A monthly report of news and activities of mutual interest to the individuals and organizations within the framework of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina and for the information of friends and associates of the Institute.

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EDITOR'S PAGE

During November and December most of the staff was in the laboratory working on analyses of the materials excavated on the several field projects that have been completed or partially completed. John Combes continued laboratory analyses and report preparation of the results of his work in the Keowee-Toxaway Project, especially at Fort Prince George. Stanley South devoted his efforts to reports on the work so far accomplished at the sites of Ninety Six. Dick Polhemus, in addition to supervising the lab crew, is working on his material excavated from Fort Moore.

George Teague continued his short field trips to various localities over the state continuing to develop our Inventory of Sites. He particularly investigated the areas of York and Lancaster Counties, working with Mr. Billy Osborne of Lancaster and a site in Calhoun County working with Mrs. Jeanne Ulmer of the Calhoun County Museum. In cooperation with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, he surveyed the area of Lee State Park in Lee County.

Richard Carrillo spent the period of November 15 to December 19 excavating at the site of Pinckneyville in Union County, as mentioned elsewhere.

One of the highlights of these two months was the pleasure of a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Alex Willcox of Natal, Republic of South Africa. Mr. Willcox, a student for many years of the rock art (petroglyphs and pictographs, not music) of South Africa, has been touring North America this year lecturing on this subject and visiting pictograph and petroglyph sites over here. He and Mrs. Willcox were guests of the Institute on November 21-23, 1971 and gave a series of four lectures illustrated with excellent slides especially showing the polychrome art of the Bushman. The visit of Mr. and Mrs. Willcox was jointly sponsored by the Institute, the Departments of Art, Geology, Anthropology and Sociology, the Archeological Society of South Carolina, and the Columbia Art Museum.

The visit with such delightful people was a pleasure; the presentation of such interesting material was stimulating; and the inter-disciplinary cooperation between the departments and organizations was rewarding. The lectures were both class oriented and public presentations and some 400 people attended. Dr. Reinhold Englemeyer of the Coastal Regional Campus at Conway, even brought a group of his students to Columbia for one of the presentations.

Mrs. Betty Williams, who was the Institute Secretary since September 1968, left us on November 29 to take a similar position in the School of Nursing. Betty was always pleasant and cheerful; she will be difficult to replace. We all wish her well in her new job.

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Director
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SOUTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST LADY
A SKELETON FROM 38BU9, DAWS ISLAND
BEAUFORT COUNTY

by Paul Brockington

(Ed. Note: Mr. Brockington was on the Institute staff from 1968 through the summer of 1970 and again in the summer of 1971. He is now a candidate for the Ph.D. at the University of Kansas.)

In September, 1969, Mr. James L. Michie of Columbia and Mr. William Fischer of Charleston, South Carolina, discovered and brought to the attention of the Institute, a small shell midden on the Broad River shore of Daws Island in Port Royal Sound. The site was assigned the record number 38BU9 in the State-Wide Inventory of archeological sites at the Institute. Material collected from the site included fiber tempered pottery and other artifacts and the remains of a human burial. Dr. E. Thomas Hemmings reported briefly on this site in the NOTEBOOK (Hemmings, 1969, pp. 6-7) and suggested a date of between 3,500 and 4,000 years for it.

Subsequently, a sample of oyster shell from the base of the midden, associated with the fiber tempered, Stallings Plain pottery, and with the human burial, was sent to Isotopes, Inc. for a radiocarbon-14 determination. A date of $3395\pm100$ years B.P. was determined for this sample (GX2281). If this C-14 determination is correct, and there is no reason to doubt it, this is the oldest known human skeleton from South Carolina, and the first skeletal remains to be found associated with the fiber-tempered pottery.

Dr. William M. Bass of the University of Tennessee briefly examined the remains and noted certain characteristics. I have, since, more fully examined these bones made the determinations indicated in this report and supported by Dr. Bass' notes.

The skeleton, stained black by the peat surrounding it, is nearly complete. All of the long bones are represented, with most of them unfragmented. Missing are the sacrum, some of the ribs, and several of the cervical and thoracic vertebrae.

