In November 2001 the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) conducted archaeological excavations at the late Middle Woodland McNeil site (VT-CH-93), in Burlington, Vermont. The site is located below the final rapids of the Winooski River at the point where the river begins its long meandering route to Lake Champlain. Dr. Peter Thomas and the UVM CAP first identified the site in 1978 during testing in advance of the construction of the McNeil Generating Plant. During the initial excavations two separate loci were identified within the total area tested. These two locations are referred to as the terrace and the floodplain and each of them has added significant archaeological data to the record of Native American life in the Winooski River Intervale.

Excavations conducted in 1978 within the terrace portion of the site identified multiple lithic workshops containing both local and exotic raw material along with several chert tools including Levanna type projectile points. The nearby floodplain portion of the site contained clearly stratified occupation levels and provides clear evidence of two distinct temporal occupations. As reported in 1978, the upper and more recent level contained Levanna type projectile points and limited amounts of pottery. The more deeply buried component contained Jack’s Reef type projectile points in association with dentate-stamped pottery sherds. During the time of the 1978 excavations at the McNeil site, archaeologists also were working on the multi-component Winooski site which lies directly across the river from the McNeil site (see page 3 map). Excavation of the McNeil site was finished and reported on in 1980 while research continued on the larger Winooski site artifact assemblages into the early 1980s. While no radiocarbon dates were obtained from the 1978 excavations at the McNeil site, contemporaneous cultural levels were identified at the Winooski site in similar, stratified, floodplain settings containing both Levanna and Jack’s Reef type projectile points. These cultural levels were radiocarbon dated at the Winooski site to ca. A.D. 600-800 for the Jack’s Reef component and ca. A.D. 800-1000 for the Levanna component, however these two point types were found together in some cases suggesting that the Winooski site Cultural Level II represented the period of transition from Jack's Reef to Levanna type projectile points. 

Vermont Archaeology MONTH Now Official

For several years, organizers of Vermont’s annual archaeology celebration have not been able to confine events to a single week in September. In 2001, the first event was held on September 8, and the last was scheduled for September 29. At the urging of State Archaeologist Giovanna Peebles, Vermont Archaeology Week has officially become Vermont Archaeology Month. Activities will be scheduled throughout the entire month of September.

The VAS board has also approved organizational changes designed to help Vermont Archaeology Month expand and grow. For three years, staff members of UVM’s Consulting Archaeology Program (UVMCAP) have provided excellent administrative support, scheduling events and coordinating calendar and poster production and distribution. However, this winter UVMCAP and the VAS Board agreed that it would be best if the VAS could receive funding to hire a coordinator directly. After examining a scope of work and budget submitted by the VAS, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, thanks to the efforts of Senior Archaeologist Duncan Wilkie, agreed to award funding for Vermont Archaeology Month 2002 to the VAS. The funding will allow the VAS to hire a coordinator and support staff. Although final details still need to be worked out, as of this writing Sheila Charles of Rutland will serve as the 2002 coordinator. Prudence Doherty, who has worked on Vermont Archaeology Week for the last three years, will assist Sheila.

Planning for Vermont Archaeology Month has already begun. The annual atlatl contest, cosponsored by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the VAS, is scheduled for September 14, 2002, and Kid’s Archaeology Day at Mt. Independence will be held on September 21 (check out the Historic Sites web site at http://www.historicvermont.org). Discussions about designs for a new look for the annual poster have been lively and raised some important issues, including the need to appeal to younger viewers and the importance of communicating a message about archaeology quickly and effectively. Although a photograph of an inquisitive cow inspecting a shirtless excavator was vetoed by a discerning panel of judges, many other great images are being considered for the final choice.

Sheila and Prudence welcome help from all VAS members and newsletter readers. If you have an idea for an event, would like to present or host an event, or see Vermont Archaeology Month →5
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Address general inquiries concerning the Society to the Secretary.

Message from the President
Joshua R. Toney, VAS President

As the busy field season commences for some, the lazy days of summer reading and research begins for others. 2002 will mark the beginning of some new activities for the VAS and the return of some old favorites. Already this year the VAS has held its annual Spring Meeting which drew an attendance of over 70 people! This year the meeting was co-sponsored by the Rockingham Historical Commission with the enthusiastic help of Richard Ewald, who has led recent efforts to preserve an 18th-century canal and the historic TLR mill complex in Bellows Falls. The meeting focused on archaeological issues related to the Connecticut River and featured a tour to the TLR mill complex and the Bellow Falls petroglyphs.

