



FEATURES AND PROFILES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
2013 (2)



President's Column

The ASSC was recently bestowed a generous gift of \$5300 by the estate of Mrs. Julia Porter Scurry. The Trustees of the estate indicated that Mrs. Scurry's desire was that these funds be used by the ASSC in Beaufort and/or Greenwood Counties. At this time, on behalf of the ASSC board and membership, I am accepting ideas for the best use of these funds. Please forward ideas to me at judge@sc.edu. The ASSC will consider the ideas at our next meeting on July 20th. As always all of our board meetings are open to any current member.

Fall Field Day will be held at Santee State Park on Sept 21st. Chapters, members, colleagues and other interested parties are encouraged to join us. We will need volunteers to assist us with running the event. All are encouraged to set up tables displays and demonstrations. Remember, members are admitted free to this event.

At Large ASSC Board Member Don Rosick is chair of our 2014/2015 Nominations Committee. Consider a self nomination or nominate an unsuspecting friend or colleague to serve on our board. Send Don the names to drbooks5@yahoo.com.

Our Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology is scheduled to be held on Saturday March 1st 2014 in Gambrell Hall at USC Columbia. Contact our Vice President, Carl Steen, if you would like to participate.

From the Archives

THE NEWSLETTER

We believe that an informed membership is a working membership; and that an informed public is a helpful public.

Through the medium of this newsletter the Society hopes to present to the members and public alike information of the work of the Society as a whole, and most important, through the contributions of individual members to the Newsletter, bring into sharper focus the many interweaving segments that comprise South Carolina archaeology.

There has been much discussion within the Society throughout the past several years of eventually publishing a yearly Journal. It is hoped by the planners of the Newsletter that the experience Society members will gain in contributing to the Newsletter will lead directly into the publication of a formal SCAS Journal.

This April 1962 clipping is from the first newsletter of the South Carolina Archaeological Society (predecessor to the Archaeological Society of South Carolina).

In addition to detailing the goals of publishing a Society newsletter, plans for publishing a yearly journal are also mentioned.

The Society's yearly journal, *South Carolina Antiquities*, was first published in 1969.

Submitted by Meg Gaillard, ASSC Archivist

ASSC Foothills Chapter News

We had two speakers for our April meeting!! Kind of a scheduling mix up but it all turned out well. We had Brent Burgin speak on "The Americanation of the Native American". And Craig Lovelace spoke on the "Hunley, Lt. Dixsons' gold coin" dressed in Civil War clothing.

Members Lamar Nelson and President Bob Hanselman represented the Foothills Chapter and ASSC at the Landmark Historical Conference in Spartanburg at the Marriott Hotel.

Last month we had Dr. Cole Cheek from SMU speak on "Choctaw Ethnogenesis and the Trails of Ethno-history". We were pleased to have 14 folks at our last meeting and 16 the month before.

Lamar Nelson and V.P. Lorene Fisher spoke on June 13 evening at the Library in Spartanburg about the Fisher site in Barnwell S.C. The Fisher site dig in Barnwell SC that was planned for July 7-14 has been postponed till November with a date to be determined.

On Monday June 17 Lamar Nelson spoke to campgoers on Archaeology at Walnut Grove Plantation where progress is also being made on our involvement on locating the slave quarters.

We do not meet in July.

Bob Hanselman, President

ASSC Chapter Updates

The Midlands, Camden, Charleston, and Waccamaw Chapters are now defunct. If anyone is interested in reviving any of these Chapters or starting a new one, please contact ASSC President Chris Judge.

ASSC Member Brief

Sarah Stephens



I was born and raised in St. Louis, MO, or as I like to say "in the shadow of Cahokia," although that has nothing to do with why I went into archaeology. It wasn't until my undergraduate advisor told me to pick a minor that I took my first archaeology class. I was hooked and knew it was love during my first field experience. I received my B.S. in historic preservation, with a minor in archaeology, and went on to the University of Mississippi for my M.A. in anthropology. My thesis focused on ceramics from a Mississippian period village, the South Cape site, located in Cape Girardeau, MO. From there I went off into the CRM world, working in 13 states, mainly in the Southeast, for multiple companies. I have not only done archaeology fieldwork, but also geophysical and historic architecture surveys. I moved to South Carolina in 2011 when I accepted a staff position with New South Associates' Columbia office. As of January this year, I work for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History as the Review Coordinator for Transportation Projects.

