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The Return of the 1996 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition

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Santa Elena/Charlesfort Video Project
By Chester B. DePrater

Larry Hall, Advanced Producer/Director with South Carolina Educational Television, and I are currently working on a one-hour videotape production for broadcast on ETV and classroom use through Instructional Television. The subject of this documentary is the French and Spanish competition for the South Atlantic coast of the present United States in the 16th century.

Tentatively titled "For God, Glory, and Gold: Early French and Spanish Conquest of South Carolina," the program will provide a concise historical summary of the early Spanish explorations, the arrival and failure of the first French expedition at Charlesfort, the second French settlement at Fort Carolina near present-day Jacksonville, Florida, the Spanish decimation of Fort Coraline, and the ultimate settlement of St. Augustine and Santo Elena by Spanish colonists.

The second part of the production will cover the archaeology of French Charlesfort and Santa Elena. Larry has been at Santa Elena videotaping excavations since 1991, and he also has footage of the 1989 Charlesfort search project. Using this footage, we will document the search for French Charlesfort, the search for Fort San Marcos that led to discovery of the Spanish pottery kiln, excavation of the pottery kiln, and three seasons worth of excavations in the town of Santo Elena including excavation of a barrel-lined well in 1993.

"For God, Glory, and Gold" is a joint production of SC ETV and SCIAA. Partial funding has been provided by a grant of $9,900 from the South Carolina Humanities Council.

Tentative airing of this documentary production is scheduled for February, 1997.

The Return of the 1996 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition
By Albert C. Goodyear

From May 7 through June 1, 1996, Institute researchers spent four exciting weeks excavating at the Big Pine Tree site, a stratified Paleoindian and Archaic site in Allendale County near the Savannah River. This was the third year of month-long excavations at this site, this year under the banner of Allendale Paleoindian Expedition. This year was also the first time the excavation was organized under a registered volunteer program, which, by all accounts, was a great success.

A total of 29 people signed up to participate for a week at a time. Their registration fees allowed the project to go into the field for a month. The expedition was led by Dr. Al Goodyear and three graduate students, including Tom McIntosh (University of South Florida), Brinnen Carter (University of Florida), and Kara Bridgman (a recent graduate of USC and soon to be a graduate student at the University of Cork in Ireland).

An excavation unit 3 x 4 meters in area was excavated painstakingly with trowels by the volunteers. Many exciting finds were made including a cache of two unusual rocker-based Late Archaic points, a Late Archaic hearth area with Savannah River points, a stemmed drill, burned rock and drilled steatite disks. This is the first significant sign of a Late Archaic occupation, situated, in this case, at the top of the dark stained soil known as the MALA midden. The MALA midden is so called because Middle Archaic corner-notched points (MALA points) predominate in this horizon. The excavation this year was closer to Smiths Lake Creek than previous digs, a fact that may explain the newly discovered Late Archaic component plus many more features which showed up within and below the midden soil. The site is also somewhat deeper here, being over the bottom of a small flood chute which lies buried in the terrace.

Two Taylor side-notched points were found and below them were two Dalton...
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Fort has already eroded into the marsh. Rip-rap placed along the shoreline currently provides some measure of protection to the remnant, but a major storm could cause severe damage to this fragile archaeological resource.

Excavations conducted in 1982, 1983, and 1984 investigated portions of the fort's interior as well as the northwest bastion. A portion of the fort's interior has not yet been excavated due to time constraints, standing vegetation, and other factors. Many of the postholes and pits known to exist within the fort remain to be excavated. Only a portion of the fort moat, specifically the northwest bastion, has been excavated. The remaining eighty percent of the moat has not been excavated.

Return to Charlesfort

We plan on returning to Parris Island to complete excavation of both the moat and interior of Charlesfort/San Felipe in Spring, 1997. Fundraising for this exciting project is currently underway. Michelin North America has already contributed $10,000 toward the estimated total project cost which is more than $200,000.

We need your help! If you would like to support research at this important French colonial site, tax deductible contributions should be made payable to the USC Educational Foundation and mailed to C. DePrater at SCIAA. A notation should be included on the check to indicate that the donation is for the Archaeological Research Trust—Charlesfort Project. We greatly appreciate your interest and support.

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points, the latter being considered late Paleoindian by many archaeologists. Several well-made hafted endscrapers were recovered in the lower levels, probably related to the Taylor and Dalton occupations. Only a few fluted blanks were seen this year in the lowest artifact bearing levels. These are thought to represent a fluted point occupation, probably related to Clovis. Numerous prismatic blades were recovered and several tiny microblades were also found.

