



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Recent Historic Archaeology by UVM CAP

by Kate Kenny, UVM Cap

During the 2002 field season, the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) completed field work at three historic residential sites located along the Route 7 corridor in Charlotte, Vermont. The archaeological studies were undertaken for the Vermont Agency of Transportation in advance of a highway rehabilitation project. All three of the sites identified and investigated are attributable to the early portion of the 19th century, between about 1800 and 1840, and provide unique data related to rural lifeways during this early period of Vermont's history. None of the residences are depicted on historic maps; all three were initially identified during field inspections for prehistoric resources or contact with local landowners. The most significant of the sites, the Langworthy-Pease site (VT-CH-846), was determined NR eligible following a Phase II site evaluation.

Documentary research indicates that this site represents the remains of a rural residence occupied by Sheffield Langworthy, a blacksmith, in 1807 or slightly earlier. In 1807, Langworthy sold the house and a barn and blacksmith shop across the road to George Pease. Pease or his family members apparently lived in the house until about 1820. It is unclear who, if anyone, lived on the property or operated the shop between 1820 and 1837. In 1837, having returned to Charlotte to live with his grandson, Pease sold the land to Jeremiah Fonda, who lived in the house until 1842, when he bought another house lot in Charlotte. The residence was apparently abandoned thereafter.

The Phase II site evaluation indicates that the residence likely burned. The fire may have precipitated Fonda's abandonment of the property, or the structure may have been razed sometime thereafter. Despite the structure's demise and more recent cultivation activities, portions of the site remain intact, including evidence of foundation walls on the northern and eastern sides of a half-cellar, and a nearby well. A wide variety of domestic and structural material remains were recovered, all attributable to the narrow period of occupation identified in the background research (ca. 1807-1842). The artifacts recovered and the features identified provide important data for reconstructing early-19th-century rural life along one of Vermont's oldest travel corridors. A substantial sample of faunal remains recovered from a trash pit immediately adjacent to the cellar hole offers

see UVM CAP Historic Archaeology →5

The Importance of Historical Archaeology in Vermont

by Elise Manning Sterling

New draft guidelines for archeology were presented by the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) to professional archeologists this past spring. These new guidelines may make Vermont historical archeology a thing of the past. The SHPO indicated that under political pressure to cut costs, they had streamlined the environmental review process and revised the types of sites considered potentially significant.

The purpose of this paper is three fold. First, I will outline the new and apparently cost-driven guidelines that threaten Vermont's historic resources. Secondly, this paper can be a petition to the VTSHPO and VDHP to call their attention to specific cultural resource concerns. It is hoped they will reexamine and revise policies that could potentially write off 200 years of Vermont history solely for the benefit of developers. Finally, some suggestions for possible solutions will be presented. Most importantly, this paper solicits insight and input from others concerned about the preservation of the state's historic sites.

NOTICE

**VAS Annual Spring Meeting
Business, Reports, Papers, Tours, and Lunch
Saturday, May 3
Lake Champlain Maritime Museum**

Economic conditions over the past several years have limited opportunities to meaningful excavations and research for archeologists. The cost of archeology has risen and developers have been less willing to offer financial support. Less money and increased pressure to more quickly complete research make it difficult to maintain professional standards. The financial crunch has been felt at all levels, including state and federal regulatory agencies. Increasing political pressure to allow development without costly and timely environmental studies has compounded the problem. Thus, it is becoming increasingly common to see potentially significant sites dropped from consideration earlier in the review process.

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Address general inquiries concerning the Society to the Secretary.

from the editor's desk . . .

**Elise Manning-Sterling elected VAS President;
Popecki elected Treasurer for 28th Consecutive Year!**
by Victor R. Rolando, Newsletter Editor

Results of balloting via the November 2002 *VAS Newsletter* returned Scott Dillon and Vic Rolando to three more years on the VAS Board; also elected were new board members Emma Coldwell and Geana Little. Scott and Vic will be serving their final 3-year terms. All four are serving a 2002-2005 term. One vacancy still

exists on the board for the balance of a 2001-2004 term. Anyone interested in filling the vacancy please contact any board member (see left column).

At the January 21, 2003 board meeting, held at UVM's Williams Hall, the following officers were elected: Brigitte Helzer, Vice President, and Emma Coldwell, Secretary. Joe Popecki was returned for his 28th-consecutive year as VAS Treasurer, which has to be a record of sorts for New England (if not the whole U.S. of A.).

The following committee appointments were made:

Education: Prudence Doherty, Scott Dillon, Emma Coldwell

Publications: Victor R. Rolando, Elise Manning-Sterling

Finance: Joseph Popecki, James Petersen

Long-Range Planning: Scott Dillon, James Petersen, Emma Coldwell

Preservation: Prudence Doherty, Scott Dillon, James Petersen

Elise Manning-Sterling was elected VAS President at the February 27 board meeting at National Life, Montpelier, succeeding Acting President Brigitte Helzer.

We thank outgoing board member (and Charter VAS Member) Louise A. Basa, who commuted to meetings from Schenectady, NY, and understandably declined reelection. She will remain active in VAS projects.

Fall 2002 VAS Annual Meeting

Foul weather notwithstanding, 89 people braved the elements (cozy warm inside) to attend the VAS Annual Meeting at the Shelburne Farms Coach Barn. Papers were presented by James Petersen (UVM), David Skinas (Natural Resources Conservation Service), John Crock and Kate Kenny (UVM CAP), Sheila Charles (Historic Archeologist), David Lacy (U.S. Forest Service Archeologist), and Bob Bartone (UMF-ARC). The subjects ranged from historic to prehistoric archeology, in Vermont and Brazil. A great day was had by attendees and presentors.

Spring 2003 VAS Meeting to be at Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

The VAS Spring 2003 Meeting will be Saturday, May 3, at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, Basin Harbor, Vt. The meeting focus will be Historical Archeology; our guest speaker will be Rebecca Yamin, Principal Archaeologist with John Milner Associates, Philadelphia. The Maritime Museum will offer tours as part of the meeting; lunch will be catered. See the enclosed announcement for program schedule, meeting time, lunch reservations, and directions to the museum.

Ah, to be by Lake Champlain in spring.



LCMM Archaeologist Scott McLaughlin carefully records details of a canal boat's construction (LCMM Collection, photo by Adam Kane).

Frozen Canal Boats Studied

by Adam Kane, Nautical Archaeologist, LCMM

In January 2003, LCMM archaeologists were presented with the unexpected opportunity to archaeologically document the five canal boats in the Pine Street Barge Canal Superfund Site in Burlington (VT-CH-798 thru -800). These barges were derelict vessels left in the canal when it was abandoned in the early 1900s. The environmental clean-up of the canal, which was contaminated by the process of coal-gas manufacture, will encase the vessels and thus make them inaccessible to researchers in the future. Federal law, however, required that an archaeological study of these barges be undertaken. But due to the environmental concerns of diving in the canal, state, federal, and local authorities decided to investigate another, similar canal boat. To that end, LCMM studied the Sloop Island Canal Boat in the summer of 2002, conducting an off-site mitigation.

