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Students and Volunteers Explore 3,000 Years of Native American Occupation in the Winooski River Intervale

by Joshua R. Toney
UVM Consulting Archaeology Program

The Winooski River Intervale has long been known for its rich natural and cultural resources. The Intervale and its surrounding areas have provided archaeologists with well-preserved sites that contain thousands of years of Native American history. Professionals, avocational archaeologists, students, and volunteers have explored these sites for many years and the summer of 2000 was no exception.

The 2000 UVM Field School in Archaeology, taught by Dr. James B. Petersen, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, offered a fieldwork opportunity for people from a variety of age groups and backgrounds. Many students, volunteers, and avocational archaeologists were able to participate in the excavation of VT-CH-201, a multicomponent site located between the Winooski River and Mallets Bay in Colchester, Vermont. The project was a cooperative effort between the Continuing Education Program, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VAOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and the Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP). CAP coordinated the public outreach component and was able to involve over 50 volunteers, 100 visitors, and 62 children from the UVM Adventure Day Camp, in the excavations conducted by Dr. Petersen and the 8 college students enrolled in the field school.

Site VT-CH-201 was originally uncovered by Scott Dillon and CAP in the early 1980s during testing along a planned segment of the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway (CCCH). This planned segment stretches from Interstate 89 around the north side of the Winooski River Intervale and ultimately connects with the Ethan Allen Parkway. Extensive archaeological testing in the fall of 1985 determined that four discrete activity areas existed along a 150-meter long area adjacent to a small tributary of the Winooski River. More specifically, a 400-square-meter area contained ceramic sherds, projectile points, calcined bone, and two definite hearth features. These artifacts and features taken together represent over 1,000 years of occupation of this level outwash delta high above the Winooski River.

The importance of this site, its level of preservation,
see Intervale → 5

Considering Archeology in Act 250 Review: Formal Rules That Strengthen the Process About to be Adopted

by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist

The Division for Historic Preservation's proposed rules for considering archeological and historic resources during the Act 250 process were unanimously approved on January 24, 2001, by the Vermont Legislature's Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules. Committee Co-Chair, Representative Anne Seibert of Norwich, commented, just prior to the committee's vote, that the rules seemed to be a good balance since those who thought the Division was going too far in resource protection were counter-balanced by those who we thought we were not protecting enough. Molly Lambert, head of the Division's parent agency, the Agency of Commerce and Community Affairs, will adopt the rules shortly, and they will become effective in mid-late February after being filed with the Secretary of State.

NOTICE

**VAS Annual Spring Meeting
Saturday, April 7
Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock
Mark Your Calendar Now**

Some of you know that drafting these rules has been a daunting process, initiated 5 years ago, and accelerated in 2000 through intensive focusing of the Division's time and energy and capable team leadership from Nancy Boone, State Architectural Historian. These rules have the strength of law. They outline the process used to ensure that significant archeological and historic resources are considered by Environmental District Commissions during their Act 250 application reviews.

Since approximately 1985, consideration of archeologically sensitive areas and sites through the Act 250 process has provided major benefits to Vermont's archeological heritage. Many important sites have been identified, investigated, and protected. Such sites include a large Late Archaic Native American village in Bennington on the Walloomsac River proposed as a shopping center and a Paleo-Indian site in Ludlow contained within Okemo Mountain Ski Resort's expansion plan. Dozens of important sites ranging from 9,000
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Thomas D. Seymour Bassett 1913 - 2001

The *Burlington Free Press* announced that Tom Bassett of Shelburne died peacefully on January 24, 2001, in the presence of his family. To those who didn't know him, Tom was an enthusiastic outdoorsman, and a prolific researcher and writer. He made a number of significant contributions to local and state history and historical archaeology. He received that Governor's Award for Vermont History from the Vermont Historical Society this past August. Among his survivors is step-daughter Cindy Cook, former VAS Board member (1986-1989).

Greetings from the President

Dear VAS Members,

I am delighted to be writing this greeting as the chair of a very enthusiastic Board of Trustees. Scott Dillon is serving as vice-president, Josh Toney as secretary, and Joe Popecki continues as treasurer. Vic Rolando is heading up publications and has a new volume of *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology* in production as I

write. Sarah MacCallum has volunteered to be the webmaster. Thanks go to Charlie Brown for his past service as webmaster. Brigitte Helzer and Scott Dillon have begun organizing the spring meeting, which will be held on April 7 in Woodstock. Louise Basa and the education committee have secured a booth for the VAS at the Vermont History Expo, to be held in Tunbridge on June 23-24. Planning for Vermont Archaeology Week, which will be held from September 16-21, has also begun. If you would like to help with any of these events, or have ideas about other initiatives, please contact me or any board member. Our next board meeting will be held on 6:30 p.m., March 7, at the Green Mountain National Forest Office, 231 North Main Street (Route 7), Rutland. We would be delighted to see you there.