In June the VAS will again attend the Vermont History Expo (see below) where we will feature displays on archaeology around the state and provide an opportunity for visitors to explore the scope of the VAS.

The growing success of Vermont Archaeology Week (VAW) over the last decade has prompted the VAS to designate September as Vermont Archaeology Month (see page 1 article). Events will be held throughout the month of September in many locations across the state and you can always visit the VAS web page at www.vtarchaeology.org for more info. The web page also has information on publications, links to other archaeology sites, and updates on other current events.

The success of archaeological activities is measured in large part by the participation of VAS members and the ability of these events to appeal to non-members--so if you plan to attend, bring a friend. The level of enthusiasm for events related to Vermont archaeology also has an impact on the amount of archaeology conducted in Vermont so I would encourage everyone to attend as many events as possible and stay involved with your local historical societies and preservation groups.

Finally, the beginning of summer also marks the beginning of construction and mechanical excavation. Many archaeological sites are discovered accidentally during such construction projects and unless these sites are brought to the attention of professional archaeologists they may be lost forever. As long as there are archaeological sites in Vermont the VAS will have continued success in sharing and disseminating archaeological research from prehistoric times to the industrial present. It is in our interest to keep a watchful eye on the archaeological resources that constitute the foundation of the VAS. Together, we can continue to protect and preserve the important archeological sites that contribute to our understanding and appreciation of the past. Have a great summer everyone!

VAS at Vermont History Expo 2002

For the second straight year, the VAS will exhibit at the Vermont Expo in Tunbridge the weekend of June 22-23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Louise Basa, VAS Exhibit Chair, will be assisted by others setting up and tending the exhibit, but we can use more help, especially to set up the day before, Friday the 21st. Contact Louise at basaconsulting@att.net or 518-377-4389 (Schenectady, NY).

The VAS exhibit will be one of about 150 historical societies, museums, and service organizations at the fairgrounds. Look for us under the large white tent near the center of the event. Free parking is provided; come and spend the whole day - much to see and enjoy.
McNeil Site (continued)

In November 2001, after over 20 years, attention again turned to the McNeil site, which has been protected and preserved since 1978 as a result of the site's eligibility for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. A recent proposal by the City of Burlington to build greenhouses and a parking lot over the terrace portion of the site led the UVM CAP to conduct excavations to assess the impact of the proposed "Ecopark" development. Using maps from the 1978 fieldwork, archaeologists were able to relocate the original excavation units and design the 2001 excavations to supplement the previous work. The research goals of the recent fieldwork were to combine the data sets from 1978 and 2001, update the site's National Register eligibility relative to modern standards, determine appropriate mitigation strategies, if necessary, and to compare the McNeil site to the contemporaneous Winooski site across the river.

The 2001 investigations took place on the southern and eastern peripheries of the McNeil site to more clearly establish the boundaries of the site, particularly in areas not investigated in 1978. Excavations also were carried out within the central portion of the terrace location where a large trench excavation took place in 1978. Testing on the peripheries of the site showed that historic disturbance from several episodes of barn demolition and reconstruction have disrupted large portions of the McNeil site while other portions seemingly have been protected though disturbed by cultivation.

Testing within the central portion of the site supported the 1978 findings which established several lithic reduction workshops throughout the terrace location. Lithic artifacts dominate the inventory of artifacts recovered during the recent fieldwork at the McNeil site. A total of 322 lithic artifacts were recovered from 58 0.5 x 0.5 cm test pits excavated within and around the site. The artifact inventory includes three projectile points, one early stage biface, two flakes with evidence of retouch and/or utilization, and 309 lithic flakes. The tools all are made of local quartzite with the exception of one of the utilized flakes which is made of exotic red material probably Pennsylvania jasper.

