

8-2021

## Legacy - August 2021

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# Arts and Sciences

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# Legacy

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

## South Carolina Lt. Governor Pamela S. Evette Honors Tommy Charles with the Order of the Palmetto

By Nena Powell Rice, Terry Ferguson, Chester DePratter, Albert C. Goodyear, Christopher C. Moore, and Christopher Judge

On June 2, 2021, Tommy Charles was bestowed the honor of the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Henry McMaster, officiated by Lt. Governor Pamela S. Evette at the State House. This award is the highest award given to a citizen of South Carolina. Gene Johnston initiated the nomination with the assistance of Dennis

Chastain from the Upstate and appealed to the authors to also send a letter of support.

Tommy Charles, a native of Union, South Carolina, was born January 2, 1932, he is now 89 years old. It was both expedient and timely that Tommy Charles received this recognition in the Great State

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Figure 1: Tommy Charles receives the Order of the Palmetto from Lt. Governor Pamela S. Evette. (Photo by Nena Powell Rice)

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# Director's Notes

By Steven D. Smith  
SCIAA Director

Retired SCIAA archaeologist Tommy Charles' award of the Order of the Palmetto is a big deal, and as our tribute notes, extremely well deserved. I must make a public apology to Tommy for not being there for the presentation, as I had a prior commitment out of state.

Our tribute lists many of Tommy's accomplishments but does not fully capture all that Tommy meant to SCIAA. He was, from his hiring to his retirement, the public face of SCIAA. The amount of simply good will Tommy spread across South Carolina is immeasurable, and he has not been replaced. I don't think he can be. I never met anyone who did not like Tommy, and we still get people asking about him. A collector just last week called and said he wanted to donate his collection to SCIAA because of Tommy's impact on his life.

Also, we probably need to devote a future *Legacy* article to Tommy stories. I am sure there are many great stories about Tommy and his adventures at SCIAA that need told and preserved. I have a few myself, as Tommy and I spent quite a few hours on the road, traveling about the state on various projects. Two memories stand out from those road trips. First, many people may not know that, prior to Tommy being hired by SCIAA, he had a long career as a crane operator. As we entered any major town, Tommy would casually point out, "I built that building, and that one over there." The other thing is that no matter what little backwater village we passed through, Tommy knew a great little Mom and Pop diner off the beaten path. They were never

near anything anyone else would know about except the locals, and it was always an amazing culinary experience. I looked forward to lunch with Tommy more than whatever we were supposed to be doing. Tommy's construction career also made him invaluable as a machine operator for any dig. He was an artist with the Gradall (Figure 1). I have to mention that one time Tommy's mechanical skills got us in over our head, or axles. We were in the upcountry searching out Revolutionary War sites, and I managed to get the truck a little stuck in the mud. Tommy was adamant that it was not a problem, took over the wheel, and promptly got us really stuck; like axle-deep, four-wheel stuck. We spent several hours trying to get out, and eventually had to walk out and call a tow truck. I try to remind him of that whenever I see him. Once in a while, someone comes along who impacts our lives and careers far more than we can ever imagine. Tommy's positive impact on SCIAA and the archaeological community has been enormous.

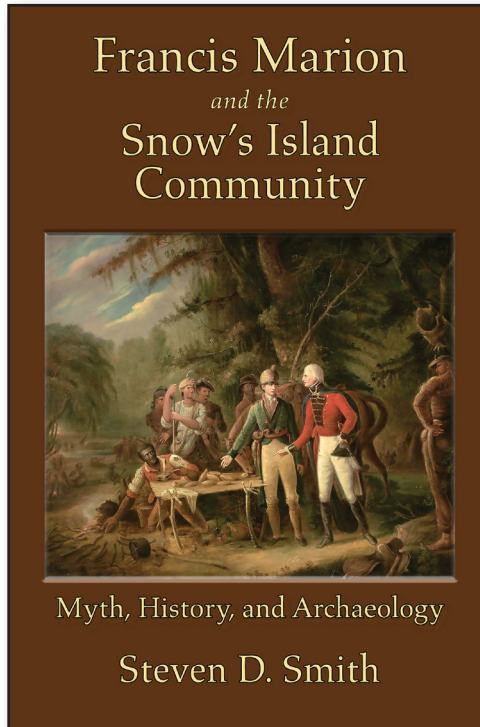
Finally, I would note that this is my last Director's Notes. (Please keep the applause down.) As of July 1, 2021, our distinguished and nationally recognized Research Professor, Adam King, assumed the Directorship of SCIAA. After I informed the Dean that it was time for new energy in the Director's office, the Institute overwhelmingly voted for Adam to take over. I am staying on as a Research Professor and will devote my time to publishing many of the books that are in my head and need to get on paper. Please welcome Adam King to the helm and please give him your support.



Figure 1: Tommy Charles excavating with a Gradall at Santa Elena in 1998. He was able to remove plow zone (and only plow zone) and deposit the soil directly from the Gradall bucket into gas-powered screens for processing. (Photo by Stanley South)

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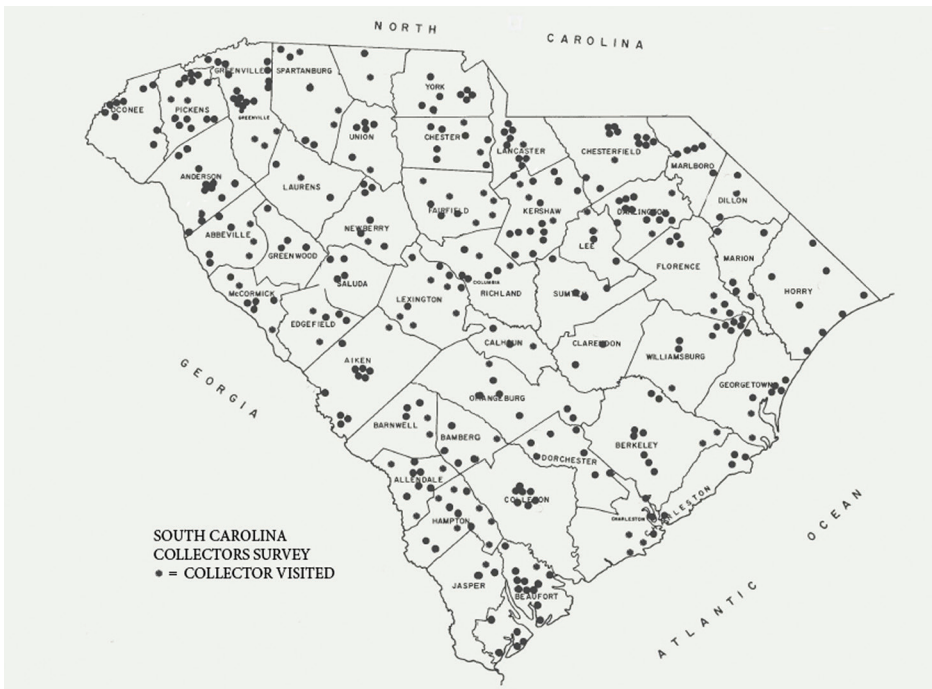


Figure 2: Map of collectors visited during Tommy Charles' South Carolina Collectors Survey. (Map courtesy of Tommy Charles)

of South Carolina that he has long served and for his lifelong contributions to our collective knowledge of the prehistoric and historic cultural heritage of South Carolina. For more than 40 years, Tommy has put a human face on archaeology for all people in South Carolina. We are all blessed who know him and share his passion for knowledge about the past and spreading that knowledge to the citizens of South Carolina. Tommy is a true legend in South Carolina Archaeology!

Tommy Charles has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, Inc. (ASSC) in 1996. This recognition is an award presented to only five people in over 50 years from this professional and avocational archaeological organization. In addition to being quite knowledgeable about South Carolina archaeology, Tommy is known in the profession of archaeology, and by the citizens he has touched, as one of the nicest and genuine people they have ever met. There has been no better person in South Carolina and throughout the Southeast to bridge gaps and disseminate knowledge between professional archaeologists, amateur archaeologists, and the people in the State of South Carolina.

He was hired at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina in 1979. Then director, Dr. Robert Stephenson, put Tommy in charge of the South Carolina Collector's Survey, a statewide investigation of artifact collections. Funded mainly by grants from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, he conducted several seasons of artifact collector surveys between 1979 and 1986. In addition, he has been called on throughout his career to visit people across the state to identify cultural artifacts in people's homes, on their land, and at numerous artifact

identification events. One of the objectives of the surveys was to systematically record relatively rare Paleoindian lanceolate projectile points, dating from 11,500 to 14,000 years ago. During his 32 years of employment with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at USC, Charles recorded over half of the now 600 examples of these early points from nearly all parts of the state. This knowledge of our earliest South Carolinians is in large part the result of the initiative and tireless efforts of Tommy Charles and the personal working relations he established. The findings of the collector survey are documented in the informative 2018 book, *Prehistoric Chipped Stone Tools of South Carolina*, authored by Tommy Charles and Dr. Christopher Moore.

Tommy worked on many public education and outreach projects in his career. One project of note was to bring archaeology into the curriculum of South Carolina K-12 through the publication of and dissemination of a pilot study called, *Can You Dig It*. Another notable project was the publication of *The Earliest South Carolinians*, with Dr. Albert C. Goodyear and the late James L. Michie. The extensive and well documented collection of artifacts acquired by Charles during his lifetime has recently been donated by him to the Laurens County Museum, for future study and education.

Tommy was also instrumental in developing private sector funding for archaeological study. He initiated a private



Figure 3: Tommy Charles (left) and Jim Legg (right) with excavated Spanish barrel well at the site of 16th century Santa Elena on Parris Island, South Carolina, 1993. (Photo by Stanley South)



Figure 4: Tommy Charles in 1984 during the survey of the Allendale County Chert quarries. (Photo by Albert C. Goodyear)

funding endowment through the SCIAA, University of South Carolina, Educational Foundation, and later was involved when SCIAA initiated the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Fund, which today is worth over \$800,000 (principal) and provides more than \$25,000 each year for archaeological investigation by research archaeologists at SCIAA. He was instrumental in introducing and inducting many of the over 80 ART Board Members since 1992 to dedicate time and money in support of archaeological inquiry at SCIAA. Examples of two such ART Board Members who generously supported these and other efforts for over four decades are the late Russ Burns from Laurens and the late Antony Harper from Greenville, SC.

Tommy has been involved in the investigation of a diverse range of archaeological sites in South Carolina. The investigation for which he is probably best known for is his extensive study of rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs) in South Carolina. These investigations are documented in the popular 2010 book, *Discovering South Carolina's Rock Art*. In the early days of these investigations, he and Dennis Chastain spent a great deal of time

together exploring the woods and wild places in the mountains and piedmont of South Carolina looking for rock art created by Native Americans and European settlers on the seemingly endless number of rock outcroppings and rock shelters from Glassy Mountain in Greenville

County to the extensive outcropping at Hagood Mill in Pickens County. Tommy was instrumental in initiating and finding funding for an Interpretive Rock Art Center at Hagood Mill to protect and interpret the rock carvings found there. Like the proverbial pied piper, Tommy was eventually able to lure and motivate a band of avocational archaeologists to locate and document rock art sites. Two of these investigators, Michael Bramlett and Gene Johnston, are still actively involved today in searching for this type of site.

Tommy worked for many years along with the late Dr. Stanley South (an Order of the Palmetto recipient) and Dr. Chester DePratter, at the well-known Santa Elena / Charles Fort site on Parris Island.

Tommy also worked in the Low Country for many years in Allendale County with Dr. Albert Goodyear, at the well-known Topper site and other significant nearby sites, such as the Charles site, named for Tommy Charles.