Sincerely,
Prudence Doherty
VAS President

Vermont History Expo 2001

by Louise A. Basa, Education Committee Chair

As you plan for summer events, schedule a visit to the Vermont History Expo on June 23 and 24, 2001 at the Tunbridge World's Fairgrounds in Tunbridge.

The VAS is proud to announce that it will be one of the 24 museums/heritage organizations that will be exhibiting for both days of the event and will present a program on Sunday, June 24 at 1 p.m. The Society is sponsoring a program in "Hands-on-History" entitled "Learning History through Archaeology." The program will consist of a slide presentation focused on examples from archaeological work in Vermont and will illustrate how archaeological, fieldwork, laboratory and other activities contribute and increase our understanding of unrecorded or under-recorded history. There will be information on participation by school groups and interested members of the general public in Vermont archaeology. (For general information about Expo 2001 contact the Vermont Historical Society in Montpelier at 828-5670.)

Call for Volunteers

The VAS needs your help before and during Expo 2001. Education Committee Chair Louise Basa, invites VAS members to help in preparing the exhibits for Expo 2001, in setting up the exhibits between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, June 22, and as greeters at the booth during the two days Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24. Anyone who attended last year's VHS Expo 2000 is aware of the quality of the participating exhibitor's booth displays.

Examples of the types of the tasks are: generating ideas for the VAS presentation, designing and building displays, lettering, writing text, interest in meeting visitors to the display (included times you would be available between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. on June 23 and 24), and various other tasks too numerous to mention.

If you can help with any of the tasks that will be

involved in "putting our best foot forward" in this effort, please contact Louise Basa as soon as possible by phone at (518) 377-4389, by fax at (518) 374-2215 or by e-mail at labasa@att.net. Information about the Expo and the VAS involvement will soon be available on our website at www.uvm.edu/~vhnet/hpres/org/vas/vas/htm.

Volunteers Wanted at Mount Independence Archaeology Field School

by Victoria Hughes, Education Coordinator
Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Plans are in the works for an archaeology field school at Mount Independence State Historic Site this summer. The goal of the field school will be to investigate areas along the new ADA trail in the region of the current White Trail. The Division for Historic Preservation and Castleton State College will sponsor the class.

Dates for the field school are July 2-13, and students will be learning the basics of archaeology while helping research possible British sites at Mount Independence. This is the first field school since 1992, and the first one that will be able to use workspace in the visitor center. Sheila Charles will be the instructor. She is familiar with Mount Independence and has done previous work there. In 1991, Sheila directed the Junior Archaeology Program at the Mount. During the 1992 field school, she ran the archaeology laboratory in the Orwell School. Sheila also was an important part of the team that wrote *From Wilderness to Fortress*, the Mount Independence Teacher Resource Guide, and developed the museum kits and the Ox Cart.

As always, volunteers are crucial to the success of the field school. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Elsa Gilbertson at Chimney Point State Historic Site. Phone: (802) 759-2412 or email: elgilbertson@dca.state.vt.us.

***The Journal of Vermont Archaeology*, Volume 3 Published by VAS**

by Victor R. Rolando, Journal Editor

Volume 3 of *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology* has just been published, containing eight articles that include prehistoric, historic, underwater, and industrial archaeology subjects:

"Three Native American Ceramic Vessels from Western Vermont: The Colchester and Bolton Jars Revisited" by James B. Petersen and Joshua R. Toney.

"The Cloverleaf Site: A Late Archaic Settlement on the Walloomsac River in Southwestern Vermont" by Belinda J. Cox, Ellen R. Cowie, and James B. Petersen.

"The Prospects for Wetland Archaeology in the Champlain Valley" by Scott A. McLaughlin.

"Mutiny, Matthew Lyon, and a Missing Fort:

Archaeological Identification Studies of Fort Jericho" by Allen Hathaway.

"In Search of the Eighteenth Century Rowley Road, Shoreham Township, Addison County, Vermont" by Ronald F. Kingsley and James Rowe, Jr.

"Waterpower on the Winooski: The S.A. Brownell Site as an Archaeological and Educational Resource" by Charity M. Baker.

"Relics & Ruins" at Aldrichville" by David M. Lacy and Sheila Charles.