Two of the projectile points are triangular Levanna type points made of quartzite and attributable to the
Middle to Late Woodland period, ca. A.D. 600-1600 (see photo). Based on their overall context and similarity to those found at the Winooski site these points are likely associated with the later part of the Middle Woodland period ca. A.D. 800-1000. Similar points were found during the 1978 excavations, in both the terrace and the floodplain portions of the McNeil site.

A third projectile point was recovered from partially disturbed soils 60-70 cm below the ground surface. This point is side notched and also is made of quartzite. Based on this points shape and measurements it is likely a Normanskill type point attributable to the Late Archaic period, ca. 2100-1800 B.C. (see photo). It is not clear if this point represents a more deeply buried and older cultural horizon or was redeposited during some episode of historic disturbance. Late Archaic horizons exist across the river at the Winooski site and have been found elsewhere in the Winooski River Intervale, but none have been previously identified at the McNeil site.

A total of 309 pieces of lithic debitage complement the tool inventory and provide useful information for interpreting the McNeil site. The flake inventory is comprised of several different lithic materials of both local and exotic origin. Local quartzite makes up 68% of the lithic debitage recovered while local black chert, likely from the Hathaway Formation, makes up 19% of the total lithic inventory. Quartz rounds out the local materials at 7% of the total flake inventory. The final 6% of the total debitage sample is made up of exotic materials including Kineo rhyolite and Onondaga chert. Similar local to exotic ratios are found at the Winooski site and at other Middle Woodland sites in the region. Regionally, the use of exotic materials in combination with local materials is associated with the middle Middle Woodland period while a return to more exclusive use of local materials marks the late portion of the Middle Woodland period. The low percentage of exotic materials present at the terrace locations suggest that this area was occupied during the late portion of the Middle Woodland period.

The 2001 excavations also recovered a small amount of pottery in severely disturbed contexts near the eastern portion of the McNeil site. All of the pottery can be dated to the late part of the Middle Woodland period ca. A.D. 600-800 based on the presence of dentate decoration which is analogous to pottery recovered from the floodplain portion of the McNeil site in 1978 and Cultural Level II at the Winooski site. It is not clear which stratigraphic horizon the recently recovered pottery is assignable to because of its disturbed context.

In addition to lithic and ceramic remains the 2001 excavations identified three fire hearth features in the southeastern portion of the terrace. All three features were identified at the base of the historic plow zone which had been buried in some places by more recent fill. The features were identified when excavators noticed pieces of burned animal bone, fire cracked rock, and fire altered pieces of lithic debitage. Due to the limited nature of the 2001 fieldwork, the features were only partially excavated. Small samples of charcoal and burned bone were collected before the features were covered with plastic and reburied. Though limited in amount, the charcoal samples collected may enable the first radiocarbon dates for the McNeil site and help place the site within a more specific temporal context.

Despite the absence of radiocarbon dates, temporal associations can still be made between the floodplain portion of the McNeil site and the nearby Winooski site based on the presence of similar projectile points in stratified contexts, namely the Levanna and Jacks Reef components, as described earlier. Unlike the floodplain location however, the terrace portion of the McNeil site where the recent work was conducted is not stratified and therefore, sequencing components by superposition is not possible. For this reason radiocarbon dates would add clarity to the assessment for this portion of the site. A very close and contemporaneous occupation at the McNeil site and the Winooski site during two distinct time periods is probable and radiocarbon dates may help us understand the relationship between these two important sites.

This portion of the Winooski River is clearly one of the richest areas in Vermont in terms of archaeological sites and their level of preservation. Stratified remains from the Winooski site and the nearby Donohue site have provided some of the most significant insights into prehistoric habitation and subsistence in this part of Vermont. Data obtained recently from the McNeil site will add to this broad knowledge base and also will
contribute to our understanding of Native American activity along this particular stretch of the Winooski River.

Project engineers planning the "Ecopark" development, working closely with archaeologists, have been able to avoid disturbance to intact portions of the McNeil site through extensive redesign and burial of a portion of the site under geotextile fabric and fill. Through this cooperative effort, the highly significant McNeil site will continue to be protected and preserved and a community-based, eco-friendly development in this portion of the Burlington Intervale will move forward.

