

# "Relics & Ruins" at Aldrichville

by David M. Lacy and Sheila Charles

*It is a warm mid-morning in late August, 1998. Leaf-filtered sun shines on 24 kids and 7 adults standing a few feet off the Long Trail deep in the Green Mountain National Forest. They are celebrating the archaeological discovery of a tiny porcelain doll's hand in the dirt next to one of Aldrichville's low stone house foundations.*

*A day earlier during a theatrical presentation, 13-year old Mara Carey had brought to life Edna Earle Maranville's generation-old account of childhood memories of Aldrichville, a the turn-of-the-century mill village. Edna's account, and Mara's reenactment, included images of child's play among the lumber piles in the mill yard and, prophetically, between the workers' houses.*

*These activities were just two of the multiple elements employed in our investigation of life at the abandoned mill village of Aldrichville.*

## Introduction

This article summarizes our current knowledge of the 1890's-era Aldrichville Mill Village Historic Archaeological District. It also briefly documents how this knowledge, as well as a hands-on lesson in stewardship of ecosystem resources, are products of a non-traditional place-based educational and recreational experience for youth.

Out of sight of the general public, Aldrichville has remained relatively hidden for the last century, obscured by the hardwood canopy overhead and the overgrown under story underfoot, which has so successfully reclaimed the landscape here and throughout Vermont. As publicly owned land within the boundaries of the Green Mountain National Forest, the Aldrichville District remains accessible to the public and the wide variety of hikers trekking through the region. The Forest encourages public involvement and interest in the stewardship of this, and other, significant "heritage" resources.

Today, a few substantial stonewalls, several ground depressions, half-buried bricks, scattered metal machinery parts, clusters of historic artifacts and an unnaturally young vegetated landscape remain as surface evidence. The historic road - once a main thoroughfare connecting South and East Wallingford and now the common path of the Long and Appalachian Trails - seems a ghostly footpath. The once-thriving village has been reduced to memories, documents, and an archaeological condition.

The approximately 100-acre District, ranging in elevation between 1,730 and 1,900 feet (527 to 580 meters) above sea level and sitting atop the Green Mountain escarpment, is well above the developed part of town. This upland location - 1,000 feet above nearby South Wallingford - just a century ago was the bustling hamlet of Aldrichville (VT-RU-313), devoted to lumbering and milling. It was, in fact, the "largest single

[lumber] operation" in Wallingford (Klock et al. 1976). Although the numerous sites within this archaeological District comprise a cohesive unit due to their proximity and association with the lumbering and mill activities, oral history and census records confirmed that two neighborhood clusters bisected by Homer Stone Brook correspond to discrete French- and English-speaking enclaves.

Focused investigation of Aldrichville between 1997 and 1999 used earlier research by local historian Michael Barbieri as a springboard. Three historic and archaeological field schools were conducted as a partnership between the Green Mountain National Forest (Heritage Resource Program) and the nonprofit educational Hayes Foundation; we also received support and assistance from Wallingford's Historical Society, Elementary School and Masonic Lodge. The work, conducted as part of three 2-week summer day camp programs entitled "Relics & Ruins," involved over 65 local students between the ages of 10 and 14 years old. In addition, a Youth Conservation Corp crew working with the Green Mountain National Forest also joined in the investigation of Aldrichville for several days.

Reading the forested landscape and considering the changing ecosystems were integral elements of the Aldrichville investigation. The temporary settlement of Aldrichville was stimulated by the desirable "virgin forest," comprised mostly of spruce, yellow birch, and hemlock (Aldrich in Smith 1932). Years of intensive logging and clear-cutting to feed the hungry mill wrought great changes in the ecosystem. Historic photographs depict tree stumps, barren slopes and broader clear vistas at this relatively high elevation. Our investigation took into account changes in: the under story, the forest's mix of species (diminished in age and diversity), animal habitats, the increased sedimentation in the streams, and the amplified fire hazards. The investigation consequently illustrated and promoted the need for individuals to accept stewardship roles to successfully manage our natural and cultural resources.

Our work in the District revealed that the area is important for several reasons. It is:

1. A tangible reminder of the town's historic development and characteristic early industry;
2. A cultural resource with the potential to contribute to a better understanding of how ethnicity may be reflected in Vermont's historic archaeological record, and what characterized the social dynamic of French-Canadian and Anglo laborers and their families (a common socio-economic context of the time in our State);
3. A valuable educational vehicle for understanding changing landscape, land-uses, and ecosystems;
4. A Vermont historic resource that exemplifies the Vermont State Historic Preservation Plan "Industry and Commerce" theme (1760-1940) and state-recognized thematic historic contexts of Logging and Lumber production, Small Water

Powered Mill Production, and Manufacture of Building Materials; and, therefore

5. Eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (the nomination will be completed by the end of year 2000).

### Wallingford Historical Context

Ample forested land, numerous streams and ponds, and fertile soils attracted early European American settlers to Wallingford in the late eighteenth century. Land investors applied for two charters for Wallingford, a cautious and uncommon strategy in Vermont. Governor Benning Wentworth granted the New Hampshire charter on November 27, 1761 to Captain Eliakim Hall and 63 associates, and the New York charter was approved in 1767 (Klock et al. 1976:1). The township was named in honor of Wallingford, Connecticut, where most of the original grantees resided (Child 1881:255).