"Archaeology at the United States Pottery Co. Site in Bennington, Vermont" by Victor R. Rolando and Catherine Zusy.

This issue of *The Journal* is dedicated to Marjory W. Power, UVM Department of Anthropology Chair from 1987 to 1990. She retired from UVM in 1996. A long-time VAS member, Marj was a Board member from 1977 to 1980, and served as the archaeology member of the Vermont Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, a Governor-appointed position, from 1979 to 1990.

The Journal is produced in nominal 8½- by 11-inch format, contains v+115 pages, 77 illustrations, and 8 tables plus citations and bibliographies. General sales \$15; VAS members \$10. Add \$2.25 S&H for first copy; 25¢ each additional copy. Order from the VAS, P.O. Box 663, Burlington VT 05402-0663 (or save the S&H charge and pick up your copy at the April 7 Spring Meeting).

Copies of Volumes 1 (a few) and 2 are still available, all at reduced prices, as follows - Volume 1: 15/\$10 (Gen. Sales/VAS members). Volume 2: \$11/\$8; both for \$22/\$18. Volumes 1-3: \$35/\$24 (don't forget S&H for all mail orders). For additional information or quantity orders, contact me at vrolando@sover.net or 447-2416 (day/night).

"Remember Me As You Pass By" Historic Cemetery Maintenance Project by David Lacy, USFS Archaeologist

"Passport in Time" (PIT) is a nation-wide Forest Service program that serves as a coordinating umbrella for the many volunteers who wish to work on historic and archaeological sites and projects, ranging from excavations to building rehabilitations and the collection of oral histories.

September 25-29, 2000 marked the second year of PIT on the Green Mountain National Forest, with a week-long cemetery maintenance project called "Remember Me As You Pass By." This year we focused on four small 19th-century family cemeteries located within the Forest - the Stone (town of Peru), Baker-Foley (Mount Tabor), Tatro (Granville), and Dutton (Leicester) family plots. They ranged from one to five markers, and required brush clearing, stone wall repair,



Stone Family cemetery (1856-1905) in Peru, after rehabilitation.

headstone cleaning, and – in one case – the scraping, priming, and painting of a wrought iron fence.

Our work was enhanced by using the Vermont Old Cemetery Association's (VOCA) *Burial Grounds of Vermont*, as well as from the hands-on lessons provided by VOCA luminary Arthur Hyde. In addition, Rutland-based archaeological consultant, Sheila Charles, worked with volunteers on chasing down some deed and family information at local town offices. Over our two seasons, volunteers came from Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia. The Forest's 2001 project will run from October 1 to 5.

For more information about the project or the U.S. National Forest, contact David Lacy (phone: 747-6719; email: dlacy@fs.fed.us). For more information about the "Passport in Time" program in general or to get a copy of their catalog, call 1-800-281-9176, email them at pit@sricrm.com, or visit their web site at www.passportintime.com.



Sheila Charles (r) and volunteer mapping/measuring at the Baker cemetery in Mount Tabor.

Act 250 Review (continued)

year old Early Archaic sites to 19th-century settlement sites have been discovered and protected in the ever-increasing growth zones in Chittenden County. Fifteen years of dedicated efforts by Division archeologists, archeological consultants, and the Environmental District Coordinators has resulted in long-time practice and important case law at the District Commission and Environmental Board level.

However, Act 250 is very different from the federal Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its regulations, 36 CFR 800, that govern any development project with federal assistance, funds, permits, or licenses. The Section 106 regulations are extremely detailed about the need to identify significant resources in a project's area of impact and sets out legally mandated, detailed responsibilities and requirements. Act 250, written in 1971, four years before passage of the Vermont Historic Preservation Act, does not do that. In contrast to Section 106, Act 250 provides very minimal detail on the aspects of the law dealing with archeological and historic resources. Act 250 has a very narrow statutory definition of "historic site," the term used in the law; it does not establish a process for addressing as yet undiscovered sites.

The new rules clearly set out the process and time frames for how Act 250 applicants may choose to work with the Division to identify archeological sites and mitigate potential impacts to sites. It is important to emphasize that final decisions as to whether or not an applicant for an Act 250 permit must conduct an archeological study is solely at the discretion of the Environmental District Commission. This has always been the case.

An Act 250 permit applicant may still decide to alter his or her construction plans to avoid a potential archeological site and, thus, avoid further archeological study. If not, it will be up to the Division to make a compelling argument to the District Commission that further study is needed. The Division will be discussing ideas for improving our ability to protect resources, such as increased archeological district designations, listing on the State and National Registers, and State Archeological Landmark designations.

