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Legacy

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

Oemler Pottery: A Prehistoric Mystery

By Chester DePratter



Figure 1: Two sherds of Oemler pottery from the Charlesfort/Santa Elena site, Beaufort county, SC. (Photo by Heathley Johnson)

Oemler pottery was first excavated and identified in Chatham County, Georgia, in 1940. Since then, it has been found and reported by archaeologists and collectors from sites in Georgia, South Carolina, and north Florida. Given that it has never been fully described, it has most often been called Deptford Geometric Stamped or descriptive terms such as "unusual complicated stamped." Heathley Johnson and I are currently looking into the distribution of this pottery, which includes

a wide variety of motifs involving diamonds, triangles, and other more unusual elements. The Charlesfort/Santa Elena site has the largest known collection of Oemler sherds, and this collection provides the most diverse array of stamped motifs. To date, no one knows just when this pottery was made, though we think it might date to the first couple of centuries A.D. Please contact me if you think you may have Oemler sherds.

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Director's Notes

By Steve Smith
 SCIAA Director

In the last issue of *Legacy* (Volume 21, No. 1, June 2017) I reported on our May summer field school at Ninety Six National Historic Site, Ninety Six, South Carolina. Our excavations and metal detector surveys focused on Gouedy's Trading Post (established around 1751), which was fortified and converted into Fort Ninety Six during the French and Indian War. Among the more remarkable finds

were two pieces of a cannon, discovered by Heathley Johnson. Since that time, graduate student Brian Mabelitini has been conducting conservation on the finds and as the rust dissolves, more interesting facts come to light (Figures 1 and 2).

We know that in May 1760, British Colonel Archibald Montgomery stopped at Fort Ninety Six for four days on his way north into North Carolina to attack the Cherokees. He left 50 men and four swivel guns at the fort to protect his supply route as he continued north. His expedition was ambushed by the Cherokees near the village of Echoe, somewhere around modern-day Franklin, North Carolina. The ambush killed 17 and wounded 66 British soldiers, while the Cherokees lost



Figure 2: Fragment of the cannon's breech showing touch hole. (Photo by Brian Mabelitini)

some 50 warriors. Montgomery continued forward and destroyed two villages before withdrawing.

The cannon fragments Heathley found were a complete muzzle and part of the breech of an iron cannon with a 2.133 inch bore, commonly known as a "one-pounder" gun. At this point in our research, we do not know with certainty that the cannon is one of Montgomery's guns, because we do not have enough of the breech to tell if it was a swivel gun. Nevertheless, the bore size and historical evidence provides strong evidence that it is one of the cannon left by the British.

Interestingly, both pieces show evidence of battering with a heavy hammer, indicating that the cannon was deliberately broken-up, rather than exploding in use. The breech piece broke along the touch hole, while the cannon muzzle was broken a few inches behind the opening. Perhaps when the soldiers abandoned the fort they decided to destroy the cannon rather than drag it back to Charleston.

Electrolysis will continue for a month more before the pieces are cleaned a final time and waxed for preservation. We hope these pieces will eventually end up exhibited at the park.

Enjoy this issue of *Legacy*!!



Figure 1: Muzzle of cannon recovered at Fort Ninety Six. (Photo by Brian Mabelitini)

Savannah River Research

Reconstructing Hawthorne: A New Documentary Film

By George “Buddy” Wingard and Keith Stephenson

Recently, an oral history project, coupled with documentary and archaeological research, was initiated to reconstruct the landscape of the early 20th-century rural community of Hawthorne on the Savannah River Site (SRS). The SRS is a 310-square mile industrial facility that was established by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1951 with the advent of the Cold War. To make way for the SRS, some 6,000 residents were displaced from their homes in two incorporated towns and several unincorporated rural communities in a mass exodus within months of land acquisition by the federal government. One of these disrupted communities was Hawthorne, an unincorporated, rural, agricultural district with a population of several hundred farm owners, tenant farmers, share croppers, and day laborers. The extent of the Hawthorne community was about 25 square miles bounded primarily by its rural free delivery postal route. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Hawthorne centered on a post office and general store. Other institutions supporting this rural community included segregated schools and churches, country stores, and weekend BBQ stands. In 1924, the Hawthorne post office was officially closed, after which the area's residents received their mail from the nearby Jackson Station. Even so, they still referred to their community as Hawthorne until the coming of the SRS in 1951. Archaeological excavations are being conducted at historic house sites throughout the former

community of Hawthorne. These efforts are concentrated on household refuse areas to determine the kinds of personal objects people owned as well as the types of farm implements that were discarded.

Modernization theory points to an economic restructuring in the rural lifeway from subsistence to that of consumerism. Following this line of reasoning, analysis efforts focused on the development of a framework for assessing assemblage diversity and any tendency toward increasing consumerism. The material record is being compared to interviews with former Hawthorne residents to determine what, if any, degree of consumerism and modernization occurred during the latter 19th century to the mid-20th century.

In December 2015, the SRARP began production of a short documentary film on the former community of Hawthorne as told by two of its last known residents, childhood friends Mr. George Heath and Mr. Henry Brown. Filmmakers Patrick Hayes and George Wingard spent hundreds of hours on location at the SRS interviewing George and Henry, and documenting their recollections about rural life, farm work, and their families during the Great Depression. This documentary will draw the viewer into a tumultuous time for this small community through documents, photos, and the memories of those who lived



Figure 2: Mr. George Heath (left) and Mr. Henry Brown discussing childhood memories during a break from filming. (Photo by George “Buddy” Wingard)

it. Titled *Reconstructing Hawthorne*, the film was completed in September 2016 and subsequently won “Audience Favorite” at the Arkhaios Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Film Festival in Beaufort, SC. The film formally debuted in February 2017 before an audience including the Heath and Brown families and friends in Augusta, Georgia, and premiered later in the month at Aiken Technical College, Graniteville, SC to a general audience. *Reconstructing Hawthorne* has since screened at the Ogeechee International History Film Festival where it won “Second Place—Best Professional Film.” Finally the film won “Best Documentary” at the 2017 South Carolina Underground Film Festival held in North Charleston, South Carolina. Copies of the documentary are available upon request from the SRARP.



Figure 1: Filmmaker Patrick Hayes filming SRARP Manager Keith Stephenson. (Photo by George “Buddy” Wingard)



Figure 3: (Left to right) SRARP Program Coordinator George “Buddy” Wingard, Hawthorne residents George Heath and Henry Brown, and filmmaker Patrick Hayes at the film’s premier. (Photo courtesy of George “Buddy” Wingard)

Research Division

Tracking Hernando de Soto

By Chester B. DePratter

In the Fall of 1976, I enrolled in a course on Southeastern Indians taught by Charles Hudson. Dr. Hudson, a University of Georgia professor whose seminal book, *The Southeastern Indians*, was then in press, had about 40 students in his class. Among those 40 students were eight or so graduate students who met in a once a week seminar in which we were to investigate what Indian societies were like in the decades before and immediately following the arrival of Europeans in the 16th century.

The preceding Spring, I had received my M.A. in Anthropology at UGA with a thesis on coastal Georgia shell rings. I had taken courses on southeastern and North American archaeology, but this course was to be my first focused on Indians of the southeast, and it was certainly my first exposure to European exploration accounts.

Hudson believed that the explorations of Hernando de Soto, who traversed the entire southeast in 1539 to 1543, would

be a logical starting point. The four accounts describing the Soto expedition were replete with details concerning numerous societies encountered along the way. While there had been many efforts to trace the route Soto and his 625 men took in their four-year trek, Hudson thought it would be worthwhile to critically examine these previous efforts to develop a better understanding of just where Soto went and what he saw. Better maps and more accumulated knowledge of archaeological manifestations would provide an advantage over all previous work on tracing Soto's route. In the end, he hoped to create a map of the southeast, which would show accurate locations for the dozens of societies Soto and his men encountered in their trek. He also wanted to be able to better understand the "chiefdoms" Soto encountered, especially how they changed in the decades after Soto's passage (Figure 1).