"Relics & Ruins" 2002: Treks to New Boston
David Lacy, USFS Archaeologist
Green Mountain National Forest

"Following in the still fresh footsteps of the Abenaki, Phineas Stevens trekked along the Indian Road from Pitts' Ford and on through what would become New Boston on May 23, 1748. His possessions were few, his companions even fewer (perhaps 40 men) as he crossed the height of land above the present-day Chittenden Reservoir and descended into the forested valley beyond. He would see no highways, houses, mills, schools or stores, nor hear any dinner bells, trains or factory whistles. That day he and his men were among just a smattering of Europeans for hundreds of square miles – a lonely but exciting adventure!" [from the 2002 brochure for the "Relics & Ruins" field school].

Our 6th annual "Relics & Ruins" field school for kids (i.e., "motivated students entering grades 5 through 9") is moving from Wallingford to Chittenden, with a focus on the so-called "Green Road" -- the historic mountain route that connected Pittsfield and Pittsford, first documented as an Indian Road by explorer/surveyor Phineas Stevens in 1748.

Our title this year is "Trekking to New Boston—Chittenden Then and Now," and we are once again partnering with the Hayes Foundation, which provides coordination, administrative services, some staffing, and funds to underwrite need-based scholarships. We will have our students participating in a range of activities, including mapping, craft and art projects, environmental inventories (including live trapping of little critters), re-enactments, a field trip (probably to Fort No. 4), and some limited digging at the late 18th-century Green Tavern.

The program runs for two weeks, July 8-19, with headquarters in the historic Chittenden Town Hall. The staff includes most of the usual suspects from years past: Sheila Charles (archaeology and history), project coordinator & teacher Debra Gardner-Baasch (Wallingford Elementary), "creative structures" teacher Steve Halford (Rutland High), biologist Brad Frohloff (Otter Valley Union High), and yours truly. The local historical society is excited about our project, and the retired Forest surveyor (and current Chittenden resident) is psyched that we will be focusing on one of his pet projects!

Brochures and applications are available if you would like to learn more about what we are doing. Please contact Debra Gardner-Baasch at 747-3319 or dgbaasch@vermontel.net - or Sheila Charles at shearch@adelphia.net or 747-4533, or myself, David Lacy, at dlacy@fs.fed.us or 747-6719. Note that distribution of this VAS Newsletter, and the deadline for applications - May 15 - will be practically on top of one another. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have an interested camper!

Vermont Archaeology Month (continued)
would like to help with the atlatl contest, please contact them. You can reach Sheila at shearch@adelphia.net or 747-4533 and Prudence at pdoherty@zoo.uvm.edu or 878-0236.
The Past and the Future of Vermont Archeology: Part II
Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier

In the September 2001 issue of the VAS Newsletter (Issue No. 91), I presented the results of an informal "poll" I took about our successes and challenges in Vermont archeology. I had been asked to speak at the May 2001 Conference on New England Archeology (CNEA) on the topic of "Looking Back - Looking Ahead: Celebrating 20 Years of CNEA." I was one of four "old timers" asked to share our perspectives. The purpose of the informal poll was to get a sense of what others thought so I could think about, and include, their perspectives as I developed my talk. Below, I would like to share it in full with you.

Presentation to Conference on New England Archeology (CNEA), May 2001:

I feel very lucky to have been in from the beginning of regulatory archeology in New England. It's been a remarkable journey. So I was honored and excited when the CNEA Program Chair asked me to do a presentation to celebrate its 20 years. He asked me to talk about where archeology has been and where it should go. I translated that to mean: how have we succeeded, what have we done well, and what work lies ahead of us?

From my perch in Montpelier's National Life Building, I don't spend a lot of time thinking about the need for more investigations on Paleo-Indian sites, on early 19th-century domestic life, on precontact winter sites, or on precontact lithic sources (or, I should say, I dream about these and other kinds of exciting research and projects, but they don't dominate my thoughts). Instead I think about, "how are we going to stay in business as a discipline that gets much of its funding from public dollars?" I think about, "how can we be more successful, and increase our sources of funding, and amounts of funding, and generate more endorsement, support, and respect for what we do as archeologists?"

With that as context, I will start right in by saying that one of the truly huge successes and gains of the last 20+ years in northeastern archeology is regulatory archeology - that is, archeology conducted as a result of state and federal laws that mandate review of development projects and consideration of archeological sites.