The sex of the individual has been determined as female. The most important criteria for this determination are a wide and shallow sciatic notch and, in general, a long pubis, but there are several other factors which contributed to this determination:

1. The diameter of the head of the femur is less than 45 mm (40 mm).
2. The supra-orbital ridges are not pronounced.
3. The mastoid process is small.
4. The nuchal crest is not pronounced.
5. The cranium, in general, is fairly smooth.
The individual's age at death has been estimated by Dr. William M. Bass at 35 to 45 years, probably 35 to 40 years (Bass 1970). This is based primarily on the degree of closing of the cranial sutures. The sutures are closed endocranially, and there is also some ectocranial closing. In addition, several other factors were considered that reinforce this decision:

1. The closure of the basilar suture of the skull indicates age in excess of 21 years.
2. The closure of the epiphysial openings of the long bones indicates, in general, age in excess of 21 years.
3. The full eruption of the teeth indicates age in excess of 21 years.
4. Loss of at least eight teeth before death.
5. Extreme wear of teeth.
6. Presence of osteo-arthritis, all indicate middle age.

The pubic symphysis configuration, although considered by Dr. Bass, is not determinable by me, and would probably not have been reliable in any case since the specimen is female. (Brothwell 1963:65).

The archeological data strongly indicate that the race of the individual was American Indian, and there are certain morphological characteristics which seem to support this conclusion. A cranial index of 82.56, defining the individual as brachycephalic, is within the range of the American Indian occupying the Southeast during the late Archaic -- Early Woodland time. (Newman 1952). The presence of high cheekbones also indicates American Indian, although shovel-shaped incisors, a very significant characteristic for determining American Indian, were not preserved with the remains.

The stature of the individual was computed from a standard formula that gives the result as a function of the length of the long bones (Brothwell 1963:102). This computation indicated a total height of 60 inches, or 5 feet, 0 inches. However, because there have been no formulas developed for American Indian females, or for Mongoloid females, it is necessary to use one established for Caucasian females. Consequently, one would suspect that a more accurate evaluation of the individual's height would be one slightly less than 60 inches.

Although some areas of the jaws are missing, the teeth show some interesting characteristics. The configuration is as follows:

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I have shown the upper right and lower left third molars as being lost ante-mortem, but it may be that they, along with the other two third molars, were simply not present in the individual. The teeth, in general, show a great amount of wear. This is, most probably, a result of the gritty shellfish diet of Archaic and Woodland coastal dwellers.

The upper right anterir premolar and both upper canines show a high degree of wear. Both canines are worn well into the dentine, the upper right canine also showing an abscess, and the upper right anterior premolar is worn at an angle, from extreme wear adjacent to the canine to medium wear adjacent to the posterior premolar. This wear pattern could have resulted from one of three things, or a combination of them. These are: (1) the continual smoking of a stone pipe, (2) the continual passing of a leather thong, or other tool, through this region, and (3) an occlusion problem with the lower teeth. Unfortunately for consideration of (3) above, there are no lower teeth preserved. A fragment of the lower jaw, however, shows that most of the teeth around the lower canines had been lost ante-mortem. The protruding lower canines could have been at least partially responsible for the extreme wear of the upper canines. The heavy calculus formation on the upper canines, however, suggests that the wear occurred considerably ante-mortem, preceding a period of non-use just before death. Calculus formation is also present on the occlusion surface of the upper right first molar, indicating loss of the lower right first premolar before death. There is little evidence for alveolar bone resorption at the roots, but there is medium to heavy formation of calculus, varying among the six teeth preserved in the jaw. It looks as if some calculus formation may have been chipped off recently. This could be the result of in situ conditions, excavation techniques, or laboratory processing.

A medium degree of arthritic lipping occurs on the fifth lumbar vertebra, but little if any occurs on any of the other vertebrae preserved. Although both the sacrum and the fourth lumbar vertebra are missing, the arthritic lipping appears to be somewhat restricted. This indicates a probable occupational cause, something involving continual bending or squatting. Continual squatting is also indicated by the facets displayed on the lower ends of both tibia.

The skull shows a very interesting characteristic. There is a large hole (approximately three inches in diameter) in the right parietal, with a slight pitting of the cranium around the edges. An X-ray was taken of this area to attempt to discover whether or not the characteristic showed a pathology. The X-ray did not show any noticeable pathology, and it may be that the hole is a result of an injury, causing the death of the individual, or occurring shortly after death. The slight pitting around the edge of the missing area most probably occurred shortly after death. There are no cutting marks near the hole, and none anywhere on the skull or the post-cranial skeleton, although some aneurisms appear endocranially.

In summary, the individual was an American Indian female, 35 to 40 years old, and standing slightly less than five feet tall. She suffered from severe dental attrition, having only twelve (possibly only eight if there were no third molars) teeth left at time of death, and from at least two abscesses at the roots. Pain from caries cavities was probably at a minimum because of the heavy calculus formation. Biting and chewing must have been a problem for the individual, for the wear on the teeth is irregular and heavy. In addition to
these dental problems, the woman suffered from arthritis of the lumbar region of the spine. This skeleton is, however, not markedly different from others reported with comparable dates. (Newman and Snow 1942). The individual's health, and life in general, as reflected through the skeletal material, was probably not much different from that of her contemporaries.

