and now includes several VAS members. This is an earnest invitation to you to also join.

First, a word of warning. I am not an archaeologist. Digging in the dirt is not my forte. While I do not pretend to know much about the subject, I hope that my great love of history and complete abhorrence of the illegal looting and trafficking in cultural resources, coupled with 25 years of experience in law enforcement as a state police officer and prosecutor at the state and federal levels will serve the interests of VAS. I also hope that my contribution in drafting the Vermont archaeological protection protocol, a first-of-its-kind effort being advocated nationally by the National Park Service, is something that can further the interests of this organization.

In the short time I have had to read about VAS, its activities, and its place in the Vermont Historic Preservation Plan, it is obvious that its interests are diverse and its potential to influence immeasurable. VAS is the proverbial "sleeping giant" expected to play a pivotal role in the preservation of our past and the education of future generations.

You already know of the world-wide illicit plundering of archaeological sites and trafficking in those things that belong to all of us. I am sure we are all equally disgusted and appalled by it. You also appreciate the ongoing need to educate others, as well as ourselves, of the wonders of archaeology. By your responses to the organization's recent survey, it is clear that you want VAS to take a proactive stance in the protection of our archaeological resources. That is wise counsel because, while

Vermont may be somewhat insulated from the problems the rest of the world already experiences in this regard, be assured that, in time, we will not escape those heartaches.

In the meantime, we do not have to stand still and wait for such problems to overtake us. As "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," we need to collectively be involved in taking these proactive steps. And there is no time like the present.

As much as we may all miss the good old days when things were slower and expectations less, it is clear that this is a time to lead, follow, or get out of the way. I expect we all agree that the first is the best option.

The mandate to the CRPQ committee is extremely ambitious and reflects your expectations. This committee is directed to, amongst other things, aggressively advocate the protection of cultural resources at the local, state, and federal levels, monitor "political, community, or private undertakings" affecting archaeological sites, and seek to "enhance the effectiveness and quality of legal compliance efforts, academic research, or private stewardship in regards to cultural resources by evaluating the compliance review process, archaeological research, and mandated public outreach efforts." Whew!

Needless to say, the goals for this infant (and what will no doubt, at times, be a stumbling) committee will require the talents of a number of people, including other VAS committees. A mandate of this magnitude could easily consume the time of at least a couple of people on a full-time basis. Be that as it may, it should not deter us.

Please accept this as a call for help to anyone willing to make a caring and constructive contribution in this effort. I anticipate that it will present an incredible opportunity to both VAS and the committee's participants to be in the frontline of historic preservation and protection issues. No one of us can do this alone -- it must be a collaborative and collective effort. If you relish being immersed in archaeological issues, forging relationships and interacting with academic, government and private interests, I can't think of a better opportunity than this one.

This is where the NFL comes in. With apologies to the use of that organization's motto: Can you "feel the power"? Can you appreciate the untapped strength of VAS, its uniqueness and where it stands in the scheme of things, what your participation can do to further its, and your, interests? If you can, give voice to your concerns and consider contributing to this committee.

Make no mistake, this will not be an easy task. There is no roadmap available to us and we will no doubt simply have to follow our instincts. Nor do I expect there will be immediate results. But then, somehow, having the privilege of addressing a legacy, such as the one that only archaeology can give, seems to make it all worthwhile. To my mind, none of the hardships matter. What does matter is that we have an effective and forceful voice in dealing with archaeological issues in this state. Will you help?

News from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

By Art Cohn, Director

1998 has been the most productive season in the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's history, and this brief report will attempt to summarize our most recent projects and programs.

The field season began with the Maritime Museum assisting the Adirondack Aquatic Institute at Paul Smith's College in New York State with the investigation of a scow barge and some submerged logging equipment located in Saranac Lake by Paul Smith's College. More and more the Maritime Museum is collaborating with other museums and agencies that require expertise in nautical archaeology to manage resources around the region. In that regard we have also been advising the Adirondack Museum at Blue Mountain Lake, New York, on a number of submerged properties that have been reported to it in the last several months.