Burlington Attorney Liam Murphy and the Vermont Homebuilders and Remodelers Association opposed our proposed rules as being beyond what is allowed in Act 250. The Division, Environmental Board, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules disagreed with their interpretation of Act 250. Time will tell if and how our ability to identify and protect archeological sites will be increased, or diminished, by these rules. Definitely, the Division's regulatory authority to address archeological and historic resources is strengthened simply by the existence of the rules. In one way or another, Act 250 has been and will continue to be a key tool for helping discover and better understand Vermont's archeological heritage.

Copies of the final rule, as adopted, will be available by mid-February. Contact me at 828-3050 or gpeebles@dca.state.vt.us for a copy, or check the Department of

Housing and Community Affairs web site in mid-February at www.state.vt.us/dca/housing/histpres/htm.

Intervale (continued)

and its endangered status provided ample reasons for its selection as the location for the 2000 UVM Field School.



A Middle Woodland rim sherd from VT-CH-201.

The main intention of the field school was to educate the students, volunteers, and general public while pursuing the archaeological objective of recovering as much information as possible within the short 6-week field school. Based on the previous work, certain locations within the sites overall area were determined to have more dense concentrations of cultural material than other areas. However, the boundaries of these dense areas were not fully determined and finding these boundaries was the first goal of the excavations by the field school students.

After these boundaries were established, the excavation focused on the previously identified area of artifact concentration. This area contained discrete smaller concentrations of calcined bone, ceramic sherds, and lithic debitage. In exploring these areas the field school students and volunteers recovered a large assemblage of faunal, ceramic, and lithic remains complementing and expanding upon the previous inventory from the site.

While a full analysis is currently underway at UVM, initial analysis of the cultural material suggests an even more extensive temporal occupation than had been previously determined.

The recovery of a Late Archaic projectile point, early Middle Woodland and middle Middle Woodland pottery, as well as a possible Meadowood projectile point, stretches the span of occupation from 1,000 years to almost 3,000 years, or roughly from 2500 B.C. to A.D. 1000.

The selection of this site by native inhabitants for thousands of years can seemingly be attributed to its location high above the rich hunting and fishing grounds of the Winooski River Intervale. In addition to this, the site is located along a natural path of small streams that cut from the Winooski River to Malletts Bay on Lake Champlain.

While we can really only speculate as to why this site was important to those who first occupied it, we can be much more certain of its importance to the students, children, volunteers, archaeologists, and many others who participated in its current use as a laboratory for exploring the rich cultural heritage which surrounds the Winooski River Intervale.

A second field season of data recovery is planned at site VT-CH-201 for later this year. The 2001 UVM Field School, scheduled for June, will again include a wide range of opportunities for archaeologists of all ages.



WCAX Channel 3 News interviews UVM Adventure Day Campers at VT-CH-201 (Toney photo).

News from the Agency of Transportation by Chris Slesar, VAOT

Large Culvert Program: As part of the Large Culvert Program, field inspections for the following culverts were conducted: Bridge 15 on Route 36 in Bakersfield, Bridge 88 on Route 105 in Brighton, Bridge 91 on Route 105 in Brighton, Bridge 37 on Route 105 in Richford, Bridge 4 on Route 103 in Rockingham, Bridge 21-3 on I-91 in Rockingham, Bridge 11B on Route 131 in Weathersfield, Bridge 15 on Route 131 in Weathersfield, Bridge 47 on Route 100 in Wilmington.

The areas around these culverts were examined for archaeological sensitivity. When archaeologically sensitive areas were identified, the local AOT districts were notified so that they can develop a repair plan that will not impact any archaeological resources at these large culverts.

Wells Route 30 Bank Stabilization: Identified an historic foundation within the impact area of a large bank stabilization project in the town of Wells. We met with representatives from the local AOT district to figure out how to avoid this foundation and yard. We developed a plan where the district could repair the eroding bank and still avoid any impacts to the archaeology.

Barnett Waste Area: Worked with Winterset Construction to delineate archaeologically sensitive areas on a high terrace along the Connecticut River in Barnet. With snow fencing as a barrier, the construction company will stay well outside of the archaeologically sensitive areas while disposing of excess excavation from the Barnet VT - Monroe NH bridge replacement project.

Charleston Waste Area: Denied permission for District 9 to dispose of waste excavation in an archaeologically sensitive area on a high terrace along the Clyde River in Charleston.