Following the initial town survey by Remember Baker in 1770, settlement of Wallingford progressed relatively slowly, yet steadily, through 1830. Mid-nineteenth-century maps depict a thriving town along the Otter Creek and, in the uplands near the future site of Aldrichville, the presence of several structures. The 1854 Scott's Map of Rutland County (Chace et al. 1854) depicts three structures: two farmsteads and a sawmill. Local proprietors included R. Hall and F. Shum. The 1860 Beers *Plan of Wallingford Township* and the Beers 1869 map of Wallingford reveal the changes in ownership and occupancy of the sites. The proprietors included Orange Carpenter, R. Winship, Homer Stone, and J. and F. Miller.

About this time, the introduction of railroads to Wallingford heralded a new era. In 1849, the Rutland to Bellows Falls Railway (which subsequently became the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, and later, the Central Vermont Railroad) was constructed through the northeast corner of Wallingford, linking the region to Boston Harbor and Burlington and Lake Champlain (Johnson and Gilbertson 1988). In 1851, the Rutland and Bennington Railroad (later known as the Bennington and Rutland Railroad, and then the Vermont Railroad) was completed through Wallingford village and South Wallingford, opening more new markets for local businesses. In 1870, Wallingford reached its population peak of over 2,000 residents, including successful merchants, lumbermen, and farmers.

The transportation of lumber from relatively isolated forested outreaches was not only difficult and costly, but also focused finished products on the local market. Although elsewhere streams and rivers were often used to float logs to their destination, this was not generally the case in the Otter Creek watershed, perhaps because the size of the streams, frequency of falls, and the amount of development along the Creek in the upper reaches. With the introduction of the railroad, access to regional markets was improved, stimulating lumbering activities and population growth, and enhancing

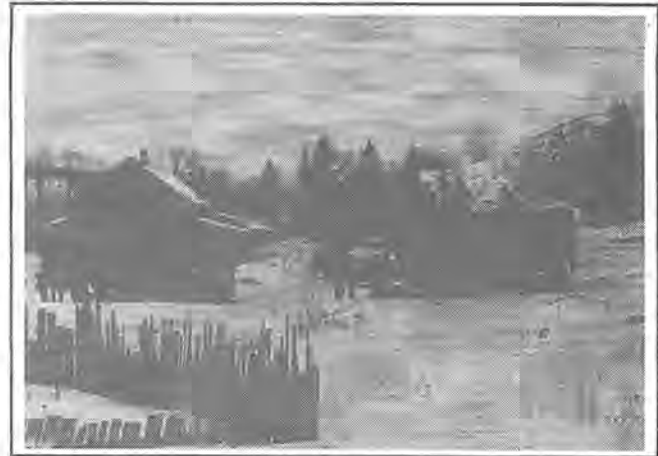


Figure 1. *Log sleds leaving Aldrichville.*

Wallingford's economy. Using wagons or sleds, often equipped with chains and clogs, and drawn by horse or oxen teams, the difficult task of transporting lumber was accomplished - an especially challenging feat from Aldrichville given the long steep drop down to town (Figure 1).

### The Settlement of Aldrichville

By the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the dense, virgin forested, Wallingford mountain slopes of spruce, birch and hemlock were viewed as ripe for exploitation for the size of the timber was impressive (Klock et al. 1976:8). Years later Barney Aldrich (Smith 1932) boasted, "The trees were bigger than any you see here nowadays. We got 2,700 feet of lumber out of one spruce tree and 2,800 out of one birch. We drew down some logs 74 feet long to be used for derrick poles."

Entrepreneurs' Barney W. and Edgar H. Aldrich were local lumbermen and mill owners in East Wallingford, where they maintained a gristmill, sawmill, and blacksmith shop. In 1881, Child's *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Rutland County* (Child 1881) advertised the Aldrich brothers as "Dealers in Lumber, Spruce and Hemlock Boards, Hard Wood, Chair Stock, Grain, Flour, and Meal." The 1880 federal census of manufactures indicates that E.H. and B.W. Aldrich's mill company, capitalized at \$6,000, used power derived from turbines on Mill River and operated with one gang saw, three saws in gang, three circular saws, and one handsaw. Timber, from Mount Holly and Wallingford, was cut by the company, although they did not handle their own product shipping. The census also revealed that their company employed 20 persons (of which 8 were males over 16 years old) who worked 11 or 12 hours per day and earned an average of \$1 to \$1.50 for the day's wages. It is anticipated that somewhat similar conditions prevailed at the Aldrichville mill just a few years later.