LCMM has also assisted with the formal opening of two new underwater historic preserve sites in Lake Champlain. The sailing canal schooner O.J. Walker, subject of a number of previous studies, was opened in early July as Vermont's sixth underwater historic preserve. Across the lake at Westport, New York, the wreck of the steamboat Champlain II, built in Burlington in 1862 and wrecked by running full speed up the shoreline, was opened as New York's first underwater historic preserve on Lake Champlain. The O.J. Walker project was completed in conjunction with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and the Champlain II project was coordinated by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. Both of these sites are now open to the public and are included in the underwater historic preserve literature.

LCMM also completed its third season of its Lake Survey, the systematic examination of the bottom of Lake Champlain, which has been scheduled to take seven years. An additional forty square miles of lake bottom were examined, and several new shipwrecks were located. One of these wrecks is an extremely well-preserved late 19th-century canal boat, which will be the subject of future archaeological study. This year's archaeological documentation team focused on two sites on the New York side of the lake, one a standard canal boat believed to be the Vergennes, which sank in 1852. The other, currently being called the "stove wreck," is of unknown origin but appears to be a very early class of canal vessel that was carrying a cargo of kitchen woodstoves, cauldrons, kettles, and other iron material. Several specimens were recovered for analysis, and, as of this writing, conservation of these objects is being completed.

In early July, LCMM formally signed a Management Agreement with the U.S. Naval Historical Center, giving us the authorization to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Revolutionary War vessel located in the

lake's deep water in 1997. We are pleased to announce the hiring of nautical archaeologist/conservator Dave Robinson, a graduate of the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University and a former field school participant in a number of LCMM projects in the early 1990s. We will be working with the Navy, the states of New York and Vermont, and other interested parties to develop a menu of options and issues surrounding the long-term preservation of this historic and important vessel. We will also be seeking the widest public input possible to help determine the future of this ship.

As of this writing, it is my pleasure to report that we have just received the anchor from the British fleet that engaged in the Battle of Plattsburgh Bay on September 11, 1814. This huge anchor, standing over 13ft. tall, is believed to be one from the British flag ship *Confiance*. The anchor is rich in markings and inscriptions, which include the maker's mark, the date 1813, the anchor's weight, a possible registration number, and the painted word *Quebec*. We believe that research will help us better define the anchor's role in this historic event. The Maritime Museum is working with the Clinton County Historical Association and



the State of New York to conserve the anchor, which we expect to be a two-year process. The anchor will be available for public viewing throughout LCMM's season.

The LCMM Conservation Laboratory has been extremely busy this year and has just completed the conservation of the Native American clay pot that was recovered from Thompson's Point in the spring of 1997. We anticipate that the pot will be placed on public exhibit at the Chimney Point Historic Site. We have also been working on a collection of artifacts recovered from O.J. Walker prior to its opening in the preserve system, two cast iron cauldrons and a large kettle recovered from the Stove Wreck, and the final stages of the conservation of the Civil War spherical case shot from Mirror Lake near North Calais, Vermont. The comprehensive report on the Mirror Lake Project is now being reviewed by state and federal officials and should be available to interested historians and archaeologists this fall.

As of this writing, LCMM and researchers from the University of Vermont are beginning discussions on a major new research initiative, designed to answer the question, "What is the physical impact of zebra mussels on historic shipwrecks?" This query has not previously been studied, and we see its answer as a critical issue that needs to be clarified if we are to properly make recommendations about the management of shipwrecks, not just in Lake Champlain, but in all waters subject to zebra mussel infestation.

Finally, Kevin Crisman and I continue our two decades of collaboration, co-authoring a new publication, *When Horses Walked on Water: Horse-Powered Ferries in 19th-Century America*, which was released this spring. The archaeological subject of this publication was the

Burlington Bay Horse Ferry, which we had studied for four years, and researched for more than ten. Kevin and I also continued our work in the Azores Islands, assisting the Azoran government with survey and management issues regarding their very large collection of submerged cultural properties.