We had not, therefore, anticipated having the chance to study the five vessels in the barge canal. The environmental clean-up, however, required the canal to be almost completely drained of water, exposing the barges.

In January, the frigid weather froze the shallow water around the boats. This gave LCMM archaeologists the unprecedented chance to document the barges on the ice. We spent three days measuring and photographing them.

The payoff from these three days has been remarkable. Based on the extensive repairs evident in all the vessels, we now know that when those canal boats were abandoned they were quite old. The boats were built using the edge-fastening construction technique, meaning that the sides were built by stacking the planks on top of each other and driving long iron rods vertically through the strakes. Prior to investigating these canal boats, nautical archaeologists were able to only speculate on the methods used to repair edge-fastened canal boats. We now know of three different techniques used to keep these old boats afloat. We will present the findings from this study as part of the Sloop Island Canal Boat report.

Many thanks to DeMaximis, Inc., the Johnson Company, Inc., and the Environmental Protection Agency for working with us to make the most of this rare opportunity. Thanks also to Channel 5, WPTZ for braving the cold and putting together a Champlain 2000 story on our work.

UMF ARC Field Season
by Stephen Scharoun, UMF-ARC

The University of Maine at Farmington Archaeology Research Center (UMF ARC) has investigated a wide variety of historic sites in Vermont in recent years. The following summarizes some of the more interesting and unique historic sites we have recently studied.

Swanton: Swanton is better known as a Jesuit mission village, the location of Grey Lock's Castle, and the staging ground for attacks on English settlers in Massachusetts and elsewhere, yet archaeological survey and testing in the Missisquoi Delta area by UMF ARC dates human occupation to 1000 B.C., or the Early Woodland period. Over 40 cultural features with preserved subsistence remains have been identified. A maize kernel identified from the Headquarters site (VT-FR-318) has been radiocarbon dated to A.D. 1110, representing one of the oldest dates for maize in New England. In terms of historical archaeology, the Headquarters site was also the location of the Elijah Rood farmstead (est. 1800) and the site of Swanton's first Dutch farmer, John Hilliker, who settled there in the 1780s. A lease agreement dated 1762 gives details of twelve Native American farmsteads on the lower Missisquoi, a number of which were established in a series along the Vermont Route 78 corridor. The Elijah Rood farm may possess one of the longest sequences of continuous agriculture in Vermont.

UMF ARC's ongoing fieldwork and research at the Contact period mission site at Norridgewock on the Kennebec River in Maine, exhibits interesting parallels, and supplies insight and a unique regional perspective on a variety of themes common across of northern New England.

Champion: UMF ARC recently completed a cultural resource assessment and management plan for the Vermont Land Trust on a tract of land formerly owned by Champion Paper Company in Essex County and historically known as the "Nulhegan District." Of a total divestment of 132,000 acres, UMF ARC was contracted to assess the cultural resources of that portion designated as public lands, or a total of 48,000 acres. A GIS-based sensitivity study was undertaken to assess the potential for Native American cultural resources. Background research and interviews with members of the Native American community were conducted and provide the necessary information for future survey and a reasonable strategy towards site identification. The bulk of the report, however, concerned itself with documenting historic archaeological sites on the public lands. Twenty historic sites were identified in the field, confirming anecdotal and printed references, and expanding considerably, the number of historic sites in Essex County, listed with Vermont's Division for Historic Preservation. A variety of sites were identified, including six previously unrecorded water-powered mill sites. The 1800 Cargill Pitch grist and sawmill retains significant portions of its head and tail races and 'two-room' foundation. The majority of the historic sites are logging and lumbering related - dams, saw mills, lumber camps,

logging booms, sluiceways and company farms - all represented to varying degrees within the survey area. Three sites are especially worthy of additional research efforts: 1) A rock shelter in Brunswick was occupied briefly by a trapper/WWI veteran. The shelter's setting and proximity to the nearby Native American/Historic Euro-american site, known as Brunswick Springs (VT-ES-3) and its proximity to some of the earliest established historic sites on this part of the Connecticut River, suggests that the rock shelter may preserve significant cultural remains antedating its early 20th-century occupation. 2) A cut granite railroad turntable located on the Moose River in the town of Granby, and within that portion of the Champion Lands held by the Essex Timber Company identifies the location of the former Moccasin Mills (1889-1906), a lumbering and wood-manufacturing village inhabited largely by French Canadian workers. Little surficial evidence survives of this small mill village. The turntable marked the terminus of the "Victory Branch" of the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain Railroad, which served exclusively the interests of the H.C. Stevens and Company. 3) The "Magog Road" identifies a segment of the long distance stage and freight route that once linked the head of tide on the Kennebec River in Maine with the Canadian port of Montreal. A settlement of five families was attempted along this road in the town of Brunswick, but proved unsuccessful. Preliminary research suggests the road was used extensively in early decades of the 19th century.

Brattleboro: Archaeological investigations were conducted in three phases (ARA, phase I survey, phase II testing) at the Bradley site (VT-WD-235). Located between Flat and Elliot streets in downtown Brattleboro, the current municipal parking lot, scheduled to be replaced by a three-story, multimodal parking garage and transit-related facility, was the former location of two successive organ manufacturers, the Brattleboro Melodeon Factory and the Carpenter Organ Company. The property is also adjacent to the former site of the Lawrence Water Cure establishment, a hydropathic facility associated with the much better known, Wesselhoef Water Cure, established in the 1840s. Backhoe trenching and large open-block excavation led to the identification of several structures and to the discovery of intact cultural remains of a domestic nature that predate the site's factory period. Land transfers at mid-century refer to a brick reservoir, brick water house, spring and aqueduct, in describing the parcels of land comprising the Bradley site. On both occasions, where historically intact ceramic and other household remains were recovered, lead water lines were found to be underlying them. While aqueduct companies and subsequent efforts to supply the town with potable water are relatively well documented in the archival record, little documentation of the Frost Aqueduct Company on Flat Street survives, beyond what may exist in the archaeological record. Eighteenth-century land transfers establish that the Bradley site was initially part of the Governor's Farm (Gov. Wentworth of New Hampshire), and thus potentially preserves cultural remains predating the above discussed contexts. The site's setting on Whet-

stone Brook was one likely utilized by Native Americans as well. The discovery that portions of the Bradley site retained intact plow zone increased the possibility of verifying this claim and it also presented the prospects of documenting a longer historic sequence than originally thought possible. This study further confirms that opportunities to investigate the archaeological integrity of complex urban-industrial sites in northern New England are limited and their contribution to the field of historical archaeology is potentially very great.

