



# Newsletter of the VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## VAS Welcomes New VAM Coordinator—Cara Lia Sargent

Due to the growing popularity of Vermont Archaeology Month, the VAS Board has chosen to hire a full-time coordinator this year. After reviewing several resumes, the Board chose Cara Lia Sargent.



Cara grew up in Northfield, Vermont, with a keen interest in history and archaeology which compelled her to spend countless hours exploring her grandparents' old barn. She graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in cultural anthropology and later received her Ph.D. in Egyptology from Yale University. Her dissertation, entitled "The Napatan Royal Inscriptions: Egyptian in Nubia," is a linguistic analysis of hieroglyphic inscriptions written for the rulers of Nubia, ancient Egypt's southern neighbor, during the first millennium B.C.E. Cara has worked as an archaeological assistant with the Theban Desert Road Survey in Egypt, and has otherwise indulged her passion for working with antiquities at the Peabody Museum of Natural History in New Haven, Connecticut, the Babylonian Collection at Yale, and the Yale University Art Gallery. She has taught history and the ancient Egyptian language at Yale and Oakton Community College in Des Plaines, Illinois. Cara currently lives in Barre and is thrilled to be a part of Vermont Archaeology Month.

*"It has been my experience that most people think only rarely, if ever, about the history of the place where they live. Unless you happen to be somewhere like Egypt, the past is generally either hidden or so much a part of the landscape that we don't pay particular attention to it. Vermont Archaeology Month gives us a special opportunity to think and learn about the people, places, and events that have made Vermont what it is today."* —Cara Sargent

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General inquires should be directed to the Secretary

## Letters

Hi there,

We are a newly established venture based in the Peak District of the UK. We would be grateful if you could circulate details of our web site among the members of the Vermont Archaeological Society. We hope that if members of the society visit the UK in the next 12 months they might bear us in mind.

Our web site can be viewed at [www.pdat.co.uk](http://www.pdat.co.uk)

Thank you for taking the time to consider us.

Ian Heath PhD  
*Partner*  
*Archaeologica: Peak District Archaeological Tours*



As always, a membership application / renewal is included. Memberships are based on the calendar year. 2006 dues are now due. Use the attached renewal form to renew now.

The Board (and the Editor) welcome feedback from the members. Please contact any Board Member with your concerns or questions. If you have suggestions for meeting speakers or locations please let us know.

Georgeana Little, Editor  
P. O. Box 8  
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Vermont Archaeology Wiki: <http://vermontarchaeology.pbwiki.com/>

## Fort Vengeance Archaeological Site Listed on National Register

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**Fort Vengeance Monument Site, Pittsford:** The National Park Service has recently listed this Vermont property on the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort Vengeance Monument Site is a historic period Euro-American archaeological site that preserves important traces of Vermont's early military, agricultural, and commercial history. It was nominated by the Vermont Agency of Transportation as part of the project to upgrade Route 7.

The site preserves traces of the of the Caleb Hendee, Sr. farmstead (1774-circa 1830/60), remains related to a tavern that Hendee operated on his farmstead between 1783 and 1808, and evidence of the Chester Thomas house and farmstead (circa 1860-1900). The site also likely includes deposits and features associated with Fort Vengeance (1780-1782), a stockade fortification that stood on the farmstead during Revolutionary War. This field fortification was a wooden stockade structure constructed for the defense of Vermont's northern military frontier during the Revolutionary War and was important in the defense of the independent republic of Vermont against British incursions from Canada. The fort and a member of its company, Caleb Houghton, who was killed nearby, are commemorated by a modest marble obelisk that was erected on the site in 1873.

### NNEC Summer 2006 Tour

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Tour date is Saturday, July 8. Schedule so far is:

- 9:30 – 10:00 Registration at LCMM Auditorium
- 10:00 – 10:30 Welcome and Opening comments; short business meeting
- 10:30 – 11:00 Presentation by Adam Kane, Director, Maritime Research Institute
- 11:00 – 11:45 Guided Tour of Grounds and Conservation Lab
- 11:45 – 1:00 Drive to Vergennes; lunch on own (many eateries in Village)
- 1:00 Re-assemble at City Green Park in center of village, and walk south down Main Street to the Pump House
- 1:15 – 4:00 Guided tour of ca1874 Pump House and machinery; walk-by tour of next-door ca1878 Island Grist Mill (being renovated for offices and apartments); continue walk downhill to base of falls past ca1877 Vermont Roller Shade Company factory to ca1911 Green Mountain Power Hydropower Station, where we might be able to get an inside tour (original turbine still working); thence guided tour describing foundry and blast furnaces that operated in basin during War of 1812, and also hopefully, get view of waterpower tunnel cut from rock that powered the foundry.