As a result of this seminar, Charles Hudson and I embarked on a years-long

effort to track Soto and other 16th-century explorers. We soon realized we needed someone who knew the archaeological materials, mostly metal tools and beads, that marked the passage of expeditions, so we recruited Marvin Smith to work with us. In the first year, we began to work systematically along the route, beginning with the landing, and then moving on through peninsular Florida, and on into Georgia. In 1977-1978, Hudson had a fellowship at the Newberry Library in Chicago, and I was at that same library on fellowship in 1978-1979, so our work on the route did not progress much during these years.

While at the Newberry Library, I came across an archival source that was to be a key to tracking the route of Soto as well as that of a Spanish Captain, Juan Pardo, who followed the same route Soto had taken 26 years earlier. Spanish Governor, Pedro Menendez de Aviles, ordered Pardo to find an overland route to Mexico from Santa Elena, which is located on Parris Island, South Carolina. Pardo made two attempts to reach Mexico, but he only made it as far as eastern Tennessee. He, his scribe, and another member of his expedition wrote a total of four accounts of the 1566 to 1568 efforts. While others had seen and referenced the Pardo accounts, no one had used them to try to reconstruct the route he and his men followed. When I returned to the University of Georgia following my year at Newberry Library, Charles Hudson, Marvin Smith, and I immediately began work on identifying the Pardo route. In 1983, we published our Pardo route reconstruction in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*.

Because Soto and Pardo visited many of the same Indian towns in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee, Pardo's accounts allowed us to redraw a large section of Soto's route. Where

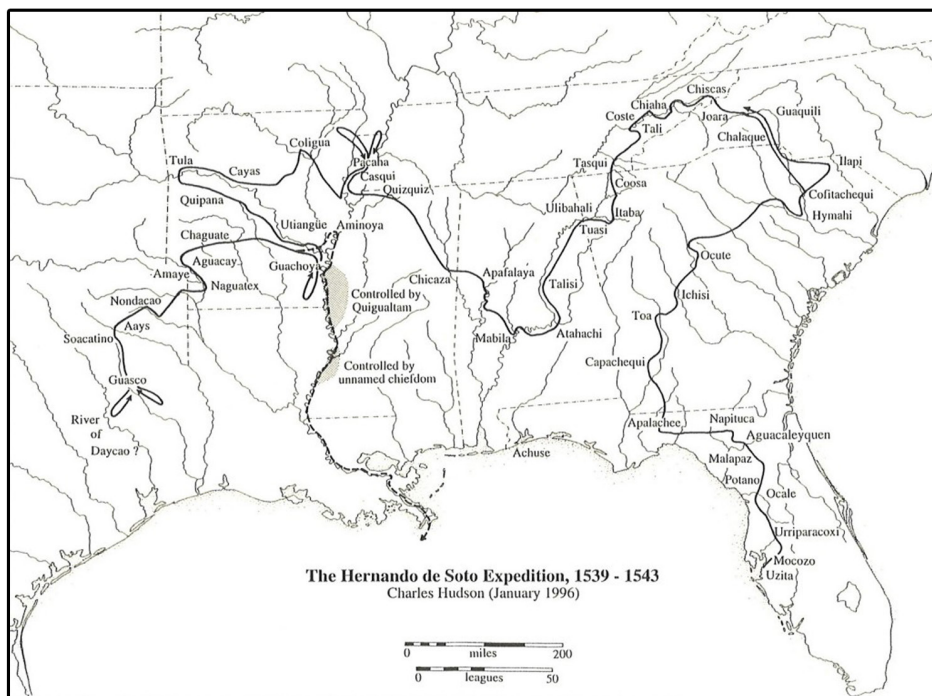


Figure 1: Map of Hernando de Soto's route through the southeastern United States. (Hudson 1996)



Figure 2: The Soto crew in Mississippi. (Left to right): Jim Legg, Charlie Cobb, Chester DePratter, Brad Lieb, Steve Smith, and John Lieb. (Photo by Jim Legg)

most previous Soto route reconstructions had taken Soto across central Georgia and then up the Savannah River, we (Hudson, DePratter, and Smith) were able to demonstrate that he crossed the Savannah River near Augusta, crossed the upper coastal plain of South Carolina, then traveled up the Wateree River to the Indian town of Cofitachequi (near Camden) and then on up the Wateree/Catawba River to Joara (near Morganton, NC). This retracing ultimately led to the discovery of the Indian town of Joara and more recently Fort San Juan, built there by Juan Pardo and his men in 1566.

In the years following 1983, we published multiple papers on segments of Soto's route across the southeast. We faced many critics, and our reconstruction, as published in Charles Hudson's book, *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun*, is still not accepted in its entirety. We always felt that our work would be subject to debate and modification, and that is where we are today.

With the confirmation of Joara at the Berry site near Morganton, North Carolina, there were only two sites that were known to have been visited by Soto: the Berry site and the Governor Martin site near Tallahassee, Florida. Numerous articles

and books have been written concerning the search for other Soto sites, but so far, no one has discovered another confirmed campsite from that expedition.

At SCIAA, there is a great interest in military history of all periods, and in the past couple of years, that interest has led to a search for Soto-related sites in Mississippi and South Carolina (Figure

2). Steve Smith, SCIAA Director, Charlie Cobb, our former Director, and Jim Legg began this work two years ago, and I have assisted them as a researcher and field hand as time allows [see *Legacy* 19(2), 20(1)]. Our search involves the use of metal detectors to locate metal tools, weaponry, and trade items that date to Soto's 1540 passage through Mississippi.

Our previous work in Mississippi identified a potential Soto site, and in October 2017, Steve, Jim, Charlie, and I returned to Mississippi to conduct more work on that site and others (Figures 3, 4, and 5). We found additional metal artifacts including a 1.25-inch (3.3 cm) cannon ball that may be from one of the small cannons that Soto had with him, as well as other items that may be from the Soto era (Figure 6). We do not believe that we are working on one of the two camps where Soto spent the winter of 1540, but we think we are in the immediate vicinity (Figures 3, 4, and 5).

In January 2018, a SCIAA team will begin work in South Carolina to locate the Indian town of Cofitachequi visited by Soto and his men in May 1540. Pardo visited many of the same sites that Soto visited a quarter of a century earlier, including Cofitachequi, so we hope to find evidence of his passage as well. Given



Figure 3: Mississippi terrain in area searched, October 2017. (Photo by Chester DePratter)



Figure 4: Metal detecting at one of several sites visited in 2017. (Left to right: Jim Legg, Steve Smith, and Charlie Cobb). (Photo by Chester DePratter)

that we will be recovering only metal objects, we know that it will be difficult to distinguish items lost or traded by these two expeditions, but who knows what we might find.

While our work on Soto sometimes takes us beyond the borders of South Carolina, that is to be expected, given that our interests at SCIAA span expeditions, wars, and networks that cover broad areas. Right now, one of our foci involves tracking Soto across the Southeast, and if we can positively identify Soto camps in South Carolina and Mississippi, we will make a major contribution to this effort. With more points along Soto's route confirmed, it will become possible to work forward and backward from those points to identify still more Soto-related sites.

Even after working on Soto's route for more than 40 years, I still find this project to me the most interesting and exciting topics I have ever researched. I know that we will never know just where Soto and his men were on each night of the more than four years they spent in the southeastern United States, but I do know that we know much more now than we did even a few years ago, and with any luck, we will know much more in the next few years, as we intensify our search.

Our work in Mississippi is a collaborative project between SCIAA, the University of Florida, and the Chickasaw Nation. Our Mississippi explorations would not have been possible without the gracious assistance of Brad Lieb, Chickasaw Nation Tribal Archaeologist,



Figure 5: SCIAA Director, Steve Smith, hard at work. (Photo by Chester DePratter)

John O'Hear, Jessica Crawford, Glenn Beverly, Tony Boudreaux, John Lieb, and Brad Posey.

