

The Journal of Vermont Archaeology

The Vermont Archaeological Society

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Victor R. Rolando, Editor

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Cover illustration: Lake Champlain Maritime Museum Archaeologist Adam Kane recording the stern end of the Sloop Island Canal Boat, which sank into Lake Champlain in 90 feet of water in 1925 (LCMM collection, photo by Pierre LaRocque). See "Sloop Island" article starting on page 41.

Preface

This year marks the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of The Vermont Archaeological Society. The VAS has come a long way from that initial meeting on April 26, 1968, by a handful of enthusiastic people of varying backgrounds and experiences in archaeology. The early organizing meetings were held in the UVM Williams Science Building, while others, as spring came to the campus, outside in the shade of trees behind the building. And productive meetings they were, as the VAS was soon incorporated - on June 8, 1968.

With this issue of *The Journal of Vermont Archaeology (JVA)*, we continue to evolve by initiating a significant change by publishing the journal annually. This and future issues of the *JVA* will not be as lengthy as previous volumes; quality of articles, however, will remain high. And through lower production costs, copies will be available at no cost to members - that is - as long as you renew, your copies will keep coming at no charge. This might be a good time to consider becoming a Life Member of the VAS and guarantee not missing an issue.

Work on Volume 5 will start the spring of 2004. Issues have no strict "theme" agenda, but hints of what might be submitted point toward a more prehistoric archaeology perspective. As we will be publishing annually, there will be a continuing need for well-written papers on any aspect about, or impacting on, archaeology in Vermont. The sooner papers are received, the sooner they will be published. Note that future submittals will be subject to editorial review and acceptance. Contact the undersigned for copy specifications (see page ii for contacting information).

We lost a giant in the field of Vermont archeology this past year. Marjory W. Power, to whom we dedicated Volume 3, passed away on June 26, 2003, after a long battle with polychondritis and emphysema. Her biography appeared in the Volume 3 dedication and also in an obituary in the September 2003 *VAS Newsletter*, both written by James B. Petersen, and is not repeated here. Her absence from UVM and the anthropology/archaeology scene is felt.

The three articles in this issue of the *JVA* concentrate on subjects that deal with archaeology in, on, and adjacent to Lake Champlain. You will recognize authors Ronald Kingsley and Scott McLaughlin from articles written for past *JVA* issues; Adam Kane and John Chiamulera are new names to the *JVA*.

This issue opens with an article describing another in the continuing series of great recent discoveries in Lake Champlain. In "Resume of a Seventeenth-Century Top-Secret Weapon: The Story of the Mount Independence Cannon," Scott McLaughlin describes the details behind finding the cannon, and traces whence it came to end up where it was found. The paper is an excellent piece of research that includes the history and technology of how 17th- and 18th-century cannon were made, how this particular cannon was made, and

why it made such an impact on the outcome of naval battles.

Continuing with the theme of archeology at Mount Independence, but now mostly above the water line, Ronald Kingsley and John Chiamulera joined forces to write "An Investigation of the South Side Landing Area of Mount Independence, Orwell Township, Addison County, Vermont." There were two landings at The Mount, at the north and south sides, both for access to Lake Champlain, which was the "main highway" for many years for settlers and communities that sprung up along the lake shores. The authors trace the history of the area we today call Mount Independence, before, during, and after Revolutionary War events that took place there, and describe the results of recent archeology at the site.

We don't know why, but one night in 1925, a 10-year-old canal boat sank into the depths of Lake Champlain just north of Thompson's Point, Charlotte, near Sloop Island. Why that was such a personal tragedy for the owner, yet an event that didn't make the newspapers, is explained by Scott McLaughlin and Adam Kane in "Sloop Island Canal Boat: A Preliminary Report on the Phase III Study of an Early-Twentieth-Century Canal Boat." The authors trace the history of the canals that connected Lake Champlain to the outside world, the evolution of canal boat design, and life and accommodations aboard the boats. Archeology 90 feet below the lake surface is unlike any surface-based investigation (see front cover); yet, the authors are able to describe the boat's construction details along with what the personal items found in the sunken wreck tell us about those who once lived aboard this interesting type vessel.

I thank all the writers and the editing staff who persevered through the editing and production cycles. They all helped make this the fine publication it is and one that VAS members can be proud.

Victor R. Rolando, Journal Editor
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