You can contact me at sastephens6@yahoo.com.

ASSC Member Fiction

Arch App
by Craig Garrison

The best prophet of the future is the past
Lord George Gordon Byron

Mr. Carson puts his boots on before his wife wakes. The heavy rains last night have eroded the freshly plowed fields. He plans to check the furrows and walk the second bluff near the river where his father built a road that cuts across his property. He knows the spot well. For generations his family has lived on this bend of the river. He thinks seasonal flooding eventually drove them to higher ground. Metal, glass and other artifacts litter the area.

When he reaches the field he turns on the Archaeological App located on his phone. He takes a picture of the first artifact he finds. He loves to share snapshots of the material past with family and friends. It's almost an obsession, especially the in-situ pictures, which everyone enjoys. The App not only marks the coordinates but also scans the piece for cultural affiliation and material identification. It also searches for adjacent finds, property ownerships, and other pertinent information. Everything is saved on a central data base.

Dan hits the creek by six AM. The creek has been dry for many years. Dan doesn't mind. Heavy rains the last few days have moved things around. As soon as he begins his journey he spots a rare artifact partially buried in the gravel at the bottom of the creek. When he gets close he notices a beveled edge around the rim. A rare cup! He quickly scans the artifact on his phone and pushes send.

Jenny wakes earlier than usual. This time of year she is busy, especially with all of the bad weather the last few weeks. She grabs coffee at the office, no time for a quick stop. First thing in the morning she typically reviews daily artifact entries. It's been years since she's observed a cup like the one Dan submitted earlier in the day. She loves the intact detail in the logo. Wow, she thinks, an actual McDonald's Plastic cup!

She thinks about the old days of archaeology when artifact curation was conducted primarily by museums and archaeologists. She remembers the commodity once placed on many cultural items. She scowls as she thinks about the massive accumulation of cultural material during her great-grandparents generation in the 21st century. She thinks about her job and her contribution to understanding this once mighty society. She thinks about equal education, cultural perceptions, and the integration of technologies, including phone applications, which have changed many aspects of the profession.

Gaillard Performance Hall Investigations

On February 5, 2013, construction workers discovered human remains at the Gaillard Performance Hall construction site in downtown Charleston, SC. After coordination with the County Coroner, The City of Charleston Department of Parks Capital Projects Division enlisted Brockington to assist in the design of appropriate actions to deal with these remains. Using equipment and staff from SKANSKA-Trident and its subcontractors, Brockington archaeologist Dr. Eric Poplin determined that the remains were associated with one of two graves exposed in a proposed storm drain trench on February 6. Additional construction excavations were planned in this portion of the site so a plan to determine if additional graves were present was developed and, due to heavy rains, implemented on February 13-14, 2013. Twenty-nine graves were exposed over a 20 by 12 meter area near the intersection of today's Anson and George Streets. Construction activities were then rescheduled to avoid this portion of the site until the graves could be dealt with in concert with South Carolina abandoned cemeteries statutes.



SKANSKA-Trident staff inspect graves exposed on February 13, 2013.

Working closely with the Coroner's Office and the City's Legal Department, Capital Projects and Brockington developed a program to exhumate the individuals as quickly as possible to ensure the proper and respectful treatment of the buried people. Working in concert with Bob Parks (licensed funeral director with Stuhr Funeral Chapels and Crematory), Brockington archaeologists exhumed the remains of 37 individuals between February 20 and March 1, 2013. Expansion of the area excavated on February 13-14 to expose completely several graves along the margins of the initial excavation resulted in the discovery of eight additional graves. Frequent rain hampered continuous work but focused effort and extended work days ensured that the exhumations were completed as quickly as possible.

Brockington archaeologists excavating graves at the Gaillard Performance Hall site.