Regulatory archeology has been a resounding success for many reasons:
- We've seen a huge increase in archeological investigations at all phases of study.
- In most states, we're seeing a very high quality of scholarship that often exceeds academic standards.
- We've made great discoveries as a result of regulatory archeology - just using Vermont as an example, we've discovered and investigated:
  - the first recorded Early Archaic sites in Vermont;
  - the largest Paleo-Indian site in northern New England;
  - large intact Late Archaic villages;
  - Early Woodland occupation in the northernmost Connecticut River Valley;
  - Paleo-Indian sites in inland, upland Vermont;
  - a vast precontact quartzite quarry at 1,800 feet in the Green Mountains;
  - 18th-century log cabin sites; and
  - hundreds of other important Native American and Euro American sites across the state.

Regulatory archeology has dramatically increased the employment of archeologists across the northeast and has established archeology as a serious, real, "doable" profession to which kids can aspire. When kids "job shadow" me to learn about what archeologists do and how they can become archeologists, there's a much better chance today than 20 years ago that they may become gainfully employed as archeologists.

Regulatory archeology has resulted in an abundance of public education and outreach initiatives. In some New England states, it has become an essential supplement, or even partner, to museums in telling stories about the past. In a state like Vermont, where the state historical museum or the University of Vermont's campus museum have taken only modest, passing interest in Vermont archeology, the education and outreach resulting from regulatory archeology have been the primary vehicles for archeology education and interpretation. As a result of these efforts, there's no doubt that regulatory archeology has enormously increased public awareness of archeology in general over the last 20 years.

Another success is measured by the parts of government that we've infiltrated - 20 years ago, this would have seemed unimaginable. For example, most state transportation agencies in the northeast have one or more full-time, in-house archeologists, along with a stable of professional archeological consultants who conduct all field investigations. Vermont alone has three full-time, permanent archeologists within the Agency of Transportation and three large consulting archeology organizations on contract. In Vermont, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has a full-time archeologist on staff to ensure that federal farm programs do not adversely affect archeological sites. Regulatory archeology has thus taken what was once an arcane, academic pursuit and made it a routine part of pre-development planning, a normal "cost of doing business."

Success is measured by the assemblage of excellent state and federal site protection laws, rules, regulations, and procedures put in place over the past 25+ years.

We've made enormous strides in underwater archeology. Vermont took a lead role more than 20 years ago in Lake Champlain, with our early underwater surveys of the lake and development of six Underwater Historic Preserve sites since 1985. In Massachusetts, we see an active, staffed Board of Underwater Archeology; and the other northeastern states are starting to look towards their waters with more interest.

We've had considerable success in ensuring that private developments consider and protect important
archeological sites during project planning. Different states have approached it differently, but certainly our archeological tentacles have reached deeper and further than we might ever have imagined 20 years ago.

So what have we not done well? Where have we been less successful in the last 20 years? On what do we need to focus our immediate and future efforts?

In New England, archeologists have not established any empires. In the northeastern State Historic Preservation Offices (and except for Connecticut, the State Historic Preservation Offices also house the State Archeologist for each state), there are still only two (and in rare cases three) archeologists in spite of an increasingly demanding workload. This is an interesting and disturbing contrast to some other states across the nation that, although admittedly bigger, have ten (10) to twenty five (25) or more (!!!) archeologists in their state Archeology or Historic Preservation Offices.

I spend considerable time trying to understand why we haven’t had more positive influences and success in building staff in our New England Historic Preservation offices. One of the answers I’ve come up with is that our government managers often see archeology as strictly a regulatory program; and regulatory programs are not the most popular programs in town. Government and developers do regulatory archeology not because they want to but because they have to. To many people in powerful governmental and business positions, archeology is often perceived as a “problem,” a process that costs money (often times a lot of money), takes time, and, as far as they can see, provides little benefit. It’s hard to build an empire when you’re perceived as a problem.

Archeologists - both professional and avocational - generally are poor advocates for archeology, with the exception of some national successful advocacy in Congress. As individuals and organizations, we are politically naive and unsophisticated. Do you know who your local legislator is? Do you know your local legislator? Do they know you? When did you last phone them (about any issue)? Or eat lunch with them? Or talk to them about archeology? Or take them to a site or excavation? Archeologists of all kinds, friends of archeology, and archeological organizations need to, MUST, become more politically knowledgeable, active and astute.

