



# VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 94

ISSN 1043-1918

November 2002

## Archaeology at Vermont Agency of Transportation

*Duncan C. Wilkie, VTrans Archaeology Officer*

This year was relatively slow due to cut-backs in State and Federal funding. The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) has three archaeologists in the Environmental Section: Chris Slesar is responsible for the SW quadrant (Vergennes to Pownal) of the state with regard to permitting and archaeology, Jen Russell oversees archaeology in both the NW (Burlington Area and north) and SE (White River Jct. to Brattleboro) quadrants of the state, and Duncan Wilkie does the Northeast Kingdom and administration of all archaeology. Jen recently took over archaeological supervision of the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway from Duncan because the archaeology was starting a new phase - Phase I, II, and III testing in the Colchester sections of the project. UVM-CAP is conducting Phase II and III studies at a number of prehistoric sites starting this summer and into next year. All past field work (1984-1994) has been reported in a number of report volumes which are available from VTrans upon request. The only exception is the historic archaeology report. To date there have been a total of 84 archaeological sites identified ranging in time from Paleo-Indian to Historic. Most of the prehistoric sites date to the Archaic Stage (Early and Late Archaic Periods). A special "educational" booklet on the sites will be available soon, as well as a more technical "summary" volume on all the prehistoric finds over the years on this large project.

The Route 7 upgrade from Brandon through Pittsford has been Chris Slesar's big project with the Fort Vengeance Monument Site's unique mitigation. VTrans is in negotiation to purchase the entire site. A portion of the site will be intentionally buried under Route 7 upgrade. This 1780s historic site covers 4 to 5 acres and will have interpretative panels and a pull-off for visitors. Monthly meetings are being held with local historical society and the town to develop an Historic Preservation Plan. Louis Berger Group schedules the release of the final archaeology report for this fall.

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## New Guidelines for Vermont Archeology on the Web

*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist  
Division for Historic Preservation*

After two years of discussion and drafting, the Division finalized the new "Guidelines for Conducting Archeology in Vermont." Effective July 1, 2002, the Guidelines are a "working draft" that will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archeologist after a year of use. The Guidelines reflect various goals for Vermont archeology:

- Ensure that archeological studies meet high professional research standards.
- Identify important archeological sites that contribute to our understanding of Vermont's precontact and post contact history.
- Protect important archeological sites or, when appropriate, gain information.
- Provide significant public benefits.
- Develop sound and reasoned public policy on regulatory archeology.
- Keep archeological studies as cost effective as possible.
- Increase creativity and flexibility in the conduct of archeological studies.

Although a technical document intended mainly for archeological professionals in the course of regulatory archeology, the Guidelines are also useful for federal and state agencies, developers, planners, and engineering consultants since they contain a lot of useful explanatory and reference information. Research archeologists are also expected to follow the standards set forth in the Guidelines to ensure they meet both state and federal expectations.

The Guidelines emphasize the State's focus on identifying and considering significant sites, in accordance with the intent of state and federal laws. They encourage evaluation of site significance as early as possible in the assessment process, including at the completion of the Archeological

see New Archeology Guidelines →3

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Address general inquires concerning the Society to the Secretary.

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### Board News

The VAS Board took a hit this past summer with the resignation of our President, Josh Toney, due to moving out of the area. In his place, we elected Brigitte Helzer Acting President until new elections this fall. We have also had a running vacancy in the 2001-2004 term caused by a resignation two years ago. We hope both vacancies will be filled when the new board takes office in a few weeks.

### Brief Biographies of Board Candidates

The following (listed alphabetically) are brief biographies of VAS Board Candidates submitted by the Nominations Committee for the 2002-2005 term (replacing the 1999-2002 term). And additional vacancy still exists for the remaining two years of a 2001-2004 term. Vote for these candidates on the ballot sheet enclosed with this newsletter (see voting and mailing instructions on the ballot sheet).

#### Emma Coldwell

Emma recently graduated from UVM with a BA in History and Archaeology, after which she became a field technician for UVM-CAP. She has done archaeology at the Cuyahoga National Park with a team of archaeologists from the Midwest Archaeological Center, and attended a Field School in Anguilla, British West Indies. This past spring she interned at the DHP under Giovanna Peebles and Scott Dillon, which furthered her knowledge of regulatory archaeology in Vermont.

