

The



Vermont



Archaeological Society



Newsletter

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**EXPLORE THE PAST DURING
VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK
1999!**

By Prudence J. Doherty

Vermont Archaeology Week will be celebrated this year from September 19-25. Enthusiastic presenters and sponsors have organized 44 events. Almost 2000 calendars and over 500 posters have been distributed to invite Vermonters to explore the past.

VAS members can attend a wide range of events throughout the state. In Swanton, you can attend a lecture on "Indians and Archaeologists," visit the new Abenaki heritage museum, and learn about the ancient pottery found at a Native camp site in Alburg. At the new state office building in Newport, view an exhibit on "Abenaki Culture in the Memphremagog Basin". In Burlington, consider whether Lake Champlain's shipwrecks are commercial, recreational or archaeological resources and visit the new "History Under Foot" exhibit at the Ethan Allen Homestead. At the Chimney Point Historic Site in Addison, learn how to make an atlatl, and then compete in the fourth annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championships. If you are a teacher, learn how archaeological sites along the Long Trail can be tools for learning. Become a steward of the past working at the Stone Farm Cemetery in the Green National Forest. In Peacham, tour a blacksmith shop excavation.

This year, you can participate in two events using your computer. E-mail Giovanna Peebles, the State Archaeologist, and ask her questions about Vermont archaeology. On the internet, learn about archaeology conducted for Burlington's Main Street project. For details about the 44 different activities that will highlight Vermont's archaeological resources, consult the VAW '99 calendar of events.

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**MARK THAT
CALENDAR**

***Reflections on Remembering and Forgetting:
Revisiting "The Original Vermonters:"
Exploring New Research and New Directions
for
Collaboration in Abenaki Studies***

University of Vermont
November 5-7, 1999

Bill Haviland and Marj Power's monumental work, *The Original Vermonters*, has served as the benchmark synthesis and cultural history upon which all subsequent work has been based. This scholarly engagement with over 10,000 years of Abenaki history firmly re-established the Abenaki people within the memory of the academy, and has had profound impacts beyond. This conference will investigate the history of forgetting and remembering that contextualizes the work of Haviland and Power, engaging the intricacies of complex histories of forgetting in the face of continued Abenaki presence. The conference will then examine the work of remembering after *The Original Vermonters* within the disciplines of archaeology and ethnohistory, and within the Abenaki communities themselves. We will conclude with a series of presentations exploring opportunities for collaboration that will continue the process of remembering.



Conference Topics:

Archaeology and Aboriginal Ethnicity
Contact and the Origins of the Colonial Endeavour
Material Culture and Memory
Eugenics and other forms of strategic forgetting
Wabanaki Women - Life Histories
The Future for Abenaki Studies

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*Please address any general inquiries concerning the
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**VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 1999
Explore the Past**

September 19-25, 1999

the Vermont Archaeology Society's Web Page:
(<http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org/vas/vas.htm>)
for the latest news on VAW 1999. See also the article in
this news letter.

FALL CONFERENCE

November 5-7

Not only will this be a great conference, lasting three days
but some fairly important society business will be con-
ducted. Election of new board members and voting on
proposed changes in the Society's By-Laws.(look for a
notice in this newsletter) Expect a mailing with more
information later this fall. The Society business meeting
should be held on Saturday the 6th but check your mail for
final details

**And yet Another 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 Execu-
tive Committee and/or Board to express your willingness
to serve.

We are hoping to put up a slate of nine candidates for
positions on the board of directors. That's a pretty tall
order. So go ahead, what have you got to loose besides
time and sanity... No seriously, I personally will offer a
sign up bonus of a cup of coffee and a hearty hand
shake...And that's just a hint of the many perks that could
be yours.

"GOING BACK TO ALDRICHVILLE"

David Lacy, Green Mt National Forest

The third season of the Hayes Foundation and the Green Mountain National Forest's "Relics & Ruins" field school at Aldrichville (Wallingford, VT) ran from August 2-6. Our 1999 season was streamlined down to "only" one week, with 14 returning students (ages 11-14) and 4 staff (coordinator Debra Gardner-Baasch, artist Steve Halford, and archaeologists Sheila Charles and Dave Lacy). We had good weather and good times continuing our exploration of Barney Aldrich's turn-of-the-century mill village and the people and lifestyles associated with it.