From my long-term perspective, here are my thoughts on where we need to focus on in the coming decade.

We need to accelerate, plan, and target education and outreach to a variety of audiences. No matter how much public education and outreach we think we are doing, it’s clearly not enough. It’s not enough since we have very influential people and not-so-influential people who remain clueless about the importance of archeology to understanding the past and guiding us into the future. It’s clearly not enough when state governments choose to dedicate minimal funds to core archeology programs and staff. It’s clearly not enough when the organizations that fund so much contemporary archeology - our managers, government agencies, developers, and legislators - see archeology as a “problem.”

In contrast to this negative perception of archeology by these particular powerful people and organizations, if I know nothing else, I know that many people like archeology and are deeply interested in it. I gave a lecture on the archeology of the upper Connecticut River last year and 160 people crowded the room! Nearly 150 people sat or stood under a hot tent at HISTORY EXPO 2001 to look at slides and hear about Vermont archeology. Each time, I am humbled and inspired. People are interested. They want to know more, they want to hear the stories of the past that only we as archeologists can tell.

From my unofficial poll (see VAS Newsletter September 2001, No. 91), it’s obvious that we must do a great deal more education and outreach.

We must increase our personal and professional involvement in community planning and landowner stewardship. If a community values its archeological resources, if a landowner knows and cares, thoughtful site protection will generally follow.
• Let’s consult better with communities and landowners before and during investigations.
• Let’s inform communities and landowners about what we’ve discovered and where and why it’s important.
• Let’s provide information in useable, user-friendly formats.
• Let’s ask communities and landowners for help in site monitoring.
• Let’s help communities and landowners have pride in the rich heritage they steward.

We need to greatly increase community and landowner involvement in our projects. We have lost many more sites from ignorance than from looting. Education is out best weapon.

We also need to become better promoters of our work, better entrepreneurs, better advocates for our resource, better networkers with the many potential partners who can support us, and let’s become much better story tellers of the many wondrous things we have learned about the past.

I’ll conclude with an insightful comment from the Commissioner of my Department. In my informal poll, he responded to the question, “What should we be doing a lot more of?” by writing:

“Educate the public - you preach to the choir and then feel you have strong public support. It may not be as deep or as wide as you think. Archeologists should become missionaries and preach to the heathens.”

He delivers an important message to which we must pay close attention and ignore it at our peril.
Throughout the 19th and 20th century, lime production on the Winooski River in South Burlington and Colchester underwent many changes of ownership and stages of development. Archaeological evidence suggests that the first operations in this area began sometime prior to 1810 and were located on the South Burlington side of the Winooski River. Later in the 19th century, lime production companies were built on the Colchester side as well. By 1907, operations on the Colchester side were known as the Champlain Valley Lime Company. The facilities then consisted of three wood burning kilns with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons in which a considerable amount of the crushed limestone was used for agricultural purposes.

In the early 1920s, these structures were completely rebuilt “when the market for lime was strong enough to warrant extensive investment in modern equipment.” Placed in operation by 1926, the new production facility of the Champlain Valley Lime Company “possessed the largest kilns, the largest work force, and the greatest output—some 30 tons of lime per day.”[excerpts from Louis Berger and Associates, 1989].

After nearly 150 years of successful lime production in this area, the Champlain Valley Lime Company was sold in 1970 and closed the following year due to the loss of a government contract to supply lime for agricultural purposes. It gradually began to fall into disrepair but much of its function could still be interpreted at the time of the National Register Assessment in 1989. It was agreed that the site retained enough of its integrity to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and was significant as one of the largest lime kiln industries in Vermont representative of the 1920s style.

Unfortunately, there were many problems that surrounded the question of how to best preserve the site and before any decisions could be reached, the Champlain Valley Lime Company structures were stripped of their steel and completely demolished leaving only piles of brick, scraps of broken metal and glass and the concrete foundation of the kiln building. As a result of this action, the site no longer retained the elements necessary to meet the criteria to be considered eligible for the National Register.