"I am extremely interested in becoming a VAS Board member because I feel that the society is extremely important to Vermont archaeology, both through public outreach and management as well as preservation of Vermont's archaeological resources. As a member of the Board I would focus my energy towards young people and increasing their involvement with the VAS. I believe the more people who are exposed to the VAS and its dedication to the study of Vermont archaeology, the better chances there are of continuing research and preservation."

Emma is a Mount Holly native and currently lives in Burlington.

#### R. Scott Dillon

Scott has been the VDHP's Survey Archeologist since 1994 and has more than 20 years experience in Vermont archeology including working as a consultant with the Consulting Archeology Program at UVM and for the University of Maine at Farmington Archeology Research Center. He has also worked extensively in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and participated in two large gas pipeline projects in New York and New Mexico.

This will be Scott's second term on the VAS Board. He has served as VAS Vice President the past two years.

#### Geana Little

Geana's background is in Classics - Greece, Rome, and the civilizations of the Mediterranean.

During her graduate school career she specialized in the Bronze Age of the Mediterranean. Her dissertation research, however, was done on the Bronze Age pottery of Northwestern Portugal. She studied the pottery from a technological standpoint, doing most of her research at the CMRAE lab at MIT. Soon after moving to Vermont she joined VAS and began reading and studying about the archaeology of this region.

"I have become especially interested in the cemeteries and burial customs of the historic era. I think I could bring a different perspective to the VAS Board since my background is unlike that of most of the current board members."

Geana has also been an enthusiastic participant in helping out at the last two VAS meetings, working the registration desk and many other 'behind the scene' jobs that make these meetings work. She makes her home in Cambridge, Vermont.

#### Victor R. Rolando

Vic has been a VAS member since 1978 and has served on the board in various capacities since 1986 - as president and vice president, and serving various committees. He has been *VAS Newsletter* editor since 1995 (except 1999), produced Volume 3 of the *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology* for the VAS in 2001, and has been responsible for marketing almost all Journals.

This will be the final term of his 2-term limit. He resides in Shaftsbury, Vermont.

#### **New Archeology Guidelines (continued)**

Resources Assessment or Phase I, if enough information is available. Section 4, on evaluating site significance, constitutes the "heart" of the new guidelines. It includes a site significance matrix for precontact sites and a focused list of priority research topics for historic period sites. The Guidelines provide information on the Division's predictive model, testing standards, permits for investigating sites on state lands and under state waters, the Vermont Archeological Inventory documentation form, management of collections, public education, and other useful topics (note that the predictive model was revised both in 2001 and 2002). The Guidelines offer detailed guidance for conducting Archeological Resources Assessments; allow for a short report format when no sites are found during the Phase I investigation; and require completion of an

electronic Report Database Documentation Form so that the Division can track reports and results on database and quickly provide summaries to consultants and managers. And lastly the Guidelines emphasize the importance of public education and outreach in the course of regulatory archeology and provide more detailed guidance.

The Guidelines can be viewed on the web at: [http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/VT/guidelines\\_for\\_conducting\\_arch.pdf](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/VT/guidelines_for_conducting_arch.pdf).

Contact Giovanna Peebles at (802) 828-3050 or at [giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us](mailto:giovanna.peebles@state.vt.us) if you want a hard copy of the Guidelines.

#### **WAC-5 to Meet at Washington DC**

The Fifth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-5) is meeting in Washington, DC this year. Founded in 1985, WAC claims to be the "only representative, fully international organization of practicing archaeologists." The WAC-5 congress will be held June 21-26, 2003, on the campus of the Catholic University of America, located in northeast Washington DC, and in partnership with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History & National Museum of the American Indian, and in collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute. For further information on registration, submitting proposals, accommodations, updates on tours and workshops, or other questions relating to WAC-5, contact: WAC-5 Organizing Committee, Department of Anthropology, American University, Washington DC 20016. Email: [wac@american.edu](mailto:wac@american.edu); or visit the WAC website at <http://www.american.edu/wac5>.

Early registration is available until December 31, 2002 at reduced rates.