In addition to deed and census research, archaeological field work, and field trips to local cemeteries looking for evidence of former residents, we continued our practice of having an additional special focus activity. In our

first year, Steve Spensely (a teacher and member of the popular group "Saltash Serenaders") highlighted the music and dance of late 19th

century northern New England and Quebec, resulting in our students-composed theme song, "Going

Back to Aldrichville". For our second season, we included a creative writing component, with help from local authors Ursula Smith and Linda Peavey, resulting in our 24 page "Aldrichville Gazette". This year — probably our last at Aldrichville — we produced an interpretive sign for the site.

Students' mornings were consumed with visits to the town office and collecting oral histories. Redfield and Elaine Purdy, from

Rutland, joined us one morning; Redfield's grandfather was Barney's 1st cousin, and Mr Purdy related stories of visits to his "uncle", recollections of his adopted cousin, and shared highly informative, illustrated newspaper accounts (including an interview with Barney) which we had not previously seen.

Our afternoons were devoted to hiking to and excavating at the site itself, with a particular emphasis this year on identifying the actual footprint of the mill (we had focussed on domestic sites earlier). Once again, Long and Appalachian Trail hikers visited with us as they passed through the site area and observed our field activities.

The last day of this year's camp consisted of a field trip to the Adirondack Museum, in Blue Lake, NY. High in the Adirondacks this elegant/rustic collection of new and historic buildings does a wonderful job of telling the story of the settlement and logging history of the area, with collections, exhibits, hands-on experiences and state-of-the-art media. We recognized a number of objects, scenes and processes as if they were straight out of Aldrichville.

Please join us for a "Relics & Ruins" reception and Aldrichville sign unveiling on Sunday, September 26th. We will meet at the Masonic Lodge (South Main Street) in Wallingford at 1:00 for a reception, display of student work, and refreshments, then take a moderate 3-mile (round trip) hike to the site for the sign unveiling and a tour. Call Debra Gardner-Baasch (802/747-3319) for more information.



Enjoy the photos from this summer's camp!

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Continued from p. 1

Nationally celebrated artist Sabra Field contributed a very special work of art for the Vermont Archaeology Week 1999 poster. Generously donating her time and materials to create the striking image, Ms. Field adapted Northeastern Indian designs from a birchbark basket and overlaid them on a brilliant Vermont landscape that she created using a variety of techniques.

The Federal Highway Administration and the Vermont Agency of Transportation generously funded Vermont Archaeology Week 1999. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, National Life and the Green Mountain National Forest contributed funds to produce and distribute the poster. Many professional and avocational archaeologists, historical societies, libraries, state and federal agencies, businesses and others donated time, services and funding to make the sixth Vermont Archaeology Week a success.

Several people deserve special recognition for their help. David Quiroz cheerfully, enthusiastically, and skillfully designed the web page again this year. Ben Buckley rolled posters. Martha Hull, formerly of UVM's Consulting Archaeology Program and now at the Massachusetts College of Art, produced the calendar, kept order, and found the best deal on poster tubes. Giovanna Peebles, as the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation sponsor contact person, coordinated the poster and provided much important support.

Calendars and posters were mailed to all VAS members. To request additional calendars, a poster, or more information, contact the VAW '99 Coordinator, Consulting Archaeology Program, University of Vermont, 112 University Heights, Burlington, VT 05405, 802-656-4310 or send e-mail to capuvvm@zoo.uvm.edu. Check out the calendar on the Vermont Archaeological Society web page at <http://www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org/vas/vas.htm>, and be sure to invite a friend to join you at one of the great VAW events.