During the past two decades or more, Dennis Chastain and Tommy Charles searched for rock art, rock shelters, and other assorted archaeological features on the landscape, and they had a great deal of time to talk. One of the many stories that sticks out most vividly in Dennis'



Figure 5: Tommy Charles and Dr. Terry Ferguson excavating at 38PN35 at Robertson Farms. (Photo courtesy of Tommy Charles)

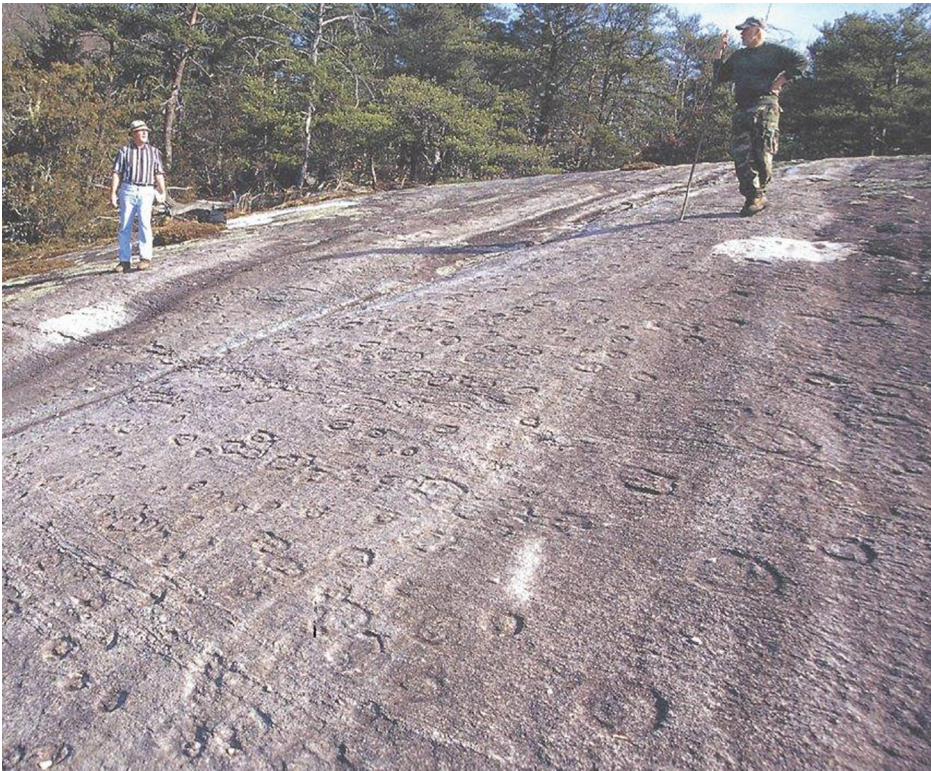


Figure 6: Tommy Charles and Dennis Chastain at the Long Ridge site in Pickens County. (Photo courtesy of Dennis Chastain)

mind is the one about Tommy driving a rubber-tired excavator all the way from Columbia to a remote part of western Allendale County in the early days of the investigations at the Topper site. That unique story said it all to Dennis Chastain, “That is all you need to know about Tommy’s unique talents, drive, and personal qualities that allowed him to serve as a One-of-a-Kind Ambassador for archaeology in the Palmetto State.”

Tommy was passionate about learning more about the cultural history of the Upstate, an area he saw as having seen less than its fair share of archaeological attention in South Carolina. In 1994 and 1995, he again worked with Chester DePratter on the excavation of the Pumpkin site, owned by John and Patty Walker in Greenville County near Travelers Rest. This is an important prehistoric native American site occupied from AD 100 to 600. The investigations are documented in the 2010 SCIAA *Research Manuscript Series 228* report, *The Pumpkin Site: 38GR226, Archaeological Investigation of a Prehistoric Middle Woodland Village in Northern Greenville County, South Carolina.*

Tommy began collaborating almost 20 years ago with Terry Ferguson, a geoarchaeologist at Wofford College in Spartanburg, now retired Professor Emeritus in Environmental Studies. The two initially formed the Upstate Archaeological Research Group, which later became PAST—The Piedmont Archaeological Studies Trust (501 c3).

The primary goals of both organizations were to further archaeological research, education, and public outreach in the South Carolina Upstate. A major focus of their efforts was the important Robinson Farms investigations along the South Saluda and Oolynoy Rivers in Greenville and Pickens Counties from 2004 to 2016. Their efforts were recognized in 2009, with the Archaeological Stewardship Award presented by the Office of the Governor, Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Charles and Ferguson’s efforts culminated in 2014 with the purchase and protection of one of the Robinson Farm sites, the Foxwood Farm site in Pickens County, by the prestigious Archaeological Conservancy, one of 500 sites protected nationally and the only one in South Carolina. This site documents over 11,000 years of South Carolina prehistory and is one of the most significant sites in the state (Figure 5).

There is an excellent interview with Tommy Charles by Christopher Judge filmed during South Carolina Archaeology Month in October 2020. This interview provides additional information and insight into the life character of Tommy Charles and is highly recommended to watch: [Archaeological Society of South Carolina - YouTube](#)



Figure 7: “The Hagood Men” petroglyph, now preserved in the Rock Art Center at Hagood Mill in Pickens County. (Photo courtesy of Tommy Charles)



Figure 8: Al Goodyear, Mrs. Betty Stringfellow, Nena Powell Rice, and Tommy Charles at the Topper site. (Photo courtesy of Albert Goodyear)

The Letter of Support for the Order of the Palmetto from the professional archaeological community was written and signed by Terry Ferguson, Retired Emeritus Archaeologist, Wofford University; Albert C. Goodyear, Director Southeastern Paleoamerican Survey, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Chester DePratter, Director of Research, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Christopher Moore, Savannah Archaeological Research Program, SC Institute of Archaeology

and Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Christopher Judge, Assistant Director, Native American Studies Center, University of South Carolina Lancaster; and Nena Powell Rice, Research Affiliate Archaeologist, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. Three other letters of support were written by Dennis Chastain, Pickens County naturalist, author, and historian; Gene Johnston and Michael Bramlett, avocational archaeologists from Pickens County who spent countless hours, days, and years exploring the Upstate in pursuit of discovery of unique sites to further our

knowledge of our rich, cultural history of South Carolina. We are again indebted to Gene Johnston for initiating this great honor and for Dennis Chastain for putting together the packet of materials for the nomination to the Governor's Office. We are also thankful for the support of Legislator Rex Rice from Pickens County.

*Tommy Charles was given great honor and consideration as a recipient of the Order of the Palmetto. This gem of a man truly deserved this award. There is no better choice for this honor!*

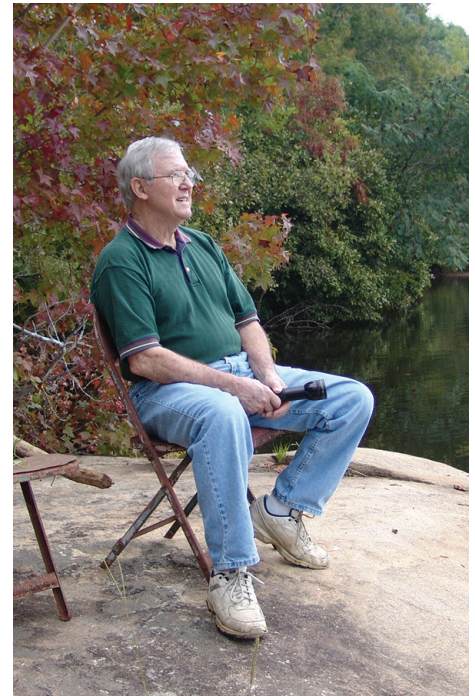


Figure 10: Tommy Charles enjoying life at 38LU42. (Photo courtesy of Tommy Charles)



Figure 9: Archaeology colleagues honor Tommy Charles at Order of the Palmetto event. (Left to right) Christopher Judge, Joe Beatty, James Legg, Keith Stephenson, Nena Powell Rice, Tommy Charles, Chester DePratter, Adam King, James Spirek, and Gail Wagner. (Photo courtesy of Nena Powell Rice)



# Savannah River Archaeology

## Ground Penetrating Radar Survey at the Wesley United Methodist Church, Beaufort, South Carolina

By George Wingard, Program Coordinator, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP)

In the fall of 2020, staff of the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) at SCIAA was contacted about possibly conducting a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey in a historic cemetery in Beaufort County, South Carolina. The cemetery was located adjacent to the Wesley United Methodist Church, located

population on the Sea Islands. The current church was built in 1840, and the small cemetery plot had been in use since that time (Figure 1). The congregation's concern was that future interment would impact unmarked graves, and their hope was that our GPR survey could address that question.

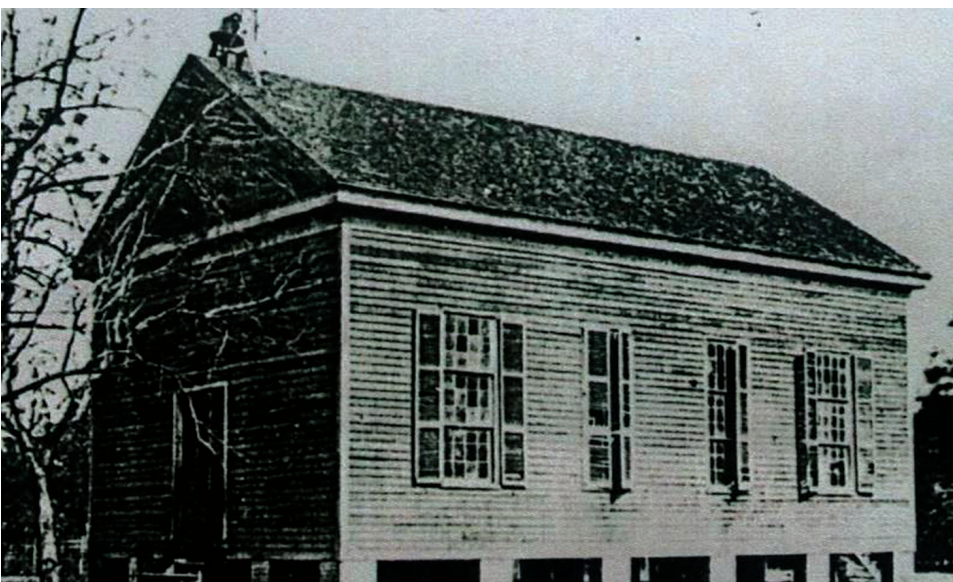


Figure 1. A 19th century photograph of the Wesley United Methodist Church. The original structure is still in use today. (Photo by SRARP)

at 701 West Street, Beaufort, SC. The congregation needed to know whether or not they could continue burying members in the cemetery, or if the area was already substantially filled with unmarked graves. Due to restriction imposed by the Covid pandemic, the SRARP could not conduct its usual outreach/public education programs, and staff concluded this would be a way to fulfill those duties.

In mid-September 2020, SRARP staff archaeologists Brian Milner, Heather Amaral, and I traveled to the church and met with church historian Alvesta Robertson. Mrs. Robertson explained that the church was established in 1833, and primarily ministered to the enslaved

A 25 X 30-meter (.20 acre) grid was placed across the cemetery, and the GPR survey began. The GPR unit was pushed back and forth across the grid at 50-centimeter increments taking depth measurements at the 50, 100, and 150-centimeter levels. While Brian was conducting the GPR survey, Heather was using a penetrometer to take readings on the soil density of known graves in comparison to unmarked graves, potential unmarked graves, and areas believed not to have been impacted by sub-surface disturbances. While Heather and Brian were in the cemetery, I was in the church interviewing Mrs. Robertson on camera for a potential short film.

Two weeks later, Heather, Brian, and I returned to Beaufort to share our results of the GPR survey with Mrs. Robertson, which, in turn, she would share with the congregation. Brian and Heather, along with SRARP archaeologist Walter Clifford, had processed and interpreted the data that had been collected and concluded, that the entire area was saturated with subsurface impacts—known marked graves, known unmarked graves, potential unmarked graves, and other subsurface anomalies such as erosion and tree roots (Figure 2). It was suggested by the SRARP that the church suspend any further internments at the cemetery.

The interview with Mrs. Robertson and the footage of the survey was edited for a short film entitled, *Death Rides on Every Passing Breeze: A Ground Penetrating Survey of Wesley United Methodist Church*. This film, along with other SRARP videos and films, can be found at [www.SRARP.org](http://www.SRARP.org) under the videos tab or at the SRARP's Facebook page, Facebook/Savannah River Archaeological Research Program.

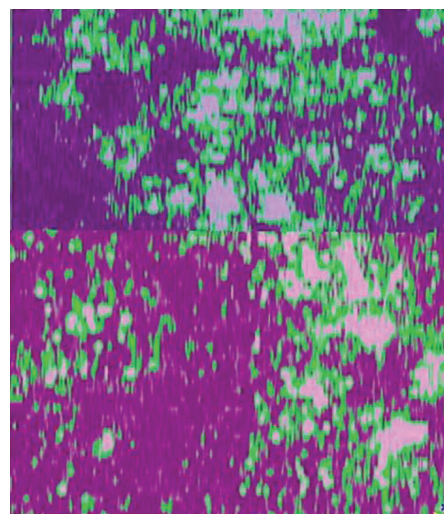


Figure 2: Soil density at the 150-centimeter level. Green areas indicate both marked and unmarked graves and other unknown sub-surface anomalies. (Ground penetrating radar image by SRARP)

# Research

## A Copper-Covered Wooden Object from the Wateree Valley

By Adam King, SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and David H. Dye, University of Memphis

A copper-covered object was found at a site in the Wateree Valley that connects the people who lived there to a wider Mississippian world, and it has an important Mississippian ritual theme based on life and death, souls, and spirits (Figure 1). The object is about six centimeters in diameter and was carved from a flat, wooden disk into the shape of a six-pointed figure enclosed within a circle. One side of the object was then covered by a thin sheet of copper. While the object is about the same size as shell gorgets, typically worn around the neck by some Mississippian people, there is no evidence that it was suspended in this way. Despite that, there is a good chance it was attached to other elements of regalia or ritual equipment.