Other Studies: The Sleeman site (VT-BE-238), located in Bennington, contains subsurface structural remains and artifact assemblages relating to two early 19th-century structures - a former 1830s cotton factory/mid-19th-century blasting powder mill, and an associated dwelling inhabited initially by Isaac Doolittle, owner of the cotton factory and agent for the nearby Bennington Iron Co. The Lewis site (VT-WN-238), a late-18th-early-19th-century dwelling in Norwich, on the Connecticut River opposite Hanover, N.H., is associated with one of the town's founding families. The family operated the ferry at this crossing ran an inn and gristmill and practiced small-scale farming. Excavations recovered a wide range of house-hold artifacts, and subsurface structural remains were documented. Other historical sites investigated by UMF include a 19th-century water powered mill complex in Underhill, the Hanaford site (VT-CH-726), and the 1850 roundhouse and turntable of the Rutland and Burlington Railroad located on the Burlington waterfront, known as the Rail site (VT-CH-736), likely the oldest roundhouse/turntable available for study in Vermont.

UVM CAP Historic Archaeology (continued)

a rare glimpse of the diets and disposal methods of early 19th-century Vermonters, specifically blacksmiths. Along with the remains of domesticated animals, numerous wild animals also were identified in the faunal sample. These remains provide highly significant and uncommon evidence of rural subsistence practices that, in this case, may have included the exchange of blacksmith services for wild game.

The report detailing UVM CAP research along Route 7 in Charlotte will be completed this year.

Another report that UVM CAP is presently finalizing summarizes several field seasons of archaeological research at the historic Old Burial Ground in St. Johnsbury. The historic cemetery was used between 1790 and 1853. In 1850, the individuals buried in the cemetery were moved to a new location to make way for a new county courthouse, built in 1856. Despite the relocation efforts of the day, human remains were reportedly encountered during almost every ground disturbing activity that occurred in the former cemetery, from the time of courthouse construction up through the 20th century. Given the potential for disturbance of additional remains, courthouse expansion in the 1990s necessitated an archaeological investigation. Between 1994 and 2000, UVM CAP studied a total of 144 graves within the area proposed for courthouse expansion, roughly 40% of the

total graves in the original cemetery. Of the grave shafts investigated, less than half (n=65, 45%) had been completely exhumed in the 1850s. A total of 50 (35%) of the graves contained some human remains while 29 (20%) had been left completely undisturbed and intact. In addition to revealing the inadequacy of the exhumation and cemetery relocation process, investigations at the Old Burial Ground have produced a wealth of data that will help us better understand a variety of issues important to the history of Vermont and the surrounding region, ranging from early 18th-century mortuary practices and public health to the transformation of public space.

The Hazen-Munsell Blacksmith Shop

*by Jeannine Russell, VTrans Archaeologist
data from The Louis Berger Group, East Orange, NJ*

In 1994, the University of Maine - Farmington (UMF), conducted a Phase 1 archaeological investigation for the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) as part of a bridge replacement project in West Hartford. These investigations resulted in the identification of the Hazen-Munsell blacksmith shop site (VT-WN-193) located along the western bank of the White River. Structural remains still visible at the surface included a series of dry-laid stone walls, foundation remains of the blacksmith shop, one potential outbuilding, and a retaining wall. An extant barn postdating the shop was also located in the Northeast corner of the same area.

Subsurface testing produced a substantial amount of material information on the blacksmith shop. Artifact remains included bone fragments, ceramic sherds, glass, a kaolin pipe, and metal objects. The metal objects consisted of various types of nails, horseshoes, a saw fragment, and other tool fragments associated with smithing. This site will be impacted by the proposed bridge to be constructed just south (downstream) of the existing bridge and therefore, the UMF recommended that Phase 2 studies be undertaken to determine the significance and National Register eligibility of the site.

In 2001, The Louis Berger Group began the Phase 2 archaeological studies. VTrans recognized that in addition to determining site significance, investigations at the Hazen-Munsell site might be valuable in beginning to establish an historic context for Vermont blacksmith shop sites and incorporated this into the Phase 2 studies. The Louis Berger Group focused on the examination of archival resources to determine whether or not the Hazen-Munsell blacksmith shop met any of the criteria for National Register eligibility. They also began to establish a specific context for evaluating the significance of blacksmith shops in Vermont. Attention was given to developing research questions that could focus on such basic issues as site function, integrity, and national register eligibility. Unlike other property types such as farmsteads and mill sites, to date, there appears to be relatively little data available on blacksmith shops and smithing in Vermont. Therefore, it has been a real challenge to draw definitive conclusions and establish site significance.

The Louis Berger Group investigated various sources of information on blacksmith shops from Vermont, Canada, and other areas in the United States, and produced a draft property type description based on models found in the Vermont Historic Preservation Plan (1989). Their investigations lead to some of the following conclusions and additional questions that remain to be answered. It appears that little attention has been given to the study of blacksmith shops in Vermont by historians and archaeologists. The Louis Berger Group found only five examples of blacksmith shops studied including the Hazen-Munsell site. The current view suggests that the general outline of smithing in Vermont tends to follow other examples from the north-eastern United States and can be broken into three basic periods. The early period consisted of a variety of metal and mechanical work followed by a period of narrow focus in iron tool and wagon repair. Then there was a period of decline in smithing activities with the continuing rise in use of the automobile. A general physical feature of blacksmith shops has been described but is there evidence of architectural features unique to blacksmith shops? Can the degree of specialization be deduced from the archaeological study of characteristics, layout and location? Is there a correlation between the environmental setting within which a blacksmith shop is located and the type of archaeological deposits found? Urban versus Rural?

The Louis Berger Group focused their attention at the Phase 2 level on in-depth archival research which produced some important information regarding the physical description of the shop and activities that took place during its period of operation. Among the archival documents were two account ledgers that detailed the daily functions of the shop over the course of time. It was determined that the functions of this site were best illustrated with the evidence found in the archival material. Photographs provided by a local historian produced clear evidence of the shop's structural layout and location of various components of smithing activities, architectural design and mechanical workings.

Nearly half of the operating life of the Hazen-Munsell site dates to the 20th century. It was also determined that the integrity of the Hazen-Munsell site was compromised due to the collapse of the blacksmith shop and subsequent removal of the structure. Given the compromised integrity of this site, Louis Berger concluded that further field investigations would likely yield a modest amount of information at best, with a disproportionate amount of artifacts from this latter period of occupation. Further subsurface testing at the Phase 2 level was not likely to produce the level of information that was available in archival sources, and there was no indication that the information would be considered significant. Therefore, the property was not recommended for National Register eligibility; however, archival research of the site did prove to be valuable in the efforts to begin establishing a context and property type description for Vermont blacksmith shops and smithing activities.

Information from: "An Archaeological Phase 1 Sur-

vey of the Hartford Proposed Bridge Improvement Project, BTN 2004(1), Windsor County, Vermont" (University of Maine-Farmington, 1997), and "Historical Studies of the Hazen-Munsell Blacksmith Shop Site (VT-WN-193) Hartford BTN 2004(1) Project, Town of Hartford, Windsor County, Vermont" (Louis Berger Group, working draft, 2002).