The Aldrich brothers began purchasing and leasing tim-

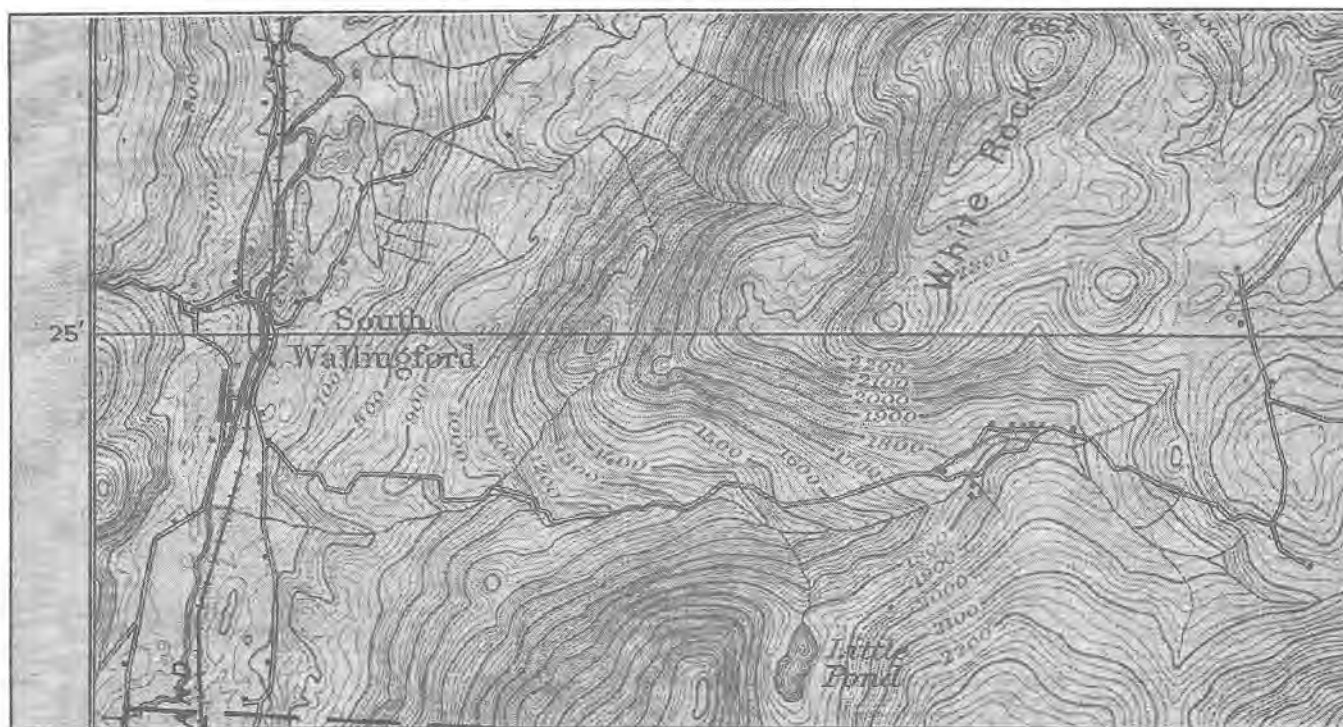


Figure 2. Aldrichville (just right of center) on 1893 Wallingford 15' USGS quadrangle.

berland in southeastern Wallingford as early as 1879 (Klock et al. 1976:8). Deed research revealed large land purchases from various individuals. In 1888, the Aldrich brothers paid Frank and John Miller \$19,000 for various land parcels, including large tracts in South Wallingford in or adjacent to the Aldrichville District (Figure 2) (Wallingford Land Records 16:520-522).

These purchases and the high demand for wood at the turn of the century were the stimulus for the village formation of Aldrichville. Newlyweds Barney Aldrich and Anna Congdon moved in 1882 to the newly established mill village of Aldrichville where they remained for the first 10 years of their married life (Aldrich in Smith 1932). The Aldrichville sawmill, established on the forested slopes in southeastern Wallingford, soon became the nucleus of a new industrial hamlet with specific activities associated with different seasons. In the winter when the snow and ice facilitated transportation, timber was cut and skidded to the mill yard. In the spring when waterpower was most abundant, the logs were sawn. The Aldrichville mill products, including lumber, chair stock, and lath, were hauled downhill to South Wallingford where they were shipped by rail to a wide market.

For minimally sixteen years between 1882 and 1898, the relatively isolated hamlet of Aldrichville operated successfully. At the time of its peak operation, the Aldrichville mill village contained a sawmill, lumberyard, blacksmith shop, a horse and

oxen barn, a boarding house for lodging single laborers, Barney Aldrich's framed single house with a store in the back, two double tenant residences, four or five log cabins occupied by the French Canadian families, and a school (Maranville 1983). A few historic photographs of Aldrichville reveal the appearance of the mill and some of the other buildings and features of the lumber and mill village.

### The Aldrichville Mill Operation

The visible remains of the mill and mill yard still form the nucleus of the industrial village. This area constitutes a turn-of-the-century "industrial park." Like the hub of a wagon wheel, structures and day-to-day activities radiated around the mill and mill yard.

Although in the 1870s and 1880s power was commonly generated through the use of waterwheels and electric generators, steam powered turbines became dominant by the 1890s. The Aldrichville sawmill was almost certainly steam-powered, fueled by readily available wood and/or charcoal (Figure 3). To operate the mill, water would have been diverted from the millpond through channels and pipelines to the boiler. Here, steam was produced to turn the vanes of the turbine wheels that drove shafts, gears, belts, and pulleys, which generated and transmitted power to the main saw frame, the carriage-





Figure 3. *Aldrichville mill, ca. 1895.*

return, and the wood-working machinery in the mill.