FALL CONFERENCE

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Confirmed Participants include:

Jeff Benay (Vermont Governor's Commission on Native Affairs), Jeanne Brink (Abenaki Nation), Colin Calloway (Dartmouth College), Ellen Cowie (University of Maine-Farmington), William Haviland (University of Vermont), Dave Lacy (U.S. Forest Service), Louise Lampman-Larivee (Abenaki Nation), Bunny McBride (Independent scholar), Giovanna Peebles (Vermont Department of Historic Preservation), Jim Pendergast (Canadian Museum of Civilization), Jim Petersen (University of Vermont), Harald Prins (Kansas State University), Dave Skinas (U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Reflections on Remembering and Forgetting is organized by the Anthropology Department at the University of Vermont in cooperation with the Fleming Museum, the Vermont Archaeological Society, and the University of Vermont's Canadian Studies Department, ALANA Studies Program, and Center for Research on Vermont.

The conference is being held in coordination with the Fleming Museum's fall exhibition, *Strong Hearts: Native American Visions and Voices* which will be featured at the conference.

Registration materials and a final conference program will be available September 1.

For further information contact: Cindy Longwell, UVM Department of Anthropology,
802-656-3884 <clongwel@zoo.uvm.edu>

INTERESTED IN SHIPWRECKS?

The Advisory Committee on Underwater Historic Preserves meets Monthly in Burlington. It is open to the public and anyone with an interest in these unique historic resources can be a member just by showing up. It worked for me... So if your interested contact John Dumville at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.
(802) 828-3051



WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON ROUND HERE

Submitted By Geoarch

GEOARCH, Inc. in 1998

GEOARCH, Inc. is one of three archeological firms headquartered in Vermont. President Kathleen Callum and Vice-President Robert Sloma specialize in three essential services: compliance consulting, geoarcheology, and heritage discovery.

GEOARCH was involved in 37 archeological compliance projects spurred by Federal Section 106 or Vermont's ACT 250. Compliance projects are generally undertaken in phases, ranging from Field Inspections (preliminary sensitivity) to Phase III Mitigation. GEOARCH completed the *Archeology at Canoe Falls on the Connecticut River: Phase I Archeological Survey of a Proposed Road Alignment and Phase II Testing of VT-CA-41 in East Ryegate Caledonia County, Vermont* by Callum, Sloma, Buchanan, and Charles (1998) for CPM, Inc. as well as an internal status and scoping document for Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. The principals conducted 17 Field Inspections that resulted in End-of-Field Letters, and initiated work on two Phase IA studies. The company undertook Phase I Site Identification survey at 3 project areas during the year. Robert Sloma guided fieldwork in Grand Isle for Green Mountain Engineering, Inc. Field Director Joshua Toney supervised the Route 2 Vermont Gas Systems Expansion project in Highgate. David Callum, Jeffrey Carovillano, Jamie Papinchak, and Christopher Ruff served as Field Directors on the Okemo Master Plan project for Okemo Mountain, Inc. in Ludlow. Consultant Jacquie Payette led Phase II Site Evaluation of former Vermont and Canada Railroad (VT-FR-316) features highlighted during Phase I of the Vermont Gas Systems Expansion project.

As GEOARCH's business name implies, geoarcheology continued to be a strong commitment for the year. Both principals continued to serve on the executive committee of NELD, the Northeastern Lithic Database. GEOARCH organized a meeting of NELD at the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America in Portland, Maine. Robert presented a paper at the GSA's entitled "Northeast Lithic Sourcing Comes of Age: From Flintstones to Rolling Stones." Kathleen presented a paper entitled "Mercury: A Fishy Indicator?" Both GEOARCH principals organized last year's successful VAS Winter Workshop, called *Out of the Earth: The Archeology of Raw Materials*, at which Kathleen presented a paper entitled "Serpents from the Ocean Depths: Soapstone, Talc, Asbestos, and Verde Antique." Kathleen and Robert initiated research on the Colchester Jasper quarry, including acquiring

samples for thin-sections and a cooperative geochemical project with Dr. James Hatch of the University of Pennsylvania. Kathleen and Robert continued their professional education at a wood identification short course, and a quest for soapstone workings in Vermont and Washington, D.C.



Kids Celebrate Archaeology Week at Mount Independence

By Randm news

ORWELL, Vt. - Kids can celebrate Vermont Archaeology Week at Mount Independence State Historic Site on Sunday, Sept. 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., during a hands-on exhibit of artifacts typically found at a Revolutionary War fort site.