Limited background research conducted by Brockington historian Charlie Philips prior to the exhumation laid out the property ownership of this portion of the City of Charleston from the 1690s through 1968, when the City of Charleston acquired the lands and built the original Gaillard Auditorium. There is no indication in any of the deeds, grants, or maps reviewed to date that a cemetery was present in this portion of Charleston. The first house was constructed here soon after 1761, immediately after the purchase of these lands by William Ellis. Ellis' house stood approximately 20 meters south of the southernmost grave. During the 1780s-1810s, the Ellis land along Anson Street was subdivided into individual residential lots which were occupied until the late 1960s. Late eighteenth and nineteenth century house foundations were encountered on the margins of the area excavated around the graves and helped to define the limits of undisturbed burials. Many artifacts associated with the residential occupations were observed in fills above the graves, although all artifacts encountered in the grave shaft fill date from the first half of the eighteenth century. These pieces of historical and archaeological information indicate that these graves may be the earliest group of individuals exhumed in the City of Charleston, with interments occurring sometime between the 1690s and the 1730s.

With all of the remains removed, construction work resumed in the area of the graves and attention turned to the identification of the people who were buried in this portion of the City. Charleston City Council deferred selection of a location for the reburial of the exhumed individuals until more detailed historical research; analysis of buttons, coins, and other artifacts associated with individual graves; and skeletal analyses can provide information about the date and origin of the people interred at the Gaillard Performance Hall site. These investigations are ongoing and will continue through the remainder of the year. Once complete, we hope to have a good sketch of one portion of the people who lived in early Charleston.

Submitted by Eric Poplin

Welcome ASSC Board Members

Don Rosick



My interest in archaeology began by visiting the “Indian mounds” in Macon Georgia where I lived as a child. Growing up in Texas, my interest continued and in the 8th grade I became a charter member of the Tarrant County Archaeological Society, a branch of the Texas Archaeological Society.

After college I joined the Peace Corps and was fortunate enough to be in South America where I could visit ancient civilizations in Cuzco, Macchu Pichu, as well as other places in Colombia and Venezuela.

As an adult my life went in other directions, but after I retired from the SC Dept. of Social Services, I returned to my initial interest, archaeology. I took courses and volunteered for digs around the state.

Thanks to many of you in the community I received a great preparation. I believe ASSC is the best forum in the state for archaeological information, education, and cross fertilization of ideas and projects, and I am happy and proud to be a board member of ASSC.

Rebecca Shepherd



After growing up in Charleston, I completed my B.S. at the College of Charleston in 2007 with a major in anthropology and a minor in archaeology. While a student, I attended George Washington’s Ferry Farm Field School in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in addition to completing internships at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site and the Charleston Museum. These initial experiences in archaeology were incredibly influential in the development of my research interests in the early colonial Southeast. Following graduation, I served as the park archaeologist at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. I am currently completing my M.A. in anthropology at the University of South Carolina examining variation within the British colonial experience through a comparison of late 18th century ceramic consumption between the Brewton/Motte family’s urban and back-country South Carolina residences. I have always been passionate about public outreach and education within archaeology. I have been an active member of the ASSC since 2008 and have previously served as the president and newsletter editor of the Charleston Chapter. I am looking forward to my new role in the society as a board member at large.

ASSC Grant-in-Aid

The Grant-in-Aid Program was established to assist graduate students in their thesis or dissertation research. Funds raised during the course of the year are available on a competitive basis to graduate students, both at USC and out-of-state universities, who are working on theses or dissertations that pertain to the archaeology of South Carolina. This includes both the historic and prehistoric time periods for terrestrial and underwater archaeology.

No contribution is too small, and all are tax deductible. Contributions to the Grant-in-Aid fund will be acknowledged in the Society's newsletter *Features and Profiles*, unless contributors prefer to remain anonymous.

We have a variety of methods to receive fund contributions. You may use the PayPal button on the Society's website (<http://www.assc.net>) or send a check or money order to:

ASSC Grant-in-Aid
PO Box 1357
Columbia SC 29202

Send articles, photos, ideas, and suggestions for the next issue of *Features and Profiles* by September 27th to Chan Funk at chanfunk@aol.com with ASSC in the subject line. I should especially like to feature 2013 archaeological field school findings, undergraduate, and graduate student research.

