



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

VAS Annual Meeting Glover, VT

Greetings!

About 35 people trekked to the Northeast Kingdom to hear speakers discuss cemeteries, waterwheels and the results of the summer archaeological season.

Results of the 15th Annual Northeast Open Atlatl Championship

In the afternoon, we heard a brief history of the Parker Settlement before heading up to the site of this abandoned 18th century village.

The Chimney Point State Historic Site in Addison is pleased to announce the results of the Fifteenth Annual Northeastern Open Atlatl Championship, held on Saturday, September 18, 2010, at a new venue, the Mount Independence State Historic Site in Addison. The venue was changed due to the closing of Chimney Point for the 2010 season because of the construction of the Lake Champlain Bridge. The event is always the highlight of September's Vermont Archaeology Month and is the first and oldest annual atlatl competition in New England.

Attendees were impressed with the preservation of the site and the determination of the owners, Randy Williams and Betsy Day, to treat the site gingerly. They were looking for, and hopefully received, advice on how best to preserve the site for the future.

Over 40 contestants of all ages from Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York tried their prowess and improved their skills with the atlatl, an ancient spear thrower used around the world before the bow and arrow, to participate in accuracy, distance, and International Standard Accuracy Competition (ISAC) competitions. The World Atlatl Association compiles the scores from ISAC competitions that take place around the globe.

The VAS must thank Randy and Betsy for hosting the meeting, providing a great lunch and exposing the membership to this interesting site.

Men's overall gold medalist, Ken Faucher of Somersworth, NH, was crowned Grand Champion after a competitive shootout between the top medalists in all categories. Competitors, facing a scenic view of southern Lake Champlain, shot at targets painted with images of woolly mammoth, deer, bison, black bear, catamount, and moose in the accuracy competition and shot down the field in the distance competition.

Chimney Point Update Available On- line

For those unable to attend any of

The gold overall winner in the women's category was Susan Delaney, Bridgewater, NH, and Alex Morris of Essex Junction, took the gold in the boy's division. There were no girl competitors this year. In the men's category Rick Delaney of New Hampshire took the silver, and Gary Nolf of Westbrook, CT, captured the bronze. Elizabeth Haartz of South Woodstock, VT, took the silver in the women's category and Celine Rainville of Highgate won bronze; both are repeat medalists. In the boy's category, Michael Fletcher of Meredith, NH won silver, and Jason Clark of Addison took bronze.

Events for the atlatl weekend also included a Friday morning workshop with Bob Berg of Thunderbird Atlatl with enthusiastic students from the Orwell Village School; a Friday afternoon atlatl and dart making and coaching workshop for students and adults from Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont; Woodland pottery and flint-knapping workshops sponsored by the Vermont Archaeological Society on Saturday and Sunday, and a second ISAC contest Sunday morning when the target bulls eye took a stiff beating. John Morris, Sr., of Grand Isle, and Greg Maurer of Vergennes, gained enough points to place at the world level, and volunteered their skills in a master coaching class for children after the competition.



Sunday's Flintknappers
Concentrating

Special thanks to VAS members Scott Dillon, David Lacy, and Allen Hathaway for their daylong efforts on Saturday as judges and rangemasters. Scott has served as a judge since the event started 15 years ago!

Submitted by Elsa Gilbertson

the lectures on the excavations at Chimney Point offered during VAM and who could not attend the Annual Meeting, the final lecture was recorded for RETN and is available [here](#).

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Archaeology at Strawberry Banke Museum Summer 2010



Strawbery Banke's 2010 Archaeology Field School (July 5-16) involved 14 students and over 25 volunteers from Maine, Massachusetts, Virginia and New Hampshire, ranging in age from 15 into senior status.

For the third summer season, Strawberry Banke's field school investigation focused on the southeast yard of the 1762 Chase House, associated with

wealthy Portsmouth merchant and patriot Stephen Chase and family. The field results included a revised understanding of the orientation (20 degrees northwest of north) and construction of the outbuilding's foundation, associated with a 22 by 60 feet barn/stable depicted on the 1813 map but absent by the 1850s. Fieldwork also disclosed new information about a privy which may have stood within the former outbuilding prior to the 1850s and is portrayed on Sanborn maps post 1887 as an 8-by-16 foot water closet.

Excavation focused on exposing the outbuilding and privy pit's foundations and the dense artifact-bearing deposits within the footprint of the former structures. Although the large outbuilding foundation was composed of fieldstone, the substantive privy pit (measuring 2.5 by 10.5 feet) contained a brick footing overlaying a fieldstone foundation. While recovered ceramics from the broad trash deposit are predominantly early 19th century and British, the privy pit footing bricks most likely derive from nearby New England clay beds. Two different brick construction patterns are seen in the privy pit's south wall. One wall section comprises alternating courses of stretchers (sides) and headers (ends), an English bond pattern popular in the 17th century. An adjacent wall section of the privy's brick footing was composed of all stretchers, creating a running or stretcher bond pattern that was quite common although not structurally as strong as other brick bonding patterns and thus often associated with cavity wall construction or brick veneers. In deep wall construction, an American brick bond style c.1850 utilized up to seven courses of stretchers to one course of headers. While Ivor Noel Hume in *Artifacts of Colonial America* (1978:84) states, "footings were frequently built in a mixed or haphazard bond," these two patterns of construction may indicate the enlargement of the privy over time, possibly following the growth of the Chase family or between 1882 and 1916 when the Chase House served as a home for "orphan and destitute children."

Fragments of multiple early 19th century ceramic and glass vessels, many reconstructible, were recovered from the broad trash deposit surrounding the privy. Vessels include chamberpots, kitchenware, and table and teawares. These specimens reflect the broad trade network that included England, Germany and China, as well as local New England redware production. Exhibit-worthy ceramic vessels, such as the 1820-1840 blue hand-painted pearlware chamberpot manufactured by Staffordshire potter Enoch Wood, are being mended and analyzed. Artifacts recovered from the deeper depths include ceramics manufactured in the late 1600s and early 1700s, such as Nottingham, Westerwald and white salt-glazed stoneware. To date, over 8000 artifacts have been catalogued from the 2008 Chase House site excavation and cataloguing continues for artifacts recovered during the 2009 and 2010 seasons. Faunal analysis, particularly aimed at historic foodways interpretation and parasite analysis associated with the privy to see how people adhered to social and legal cleanliness standards. are ongoing. The efforts have been documented on a blog, <http://digsstrawberybanke.blogspot.com>.

Submitted by Sheila Charles

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