Substantial dry laid stonewalls, constructed of several courses of boulders and slabs of quartzite, limestone and other native material, define the architectural remains of several mill buildings. Historic photographs also reveal different structures and elements within the industrial complex. Some of these are confirmed in the archaeological record. For example, historic photographs depict an iron smokestack on a stone base and brick chimneys. On the site, corroborating this historic photograph is a large stone base adjacent to a mound of bricks (Figure 4). Historic photographs and dense surface concentrations of window glass sherds also affirm the mill buildings contained glass windows.

The main sawmill building presumably stood snug against the slope to take advantage of gravity in unloading the timber into and processing them through the mill. The lower level of the mill contains the power plant and the turbine-housing pit, a dry laid stone channel where the turbines were situated. The channel appears to terminate adjacent to a dry laid fieldstone platform, measuring 4 by 2.5 meters. This platform may represent the charging bridge for the boiler or furnace. It is adjacent to a substantial mound of bricks, surface remains of a brick chimney stack. Several machine platforms, comprised of rectangular marble or limestone slabs, also remain on the surface of the Aldrichville mill complex.

In addition to these industrial features, concentrations of artifacts are readily apparent on the ground. Frequently, they are comprised of durable and/or inorganic material, such as cast iron and leather (used as drive or pulley belts). Many reflect industrial activities, tools, and mill equipment. Some artifacts represent elements of common mill machines and equipment, such as a planer, joiner, band saw, gang saw, shingle machine, and circular saw (which had replaced the less efficient up-and-down saws in the mid-nineteenth century). A concentration of artifacts west of the large centralized mill

building within the complex indicates the location of a sharpening room. The relatively dense artifact concentration recovered from this area included files, grinding stones, saw blades, kerosene lamp chimneys, and a jackknife. The millyard where logs, milled wood boards and lath were stacked (Maranville 1983) is located on a wide, flat terrace north and upslope of the mill buildings.

The entire industrial complex, including dams, channels, the sawmill, sharpening shed, furnace and charging area, is capable of revealing data on intrasite timber extraction and lumber processing technologies, the manner in which the power source was harnessed and utilized, the spatial and functional patterning of the industrial complex, and other specifics on village operations as water management.

### The Village of Aldrichville

In addition to the mill, the Aldrichville District contains other archaeological resources, representing a range of industrial, domestic, agricultural, commercial, and institutional (a school) sites and features.

Located at the south end of Aldrichville is the former blacksmith shop site. Although the footprint of the former structure is hard to discern, the dense artifact scatter reflects the blacksmith's craft, waste material, and repair activities. The surface of the surrounding area contains a discard scrap pile of wrought and cast iron. Iron tools, including chisels, wedges, and saws, and parts of furnaces, stoves, boilers and turbines are visible, as are artifacts reflecting various transportation modes (horse and oxen shoes, hame and harness apparatus, horse drawn wagon wheel rims, sled runners, "Model-T" parts). A dense mounded deposit of charcoal, coal, cinder, clinkers, slag, fire cracked and fire spalled rock indicate the hearth or forge location. Red brick and buff-bodied firebrick are also scattered nearby.



Figure 4. *Student excavating near the boiler and stack base.*

An additional industrial site north of the main mill complex was located on the banks of Homer Stone Brook. Dry laid stone retaining walls and a stone lined tail race presumably represent the former saw mill site which predates Aldrichville and is depicted on two mid-nineteenth-century maps of Wallingford (Beers 1860; Chace 1854).

North and upstream of the industrial center is an earthen dam and beaver/impoundment pond. The earthen dam's stone footings and the stonewall perpendicular to it suggest it was originally built and used to impound water. The pond is a likely candidate for the site of a former millpond where head-gates would have regulated the volume of water directed to the channels and pipes that carried water to the mill's turbines. The pond could have also served as a water reservoir for the village. Long trenches and widespread lengths of cast iron pipe segments provide evidence of the extensive water management system that channeled water from Homer Stone Brook and/or the impoundment pond.

Stone-lined cellar holes and ground depressions, in combination with surface concentrations of domestic debris, provide clues to the location of several dwelling, and perhaps barn, sites. The structures, indicative of modest nineteenth-century vernacular architecture, were comprised of logs or clapboard sided instead of brick walled. Most did not possess substantial foundations. Barney Aldrich may have occupied a somewhat more impressive residence situated south of and overlooking his lumber and mill operation. His frame and plastered house was located near the boarding house; a little wooden bridge spanning a small brook linked the two properties. In the back of the Aldrich house was a store in which cloth and other articles were sold (Maranville 1983). In the fall, the house was banked high with sawdust so that "the floors never got cold in winter" (Aldrich in Smith 1932).