Archaeological Surveys at Vermont Copper Mines

*by Ben Ford, Project Archaeologist
Public Archaeology Laboratory*

Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) has recently completed archaeological surveys at the Elizabeth and Ely copper mine sites in South Strafford and Vershire, respectively (see photos, page 7). The methodology for these two investigations consisted of a systematic GPS and photographic walkover survey, detailed mapping of visible resources, and limited subsurface testing to locate and identify a representative sample of cultural features. Both of these mines are designated National Priorities List (Superfund) site, and as such, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is coordinating the hazardous material cleanup of the site to protect human health and the environment. The archaeological investigations were conducted for the US Corps of Engineers, New England District, and the Environmental Protection Agency as part of the cleanup activities.

The Elizabeth Mine operated intermittently between circa 1809 and 1958, first producing coppers and later copper, and was the site of a number of important developments in non-ferrous metallurgy. The approximately 400-acre Elizabeth Mine site contains numerous industrial foundations and standing structures and at least five distinct clusters of domestic structures, both industry-related and agricultural. Linking these foundations is a network of historic transportation routes and utilities. In addition to these features, a large portion of the site is an artifact of man's effect on the land. The mining process is visible on the landscape in the form of numerous mine openings (now collapsed or closed) and large multi-colored deposits of mine waste.

The Ely Mine operated intermittently from the second quarter of the 19th century until 1918. The peak of copper production at the site during the 1870s and early 1880s resulted in a flourishing boomtown that contributed to the development of the surrounding area. While the rest of the region was declining in population, Vershire expanded because of the growth of the mining operation. The mine and its associated village are visible today as foundations, walls, and associated features at the nearly 250-acre site. The linear arrangement of ore processing features stretches from a number of openings on the hillside to the remains of the smelter building nearly three-quarters of a mile distant. Approximately 85 foundations of the houses and structures that made up the village that once housed approximately 1,000 inhabitants are in six rows arrayed around the site. The vestiges of transportation routes and a water system link the entire site.



Ely copper mining and smelting area in Vershire circa 1883. Workers' housing is scattered about the main part of the "town." A line of smelting furnaces are in the long building to the right; the mines are up the draw to the left. The 'chimney flue' snakes its way up the barren hill behind the smelters. Area is denuded due to chemical fumes.



The Elizabeth Mine at South Strafford in 1962, four years after the mine closed.

**The Elizabeth Copper Mine
Clean-Up at a Nationally Important
Historic and Archeological Site**
*by Giovanna Peebles, State Archeologist
Division for Historic Preservation*

The Division for Historic Preservation (DHP) has been involved for nearly 3 years in federal "Section 106" consultation on the Elizabeth Mine project. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires that any federal agency funding, permitting, or licensing an undertaking consider the effect of that undertaking on significant historic and archeological resources. The site of copperas and then copper production for 150 years, it has resulted in major environmental degradation of the

waters of the Ompompanoosic watershed. The site is considered an environmental hazard, but not a human health hazard.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally declared the Elizabeth Copper Mine a Superfund Site 3 years ago and selected it for cleanup. For regulatory purposes, EPA is the lead federal agency. Also involved is the Corps of Engineers, responsible for environmental permitting; and the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the lead state agency responsible for post-clean-up site maintenance and monitoring. The project archeological consultant is the Public Archeology Lab, of Rhode Island, although Hartgen Archeological Associates did the preliminary historic assessment. Additional cast members include the Towns of Strafford and Thetford (including respective select boards, planning commissions, and historical societies), multiple landowners, a very active citizen group (the Elizabeth Mine Community Advisory Group - EMCAG - with representatives from all the different town organizations and landowners), and dozens of active, involved citizens. Representing the DHP during this process, I have been working closely with all the partners throughout. Assisting the federal and state agencies and helping the communities and archeological and historical consultants on this very complex project has been challenging, but also a lot of fun.

The Elizabeth Mine site consists of over 800+ acres of historic mining landscape that includes 2 huge, deep open-pit mines, miles of underground mines, several hundred archeological sites, a dozen standing structures, and historic road networks. Of three large areas containing toxic waste material ("tailings"), an area

Registration, Lunch Reservation, and Directions to Meeting Site

Registration: Advance registration not required.

VAS Members: \$5.00

All others: \$10.00

Lunch Reservation:

Lunch is being catered by Eat Good Food, Vergennes. Cost is \$10.00 (you may bring your own lunch). For those ordering lunch, we MUST receive your reservation by April 25th. Use mail-in reservation slip below, or contact Elise Manning-Sterling at 802/387-6020 (work) or elise@hartgen.com

Lunch will be:

Spanikopita (spinach, and feta filling in phyllo dough)

Pasta Salad (with asparagus, capers, red peppers, herbs, and olive oil)

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Soft Drinks

Directions:

From greater Burlington area (Route 7): Drive south on Route 7 about 22 miles to Route 22A (traffic light). Turn right into Route 22A and continue into downtown Vergennes (Main Street), through traffic light, down hill, and across bridge (Otter Creek and Falls). About 100 yards past bridge, turn right (west) on Panton Road (yellow caution light). Continue on Panton Road for about 1½ miles and turn right on Basin Harbor Road. Follow Basin Harbor Road for about 4¾ miles to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (on right).

From the south (Route 7): About 7 miles north of Middlebury Village, highway crosses railroad tracks, then climbs hill and down other side. Near bottom, watch for left-turn lane (New Haven Road). Follow New Haven Road into downtown Vergennes. Turn left (south) at traffic light (Main Street/Route 22A), drive down hill, and across bridge (Otter Creek and Falls). About 100 yards past bridge, turn right (west) on Panton Road (yellow caution light). Continue on Panton Road for about 1½ miles and turn right on Basin Harbor Road. Follow Basin Harbor Road for about 4¾ miles to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (on right).

From south (Route 22A): Coming into Vergennes from the south, pass into city limits, then pass cemetery on left. At about one-half mile turn left (west) on Panton Road (yellow caution light). Continue on Panton Road for about 1½ miles and turn right on Basin Harbor Road. Follow Basin Harbor Road for about 4¾ miles to Lake Champlain Maritime Museum (on right).