PUBLIC RELATIONS OUTREACH

by Deborah E. Blom

I am pleased to have recently joined the Vermont Archaeology Society Board in the capacity of Board Secretary and Chair of the Public Relations Committee. I am currently an Assistant Professor in Anthropology at the University of Vermont. Having done most of my research in South America while completing my degree at the University of Chicago, I am looking forward to learning more about Vermont archaeology and meet all of you. Along with the Education Committee, the Public relations committee is an important tool of the VAS for promoting the message of archaeology and Vermont's past to the public. I invite all members to join us in our efforts in Public Relations. The committee may be of particular interest to anyone who has developed skills in public relations or desires to build these skills. Contact information for me appears in the list of Board members.



And Lest We Forget...

Dues are always welcome. Better late than never was never so true.....

Mark That Date!

November 5th - 7th, 1999

Reflections on Remembering and Forgetting: Revisiting "The Original Vermonters"

This conference will be held at UVM from 1:00 pm on Friday till Noon on Sunday.

Conference Topics:
Archaeological Perspectives on
Native Ethnicity
Colonialism and Contact
Basketry and Abenaki Culture
The Persistence of Abenaki Material
Culture
and many, many more.

Details will be posted as they arrive.





To All VAS Members:

The following form should be filled out for entry into the VAS Educators Guide. Returning this form does not guarantee entry. Please return the form to me at address listed below.

Thank You,
Sabrina

Sabrina Thomas
PO Box 36
N. Clarendon, VT 05759

NAME:

STREET:

CITY, STATE, ZIP:

PHONE:

FAX:

E-MAIL:

WEB ADDRESS:

SERVICES PROVIDED (RESTRICTED TO 300 CHARACTERS):

TOPIC OR SUBJECT AREA (RESTRICTED TO 300 CHARACTERS):

CREDENTIALS (INCLUDE EXPERIENCE AND/OR DEGREES HELD):

FEES (PLEASE INCLUDE NUMERICAL AMOUNT):



We gave a party and (almost) nobody came!

I'm an old dude who has been around long enough to remember "how it used to be." And get away with it.

The first four years of our Society's existence were the kind that bred the conclusion, "You can't go home again." I've always disagreed with the legend that says you can't keep doing the good things. From 1968 to 1972, the VAS had two-day annual meetings at one of the state's popular ski resorts. Sometimes the professional and technical aspects of archeology took a back seat to the social aspect of our combined profession and avocation. We had fun! The youngest member was a 12 year-old by the name of Clark Hinsdale. I won't try to list the octogenarians who were making a shambles of the generation gap.

This year marked the 30th birthday of the Vermont Archaeological Society and, despite the changes in its membership over time, it has a lot to brag about as a corporate entity. Instead of seventy or more people who stayed overnight at those meetings to make much of the dream to discover and preserve Vermont's cultural heritage, a mere fraction of that number listened to the 1998 presentations that had quality and scope.

What happened? On paper, the program was designed to appeal to a broad range of archeologists, anthropologists and historians. Not to mention the armchair bunch who like to watch other people work.

Ordinarily, the VAS has no problem assembling the requisite number of diners (50) which gives us our meeting rooms at no cost. Of the three meals served on November 7 and 8, 1998, we couldn't gather more than 36 people, which included the

presenters who were there as our guests.

One cannot help but look for reasons why almost 700 invitations were answered by fewer than 45 people for two days of well-programmed meetings. We discovered that, of 25 members living in New York state, many did not receive our bulk-mailed invitation until after the conference. That accounts for about a half-dozen absentees. I can easily count thirty more members who have rarely missed an annual meeting in recent years but weren't there in 1998. And here we are at the ripe old age of thirty.