#### **Experimental Pottery Work**

*by Charles Paquin*

It is a great pleasure to be a VAS member again after an absence of what I estimate to be almost two decades. This coincides with a resurgence of interest in the field of archaeology I am experiencing after stopping full time work in the field seven years ago. It was most edifying to attend the recent society meeting and see a number of old friends in the field of Vermont Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology who I haven't been with under the same roof since the mid-1980s.



*Two Late Woodland replicas about to go into pot firing (Paquin photo).*

This summer I had the opportunity to work at a camp with grade school age campers. We focused on prehistoric Native American material culture for our projects. The most exiting of these for me was a successful outdoor firing of hand pinched and coiled pottery. After this experience I found myself stuck thinking about ceramic technology studies and Experimental Archaeology more than I have in years.

In September I again had the opportunity to present a hands-on pot building presentation for children as part of Vermont Archaeology Month at the Chimney Point State Historic Site. This was a part of the now-famous atlatl spear-throwing contest. My presentation was made possible through assistance from the VAS.

I talked to Dr. James Petersen at that event and he encouraged me to continue this work by making an assemblage of temporally indicative ceramic vessels that he could use for educational purposes in his teaching at UVM. This launched me into doing a series of pit firings of replicated northeastern aboriginal pottery in my backyard. To date I have done three firings and hope to do at least one more before winter conditions prevail.

Dr. Petersen has received the replicas and informs me that they will probably be exhibited in the small gallery that the UVM Anthropology Department has on the fifth floor of Williams Hall. He also informed me that pots that fail in the firings are particularly useful in teaching analysis. It seems as if you can't lose!

At present, the main purpose for this work for me has been to get practice hand-building and decorating what are very challenging ceramics to replicate. The next phase of work will entail bona

fide Experimental Archaeological work. I have been collecting natural clay and minerals for ceramic temper to make even more authentic replicas. I will pursue further study in the technology involved in executing successful firings. As my plans are now, this project will be the core of my graduate studies, which I intend to start within the next year. In light of this I would appreciate any known localities of good potter's clay readers would be willing to share with me. I can be reached at: (518) 677-3746, or information can be given to Dr. James Petersen at the UVM Department of Anthropology.

### **Archaeology at VTrans (continued)**

The Bennington Bypass has started construction from the NY/Vt line eastward to Route 7 north of Bennington village. A proposed construction haul road was changed early this spring to avoid remains of an industrial archaeological (IA) site on the state line. University of Maine-Farmington's (UM-F) archaeologists monitored the placement on protective fencing and the intentional burial of portions of the prehistoric Cloverleaf and Silk Road Sites. Due to lack of funding, archaeology on the southern leg of the project was put on hold for now. On the southern leg, twelve sites have been identified; one recommended for Phase II study, ten completed Phase I field work, and one with landowner issues. Draft reports on Phase II and III studies in the northern sections are scheduled for late in 2002. VTrans currently has five Bennington Bypass reports available upon request.

Some interesting prehistoric sites have been identified in Cornwall for a replacement bridge over the Lemon Fair River. UM-F has recommended Phase III at two sites. The clayey soils have been very challenging in the fieldwork recovery of artifacts (water screening). More field work could start next year.

The Southern Connector Project in Burlington has been slowed down by landowner of the northern end of the Barge Canal, who will not allow archaeologists access to conduct a Phase I study for the relocation of the rail yard. UM-F has submitted data recovery proposal for the Rail Site, but that is on hold. The Rail Site is a buried and early railroad turning house under the existing rail yard. UVM-CAP's field work on the Route 7 upgrade in Charlotte has uncovered some interesting historic archaeology, which was reported on at the Fall VAS meeting.

In the northern part of the State, UVM-CAP is working on a draft Phase III report of the first and

only known prehistoric site along the Second Branch of the White River in Royalton. Also, UVM-CAP is completing a draft report on the proto-historic Native American site in Alburg, which was recently talked about at the Fall VAS meeting. More field work will be scheduled this spring at the site after the Agency owns the land. UM-F field work on the Swanton Route 78 project is hold because of funds and major decision as to the final alignment. They found a number of important prehistoric sites.

Hartgen Archaeological Inc., a new statewide archaeological consultant, has been busy with a number of small projects in Readsboro, Burke, Berkshire, and elsewhere this year.

