

Dr. Robert G. Goodby

12,000 Years Ago in the Granite State

THE NATIVE Abenaki people played a central role in the history of the Monadnock region, defending it against English settlement and forcing the abandonment of Keene and other Monadnock area towns during the French and Indian Wars. Despite this, little is known about the Abenaki, and conventional histories often depict the first Europeans entering an untamed, uninhabited wilderness, rather than the homeland of people who had been there for hundreds of generations. Dr. Goodby discusses how the real depth of Native history was revealed when an archaeological study during the months of May and June 2010, prior to construction of the new Keene Middle School, discovered traces of four structures dating to the end of the Ice Age including stone tools, plant remains and burned animal bones. Undisturbed for 12,000 years, the site revealed information about the economy, gender roles, and household organization of the Granite State's very first inhabitants, as well as evidence of social networks that extended for hundreds of miles across northern New England. 🍷 🍷 🍷



With support from



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Jaffrey Civic Center. 40 Main Street



PROFESSOR GOODBY recently visited the Civic Center where he inspected and speculated upon the collection of native American tools and arrowheads that were brought over from the Jaffrey Library where they usually reside. These were collected by **George M. Stone** near Lake Contoocook. Some he believed date back 2,000 years or more. Exactly who Stone was is a mystery. His name doesn't appear in any of the usual Jaffrey sources and none of our 'old-timers' recognize the name. In the old typed card that accompanies the collection it states: "Presented to the Library by Mr. George M. Stone and found at the site of his studio." Could he have been an artist? There *was* an artist by that name active in Kansas (but with New England roots). Cynthia Hamilton, on the right, remembers seeing the artifacts when she was a young girl. 🍷 🍷 🍷

Dr. Robert G. Goodby is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University. He obtained his Ph.D. in Anthropology at Brown University in 1994. He has undertaken archaeological field research in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and is the author of more than 100 technical reports on New England prehistoric archaeology. He is Past President, *New Hampshire Archeological Society*. He teaches a variety of courses in archaeology and anthropology, including *Introduction to Archaeology*, *Human Origins*, *Field Archaeology*, *North American Archaeology*, *World Archaeology*, *Museum Studies*, and *Archaeology of New England*. He directs the *Monadnock Archaeological Project*, a long-term program of archaeological field research focusing on the prehistory of the upper Contoocook and Connecticut River valleys of southwestern New Hampshire. To date, the project has conducted excavations at four Native American sites in the Monadnock region, including the Swanzey Fish Dam site and the Wantastiquet Mountain site.