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Neumann, Georg K.

Newman, M. T. and C. E. Snow

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

The November meeting of the Society was held, as usual, at the Columbia Science Museum, but on Monday evening the 22nd rather than on the usual third Friday. This was in order to take advantage of the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Willcox of Natal, South Africa who presented the program, "The Rock Art of South Africa." An excellent series of color slides accompanied the talk (see Editor's Page). Nominations for office for 1972 were made.

At the December meeting on the 17th, Mr. Gene Waddell of the Florence Museum presented a lecture on the prehistoric ceramic types of South Carolina. At this meeting the following officers and directors were elected to serve in 1972.

President: Robert Parler, Orangeburg
Vice President: Sammy Lee, Orangeburg
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Director: Lou Dezseran, Cayce
Director: William D. Wood, Sr., North Augusta
EXCAVATION AT FORT MOORE - SAVANO TOWN (38AK4&5)

by Richard Polhemus

One of the most significant archeological sites of the seventeenth-eighteenth century period in South Carolina is that of Savano Town and Fort Moore located on the Savannah River in Aiken County, South Carolina, a short distance south of North Augusta. Savano Town appears to have been settled about 1680 by the Savano Indians, thought to be a band of the Shawnee who vacated the lower Ohio valley about 1670 and settled temporarily on the Cumberland River in Tennessee. The shell-tempered pottery recovered at Fort Moore-Savano Town is similar to that from the Hardin Village Site in Kentucky reported by Lee Hanson and postulated by him to be Shawnee. Fort Moore was built on the site of the Savano Town in 1716 as a military outpost and trading center and was maintained until 1763. The Savano Indians had left the Fort Moore area by 1720. Other Indian groups associated with the Fort Moore-Savano Town locality are the Creek, Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Yuchi.

Excavations have been conducted at this site in the past. Dr. William E. Edwards briefly excavated portions of the site along the north side of Highway 28 for the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology in 1966. J. Walter Joseph, Jr. and family excavated another small portion of the site on the north side of the highway in 1969 and 1970 which was reported in Vol. III, No. 5 of the NOTEBOOK. The 1971 excavation, is the third in a series of small efforts to save the data from this site and to develop an understanding of nearly a century of human occupation of this portion of the Colonial frontier in Carolina and Georgia.

This third excavation of a portion of the Fort Moore-Savano Town Site (38AK4), resulted from an emergency created by the land development of a portion of the site area on the south side of the highway. It began in April 1971 and was terminated by the bulldozers on August 2, 1971. The work resulted from a meeting of concerned individuals from South Carolina and Georgia, when destruction of the site was in progress, and the end result was obvious. The meeting was held at the Augusta Museum at the invitation of Mr. Clemens de Baillou, Director of that museum. The resulting excavation was made possible by the many volunteers who participated in the work each weekend throughout the spring and summer and the support provided by Dr. Robert L. Stephenson through the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. The project was supervised, throughout, by Richard Polhemus of the Institute staff and a comprehensive report is now in progress.

The search for Fort Moore was begun on the south side of Highway 28 on the bluff east of the Sand Bar Ferry Bridge as this was the most undisturbed portion of the area to be destroyed, and previous work had been done north of the highway. The first two weekends were employed in excavating a number of long exploratory slot trenches across the area to be investigated. These trenches, as well as all other excavation units, post holes, and features, were recorded utilizing the transit data recording technique developed by Stanley South of the Institute. The area available for investigation shrank rapidly as the weeks passed due to the quarrying of fill for a highway project across the river. Numerous traces of occupation were located at various points during the excavation, although only one area remained long enough for extensive excavation to take place. This area contained the trade house and
associated palisaded compound on which the remaining efforts were concentrated.

The trade house compound was excavated by stripping the plowed soil and wheelbarrowing it completely off the site. The resulting surface was then cleaned with a trowel to locate all post holes, pits, palisade trenches, and cellar holes. Each feature was tagged and assigned a provenience number as it was located. After the plow zone was removed from an area almost one hundred feet square and the horizontal plan of nearly one half the trade house compound was deliniated, the cellar of the trade house was excavated.