Louis Berger Group, Inc. is working on finishing up the "Historic Front Yard Study," which is an evaluation and recommendation on how to "streamline" archaeology review of highway strip-taking of yards associated with historic structures. They are working on historic archaeological sites in Hartford and East Middlebury that involve bridge replacements. The former project has a blacksmith shop and barn; the latter has 19<sup>th</sup>-century ironworks remains (bloomery).

Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis, Mo., was under contract to do a "feasibility" study for an Archaeological Research Center in Vermont. The study is almost completed with a power-point presentation and a short report with recommendations. VTrans has to find a temporary storage facility by the end of year 2002 for incoming artifacts from the Burlington Main Street project and others.

An electronic site form was been in the development stage this past year. First, partially developed by staff at the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and then taken over by VTrans' Automated Services, this site form will be an ACCESS document with pull down menus and data entry fields. VTrans has asked both UM-F and UVM-CAP to inventory all their paper Vermont Archaeology Inventory forms for an estimate of how many sites forms exist in the State. VTrans archaeologists are currently using electronic site location data supplied by the Green Mountain National Forest and Division for Historic Preservation electronic data, and Peter Thomas's electronic data in GIS format for project evaluation. The intent is to have all reliable site data and locations entered into the ACCESS data base by next summer (2003).

Visit the VAS Website at:  
<http://www.vtarchaeology.org>

## **"Remember Me As You Pass By"**

*by Sheila Charles and David Lacy*

Archaeologists dream of finding diagnostic artifacts - those objects that exhibit characteristics that define its time period, or reflect a specific culture, artistic style, technology, craftsman or individual. Although often overlooked, historic cemeteries abound in diagnostic artifacts that exhibit one or more of these attributes!

For the past four years, a Passport in Time National Forest Service Project has drawn individuals from as far away as Georgia, Texas, and Wisconsin, to Vermont's historic cemeteries. These 8 to 10 volunteers arrive in the midst of fall foliage to assist Green Mountain National Forest archaeologist David Lacy and Rutland-based archaeological consultant Sheila Charles in a historic cemetery preservation project focused on cleaning, restoring, and documenting forgotten Vermont cemeteries. The week-long project is called, "Remember Me As You Pass By."

Historic period cemeteries reflect the cultural, artistic, and demographic aspects of their time. Such sites in the Green Mountain National Forest are evocative reminders of past occupants and land use, but are under recorded and often forgotten, obscured by the regrowth of the forest and subject to nature's deteriorating forces.

Laden with brushes, grass clippers, saws and trowels, the Passport in Time team hikes to remote, neglected family and village graveyards. Field tasks include activities to enhance the visibility and longevity of the cemeteries: mapping their location and configuration, removing encroaching saplings and brush, clearing dead, weighty limbs and tree fall, mending stone walls and fences, cleaning, straightening, and repairing historic headstones and footstones cut from granite, marble and slate. Other tasks include photo documenting the site and individual head and foot stones; recording (sometimes taking rubbings of) images, inscriptions and epitaphs; locating town records (birth and death records, deeds, and histories); and chasing down data on the individuals and families behind those inscribed names - Baker-Foley (Mount Tabor), Stone (Peru), Tatro (Granville), and Dutton (Leicester). We readily share this data with the clerks of town offices, adjacent landowners, the Vermont Old Cemetery Association and any historians researching the families, stone carvers or region.

The far-reaching affects of these activities include an archived compilation of knowledge of former families and communities that contributed to the growth and development of Vermont, and



the preservation of historic landmarks deep within the Green Mountain National Forest which are visible and spiritual links to the past.

If you are out on the Forest during the early fall keep an eye out for us!

For more information about the Forest Service's "Passport in Time" program, log on to [www.passportintime.com](http://www.passportintime.com). For more information about the Green Mountain National Forest, see us at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/gmfl).

**Note:** The US Forest Service's "Relics and Ruins" archaeology project (see *VAS Newsletter*, May 2002, pg. 5) was one of the first within seven U.S. Forests to be posted on the Spotlight on a Forest web page. For information about the project, log on to [www.fs.fed.us/conservation-arts/spotlight/index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/conservation-arts/spotlight/index.htm). Toni Stafford, USDA Forest Service, Interpretive Arts Unlimited kindly patted us on the back "for trying innovative programming on our forest . . . and sharing the information in support of the New Century of Service."

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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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