While unique to the Wateree Valley, very similar objects have been found at both the Etowah site (9Br1), located in northwestern Georgia, and the Moundville site in central Alabama (Brain and Phillips 1996). Both were large Mississippian period communities with multiple, earthen platform mounds and rich evidence of ritual ceremonialism. Moundville

and Etowah were important social and ritual centers on the wider Southeastern landscape of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

If we look not just at the object, but also at the motif it depicts, we can see it in other media as part of Mississippian imagery found over a wider area (Brown and Dye 2007) (Figures 2, 3, 4 and 5). Ceramic vessels decorated in the Hemphill style of Moundville, frequently depict the same motif, but with the addition of an acute triangle filled with parallel lines (Steponaitis and Knight 2004). That image appears on objects (pottery, shell, and ground stone) decorated in the Late Braden style of the Central Mississippi River Valley and on Walls Engraved pottery from the Central and Lower Mississippi Valley. At the Moundville site, pendants made of stone and copper have been recovered with the same image and presumably carry the same or similar meaning.

Both the copper-covered wooden disks and the pendants from Moundville and Etowah were recovered in graves and were part of the regalia of important people. It is often assumed that objects made of



Figure 2: Polychrome bottle from the Moundville site, Alabama. (Photo by David H. Dye)

marine shell, copper, and stone found in Mississippian contexts were markers of elevated status because they were made from rare or foreign raw materials and highly decorated. However, these materials exhibited, indicate that those elaborate shell, copper, and stone objects were really regalia and equipment used by ritual leaders. More than just “expensive” objects that displayed wealth and distant connections, imagery bearing artifacts were integral to the conduct of important rituals and markers of a person’s connections to powerful deities and cosmic forces.

Because of its similarity to western depictions of the sun and its rays, archaeologists have often assumed that the copper-covered disk found in the Wateree Valley was a sun symbol. However, historical information, sacred narratives told by Native Americans and iconographic studies, all indicate that this motif is best understood as a scalp stretched over a frame (Hudson 1976). Those Mississippian versions with the striated triangle likely show the stretched scalp with hair attached. Taking scalps was part of raids and warfare throughout eastern North America during the historic period and many images and actual examples of scalps stretched on a wooden frame exist.



Figure 1: Copper-covered wooden object found in the Wateree Valley. (Photo by Chris Judge)



Figure 3: Moundville engraved bowl with scalp design. (Photograph by David H. Dye)

While scalp-taking became a visible part of the violence that occurred during the colonization of North America, the practice has a much deeper history and meaning to Indigenous people of the continent, going back at least to the Middle Archaic period (4,000-6,000 years ago). Scalp-taking was part of the broader practice of taking human body parts as war trophies for a number of reasons. On the Great Plains, for example, scalps were often used as visible markers of military exploits. However, according to David Dye (2016), taking war trophies was about controlling life forces and deploying those spirits to increase one's longevity, or to serve as a spirit trail companion for the recently departed kinsmen.

In most Indigenous societies of the Southeast, there are dualities and complementarities embedded within all beliefs (Hudson 1976). Ideas like male and female, day and night, life and death, were not just oppositions, but critical parts of a larger whole that had to exist in balance and harmony. Each served its part and the whole could not work without both components. Sacred narratives and continuing belief traditions of Indigenous people of the Southeast show that men and women performed complimentary, but balanced roles in many different parts of daily life and belief; both could control life forces. Women do that by creating life, both human and plant, while men can do that, not by making life, but by taking it through violence. By taking a life, men were (and still are) capable of controlling

the spirit of their victim or adding the individual's unspent years to their own life (Dye 2009, 2013, 2016).

Among Dhegian speakers (a Siouan language), such as the Osage, there exists the concept of a soul snare, a device capable of catching or trapping a life force or spirit (Dye 2013). According to their traditional belief, the Middle World of the cosmos was woven into existence by a figure in the form of a spider that was tattooed on the body or worn on regalia. Her web not only helped create the earthly plane, but it also served as a snare she could use to capture souls from the realm of the dead for newly born babies, an ability she passed on to all women. Based on such beliefs, the stretched scalp functioned much like the spider web of First Woman. But for men, the scalp was taken through violence and the appropriate rituals that allowed a person's spirit to be possessed and manipulated. Thus, the scalp, and scalp or web motif as an animated image, could serve as a soul snare used to capture, and a spiritual

force, or hold the soul of a victim so that they could control the spirit or capture the unspent years. Witches were also accused of taking the remaining years of a person's life, so we know this was a widely held belief.

The sacred narratives that underpin this idea were first recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are still told today. The Mississippian stretched scalp motifs were likely 14<sup>th</sup> century creations. European colonization of North America brought a great deal of death, social disruption, and dramatic cultural changes to Native America. As a result, we cannot assume what Indigenous people believe today or believed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the same as belief traditions of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However, the 14<sup>th</sup> century stretched scalp motifs are clearly associated with other imagery connected to trophy-taking and the path that deceased souls follow to travel to the realm of the dead (Knight 2007; Lankford 2007).

Because the stretched scalp motif appears most frequently in imagery of the Mississippi Valley and into Alabama, it is likely it had its origins in the western part of the Mississippian world. In the Wateree Valley, that motif would have been a long way from its place of origin, and to get to the Wateree, it likely passed through the hands of different ritual practitioners. Because similar objects have been found in northwestern Georgia, we do not know if the Wateree stretched scalp was made there, at Moundville, or somewhere even further west. Because this was a powerful symbol made into a ritual object, it most likely came to the Wateree as part of a bundle of objects used

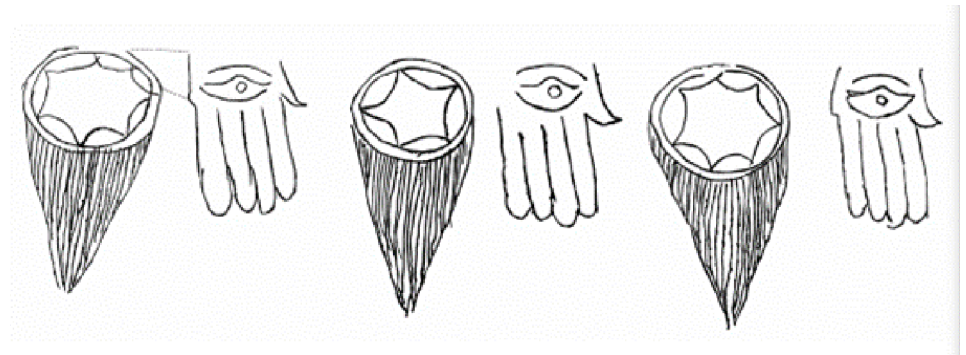


Figure 4: Rollout design from a Hemphill engraved bottle. (Phillips 2012:323)

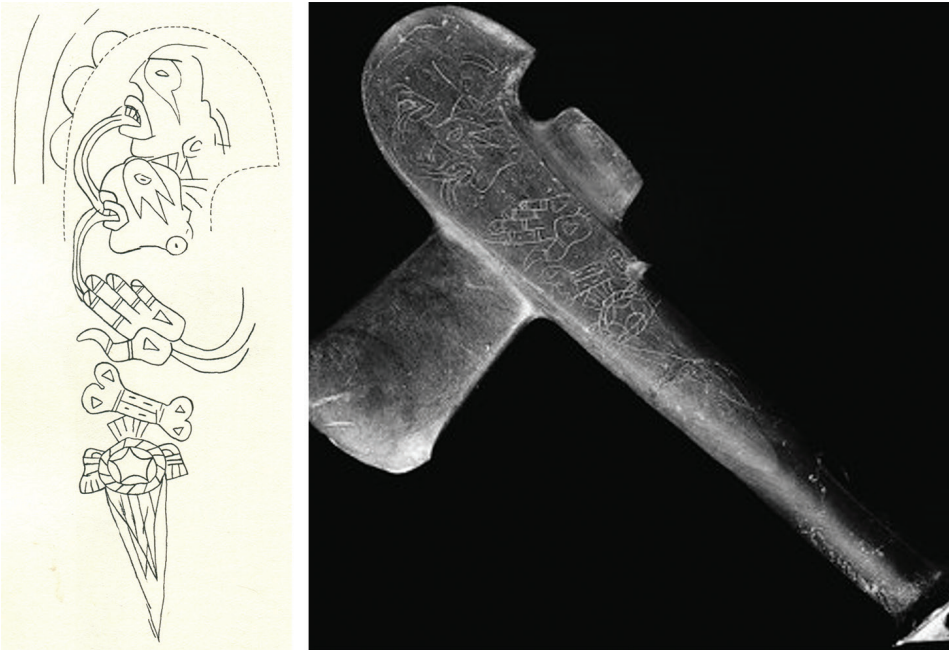


Figure 5: Stone monolithic axe from the Wilbanks site (9Ck5), Cherokee County, Georgia. (Late Braden decorative style). (Courtesy of Brown and Dye 2007)

to perform a ritual, or as regalia marking an individual as authorized to perform that ritual. Such bundles and regalia traveled from place to place as individuals sought membership in medicine societies, either through apprenticeships or even purchase. Membership in these institutions not only brought new ritual practices to local communities, but also added to the importance and influence of those wanting to climb the social ladder or to keep power within a select group of powerful individuals and families.

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Figure 6: Hemphill style copper pendant from Moundville. (Photo courtesy of National Museum of the American Indian)

# Remote Sensing at the Adamson Mounds Site (38KE11), Kershaw County, South Carolina

By Christopher Judge and Chester Walker, PhD

Among the modern world's high tech archaeological tools, is a suite of techniques, collectively known as "remote sensing." The most well known of these is metal detecting, but geophysical prospecting techniques such as Ground Penetrating Radar and Gradiometer are used with ever more frequency today to identify below-ground features and to target where archaeologists dig. Archaeology without the aid of such tools can be like searching for the proverbial needle in a haystack, thus remote sensing allows us to place excavations in the most promising areas of an archaeological site, saving time, energy, and resources.

The Adamson Mounds site is a Mississippian period mound site occupied between A.D. 1250 and 1475. Here, Native Americans built two earthen mounds; the largest is 10 meters tall (32 feet) and 59 X 50 meters (193 X 164 feet) at its base. To learn more about the Mississippian period, *Legacy* readers are directed to a short video at our Native American South Carolina Archive website: <https://www.nativesouthcarolina.org/video/>

The Adamson site was first recorded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and intensive archaeological testing of the site was performed in 1998, funded by the National

Geographic Society and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. The testing in 1998 involved the placement

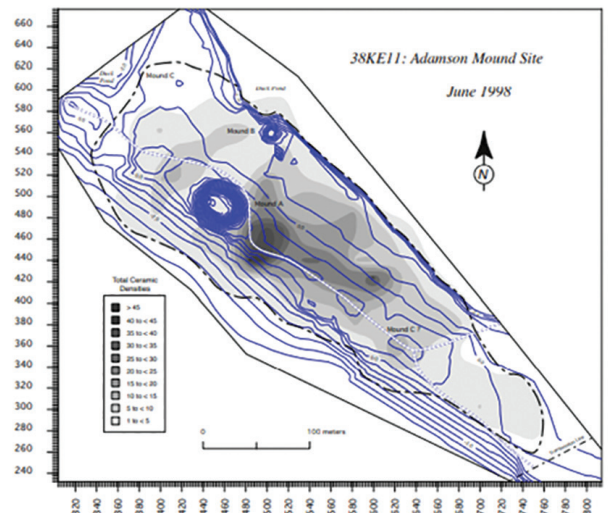
of shovel tests—30-centimeter (12-inch) diameter holes about 65 centimeters deep (25.5 inches) at intervals of 20 meters (65



Figure 2: Gradiometer survey area. (Image by Chet Walker)



Figures 1a and 1b: (Left) 19th century map of the site. (Right) Distribution of Native American pottery, dark is the most dense. (Images courtesy of Chet Walker)





Figures 3a and 3b: (Left) Adamson Mound, (Right) Chet Walker conducting the survey with his Bartington Grad 601-4 fluxgate gradiometer. (Photos by Chris Judge)

feet) to determine the significance and depth of archaeological deposits and to define the spatial boundaries of the site. (See the image on the right in Figure 1b).

In February of 2021, Judge worked with Chester “Chet” Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates LLC of Austin, Texas at the Adamson Mounds site on the Wateree River where Walker performed a gradiometer survey of the approximately seven-acre archaeological site. This work was funded by a donation from Duke Energy to the USC Educational Foundation for archaeological research in the Wateree Valley.

