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Summary of the Archeological Work at Charles Towne

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female. She was probably over 25 years of age and had not reached 35. A combination of measurements of long bones by a standard procedure suggests that she stood about five feet tall, perhaps slightly less. She suffered from the condition of severe dental attrition often seen in prehistoric Indian burials. Only about 12 teeth remained in both jaws and these were deeply and irregularly worn, especially in the front of the mouth. Her gritty shellfish diet probably contributed to this condition. She had also developed osteoarthritis in the lumbar region of the spine.

One puzzling aspect of the skeleton is a circular hole about the size of a teacup in the right side of the skull vault. Approximately the posterior two thirds of the right parietal are missing. The loss of this section was long ago as the edges of the hole are not fresh. There was no healing of the bone, nor could anyone live through such a drastic operation or injury. Since there is some slight pitting on the skull around the hole, it is possible that a part of the bone had become porous as a result of an infection and failed to be preserved with the rest of the skeleton. Another possibility is that the rather regular circular hole was made by the woman's contemporaries at the time of death or shortly afterward, although identifiable cutting marks are not observable. The cause of this perforation or loss of bone in the skull must await more specific examination.

The burial was made in an oval pit, tightly flexed on the right side with the head oriented to the south. The body was not accompanied by grave goods, unless these had been removed with a small part of the burial pit by wave action.

SUMMARY OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL WORK AT CHARLES TOWNE

by Stanley South

(Editor's Note: This brief summary of the Charles Towne Site (38CH1) work is as of August 4. A more up to date summary will be included in the October NOTEBOOK.)

Since April 1, 1969, the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina has been conducting archeological investigations at the site of the 1670 settlement of Charles Towne. Sponsored by the South Carolina Tricentennial Commission, the project is designed to reveal clues to the occupation of the site by the first colonists on South Carolina soil. The excavations have revealed several features of significance. One of these is the fort the colonists built to defend the settlement against possible Spanish attack in 1670. This fort is represented today by a ditch across the tip of Albemarle Point, measuring 600 feet in length and from four to ten feet wide. It is over six feet deep, and from the sifted soil taken from this ditch quantities of seventeenth century artifacts have been recovered, among which are pins, nails, china baling seals, wine bottle fragments, musket balls and other objects discarded or lost by the colonists. In front of this fortification ditch a ravelin or artillery redoubt was constructed to provide additional protection to the Charles Towne settlement. This feature is represented by
a circular ditch eight feet wide, with a much smaller ditch inside of this, representing the position of the retaining wall for the bunker beneath the artillery piece. The ditches of this redoubt have produced hinges, pintles and other pieces of hardware for heavy doors, along with considerable quantities of lead fragments discarded in the process of moulding musket balls.

To the north of this primary fortification area, around the north and west boundaries of the fortified area of Charles Towne, the colonists dug a small ditch accompanied by a palisade, which provided protection against a possible Indian attack from this direction.

North of the fortified area of Charles Towne an Indian structure 200 feet square has been found. This is represented by a line of postholes filled with the red clay daub which once covered the posts as a plastered wall. Inside of this area, protected by the plastered wall, Indian burials, whole pots, tools and other objects of Indian manufacture have been found where they were lost or discarded during use of the area by the Indians. From the type of pottery found, it is clear that this structure represents an important feature of the Kiawah Indians who befriended the colonists, and who induced them to settle on Albemarle Point in 1670. This pottery is of the type known as "Irene", and is the last type known to have been made before contact with Europeans. The same pottery has been found in the fortification ditches at Charles Towne, clearly indicating that the Kiawah Indians were the ones who constructed the "great house" or ceremonial area found on the site.

The fortifications at Charles Towne, and the great Indian structure offer a unique opportunity to interpret this first settlement on South Carolina soil by Europeans, as well as the story of the Kiawah Indians who played such an intimate and major role in the lives of the colonists during those first pioneering years in the New World.

THE PROBLEM OF THE CUSABO

by Elias B. Bull

(Email's Note: Mr. Elias Bull, of Charleston is an able amateur archeologist and historian who has devoted great effort to historic period research in the Carolina coastal area. He has provided the Institute with much documentary material and significant artifact collections. We are pleased to have this contribution.)

Dr. John R. Swanton, in his thorough account of the Cusabo (Early History of the Creek Indians and Their Neighbors, Bureau of American Ethnology, Bul. 73, Government Printing Office, Washington, 1922, p. 21) refers to the Cusabo as a collection of tribes or a collective name for these tribes.

These tribes are the St. Helena Indians, Wimbahee, Combahee, Witcheau, Edisto, Stono, Kiawah, Wando, Santee, Sewee, Ashepoo and Coosa. This is, as Dr. Swanton says, the word in its most extended application, for he would omit both the Santee and Sewee on linguistic grounds (pp. 17-18), thus dealing with