The trade house was found to be of timber and clay construction, probably covered with clapboard, with a full porch or lean-to addition on the east and west sides. The central portion of the structure was 16 by 36 feet and had a full basement or cellar entered from the north end of the east wall. The central "H" shaped chimney was constructed of eight 8" X 8" timber uprights set in a square eight feet on a side and had two hearths; one for each room on the ground floor. This structure was repaired or altered a number of times before it fell into ruin in the late 1740's. The palisade surrounding this structure and other buildings within the compound was made up of posts six to eight inches in diameter set in a trench about eighteen inches deep. The compound was 185 feet long, north south, and at least 98 feet east west, with an extension located in the center of the east wall 25 feet square. At least three buildings other than the trade house were present in the excavated portion of the compound.

The artifacts recovered during the excavation have provided not only an indication of the relative date of various features and strata within the site but have provided a much better idea of the type and quality of the goods traded to the Indians. The many ceramic fragments, food bone, and other personal items provide a better idea of the lifestyle of the trader, although the identification of the trader has eluded us. Further research on a branding iron may provide us with the name of the trader who utilized the trade house in which the branding iron was found during the excavation of the cellar hole.

Although Fort Moore was not located in the present excavation much information concerning the trader and the Indian of the first half of the 18th century was recovered, as well as a sample of prehistoric Indian material including the Paleo, Archaic, and Early Woodland periods. It is hoped that further excavation on remaining portions of the site by the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology will locate Fort Moore and other associated structures of Savano Town.

I would like to thank the many volunteers from the Augusta Archeological Society and the South Carolina Archeological Society for their help on this project, particularly the Walter Joseph family, Woody Williams, Paul Williams, and Harold Johnson.
Fig. 1  Oconee Station as it appeared in 1968. (Courtesy Institute of Archeology and Anthropology).
THE OCONEE STATION

by Marshall W. Williams

On a hill in the northern part of Oconee County, South Carolina, about six or seven miles from Walhalla and situated near Oconee Creek, are two buildings - one of brown quartzite rock, the other of handmade brick - known as the Oconee Station. The site has borne this name for a documented 175 years, and most probably for a few years longer. It was frontier outpost while the Cherokee Indians were yet living within the present day boundaries of South Carolina and a trading post for the many hunters and trappers who ranged the mountains to the west and north. Inevitably, with the passing of the years, the Oconee Station became the setting for many legends and half-told tales. The origins of the Station have thus become clouded with conjecture.

Most Oconeeans through the years have had a great pride in this enigmatic place, even though it has always been in private ownership. The owners themselves, as far as the writer can remember, have always been genial and generous with the visiting public; indeed, it seems that although the Oconee Station has been in private hands, the owners have felt that it was a public trust. It shall be in this same spirit, therefore, that the writer shall attempt to establish historical accuracy regarding the origins and uses of the Oconee Station.

Most of the accepted accounts of the Station's origin state that it was one of three outposts established by Colonel Archibald Montgomery in 1760 during his punitive expedition to the Cherokee country. However, even a cursory examination of Montgomery's expedition seems to indicate that this must be incorrect, and a detailed examination of all available records argues that the Station could not have been built at this time.

On June 2, 1760, Montgomery's army marched into the flood plains adjacent to Fort Prince George on the Keowee River. From here he sent emissaries to get Attakullakulla, and to the lower Cherokee towns to bring in white captives (S. C. Gazette, 1760). For three weeks the army stayed close to the fort, and there is no record available to indicate that any outpost construction took place at this time.

Traditionally, the brown rock building at the Oconee Station was built in 1760, while it is certain that the one of brick was built in 1805, since it has a dated marble stone. For these soldiers of Montgomery to have erected that rock building, hew and saw timbers, frame window and door openings, make shutters, collect and lay the thousands of rocks in a couple of weeks under the guns of "potshooting" Indians in a remote spot twelve miles from the protection of Fort Prince George is inconceivable; and what is more inconceivable is the necessity for it, for it was too close to Fort Prince George to have served any function in the relief of Fort Loudoun, a hundred miles away in present day Tennessee. At this time Fort Loudoun was under siege by the Cherokee of the overhill settlements, and the lower towns on the Keowee River were harassing the guards at Fort Prince George, taking "pot-shots" at exposed details and rushing lone sentries at night (Corkran 1962: 210).
When Montgomery did move his army into Cherokee country, they were gone from Fort Prince George a total of eight days—hardly enough time to march into present North Carolina, fight a battle, and build a house! His men spent one night at Oconee Old Fields, the abandoned Cherokee town which was near the present site of the Oconee Station. In the hills north of Franklin, North Carolina, Montgomery was ambushed and his army severely mauled by the Indians. After dumping the flour from his pack horses Montgomery loaded his wounded men on the animals and turned back toward Fort Prince George. After once more crossing the Keowee River he arrived at the Fort, where the army was rested for one day and pushed onward again, this time toward Charles Town. One of the members of his army wrote: "(On the) first day of July we returned to Fort Prince George, after a very fatiguing scout of eight days, through a country strongly fortified by nature; thro' which no body of men can march against an enemy without building posts at proper distances for the security of provisions and wounded men" (S. C. Gazette, 1760). It is evident that the lack of such posts is being offered as an excuse for the failure of the expedition.