Budding archaeologists can examine the everyday tools, utensils, personal belongings and military weapons that are now part of the site's artifact a cart, built to resemble a Revolutionary Era ox cart. Participants also will have an opportunity to make their own colonial-era artifacts, like regimental uniform buttons or a woman's mob cap. Period games as well as a modern-day, military strategy board game entitled *March to the Mount* to round out the day's program. Many of these activities are part of a recently completed educational curriculum for the site and are geared to students in grades K-12.

As the sister fort to Ticonderoga during the Revolutionary War, Mount Independence played a significant role in the early years of the struggle for independence. In recent years the site has been the subject of several archaeological investigations, both on land and in the waters surrounding the rugged promontory. Kids Celebrate Archaeology at Mount Independence is part of Vermont Archaeology Week, an annual, weeklong series of events throughout the state that highlight Vermont's diverse archaeological heritage.

The Mount Independence State Historic Site is located on the shores of Lake Champlain, five miles west of the junction of routes 22A and 73 in Orwell. The Visitor Center and Museum is wheelchair accessible and is open daily from 9:30 to 5:30. For more information call 802-948-2000. Admission is \$2.00 for adults; children under 15 are admitted for free. For more information call 802-948-2000.

METHAMPHETAMINE AND ARCHAEOLOGY?

by: Gary G. Shattuck,
Chair VAS Cultural Resource Protection Committee (ad hoc)

Drugs, guns, threats, intimidation, and the pursuit of history? Isn't there a contradiction in terms here? How can they even be included in the same sentence? Well, welcome to the end of the millennium.

Sadly, the criminals have discovered (did they ever forget?) the lucrative market of trafficking in cultural resources. It is estimated to be the fourth most serious crime worldwide - trailing only behind illegal arms, drugs, and money laundering. Yearly, the loss is pegged at between four and six billion dollars and, where there is money to be easily made, resourceful and wily criminals are not hesitant to exploit these opportunities. Make no mistake about it, the very thing you cherish and the reason you belong to VAS is under constant threat of being irretrievably stolen and/or destroyed.

I was always aware of the problem, but the point was really driven home during a conference I recently attended in Alabama. It was a gathering arranged by the National Park Service of federal, state, and tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and archaeologists dealing with archaeological protection issues. I was privileged to be asked to speak about our efforts here in Vermont - which has the first protection protocol in the country and which the NPS is pushing as a national model. But, there were also some truly disturbing facts presented by other speakers.

We are all aware that there are those who steal from the rest of us - ranging from the petty thief to the sophisticated white collar schemer. Larceny covers the entire spectrum. But did you know that in recent instances involving archaeological thefts in the Southwest, that the thieves possessed weapons and, of all things, drugs - in particular, the highly addictive and devastating substance called methamphetamine (also known as speed, crank, and crystal)? While I am not aware of any actual instances of physical harm being inflicted, we also heard of guns being pulled on field archaeologists. This tells me that even drug traffickers possess a benign, perverted appreciation for the value of our past.

But, at the same time, we also learned of some of the successes that our current laws are having. ARPA, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act - the seminal 1979 law dealing with the protection of these resources - has been successfully used in various and imaginative ways. The stories ranged from the prosecutions of individuals

involved in stealing and trafficking in Native American artifacts, to items stolen from Civil War battlefields, to, of all things, the theft (and successful recovery) of illuminated manuscripts from the Vatican library and two Spanish monasteries by a highly respected mid-western art scholar.

Perhaps the most moving presentation had to do with the recovery of an 18th Century Catholic priest's robe in Arizona. As we all know, it is the context of historical items that gives them a substantial part of their value and this was certainly no exception.

Through the use of experts, it was established that this particular robe had been assembled in Mexico City in the mid-1700's, using lace brought to the New World from Italy. After it was finished, it was transported to the Spanish frontier in northern Arizona for use by a priest working with the Indians. The introduction of Catholicism to the frontier was a violent, sudden occurrence and was, initially, heavily resisted. Through the history of the Church and this particular tribe, it was learned that the priest wearing this robe was killed when he was thrown off a cliff during an uprising. Incredibly, you can still clearly see that the fabric is stained with his blood!