Schedule subject to change. For information contact Victor Rolando 802/442-2276 or [vrolandod@maddog.net](mailto:vrolandod@maddog.net)

**See us online [www.vtarchaeology.org](http://www.vtarchaeology.org)**

## Joint VAS/NHAS Spring Meeting held in Enfield, New Hampshire April 8, 2006

The joint spring meeting of the Vermont and New Hampshire Archaeological Societies was held at Enfield Shaker Village in Enfield New Hampshire on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was impressive with over 80 people from both states there to listen to the presentations, share information, and make or renew friendships.

The morning session included:

**Brian Valimont on *Prehistoric Late Archaic Settlement Patterns along Beaver Brook.***

**Charles Knight on *The Nobert and Shore Acres Sites: Middle to Late Woodland Period Occupation along the Banks of Mallets Bay in Colchester, Vermont***

Data recovery excavations in this area yielded exotic lithic material traceable to New Hampshire and Maine. One feature yielded charcoal and fire-cracked rock. The sites would appear to be seasonal campsites and indicated some system of exchange between peoples who populated New England during the Middle to Late Woodland period. Much of our information for these sites came through a volunteer effort through the VAS, which helped excavate 30% more of the site than was originally planned.

**Jess Robinson on *The Mazza Site and the Champlain Valley's Early Occupants: Current and Future Research***

Building on the previous talk, Jess Robinson's (President of the VAS) presentation attempted to refute some of the commonly held stereotypes of paleoindian culture in the region. Once seen only as hunters following large game, Jess suggests a modified explanation for Early Holocene occupation in the Champlain Valley. The large number of lithics fashioned from exotic materials and evidence of a high amount of reuse of those materials at numerous Vermont sites possibly indicate an exchange network rather than material solely gathered peripatetically. The lithic assemblage at the Late Paleoindian Mazza site also suggests the exploitation of fish in addition to larger game animals.

***Excavations at the Allenstown Meeting House, Allenstown, NH presented by Joyce McKay and Edna Feighner***

The Allenstown Meeting House is the only one story meeting house in New Hampshire that served both secular and religious functions. Its out of the way location probably contributed to its survival until the present day. The Meeting House suffered a fire in recent years, but has been rebuilt and preserved by the local historical society. It has been suggested that the building had been moved at sometime in the past, and an archaeological investigation was begun to attempt to answer this question. There was a low density of artifacts, except in the rear of the building, and those would appear to be related to the fire damage and subsequent rebuilding. Several features were found that were difficult to explain, but there was no evidence of the building having been moved. The anomalous features were eventually explained when a photograph was found showing a fence in front of the building.

Lunch was provided to participants who took advantage of the time to not only eat, but visit and exchange information. Both societies had informational tables set up with publications for sale. A local bookseller was also present.

**Victor Rolando on *Of Henry Burden, Horseshoes, and the Burden Iron Furnace at Shaftsbury, Vermont***

Vic, the foremost expert on industrial archaeology in Vermont, recounted the career of Henry Burden, who operated a vast industrial complex in Troy, NY and also opened iron mines and built a blast furnace in Southwestern Vermont during the 1860s. As an indication that archaeology may not always be confined to what we dig out of the ground, Vic recounted his experience trying to isolate the location of a drawing of a blast furnace complex attributed to Bennington, Vermont. After much research and a careful examination of the entire painting, foreground, background and in between, he discovered the location that had been painted. The upshot - it was Bennington, Pennsylvania, that was represented!

*Canterbury Shaker Village Artifacts: A View of Shaker Medicines by Betty Hall*

Betty gave a general overview of Shaker medicine as revealed in the historical record and from medicine bottles excavated from shaker sites. The Shaker's made medicines from herbs they raised and brandy from apples from their orchards – for medicinal purposes, of course. They also raised poppies and sold the opium made from them. The Shakers, although primarily a religious sect, were also shrewd in business and gave the people what they wanted.