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Figure 6: Cannon ball found in Mississippi that may have originated with the Soto expedition. (Photo by Jim Legg)

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The Last Morning of the War: Archaeology on the Appomattox Court House Battlefield

By James Legg

In September 2017, Steve Smith and I spent four days assisting with a field project on the Appomattox Court House National Historic Park, Virginia. Kevin Fogle, a USC Anthropology PhD graduate, received a grant from the National Park Service to conduct the research, and he engaged SCIAA to provide metal detecting expertise. We were joined by a team of NPS remote sensing and metal detecting specialists, and by USC graduate students Kelly Goldberg and Brian Mabelitini.

Appomattox Court House is well known as the site of the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to a much larger Federal force under Ulysses S. Grant. While resistance continued elsewhere in the Confederacy for several more weeks, Lee's surrender on April 9, 1865 was effectively the end of the Civil War. The Appomattox Court House National Historic Park preserves not only the village where the surrender took place, but also the site of the last battle of the Civil War in Virginia, fought on the morning of April 9th. The outcome of the relatively minor Battle of Appomattox



Figure 2: Kevin Fogle records a freshly recovered bullet. The artifacts were plotted by GPS as well as by transit. (Photo by Jim Legg)

Court House was the immediate cause of Lee's decision to meet with Grant later the same day, but the battle itself has been substantially overshadowed in the history

books by the surrender.

Lee's army at Appomattox Court House was not completely surrounded on the morning of April 9th, but the only escape route that offered any hope of continuing operations was the Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road, to the southwest. That route was already blocked by Federal cavalry and artillery a few hundred yards beyond the village, and it was the Confederate effort to clear the stage road that resulted in the battle. With perhaps half of the Army of Northern Virginia in line of battle across the road, the Confederates advanced on the enemy for the last time. The attack drove the Federal blocking force back in disorder, and briefly it appeared that the army might indeed escape toward Lynchburg. As the Confederates advanced, however, they came in sight of large formations of Federal infantry deploying in their front. Two Federal infantry corps and a division of cavalry, a force as powerful as Lee's entire army, blocked the way to



Figure 1: The McLean house in the village of Appomattox Court House, where Lee surrendered to Grant on April 9th, 1865. (Photo by Jim Legg)



Figure 3: A Confederate canister ball sees the light of day after 152 years. (Photo by Jim Legg)

Lynchburg. The fighting continued as the Federals then advanced, pushing the Confederates back toward Appomattox Court House. Lee recognized the hopelessness of the situation, and sent a message to Grant requesting a cease fire to discuss surrender terms.

On the battlefield stood the house and farm of a Dr. Coleman, and in Coleman's yard stood the cabin of Hannah Reynolds, his slave. The Coleman property became the epicenter of the action on the morning of April 9th—the Federal blocking force toward Appomattox Court House was driven back to the Coleman place, which was defended until that position was also overrun by the Confederates. The Federal counterattack then pushed the Confederates back from the Coleman house vicinity. The Coleman yard was under artillery fire from both sides during the battle, but it was ironically a Federal cannon ball that passed through the Coleman house and into the cabin of

Hannah Reynolds. The projectile struck Hannah in the arm, and she died three days later, the only civilian casualty of the Battle of Appomattox Court House.

The Coleman House and the Hannah Reynolds cabin are long since gone, and the site has reverted to hardwood forest. The National Park Service may expand its interpretation of the Appomattox battlefield, and the Coleman-Hannah Reynolds site could eventually be an important component for understanding the events of the morning of April 9, 1865, including the tragedy of Hannah Reynolds. The current archaeological project was designed to reconstruct the layout of the Coleman yard, specifically the location and the nature of the Hannah Reynolds cabin. An additional goal was to recover and interpret whatever battle artifacts remained in the study area. The property including the Coleman yard was in private hands until the 1990s, when it was added to the park. That means that the site was probably heavily collected by relic hunters using metal detectors in the three decades or so before Federal protection began. As is usually the case with our battlefield projects, we had to rely on improved technology, ground clearing,

and very intensive, systematic coverage to recover a representative distribution of the remaining material. We worked the study area in 50 X 50-foot grid blocks, each of which received 100%+ coverage in one direction, followed by a different operator who covered the block again on the perpendicular.

The metal detecting at the Coleman site revealed two well defined clusters of cut nails, either of which may be evidence of the Hannah Reynolds dwelling. The intensive remote sensing that was conducted concurrently may shed additional light on these locations, and they will be subjected to future investigation. Our collection of 56 battle artifacts was modest, but remarkably diverse. The collection included artillery shell fragments representing at least three varieties of Confederate shell, and at least one variety of Federal shell, as well as several canister balls of Confederate manufacture. Small arms ammunition included unfired Federal examples for the .577 / .58 caliber rifle musket, the Sharps carbine, and the Spencer carbine, and there was a quantity of expended copper cartridge cases for the Spencer carbine, which was a rimfire weapon. Fired bullets included both Federal and Confederate rifle musket projectiles. Other artifacts included Federal knapsack hooks, the throat of a sword scabbard, a musket combination tool, and the butt plate from an Enfield rifle musket. The battle artifact collection is currently at SCIAA, where it is undergoing conservation and analysis for inclusion in Kevin Fogle's final report on the project.



Figure 4: A Federal rifle musket bullet is recovered. (Photo by Jim Legg)



Figure 5: Artifacts of the Battle of Appomattox Court House recovered in September 2017. (Photo by Jim Legg)

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.

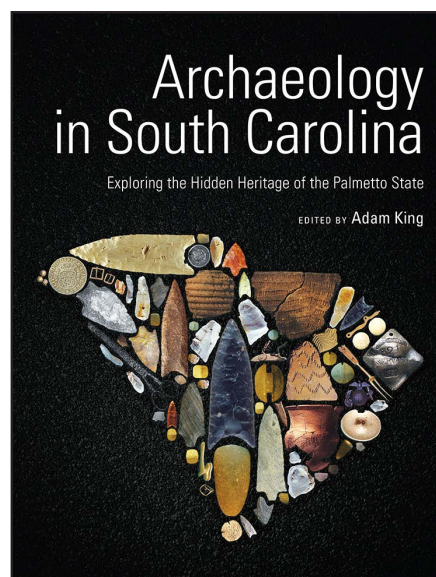
South Carolina has an extraordinarily rich history encompassing some of the first human habitations of North America as well as the lives of people at the dawn of the modern era. King begins the anthology with the basic hows and whys of archaeology and introduces readers to the current issues influencing 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 the recollections of a life spent in the field by South Carolina's preeminent historical archaeologist Stanley South, now retired from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina.

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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The First Radiocarbon Dates from 38FA608

By Andrew A. White

Site 38FA608 is a stratified site associated with a natural levee along the Broad River in Fairfield County, South Carolina. Activities at the site in the spring of 2017 included both block excavations

present ground surface—to the Guilford component of the site. Prior to the 2017 season, several quartz Guilford points were recovered from disturbed contexts near the profile. The 2017 excavations

the second radiocarbon date associated with the type. Gunn and Foss (1992) reported the first date of 5350 +/- 60 from a Guilford feature at the Copperhead Hollow site (38CT58) in Chesterfield

Laboratory ID	Conventional Radiocarbon Age	Calibrated Years BC (INTCAL 13; 95.4%)	δ13C ‰	Provenience	FS No.
Beta-475888	5170 +/- 30	4042-3948	-27.9	Unit 9, Zone 7	1179
Beta-475889	5870 +/- 30	4826-4816, 4803-4687	-27.1	Unit 11, Zone 19	1318

Table 1: Radiocarbon dates from 38FA608. (Table by Andy White)

and work on the deposits exposed in profile (White 2017). Both aspects of the fieldwork were focused on refining our knowledge of the kinds and ages of the archaeological deposits preserved within the levee. Diagnostic artifacts recovered so far demonstrate that the site was occupied (minimally) during the Middle Archaic, Late Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian periods. In other words, the site was used intermittently over the course of at least 6,000 years.

Following initial laboratory processing of the artifacts and materials recovered during the 2017 season, two charcoal samples were selected for radiocarbon dating. Because diagnostic artifacts allow us to situate the upper deposits in time with a fair degree of precision (and because there are discrete pit features—yet to be excavated—that will provide datable materials in the future), radiocarbon samples were selected from the lower strata. Jo Baker, an Archaeological Research Trust board member, generously provided funds for one of the dates.