Maritime Museum phone is 802/475-2022

**FEEL FREE TO PHOTOCOPY THE
REGISTRATION FORM AND KEEP
YOUR NEWSLETTER INTACT.**

Lunch Reservation Form

Your name: _____

Your phone/email: _____

Number of lunch orders: _____

Amount enclosed: _____ (make check payable to Vermont Archaeological Society (or VAS))

Mail to: Elise Manning-Sterling
102 River Road
Putney VT 05346

Vermont Archaeological Society Spring Meeting-- Historical Archaeology in Vermont
 at The New Visitors Center, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
 Saturday - May 3, 2003

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00-9:15 | Welcome and Announcements
Elise Manning Sterling (VAS president), Sheila Charles (Vermont Archaeology Month Coordinator), and James Petersen |
| 9:15-9:35 | Giovanna Peebles, Vermont State Archeologist
<i>Managing Vermont's Historic Archeological Sites: Defining Significance, Setting Preservation Priorities</i> |
| 9:35-9:50 | Elise Manning Sterling, Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.
<i>The Luther Stone Site: What Have We Learned?</i> |
| 9:50-10:10 | Stephen R. Scharoun, Archaeological Research Center, University of Maine at Farmington.
<i>Farm Field to Factory: Urban Archaeology in Brattleboro, VT.</i> |
| 10:10-10:40 | Coffee Break |
| 10:40-11:10 | Adam Kane, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
<i>The Sloop Island Wreck: Studying Lake Champlain's Canal Boat Culture</i> |
| 11:10-11:30 | Kate Kenny, Consulting Archaeological Program, University of Vermont
<i>War of 1812 Burials Discovered at North Street and North Avenue in Burlington</i> |
| 11:30-12:00 | Art Cohn, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
<i>Archaeology of the Battle of Valcour Island</i> |
| 12:00-1:00 | Lunch |
| 1:00 -2:30 | Rebecca Yamin, John Milner Associates, Inc.
<i>Behind the Scenes at Five Points -- The Archaeological Perspective</i> |
| 2:30-3:00 | Chris Sabick, Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Tour of the LCMM Conservation Laboratory Facilities |
| 3:00-5:00 | Self-guided tours of Lake Champlain Maritime Museum
Tour of the <i>Philadelphia</i>
Preservation Displays including the Townshend Document and the Revolutionary War Exhibit - <i>Key to Liberty</i>
Films documenting the <i>Spitfire</i> and Battle of Valcour |

known as "Tailings Pile 3" is considered the most toxic part of the site. It is also the most important historic zone, physically illustrating how the steep hillside was converted into an immense outdoor factory for copperas production. From 1807 to mid 19th century, the Elizabeth Mine was the nation's biggest supplier of copperas, an industrial and commercial chemical of such importance to the nation that President Monroe visited the site in 1817 (it must have been quite a trip in those days!). Elizabeth was the site of important mining technological breakthroughs and innovations; it has the only intact cluster of hard rock mining buildings (from its WWII operations) in New England; it has the only intact flotation mill east of the Rocky Mountains, among other historic values. The site is of national and state-wide historic significance and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

EPA has now drafted a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the DHP's review and eventual signature that stipulates how EPA will mitigate the project's adverse effects to this nationally important historic site. DHP is working closely with DEC to ensure that as much of the historic site as possible is preserved yet the State's future O&M annual costs are kept as low as possible. See <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~cehs/CAGsite/history.html> for more detailed information about the history of this site and the current clean-up project.

Household Belongings in Mid-19th-Century Warren: The Cardell Site

*by Thomas Jamison
Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc.*

In September 2002, a Phase IB investigation conducted by Hartgen Archeological Associates, Inc., for the Warren sewer project encountered a mid-19th-century domestic deposit associated with the house of one of the leading manufacturers in the village of Warren. The Cardell Site (VT-WA-146) consists of a dense trash deposit at the southeast corner of the standing Greek Revival house at 417 Main Street in the village. Shovel testing and a 1x1-meter unit excavation encountered a wide variety of ceramic and glass table wares, personal items including kaolin tobacco pipes with glazed stems, buttons, faunal material, and architectural debris. The artifacts fall within a fairly restricted time period prior to the Civil War and probably represent the household trash of the William Cardell family, who occupied the house prior to 1857, and the Edwin Cardell family who maintained this residence from 1857 to 1918.

Documentary research conducted as part of the archeological investigations turned up the 1917 will and probate inventory of Elizabeth Cardell, the last of the family to reside in the house. However, the detail of these documents is very limited and can not be directly related to the 19th-century archeological deposit. For example, the wide array of archeological ceramics associated with the house are not reflected in the 1917 probate listing of "crookery & glass \$2.00." Further investigation of the brief listing will, however, provide

some information on the furnishing of the house at the time of her death. Analysis of the archeological deposits will provide more detail of the household domestic furnishings than can be reconstructed from the documentary record. The final report will place this archeological deposit in the context of a leading family in a small 19th-century upland New England village.

DHP Slowly Entering the 21st Century

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

Lack of State funds and technical support has hampered the Division for Historic Preservation's ability to develop and build digital databases and computerized mapping of its historic and archeological resources. Such tools would significantly improve and speed up public access to information, analysis of data, regulatory reviews of development projects, and other tasks for which the Division is responsible. Thus far, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), thanks to Duncan Wilkie, has consistently borne the costs of technical improvements to the Vermont Archeological Inventory (VAI).

Thanks to the strong support of State Historic Preservation Officer Emily Wadhams and as a result of the new administration's focus on "permit reform" (and with the continued invaluable financial and logistical support of VTrans), the DHP is rapidly moving towards a digital database for the VAI, supported by Geographic Information Systems (GIS) site mapping. One of my and Scott Dillon's main projects this year is GIS mapping the state's archeologically sensitive areas. The Archeology Mapping Project jumped ahead the week of March 17-21 as a result of hiring Earth Analytic of Sante Fe, NM, to build the GIS archeology mapping framework for DHP. Scott and I have been in training. Muddy Brook, in Chittenden County, is the pilot watershed for developing the mapping approach for other watersheds. We will keep you informed as this initiative progresses.

National Park Service 2003 Archaeological Prospection Workshop

The National Park Service 2003 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques, entitled *Current Archeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century*, will be held May 19-23, 2003, at the Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Collinsville, Ill. This will be the 13th year of the workshop dedicated to the use of geophysical, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and protection of archaeological resources across this nation. The workshop this year will focus on data processing and interpretation in addition to the more basic topics involving the theory of operation, methodology, and on-hands use of the equipment in the field. There is a tuition charge of \$475.00. For further information and registra-

tion forms, contact Steven L. DeVore, Archeologist, National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building, Rm 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508-3873; tel (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; fax (402) 437-5098; email steve_de_vore@nps.gov or see web site <http://www.cr.nps.gov/mwac/>

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference
submitted by Sheila Charles

The Association for Gravestone Studies Conference is scheduled for June 19-22 at Green Mountain College in Poultney. Sheila Charles and David Lacy will be giving a presentation on their cemetery stewardship PIT project (see "Remember Me As You Pass By," *VAS Newsletter*, November 2002, pp. 5-6).

Contact program chairman C.R. Jones at jones@nysha.org for registration information, time, program schedule, and directions to the conference room.