The question arises, then: when was the Oconee Station built? Apparently not during the existence of Fort Prince George. In 1762 Fort Prince George became the "home store" for the Cherokee trade (McDowell 1970: 510) and remained so until its garrison was withdrawn in July, 1768. In January, 1769, the trade goods at Fort Prince George were offered for sale to private individuals (S. C. Gazette, 1769), as were the trade "factories" at the Indian towns which it served. There is no mention of the Oconee Station.

Neither is there any evidence that the Station was established before the Cherokee phase of the American Revolution, which occurred in 1776, when Andrew Williamson mounted a punitive excursion into the up country. There are numerous primary source accounts of the places, battles, and incidents of this area during this period. One such account is the manuscript journal kept by Arthur Faeries (Draper Manuscripts), who was a soldier in one of Williamson's detachments. He records how they arrived at the "mountains of Ocone, and crossed them with some difficulty, and at length came to a small branch, and encamped there after a days march of 15 miles.—Next day we marched about 12 miles, and encamped at a river called Tugalo, at the mouth of War Woman's Creek. From there we marched the next day...." This was the standard route to the middle Cherokee settlements, which passed very near the present site of the Oconee Station. Almost certainly this soldier would have mentioned the Station if it had been there. Neither in this journal nor in any other such primary source has the writer been able to find any reference to the Oconee Station's existence at this time, nor to any other place which could have served the functions of the Station. Fort Rutledge was, in fact, established on the site of the town of Seneca, on the Seneca River, near the present Clemson University, to "maintain good order" (Ramsey, 1858) on the frontier, and to serve as a base from which the Treaty of Dewitt's Corner of 1777 was to be enforced. This treaty pushed the Cherokee westward of the "Unicaye" mountains, giving them only a small strip of land within the present boundaries of South Carolina, in the northern part of Oconee and Pickens Counties.

The 1777 treaty did not long end hostilities, and though the American Revolution came and went, sporadic fighting between the Indians and whites
on the westernmost frontiers of South Carolina continued into the 1780s. The Hopewell Treaty of 1785 at General Andrew Picken's home on the Seneca (Keowee) River caused but a moment's hesitation in the turmoil. The principal issue was white encroachment upon Indian lands.

After the Revolution, the lands within present Oconee County were offered to Revolutionary soldiers in payment for services rendered during the war. In many cases the original grantees, not desiring frontier lives, sold their lands within a short period of time. Such may have been the case with Jesse Spears, who obtained a grant of land of 700 acres on Oconee Creek on March 3, 1788; another was John Lumbers, who was granted 200 acres on Oconee Creek on October 15, 1784 (Oconee County Registry Records). In January, 1789, Andrew Pickens and his wife Rebecca bought Spear's 700 acres, and in April of the same year bought Lumber's 200 acres.

The decade following the Hopewell Treaty was one of sudden attack, much blood shed, and counterattack. The Creeks and the Chickamauga coalition of dissident Cherokees and others kept the frontier in a state of turmoil. In September, 1792, the Chickamauga towns (in present northwestern Georgia) made a formal declaration of war (Mooney 1900: 71). All of this Indian pressure was an attempt on the part of their leaders - Doublehead and John Watts - to push back the whites who relentlessly pressed their settlements into Indian lands. Col. Robert Anderson, who was living in the South Carolina up-country, wrote the following letter to the Governor:

20 Sept. 1792

"I send you, enclosed, the affidavit of Jesse Spears, who will also be the bearer of this . . . This man escaped from the Cherokees in the year 1775, and came to our settlements, and gave us notice of a premeditated stroke then intended by the Cherokees against the frontier settlements. He was the only one who escaped . . . At another time in 1782 the same man came down, and gave notice of a strong party of Indians and Tories who were to rendezvous . . . to make a stroke on the frontier settlements . . . I mention those circumstances to strengthen belief of his present information. I have ordered the people to build blockhouses, where they are exposed and intimidated, to fly to with their families, in case of alarm. I have frontier blockhouses built and building, at suitable places along our frontiers, at the distance of about eight or ten miles apart . . . I have ordered trusty spies to be constantly kept out at Tugalo and at the Oconee Mountain, as they are the spots (in all appearances) which will be most exposed" (American State Papers, 1832: 317).