The historic roadbed extending east/west through the cluster of residential sites situated north of Homer Stone Brook is locally referred to as French Avenue (it now serves as a snow mobile trail in the Green Mountain National Forest). Oral history, and birth and census records affirm that this enclave formerly included log cabin sites occupied by French Canadian loggers and farmstead sites that predate the Aldrich mill. Very limited testing did not reveal diagnostically distinct artifact assemblages in this area. Further fieldwork is required to determine whether, and how, ethnicity is reflected in the material culture left behind. Although historic twentieth-century maps do not depict structures south of French Avenue, the archaeological survey disclosed physical evidence of structures on both sides of French Avenue.

Although the northernmost structure depicted on the 1869 Beers Atlas is the District No. 8 School, we have not found evidence of its location. Nor have we yet located wells, privies, stables, or other specialized outbuildings that we would anticipate encountering.

## The Residents of Aldrichville

The precise number of Aldrichville residents is not known. Nevertheless, oral history recollections, town histories, archives in the Wallingford Town Hall (birth and death records, census records), and the 1900 federal census (United States Bureau of Census 1900) disclosed substantial information on the individuals who established and occupied the mill hamlet of Aldrichville c.1882 to 1898. Review of the 1900 federal census indicates Aldrichville was home to over 60 people. Research also disclosed that as many as 28 children attended the nearby school - the largest outside of Wallingford village (Aldrich in Smith 1932).

Many of the Aldrichville inhabitants were French Canadian (Aldrich in Smith 1932, Maranville 1983). Oral history indicated separate French and English speaking enclaves existed on either side of Homer Stone Brook. The road paralleling the north side of Homer Stone Brook is known as French Avenue and defines one of the ethnically distinct areas. The 1915, 1928, and 1932 USGS 15' Wallingford, Vermont, topographic quadrangles reveal that this area formerly included at least five structures.

Roles within the community could be quite specialized. Minimally, a successful mill village would require choppers, woodcutters, barkers, and a scaler; sawmill engineers, a miller, wood turners and laborers; a lumber dealer, and a clerk; blacksmiths; teamsters and drivers, "road monkey" (the individual who iced and maintained the road) and "chickadee" (who cleaned up after the "beasts of burden"); boarding house operator, and a school teacher. It is possible that adjacent farms were also integral to the operation, but we do not actually know how the villagers provisioned themselves.

It must have been a noisy place. Imagine the shouts of the loggers as they felled a tree, or dropped a load in the mill yard; the grating of the chains on the horse-drawn sleds and wagons; the raspy sounds from the tool sharpening shed; the gravelly whirl of circular saw blades in the mill; and the loud thumping cadence as the heavy saw frame dropped when a cut was finished. The street probably had deep cuts caused by sled runners and wagon wheels and water probably pooled in these cuts and the basin holes made by the horse hoofs. And sawdust must have clouded the air and dusted surfaces throughout the village.

Barney Aldrich (Smith 1932) affirmed, "There was always something happening on that mountain." And accidents were something to fear and guard against. One day, "one of the new men sawed off the tips of both his thumbs" and Louis Bushee's horse had to be shot after it fell and broke its leg (Aldrich in Smith 1932). Work hours were long, activities strenuous, and sawdust abundant. Maranville (1983) recollected, "The whistle blew for work at 7 a.m. and again at noon at which time the workers had an hour for dinner, then the final mill whistle was

at 6 p.m. This was the working day for six days a week."

There was great rivalry among [the men] as to who had the best team. Every little while they'd have some kind of contest to see which team could draw or pull the most. One team brought down a carload in one load - 13,000 feet of sawed lumber. When I offered a barrel of flour to the teamster who brought down the biggest load of pulpwood three of them drew down 19½ cords. . . . They were so nearly alike that each of the three drivers got a barrel of flour (Aldrich in Smith 1932).

Unlike "simple logging camps" of the day, town records, photographs, diaries and the archaeological record indicate this was a community of families with non-"lumberjack" aspects of daily life. Historic photographs and research testify to the presence of children. Maranville (1983) recalls playing horseshoes and in the wood piles of the mill yard constructing "solo teeter boards" and "pianos" by placing strips of thin lath into crevices between the stacked boards.

Another form of recreation in which the adults participated was baseball (Figure 5). The Aldrichville ball team played nearby town teams, and "beat a good many of them" (Aldrich in Smith 1932).

Oral tradition also provides other colorful details of life in the remote mill village including the persistent, problematic lice problem (Maranville 1983). A lice comb was, in fact, recovered during the archaeological investigation of the site.

### The Abandonment of Aldrichville

Similar to other towns in Vermont, Wallingford met with economic hardships in the post-Civil War years. Few new industries were developed after 1865. In addition, the railroads that provided freight connections carried away mercantile business to the larger centers of activity, such as Rutland. Many local businesses moved to larger centers of activity in order to survive and reach a broader market (Smith and Rann 1886:575). Mills closed with the depletion of nearby resources and many farmsteads were abandoned resulting in the town population decline beginning in the 1870s and continuing for a generation.

Operations like those of Aldrichville were successful but not productive for the long-term. Once the prime lumber stands were depleted, the Aldrich brothers decided to abandon the site in favor of a new location in the valley in South Wallingford near the railroad. The planned departure from Aldrichville, no doubt, meant moving the expensive sawmill equipment and salvaging as much as possible. The move took place in 1898 although it is not clear whether the village was also entirely abandoned at this time. Ultimately, however, the former residents deserted Aldrichville.