Plans include leveling and burying the site of the former Champlain Valley Lime Company that is currently owned by St. Michael’s College. This also includes draining the quarries and filling the East quarry with material from the Fletcher-Allen Hospital expansion project. Filling and proper compaction will allow the VT Agency of Transportation to use the site of the former
east quarry as the new alignment for the replacement of the Lime Kiln Bridge. VTrans has hired the UVM Consulting Archaeology Program (CAP) to carefully photo-document the Champlain Valley Lime Company.

Quarry draining began in mid-November of 2001 and took twelve days. Four pumps drained a total of 2,304,000 gallons of water from the quarries. VTrans Archaeologist, Jen Russell, visited the site on November 28, 2001 along with others working on the project. Kate Kenny from UVM CAP was also at the site to photo-document the quarries.

An underground tunnel connecting the two quarries was now visible. This tunnel, located beneath Lime Kiln Road was once used for transporting lime to the plant. A full-size excavator in the center of the tunnel illustrates the massive size of these quarries. Several cars and pieces of excavating equipment were discovered along with other remains that may be directly associated with the quarrying activities.

UVM CAP will be completing the photo-documentation and additional archival research and will be writing a summary report to be published during 2002.

Information from:


Plan view of the Sloop Island Canalboat (drawing by Chris Sabick, LCMM).

Sloop Island CANALBOAT Investigation
Adam Kane, Nautical Archaeologist
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

In the summer of 2002 the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (LCMM) expects to conduct a Phase III investigation of an "Enlarged Erie-Class" Canalboat in Lake Champlain. The Sloop Island Canalboat (VT-CH-843) is a pristine example late-19th-century standard canalboat. It is intact in a moderate depth of water and sits upright projecting 10 feet (3.1 meters) off the bottom. Its hull has one single large open cargo hatch running the length of the deck. An iron windlass is located in the bow along with an iron anchor. The single large hatch is surrounded by a coaming, and the cargo hold is still full of coal. At the aft end of the hatch stands an iron wheel and gear assembly for steering the vessel. The roof of the stern cabin has torn loose, and now rests off the starboard side of the canalboat. The interior of the stern cabin contains numerous artifacts, including cookware, a stove, silverware, and furniture. The presence of cargo and numerous artifacts indicates the vessel was lost unintentionally, capturing the physical remains of a catastrophic event.

The documentation and excavation of the Sloop Island Canalboat will greatly expand our understanding of canalboat construction and nineteenth-century shipbuilding technology. Furthermore, the complete artifact assemblage from the stern cabin will facilitate an unprecedented examination of canaller's daily life and economic status.

The project will be carried out under a permit granted by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, and we will be working with various private and governmental agencies to get the work done. The methods to be used in the archaeological excavation are standards in the field, and have been refined by LCMM staff over the past 15 years. With the exception of removing the artifact collection, the site will be left just the way we found it. Hull curvatures will be recorded with an electronic goniometer, while the vessel's major architectural features will be mapped in relation to one another. The hull itself will serve as the reference grid for the recording process. Underwater photography and video will also serve as documentation tools.

In addition to the standard archaeological techniques, we also plan to look at the vessel with underwater ultraviolet and fluorescence lights. One of the frustrating mysteries of this vessel is that the circumstance of its loss and its name are unknown. The vessel's transom, where the name would certainly have been painted, appears to have some flecks of white paint. Unfortunately, no pattern can be discerned from the paint remnants. We hope that these new technologies (which have never been used for this purpose) will make the remains of the lead-based paint fluoresce, allowing us to read the name. A shot in the dark?...we will let you know.
Upcoming events from DHP's web site:
Contact: Elsa Gilbertson (802) 948-2000

June 8 through October 14
1777-A Year in the Life of Mount Independence
This exhibit looks at the eventful year of 1777 - 225 years ago - when American forces completed building the Mount Independence fortification and then were forced to leave it on the night of July 5, and the subsequent occupation by British and German troops until their evacuation on November 8. On display will be artifacts discovered during the 2001 archaeological field school at the Mount.
Where: Mount Independence State Historic Site, Orwell
When: 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 8
Archaeology at the Mount
Archaeologist Sheila Charles will talk about the results of the 2001 archeology field school at Mount Independence and show some of the exciting artifacts recovered.
Where: Mount Independence State Historic Site, Orwell
When: 2:00 p.m.