The results are shown in Table 1. The locations of the samples in relation to the generalized stratigraphy of the site are shown in Figure 1.

The date of 5170 +/- 30 BP (Beta-475888) was obtained from a single piece of charcoal from the portion of Zone 7 exposed in Jim Legg's profile of Unit 9 (Figure 2). The date is consistent with the attribution of Zone 7—a slightly darker zone about 1.8 meters below the

finally produced a fragment of a Guilford point in context, within Zone 7. The radiocarbon date firmly cements Zone 7 as Middle Archaic in age.

Despite the fact that the distribution of Guilford projectile points stretches from southern Maryland to northern Georgia, the date from 38FA608 is apparently only

County, South Carolina. The scarcity of Guilford dates certainly reflects the rarity of intact deposits that date to this time period. It is clear that Zone 7 has the potential to provide significant new information about the late Middle Archaic in the Carolina Piedmont in particular and in the Eastern Woodlands in general.

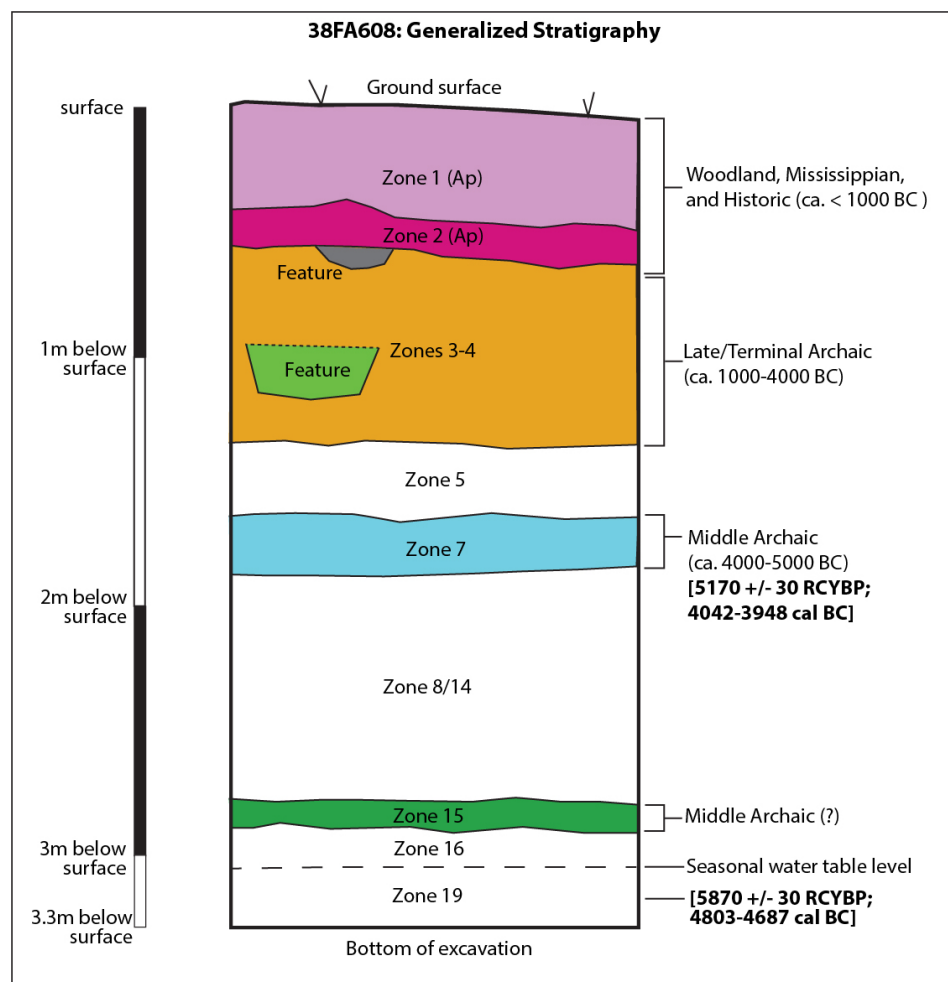


Figure 1. Generalized stratigraphy of 38FA608 showing relationships between strata and radiocarbon dates. (SCIAA photo by Andy White)

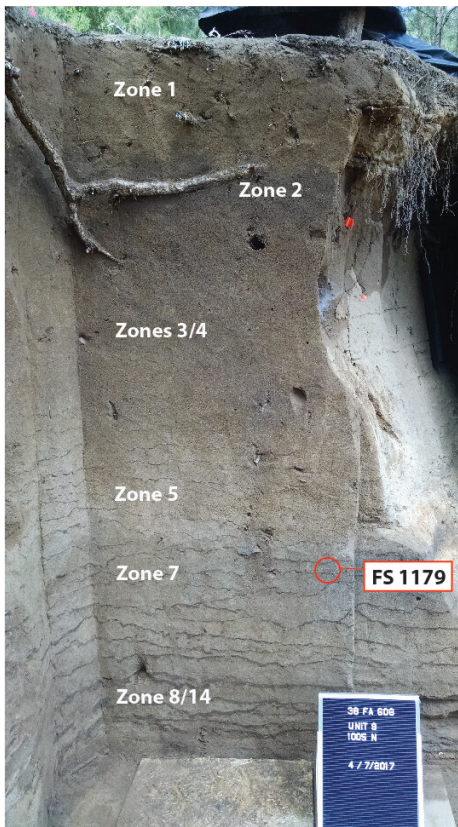


Figure 2. Profile illustration of north wall of Unit 9 showing stratigraphic zones and dated charcoal sample (FS 1179). (SCIAA photo by Andy White)

The date of 5870 \pm 30 (Beta-475889) for the Zone 19 sample was obtained from a piece of charcoal from the deepest deposits exposed thus far (Figure 3). The

date was a surprise, being significantly younger than I had expected. Presuming that the date accurately reflects the age of Zone 19 (i.e., the charcoal was in place and had not been moved downward by roots or rodents), the deposits 3.2 meters below surface are also Middle Archaic in age—just 700 calendar years older than Zone 7.

It is the vertical separation (about 1.4 meters) between Zones 7 and 19 that makes the Zone 19 date surprising. Based on the depth of sediment that had accumulated between about 2,000 BC and 4,000 BC, I anticipated that Zone 19 probably dated to the Early Archaic period. If the lower date is accurate, it appears the levee may have aggraded more rapidly during the Middle Holocene, perhaps as a function of both Middle Holocene climate and the lower elevation of the existing surface at that time (making it easier for the landform to be over-topped by flood waters). Rapid accumulation of sediments may have preserved a very fine-grained record of occupations during the latter half of the Middle Archaic period.

While our excavations into the deep deposits have been very limited, we did document a thin zone (Zone 15 in Figure 1) that contained some large cobbles and

a very light scattering of small, angular quartz fragments. None of the cobbles appears to have been modified (at least based on a macro inspection), and none of the pieces of angular quartz gives me any certitude about the nature of the deposit. Because of the mismatch between the sizes of these stones items and the water-moved particles in the natural sandy matrix, however, human deposition seems the most likely explanation. Further work will be required to investigate this deep deposit at 38FA608.

I appreciate the continued hospitality and support of the landowner and his family, as well as the generosity of ART and its board. Jo Baker's contribution to the project is greatly appreciated.