Oral tradition indicates one Aldrichville structure, a two-story boarding house for mill workers, was moved to the west side of Main Street in Wallingford Village. The other houses were left standing. Barney Aldrich (Smith 1932) indicated,



Figure 5. The "Aldrichville Nine," ready to play ball (with village structures in background).

"We thought the hunters and fishermen would get a lot of fun out of them." However, it did not take long before all the structures had burned down.

In June 1907, the Aldrich brothers transferred property rights for numerous South Wallingford parcels to Harry Crocker, E.D. Starbuck and R. Newton Brezee of Saratoga Springs, New York (Wallingford Land Records 18:386-8). Although Aldrichville lay abandoned by this time, twentieth-century USGS 15' Wallingford, Vermont, topographic quadrangle maps dated 1915, 1928, and 1932 continued to depict standing structures. By 1955, no structures are depicted in the Aldrichville District on the USGS 7.5' Wallingford, Vermont, topographic quadrangle map.

### Relics & Ruins' Methodologies and Results

The foregoing summary of the history of Aldrichville and its occupants reflects just one component of the Relics & Ruins program. The success of our project at Aldrichville is attributed to its broad research base and multi-task emphasis.

Historic research, archaeological methods, photography, art, music and dance were combined to bring to life "our" turn of the century logging village. Historic research included the compilation of archives (censuses, deeds, town records, birth and death records) and historic photographs on the development and history of Aldrichville, its proprietors and occupants, and their activities. In addition to documentary research, oral history interviews were conducted with long-time residents of Wallingford and relatives of the occupants, as well as specialists at working lumber mills and the Adirondack Museum in Blue Lake, New York. Field trips were also taken to local cemeteries where past residents of Aldrichville are buried. Much information derived from the research was documented, and combined with creative writing



essays, to form a 24-page "period" newspaper, the Aldrichville Gazette, and a temporary website.

Daily 40-minute hikes to Aldrichville initiated a multitude of on-site activities. Surface investigations resulted in the re-identification of the locations of many town features. We estimate 80 to 90 percent of the former primary standing structures (i.e., not sheds, outbuildings, privies, etc.) were identified. In order to create a detailed map documenting the boundaries of the District and the location of surface features, as well as an accurate base-line and grid for the site, data was captured using a Global Positioning System (GPS). Features of the site were also documented with photography, including digital records.

Knowledge of the site and the surrounding woodlands was also enhanced by assistance from a botanist, wildlife biologist, hydrologist, and a skilled metal detector specialist who confirmed some enigmatic ground depressions were cultural features. Fieldwork also included removing intrusive vegetation and fallen tree debris from the area and stabilizing stonewalls to increase the visibility of the mill foundations for hikers.

Subsurface archaeological testing at the site involved the excavation of 42 units, generally measuring 1 by 1 meter square (Figures 4 and 6). During the 1997 and 1998 investigations 6,228 artifacts were recovered (Figure 7). To understand the clues they held and ensure their preservation, the artifacts were washed, catalogued within a provenience-based system (according to their recovery location), analyzed, and curated, along with all archives, at the Green Mountain National Forest office in Rutland, Vermont.

Predominant in the collection are household items, including bottle glass (976 specimens), ceramics (637), and kitchenware (221). Nevertheless, architectural and structural materials were also well represented, including nails (1,647 specimens), window glass (543), metal flashing (502), and



Figure 6. Students excavating in front of the mill foundation.



Figure 7. A field photo of artifacts from the mill area.

brick (27). The artifact assemblage indicated houses were equipped with cast-iron stoves and lighted with kerosene or oil lamps (493 glass globe fragments). Many artifacts provided specific evidence of historic activities. Hand tools (such as files, the double headed ax blade, a grinding stone, a cant hook, a peavey, crosscut saw blade, and buck saw blade) reflected logging activities. Machine parts (such as the rod and piston for a steam mechanism or rivet driver, babbitt bearing, pulley wheels, and leather drive or conveyor belt fragments) indicated milling activities. Sled runners and oxen and horse-shoes and harness gear revealed some of the transportation means. Porcelain doll and tiny teacup fragments substantiated oral history and archival records that children resided in Aldrichville. An Indian head penny c.1860-1903 corroborated the approximate period of occupancy of Aldrichville, while compressed charcoal layers, fire-cracked rock, and other burnt artifacts reflected the manner of the destruction of the standing structures. In addition, the distribution of these artifacts helped define functional and spatial relationships within the District.

Artistic accomplishments of the students include site and artifact photographs, pen and ink drawing, watercolor paintings, and elaborate three-dimensional models of the landscape, mill and powerhouse (Figure 8), village structures, horse drawn vehicles, and Aldrichville occupants. These were included in several temporary displays and semi-permanent exhibits at the Chaffee Center for Visual Arts in Rutland, the United States Forest Services offices in Rutland and Manchester, and the Wallingford Elementary School. In 1999, a permanent interpretive sign was created and erected by Relics and Ruins staff on the site to inform hikers on the AT/LT of the former historic mill District through which they are traveling (Figure 9).