Opinion from the ASSC Facebook Thread on Collecting / Relic Hunting

Most people, at some point in their life, have picked up something from the side of the road, or in a field and thought, "Oh, that's neat!" stuffed it into their pocket and taken it home to be kept in a box with other artifacts of similar provenience. While this type of collecting can be detrimental, it is the large-scale relic hunting and selling of artifacts that is the most concerning. Though collecting on private property (with permission) is not illegal, it is unethical.

It is unethical because it reduces history, culture and peoples to the aesthetic and destroys sites. Though archaeology is also inherently destructive, future researchers and the interested public can return to it through photographing, mapping and other documentation. And unlike collecting, systematic archaeological excavations reveal other relevant contextual information about artifacts that can be useful in later analyses. Archaeologists also gather artifacts that collectors would most likely deem garbage: tiny flakes from tool manufacturing, small bits of pottery, etc. By overlooking and discarding these materials, an abundance of information (such as settlement patterns or battle lines) could be lost.

Archaeology's own past can be traced back to collecting and many sites are discovered and reported each year by collectors. Collectors and amateur/avocational archaeologists are a large part of the archaeological community and it is the responsibility of the professional archaeologists to make sure they have the tools and resources necessary to be ethical collectors. It is also the professional's responsibility to empower non-professionals to communicate effectively with the public about archaeology and ethics. *Submitted by Jessica Webb*

Field Updates

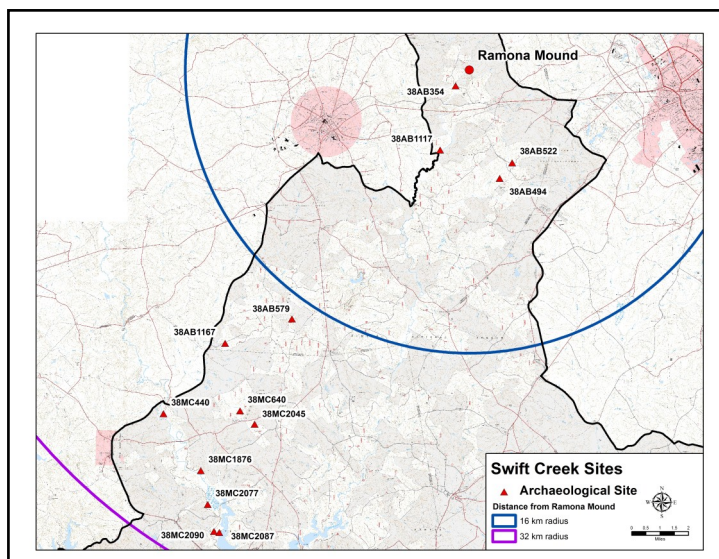
Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas, Inc., is currently wrapping up several survey reports for the US Forest Service. In addition to completing these investigations, we have conducted follow-up research related to selected topics.

Enoree Ranger District, Sumter National Forest. As a result of our work in the Enoree Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest, Senior Archaeologist Michael O’Neal is working on a paper about the Shivar Mineral Springs and Bottling Company. The bottling company existed between 1907 and the 1950s and got its start by selling mineral water with “curative” properties. Site 38FA134, a pair of cisterns and the remains of a brick building (presumed to be a pumping station), was revisited during the investigation. Three other springs were used by the company, two of which are in out-parcels within Forest Service property and the third borders Forest Service land. Industrial sites such as these are rare in the Sumter National Forest, and all four spring sites are related to the six Shivar cisterns currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. When finished, the resulting paper will be submitted for publication in *South Carolina Antiquities*.

