



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

January 2013

Issue: V-1

The Vermont Archaeological Society Electronic Newsletter

Memories of Sanborn Partridge

Greetings!

I have many fond memories of Sandy from the beginning as State Archeologist (1976) and through the years. He was quite a character. As a Senator, he was instrumental in making sure the position of State Archeologist was in the DHP's enabling legislation (1975) and that there would be funding for the position (1976). Dick Adams in Vergennes also pushed mightily to get the position funded.

Results from the Phase III Excavations at the National Guard Rd Site (VT-CH-994), South Burlington, Vermont

Sandy was at the very first VAS supper meeting I attended (and spoke at) in the fall-winter of 1976, and for many years he always attended the supper meetings that used to be part of the VAS Fall meeting. He may have been one of the founding members of the VAS with UVM Professors Nick Muller and Sam Hand (mid-60's) and Bill Haviland.

In the summer of 2011, the University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (UVM CAP) conducted a large, Phase III data recovery excavation at the National Guard Road site (VT-CH-994) in South Burlington, Vermont. Over the course of the project, a total of 220, 1 x 1 m units were excavated in two major blocks across the portion of the site to be impacted by project construction. These excavations were aided by numerous VAS volunteers and other interested members of the public, to whom we are very grateful.

Close to 60,000 artifacts were recovered during the Phase III excavations, which cumulatively suggested that the site represented a large, Late Woodland (ca. 1,000-1600 A.D.) encampment of some kind. The true character of the site has only emerged recently, however, following extensive laboratory and mapping analyses. Specifically, the patterns of features (including fire hearths, storage pits, and refuse pits) and artifacts suggest that one, and perhaps two, shelters of some kind were once present in the excavated areas.

He never collected Native American artifacts but collected all kinds of Vermontiana and other things.

Additionally, maize was recovered from one of the fire hearths identified during the Phase III excavations at the site, as well as during the previous Phase II excavations conducted by the New England Archaeology Research Center. As such, VT-CH-994 represents only the sixth site in Vermont where macrobotanical maize remains have been recovered. The recovery of portions of kernels, cobs and husks suggests that the maize was grown somewhere nearby, if not at the site itself.

He could be very sarcastic and biting when he was displeased (e.g., if I didn't respond to a letter

Portions of these maize samples, as well as butternut and wood charcoal samples from separate features, were radiocarbon dated after formal identification by paleobotanical analyst Nancy Asch Sidell. Surprisingly, all five of the dates were virtually identical, at ca. 1315 A.D. As such, VT-CH-994 represents one of the largest and best dated single occupation sites in the state. The mapping of the deposits and positive test pits across the site suggests that VT-CH-994 is relatively extensive; likely representing a small village or winter hamlet.

- Submitted by Francis W. Robinson IV

soon enough). He came from one of Proctor's leading families and was related to Governors and other important VT people and he was so proud of that. He had an extraordinary museum quality collection of Vermont-made money (coinage mainly), and was friends with VT historians and the VT Historical Society team for that and other reasons. He had lots of family, VT-made furniture as well.

He collected oriental carpets and traveled widely across the world (to Egypt various times) to buy more.

Last time I saw him was about 3 or 4 years ago, when I went to Wake Robin to give a talk on archeo, and of course he was there in the front row (and other old friends as well). He was frail and he lived there with one of his sisters. I told him about the archeology center in South Burlington and he was very pleased.

- submitted by Giovanna Peebles

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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.

Anyone wishing a membership card, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

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