Gradiometer surveys are non-invasive and passive techniques that measure slight variations in the magnetic properties of soil. Gradiometers have become the primary tool for archaeo-geophysicists due in part to the fact that geophysical data can be collected and processed rapidly and efficiently. When conditions are right due to the properties of specific soils, gradiometers have proven useful in locating negative relief features such as storage and trash pits, post holes from houses and fences, as well as thermally-altered features such as fire hearths and burned structures.

The first step in the 2021 project was to obtain aerial photography of just under 54 acres centered on the seven-acre site. Walker used a micro-UAV (drone) to collect a series of overlapping aerial images. The drone was flown at 120 meters (394 feet) above ground level (AGL). A total of 285 images were collected (Figure 2).

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The second step in February 2021, was the gradiometer survey. A Bartington Grad 601-4 fluxgate gradiometer was used to collect a total of seven acres. Data was collected using a 50-centimeter traverse interval and a 10 Hz sampling interval. A real-time Global Navigation Satellite System (RTK GNSS) was used to plot the survey lines. This phase of our work involved Walker pulling the gradiometer across the site (Figures 3a and 3b).

While an important and useful means of data acquisition, geophysical prospecting is most effective when combined with detailed understanding of the site-specific characteristics of archaeological deposits. To that end, Walker overlaid his interpretation of the site on a map of the distribution of Native American pottery collected during the 1998 investigations (Figure 4).

Archaeology is a slow process. Since the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, archaeologists and antiquarians have collected various data about this site. Each subsequent project builds on the previous ones, refining our current understanding of the site and helps to shape future investigations. If funding can be obtained, we hope to return to the Adamson Mounds site in the future to excavate some small units to explore the anomalies discovered and interpreted by Chet Walker.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank site owners Mac Willetts, Robert Willetts, and Lynn Wooten for all of their support over the years, and our archaeological colleagues Adam King, Gail Wagner, and John Cable for their assistance in this effort. Funding was provided by a gift from Duke Energy to the USC Educational Foundation.

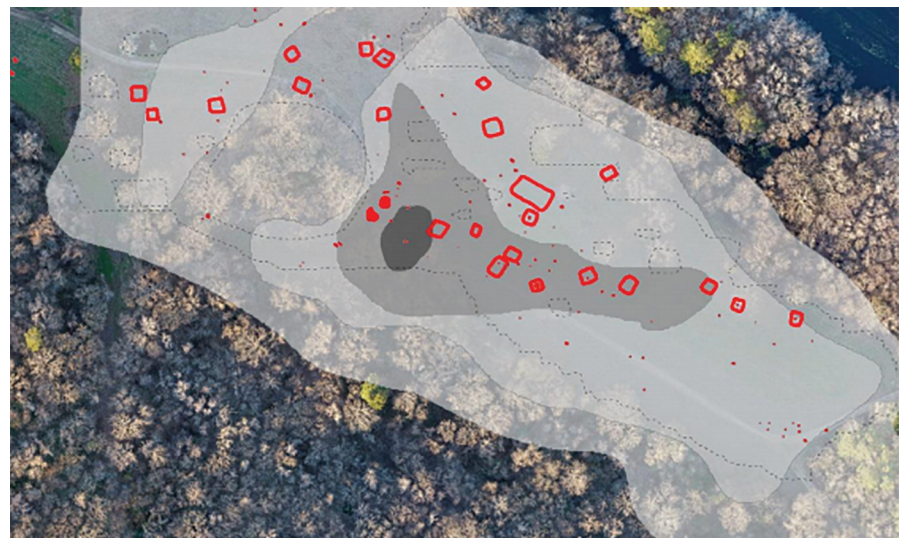


Figure 4: Walker’s interpretation—red squares and rectangles are potential structures built by Native Americans. (Image by Chet Walker)

# Numismatic History of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena Site: The U.S. Marine Corps Maneuver Grounds

By Heathley A. Johnson

The site of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena National Historic Landmark on Parris Island, South Carolina, is best known for its 16<sup>th</sup> century French and Spanish occupations, but subsequently there were also two other intensive occupations. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was a plantation complex, and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century the United States Marine Corps established its “Maneuver Grounds” camp on the site (Figure 1). The Maneuver Grounds was the location for one of the three phases of basic training of recruits prior to and during World War I and grew to become a large tent camp with various support buildings, such as mess halls, latrines, officer’s quarters, and a hospital complex (DePratter et al. 2016:149-158). When recruits began training at the Maneuver Grounds in 1916, it was still a modest affair, with expansion and building construction occurring in 1917 and 1918 (Legg 2005:123-125). Training at the camp ceased between 1919-1920, and the buildings were dismantled and salvaged in the 1920s. Following a period with no occupation during the 1930s and

1940s, when portions of the site were within the impact area of nearby artillery and aerial bombing ranges, a golf course was constructed in the late 1940s. Several golf holes and the clubhouse were located within the site boundary.

In nearly all excavations conducted at the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site, evidence of the Maneuver Grounds has been found. This evidence comes in the form of artifacts of a military or personal nature, and features, such as building footings, shell-lined roads, and refuse dumps. Commonly found personal artifacts include coins, clothing fasteners (snaps, buttons, rivets, and safety pins), hygienic and grooming items (toothbrushes, dental cream tube caps, combs, and razor blades), and items such as pipe stems and harmonica fragments. Based on recent reanalysis of the collection, coins are one of the most ubiquitous personal artifacts that have been recovered. A total of 161 coins have been found dating from 1884-1919 (Figure 2). The majority of these coins have been recovered from the upper level of the mixed context plow zone.

Coins dating to before and after the Maneuver Grounds occupation have also been recovered from the site, which could complicate the assignment of coins to any one period. For example, a farmer could have lost a coin at the site in the 1890s, or a golfer could have possessed and lost an old coin dating from the 1910s. This potential issue was resolved with a fair degree of certainty by first dividing the coins into date groupings, as follows: Plantation, with coin examples dating from 1735 to 1862; Maneuver Grounds, 1884 to 1919; and Golf Course, 1940 to 1997. For the date ranges of 1863 to 1883 and 1920 to 1939, no coins have been recovered. The coins from the Maneuver Grounds group were then examined to determine the amount of wear to their surfaces. Earlier coins belonging to the Maneuver Grounds occupation were expected to have a fair amount of wear, while later coins should have little wear; these expected wear patterns were seen to hold true. The coins followed a general trend in the reduction of the amount of wear, with coins from the 1880s having the most wear and coins



Figure 1: A 1918 photo of the USMC Maneuver Grounds training camp at the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site. (From a postcard)

## Maneuver Grounds Coinage

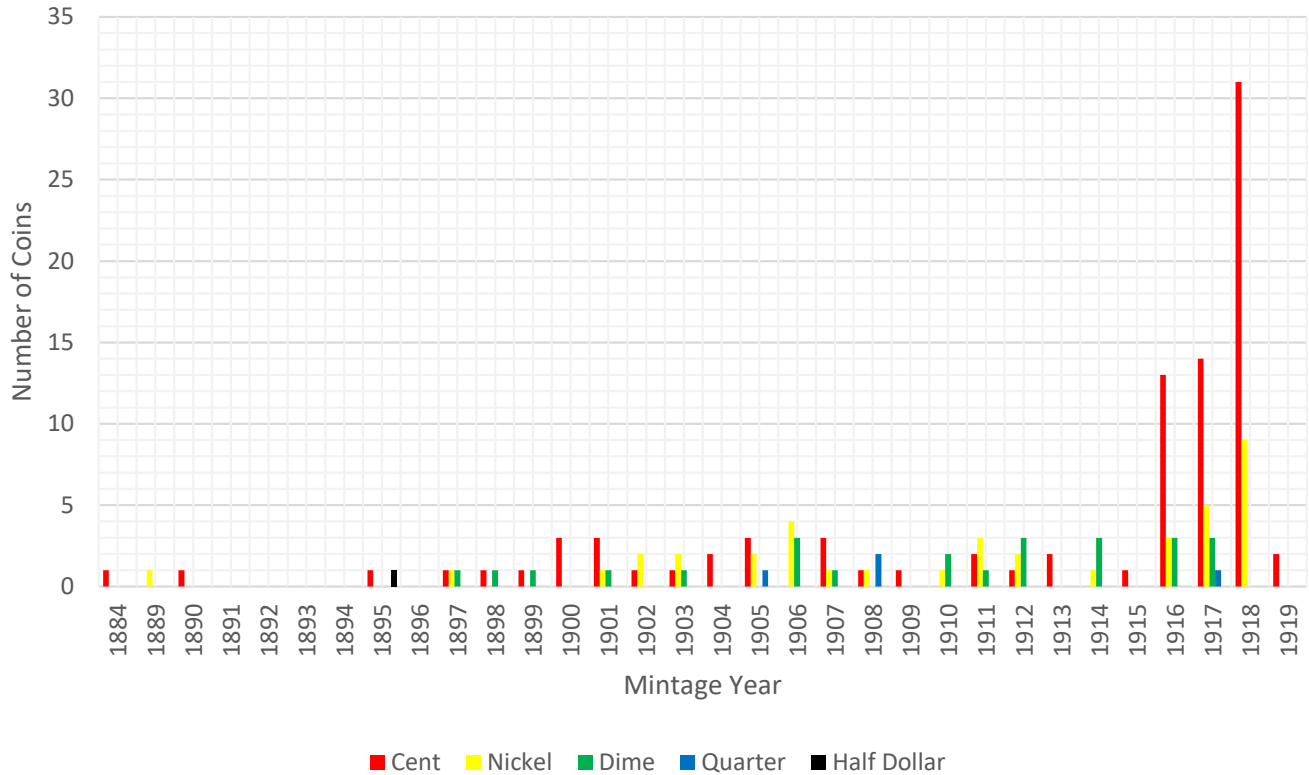


Figure 2: Graph of the coins from the Maneuver Grounds component of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site showing coin type, mintage year, and number. (Graph by Heathley Johnson)

Coin Type	Mintage Years	Denver	New Orleans	Philadelphia	San Francisco
Small Cent, Indian Head Type, Variety 3	1864-1909			24	
Small Cent, Lincoln Type, Wheat Ears Reverse, Variety 1	1909-1942, 1944-1958	27		40	1
Nickel, Liberty Head Type, Variety 2	1883-1913			22	
Nickel, Indian Head Type, Variety 2	1913-1938	4		14	
Dime, Liberty Head Type	1892-1916	3	1	14	
Dime, Winged Liberty Head Type	1916-1945			5	1
Quarter, Liberty Head Type	1892-1916		2	1	
Quarter, Standing Liberty Type, Variety 2	1917-1930			1	
Half Dollar, Liberty Head Type	1892-1915			1	

Table 1: Coins from the Maneuver Grounds component of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site. (Table by Heathley Johnson)





Figure 3: Coins from the Maneuver Grounds component of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site. A) 1895 half dollar, B) 1908 quarter, C) 1917 quarter, D) 1914 dime, E) 1916 dime, F) 1906 nickel, G) 1918 nickel, H) 1905 cent, I) 1918 cent, J) Canadian 1905 25 cents. (Photos by Heathley Johnson)

from the 1910s having little noticeable wear. These findings coincide well with information from an U.S. Government Accountability Office (2011:29) report, which found that the average lifespan of a coin in circulation is about 30 years.

To provide context for coin information discussed below, a quick look at coin production and distribution in the U.S. will be beneficial. For the period covered by the Maneuver Grounds group, 1884 to 1919, coins were minted at five mints: Carson City, Denver, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. Not all coin types were minted at each mint. For example, the Carson City and New Orleans mints only produced gold and silver coins, so there are no cents or nickels from these mints. After mints produce coins, they are then distributed to one of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks or their branch offices, as well as to authorized private sector repositories. From there, coins are distributed to financial institutions and pass into circulation. This system initially produces a regional distribution of coins from a particular mint, followed by a wider dissemination as coins circulate. For example, coins minted in San Francisco will generally only be found on the west coast in the year of their mintage, but in later years are liable to be found anywhere. The various mints do not produce the same number of coins, with the Philadelphia mint generally producing a higher number than the other mints for the years covered. Often this difference is quite substantial, as the example of cents minted in 1918 shows: 288.1 million were minted at Philadelphia, 47.8 million in Denver, and 34.6 million in San Francisco (Yeoman 2015:118). This is due to differing population densities across the country, which affects regional demand for coinage.

The Maneuver Grounds coin collection contains examples from the Denver, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco mints (Figure 3). It should be noted that some of the condition issues and toning of these coins are the result of being buried in the ground for decades and not reflective of how they would have appeared when lost. Table 1 shows the different coin types

recovered, their mintage years, where they were minted, and how many were found. Coins would have been brought to Parris Island by recruits from all over the eastern U.S. Recruits from the western U.S. received their basic training in California. This would produce an expected pattern of a higher percentage of coins from the Philadelphia mint being present.

