

# THE SCRIBBLER II

October 2007

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## Paleoindians in the Okemo Valley

In July, the University of Vermont conducted an archeological dig at the Jackson Gore area of Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, VT.



Six volunteers from the Cavendish Historical Society (CHS) were on hand to help. Even though it was hot, and

each tray of dirt had to be carefully examined for tiny chards of what might have been part of a stone tool, it was also very rewarding to hold flakes of stone that had been worked by paleoindians 11,000 years ago.

For two consecutive Sunday this September, members of the archeological dig team came to the Museum to discuss flint knapping, how stone tools were made, and a history of the early Americans as well as the findings from the Jackson Gore site.

Charlie Paquin, an experimental archeologist, provided a demonstration of flint knapping using moose antlers and stone. He described these early Americans as a hunter-gatherer culture, where there weren't specialists, as so common in our society. It was important that everyone understood what rocks made good tools, what plants could heal wounds and cure a fever, how to start a fire, and how to track animals. Women, as well as men, were experienced in the art of tool making. To Paquin, the Paleoindians were modern man, as the degree of skills and

critical thinking required for daily survival was extensive.

Jess Robinson, who was in charge of the Jackson Gore dig, said that he wasn't sure what the Paleoindians were doing in this area. Since there is a natural valley corridor, between Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River, it could have been an "exchange corridor." Because of the overlook, it may have also been a place to hunt caribou and other game. As the site is above the flood plain, it looks pretty much as it did 11,000 years ago.

Robinson and Paguin described the paleoindians as traveling in small groups of 20-30 people following game. They most likely met seasonally with other small groups for trade, marriages and possibly spiritual or religious purposes. Because of the acidic nature of Vermont's soil, little remains of this culture but the stone tools. These were master craftsman, making tools that were more advanced than paleoindians in other parts of North America.

Even though the findings of the Jackson Gore are very preliminary, and will not be formally presented for several years, a projectile point, which dates the site to the early Paleoindian period, along with a bead were found. In addition, some of the materials in the tools were from states as far away as Pennsylvania and Maine. This is a very rare site, not only of importance for understanding early man in Vermont, but also has regional and even national significance.

The Jackson Gore site, which is owned by Okemo, will be turned into a golf

course. However, Okemo has promised to leave the site untouched so that in subsequent years, with improved archeology tools, the site can be reopened.



### **Researching Cavendish Families**

Due to the overwhelming interest in Cavendish family genealogy this summer, CHS has developed a handout, which guides you through the process of finding your family. The handout is available at the Museum, the Cavendish Library and by e-mailing [margoc@tds.net](mailto:margoc@tds.net) or calling 802-226-7807. While designed for Cavendish, there is a lot of information and resources, which can assist you looking for family in other parts of the country. A genealogy weekend is being planned for the summer 2008. Keep watching the Scribbler II for more information.

### **Rankins & Kingsburys to be Honored**

At the upcoming CHS dinner and meeting, Life Time Achievement awards will be given to Paul and Barbara Kingsbury and to Craig and Pat Rankin. All four of them have provided significant contributions to the understanding of Cavendish history as well as to its preservation. In addition to Craig Rankin's pen and inks of Cavendish landmarks, his yearly plant sale for CHS is legendary, with people traveling many miles to purchase them. He and his wife Pat were instrumental in tracking Cavendish history and helping to ensure its future. Barbara Kingsbury, past archivist, is the author of "Chubb Hill Farm and Cavendish Vermont: A Family and Town History 1876-1960." She and Paul continue to support CHS through their participation

in the CHS educational programs for the school.

### **CHS's Annual Dinner and Meeting**

The annual potluck dinner and meeting of CHS, which includes election of officers, will take place on October 21 (Sunday) at 5 pm at the Cavendish Inn (formerly Glimmerstone) on Main Street in Cavendish. For more information, call 802-226-7807 or e-mail [margoc@tds.net](mailto:margoc@tds.net)

### **The Civil War and Cavendish**

The approaching Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War (2011-2015) is a time to remember this country's greatest national crisis, and to create ways for people to learn about the war, understanding its relevance to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Cavendish, like many other towns in Vermont was involved in events leading up to the war, sending 187 men to fight, and several women who served as nurses.

As the controversy over slavery arose, Cavendish became part of the eastern trunk of the Underground Railroad between Brattleboro and Montpelier. Along this route, runaway slaves from the South found safe refuge on their journey northward to Canada. Oral history indicates that there is at least one house, possibly more, that were part of the network. However, there are historians who question Vermont's involvement in the Railroad.

During the Civil War, Captain Tuttle commanded the Cavendish Light Infantry. A monument to the bravery of these men, donated by Vermont's former governor, Redfield Proctor, in 1883, stands next to the Cavendish Historical Society Museum.

With the passing of each decade, the stories of the men on this moment have been forgotten, or stowed away in journals, letters, and anecdotal stories handed down from one generation to another. While some information is lost, there is a considerable amount waiting to be brought to the attention of the public. CHS, is planning a four year initiative to understand, record, and document the town's Civil War related history, starting with the anti slavery movement through the post war years, when so many men did not return to the town.