Some of our seasoned members told me that many attend a meeting to hear a given speaker, or listen to a presentation on a special topic. If that be true, then these folks have little use for the societal bond and perpetuate the tradition of the rugged individualists. Has the Society itself changed while the membership remains the same? Are we doing something wrong? Is this all-volunteer organization failing to meet the needs of its members....a group of well over 200 people?

I relish the remembrance of the joyful "happy hours" involving a substantial number of people who drank nothing stronger than coke, but who took great pleasure in associating informally with their professional and avocational peers. What's happening to us as a society? If you think you know the answer, get in touch with a member of the Board or write a letter (maybe an e-mail) to the editor of our *Newsletter*.

If you value the VAS and expect it to play a significant role in Vermont archeology, clap your hands. Or better still, talk to us about how to make the VAS the lively in your life. Y'all take this seriously, y'hear?

Joe Popecki, Treasurer and a founding member.

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS

SUMMER COURSE IN ARCHAEOLOGY

APPLIED ARCHAEOLOGY: FINDING AND PRESERVING VERMONT'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

July 26-August 6, 1999
9:00-12:00
119 and 122 Aiken Center
University of Vermont

Students will learn how archaeologists identify, excavate and protect prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. Lectures and discussions will document the broad trends of human history and environmental change in Vermont since the last glacier receded. On field trips, the class will explore areas where sites have been recorded. Legal and stewardship issues in cultural resource management will be examined. During the second week, students will receive basic training in archaeological field methods while conducting an archaeological survey in the Burlington area.

For more information, contact:
Peter Thomas, Director
Consulting Archaeology Program
112 University Heights
Burlington, Vermont 05405
phone: 802-656-4310
e-mail: pthomas@zoo.uvm.edu

MIDDLETOWN SPRINGS SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY CAMP

July 5-16, 1999

The Montvert Project is again offering Rutland region students a chance to participate in a two-week summer camp on the weekdays of July 5 through July 15, 9:00 am to 3 pm. Students will conduct important archaeological and historical research centered on the site of the Montvert Mineral Springs Hotel resort (1870-1905) in Middletown Springs. In past camps, activities have included learning various archaeological excavation and artifact laboratory methods, using computer-aided mapping technology, and enjoying Victorian-era music, arts, and leisure activities. Students in previous years have produced a Web page, mounted museum exhibits at the Middletown Springs Historical Society Museum and the Chaffee Center for Visual Arts, and designed a Montvert Hotel heritage brochure and an interpretive sign for the Mineral Springs Park.

The Montvert Project Camp is sponsored by the

Middletown Springs Historical Society in collaboration with the Rutland Southwest Supervisory Union. Partial scholarships toward the \$400 tuition may be available through the Hayes Foundation. Interested Students in grades 5 through 9 can contact Project Director/ Gifted & Talented Specialist Pamela Lewis (265-3736) or Project Archaeologist Sheila Charles (747-4533) for further information and an application by May 10, 1999.



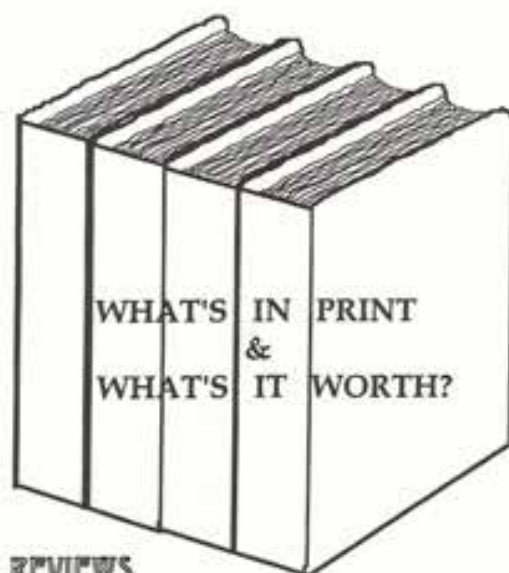
**Archaeologists finally catch
the one that got away**

This brings to a close one more issue of the newsletter. Edited and produced by a highly trained team of professionals.