The robe was saved by the tribe and it went on to become an important part of their religion as it evolved over the centuries. It was recently entrusted to an elder for safekeeping, but, when it became known to an area artifact "dealer," it immediately became a target for profit. He was able to entice it away from the elderly, destitute woman and, eventually, offer it for sale to an undercover law enforcement officer. The robe was recovered and he was prosecuted. But not all collectors are so brazenly driven by profit.

One of the attendees at the conference was a member of the Alabama Historical Society and he told me about a phone call his organization had recently received from a family representing the estate of an amateur gatherer/collector. Over the years, this collector had gone out and picked up artillery shells along the shores of Mobile Bay that had been fired by Union ships during the Civil War. His estate had found a bunch of these shells in his belongings and wondered if the Society had any interest in having them.

Well, there is the rub. What do you say? As the man explained, they were pretty much worthless. While they may have some interest to the uninformed, they had been ripped from their context and devoid of any real meaning. There is currently an effort being made in the Mobile Bay area to recreate certain military engagements and the context of these shells would have helped immeasurably. They

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

NO real big news... the summer has flown past as summers do and VAW is upon us. The annual fall meeting looms in the distance and the VAS desperately needs YOU the members to get involved. Specifically put your self forward for one of the openings on the board of directors. I mean they took me so it cant be that august a body.... Also think of how it will sound as you casually mention to your peers "Sorry love to chat but I have to meet with my fellow **BOARD MEMBERS**" Gotta admit it has a nice ring to it huh? So dont be shy send a short bio



It will have to go out in a special mailing this fall and will be voted on at the November conference.

You can send it on in to me or to the society address on the back of this newsletter. So don't hang back. We can use all the help we can get there are several positions open this year. And if that seems a bit much you could always consider making a submission to the newsletter. Any old photos off current or former member at work or play, book reviews, favorite web sites, etc. And if that doesn't appeal you can

Donate time to specific sub-committees in areas of particular interest to you. There are lot's of choices so **GET INVOLVED**please?

Send cards, letters, submissions, and beer to:
hannahs@panther.middlebury.edu or
1363 S. Bingham St. Cornwall, VT 05753. Complaints can be sent to Ruanda... No seriously I will appreciate any and all feedback

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could have told the trajectory, the distance from where they were shot, to the very ship that fired them. But, as the man told me, "all we had was a bag of metal," no different from the many they already possessed.

How true that irresponsible removal of an object simultaneously robs us of the valuable psychological connection that we would have otherwise had.

What does all this tell us? It tells us that there is a wide diversity of gathering going on out there. From the benign, weekend surface collector, to those with money enough to use sophisticated electronic equipment, to those "like the art professor" willing to exploit a position of trust, to those who are not hesitant to prey on the weak and exploit the unwary.

It also tells us that our efforts to protect our past must be ever vigilant, that we must be proactive. Importantly, it tells us that we who value these things must not hesitate to be involved in their protection.

Your CRP committee has met on several occasions in the past months and has had some very productive brainstorming sessions working on these and other issues. We have identified several projects we believe the membership would be interested in pursuing, but, alas, also recognize the organizational and resource limitations before us. We are only a few and we do not work in a vacuum. We could certainly use some help, assistance, and input from you. Without it, many of these things simply will not be done and we will all be the poorer for it.

If you have an interest in becoming more involved in these efforts, please contact any committee member.



So write back already

(I have to admit I haven't...oops)

By Sabrina Thomas

Hello Fellow VAS Members,
Most of you are aware by now that I'm creating a current Educator's Resource Guide for Vermont Archaeology. Not only will this guide provide the general public with essential information regarding VT's archaeological resources, it is also an avenue for free publicity. As I near a crucial developmental stage for this project, I urgently request that the Ed Guide forms (from the VAS newsletter) be returned to me ASAP. If anyone wants to assist me on this project in anyway, please call me at 775-1520 or e-mail thomas_sabrina@hotmail.com.

Thanks,
Sabrina

DON'T MISS OUT

Archaeology in the White River Valley of Royalton

ROYALTON, Vt. - Archaeological sites in Royalton? Definitely. Dr. Richard Corey, Field Director at the University of Maine's Archaeology Research Center, will reveal his findings during the recent archaeological work in South Royalton at the Chelsea Bridge site and at the Spaulding Bridge site on Route 14 in North Royalton.