August 28
Battlefield Archaeology Talk
Archaeologist Bruce Sterling will share the results of his 2001 archaeological study of the Hubbardton Battlefield, placing it in the context of other battlefield studies.
Where: Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site, Hubbardton
When: 7:00 p.m.

September 14
Seventh Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship
Participate in or watch the annual open atlatl championship. This growing sport is based on the ancient hunting technique of using the atlatl or spear thrower. There will also be Native American craft demonstrations and workshops throughout the day.

Upcoming 2002 Events

June 6-9: Society for Industrial Archeology 31st Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, Contact Don Durfee at dadurfee@mtu.edu or call 202-619-6370.

June 13: Opening celebration, Vermont History Center, Barre; reopening for research July 16, 2002 (museum will reopen January 2003 in expanded space in Montpelier).

June 22-23: Vermont History Expo 2002, Tunbridge World’s Fair Grounds, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (admission charge). Look for the VAS exhibit under the large white tent.

July 1 - August 9: Archaeology Field School at Fort Edward, NY. Contact Dr. Rosemary Castelli at (518) 743-2236, or Dr. David Starbuck at (518) 494-5583.

October 13: VAS Annual Fall Meeting (place and schedule later)


October 17-20: Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Wilmington, Del. Contact program chair at meta_janowitz@urscopr.com

Vermont Archaeology Featured at State Historic Preservation Conference
One of seven workshops presented at the Eighth Annual Historic Preservation Conference, held May 10 at Rutland, was “Archaeology in the Community: Making History Exciting Through Hands on Experiences,” moderated by State Archaeologist Giovanna Peebles.

Speakers included Dr. John G. Crock (UVM CAP) who discussed a prehistoric site in Colchester, Art Cohn (LCMM) who talked on Lake Champlain underwater archeology projects, and Sheila Charles and David Lacy (USFS) who presented their latest “Relics & Ruins” projects in the Green Mountain National Forest.

A reasonably good-size number of interested people attended the stimulating 1/4-hour program.

Twenty-five Years ago in the VAS
The Summer 1977 issue of the VAS Newsletter reported 42 active, paid members (dues was still $5); Carl Swanson was organizing a fund-raising auction for June 4; and Giovanna (Peebles) was soliciting volunteers for a 4- to 6-week dig planned for the Hubbardton Battlefield in August.

Frank Cowan reported that during the previous six years, VAS members had been busy doing important field work, “adding considerable to our knowledge of the prehistory of the Winooski Valley.” The efforts included surface collecting and excavation of the agriculturally disturbed AuClair site (VT-CH-3) in South Burlington, limited excavation of an eroding portion of the Winooski site (VT-CH-46) in Winooski and Colchester, and continuing excavation of the Ewing site (VT-CH-5) in Shelburne.

Charles Paquin (Burlington’s only resident flint knapper in 1977), produced an educational display for the Vermont Historical Society, replicating the steps involved in the manufacture of chipped stone tools, beginning with a flint cobbie and ending with the finished product.

And Bill Haviland contributed a bibliography for those who either had missed Gordon Day’s talk at the VAS spring meeting, or wished to do further reading. (Coincidently, Jane Hanks of North Bennington recently donated her notes of Gordon Day’s 1977 presentation, in case anybody is interested in further information on the subject. - the editor)
Application for Membership or Renewal

☐ NEW  ☐ RENEWAL  ☐ ADDRESS CHANGE

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY (OR REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATEGORY CHECKED BELOW.

Please print of type:
NAME ____________________________
MAIL ADDRESS ____________________________
CITY/TOWN ____________________________
STATE ___________ ZIP ____________
COUNTRY _______ PHONE(_______)
EMAIL ____________________________
DATE ____________ AGE ___ (if Senior)

Signature ____________________________

Dues Schedule (please check one)
R ☐ Individual ($15)
F ☐ Family ($25)
ST/SE ☐ Student/Senior* ($10)
C ☐ Contributing ($50)
L ☐ Life ($250)
P ☐ Philanthropic ($10,000)
IN ☐ Non-profit Institutional ($25)
IP ☐ For-profit Institutional ($50)

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 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:
P.O. Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402-0663