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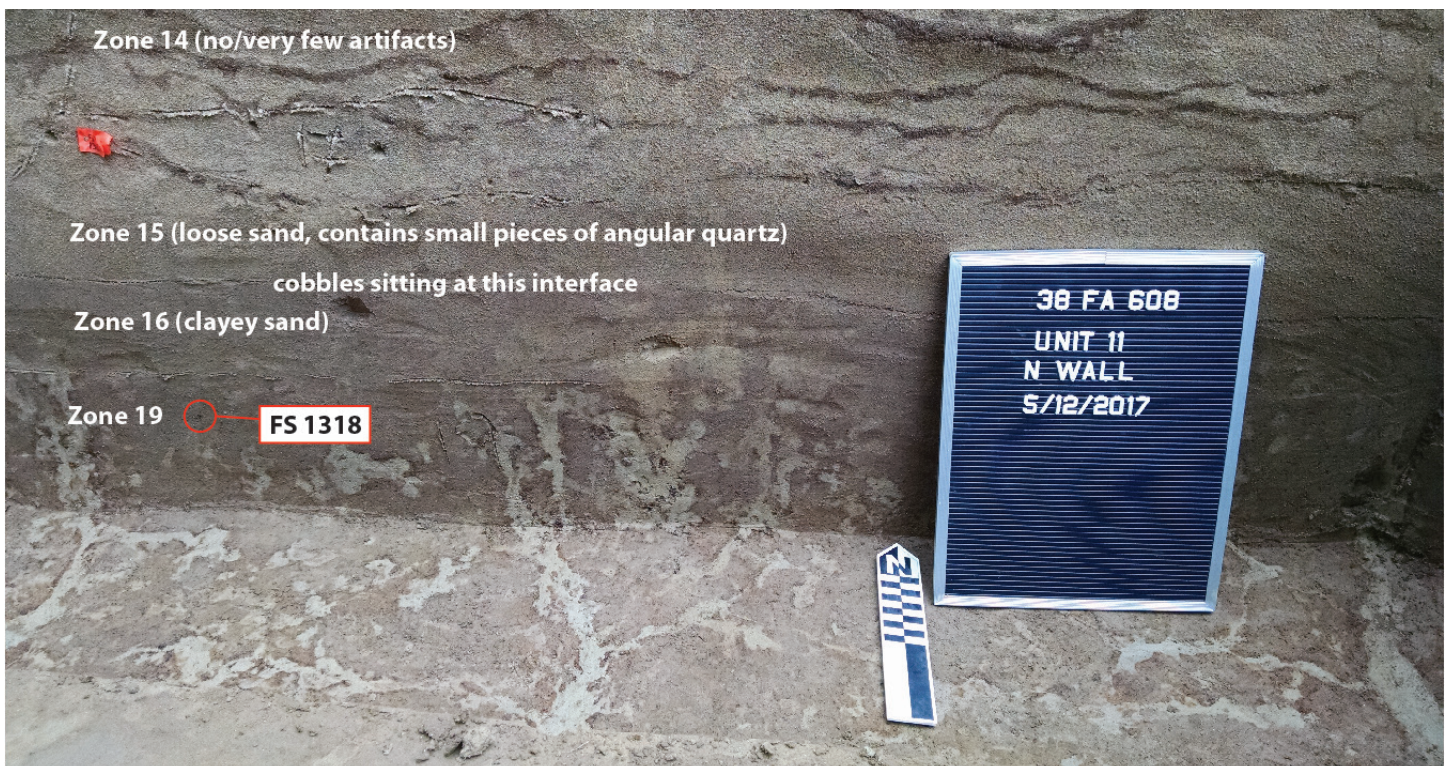


Figure 3. Profile illustration of north wall of Unit 11 showing stratigraphic zones and dated charcoal sample (FS 1318). (SCIAA photo by Andy White)

Maritime Research

Port Royal Sound Stone Fleet Survey

By James Spirek

In late 1861, the Union navy sent 45 stone-laden vessels south intending to scuttle them at the harbor entrances of Savannah and Charleston during the Civil War. These naval obstructions were intended to impede Confederate blockading running activities at the two ports. By the time the first contingent of 25 vessels arrived off Savannah in early December, the Confederates had obstructed the entrance of the river channel, thereby removing the need for the Union navy to do the job. Several vessels, nonetheless, ended their days off Savannah—three vessels wrecked on the shoals at the entrance to the river and another four were scuttled to form a breakwater to assist in the landing of Federal troops and supplies on Tybee Island. The remaining 18 vessels were sent to Port Royal Sound, as was the second contingent of 20 vessels that arrived shortly thereafter, although the bark *Marcia* wrecked on the shoals at the entrance to the sound. The Union navy then focused on obstructing the two primary blockade running channels into Charleston Harbor; sinking 16 vessels at the Main Ship

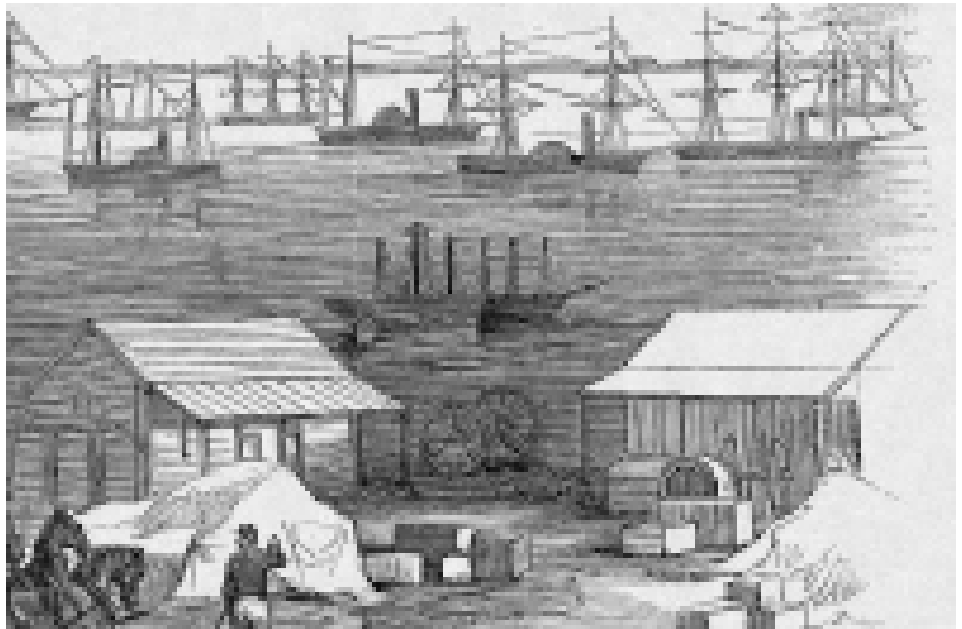


Figure 2: Two stone fleet vessels used to form a landing off Hilton Head Island in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 25 January 1862.

Channel in mid-December, and another 14 vessels sent to block the approach to Maffitt's Channel in mid-January 1862.

As the two stone fleet contingents converged at Port Royal, several of these stone-laden vessels were diverted for military logistical purposes at the harbor.

The bark *Edward* and ship *India* were paired together and equipped to create a Floating Machine Shop to make repairs to warships, gunboats, monitors, and other vessels supporting the blockade (Figure 1). The bark *Harvest* was employed as a floating coal depot and the bark *Valparaiso* served as a storeship and later as a floating hospital. The army also requested the use of several stone fleet vessels to assist in their logistical needs. Two vessels, the ships *Frances Henrietta* and *Corea*, were intentionally sunk to form a breakwater to facilitate the landing of troops and supplies at Hilton Head (Figure 2). Two other stone-laden vessels, including the bark *Garland* were transferred to the army for use as floating warehouses; one stationed in Skull Creek and the other in the Beaufort River. All but one of the 45 stone-laden vessels eventually suffered their intended fate—sunken on the bottom. The only vessel to escape afloat was the bark *Valparaiso*, which was sold to private parties at Bay Point at the close of hostilities. A review of the historical record



Figure 1: Floating Machine Shop. (Courtesy U.S. Army)

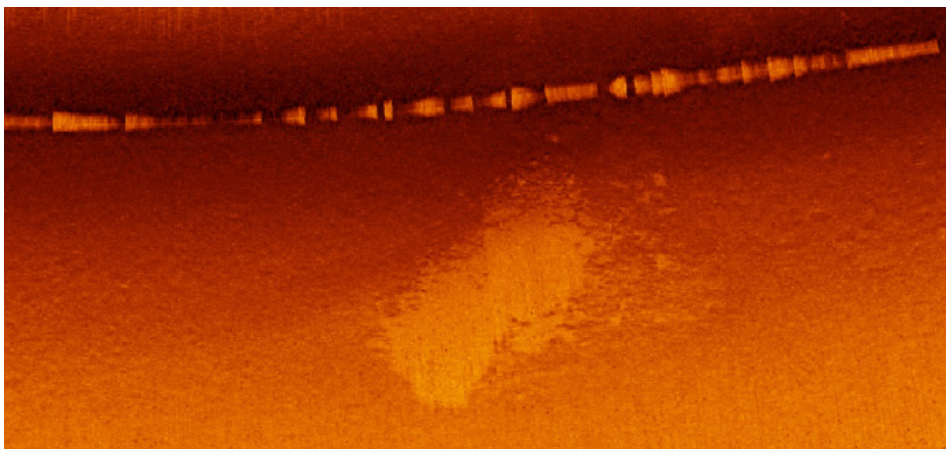


Figure 3: Sonogram of presumed Floating Machine Shop ship *India* ballast mound. (SCIAA graphic)

indicated that seven stone-laden vessels potentially remained in the archaeological record in and offshore Port Royal Sound.