The day was capped by a performance of the Enfield Shaker Singers, a group of amateurs who recreate the songs and dances that would have been part of any Shaker meeting. The lively and energetic performance was in sharp contrast to the austere and prim image one usually has of the Shakers, but they got that name for a reason.

In general, the joint meeting was a great success.  
—Georgeana Little



Bennington Furnace by C.E. Sacket, Sept. 1868



**EDSS 200: Teaching Archaeology K-12**  
Education Department, University of Vermont  
MWF, 5:30 - 8:00 pm, July 5-August 4

Archaeology is about discovery, making it an excellent tool to get students in grades K-12 interested in learning. The field of archaeology can enhance courses and become an integral part of the curricula because of its multidisciplinary nature. Archaeology is the study of past human achievements in all areas of thought and expression. This course provides elementary and secondary school teachers with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate archaeology into their curriculum while meeting the required Vermont educational standards.

To learn more about this course contact the instructor at [Scott.McLaughlin@uvm.edu](mailto:Scott.McLaughlin@uvm.edu) or sign up for the class by calling UVM's Continuing Education at (800) 639-3210, (802) 656-2085, email [learn@uvm.edu](mailto:learn@uvm.edu), or visit their website [www.uvm.edu/summer](http://www.uvm.edu/summer).  
VT resident tuition under 65 = \$1152; 65 or over = FREE

NH State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program

2006 Archaeology Field School June 26 - August 4

Colebrook, NH



The 2006 Prehistoric Archaeology Field School will take place in Colebrook, NH at a site that contains evidence of Paleoindian (*circa 10,000 year old*) and Archaic (*circa 5,000 to 8,000 year old*) components that are situated on an outwash terrace overlooking the Connecticut River. Previous investigations only partially documented the site and the 2006 field school will be focused on acquiring additional information in order to nominate this site to the National Register of Historic Places. The field school will include additional survey to document the full extent of the site, conduct intensive mapping as well as undertake small block excavations designed to evaluate the extent and composition of the Paleoindian component.

Participants in the field school will be instructed in the fundamentals of archaeological excavation techniques. The principal field methodology will entail excavation of shovel test pits and excavation by trowel in small excavation blocks, with the objective of obtaining stratigraphic as well as horizontal contextual data. The students will be taught artifact recognition skills, field data recording techniques and basic laboratory

methods. Completion of the field school will provide a solid introduction to field methodology equivalent to that employed in cultural resource management evaluation projects. Fieldwork will be supplemented with evening lectures by specialists in related fields.

The field school will take place from June 26<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup> and will be conducted in three sessions, each two weeks long, beginning June 26, July 10 and July 24. Investigations will be conducted Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:00 PM, with occasional evening lectures and workshops. The field camp will be headquartered at Coleman State Park where students can take advantage of special arrangement for camping and meals.

All fieldwork and instruction will be directed by Dr. Richard Boisvert, NH State Archaeologist assisted by Edna Feighner, DHR staff archaeologist, and conforms to the standards for archaeology set by the National Park Service. For more information, contact the NH Division of Historical Resources at 271-3558 or on the web at [www.nhscrap.org](http://www.nhscrap.org).

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## VAS Again Participates in Vermont History Expo

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June 24-25, 2006  
10:00-5:00 P.M.

The VAS will be hosting an informational booth as well as various displays and events, including a mock archaeological dig!

Come to visit or volunteer by contacting Ray Rodriques at [raymond\\_rodrigues@msn.com](mailto:raymond_rodrigues@msn.com).

Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 663  
Burlington, VT 05402-0663

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Burlington, VT  
Permit #126

**Membership Application/Renewal**

New     Renewal     Address Change

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (please check one):

- R  Individual—\$15
- F  Family—\$25
- SE  Senior—\$10
- ST  Student—\$10
- C  Contributing—\$50
- L  Life—\$250
- P  Philanthropic—\$1,000
- IN  Non-profit Institutional—\$25
- IP  For-profit Institutional—\$50

\*Senior: 65 years or over    †Students must be full-time and provide photocopy of active student ID card.

Make check (US Funds) payable to The Vermont Archaeological Society and mail to P. O. Box 663, Burlington, VT 05402-0663

NOTE: The VAS does not sell the use of its membership list. However, we occasionally allow its free use by select organizations with announcements of specific interest to VAS members. Do you authorize us to share your mailing address with such organizations     YES     NO

Anyone wishing a membership card, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.  
You may photocopy this form.