Guildhall Waste Area and Bank Stabilization: Met with district 7 crew at a proposed waste area in the town of Guildhall. We delineated a small corridor through a very disturbed portion of an archaeologically sensitive terrace along the Connecticut River. This will allow the district to repair a steep bank along Route 102 while avoiding archaeologically sensitive areas. While archaeological resources were cleared, the district is still trying to figure out how to repair the bank without disturbing wetlands. The outcome is still pending as of November 2000.

Middlesex - Moretown borrow area: Denied permission to construction company that wanted to borrow gravel from the lower portions of a Winooski River flood plain.

Other Historic Preservation: In addition to working with the archaeological resources, I have been busy working with the Historic Preservation folks at the AOT. I have photo documented over 20 iron truss bridges that are scheduled for either demolition or relocation. I am putting together an inventory of concrete bridges in the state and am in the process of photo documenting (with professional photographer Andrew Kline) the Lime Kiln Bridge in Clochester for the HABS/HAER inventory.

News from the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum by Adam Kane and Chris Sabick

Burlington Schooner Project: The LCMM is forging ahead on its plans to build a sailing canal boat on the Burlington waterfront (see *VAS Newsletter* no. 89). By mid-June the shipbuilding site at the Lake Champlain

Transportation Company's ferry landing will be open to the public. This site will contain interpretive materials on the maritime history of Burlington, and Lake Champlain's sailing canal boats. The building site is conveniently located near the terminus of the new commuter rail; the LCMM hopes that VAS members will visit this exciting project during the summer.

Marl Pond Dugout Canoe: In 1997, Mr. Cedric Pierce discovered a dugout canoe on the northern shore of Marl Pond in Sutton, Vermont. Mr. Pierce promptly contacted the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation who removed the remains from the pond for preservation. The dugout was transported to the LCMM where it was examined, measured, and deposited in Lake Champlain in order to preserve the fragile wood. In January 2001, the conservation of this rare resource will begin in the LCMM conservation laboratory. Funding for this project was provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program. The conservation of the waterlogged wood will involve a combination of impregnating the wood cells with Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) and freeze drying to remove remaining water. As the discovery of Native American watercraft in Vermont is very uncommon, the importance of preserving this dugout for future study cannot be overstated.



LCMM staff re-raising the Marl Pond Dugout Canoe in January 2001 (Chris Sabick photo).

O.J. Walker Artifact Conservation Project: During the summer of 1998 the wreck of the sailing canal schooner O.J. Walker was opened as a site in the Lake Champlain Underwater Historic Preserve system. In order to prepare the site for public visitation a number of artifacts were removed from the wreck. Twelve of these artifacts, including eleven pieces of the schooner's rigging, and a brass cornet have been in wet storage since their raising. Through a Technical Assistance Grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program these artifacts are now undergoing conservation in the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum's conservation laboratory. These artifacts, along with the information gathered from the

field investigations of the O. J. Walker, will be used in the public interpretation of the ongoing Burlington Schooner Project.

USCG Photo Documentation Project: In November and early December the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, under contract with the United States Coast Guard, carried out the photo documentation of ten Aids to Navigation in Vermont that are slated for demolition and replacement. Nine of these light towers are located along the length of Lake Champlain between Whitehall and Isle La Motte, the final tower is located near Newport, Vermont on Lake Memphremagog. These navigational aids were constructed during the early twentieth century and have been in operation since that time, making them eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, a detailed photographic record of each tower needed to be obtained before their removal and replacement with modern equipment.

