

VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

June 1968

Following the initial meeting on April 26 of people interested in the possibility of a state archaeological society in Vermont, a Steering Committee held a series of meetings and established the organizational framework of the Society.

The Steering Committee first elected the following officers from their number: Chairman, Ralph Roberts; Vice Chairman, Joseph Popecki; Secretary, H. N. Muller; and Treasurer, Durwood Smith. The Committee then drafted the Society's statement of purpose, which subsequently became the Society's Articles of Association. The legal proceedings were handled by ~~Latham and East-~~man in Burlington, and on June 7, the Vermont Archaeological Society was incorporated and we fully expect to become a tax-exempt organization within a few months. The one point of controversy over the Articles of Association concerned the question of the Society's influencing legislation to bring about much needed antiquities laws. In Mr. Eastman's opinion any statement that included influence on legislation would endanger the incorporation proceedings as well as the Society's tax-exempt status. Thus, any attempt to encourage antiquity legislation will have to be done on an individual basis, rather than as a function of the Society.

The Committee contacted a number of state archaeological societies and other organizations asking their advice about the problems of organization. Mr. Donald C. Milder and Dr. Maurice Robbins of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Dr. Lucien Hanks of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences, Mr. P. Schuyler Miller and Mrs. Vivien Marshall of The Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology, and Mr. K. M. Russell of the Archaeological Society of Maryland were especially helpful.

*The Chairman of the Steering Committee travelled to many parts of Vermont*

to talk about the Society, speak to prospective members, and collect site survey records. He was very cordially received and found a great deal of enthusiasm for archaeology.

After deciding on the matters of purposes and incorporation, the Steering Committee considered by-laws. A sub-committee on by-laws was formed and after several meetings their work was considered and agreed upon at the meeting of the Steering Committee held on June 4.

At the next meeting scheduled for June 25, the Steering Committee will consider a petition for membership in the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. The President of the Federation has already extended the Society an invitation to become a member. Membership in the Federation would entitle all members of the Society to receive and submit publications to all the state societies that are part of the Federation. The Steering Committee will also consider future planning: the first annual meeting; the elections of officers and a Board of Trustees; and summer activities. Some of the suggested activities are the creation of an archaeological field school and a symposium including both professionals and amateurs.

The decisions of the Steering Committee and notices of all meetings and activities of the Society will be regularly sent to the members.

H. N. Muller,  
Secretary