

The Journal of Vermont Archaeology

The Vermont Archæological Society

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Victor R. Rolando, Editor

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The VAS is proud to dedicate this issue of *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology* to one of our Founding Members, Dr William Haviland. Bill taught at the University of Vermont (UVM) from 1965 to 2005, served as the first chair of the UVM Anthropology Department and was named University Scholar by the UVM Graduate College in 1990. Widely recognized for his scholarship on Mayan civilization, Bill and coauthor Marjory Power made critical contributions to local research by destroying the myth that Native Americans did not settle in Vermont. Their now classic work, *The Original Vermonters* (1981; 2d ed., 1994), documented native presence for at least 10,000 years.

Bill retired from UVM in 2005 and a year later received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Center for Research on Vermont for his enduring contributions to research that has become vital to the state and its citizens. His many accomplishments as an archaeologist, educator, and mentor were cited by Vermont State Archeologist Giovanna Peebles, who introduced him at the awards ceremony, referring to him as an extraordinary member of the nation's anthropology and archeology community. Her additional comments drew on responses from a number of colleagues and former students when she presented the award to him on behalf of the Center.

One former student, Frank Cowan (Ph.D., RPA, Hartgen Archaeological Associates)



Bill Haviland at Deer Isle, Maine

recalled: “Bill was the most exciting and enchanting classroom teacher/story-teller I’ve ever encountered. I always remember his frenetic, back-and-forth pacing across the front of the classroom, hands alternately clasped behind his back or waving furiously in the air, as he brought native North American and Mesoamerican Indian cultures to life for his students in that high and always-exciting voice. He is a master story-teller who uses memorable examples to explain cultural characteristics.... I only wish I had been better at taking notes during his lectures. I recall I was always furiously scribbling to try to keep up, trying to invent s hortland ways to record impossible-to-pronounce and impossible-to-spell Nahuatl names.”

Another reminiscence came from a former UVM colleague Peter Woolfson (UVM Professor Emeritus of Anthropology): “Bill was a tireless researcher and scholar. He has written the most successful introductory text, still in use today. He was the authority behind the video course, *Faces of Culture*, used in many departments here and abroad. *The Original Vermonters* which he wrote with Marj Power is still being quoted. Bill wanted desperately to separate from the Sociology Department [thereby creating the Anthropology Department at UVM] and finally got the ok from

the dean—John Weiger. He was supposed to make a presentation to the Board of Trustees. The dean came to me and asked if I could get Bill to change his shoes. Bill thought of himself as a farmer and would shovel sheep manure before coming to class from Jericho. Those shoes were very ripe.”

Giovanna noted that she got a number of emails back in response to her query for memories of Bill. At least three out of five talked about Bill’s sartorial splendor while the rest talked about the state of his office. For example, a former student, Bill Bayreuther (Grants Director, Natural Resources Council of Maine) shared the following memory: “I was never sure who my ‘official’ major advisor was in the Anthro Department. It was either Bill or Marj Power, and it didn’t matter to me—or them, apparently. When I needed advice, or a signature, or forgiveness, I’d go to the end of the hallway and turn one way or the other to speak with whichever of them was available. When it was Bill’s office I entered, we’d stand there (I never sat in that office, not with all those books on the floor) and talk. He gave good counsel, he didn’t allow me to take things too seriously, and he was my friend.”

According to UVM colleague Peter Woolfson: “Bill always claimed he could find anything at any time in his office. I was skeptical because all surfaces including his office floor were littered with papers. Someone op-

posed to ROTC set a fire in one of the closets on the fifth floor of Williams. The police came up to see if there was any other damage. They took one look at Bill’s office and declared, ‘My God, the place has been rifled!’ No, it was the way it always was.”

Giovanna added “I think it’s really important that we give these lifetime achievement awards—and celebrate these special people—while they are alive and can laugh with us.” She shared one more story from another former student, Kevin Crisman (Associate Professor of Nautical Archaeology, Texas A&M University) who she said made her laugh so hard “I could barely read it through my tears of laughter. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. It’s a fitting conclusion to my introduction of Bill Haviland.”

(Quoting Crisman): “My first memory of Bill is not one you probably want to use: It was 1977, I was 18, and working my first day for [Giovanna Peebles’s] Chittenden County Survey in the Anthro Lab in Williams Hall, when this dazed-looking guy with white hair and a beard, glasses, faded red turtleneck, worn pants, and ancient lace-up leather work boots wandered in the door and stood staring around the room. I thought he might be a maintenance guy or possibly somebody who’d wandered in off the street, so I said, ‘Can I help you?’ He just looked at me, shook his head, and wandered out the door. It seemed suspicious and I asked one of the older students in the lab if maybe we needed to call campus security or something. That got a good laugh. Someone, I think Bill Bayreuther, told me, ‘No, that was Dr. Haviland, the head of the Anthropology Department. He’s in charge here.’

“That was my introduction to Bill Haviland who, along with Dr. Marj Power, made those four years at UVM an incredible, rich experience. I think Bill also set the trend in academic fashion, too. Here it is 29 years later, and I’m sitting at my desk in an anthropology department in faded shirt, old pants, boots, with white hair, a beard, and glasses.”

The VAS wishes Bill well in his retirement with his remarkable and beloved wife Anita at Deer Isle, Maine. We hear he’s keeping busier than ever by serving various leadership positions on the local Island Heritage Trust, writing prolifically on local Native American history, and researching and writing about *Deer Isle’s Original People*. Happy Retirement, Bill!

Contents

Precontact Native American Settlement Along the Shores of Malletts Bay: Archaeological Phase III Investigations at the Shore Acres and Norbert Sites, Colchester, Vermont by Charles L. F. Knight	1
Staying Clean, Close to Home, and Rural in Late Nineteenth-Century Southeastern Vermont by Niels R Rinehart	24
Back Issue Contents and Ordering Information; VAS Application and Information Form	37

Front Cover Photo: Volunteers from the Vermont Archaeological Society and UVM CAP excavate and screen during the final days of study at the Norbert Site (VT-CH-942) along West Lakeshore Drive in Colchester, Vermont. Shown is the eastern portion of the large excavation block centered along the North 200 line.