Book Reviews

The first three reviews submitted by Prudence Doherty

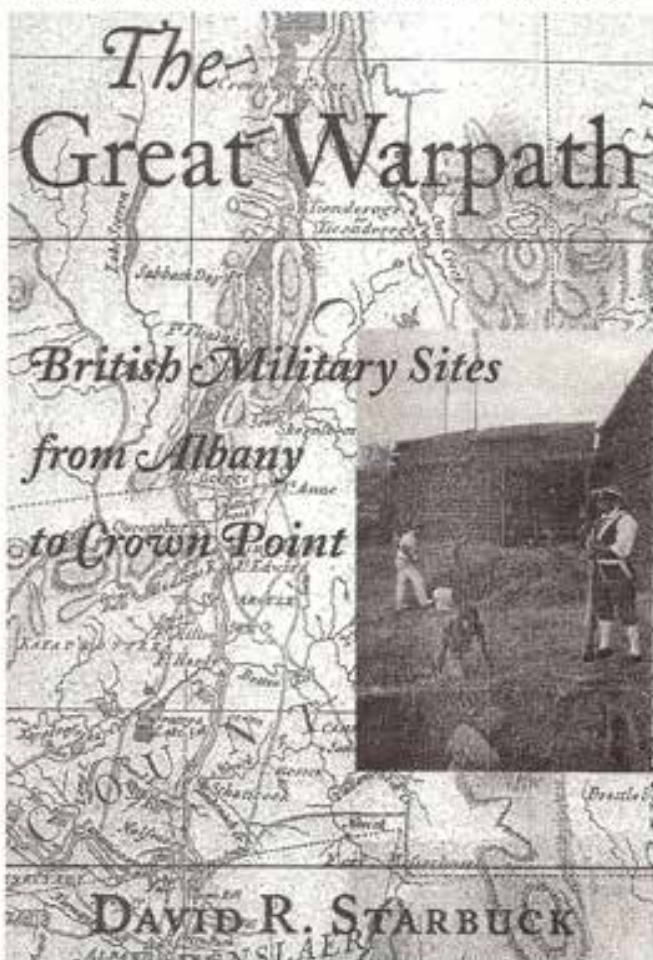
Two local publishers, University Press of New England in Hanover, N.H., and Images from the Past, Inc. in Bennington, have recently issued three books that should interest VAS members. All three books look at familiar subjects from unique perspectives.

The Great Warpath: British Military Sites from Albany to Crown Point, by David R. Starbuck. University Press of New England, Hanover, NH, 1999, xv+205pp., \$19.95.

In *The Great Warpath*, David Starbuck examines familiar events in America's past from the unique perspective of an archaeologist. As the British, French, Americans and their allies struggled to control North America in the eighteenth century, the waterways of Starbuck's "Great Warpath"—the Hudson River, Lake George, Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River—were repeatedly the setting for military engagements. As a result, *The Great Warpath* "has the greatest density of eighteenth-century military sites in North America." Starbuck doesn't attempt to provide a comprehensive military history, but focuses on the useful and unique information that has been collected from mapping fortifications and excavating features such as soldiers' huts and barracks, wells, and military hospitals.

Seven chapters focus on areas where archaeological investigations have provided new perspectives or information about military installations, location of engagements, and military life. Starbuck begins with accounts of archaeological investigations at two sites associated with confrontations at Saratoga in 1777. He moves north to Fort Edwards and Rogers Island, one of the largest British military installations in North America in the 1750s; Fort William Henry, where the 1757 massacre portrayed in *The Last of the Mohicans* occurred; Lake

George village, an incredibly rich concentration of sites; Mount Independence in Vermont, perhaps the most pristine Revolutionary War site; Crown Point, with its original massive earthworks and barracks; and the waters of Lake George and Lake Champlain, where vessels and artifacts are preserved in cold and often murky waters. Boxes inserted into the main text summarize archaeological investigations at military sites in Albany, Fort Ticonderoga, and Vermont's Hubbardton Battlefield.



The Great Warpath is written clearly and concisely, avoiding the tedious detail that often characterizes archaeological reports. Anecdotes, such as acknowledging the role of woodchucks in discovering the well at the Woodworth farm or recounting the removal of 25 feet of tourist trash (layers of coins, flash cubes, and gum wrappers) from the well at Fort William Henry, keep the narrative lively. The artifact illustrations, excavation photos, and site maps are well chosen and complement the text. The narrative and pleasing format are interrupted with multi-page boxes that may cause readers to skip pages, despite the interesting topics explored in the boxes such as the role of women at military camps. With *The Great Warpath*, Starbuck successfully achieves his goal of writing a book that will help reintroduce readers to an important aspect of colonial history. Since 1985, Starbuck's enthusiasm has attracted large numbers of students and volunteers to join him on projects along *The Great Warpath*. Readers of this volume may be among

the first to sign up for future projects.

The Voice of the Dawn: An Autohistory of the Abenaki Nation, by Frederick Wiseman. University Press of New England, Hanover, NH, 2000, xvii+301pp., \$19.94.

Perspective is the key element underlying Fred Wiseman's *The Voice of the Dawn*. As a member of the Abenaki Nation of Missisquoi, Wiseman is committed to telling the story of the Abenaki people from an "interior" viewpoint. He is also committed to Native sovereignty. Wiseman does not disregard science, archaeology and ethnohistory, but rather "repatriates" data to regain Native control of the story.