During the course of previous projects in Port Royal Sound, the Maritime Research Division (MRD) searched for several of these stone-laden vessels reserved for other uses by the navy and army. The remains of the bark *Edward*, one of the two vessels associated with the Floating Machine Shop, was located and documented from 2003 to 2004. In 2012, additional searching with the side-scan sonar detected another ballast mound and ground-truthing confirmed the remains of the ship *India*, the other half of the Floating Machine Shop (Figure 3). Survey off Bay Point, the location of the naval coaling station, did not reveal evidence of the coalship associated with the navy. Back in the 1980s, a large ballast mound was detected in the eastern half of Skull Creek during a SCIAA remote-sensing survey in support of a review and compliance project. Based on the large quantity and size of the stones composing the ballast mound, and subsequent historical research, suggested the wreck was one of the stone fleet vessels transferred to the army. A search along the Port Royal Sound-side of Hilton Head Island, in proximity to the general location of support infrastructure including the Tee-dock, failed to detect the two vessels reportedly sunk to create a breakwater. Further historical research revealed that these two vessels were refloated and repurposed for other uses—the ship *Corea* sunk at the approach to Maffitt’s

Channel at Charleston, and the ship *Frances Henrietta* used by the army as a storeship. A brief and unsuccessful search was undertaken offshore to locate the remains of the shipwrecked bark *Marcia*. The results of these archaeological and historical investigations proved fruitful by locating three of the stone fleet vessels, as well as suggesting other areas to search for the elusive shipwrecks in the sound.

To continue documenting and searching for the four missing stone fleet vessels in Port Royal Sound, the MRD was awarded a grant by SCIAA’s Archaeological Research Trust (ART) Fund. From April 17-21, 2017, the MRD launched remote-sensing operations and ground-truthing investigations to document and locate vestiges of the stone fleet remaining

in Port Royal Sound (Figure 4). Initially, the MRD focused on searching for the storeships presumed sunk in the Beaufort River and off Bay Point. Preliminary review of the sonar data indicated that no apparent shipwreck was detected in either search area. The MRD also gathered additional side-scan sonar data prior to diving on the three previously located shipwrecks. The main purpose of these site revisits was to obtain underwater imagery to document each shipwreck. Visual investigations at each site was planned to occur during a rising tide thereby increasing the chances for clearer water, but the incoming water unfortunately did not result in the wished-for clarity, yet the underwater camera and lighting system did yield fairly good imagery of the three sites.

Initial visual investigations by MRD underwater archaeologists and a volunteer occurred at the two sites composing the Floating Machine Shop. At the deeper wreck, the presumed *India*, underwater archaeologists and the volunteer observed ballast rocks coated in sediment and various marine flora and fauna, several copper-alloy fasteners, a fragment of copper-sheathing, and an eroded section of wood structure, probably the keel or keelson. At the supposed *Edward*, the ballast rocks were covered in sea whips



Figure 4: MRD conducting remote-sensing operations in Beaufort River. (SCIAA image)



Figure 5: Gudgeon at stern of supposed wreck of the bark *Edward*. (SCIAA photo)

and other marine growth. The bow and stern were identified, with the aft end confirmed by the presence of a gudgeon used to fasten the rudder to the stern post (Figure 5). Embedded underneath the ballast rocks on the port side was a substantial section of exposed wooden structure consisting of sacrificial sheathing, exterior planks, frames, ceiling planks, and copper-alloy fasteners.

Diving at the Skull Creek wreck found the ballast stones heavily coated in white sponges and other marine growth. Along the periphery of the ballast mound were several copper-alloy drift pins sticking upwards from the sediment (Figure 6). These fasteners hinted at the preservation of buried wooden structure, but no exposed timbers were observed. At one end of the site lay a modern

wooden piling, most likely debris from Hurricane Matthew (Figure 7).

Review of the gathered sonar data continues, and future plans call for conducting additional remote-sensing operations to locate the three storeships in the sound, as well as offshore to locate the wrecked *Marcia*. Besides undertaking archaeological research of the stone fleet remaining

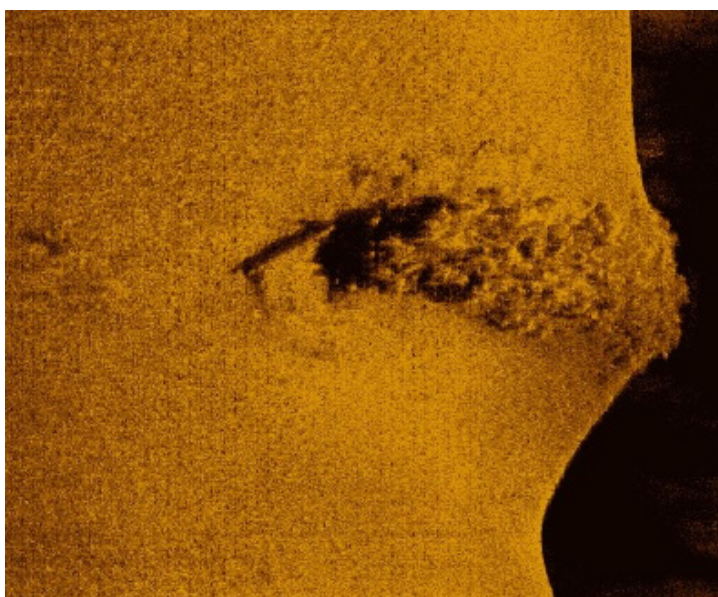


Figure 7: Sonogram of Skull Creek wreck. Note modern piling at end of the ballast mound. (SCIAA graphic)



Figure 6: Copper-alloy drift pin protruding from sediments at the Skull Creek wreck. (SCIAA photo)

in the sound, these investigations also complemented on-going documentation of the two stone fleets sunk off Charleston Harbor. And MRD future plans include coordinating with Georgia authorities to document those stone fleet vessels remaining in that state's waters.

Incorporating all the archaeological and historical information associated with the stone fleet will culminate in broadening our understanding of the Union navy's attempt to obstruct these two southern harbors, as well as in developing our stewardship of these unique sites spread over the bottomlands of two states.

Relating to the preservation of these sites, all the vessels associated with the

stone fleet remain the property of the U.S. government and are protected by the Sunken Military Craft Act that prohibits unauthorized disturbance of these unique vestiges from the Civil War.

The author would like to acknowledge the ART board members for supporting this project; MRD staff Jessica Irwin, Nate Fulmer, and Joseph Beatty; Volunteer diver, Ted Churchill; SC Department of Natural Resources, Waddell Mariculture Center, Al Stokes, manager, and Patricia Middleton. Also, *Island Packet* / *Beaufort Gazette* newspaper reporters, Stephen Fastenau and Delayna Earley for reporting on our investigations.