Coins from the Philadelphia mint are the most prevalent in the collection, accounting for 75.8% of all coins. This may seem to be an expected finding, given the proximity of the Philadelphia mint to Parris Island, the coin types it minted, the high number of coins it produced, and where the Parris Island recruits came from, but there is another factor to consider. For the period covered by the Maneuver Grounds coins (1884-1919), some coins were only minted in Philadelphia for a portion of this time. Cents, for example, were only minted in Philadelphia through 1907, then also in San Francisco through 1910, and finally also in Denver starting in 1911. As cents constitute 57.1% of the collection, 25% of which date to 1907 or before, it is easy to see why coins from the Philadelphia mint are the most frequently recovered. Looking at only the cents minted between 1911 and 1919, when possible minting locations include all three mints, the ratio of coins changes considerably, with 40.9% from Denver,

57.6% from Philadelphia, and 1.5% from San Francisco. Nickels and dimes follow a somewhat similar pattern to a lesser degree, but coins from the Philadelphia mint compose the vast majority for these denominations. Quarters and half dollars are too few in number for any meaningful look at their mintage locations.

In addition to the 161 U.S. coins that have been recovered, a single foreign coin has been found—a 1905 Canadian 25 cents. It is not unusual to find Canadian coins circulating in the U.S. The Canadian 1, 5, 10, and 25 cents coins are very similar to the equivalent U.S. coins in size and metallic composition, allowing them to pass mostly unnoticed in general circulation.

Given the small portion of the Charlesfort / Santa Elena site that has been excavated and the number of coins from the Maneuver Grounds that have been found, there are likely thousands of coins still in the ground. This raises the question of why were so many coins lost? Part of the answer has to do with the sheer number of recruits that were trained at the Maneuver Grounds between 1916 and 1920—over 50 thousand, each of which would have spent several weeks at the camp. These recruits would have had little use for money while there, but there was a private post exchange, the Lucky Bag, in the camp where they could buy goods (DePratter et al. 2016:150). Coins were also more frequently used during this time period, when the cost of small goods was measured in cents, not dollars. For example, the cost of a first-class postage stamp in 1916 was two cents. The environment of the camp also played a role in why so many dropped coins went unrecovered. Period photographs show that the grounds of the camp were mostly sand, into which a dropped coin would likely disappear in rather short order. Recruits were housed in tents at the Maneuver Grounds, which seem to have been erected on raised rectangular platforms, footings of which have been frequently found during excavations (Legg 2005:129-130). While the exact construction method of these platforms is unknown, it



Figure 4: Copper alloy watch fob with attached 1912 cent from the Maneuver Grounds. (Photo by Heathley Johnson)

is likely that they were wooden platforms composed of planks, similar to those seen in Scout camps. Coins dropped inside of tents could then easily fall through the gaps between planks, becoming lost underneath the tent platforms. Finally, as a training camp, physical exercise would have been a regular occurrence at the Maneuver Grounds, increasing the chance for coins to be dislodged from the safety of trouser pockets.

One unusual artifact related to numismatics that has been found is a watch fob. The fob itself is a thin sheet of copper alloy that was gilded, upon which a 1912 cent from the Philadelphia mint was soldered (Figure 4). Perhaps the year 1912 had some significance to the owner, otherwise, this is a fairly prosaic watch fob.

The collection of coins from the Maneuver Grounds may not have great antiquity and be of lesser interest to numismatic enthusiasts and collectors, but it has value from an archaeological viewpoint. By looking at the varying

denominations, types, and mintage locations of the coins, an example of what coins were in general circulation in South Carolina in 1916-1920 is gained. It was a time when many coin designs had recently changed, providing more visual interest to those who may have viewed coins as more than just a medium of exchange. For the curious, the face value of the Maneuver Grounds coins is \$6.82.

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Figure 5: Another view of the Maneuver Grounds at Parris Island in 1918. (From a postcard)

# Just How Far Did Soto Go?

By Chester B. DePratter and Lisa R. Hudgins

Spaniard Hernando de Soto, veteran of service in Panama, Nicaragua, and Peru and Governor of Cuba, landed in Tampa Bay, Florida, on May 30, 1539, with an army of about 625 men and more than 200 horses (Figure 1). He and his men spent the next four years making their way across the southeastern United States, living off the land and enslaving Indians to carry their baggage and gear. Soto died on the banks of the Mississippi River on May 21, 1542, and his men spent the next year trying to find their way overland through Texas to Mexico. Having failed in that effort, they returned to the Mississippi River, built seven barges, and made their way down the river to the Gulf of Mexico and then across the Gulf to Panuco, Mexico. Only about one-half of the men with Soto at his Florida landing survived the rigors of the expedition.

In the nearly 500 years since the Soto expedition, there have been many efforts to track the route the Spaniards followed. The four extant accounts that provide details relating to the expedition are incomplete and sometimes provide contradictory information, making reconstruction of the route followed a difficult challenge.



Figure 1: Hernando de Soto, pictured in the early 17th century. (Antonio de Herrera y Tordesillas)

76th Congress, 1st Session - - - - - House Document No. 71

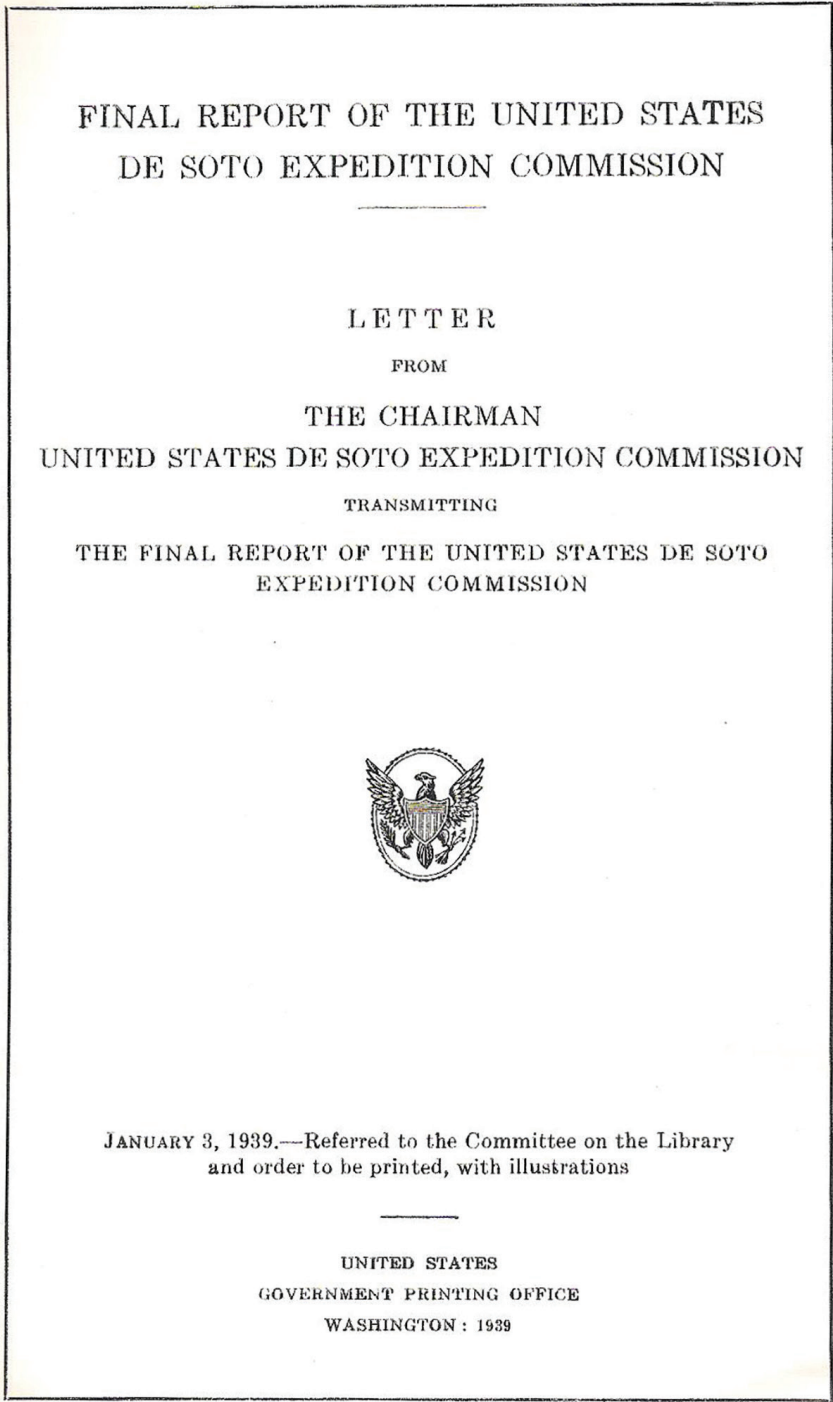


Figure 2: Title page, United States De Soto Expedition Commission Report.

In February 1936, the U.S. Congress created the United States De Soto Expedition Commission to provide a definitive mapping of the route followed by Soto and his men. That Commission, headed by Dr. John R. Swanton of the Smithsonian Institution, met three times in 1936, and it submitted a draft of its final

report to Congress in April 1937 (Figure 2). Most of the actual work on the report and its contents was done by John Swanton. The United States De Soto Expedition Commission report, published in 1939, and its route map were widely accepted for the next 40 years.

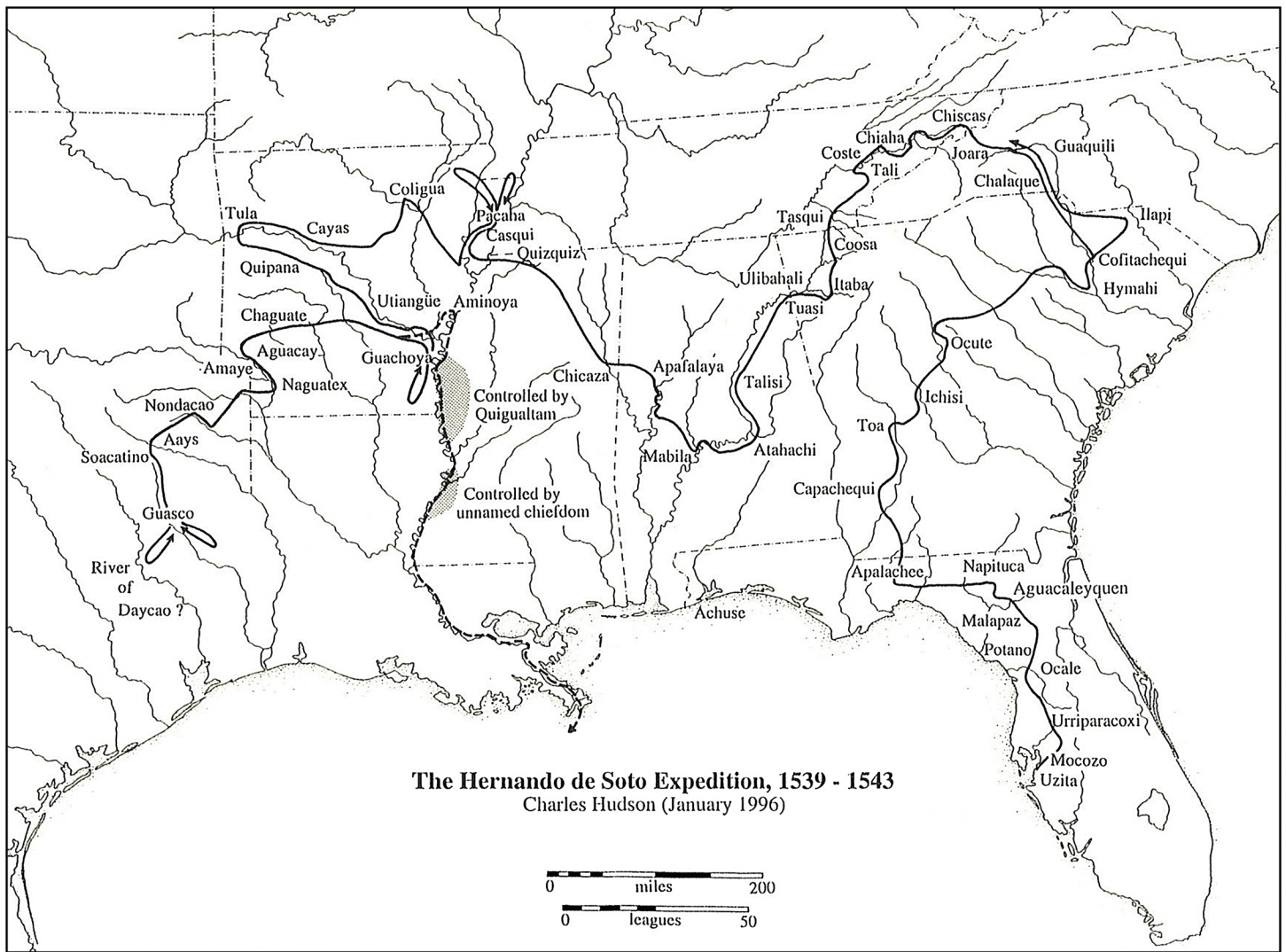


Figure 3: Charles Hudson's map (1997a p. 320) of the Soto route, 1539-1543.