Long Cane Ranger District, Sumter National Forest. Our recovery of Swift Creek ceramics at five sites during recent work in the Long Cane Ranger District of the Sumter National Forest is of particular interest, as this ceramic type is infrequently recovered from sites recorded in the Long Cane Ranger District (Benson 2006). Site 38AB354, which was located in one of our survey stands, had been highlighted by Elliott (1998) as being the easternmost site to yield Swift Creek ceramics. Less than 2 miles northeast of 38AB354 is the Ramona Mound (38AB355). Dan Elliott recorded this mound site in 1985, describing it as “a single manmade mound amidst a plow zone scatter of prehistoric ceramics and lithics” (Elliott 1985:21). The site is situated on private property, but Elliott obtained the property owner’s permission to examine it. A local resident had excavated an area in the center of the mound and local lore was that he recovered a human mandible. Elliott recovered a variety of artifacts from the surface of a dirt road that borders the mound on the northwest, including a large number of sherds. Although eroded, Elliott stated that “the color and tempering were suggestive of Late Woodland ceramics” (Elliott 1985:21), presumably Swift Creek. Subsequent visits to the mound by Dr. John L. Frierson in 1996 (Frierson 2000) and by Keith Stephenson in 2007 (Keith Stephenson, personal communication) have documented the condition of the mound but no intensive investigation of the site has ever been conducted. Based on Elliott’s identification of the ceramics as Swift Creek and the recovery of human remains, the Ramona Mound has been included in discussions of the Swift Creek culture, which is considered to date to the Middle Woodland in Georgia but the Late Woodland in South Carolina.

In plotting the distribution of documented archaeological sites with confirmed Swift Creek occupations identified in the Long Cane Ranger District (including those identified during our recent survey), two apparent clusters emerge. Although skewed by the discontinuous nature of USFS surveys, there appears to be a small grouping of Swift Creek sites in the vicinity of the Ramona Mound. The second cluster falls within the 10 to 20 mile distance from the Ramona Mound, placing them midway between the Ramona and Miller’s mounds. Little is known of Swift Creek occupations east of the Savannah River. Further research into these sites could

shed light on the easternmost expression of the Swift Creek culture. We will be pursuing this research in future investigations.



Topographic Map showing locations of sites yielding Swift Creek ceramics.

Francis Marion National Forest. Our work in the Francis Marion National Forest is of particular interest because of our ongoing research with the naval stores industry and the identification and evaluation of tar and pitch production sites. Bobby Southerlin gave a presentation on the topic at the 2013 ASSC Conference in Columbia; the paper was also presented at the March 2013 North Carolina Archaeological council meeting in Chapel Hill. For approximately 200 years, from the early eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, the area now encompassed by the Francis Marion National Forest yielded vast amounts of naval stores. The best archaeological evidence for naval stores production in the Forest are tar and pitch production sites. While the tar kilns and pitch pits are easily visible surface features, the laborers' (tar burners') camps are ephemeral, and rarely identified. This research established a database of tar kiln sites in the Francis Marion National Forest and presented an evaluation of current field methods. New perspectives are discussed which may aid with chronological placement and a better understanding of site layout and activity areas. Perhaps the most significant recommendation from this research is that systematic shovel testing has proven ineffective in understanding these sites, but metal detector survey has great promise in locating discrete activity areas and identifying diagnostic artifacts. *Submitted by Dawn Reid.*

Benson, Robert

2006 *Cultural Resources Overview of the Sumter National Forest.* Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Cultural Resources Management Report 06-07.

Elliott, Daniel

1985 *An Archeological Survey of Selected Timber Stands on the Long Cane Division, Sumter National Forest.* Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests Cultural Resources Management Report 85-1.

Frierson, John L.

2000 *South Carolina Prehistoric Earthen Indian Mounds.* Unpublished thesis, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD DAY

SEPTEMBER 21st, 2013

SANTÉE STATE PARK

Features and Profiles

Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.
c/o Chan Funk
683 Rapids Road
Columbia, SC 29212

About the Society

The Society is assisted and supported by the Office of State Archaeology, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, and also works closely with the Council of South Carolina Professional Archaeologists. The Society is chartered and operates under State Law as a non-profit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Mission Statement

The Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. is an association of professional and avocational archaeologists and concerned citizens uniting together in a cooperative effort to understand the prehistory and history of South Carolina. It is a Society of dedicated members exerting their combined efforts toward the interpretation and preservation of South Carolina's rich cultural heritage.

2013 Officers

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