Update on Atlantic Offshore Wind Energy Development Project: Ground-Truthing Operations

By James Spirek

Great headway has been made in surveying and post-processing the resulting magnetic and acoustic datasets at potential offshore Wind Energy Areas (WEA) off North Myrtle Beach since introducing the project a couple of years ago in *Legacy* (Vol. 19, No. 1, July 2015, pp. 4-5). The work was undertaken in support of the SC-BOEM Cooperative Agreement between the Federal government and the State, that includes Coastal Carolina University and the University of South Carolina, and is administered by the SC Sea Grant Consortium. Project objectives included mapping the seafloor to understand the geophysical characteristics of these areas, to detect shipwrecks and other historic objects, and to develop the preservation potential of inundated prehistoric sites. The three survey areas, each approximately six miles in length and five miles in breadth and 11-16 miles offshore North Myrtle Beach, have been completely surveyed with the electronic suite of marine electronic instruments comprised of a multibeam echosounder,

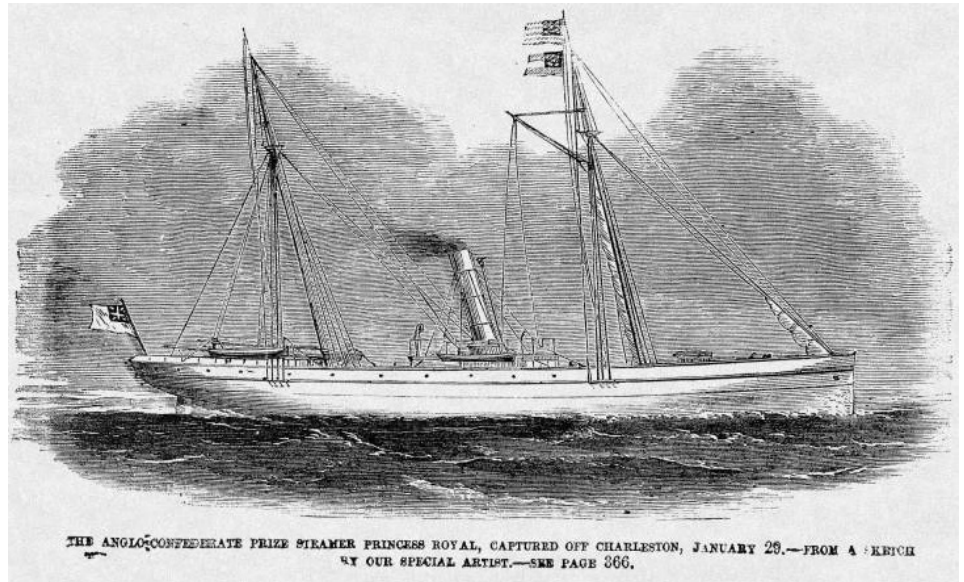


Figure 2: Illustration of captured blockade runner *Princess Royal* off Charleston Harbor in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, 28 February 1863.

side-scan sonar, sub-bottom profiler, and magnetometer. Several large areas encompassing geological and cultural features were selected for more refined data acquisition, as well as deploying a tow-camera to characterize and classify bottom types. Following the completion

of the geophysical survey and post-processing of the data, the team selected numerous cultural, geological, and natural features to ground-truth with underwater archaeologists and scientific divers.

This past August 2017, Maritime Research Division (MRD) personnel, augmented by Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, and BOEM underwater archaeologists and scientific divers visually inspected 22 prioritized features in the study area (Figure 1). Dive sites, approximately 8 to 16 miles offshore and in water depths from 40 to 70 feet, included the remains of the SS *Sherman* wrecked off Little River Inlet, a magnetic anomaly, components of an artificial reef called Barracuda Alley, rock ledges, and expanses of seafloor. The divers performed reconnaissance level inspections, along with obtaining underwater video, of the selected cultural and natural features. The divers deployed from CCU's R/V *Coastal Explorer*, a 54-foot, twin-hulled, and two-decked aluminum boat.

According to the Atlantic Shipwreck Database created by BOEM, using a variety of sources, there were two potential shipwrecks located within our survey area.



Figure 1: Dive team (left to right): Emily Schwalbe (Clemson), Erin Burge (CCU), Jim Spirek (SCIAA), Rikki Babuka (CCU), Brandi Carrier (BOEM), Nate Fulmer (SCIAA), Cody Sweitzer (CCU), Steve Luff (CCU). (SCIAA image)

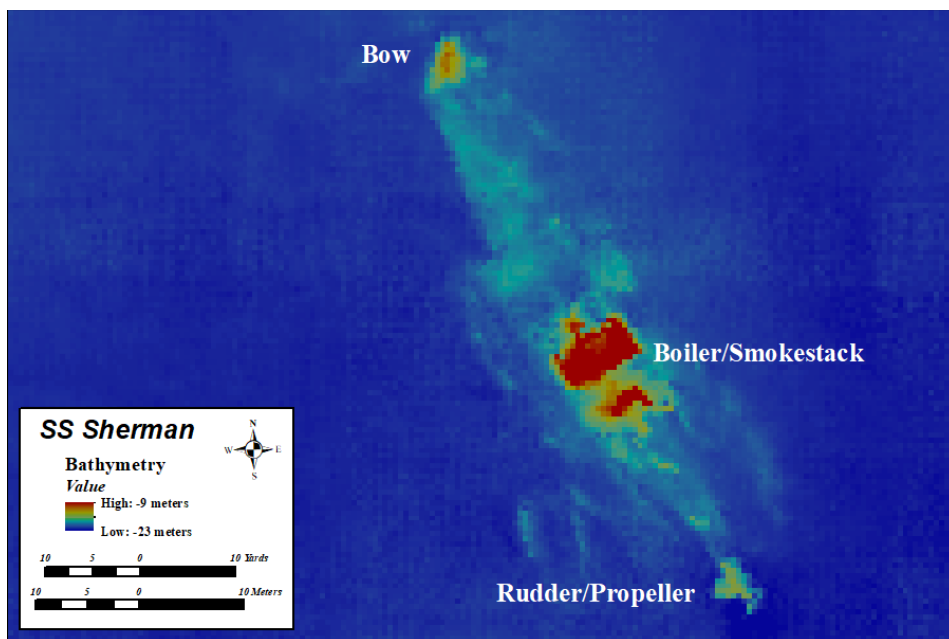


Figure 3: Multibeam imagery of the shipwreck SS *Sherman*. (SCIAA graphic)

In one block, the shipwreck was actually an artificial reef, discussed in detail below, and the other one was not located during the survey. The survey also did not detect a charted shipwreck on the modern nautical charts, although it was noted as an approximate position. Review of the data also did not indicate the presence of other potential shipwrecks within the study area. Just to the north of our survey block was the shipwreck of the SS *Sherman*, and BOEM agreed for us to investigate that site, as the wreck lies within a potential offshore WEA

Several dives occurred on the remains of the SS *Sherman*, a popular sport diving destination off North Myrtle Beach. The SS *Sherman* led an eventful life as a merchant steamship, blockade runner, and a warship. The single-screw, iron-hulled steamship, originally named the *Princess Royal*, was built and launched at Glasgow, Scotland in mid-1861. The steamship measured approximately 200-feet in length, 29-feet in beam, and a depth of hold of 15 feet. Operating between Glasgow and Liverpool until late 1862, the steamship was purchased by the Confederacy and loaded with war materials and other goods. On its first attempt to run the blockade at Charleston in late January 1863, the vessel was captured and then condemned at the prize court in Philadelphia (Figure 2). The

cargo of the *Princess Royal*, that included four 70-pdr Whitworth rifled cannons, was one of the most valuable captured by the Union navy during the war. Two of the Whitworth cannons were used as part of the Naval Battery on Morris Island during the bombardment of Fort Sumter and Battery Wagner, and at least one of the others was transferred to the Washington Navy Yard and remains there on display to this day. The former blockade runner was purchased by the navy and then assigned to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron to enforce the blockade and to participate in combined military operations. At the close of the war, the warship was ordered to Philadelphia, decommissioned, and then

sold at public auction. Renamed *Sherman*, the merchant steamship ran a regular route from Boston to New York to New Orleans from 1865 until 1874. In January 1874, on a voyage from New York City to New Orleans, the steamship sprang a leak and then sank off Little River Inlet. All the crew and passengers were saved and some of the cargo as well.