The Commission used the best maps and the limited archaeological knowledge available at the time to track Soto and his men, but over time it became clear that there were problems with their route reconstruction. In the mid-1970s, while researching and writing his seminal volume, *The Southeastern Indians*, Charles Hudson realized that the Indians of the southeast had undergone tremendous changes in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when Spanish expeditions and colonies became increasingly common. He felt that one way to understand these changes was to map the Soto route and place the Indian societies that the Spaniards encountered on the landscape in their proper locations.

Hudson began work on the Soto route in 1977, and DePratter was among his earliest collaborators. In the two decades that followed, Hudson used modern

maps and worked with archaeologists and others across the southeast to create his version of the Soto expedition route (Figure 3). Major differences between the De Soto Commission map and Hudson's more recent version include rerouting the expedition farther into South Carolina and North Carolina based on the path of the Juan Pardo expeditions (1566-1568), shortening the route through Alabama, and eliminating the part of the route others, including Swanton, had tracked through Louisiana.

The United States De Soto Expedition Commission report (1939: p. 301, Appendix A), placed the total distance traveled by Soto and his men on land at 2,987 miles. The Commission did not include forays and side trips made by smaller contingents of men along the way. Because the reconstructed route maps by the

Commission and Hudson are dramatically different in places, we decided to see how the compiled mileages varied by state. Like the Commission, we did not calculate the distances traveled on forays by smaller parties to Ilapi in South Carolina, to the north from Pacaha in Arkansas, or to the south of Guasco in Texas. We realize that Hudson's map reflects his preferred route as he knew it in 1997, and there have been adjustments here and there since it was published. Archaeologists are currently working on sites all along Hudson's route, and that work will ultimately lead to adjustments and refinements in Hudson's work. Nevertheless, we are confident that Hudson has provided a good base map to guide future work.

In order to obtain estimates of the total distance traveled in each state, we overlaid Hudson's more detailed route maps

(Hudson 1997b) on modern maps and then used the “Ruler” tool in Adobe Photoshop to accurately measure each twist and turn along the way. The map images were enlarged to allow as precise measurements as possible. We believe that our distance figures are quite accurate along the entire route.

Table 1 shows the distances traveled overland by state according to Swanton’s Commission and our measurements based on Hudson’s maps (Figure 4). Major differences exist because Hudson took Soto north into South Carolina and North Carolina, whereas the Commission did not. Swanton took the expedition much farther south into Alabama than Hudson did, and Hudson has Soto tracking across Arkansas multiple times and avoiding Louisiana altogether. As can be seen in Table 1, the total travel distances for the two routes are quite similar with 2,987 for Swanton and his Commission and 3,387 for Hudson, but there are large differences in distances traveled within individual states.

After constructing their barges at Aminoya, the surviving Spaniards floated an estimated 408 miles (straight line distance not measuring countless meanders) down the Mississippi River, and then another 680 miles across the Gulf of Mexico to Panuco, Mexico. By our measure that makes the total distance Soto and his successor and men traveled from Tampa Bay, Florida, to Panuco, 4,475 miles by land, river, and sea.

When Soto landed in Florida, he did not have a map of the southeastern United States, and he truly had no idea where he was headed. He followed Indian trails and used guides he picked up along the way to get him from one Indian society to another. He and his men saw a land of complex societies that were already beginning to enter a period of decline and reorganization. The Soto expedition accounts provide our best and most complete glimpse of these southeastern Indian societies that would soon disappear.



Figure 4: Dr. Charles M. Hudson, 1932-2013. (Photo courtesy of the University of Georgia)

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 1939 *Final Report*. 76<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, House Document 71. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

	<b>Swanton</b>	<b>Hudson</b>
Florida	335*	343
Georgia	320	430
South Carolina	150	221
North Carolina	80	107
Tennessee	87	200
Alabama	505	351
Mississippi	170	176
Arkansas	480	1189
Louisiana	590	---
Texas	270	370
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2987</b>	<b>3387</b>

\*Distances in miles.

Table 1: Comparison of distances covered by Soto expedition according to Swanton table and Hudson map. (Table by Charles Hudson)

# Conservation and Documentation of a Significant Camden Battlefield Collection

By James Legg

In the August 2010 issue of *Legacy*, I published an article entitled, *The Camden Battlefield, 1796-2010: A Short History of a Long Project*. That article summarized a 15-year effort to preserve and interpret the battlefield where the American southern army was destroyed by the British on August 16, 1780. Nearly 11 years later, the process continues. The preserved property now totals 773 acres, including the entire core battlefield, all of it under the management of Historic Camden Foundation. A new interpretation and tour trail system is currently under preparation by the South Carolina Battleground Preservation Trust. Our own archaeological research has continued intermittently, including a concerted effort during the SCIAA COVID shutdown last Spring 2020, and an additional season in Spring 2021. I will have some interesting news on that front in an upcoming issue of *Legacy*.

The original Camden archaeological effort from 2001 to 2009 included a survey of private collectors who had removed artifacts from the battlefield prior to the site coming under protection. From the mid-1970s (and probably much earlier) through the late 1990s, the Camden Battlefield was subjected to intensive metal detecting by dozens of individuals, known and unknown. The entire battlefield was thoroughly collected, and the great majority of battle artifacts on the site disappeared. This meant that a painstaking, long-term metal detecting effort on our part was required to recover and map enough artifacts to place the events of the battle on the present landscape. It also meant that nearly all of our artifacts were smaller than about 20 millimeters, and nearly all were lead musket balls and buckshot. My collector survey was a pragmatic effort to complement our limited data with

information from those who preceded us. I eventually interviewed 14 collectors, about half of them with substantial Camden collections. Happily, the information they provided fit well with our developing interpretation that was based on the primary historical sources and our own metal detecting. The collectors also provided information about some important peripheral loci that were not otherwise known.

The other major benefit of the collector survey was a much-improved understanding of the material culture employed by the two armies in August 1780. With our own archaeological collection largely confined to ammunition, the artifacts retained in private collections provided a much better notion of what was originally left on the site after the battle. This was mostly a function of artifact size, given that larger artifacts are easier to detect, so those items were missing by the time we began our work. Of course, the improved assemblage is also a function of raw numbers, as larger quantities of even small artifacts will tend to include more varieties of objects.

The largest single Camden collection was apparently that of a gentleman I will call "Collector #3," as he was designated in our 2005 and 2009 reports. I walked the battlefield with Collector #3, and he provided me with a partial catalog of his collection, excluding ammunition, with numbers corresponding to plots on a detailed sketch map. He provided another map showing the approximate distribution of ammunition, as well as a short article quantifying and discussing his very large ammunition collection (which is apparently now lost). While his information was obviously valuable and unique, I was never able to actually examine the "#3" collection, and I obtained no photos. I later learned that the collector had sold his Camden artifacts to a militaria dealer, and I concluded that it was lost to



Figure 1: A selection of iron and copper alloy shoe buckles found on the Camden Battlefield by "Collector #3." (Photo by Tim Pieper)



Figure 2: Some of the British Land Pattern Musket parts recovered by "Collector #3." Parts from French muskets used by American forces are equally abundant in the collection. (Photo by Tim Pieper)

the ages. In fact, the bulk of the collection other than the ammunition was purchased by a local ally of historic preservation who was loath to see the collection dispersed. He eventually sold the collection to Tim Lord, a like-minded Camden historian and friend of SCIAA. Tim recently made me aware of the rescue of the "#3" collection. Meanwhile, I became involved in an effort to locate Battle of Camden artifacts that might be loaned for exhibit in the new Camden Revolutionary War Visitors Center, which will open soon adjacent to the Historic Camden complex. Tim agreed to cover the exhibit requirement with a selection of his Camden material, and he also agreed to loan me the entire collection in the interim so that I could analyze and photograph it all for the record.

The collection needed some work. While the dry, sandy soil of the Camden battlefield is relatively kind to buried metal artifacts, the "#3" artifacts had problems. Most obviously the many iron artifacts were not stable and showed signs of continuing deterioration. With a few exceptions, the iron objects appeared to have been mechanically (and incompletely) cleaned by brushing and grinding and were then coated with some sort of polymer sealant and painted black. In the interests of the long-term preservation of the artifacts, not to mention

the quality of the record photographs, I undertook the conservation of the entire collection. I began the task in December 2020 and completed the last items in May 2021, altogether 39 iron artifacts and dozens of non-ferrous objects. Meanwhile, SCIAA lab employee, Tim Pieper kept up with shooting multiple formal photos

of each item as its conservation was complete. We now have a permanent record of most of the Camden collection amassed by "Collector #3" many years ago.

*Please note that relic collecting is now strictly prohibited on the Camden Battlefield, and the guardians of the property have expressed their intention to press charges against any violators.*

### Further Reading

Legg, James B., Steven D. Smith and Tamara S. Wilson  
2005 *Understanding Camden: The Revolutionary War Battle of Camden as Revealed Through Historical, Archaeological, and Private Collections Analysis*. Submitted to the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program, and the Palmetto Conservation Foundation. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia.

Legg, James B. and Steven D. Smith  
2007 *Camden: Salvaging Data from a Heavily Collected Battlefield*. In *Fields*



Figure 3: Miscellaneous Camden artifacts from the "#3" collection. Top, mess fork; Second row, (left to right) British bayonet scabbard frog clip, American bayonet scabbard tip, cartridge box shoulder belt buckles (2), iron harness buckle, brass harness buckle; Third row, (left to right) sword scabbard throat, musket cleaning worm, knee buckle frame, iron canister (case shot) balls (2); Bottom, bayonet blade fragment. (Photo by Tim Pieper)





Figure 4: SCIAA technician Tim Pieper photographing a shoe buckle from the “#3” collection. (Photo by James Legg)

*of Conflict: Battlefield Archaeology from the Roman Empire to the Korean War*, edited by Douglas Scott, Lawrence Babits, and Charles Haecker. Praeger Security International, Westport, Connecticut.

Smith, Steven D., James B. Legg, and Tamara S. Wilson  
 2009 *The Archaeology of the Camden Battlefield: History, Private Collections, and Field Investigations*. Submitted to the Palmetto Conservation Foundation and the National Park Service. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Columbia.

Legg, James B.  
 2010 *The Camden Battlefield, 1996-2010: A Short History of a Long Project*. *Legacy*, Vol. 14, No. 2, August 2010.



Figure 5: A view of the Camden Battlefield in 2021. (Photo by James Legg)



Figure 6: Pewter uniform buttons from the Camden Battlefield, recovered by “Collector #3.” (Left to right) “USA” Continental Army, British 33rd Regiment of Foot, British 71st Regiment of Foot (Fraser’s Highlanders). Unfortunately, pewter is an inherently unstable alloy in most soils, including that of the Camden Battlefield, typically resulting in very poor preservation. (Photos by Tim Pieper)

# Full Circle: John Bartlam's Porcelain Returns to the Carolinas

By Lisa Hudgins



Figure 1: Bartlam porcelain sherds excavated at the Cain Hoy site (38BK1349). (Photos by Stanley South)

When John Bartlam came to South Carolina in the 1760s, he was intent on establishing a potworks that would rival ceramics produced by any of the factories in his native Staffordshire. He went on to create creamware and porcelain wares that found their way into the Carolina backcountry and onto ships destined for England. Now 200 years later, some of Bartlam's porcelain has found its way back home to the Carolinas.

Early research on Bartlam's ceramics began in North Carolina, where archaeologist Stanley South found pieces of Staffordshire-style creamware at the Bethabara and Wachovia excavations in the 1960s near Old Salem. In the following decades, South, along with Brad Rauschenberg and George Terry, traced

the unusual creamware back to the pottery of John Bartlam and his assistant William Ellis.

When South moved to South Carolina in 1969 to work at the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA), he began to find examples of the unusual creamware at other archaeological sites: Ninety Six, Fort Watson, and Camden. Excavations in 1991-92 at Cain Hoy, on the Wando River in Berkeley County near Charleston, revealed that Bartlam was indeed producing a refined earthenware they dubbed, "Carolina creamware." But archaeologists also discovered he was making a soft paste blue and white porcelain (Figure 1). The delicate porcelain, decorated in Bartlam's signature style, became the subject of some debate. In 2007,

it was recognized as the first porcelain produced in America. Subsequent research has established a unique chemical signature for the Bartlam porcelain, making it easy to distinguish from its English-made counterparts.