That's all folks....





REVIEWS

The Great Warpath: British Military Sites from Albany to Crown Point

By David Starbuck

Just out, as of this April, this book offers an archaeological perspective on a subject that has been largely the preserve of military historians. The work is supported by 150 photographs and illustrations and draws on journals, pottery, ammunition, huts and other artifacts found at encampments and forts in the Lake Champlain, Lake George and Hudson River region. In the words of one reviewer "This lively account demonstrates an unparalleled understanding of military sites archaeology and offers a vivid chronicle of the lives of soldiers who fought on the frontiers of early America."

Paperbound, 224pp. 7x10" 0-87451-903-9. \$19.95



Concept of Archaeology as a Science Motivates New Journal

Review by Joe Popecki, Treasurer, VAS

Something unexpected turned up in our mail box the other day: the "Premier Issue" of *Discovering Archaeology*. I scanned the entire issue before I got around to reading the editor's introduction. The overall appearance of the magazine is that of *Scientific American* or even *National Geographic*. Its illustrations meet very high standards, whether photos, drawings or maps. Issue one has regular departments that cover common archaeological interests: "Insights" (Darwin the Archaeologist); "Focus" (Ancient Astronauts); "Research & News"; "Global

Report"; "Web Watch"; "Forum" (the Bear River Massacre); "Reviews" (including CD-Roms); "Commentary" (In praise of Archaeology) and, "Archive" (The documents that gave birth to a science).

You will find something to tempt you among the feature articles: Donald Johnson and the future of Paleoanthropology; "Medieval Irish Engineers Conquer the River Shannon; Archaeology joins the search for Amelia Earhart; Rock art among the pyramids on the Nile; "First Americans and the Sea"; "Prehistoric Farmers of the Marshall Islands"; New ground-penetrating radar surveys.

Readability is improved for a variety of readers from professional to avocational by artful layout and the relegation of footnotes to the ends of articles and set in fine print. Although I don't have a mental catalog of who's who in archaeology and related fields, I recognized many well-known names among the editorial staff and the contributors.

Editor-in-Chief is Jeff Leach. In his introduction, he says, "...So why is archaeology not thought of as a science? It is this precise question that motivated us to start a new magazine. "...If science is the observation, identification, description, and theoretical explanation of phenomena, then archaeology must be thought of as a science."

For those of us concerned about raising public consciousness regarding our cultural heritage, *Discovering Archaeology* is just what the doctor ordered. And it's not something the professional archaeologist will fall asleep over.

This new bi-monthly magazine (ISSN:-1521-9496) is the product of Rio Hondo Publishers, LLC, 1205 N Oregon, El Paso TX 79902. U.S. subscriptions are \$19.95 per year. Check with the publisher for reprint availability. The fulfillment facility (where you send your subscription order) is: PO Box 190, Jenks OK 74037-9906. The Editor's E-mail

address is jleach@elp.rr.com.

The Virtual Dig?

Before the construction on Burlington's Main Street began, archaeologists were there to record the early nineteenth-century neighborhood that once stood at the top of the hill. Now that the fieldwork related to the project is done, the paperwork has begun. Archaeology Consulting Team has created a web page to introduce the results of our research of the archaeological sites that were discovered during the Main Street project. The page is being hosted by the Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CATMA) at: <http://www.uvm.edu/~catmaor> Follow the "Projects" link to Archaeology on Upper Main Street, Burlington, Vermont..

by the
Archaeology Consulting Team

Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 663
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NOTE: The VAS does not sell the use of its membership list. However we occasionally allow its free use by select organizations with announcements of specific interest to VAS members. Do you authorize us to share your mailing address with such organizations? ☐ Yes ☐ No

*Senior: 65 years or over. Students must be full-time and provide a 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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