One of the highlights of this season was a visit by several archaeologists prominent in the study of Paleoindians in North America. Dr. Dennis Stanford, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution led a visit to the site accompanied by Dr. C. Vance Haynes, University of Arizona, and Larry Banks of Southern Methodist University and his son Nathan. Other archaeologists who visited at the same time included Dr. Dan F. Morse and his wife Phyllis of the Arkansas Archeological Survey, Dr. David G. Anderson of the National Park Service, Dr. Alan May of the Schiele Museum of North Carolina, Dr. John E. Foss, project soil scientist at the University of Tennessee, and Mark J. Brooks, geoarchaeologist and project co-manager of SCIAA's Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP). Dr. Kenneth E. Sassaman (SRARP) and his team also conducted test excavation of the Gulley Site, a nearby site known to produce fluted bifaces. Mr. Mike Anderson, Human Resources Manager of Clariant Corporation, the private industrial company that owns the site, was also on-site to greet the distinguished scientists from other states.

The staff and volunteers of the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition were the beneficiaries of two great parties held in the evening by gracious hosts. Dr. Lucius Laffitte and his wife Darryl of Allendale hosted a dinner party for the archaeologists and several invitees from the Allendale County area who are interested in

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local archaeology and promoting history and heritage in the region. This is the second year they have opened up their lovely late 19th century home for a dinner party and entertained the archaeologists. Their interest and support of the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition is greatly appreciated. Also, Dr. Laffitte has agreed to serve on the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) board of SCIAA.

Dr. David G. Anderson and his wife Jenalee also gave another BBQ this year for the expedition members and numerous visiting archaeologists at their spacious turn-of-the-century home in Williston. This is the third year David and Jenalee have hosted a BBQ for the Allendale excavators. In addition to entertaining the several out-of-state archaeologists and visitors, the Mayor of Williston Mr. Tommy Rivers and his wife Mary honored the occasion with their presence. This BBQ, which has become an annual event, has been affectionately nicknamed the annual “Paleo Carnivore” party in recognition of the large quantities of domesticated animal flesh that is thermally altered in David’s backyard.

The other outstanding aspect of the Expedition this year, besides the archaeology of Big Pine Tree itself, was the wonderful people that registered for the dig. All together, 29 people signed up from as far away as Texas and Maine. The registrants for this year were:

**First Week**
Paul Barans, Canton, OH
Suzanne Baxley, Greenville, SC
Robert Cole, Hopkins, SC

Hal and Cynthia Curry, Charlotte, NC
Larry James, Charleston, SC
Bob and Scott Knight, Gainesville, FL
Lawrence Parham, Latta, SC
Cathy Shumpert, Pelion, SC
Scott Thompson, Augusta, GA

**Second Week**
Paul Barans, Canton, OH
Lezlie and Mills Barker, Greenville, SC
Diane Barnes, Columbia, SC
John Caylor, Kershaw, SC
John Conners, Waco, TX
Robert Hammon, Westbrook, ME
Linda Cannon-Huffman, Columbia, SC
Charles Monnett, Greensboro, NC
Nadia Mostafa, Columbia, SC
Barbara Ward, Columbia, SC

**Third Week**
John Conners, Waco, TX
Dorothy Moore, New Smyrna Beach, FL
Susan Rolfe, Columbia, SC

**Fourth Week**
John Arnold, Columbia, SC
Arthur Betauer, New Canaan, CT
April Gordon, Rock Hill, SC
William Lyles, Columbia, SC
Rick McDonnell, Brooksville, FL
Aaron Von Frank, Rock Hill, SC

Expedition leader Al Goodyear would like to thank each one of the participants for helping make this season such a success and an enjoyable project. The work this year couldn’t have been done without them not to mention the good cheer they brought to the dig. The help of Clariant Corporation, the owners of the site and the generous host, is also gratefully acknowledged. Without their permission and support, the Allendale Paleoindian Expedition would not be possible. Mr. Mike Anderson of Clariant and the many friendly helpful employees are especially thanked for all their help.

Plans are being developed for the 1997 Allendale Paleoindian Expedition which will run for four weeks beginning May 6 through May 31st. Next year’s work will include both land and underwater excavations. For further details call or write Al Goodyear at SCIAA.

**Ten thousand year old Dalton points excavated this season from the Big Pine Tree site, Allendale County, South Carolina. (Photos by Tommy Charles)**