Armed with a stylistic and scientific profile, ceramics experts began searching in earnest for intact pieces of Bartlam porcelain. By 2011, four tea bowls had been discovered in England. At auction, the Bartlam porcelain saw prices far above expectations. In 2013, a tea bowl was sold at Christies for \$146,500. Five years later, Woolley and Wallis auctioned a small teapot for £460,000. As of this writing, a



Figure 3: Bartlam porcelain saucer. (Courtesy of the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) at Old Salem, NC)

total of 11 pieces of Bartlam porcelain have been located, including five tea bowls, five saucers, and the teapot.

Several pieces have found their way back to the United States. The teapot (Figure 2) was purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Other tea wares found homes at the Chipstone Foundation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of Fine Arts-Boston. And in 2018, one of the saucers (Figure 3) found its way to the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA) in Old Salem, less than a mile from where the search for John Bartlam began. The saucer is on display there, along with the excavated sherds that excited ceramics scholars nearly 30 years ago.

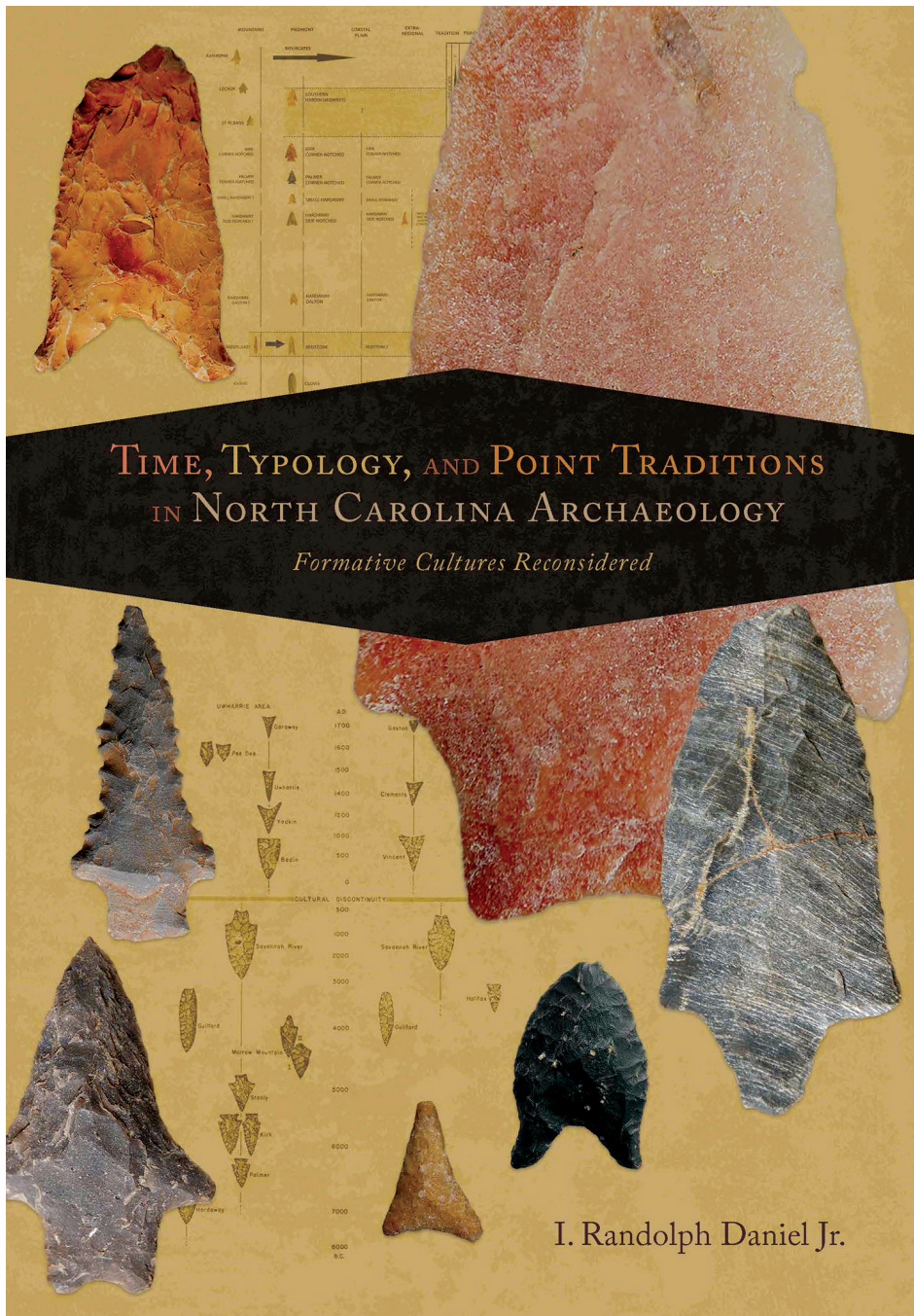


Figure 2: Bartlam porcelain teapot. (Courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

# New Book

## *Time, Typology, and Point Traditions in North Carolina Archaeology: Formative Cultures Reconsidered*

By I. Randolph Daniel Jr. 2021



*"Starting where Joffre Coe left off with his classic The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont published in 1964, Randy Daniel continues on researching and identifying the widely accepted North Carolina projectile point types, as well as adding some new ones found since. This book was written for both professional archaeologists, as well as avocationalists. He relies heavily on the use of private collections and properly acknowledges the cooperation of collectors. Most of the point types of North Carolina are also found in South Carolina. This book is a must have for people doing research in prehistory for the Carolinas."*  
By Albert C. Goodyear, Retired SCIAA Research Affiliate

Randy Daniel is professor and chair of anthropology at East Carolina University. A noted expert on Native American stone tools, he is the author of *Hardaway Revisited: Early Archaic Settlement in the Southeast*.

This important new volume by Randy Daniel is available from The University of Alabama Press in a hardcover or e-book edition. 232 pages, 47 figures, two maps, two tables. \$59.95.

# Maritime Research

## New Maritime Research Division Staff at SCIAA

By James Spirek, Will Nassif, and Athena Van Overschelde

The Maritime Research Division (MRD) welcomed two new staff members just in time for field work to resume after the COVID-19 imposed delay. After two extensive searches, Will Nassif joined the MRD staff at the end of 2020 as Underwater Archaeologist I (See *Legacy* December 2020), and Athena Van Overschelde came aboard in March 2021, as Underwater Archaeologist II. We are excited to welcome them both to South Carolina and the Institute!

Will was born in Durham, North Carolina and spent most of his childhood between there and Cary, NC. After graduating from Appalachian State University, he worked as a high school teacher in Wake County, North Carolina. Building on his childhood love of his home state's rivers and coastline, he returned to higher education as a student in East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies. His thesis research into the historic Pamlico River port of Washington sought to examine the relationship between port infrastructure technology and economic trends. Along with his excursions into the Pamlico River, he has conducted maritime archaeological



Figure 1: Will Nassif preparing to enter the water in the Ashepoo River. (SCIAA photo)



Figure 2: Athena Van Overschelde (left) recovering a fossil. (SCIAA photo)

surveys at several other Tar/Pamlico River sites, shipwrecks off the North Carolina coast, military equipment in the Marshall Islands, and terrestrial surveys on the Outer Banks. Other research interests of his include ship construction, maritime landscapes, and other forms of waterfront infrastructure. Will also gained experience in curating museum collections as an intern at the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, NC. His previous archaeological and diving experiences will serve him well in managing South Carolina's maritime cultural resources.

Athena Van Overschelde grew up in Colorado, Maryland, and Texas and graduated from Texas State University with a B.A. in History and a B.A. in anthropology. While at Texas State, she took a scientific diving course and fell in love with underwater archaeology. After graduation, Athena spent time working for Texas State before being accepted for the Masters of Professional

Science Underwater Archaeology program at Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Miami. For two weeks in July of 2019, Athena joined the Lost Ships of Cortés Project in Villa Rica de la Vera Cruz, Mexico and assisted project archaeologists and archaeologists from Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH). Her thesis research produced in-depth historical research on the Maritime Heritage Trail vessels in Biscayne National Park, and she assisted in the development of public educational and outreach interpretive materials for visitor use. She is thrilled to be part of the team at SCIAA and is looking forward to protecting and preserving the maritime cultural history of South Carolina.

At the Institute, Will serves as Hobby License administrator, conducts site and collection assessments throughout the state, and participates in underwater archaeological projects. Athena plans and conducts archaeological research, implements education and outreach programs, and coordinates Federal Section 106 compliance reviews. So far, the two have participated in recovering fossils from the Ashepoo River (Figures 1 and 2), shoreline surveys in Winyah Bay, and a host of other projects in their brief tenure. We look forward to their future contributions in furthering the mission of SCIAA MRD. Meet the team in Figure 3.



Figure 3: Maritime Research Division (MRD) staff, (Left to right), Jim Spirek, Athena Van Overschelde, Will Nassif. (Photo by James Legg)

# Historic Archaeology



What are these people watching so intently? These photos were taken 52 years ago on the night of July 20, 1969, in the crew house of the SCIAA Charles Towne Landing archaeological project. The crew members are watching live coverage of the Apollo 11 astronauts on the Moon. Charles Towne Landing project director and pioneering historical archaeologist Stanley South was the photographer. Stan's wife Jewell is visible in the background of the upper image holding their daughter Lara; their younger son Robert is also visible, with project cook Joseph Capers. Only a few others in the group are presently identified. William Gettys, one of Stan's assistants, is seen in both photos, seated in front of the window. In the lower photo, Stan's stalwart crew chief Randy Luther is at the left, in a dark shirt, directly under the chandelier. Luther managed as many as 50 excavators during the Charles Towne project, to Stan's great satisfaction. On the back wall between the windows is David South, Stan and Jewell's older son. David assisted in the documentation of these images. Dominating the foreground is Norman Habib Akel, crew member and friend of David South. David is fairly certain that the long-haired, shirtless person on the right in the lower image is a crew member named "Bugsy" Chevrier. In his remarkable memoir, *An Archaeological Evolution*, Stan South remembered that "Bugsy" and some of his other Charles Towne crew members took off for a few days in mid-August 1969 to attend the Woodstock music festival in New York: "...when they returned, "Bugsy" didn't, because he could not be found when they got ready to leave. They had him paged, but he didn't show up. Years later, when I bought a Woodstock album, between two of the numbers, you could hear the loudspeaker paging our "Bugsy" to come to the bandstand. Years later, I saw in the Charleston paper a picture of "Bugsy" with an article praising his work as a maker of creative jewelry." (James Legg)



# Archaeological Research Trust

## Dr. Walter Curry Joins the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board

By Nena Powell Rice and Dr. Walter B. Curry



Figure 1: Dr. Walter Curry, new member of the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board of Trustees at SCIAA . (Photo courtesy of Dr. Walter Curry)

Dr. Walter B. Curry joined the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board in the Fall of 2020. The ART Board is very appreciative of the immediate initiatives that Dr. Curry has brought to the table since becoming involved in a very short time span. Dr. Walter B. Curry, Jr. is a native of Orangeburg, South Carolina. He received a bachelor's degree in political science from South Carolina State University, and has earned several graduate degrees in education, which includes a doctorate degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Argosy University, Sarasota.

In 2018, Dr. Curry launched Renaissance Publications, LLC. On September 1, 2018, he published his first

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genealogy book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830-1960)* and his second book, *The Awakening: The Seawright-Ellison Family Saga Vol.1, A Narrative History*, which was released June 19, 2021. Both books chronicle the reflections and experiences of his relatives that shed new light on African American History in Aiken County and South Carolina. In October 2019, Dr. Curry received the 2019 African American Historical and Genealogy Society Book Award in the non-fiction category-genealogy for his book. On February 12, 2020, the South Carolina Legislature recognized him for his significant work in service to African American History and Heritage in South Carolina and

congratulate him on his book award. In addition, Dr. Curry was selected to South Carolina State University 40 Under 40 Inaugural Class for his professional accomplishments and dedication to the university. To find out more about Dr. Curry's company, Renaissance Publications, LLC and to order his books, go to <http://www.renaissancepubllc.com>.

Dr. Curry is a member of several civic, historical, and professional organizations that include South Carolina Genealogical Society, Orangeburg County Historical Society, Aiken-Barnwell Genealogical Society, and the African American Historical and Genealogical Society. He is also a charter member/volunteer of the International African American Museum and was recently appointed to the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum Commission.