Although Wiseman deals in part with a past that is familiar to archaeologists, his Abenaki perspective leads to some significant renaming and retelling. The familiar labels of prehistoric, Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, Contact and historic periods are replaced with terms that for Wiseman better reflect an "interior" view. The book is divided into two main sections. "Before the Darkness," before European colonization, includes four periods that extended from 13,000 to 400 years ago: 1) the coming of the great animals, or the years of the adebaskedon (mammoth); 2) the forest closes in, the years of the moose; 3) the land becomes warm, the years of the log ships; 4) the coming of the other, the years of corn. Wiseman describes life in these four eras using a first person plural voice ("we") and Abenaki vocabulary and stories rather than the vocabulary of academic prehistorians and archaeologists.

Wiseman, believing that "modern history and its direct antecedents are the stories that will set us free," focuses on 19th- and 20th-century history in the second section, "The War for the Dawnland." From 1600-1820, the Abenaki continued their ancient way of life and integrated new ideas and materials, including fur trade with the French. They also struggled with Europeans from the south. History of the colonial period told from an Abenaki perspective does not "glory in old wars won or lost," but Wiseman does describe the strategies and methods of Abenaki warfare.

Perhaps the strongest sections in *The Voice of the Dawn* are those describing the periods from 1820-1970, when Abenaki families adopted a variety of strategies to prevail against the darkness; 1970-1994, when an Abenaki renaissance led to the end of darkness; and the modern period, which began in 1995 and has led to many families coming out of obscurity. These sections emphasize the continuity of the Abenaki community, despite external stresses such as the eugenics movement of the 1920s, the excavation of a cemetery in the 1970s, the political double standards of the 1980s, and court decisions of the 1990s. For Wiseman, the story he has told is part of the process that will help "the greater Abenaki Nation . . . realize its dream of sovereignty" in the modern period.

Following the main text, Wiseman includes extremely useful information on Abenaki place names, herbal uses, and sources. Appendix 3 includes an

annotated list of resources for students and educators on topics ranging from museums to Abenaki fiction and music. His evaluations are frank and reflect his Native perspective. For example, he points out that some of the artifact collections at the Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes may be from desecrated graves and should be returned to the Earth. On the other hand, he notes that the Chimney Point State Historic Site exhibits were designed with input from the Abenaki Nation and that the Ethan Allen Homestead has responded to the Abenaki renaissance with a number of educational programs. Wiseman provides detailed bibliographic notes for each chapter, as well as an extensive bibliography. He also provides explanations of the book's illustrations, which are mostly photographs of original paintings, Abenaki artifacts and reproductions that he has commissioned and collected since 1990.

The Voice of the Dawn continues the story presented in Haviland and Power's *The Original Vermonsters* and Colin Calloway's *The Western Abenakis of Vermont, 1600-1800*. For those interested in the on-going story of the Abenaki, it is required and rewarding reading.

Remains Unknown: The Final Journey of a Human Spirit, by Michael Caduto. Images from the Past, Inc., Bennington, Vt., 1999, 69pp., \$15.

In *Remains Unknown*, educator and storyteller Michael Caduto explores issues surrounding the treatment of human remains. In this slim volume, Caduto recounts the modern-day reburial of a skeleton, probably of a Mexican soldier, that for years was used to teach human anatomy. The narrator and his friends rebury the skeleton using rituals and practices based on "Native belief in the importance of burial and human dignity, and how the body must be at peace before the spirit can make its final journey to the spirit world." The blurred boundary between fiction and nonfiction is a bit disconcerting. For example, the account is set in Vermont, but Caduto uses town names not on any Vermont map. The narrator's friends appear to be closely based on two real people who are very involved in Native reburial issues, but they are assigned fictional names. However, readers will appreciate the concern and care that motivate the narrator and his friends to find the right cemetery, dig a grave in the best spot, contact a Catholic priest to speak at the burial, and follow traditions designed to help the soldier finally complete his journey.

These next two reviews submitted by Giovanna Peebles:

Skull Wars. Kennewick Man, Archaeology, and the Battle for Native American Identity, by David Hurst Thomas. Basic Books, Newraumont Publishing Co., New York, 2000, 326pp., \$25.

Anything written by David Hurst Thomas, Curator of Anthropology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, is always a treat to read since he's one of those rare archeologists who happens to be a great writer. I also admire how Thomas thinks about many

topics. His basic love of his fellow professional archeologist is strongly tempered by his awareness about how the profession has been a lot less than graceful in its historic dealings with the native people of America. He tells the stories of archeologists stuck in their own time in which things happened that were good for science and history but very bad for Native Americans. Thomas alternates between fascinating, detailed stories of archeological discoveries and shameless behavior by archeologists and historians with accounts of Native American responses to the trends and deeds of American archeology. If you have any interest in Kennewick Man, Clovis, the history of archeology, the history of Native American activism, and Indian-archeologist relationships, you'll have a difficult time putting this book down. It reads as well as any adventure thriller. Regrettably, these are true stories that also make for painful reading and realization that archeologists have done hurtful and wrong things in the name of science. This is a remarkable book.