The Oconee mountain was in the direct path (or road) leading from the Keowee valley to the middle and overhill settlements. This road crossed the Chattooga River just above the junction of War Woman's Creek with the Chattooga River. Hence, the Oconee Mountain (Harper 1958: 579) was an ideal place to observe the surrounding area. General Andrew Pickens also recognized
danger, as noted from a letter to the Governor of South Carolina dated 13 September, 1792: "Were I to venture an opinion respecting our Southern country, it would be this: make an immediate preparation for defence of the frontiers. . ." (American State Papers: 316). By September 30 of 1792 Governor Charles Pinckney had responded to the emergency, as indicated in his letter to the President of the United States: "I have ordered the frontiers of this country to be put in the best state of defence the situation of the militia will admit; and have sent, and mean to send them up such supplies of ammunition, as the commanding officer requires, and have directed that blockhouses to be bilt for the protection of the most exposed inhabitants of the frontier" (American State Papers: 316). It must be remembered that during this period of frontier alarms Andrew Pickens owned 900 acres of land on and near Oconee Creek; who could better be qualified to build and use a frontier outpost? No doubt the blockhouses and defense posts served a good purpose, for the next few years were ones of much conflict, particularly in the area of the Little Tennessee River. On May 9, 1793 theGeorgia Gazette ran a story to the effect that General Andrew Pickens and Colonel Robert Anderson had advised the Governor of South Carolina that a general Indian uprising and war on the frontiers of the Southern states seemed to be inevitable, and stated that a man was killed and scalped by the Creeks on the Carolina side of the Tugalo River on April 8. The Governor forthwith gave orders to the commanding officers to assemble one third of the men in their militia and hold them ready for action.

(An 1857 edition of the Keowee Courier, a newspaper then published in Pickens Court House town, stated that "during the Indian troubles troops were stationed here (at the Oconee Station) under General Pickens to protect the frontier settlers". This statement seems to be completely in accord with the present evidence. As will be shown, the Station was used as a militia base even after the immediate 1792-1793 emergency was over). On January 29, 1793 Andrew Pickens and Rebecca, his wife, sold their 900 acres of land near Oconee Creek to William Richards (Oconee County Registry Records). There is no record available to show any earlier purchases of land by Richards, therefore it must be assumed that this was his earliest acquisition in the area. His next purchase on Oconee Creek or in that area was three years later, when he purchased 300 acres from John and Sarah Pickens (Oconee County Registry Records). This latter purchase was too late for it to have been the home tract of the Oconee Station. It is apparent, therefore, that the 900 acres purchased from Pickens was - or became - the home tract of the Oconee Station. A plat of 553 acres dated 14 March, 1793, surveyed for William Richards on Oconee Creek may be found in the State Archives, with the corner markers and adjacent owners (Record Plates: 387). No buildings however, show thereon.

The first firm reference to the Oconee Station from a primary source is found in a letter to Pickens from the Secretary of War, Henry Knox, who admonishes him to "Beef up his guard" in 1794 (Waring Collection of Pickens Papers). The next useable sources come from the letters of Benjamin Hawkins (Collections of the Georgia Historical Society 1916: Vol IX), who, as "Principal Temporary Agent for Indian Affairs South of Ohio" visited the Oconee Station several times, leaving what is apparently our earliest concrete knowledge of it. Hawkins always referred in his letters to the "Oconna
Station"—and it is possible that his spelling may have been a phonetic one. French (1761), in his journal kept while on Col. James Grant's expedition to the Cherokee in 1761, writes of "Ocunny Old Town" (a nearby Cherokee town abandoned by its inhabitants during the Creek-Cherokee war in the early 1750s). The word Oconee occurs in central Georgias the name of a river, and from it, a county.

In the early 18th century the Indian town of Oconee stood on the Oconee River just south of Milledgeville, Georgia. These Indians were apparently Creek and had Florida connections; some later formed the nucleus of the Seminole group in Florida. On the other hand, the County and Station of this name in the upper corner of South Carolina seem to have acquired the name Oconee through mispronunciation of the Cherokee name Ukwani, or Ukwunu, or some similar English adaptation of a Cherokee word (Mooney 1900: 541).