The presentation will be Sept. 23, 7:30 p.m., in Oaks Hall at Vermont Law School. A featured event during the Vermont Archaeology Week, the program is sponsored by the Royalton Historical Society, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and the Federal Highway Administration, is part of Vermont Archaeology Week.

One component of any state or federally funded highway project is a study to determine if the site has sensitive archaeological features which need to be studied further or should be protected. With the anticipated replacement of the both the Chelsea Street Bridge and the Spaulding Bridge, much historic archaeological work has been done to learn more about prior activities at the bridge locations. Numerous nineteenth century foundations were revealed in South Royalton and a Native American Late Woodland period site, circa A.D. 1000-1600, with lithic tool fragments and flakes, was discovered at the Spaulding Bridge site.

Dr. Corey will report on the studies which involved research through manuscripts, local histories, area interviews and photographs, as well as investigation involving systematic archaeological digging at the sites. He will put the studies into a state context and make recommendations about the need for additional work at the sites. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Calling All Volunteers!

Chimney Point State Historic Site is looking for volunteers to assist with the upcoming atlatl championship (see related article). We need contest judges, a rangemaster (the person who decides when it's safe to let the darts fly), registration table and kids corner assistants, and ticket takers. If you like working with people and are interested in helping with this unique event please call Angela Altheim at (802) 759-2412.

BUT WAIT...

THERE IS MORE

By Audrey Porsche

Chimney Point Prepares for VAW Kick-Off Event with Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship

It is time to brush off your spear throwers, flex your muscles and head out to Chimney Point State Historic Site on Saturday, September 18th, for the fourth annual Northeastern Atlatl Championship! Woodland bison, moose and other cardboard targets will dot the landscape for modern day hunters to test their skills using this ancient hunting technique. For those who don't feel inclined to fling a spear, there will be a wide variety of Native American crafts being demonstrated by artisans from throughout the region—everything from flintknapping to making cordage to fire lighting to making elm bark baskets.

In the Kids Corner there will be hands-on activities for children to explore the skills used by archaeologists to learn more about the prehistoric past. Children (and young-at-heart adults) will also have a chance to test their throwing skills during a game of Chunky, a Native American dart throwing game. Warm-ups for contestants begin at 10:30 with the actual contest starting at 11:00. Craft demonstrations and other activities will go throughout the day until 4:30. Refreshments will be available for purchase at the site, or bring your own picnic lunch and enjoy the Lake Champlain scenery and the rich sights of ancient crafts in progress!

The event will take place, rain or shine. The Northeastern Open Atlatl Championships is being held in conjunction with Vermont Archaeology Week and is cosponsored by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Vermont Fish and Wildlife, and the Vermont Archaeological Society.

To register as a contestant or for more information on the day's events, call or write Angela Altheim at Chimney Point State Historic Site 7305 VT Route 125, Addison, VT 05491; telephone # (802) 759-2412.

Make Your Own Atlatl at September 16th Workshop

On September 17, (the Thursday before the atlatl contest) atlatl champion, Robert Berg, will conduct a day-long atlatl workshop at Chimney Point State Historic Site. Participants will leave with an atlatl and three darts that they make and will also receive instruction on using the atlatl during a practice session. Cost is \$50 and includes all materials. Bring a lunch and come prepared for some fun! Pre-registration required. Call (802) 759-2412 or write Chimney Point State Historic Site, 7305 VT Route 125, Addison, VT 05491.

NOTICE
of an
AMENDMENT TO THE BYLAWS

Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.
Annual Meeting November 6, 1999
University of Vermont
Burlington, Vermont

This notice of an ammendment to the bylaws is being submitted again, because in 1998 the membership was apparently not informed within the time stipulated in the bylaws.

VOTING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ANNUAL MEETING AND IS RESTRICTED TO VAS MEMBERS.