Immersing students into the late-nineteenth-century culture also involved a music and dance component. Students learned and performed period songs and dances, and com-



Figure 8. *A three-dimensional model of the powerhouse (left) and saw mill (right).*

posed a new folk song called "Going Back to Aldrichville."

Ultimately, the students and staff in the Relics & Ruins program (Figure 10) have learned historical particulars about a specific place, applied a broad range of methods or tools, generated meaningful and creative products, developed a greater sense of the stewardship role individuals can play in regard to our ecosystems, and (not least) had a good time doing so.

### Site Significance and Research Potential

Aldrichville provides a window to the past, revealing and providing insight into the life-styles of former residents. Although relatively little subsurface archaeology has been done, we have established an historical baseline, and can demonstrate that the District is significant for a number of reasons. The potential to answer many more questions remains.

- At the local level, despite its long abandonment, Aldrichville has special meaning for Wallingford residents, in part because the activities pursued there represent one of the economies and ways of life their town was based on. In addition, many of their forebears worked there. As such, the site provides an opportunity to teach students about local history.

- Historical research has shown that the site also has potential to provide socio-economic information on rural industrial village formation, composition, and organization.

- The recovered artifact collection provides corroboration that, unlike simple logging camps, this was a community of families, involved in more than just "lumberjack" aspects of daily life.

- Analysis of the population structure of the village reveals two distinct neighborhood clusters corresponding to discrete French- and English-speaking enclaves. A larger field sample and more analysis is required to determine whether and/or how these ethnic distinctions are reflected in the material culture assemblages, but the clear spatial separation

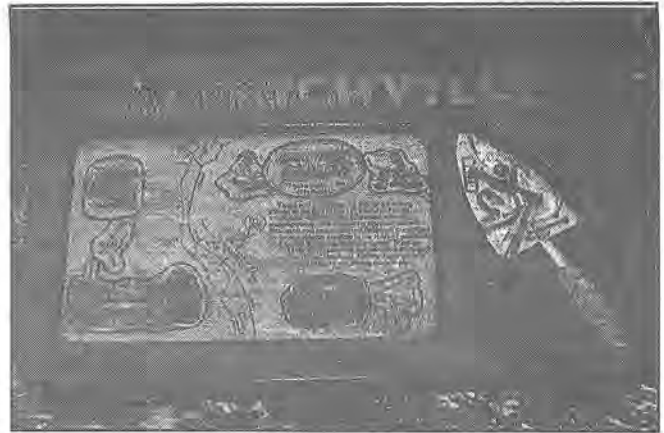


Figure 9. *The AT/LT interpretive sign for the Historic Aldrichville Mill District.*

of neighborhoods would appear to be an ideal "control" situation.

- The District could also be a critical source of information on the affects of past land-use practices on the ecosystem and the long-term trajectory of recovery from these changes. A more rigorous set of environmental studies would enhance our understanding of the legacy of the changes that we can already describe.

Some remaining questions are purely archaeological or methodological. There are questions about feature locations within the village: Can single-family dwellings, double tenant residences, and the boarding house site be distinguished from one another on the site? Does the size and character of the surface features reflect the socioeconomic status and relative quality of life of the residents? Will refuse from Barney Aldrich's residence include discarded commercial merchandise as well as domestic waste? There are additional questions pertaining to the nature of the relationships with the surrounding farm communities that still need to be addressed. And there are lessons to learn about the methods employed in doing historic archaeology in-and-around ephemeral sites.

In sum, and more formally: the Aldrichville Mill Village Historic Archaeological District is a significant cultural resource that exemplifies the Vermont State Historic Preservation Plan industry and commerce theme (1760-1940). The following state-recognized thematic historic contexts apply to the industrial District: Logging and Lumber Production, Small Water-Powered Mill Production, and Manufacture of Building Materials. In addition, it qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, due to its potential to provide important information pertaining to nineteenth-century lumber and mill technology, the results of historic land use, and rural industrial village formation, composition, and organization.



## Conclusion

Many strands of evidence have been gathered over the last several years and the District has been a focus of education about various methods of historic/archaeological research. We have found that a multi-faceted, place-based archaeological "recreation" and education program has broad relevance and, therefore, a broad audience. The Relics & Ruins partnership project has raised awareness about archaeological methods, heritage principles, stewardship values, and the long-lasting enjoyable results of these activities.

Together these activities, resulting in the accumulation of a significant archival database, oral traditions, and information on the District's physical condition, dimensions, and integrity, tangibly contribute to the management of this important District, the Long and Appalachian Trail corridor, and the surrounding ecosystem.