In addition, Dr. Curry has done several book signings and presentations at local conferences, workshops, bookstores, museums, and schools across the state and nationwide. His most recent project is, *Salley and The Thompson Family*, an exhibit in the Aiken County Historical Museum that features the founding of Salley, South Carolina and the illumination of his ancestors and relative stories through artifacts and primary sources. His book, *The Thompson Family: Untold Stories from the Past (1830-1960)* has been approved to use as a curriculum resource for Wagoner-Salley High School, New Ellenton STEM Middle School, and Jackson STEM Middle School.

Dr. Curry currently lives in Columbia, South Carolina with his wife, Takiyah S. Curry, who is a registered nurse and graduate of the University of South Carolina. They have two sons, Braxton and Braylon.

# South Carolina Archaeology Book

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

*Exploring the Hidden Heritage of the Palmetto State*  
Edited by Adam King

Adam King's *Archaeology in South Carolina* contains an overview of the fascinating archaeological research currently ongoing in the Palmetto State and features essays by twenty scholars studying South Carolina's past through archaeological research. The scholarly contributions are enhanced by more than one hundred black-and-white and thirty-eight color images of some of the most important and interesting sites and artifacts found in the state.

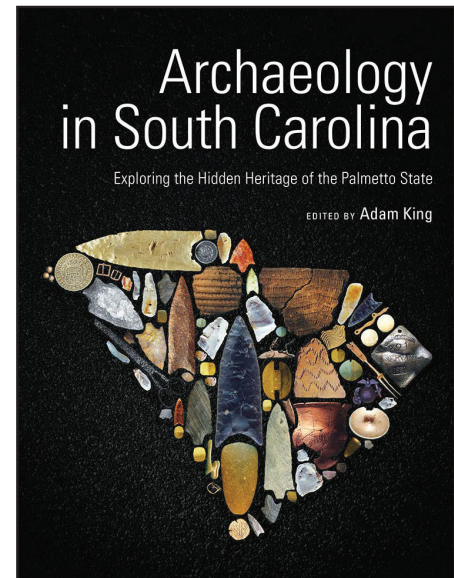
South Carolina has an extraordinarily rich history encompassing some of the first human habitations of North America as well as the lives of people at the dawn of the modern era. King begins the anthology with the basic hows and whys of archaeology and introduces readers to the current issues influencing the field of research. The contributors are all recognized experts from universities, state agencies, and private consulting firms, reflecting the diversity of people and institutions that engage in archaeology.

The volume begins with investigations of some of the earliest Paleo-Indian and Native American cultures that thrived in South Carolina, including work at the Topper Site along the Savannah River. Other essays explore the creation of early communities at the Stallings Island site, the emergence of large and complex Native American polities before the coming of Europeans, the impact of the coming of European settlers on Native American groups along the Savannah River, and the archaeology of the Yamasee, a people whose history is tightly bound to the emerging European society.

The focus then shifts to Euro-Americans with an examination of a long-term project seeking to understand George Galphin's trading post established on the Savannah River in the eighteenth century.

The volume concludes with recollections and observations on a lifetime in the field by the preeminent historical archaeologist Stanley South, who passed away in 2016. Stan spent the last 51 years of his career at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology.

March 2015, 304 pages, 38 color and 103 b&w illus.



**Adam King** is a research associate professor in the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and special projects archaeologist for the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program at the University of South Carolina. King has conducted research in the Southeast since 1987 and specializes in the Mississippian period and the political economies of chiefdoms. He is the author of *Etowah: The Political History of a Chiefdom Capital*.

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# A Tribute to ART Board Member Sam E. McCuen

By Nena Powell Rice and Obituary



In the past 36 years since I met Sam McCuen, I was enlightened by a man who loved his family, history, the arts, music, and wholeheartedly all people, especially the disenfranchised. He supported all aspects of a civilized society, giving generously to his love of the written word in journalism, education, history, archaeology, the arts, music, and the expression of our culture. He became like a dad to me in the past decade, when he called me out of the blue and asked to be a Board Member of the Archaeological Research Trust (ART) of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina. He told me it would be the last board he would serve. Sam was a great support of the work at SCIAA. I had planned to call him on the day I heard that he had passed to wish him a Happier New Year in 2021. I knew he would agree. I will miss him more than anyone can imagine...A Great Man, a Great Human Being...May He Rest In Peace...

On December 29, 2020, we lost a great champion of support for the preservation of archaeology and history in South Carolina. A private graveside service was held for Sam E. McCuen, 80, of Lexington, on Sunday, January 3, 2021, at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Columbia. The Rev. Dr. Patrick Riddle, Senior Pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Lexington, presided.

Sam was born in Charlotte, NC on October 15, 1940, and died in Lexington, SC on December 29, 2020. He was the only child of the late Samuel "Buddy" McCuen and Minnie Harms McCuen Hubbard. He

was preceded in death by his wife, and the mother of his daughters, Gretchen Snyder McCuen.

After graduating with a Journalism degree from the University of South Carolina, Sam worked for *The State* newspaper, earning four prestigious Associated Press awards. He also inspired and nurtured hundreds of students as an adjunct professor of Journalism at his alma mater. Sam's wealth of knowledge in the field of media and communications carried him to seminars across the nation, teaching corporate executives how to engage with the press. In time, his career path led him to serve in South Carolina state government as Public Relations Directors for the Department of Corrections and, later, the Highway Department. Never one to sit and wait on life, Sam shared his talents with the city and state by serving on numerous Boards of Directors: SC Philharmonic Orchestra, Palmetto Place Children's Emergency Shelter, SC Center for Birds of Prey, SC Humanities Council, SC Archives and History Foundation, USC College of Journalism, City of Columbia Parks Foundation, Allen University Educational Foundation, Archaeological Research Trust (ART) of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at USC, and Columbia Museum of Art, which in 2019 honored Sam with the John Richard Craft Leadership Award.

Throughout his life, Sam was at his best when he connected people with a need to the person or organization who could fill it. He had a knack for bringing diverse individuals and groups together, many of whom he met while advocating for his favorite causes: the arts, history and preservation, science, education, the environment, and civil rights. His depth and breadth of involvement in the Capital City brought him a varied and diverse group of friends, of all faiths, races, and backgrounds. All who knew him will miss his charm, his stories, and his very wicked sense of humor!

Sam remarried 25 years ago and is

survived by his loving wife, Gina A. McCuen. Left to cherish his wonderful memory are his daughters; Kathryn Huntley (Harry) and Sandra Holland (Scott) of Columbia, SC and Debbie Elmore (Mike) of Cheraw, SC. He also leaves eight grandchildren; Hunt Huntley (Anne), Baker Elmore (Anna), Fielder Huntley (Elizabeth), McCuen Elmore (Lauren), Sarah Loudon (Mike), Kathryn Huntley, Ben Holland, and Jennings Huntley. He has two step-daughters: Ginger Davis (Patton) and Elizabeth Trenbeath (Mike), along with three step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## Remembrances

### From F. Jo Baker

I feel very privileged to have been able to meet Sam McCuen through SCIAA and ART. His sense of humor was infectious and made me laugh out loud! And, of course, he was so knowledgeable about so many things. Sam was bigger than life. I know that he is up there dancing a jig and smiling that great big smile of his!

### From Jane Gunnel and Billy Benton

What a totally remarkable man Sam was! He was a delightful friend and "Carolina Dog Publicity Agent" for us! That was his choice, and he was an inspiration! His Life was full of giving so much of himself and his time to further the success of so many! And he always found the time, somehow, to do just that for all of us. In our last "outing" together, he took us, once more, to the Royal Circus where he turned us into a Circus Star. We kissed one of the camels, played with the elephants, and discussed life with a gorgeous white tiger and, again, sat in the owners seat to watch! We remember his outfit at George Washington's Tea Party at Horn's Creek Church. He even gave us a huge, signed picture of himself there in his Revolutionary "uniform!" Sam was a brilliant, unique, amazing Soul. And he is living in Peace with the Angels, who, I am certain, find him as delightful as we all did!!



# Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board Tour to Ellison Plantation

By Nena Powell Rice and Charlie Leedecker



Figure 1: Ellison Plantation. (Photo by Nena Powell Rice)

On May 4, 2021, The Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Board finally came back together since COVID to tour the Ellison plantation. With the initiation of our new ART Board Member, Dr. Walter Curry, members and guests met in Statesburg, SC to tour this beautifully kept plantation home hosted by owners Grainger and Floride McCoy. We are very grateful for their hospitality and are excited about a new archaeological inquiry into the history and prehistory of this significant property.

The SCIAA, in partnership with Dr. Alison McLetchie at State Carolina State University (SCSU) and Dr. Curry will, in coming months work to set up a class at SCSU focusing on instruction of historical documentation, directed by historical archaeologist, Charlie Leedecker, and then offer a class in archaeological methods, directed by Adam King at SCIAA to document the history and initiate archaeological investigation of the Ellison plantation, which was owned by a free black, William Ellison, in the 1830s.

After the tour, Charlie Leedecker got to work, and Dr. Walter Curry initiated a zoom meeting to move forward.

Following our Zoom conference, Charlie Leedecker started to scratch some of the sources that might be informative for the program, mostly looking at secondary accounts and internet-available material.

The very good news is that a huge amount of work has already been completed, in the form of a book, *Black Masters: A Free Family of Color in the Old South*, by Michael P. Johnson and James L. Roark, 1984. The book focuses on William Ellison and his family, based on a years-long research program that grew out of the discovery of a cache of letters found under the floor of the house that William and his family owned and occupied at Statesburg (now the McCoy's house). The book is very well-sourced and references documents like deeds, plats, and historical documents. that we will need to inform the archaeological program. Leedecker received the book in May 2021, and he then learned that the authors did a second book that annotates the actual letters, *No Chariot Let Down: Charleston's Free People of Color on the Eve of the Civil War*, 2001. This one is not so readily available, some copies selling for \$975 on Amazon, but Leedecker found one on EBay for \$4.

The properties surrounding the McCoy tract are owned by various members of the Anderson family. The Ellison Cemetery, located across from McCoy on Garner's Ferry Road, in the "triangle" formed by the intersection of



Figure 2: ART Board members and guests on front porch of Ellison plantation. (Photo by Nena Powell Rice)



Figure 3: ART Board and guests are given a tour of Ellison plantation. (Photo by Nena Powell Rice)

Garner's Ferry Road and King's Highway, aka Charleston-Camden Road, aka Back Country Road, aka Route 216. Leedecker assumes that the cemetery, a 0.06-acre parcel, was part of the Ellison property, and he will know more as he gathers the deeds, plats, and other historical documentation. The Anderson's are a very prominent family in this area (Statesburg, Sumter County), with ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Their most interesting property is

the Boroughs plantation, the property south along Charleston-Camden Road from the McCoy's. It is listed as a National Historic Landmark, in addition to being a constituent of the Statesburg Historic District.

One very interesting "find" is that the weaving shed at Boroughs houses a cotton gin "believed to be" or "possibly" made by William Ellison. Leedecker has been researching early 19th-century cotton gins, to contextualize any machine

parts he might find, similar to the saw blade Grainger showed us at our May 4, 2021 meeting. A photo of the possible Ellison gin is included in the HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey) documentation of Boroughs. Leedecker is excited at this find. He feels he could dig for decades without finding an artifact that tells the William Ellison story so clearly, assuming it can be authenticated.

The story line gets more interesting (to Leedecker, at least): the HABS documentation for Boroughs plantation was prepared by Richard K. Anderson, Jr., one of the family members of the Sumter County Andersons. Richard was well known in historic preservation circles, heading up teams HAER (Historic American Engineer Record) in DC. Richard



Figure 5: View of the Wateree River valley from Ellison plantation. (Photo by Nena Powell Rice)

developed the standards for HAER recordation before he left and went into the private sector consulting. Leedecker once met Richard at a conference but never had the opportunity to work with him. Sadly, he passed in 2017. As our program progresses, hopefully we'll be able to engage with others in the Anderson family, particularly with regard to Ellison's original property and his work shop at Statesburg and checking out the machinery in the Boroughs plantation weaving shed.

All in all, it seems like we are facing a mother-lode of information that will fuel the program.

Dr. Curry has been in touch with Grainger and Floride McCoy, and they are very willing to partner with SCIAA and SCSU on this project and to open their landscape for archaeological work in the near future.



Figure 4: (Left to right) Steve Smith, Adam King, George Bell, Mackenzie Schultz, Walter Curry, Nena Powell Rice, Floride McCoy, Grainger McCoy, Bill Bridges, and Chip Helms in front of Ellison plantation. (Photo courtesy of Nena Powell Rice, taken by Gail Gandy)

# ART / SCIAA DONORS AUGUST 2019-JULY 2021

The staff at the Institute wish to thank our donors who have graciously supported the research and programs listed below.

## Archaeological Research Trust (ART)

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