In keeping with the goals of the society *Bylaws of the Vermont Archaeological Society* [Section §2(a)], and the stated wishes of the membership (preliminary questionnaire results say a very high percent of members desire the VAS's increased advocacy), the VAS board is recommending that a committee be established to strongly advocate the protection of archeological resources at local, state, and national levels. The majority of archeological research in Vermont, as elsewhere, is conducted for public good in compliance with local, state, or national directives. In addition, many archeological sites are on private lands, and can only be protected through encouraging a vital sense of private stewardship.

That an amendment be made to the *Bylaws of the Vermont Archaeological Society* under Article VIII, called Section §11, for establishing a new standing committee:

Cultural Resource Protection & Quality. *This committee will be responsible for seeking new ways, and protecting the existing ways, to protect non-renewable cultural resources at local, state, and national levels and to improve the quality of archeological research. Because the society is Vermont's only state-wide archeological non-profit advocacy group, the committee will monitor for any government, community, or private undertakings that may affect archeological sites and spearhead the society's actions to protect our "Rich and Ancient Heritage." The committee will 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, archeological research, and mandated public outreach efforts.*

Community Archaeology

by Sheila Charles

Illustrating their vast interest in the archaeological research of historic sites in their community, nearly 100 Vermont residents volunteered their time to assist in public archaeology projects during the summer of 1999. Ranging in ages from 8 to 80, these individuals took days previously scheduled for work, school and vacation to assist in the archaeological exploration of Vermont's heritage in Quechee, Brownington, Wallingford and Rutland. In their own words, they derived personal benefits including achieving girl scout Cadet Senior merit badges ("Digging Through the Past"), participating in a "professionally supervised" archaeological excavation, and surviving Vermont's summer heat, humidity, and flying insects to conduct a worthwhile community service project. Confirming my suspicions regarding the type of individuals interested in Vermont archaeology, these community members ran the gamut of ages, gender, and occupations (including educators, art librarians, museum administrators, nurses, business associates, masons, surveyors, retired executives, journalists, photographers, anthropology graduates, law school students, and even the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation Director Eric Gilbertson and Historic Sites Operation Chief John Dumville)! Numerous volunteers had previous field and/or archaeological experience, some both in the United States and in foreign lands. Their skills and knowledge were greatly appreciated and utilized for often they maximized the amount of information derived from the site.

At the State's newest historic site, the c.1786 Burtch-Udall/Theron Boyd Homestead (VT-WN-290) in Quechee, 38 volunteers in the week-long dig arranged and funded by the Friends of the Burtch-Udall Homestead. Testing comprised of 35 shovel test pits focused on the proposed road access and parking lot in the hay field south of the 180 year old barn which will ultimately serve as a visitor's center. Although as expected, no significant archaeological features were identified and historic artifacts were few in number and widely scattered, volunteers were undaunted and relished the chance to participate in the process directed at introducing the historic homestead to the public with displays outlining land development and agricultural policies in Vermont.

In Brownington tucked inside the Northeast Kingdom, over a dozen volunteers assisted in an excavation at the Old Stone House Museum, a 4-story granite block structure within the Brownington National Register Historic District. The Old Stone

House is now a museum of regional history owned and operated by the Orleans County Historical Society. The impressive museum was formerly a dormitory built c.1836 by Alexander Lucius Twilight (1795-1857), the nation's first college graduate (Middlebury, 1823) and state legislator (Vermont House of Representatives, 1836) of African-American heritage. Funded by the Orleans County Historical Society, with support of a matching grant from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, archaeological testing preceded planned restoration of a failing 5 foot high stone retaining wall which borders a 15 by 37 foot terrace at the building's rear. Although the purpose of the retaining wall and terrace was previously unknown, archaeological investigation confirmed the presence of a cistern in the west half of the terrace. Comprised of thickly mortared granite blocks and siltstone slabs, the approximately 8 foot square cistern was fed rainwater via gutters and downspouts from the building's roof. The stored water was then gravity fed into the root cellar and kitchen. Although the majority of the cistern contains fill and structural rubble, patience and endurance revealed an intact primary trash deposit with domestic debris at just over 1 meter below the ground surface. Artifacts encountered near the base of the cistern include several leather shoes, a brass button, a carriage wheel, stove pipe, a metal birdcage, white earthenware and porcelain, a glass eyedropper, several whole medicinal bottles and a whole gray salt glazed stoneware jug manufactured by L.H. Fenton of St. Johnsbury, Vermont! Volunteers will be used to help fully process artifacts in the museum's archaeological laboratory.