From our perspective, place-based environmental education can, and in some cases must, rely on the archaeological record to make sense of our ecosystems and the appropriate management of them in the future. We hope that one of the legacies of the Relics & Ruins experience is a call to action for the next generation - an antidote to apathy. The lesson is that choices about land- and resource-use have future consequences for our ecosystems' health. These consequences manifest themselves within a relatively short time frame. As Barney Aldrich noted upon a visit to his old mill a mere 36 years after its abandonment:

*Nothing there is the way it used to be. All that's left of the mill is a big sawdust pile, and there's nothing to show where the houses stood. The Long Trail goes past where they used to be and through what was once our mill yard. The mountain is covered with second growth wood. The little trees that we left standing are big trees now (Aldrich in Smith 1932).*

## Acknowledgments

Staff members of this partnership project received the 1999 USDA Forest Service National Award for Excellence in recognition of the project's outstanding contributions to the "Windows on the Past" program: Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forest Service Archaeologist David Lacy, Historical Archaeologist Sheila Charles, Project Coordinator/Wallingford Elementary School Teacher Debra Gardner-Baasch, Artist/Rutland High School Creative Structures Instructor Steve Halford, Historian Michael Barbieri, Photographer Lowell Klock, Barstow Elementary School Teacher and musician Steve Spensely, Wallingford Elementary School Aide Caren Van Pelt, and authors Ursula Smith and Linda Peavey.



Figure 10. *Relics & Ruins 1999 students and staff.*

Partners and community members who contributed to the success of the Relics & Ruins project included: Hayes Foundation Director Carl Buffum, Wallingford Town Clerk/Wallingford Historic Society President Joyce Barbieri, Wallingford Elementary School, Wallingford Masonic Lodge, USFS Specialists Larry Walter, Eric Bowman, Mary Beth Deller, and Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife biologist Kim Blodgett

## References

- Barbieri, Michael  
1998 Map of Aldrichville c.1889-1896. Unpublished sketch map.
- [Beers, F.W.]  
ca.1860 Plan of Wallingford Township.
- Beers, F.W., A.D. Ellis and G.G. Soule  
1969 *Atlas of Rutland County, Vermont*. Reprint of 1869 edition. Charles. E. Tuttle, Rutland.
- Chace, J. Jr., James D. Scott, Isaac W. Moore and Owen McLeray  
1854 *Scott's Map of Rutland County, Vermont from Actual Surveys*. James D. Scott, Philadelphia, Pa..
- Child, Hamilton  
1881 *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Rutland County, Vermont for 1881-82*. Journal Office, Syracuse, NY.

## "Relics & Ruins" at Aldrichville

Johnson, Curtis B. and Elsa Gilbertson, eds.

1988 *The Historic Architecture of Rutland County*, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier.

Klock, Julian, Ruth Barnard, and Eleanor Klock (eds.)

1976 *A History of Wallingford, Vermont*. Academy Books, Rutland.

Lacy, David

Spring 1999 Passing through Aldrichville. *Long Trail News*, Green Mountain Club, Waterbury.

Lacy, David M., Sheila Charles, Debra Gardner-Baasch, and Michael Barbieri

1999 Archaeology at Aldrichville: An Education and Recreation Partnership. *Proceedings of the 1998 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium*.

2000 *Relics & Ruins: Education & Recreation for Kids Through Historic Archaeology*. Poster presentation at the Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium, Bolton Landing, NY.

Maranville, Edna Earle (98 years old)

1983 And Sawdust Everywhere Little Girl Remembrances: The Aldrich Job 1889-1891 & 1895-1896. *Wallingford Historical Society Newsletter*.

Smith, H.P. and W.S. Rann

1886 *History of Rutland County, Vermont*. D. Mason & Co., Syracuse, NY.

Smith, Mary Gilbert

1932 Barney W. Aldrich Describes Activities at Old Lumber Camp. *Rutland Herald*, Rutland.

Thorpe, Walter

1911 *A History of Wallingford Vermont*. The Tuttle Company, Rutland.

United States Bureau of Census

1900 Heads of Families, 12th Census for the State of Vermont, Wallingford.

United States Geological Survey

1915 15' Wallingford, Vermont Topographic Quadrangle. Reprint, 1893.

1928 15' Wallingford, Vermont Topographic Quadrangle. Reprint, 1893.

1932 15' Wallingford, Vermont Topographic Quadrangle. Reprint, 1893.

1955 7.5' Wallingford, Vermont Topographic Quadrangle.

1986 7.5' Wallingford, Vermont Topographic Quadrangle.

Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

1991 Vermont Historic Preservation Plan: Planning for the Future of Vermont's Heritage. Agency of Development and Community Affairs, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, Montpelier, Vermont.

Wallingford, Town of; Land Records, various years, various books.

---

*David Lacy is the archaeologist for the nearly 400,000-acre Green Mountain National Forest. This large upland area reinforces his inclination to be a heritage generalist, given the broad range of site types and land-use stories from early Native American occupation through the Civilian Conservation Corps. A proud son of Massachusetts (he graduated from Boston University and the University of Massachusetts/Amherst), Dave lives in Pittsford, Vt., with his wife Barbara and their two sons, Jameson and Mackenzie.*

*Sheila Charles has been an Historic and Archaeological Consultant for the past decade, living in Rutland, Vt., with her husband Ken and children Philip, Marc, and Heather, all of whom enrich her life and keep it exciting. She received her BA and MA in Anthropology from California State University Northridge. Sheila's areas of interest include historic and archaeological education, cultural resource management, material culture, and museum exhibit planning.*