On the 19th of November, 1796, Hawkins arrived at "Hopewell on Keowee", where he again met his old friend, Andrew Pickens. Both Hawkins and Pickens had served as Commissioners at the Treaty of Hopewell in 1785. Here at Picken's home they discussed the projected Creek boundary line, and in a letter to James McHenry, Secretary of War, Hawkins says:

"there are several traders down from the Cherokees who have come to the Ocunna Station with pack horses, and taken their skins and furs, about 30 wagon loads, from thens to Charleston; the price of wagonage is 2 dollars, 12 cents per horse; the average price for some years past is $2.50. There are at that station 20 militia, 4 of them mounted. The distance from the Ocunna to Hopewell is 23 miles, and from this to Charleston 240 miles." (Letters of Benjamin Hawkins: 14)

Writing in his journal two days later Hawkins makes this entry:

"I set out from General Pickins to the Ocunna station, after having been fitted out with whatever was necessary by most friendly hospitality of the General and his lady. I crossed the Keowee near his house and traveled W.N.W. up the river through an uneven broken country 11 miles to Cane Creek. Here I met a trader from Pine Log, and Notetsenchasssaie with his brothers, halfbreeds; they have uniformly supported a fair character. He sent his nephew, Tom Pettit, a decent, orderly young man with me to Ocunna to provide a pilot and interpreter for me, 8 miles father I crossed a small creek and arrived at William Richards, a trader who lives at the station; he was from home, but Mr. Cleveland, his clerk, was there, and furnished me with such accommodations as he had, being pretty good. There I added to my traveling stock a bear skin and some things necessary to procure provisions from the Indians on my way. . ." (Letters of Benjamin Hawkins: 15).
The next day, November 25, 1796, Hawkins met Lt. Mosely, a young man who was commander of the twenty militia garrisoned at the Oconee Station. Mosely told Hawkins that every other day a scout was sent out from the "Oconna" station as far as the Tugalo River, and that this had had some effect in lessening Indian depredations in the area.

We find, then, in the fall of 1796, that the Oconee Station consists of William Richards, the trader and owner of the property; we find a thriving trade business being carried on by Richards and his assistant, Mathias Cleveland (Oconee County Registry Records). We find a garrison of 20 men, including four mounted, under the command of Lt. Mosely. Whether or not Richards was in the militia is at present uncertain; however, one record from the Tellico blockhouse in Tennessee continually mentions a Captain William Richards. (This blockhouse was in all essentials a counterpart of the Oconee Station, and had been built about 1795 just across the river from the ill-fated Fort Loudoun).

One account (Lockwood 1934: 242-243), in addition to suggesting that the Oconee Station was built in 1760, uses the persistent "three brothers" idea, and suggests that three brothers named Richards built a brick house at the site after the Revolution, that after their deaths a relative, William Richards, claimed the property, tore this house down, and built another one using the same brick, this last structure dated 1805. My researches have turned up no prior Richards, and, in fact, after the land in question was confiscated from the Cherokee in the treaty of 1777 it remained "vacant" until grants to Revolutionary soldiers were made some seven years later, and was during the interim in possession of the State of South Carolina. As to the idea that Richards used old brick to build his 1805 house, it is interesting to note that an item in the William Richard's estate only four years later, in 1809, shows some ten thousand brick in inventory (Estate Papers).

In order to gain more knowledge of the truth of William Richard's family it seemed desirable to pursue the subject further than would ordinarily be necessary to establish the date of the Oconee Station. However, in view of the story of the three brothers, an effort was made to learn more of Richards.

William Richards was a native of Antrim County, Ireland. The date of his entry into this country is not known at present to this writer. As has been pointed out previously, his first land purchase of record was January 29, 1793. He remained an alien until July, 1805, at which time he was granted naturalization papers. By special act of the S.C. Legislature he was granted full rights to the property he had purchased prior to becoming a citizen on December 20, 1806 (Judicial Decisions 1837: 24). That William Richards had at least one brother is certain, as is the fact that he also had at least two sisters. The brother was Adam Richards, and the sisters Margaret and Eleanor Richards. Adam and Eleanor left Ireland and arrived in Charleston on May 31, 1803 (Judicial Decisions 1842: 351), and it seems probable that Margaret was with them. By the next year - 1804 - Margaret was dead and was buried beneath a marble slab near the Oconee Station. There was one other Richards kin in the area, a second cousin named Thomas Richards (Judicial Decisions, 1837: 24), who also immigrated, probably from Ireland. He was naturalized in March, 1807.