You can assist CHS in its Civil War initiative by sending stories from your Cavendish family, loaning records or

photographs, participating on our Civil War steering committee, or donating funds to assist with these activities. For more information, call 802-226-7807, e-mail [margoc@tds.net](mailto:margoc@tds.net) or mail PO Box 472, Cavendish, VT 05142.

### Upcoming Events

**October 21 (Sunday):** Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Dinner, and Election of Officers, Life Time Achievement Awards. 5 pm at the Cavendish Inn. Public invited.

**Nov. 24 (Saturday):** Holiday Fair. Take Cavendish Home for the Holidays 10-3 at the Cavendish Town Elementary School in Proctorsville.

## BECOME A MEMBER-JOIN A COMMITTEE

If you have not joined the Cavendish Historical Society, please consider doing so by completing the form below and sending a check, payable to CHS, to CHS, PO Box 472, Cavendish, VT 05142. All contributions are tax deductible.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Level

Individual Member \$10       Senior Member 65+ \$5       Sustaining Member \$500  
 Household Member \$15       Contributing Member \$250

I would be interested in serving as a volunteer

I would be interested in serving on the following committee(s):

Program Planning       Fundraising       Building (Museum)  
 Archives       Budget

## 2007 CAVENDISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT

The following report has been prepared in preparation for the Annual meeting/pot luck supper on October 21 at 5 pm at the Cavendish Inn.

### Message from the President

This past year has been one of significant growth and change for CHS. We have increased our mailing list by at least 50 new people; provided a diverse program schedule of events, appealing to a broad range of interests and ages; and been actively involved in both restoring old traditions and helping our town build a strong economic future.

Key to our success is partnering with other organizations both locally and statewide. The September programs on the Paleoindians were made possible by the Vermont Archaeological Society (VAS). CHS is co-sponsoring the Cavendish Economic Roundtable with Cavendish Community and Conservation Association (CCCA), formerly Cavendish Concerned Citizens (CCC). Many organizations and businesses helped CHS in reviving Old Home Day in June, and in September, the Museum was host to a program of Cavendish Town Elementary School 6<sup>th</sup> graders, who presented "Living History: Through the Eyes of Our Youth." Each student selected a member of the community, who they interviewed and drew a picture of them from a photograph. Some of the students videotaped their interviews, while others took notes. Parents and friends were not only about the children's presentations, but they also enjoyed exploring the Museum. Comments of, "it's been ages since I've been here. Look at all the new stuff," were made by more than one person.

With all of our successes, the shortcomings of the Museum are becoming more and more obvious. While it is nice for people to come for a program on Sunday afternoon, these events take up a large part of the Museum's available space, making it difficult for those who wish to just browse the

Society's collection. Further, the building does not have heat, and it makes archiving difficult during the winter months. The Building Committee has been exploring a variety of options this past year and will continue to do so in 2008. In the mean time, CHS is looking for office and archival space, which can be used year round.

By the end of this year, we hope to have the CHS website on-line at [www.cavendishhistory.org](http://www.cavendishhistory.org). Not only will we use the site to let people know about CHS, but it also be a way to collect stories about Cavendish.

In 2008, CHS will be pursuing several grant opportunities in order to expand programs and will be publishing Linda Welch's fourth volume of *Families of Cavendish*, featuring the families of Atherton, Bemis, Heald, Graves, Ordway, Putnam, and Weston.

We will continue to work to preserve Cavendish history for future generations.

Dan Churchill, President

### Archivist, Curator & Board Members

CHS is currently seeking volunteers who would be interested in serving on the board or filling one of the following positions:

**Archivist:** Plans and organizes systems and procedures for the safekeeping of records and historically valuable documents. Manage and maintain collections in all types of media and help to make them more accessible and available to a wide range of users.

**Curator:** Oversees the museum building, and is responsible for exhibition development and management of the permanent collection.

If you are interested in one of these volunteer positions, please call 802-226-7807 or e-mail [margoc@tds.net](mailto:margoc@tds.net)

## Financial Report

### Income, Endowments & Savings CDs & Checking Account 1/07-10/07

Source	Amount	Endowments & Savings	Amount
Donations/Appeal Campaign/Membership	\$2,023	Williams	17,609
Sales: Publications/T-shirts*	2,427	Rankin	5,500
Town Budget	4,000	CD Savings	10,000
		Checking Account	5,000
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>\$8,450</b>		<b>\$38,109</b>
<b>In-kind Contributions</b>			
New Computer and Printer	2,760		
Digital Camera	100		
Office Space	2,400		
Sub Total	<b>5,260</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,710</b>		

### Expenditures

Item	Cost
Contractuals	8,400
Museum Maintenance (Utilities, upkeep etc)	427
Utilities for Rental Spaces	1,000
T-shirts etc.	879
Printing of Newsletter & Publications	2,610
Mailing	100
Archival Materials	947
Misc. (Office supplies etc.)	282
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$14,645</b>

During 2007, CHS has raised to date, \$8,450 from sales and donations and \$5,260 from in-kind contributions for a total of \$13,710. Funds from the CDs and Checking account are slightly higher, reflecting interest accrued this year, then the year ending 2006.