2003 Annual Historic Preservation Conference
Creating Community Partnerships:
Helping Government, Non-Profits, and Community
Groups Work Together to Strengthen Town Centers
submitted by Victor R. Rolando
Bennington Historic Preservation Commission

The Preservation Trust of Vermont, the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and local sponsors welcome you to downtown Barre for a full day of workshops and tours with a focus on how preservation partnerships can work together to strengthen downtowns and village centers. The day will begin at the Barre Opera House with a welcome by Governor Douglas, followed by a keynote address by Pulitzer Prize winning author, Tom Hylton, author of "Save Our Land, Save Our Towns." The day will include a tour of the granite industry; a workshop with Nick Wates (see www.communityplanning.net); Certified Local Government training; workshops for community volunteers and professionals; and a celebration of downtown Barre's own partnerships: the City of Barre, the Barre Downtown Partnership, Barre Opera House, Studio Place Arts, the Aldrich Library, the Granite Museum, and a special reception at the newly opened Vermont History Center.

A very special event of the day is a genuine Italian lasagna lunch at the National Historic Landmark, the Socialist Labor Party Hall (proceeds to benefit the Barre Historical Society), and the presentation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Honor Award to Karen Lane, the Historical Society, and the magnificent Labor Hall!

Please join us, and register by May 14 so that we can have an accurate count for lunch. Cost for the conference, lunch, and reception is \$50. Registration forms are available via email, on-line, or by mail. To receive a registration form, please contact us at (802) 658-6647; email to conference@ptvermont.org or see web site www.ptvermont.org

VTrans Reorganization
by Duncan Wilkie, VTrans Archeologist

With the arrival of the new Vermont State Governor, James Douglas, the Technical Services Division within in VTrans has been abolished. We in the Environmental Section are now under engineering in a new Program Development Division directed by Chief Engineer Dave Scott. The position of Division Director in Technical Services Division was terminated. Our address remains the same: Vermont Agency of Transportation, Program Development Division, Environmental Section, National Life Bldg., Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633. We are still on the 4th floor, and fax and telephone numbers remain the same for now.

I don't know at this time what other changes are in the "wind." Environmental Section head now reports directly to the Chief Engineer - Dave Scott. This happened January 10, 2003, and we are proceeding with "work as usual." You should not see any direct change at this time. Other changes have taken place in VTrans in the recent weeks and more is in store in the future. All Statewide Archaeological Contracts and any other contracts that I administer are still valid and assume to be through their expiration dates. If you have any questions please call.

Local Input to Global Archaeology
5th World Archaeology Congress, Washington, DC
June 21-26, 2003
submitted by Doug Frink, Archaeology Consulting Team

Archaeology Consulting Team (ACT) will be a co-convenor of the Theme *Past Human Environments in Modern Contexts* at the upcoming WAC-5 conference in Washington, DC. ACT will also be co-organizing and presenting three papers within the session *Comparative Archeology and Paleoclimatology: Sociocultural Responses to a Changing World*.

Session Abstract: Archaeological excavations throughout the world and at all time periods show surprising but strong correlations between climatic oscillations and the character of social and cultural responses by different human populations. They confirm humanity's battle with (and impact on) the environment. In some cases, adjustments are a principal cause for social and technological innovations.

Innovations include plant and animal domestication, as well as the punctuated spread and adoption of agriculture, the first use of wheeled vehicles, the construction of large earthen and stone monuments, and perhaps the advent of metallurgy. In other cases, an outright collapse of cultural systems is indicated.

Signs of collapse traced to climatic oscillations include religious and social upheavals, warfare, genocide, site abandonment, and population migration.

This session aims to examine the range of sociocultural responses to climatic stress and specific climate forcing variables that may account for the observed climate record.

Tree-ring data, lake level and glacial fluctuations, ice core data, pollen analysis, physical anthropology research, and other pertinent data will be used for high quality reconstructions of climatic and human history in different parts of the New and Old World. This history will be used in conjunction with changes in settlement and procurement strategies, human physical and dietary changes, technological innovations, as well as stylistic and symbolic convergence, to measure sociocultural responses to and impact on climate change, reflected in archaeological data from nomadic hunter-gatherers, proto-horticulturalists, sedentary agriculturists, to early urbanized societies.

For further information, visit the web site at <http://www.american.edu/wac5>

Historical Archaeology in Vermont (continued)

The state agencies responsible for historic preservation have apparently lowered standards because of declining political support for comprehensive regulation and historic preservation. As recently codified in the draft guidelines, the solution was to decrease the number of historic sites for state review. In the spring meeting, the SHPO suggested that each site would be considered on its own merits, but stressed that it was up to the archeologist to present a valid case for each site and to justify the need for additional research. Yet, in the regulatory process, it is not the role of the archeologist to protect the cultural resources, but for the SHPO to maintain the integrity of the environmental protection laws in place. The VDHP noted that their new guidelines did not eliminate as many historic sites as have new regulations in other states. However, preservationists should not aspire to function just above the worst example, but rather strive to emulate the best.

The new guidelines have created a hierarchy which ranks archeological sites by type. This has inherent biases in ranking of historic and precontact sites. The guidelines summarize the new hierarchy - "In contrast to precontact sites that can only be discovered and studied through archeological investigation, many kinds of historic period sites can be understood through historic maps, photos, drawings, written records..." (VDHP 2002:22). In this way, precontact sites have been given priority over historic sites and are more likely to proceed to a further stage of investigation. Precontact sites also have a decided advantage in being reviewed earlier in the process. In Vermont, there is a predictive model form required for all development properties under review. If there is sufficient potential for precontact occupation, most sensitivity areas are archeologically tested. Fewer potential precontact sites are dropped in the early regulatory stages. There is no such form to safeguard historic sites. According to the draft guidelines, one lithic flake is considered a site, whereas; "Because Vermont is blessed with thousands of 19th-century currently standing structures of all types... with associated deposits and features, a single historic period feature such as a privy or midden deposit associated with any occupation of the property is not considered a 'site'

by the SHPO." (VDHP 2002:23). After some discussion this paragraph was eventually removed from the guidelines, but the thrust of SHPO thinking about historic sites, which include some of our richest features, remains very much a part of the new regulations.

It is not my intention to argue the merits of historic sites over precontact sites. I believe all archeological sites are equally important. This discussion is meant to focus on the new biased guidelines where, for example, middens and privies do not constitute a site while one lithic flake does. When this discrepancy was noted, the SHPO assured us that precontact sites were the next likely target for future cuts. This unsettling answer is what I really fear, that slowly but surely, all archeological resources will be threatened.

These guidelines predetermine a process that is by nature unpredictable. Archeological investigation is now to be determined by priority research topics that primarily limits study to the 18th century. Research topics include; the 18th-century French, 17th- and 18th-century military history, the War of 1812 and the Civil War, and Early Euro-American settlement up to 1800. Some temporally broader categories include Native people, Vermont's ethnic and minority groups, abandoned communities, and maritime history. Sites relevant to Industry and Commerce up to 1870, and important Vermonters up to 1900 are also considered priority research themes. Sites that are deemed unimportant include almost all 19th- and 20th-century sites - unless they are associated with Native Americans, Black Americans, or other minority groups. This racial and cultural bias is weakly justified in an earlier guideline draft - Minority sites are considered important because "These were communities of people who did not usually write about themselves, nor did anyone else write about them." (VDHP 2001:6).