Today, three large sections of the shipwreck stand proud of the bottom—the bow, boiler and smokestack, and the stern with the propeller and rudder (Figures 3 and 4). Large sections of the lower and upper hull have collapsed onto the sea floor (Figure 5). Sport divers over the years have picked over the shipwreck, and not much remains beside the fabric of the steamship. The shipwreck hosts a plethora of sea life as a substrate for marine flora and as a structure for attracting fish.

Another consideration for BOEM in developing offshore WEAs is the presence of Artificial Reefs on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Located within our northernmost survey block was an artificial reef called Barracuda Alley established by the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for recreational fishing and diving purposes. Components of the artificial reef included two barges, approximately 20 Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs), numerous concrete pipes, and a Landing Craft, vehicle, personnel (LCVP) or a Higgins boat (Figure 6). Several dives occurred at the various sites



Figure 4: Fire tubes inside the boiler at the wreck of the SS *Sherman*. (SCIAA image)

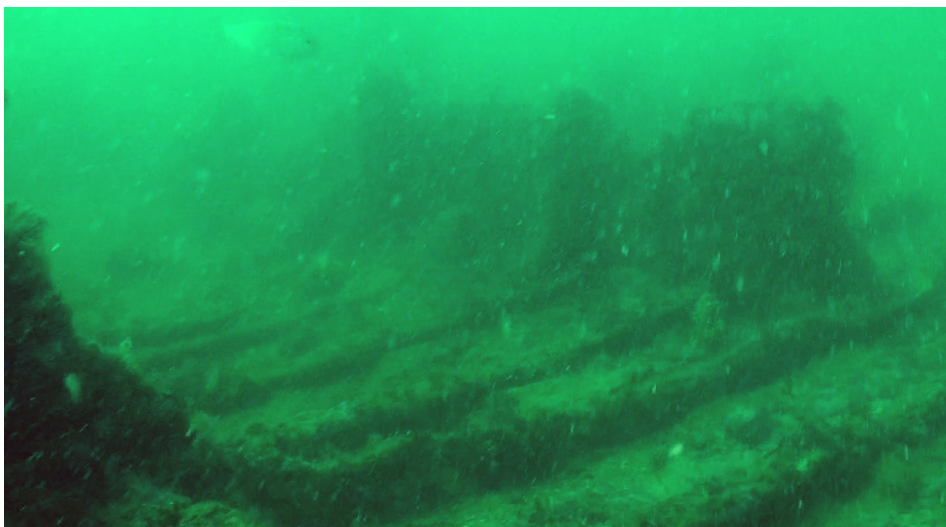


Figure 5: Section of collapsed upper hull with remaining portion of deck at the wreck of the SS Sherman. (SCIAA image)

composing the artificial reef, including the LCVP, a few of the APCs, and at one barge (Figure 7). Each of the sites hosts a substantial amount of sea life, and at the barge site, I was encircled several times by curious cobias, as well as swarmed by bait fish. This artificial reef was situated in a prime maximum sustained wind area, and in the future BOEM will need to take a more proactive approach in coordinating the placement of artificial reefs on the OCS with the Federal permitting agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the applicants. Managing multiple uses of the OCS will ensure maximum benefits with minimal disruption to the recreational and electrical potential offshore North Myrtle Beach.

In addition to diving on accidental and intentional cultural features, we also

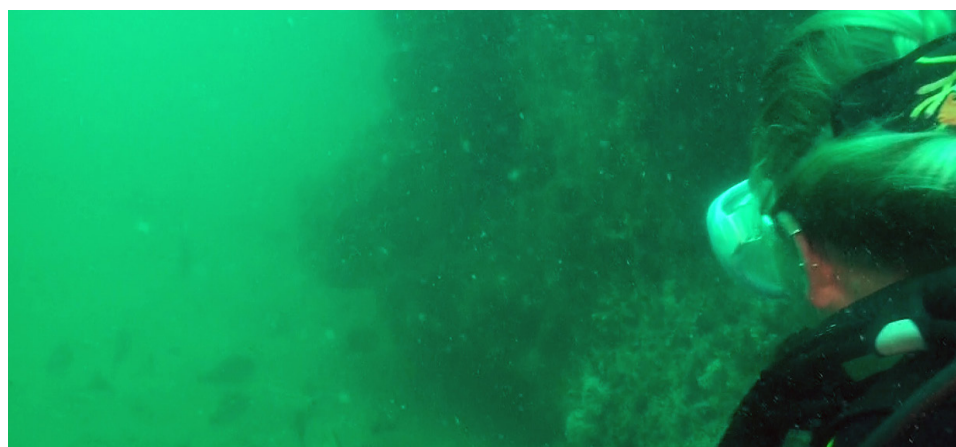


Figure 7: Looking over Rikki Babuka's shoulder at a sunken Armored Personnel Carrier at Barracuda Alley. (SCIAA image).

looked at several geological and natural features detected during the survey. Several rock ledges were inspected, and as at the cultural sites, these reefs were alive with a variety of marine organisms, including a loggerhead turtle that abruptly

darted out from underneath an overhang (Figure 8). These ledges are popular near-shore recreational fishing spots used by charter boats, attested by the presence of a head boat fishing a near-by ledge and by finding a barnacle-encrusted rod and reel lost overboard at one of our dive spots.

The dive team also ground-truthed several areas identified as paleochannels, which seemed defined in the multibeam imagery, but were indistinct when examining the bottom. Nonetheless, the divers, using a compass, meandered along the general bearing of the reputed paleochannel and observed numerous bottom dwelling species, including sand dollars, sea

biscuits, and an octopus or two.

The MRD appreciated the assistance of all the underwater archaeologists, scientific divers, and support personnel to safely and efficiently inspect these offshore features. Currently, the research partners are finalizing the various datasets that illustrate the geophysical characteristics and the natural and cultural features in the study area. The scope and findings of the project will be incorporated in a report submitted to BOEM in 2018.

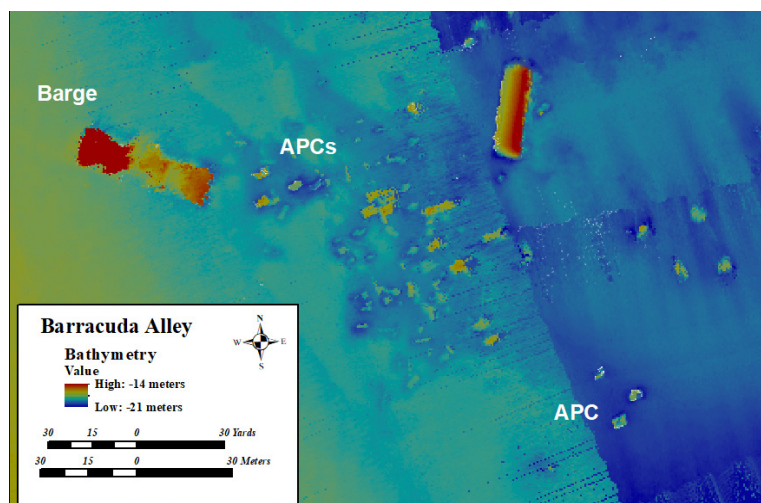


Figure 6: Multibeam imagery of Barracuda Alley. The LCVP is not shown and is located further to the southeast. (SCIAA graphic)



Figure 8: A rock ledge with a variety of sea life, including numerous fish. (SCIAA image)

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Stan South was a larger-than-life figure that played a prominent role in the field of historical archaeology for nearly 60 years. His passing on March 20, 2016, brought to an end a life and career filled with scholarship and accomplishment.

*To honor Stan's many years of work, SCIAA has established The Stanley South Student Archaeological Research Fund to support undergraduate and graduate student research in archaeology by University of South Carolina students. Contributions can be made **online** by visiting: <https://giving.sc.edu/givenow.aspx>, or by check made payable to the USC Educational Foundation and mailed to: SCIAA—Stan South Fund, 1321 Pendleton Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208. You may also use the insert envelop in this issue of Legacy. Thank you so much for your support!*