Riddle of the Bones: Politics, Science, Race, and the Story of Kennewick Man by Roger Downy. Copernicus Springer-Verlag, New York, 2000, 202pp, \$25.

In contrast to *Skull Wars*, written by professional archeologist, *Riddle of the Bones* is written by a journalist. Don't make the mistake of starting this book in bed late at night since I promise you'll have a hard time putting it down. It tells the story, all parts of it, of Kennewick Man, his discovery, the conflicts between archeologists and Native Americans, the federal role and legal issues, the scientific analyses, and all the fascinating, side bar human stories of the many involved people. This book reads faster than *Skull Wars* since it lacks the weight of history strongly threaded through the former. Both are "must reads" if you have any interest in early man or archeology.

Coming Attractions for Year 2001

March 17 - 20th Annual Canal History & Technology Symposium, Lafayette College, Easton, PA. Info: Nat. Canal Mus., 30 Centre Sq., Easton PA 18042; (610) 559-6626.

Apr 7 - VAS Spring Meeting, Billings Farm & Museum, Woodstock (program and registration information in later mailing).

April 26-28 - 85th Annual Meeting of the New York State Archaeological Assn (NYSAA) at the Eddy Farm Resort Hotel in Sparrowbush NY, on the banks of the Delaware River. Special weekend package rate of \$148 per person (double occupancy) is available that includes meals and gratuities (day rates and single night lodging rates also available). For complete information, rates, and to register, call 1-800-336-5050 before April 10.

Registration is \$20 before April 10, payable by check to the meeting host chapter. Mail to: Harriet Beers, Inc., Orange County Chapter NYSAA, Box 37,

Blooming Grove NY 10914. Printable copies of the call for papers and meeting registration forms will be found at the NYSAA website (under "News Flash!" at the bottom of their homepage) at <http://home.eznet.net/~spoon/nysaa.html> or at www.siftings.com. You may also contact the NYSAA Secretary, Susan Winchell-Sweeney at swinchell@snet.net

Anyone interested in giving a paper, contact Joseph Diamond, NYSAA Program Chair, Anthropology Dept., SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz NY 12561; (845) 257-2988; or Dept. Office at (845) 257-2990. Abstracts may be submitted by mail in hard copy (MSWord disk preferred), faxed to Dept. Secretary Barbara Deel at (845) 257-2984, or sent by e-mail to deelb@matrix.newpaltz.edu.

Apr 28-30 - Ironmasters Conference, Hugh Moore Hist. Park & Mus., Easton PA. Info: Lance Metz, @ Nat. Canal Mus. (see above)

May 5 - Joint meeting of the New Hampshire and Massachusetts Archaeological Societies at Franklin Pierce College, Rindge NH. Keynote speaker: Tom D. Dillehay, Univ. of Kentucky, who will discuss the Monte Verde site controversy. Contact: Justine Gengras at (603) 776-8558 or bgengras@worldpath.net.

May 12 - Conference on New England Archaeology (CNEA) will hold its 21st annual meeting at the Fuller Conference Center, Old Sturbridge Village, Mass. The theme is "Looking Back-Looking Forward: Celebrating 20 Years of CNEA." For additional information, contact P. Fragola, PAL Inc., 210 Lonsdale Ave., Pawtucket RI 02860; (401) 728-8780; pfragola@pal.com.

June 23-24 - Vermont History Expo 2001 at Tunbridge (see related article on page 2).

July 2-13 - Mount Independence Archaeology Field School (see related article on page 3).

October (date not set) - Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology (CNEHA) Annual Meeting at Niagara Falls, Canada. Information: www.smcm.edu/cneha.

November 8-11 - Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) will hold its 68th annual meeting at the Ramada Inn in Watertown NY. A special rate of \$45 (single/double) can be reserved by calling 315-788-0700 and mentioning ESAF.

The meeting will include tours on Thursday starting 2:30 p.m. to local historic sites around Sacketts Harbor, site of the US Navy's primary shipbuilding port on Lake Ontario and War of 1812 battlefield. Send paper abstracts before June 1 to Program Chair Timothy Abel, 33512 NY Rte 26, Cartage NY 13619; e-mail at abeltj@aldus.northeast.org.

For additional information and updates visit their website at www.siftings.com/esafmt.html or contact Tim Abel. Thousand Island Chapter of the NYSAA is the local host for the meeting.

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

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