The guidelines appear to be based on grandiose and flawed assumptions. The SHPO suggests that there is substantial historical literature about poor whites and middle class farmers from all regions of Vermont after 1800. Are the majority of the people who make up Vermont's historic past to be disregarded and forgotten? I perceive this as a state mandated bias against the largest number of archeological sites, those occupied by settlers and farmers in the last 200 years, who are deemed less important, if not insignificant, because of the erroneous claim that their lives are adequately documented in the historic record.

The guidelines state that one criterion for determining potential site significance is its importance to a broad public. In Vermont, there is great interest in the agricultural, domestic, and industrial life of the 19th and 20th centuries. However, in the new guidelines, only Euro-American settlement sites dating prior to 1800 are listed as potentially significant. The public's interest was enthusiastically demonstrated at the second annual Vermont History Expo. This successful celebration of Vermont's history was held at the Tunbridge fair grounds and consisted of elaborate and well researched displays by Vermont's 175 historical societies and other preservation and historical research groups.

Archeology also played a part in the Expo, with at least three well-attended exhibits. At the VAS booth, numerous people asked about local sites, the possibility of volunteering at excavations, or simply wanted to talk about artifacts they had found while digging near foundations or in gardens. Even with the available historic documentation - people are attracted to artifacts. Why? Because these are the actual fragments of a teacup, pipe, bottle, or glass that graced their ancestors' table, or wrought nails, brick, and slate used to construct an early settler's home. These artifacts are tangible links to the past.

So why do we do archeology rather than rely solely on documentation? For a variety of reasons, the historical record rarely paints an accurate and complete picture of past activities. In fact, there are number of archeological data classes that provide details of everyday life that are often missing in the historic record. For example, a site's faunal assemblage can impart what a family actually ate, the wild species they hunted, the composition of their herds, farming practices and butchery techniques. Parasites recovered from a privy provide a wealth of information on public health - clues about diet, diseases, and specific environmental conditions.

There is another topic on which historic documents are also silent ... what my co-worker Bill Bouchard calls the "The Archeology of Failure." As is often touted by the VDHP, there are hundreds, even thousands, of 18th- and 19th-century farmsteads. These are the farms that succeeded by being economically viable. However, how about the numerous small family-run farms that failed to eke out a living on the frontier? Archeology can give us insight into the small farms, industries, and enterprises that didn't succeed. These sites, too, are part of Vermont's hardscrabble history.

In the new guidelines, there is wholesale lumping of 200 years worth of history and sites. The guidelines dismiss temporal variation, and differences by region, community, and site types. During the 19th and 20th centuries, there were major changes in material culture, community structure, and spatial organization. The uniqueness of individual farms, domestic sites, mills, and industrial complexes, and the incremental social change and innovations over the last 200 years was not lost on the Vermont History Expo participants.

The Vermont guidelines borrow from the Minnesota SHPO archeology manual in addressing site importance. In Minnesota, "If the site is important to just one historical archeologist or to just a few members of a community, its significance will be difficult to justify." (VDHP 2002:22). However, the SHPO uses similar reasoning to dismiss potentially significant sites. If one or two people in the SHPO office consider a site unimportant, it is not considered for further research. This seems difficult to justify, especially when decisions pertinent to a community's cultural heritage are made without the input of the communities themselves. The SHPO is supposed to represent the interest of the people of Vermont in their collective past. Are the interests of the majority to be discounted while a few bureaucrats

with their own biases make the decisions to ignore Vermont's heritage?

The guidelines state that "The VT SHPO will only support archeological investigations of historic period archeological sites during the regulatory process if they have a very high likelihood of providing important information that cannot be obtained from other sources." (VDHP 2002:22). An earlier draft further clarified that, "The DHP's policy is that sites that do not significantly complement or supplement the written and archival record and that do not address priority archeological research questions should not be studied archeologically in the regulatory process." (VDHP 2001:5-6). The DHP is essentially claiming that historic research can replace archaeological investigations. Any historical archeologist knows that unique data is obtained through excavations that often differs from, and contradicts, historic documentation. More often, archeology and historic documents provide complementary data that reveal a richer, rounded, and more colorful picture of the past.

For example, recent testing of a lot in a Green Mountain town revealed a rich 1850s domestic site which contained hundreds of ceramics representing numerous tea and tableware vessels, glazed pipe stems, table glass, and structural materials. However, there was a dearth of kitchen wares and no bottles. It is an intriguing assemblage worthy of further study. However, extensive probate research revealed only that the prominent mill owner who resided there in 1917 owned two dollars worth of crockery and glass. There was no documentation about the people who lived at this site in the 19th century. What a different view archeology can offer from what we often find, or don't find, in the documentary record. Probate records often document a "moment in time" rather than cultural and material process and transformation.

Historic documents also frequently leave out minorities that are a focus of the guidelines - including Native Americans and Black Americans. Also overlooked are the many poor and middle class Euro-American farmers, factory workers, and artisans, most of whose lives and daily activities were likewise not documented. It is well known that the documents weigh heavily toward the wealthy and prominent. By reverting wholly or primarily to the documents, VDHP is regressing to a history of the elite. Vermont retains a historic character comprised of thousands of 19th-century farmhouses, barns, outbuildings, mills and factory complexes. One of the main contentions presented by state agencies in challenging archeological investigations is the abundance of historic buildings and sites. This argument presents several problems. First, there is the flawed equation of standing structures with archeological sites; the existence of numerous extant farmsteads should not preclude investigation of a potentially significant farmstead site. VDHP's stance also contradicts National Register (NR) criteria, which indicate that decisions on determining a site's significance should not be based on the number of similar resources. Second, state regulators often question why, when there are so

many 19th-century sites, is it necessary to study a specific one that is threatened. Recently, for example, a portion of a mid-19th-century tin shop site was to be impacted by development. A decision was made by the state that no research or testing should be done at the site simply because Vermont has lots of tin shops. One major question that is not addressed is that while there may indeed be other examples of these buildings and sites ... what do we really know about them? How many have been studied? How many are truly left undisturbed? And, how long will we have hundreds of these sites? Slowly the historic resources of Vermont will be whittled away so that few are left to advance archeological and historical research.

Finally, there is the 'Seen one... Seen em all.' attitude. To cite the guidelines "Some sites, for example, many types of mills, are well documented in written and other records and many exist as standing structures; archeological investigations may not provide useful or outstanding complementary information. In such a case, historic research may be far more informative than an archeological investigation." (VDHP 2002:22). There is a real danger of lumping site types, such as mills, by not taking into account differences between or characteristics of specific types of sites, such as gristmills, sawmills, or textile mills, to name a few examples. Even among one site type there can be an immense amount of regional, local, and individual variation in construction and design. Future questions about the history of technology not obtainable in written histories that may be rendered unanswerable by this attitude.