These successful public archaeology projects illustrate the great community interest in archaeological research and Vermont's heritage.

VAS GREETES THE NEW MILLENNIUM

By Kathleen E. Callum

Fall 1999 affords an excellent opportunity to take another look at the VAS's role safeguarding the future of Vermont's archeological sites. I am honored to represent the VAS as President during this momentous time, and look forward to sharing the upcoming challenges of the new millenium with you. As a Vermont citizen and consulting archeologist, I am increasingly distressed to witness the tragic loss of at least one of our state's endangered archeological sites per day. The loss of Vermont's archeological sites, historic structures, traditional cultural places, and other cultural re

sources severely handicaps our sense of identity and potential for increased heritage tourism. This October, the world's population will surge past the 6 billion mark. The future promises to place even more cultural and natural pressure's on our state's rich and ancient heritage.

As Vermont's only non-profit organization encompassing all underwater and terrestrial archeological sites, we have a unique role to play. During the last decades, we have maintained society visibility largely through a program of 2 annual meetings, an excellent newsletter, high quality journal, and other publications. The VAS well deserves praise for broadening our outreach beyond the membership through initiation of Vermont Archeology Week and a society web page. Vermont Archeology Week has demonstrated to hundreds of communities across the state the value of local heritage events. As President, I believe we can not afford to rest on our laurels for these excellent programs.

In order to meet the challenges of the new millenium, the VAS needs each one of us. If you are not already a member or have let your membership lapse, please support these excellent programs with your dues. If you are a member, please consider an increased level of involvement. The VAS Board and committees will benefit from your enthusiasm and committment. As President, my goal is to ensure the viability of each of our standing committees (such as Education and Finance) and the success of new efforts such as Cultural Resource Protection and Quality. If you are a committee member or on the VAS Board, your skills and committment as society leaders are vital. In the upcoming millenium, we have the opportunity to grow the VAS into an organization that has a high profile, an active membership, an effective committment to our state's archeological resources, and innovative programs. A Millenium Fundraising Drive to establish an endowment, our budding relationship with the Archeological Conservancy, VAW 2000, the VAS Web Page, and other innovative programs need your participation to become a success. Only you can help protect Vermont's unique and endangered archeological sites!

NEWS FROM THE VDHP

BY Giovanna Peebles

State Archeologist, VT Division for Historic Preservation

Working with celebrated Vermont artists on art projects isn't in my job description. However, for the last 3 years it has become one tiny but truly fun part of the job. Sabra Field was delighted when I asked

her to create the art for this year's Archeology Week poster. As has become my routine with each poster artist, I met with Sabra and her husband Spencer at their studio in Royalton. Doing one of my standard slide shows has been very helpful to the artists as a quick but visual introduction to Vermont archeology. Sabra asked lots of questions and was stimulated by the overview and slides and I left her with a variety of archeology books and illustrations to begin to develop some ideas. Sabra was especially taken with photos of birch bark baskets and other traditional Abenaki crafts and started to think about how she might incorporate Abenaki traditional motifs into her design. Rather than create her more typical silk-screened landscapes, Sabra tried a new direction in her art. First she hand-ripped brilliantly colored strips of paper as the background landscape. Separately, she drew geometric designs adapted from an 18th century Eastern Woodland birchbark container illustrated in "Always in Season: Folk Art and Traditional Culture in Vermont" (edited by Jane Beck, 1982). Technology merged the two into a single image for reproduction. Her goal was to create a piece that conveyed a sense of an older time and place and ancient people, registering in the mind's eye as a Vermont landscape. Rather than produce a representational work that could be immediately "read," she wanted people to think the image and what it might mean to them. I think she succeeded wonderfully in her goal. Montpelier graphic designer Maureen Burgess took Sabra's art and, consulting with Sabra, designed the layout and chose the colors and typefaces that turned a piece of art into a poster. I hope you like it. Any ideas for next year's poster artist??



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