In March, 1809, William Richards died and was probably buried near his
sister Margaret. Listed among his possessions in the estate inventory were thousands of items, among them several books of law (Watson’s Law of Copartnership, French’s Spirit of Law, and The Laws of the United States); but for all this he died without leaving a will, thus precipitating over a decade of litigation between Thomas Richards, the second cousin, and his sister Eleanor, who apparently had married a James McDaniel after William’s death. Adam Richards was certified as a lunatic in 1810, and was never naturalized, thus he could not according to the law inherit the Station property (1837: 24). Adam did later, however, own property, and it seems that his "lunacy" must not have been permanent. Eleanor Richards obtained her citizenship papers only after William's death, receiving them on June 4, 1810. Later in this same year she died. The court found her naturalization proceedings faulty, and thus her husband could not inherit through her. After years in the courts it was decided that Thomas Richards, the second cousin, was to inherit the Oconee Station and all of Richard’s real estate (Oconee County Registry Records). After Thomas Richard’s death about 1841 or early 1842 the Oconee Station was sold at auction, passing then out of the Richards family. In all of the research done on the Oconee Station there is absolutely no evidence to support the story of the three brothers preceding William Richards to the site. That there were houses on the site other than the present two seems probable. Twenty militia were garrisoned there during the Indian alarms; they had to live somewhere. William Richards had ten slaves at the time of his death, and they required housing. There is an entry in the estate papers that implies that his brother Adam had a house on the site. And, of course, there would have been barns, corncribs, a blacksmith shop, store houses for the vast quantity of trade goods, and all the other structures necessary for carrying on an extensive frontier trading post. Richard’s operation was no "country store", as witness the thousand of items in his estate inventory, such as white lead, knives and forks, looking glasses, books, candle molds, drawing knives, coffee mills, salt, many thousands of brick, some fifteen tons of deer skins, hundreds of bear skins, axes, wedges, log chains, cloth, brass kettles, beads, and many other items too numerous to mention. It is not surprising, then, to have a tradition of another house, as it given in Gardens of Colony and State (1934).

In summary, then, the writer feels that the evidence is conclusive that the Oconee Station was not built by Montgomery in 1760, but either by General Andrew Pickens within the period 1789 to 1792, or even possibly by William Richards himself in 1793. In either case, it became a militia outpost in the 1790s for the protection of the settlers against incursions by the Indians. At the same time, or perhaps a little later, it became a trading post run by William Richards who lived there until his death in 1809.

While the property is now, as it has always been, in private hands, it is to be hoped that the State of South Carolina will eventually recognize the high historical status of the Oconee Station and, should it again be offered for sale, seek to acquire it for the people of South Carolina.

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CONFERENCE ON HISTORIC SITE ARCHEOLOGY
AND THE SOUTHEASTERN ARCHEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The National Park Service Archeological Center at Macon, Georgia was again host to these two annual conferences. The Twelfth Conference on Historic Site Archeology was held on November 11, 1971 followed by the Twenty-Eighth Southeastern Archeological Conference on November 12 and 13. Attendance was good at both conferences, reaching nearly the 150 mark. The Institute was represented by Robert Stephenson, John Combes, Stanley South, George Teague, Richard Carrillo, Maryjane Rhet, Frances Brockington, Steve Baker, and James Michie, all of whom participated in one part or another of the program.

The C.H.S.A. sessions included papers on photoarcheology, Fort Moore, clay pipes, resistivity, the Arkansas Post, ceramic analysis, gun flints, Tunica burials, New Orleans, excavation planning, Fort Mitchell, Colono-Indian ceramics, and Fort Hawkins. The papers were so numerous as to require an evening session, and all were most stimulating. The contributors were from Maryland, South Carolina, Ohio, Arkansas, Massachusetts, Louisiana, Virginia, and Alabama.

The S.E.A.C. sessions were equally stimulating and occupied two full days. Papers on prehistoric ecology, Hopewell, Deptford, a Harvest locality, Mississippian-Woodland Transition, Cahokia, Virginia, Weeden Island, and earth lodges were presented the first day followed by a symposium on "Federal Agencies and Archeology". The second morning featured a symposium with seven papers on "Cherokee Archeology". The annual business meeting followed lunch. Morgantown, West Virginia was selected for the 1972 S.E.A.C. and C.H.S.A. In the afternoon, ten papers were presented on various aspects of prehistoric archeology. Represented on the two-day program were speakers from Kentucky, Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Missouri, Virginia, Arkansas, Washington, D. C., Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

We look forward to seeing you at the meetings in Morgantown, West Virginia on October 12-14, 1972.

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