A vital aspect of archeological research is the documentation of sites before they are destroyed. Archeological investigation creates a database that can be used to compare sites both with and without supporting historic documentation, and that can be used to compile site types within regional contexts. If we lose the ability to document sites, it is even more difficult to understand those few sites that do get excavated or that may remain undisturbed for the future. The assumption that no new investigative techniques will ever be developed creates an unfortunate precedent.

Archeological sites also appear to be 'Damned if they do' have supporting historical documentation and 'Damned if they don't.' Sites that are well-documented will have a lesser chance of further archeological investigation. This is apparent in an early version of the guidelines that stated; "Vermont's most recent past, such as the 20th century, generally has the greatest amount and variety of written and photographic documentation, as well as a huge volume of artifacts and architecture that reflect people and communities.... For this reason, the DHP will generally not consider 20th-century archeological sites as significant ... unless there are over-riding reasons of significance." (VDHP 2001:6). Then, there is the 'Damned if they don't.' If there is little or no historical documentation, there is little chance of finding invisible historic sites during a project assessment.

For example, there is almost no way of identifying early and short-term occupation sites of the 17th and early 18th century during a Phase I survey unless one is

testing for precontact. However, an early site is occasionally identified in the initial archeological resource assessment phase of the process. For instance, a reference by a noted historian was recently found indicating that a 1760s settler's house site was located within a project impact area. Incredibly, the SHPO determined that one reference to an early site was not enough justification to warrant even Phase IA research or archeological testing. The intent of the law, to determine whether a development project would effect any potentially significant archeological sites, was circumvented by simply by-passing the key early phase of the process - archeological testing. In this instance there was no need to assess an effect when no site was, or could be, identified and evaluated. Simply stated, if we don't look, there will be no chance to identify potentially significant sites.

In the Vermont guidelines, the view of historical archeology is characterized by the old and tired question - what can we learn from archeology that we can't get from the historic records? It is surprising that this question is still presented, after the thousands of books and articles that demonstrate what can be learned from historical archaeology. The transformation of American history through the study of material culture appears to have eluded the Vermont regulators.

In a discussion of 19th-century historic site significance, the SHPO commented - we know people ate off of crockery.... So what? That is what we hear from developers all the time. It seems that the SHPO and VDHP should have ready answers to developers' complaints. That they don't - seems to say more about their attitude toward current archeology than it does about the developers' views. The SHPO suggested that the solution was for professional archeologists to do a better job of justifying archeological research on specific sites. However, in order to produce better research, archaeologists must be allowed to continue excavating and evaluating archaeological sites before they are bulldozed. In order to do justice to historical sites, it is vital that the SHPO and VDHP understand the archeological profession and its capabilities, and to take up the cause of preserving the state's historic resources.

After the VT SHPO meeting, I became convinced that positive action had to be taken about the situation. How can we turn this trend around? One manner in which sites can be studied more effectively is to place individual sites in a regional context. This was aptly demonstrated in John Wilson's article "We've Got Thousands of These! What Makes an Historic Farmstead Significant?" (Wilson 1990). The use of a regional context was also supported by Giovanna Peebles, the State Archeologist, who has utilized such a context for the documentation of CCC camps. The use of regional contexts is an excellent strategy for managing archeological sites, but doing so will take coordination among the state agencies and professional archeologists. To accomplish this goal archeologists will have to be allowed by the regulatory agencies to both identify and test the historical sites. Increased communication between archeologists working within the state and the SHPO and VDHP will increase access to information on

a wider range of sites and site types. In a discussion with the State Archeologist after the spring meeting, we agreed that it was imperative to bring archeologists together to learn what site types are currently being studied and to determine how to work on themes and contexts that will enrich research and allow more sites to continue through the review process unscathed. I hope that such communication and cooperation can be accomplished soon in order to help preserve Vermont's historic sites.

The Vermont History Expo celebrated the entire history of the state, but focused on 19th- and 20th-century settlement, agrarian lifestyle, industrial development, and growth of communities. It is apparent that archeologists should work more closely with historical societies as we share common interests and goals of historic preservation. In fact, spurred on by the new guidelines, an initial theme of the Vermont Archaeological Society 2003 Spring Meeting is Historical Archeology - and its importance and relevance to Vermonters. It is hoped that historical society members will participate in the archeology meetings and share details of their current research and views on historic sites. The State Archeologist has asked to speak at the meeting to address concerns about the new guidelines. I also hope that the SHPO will attend to attain some understanding of archeologists' and historians' preservation concerns.

References

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP)
2001 *Draft Vermont Archeology Guidelines*. On file at The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont.

2002 *The Vermont State Historic Preservation Office's Guidelines for Conducting Archeology in Vermont*. On file at the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont.

Wilson, John S.

1990 We've Got Thousands of These! What Makes an Historic Farmstead Significant? *Historical Archeology* 24(2):23-33.

E-tiquity - A Unique Electronic Publication Series

submitted by Joseph Popecki, VAS

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) announces the release of a unique electronic publication series: E-tiquity. The first issue can be viewed at www.e-tiquity.saa.org, which is hosted through the courtesy of the Digital Library Initiatives program of the University of Kansas (<http://kudiglib.ku.edu>).

E-tiquity is a digital, peer-reviewed, irregular serial provided free through the SAA web. Each issue will contain a single scholarly contribution. In its highly flexible digital format, E-tiquity is not simply an electronic version of a print publication. It is a new venue with infinite possibilities for archaeological scholarship that is difficult to disseminate in traditional hard copy formats. SAA sponsorship insures that this online resource will remain "in print" for future generations, and online availability makes it easily accessible by students, the public, and archaeologists worldwide.

The first publication is "Ground-penetrating Radar (GPR) Mapping as a Method for Planning Excavation Strategies, Petra, Jordan" by Larry Conyers and others. This publication features color photos, excavation plans, graphic presentations, and animation, all arranged in a format designed for both rapid perusal and in-depth examination. Email SAA at publications@saa.org. The web site is www.saa.org.



The VAS booth at History Expo 2002 (Brigitte Helzer photo).

History Expo 2003, Tunbridge

History Expo 2003 will be held June 21-22 (Saturday and Sunday), and the VAS will again be there, as we were the past two years. We could use help to set up on Friday June 20 and staff the booths on Saturday and Sunday, then help tear down Sunday afternoon. We have the usual staff to do the bulk of the work, but we could use "a few good members" to relieve us for a few hours (even the grassy field gets hard on the feet after hours of standing). Contact any board member (see page 2) for volunteering information.

Our theme this year is "Pottery Extravaganza," so come visit, set a spell, and enjoy.

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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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