

North Carolina
Archaeological Society

Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4619

<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas>

SUMMER 2003, Volume 13, Number 2

Home to Roost: Avocational Collections Return to Fort Bragg

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Fort Bragg is located in south-central North Carolina in Hoke and Cumberland counties. It is home to the famous 82nd Airborne Division, 18th Airborne Corps and Army Special Forces troops. The 160,000 acres that comprise Fort Bragg are used for a myriad of training exercises such as large-scale parachute drops, live artillery training, and armored vehicle maneuvers. In order to protect the cultural resources located within the Post perimeter, a Cultural Resources office has been formed. This small organization is responsible for identifying, mitigating as necessary, preserving when appropriate, and curating when possible sites and artifacts. The artifacts found on Fort Bragg

encompass the full spectrum of the Native American presence in North Carolina—from Paleoindian Clovis, to Archaic Hardaway, Kirk, Big Sandy, Morrow Mountain, Guilford, and Savannah River, to Woodland such as Badin and Yadkin, and ending with historic Randolph points. Over the years, the Post has been open to the public, and only recently has access been restricted. The parachute drop zones were well known to the local civilian population as places where one could gather points and “arrowheads.” With increased security and the creation of the Cultural Resources office, this public collection has been greatly reduced. Of course, the scope of the artifacts previously

collected on the Post is generally unknown to the professional archaeological staff in the Cultural Resources office. However, based on extensive site surveys and oral testimonies, there was obviously a widespread and plentiful Native American presence on the installation. Two recent events have reinforced that impression.

It is not often that avocational archaeologists decide to donate their collections to professionals. Should these donated collections be accompanied by provenience information, no matter how limited, then a great number of inferential deductions may be made, such as source material, cultural association, and even site usage

based upon tools collected. Recently, two collectors provided the Cultural Resources staff at Fort Bragg with artifacts that they had obtained on Post, in one case within the past 10 years, and in the second case, collecting was conducted in the early 1960s. Both collections have been processed and the data derived is undergoing analysis.

The most recent collection (Maggio) consists of over 300 identified artifacts which include 111 projectile points (or fragments), and numerous tools such as perforators, scrapers, drills, utilized flakes, etc. The artifact material consists primarily of local North Carolina rhyolite and quartz. The points in the Maggio collection represent a 10,000-year span, commencing with Hardaway Side-notched and continuing through historic era artifacts.

The man who collected these artifacts and later donated them to Fort Bragg has a wide and varied life experience, but his background did not include archaeology. Mr. Joe Maggio is a senior citizen who was a soldier during the Korean conflict. Originally from Long Island, Mr. Maggio later moved to Fayetteville and upon retiring from the military he became a security guard on the Post. Among his guard posts was an ammunition storage area which he would circle as he walked his security patrol. One day while on his rounds Mr. Maggio picked up some

oddly shaped rocks that did not look like the local stone. Over the years these occasional discoveries amounted to a beautiful collection, which he decided to donate to a local college. When the Cultural Resources office was created in 1995, the collection made its way back to Fort Bragg and Mr. Maggio was interviewed to provide site data. Figure 1 shows examples of the projectile points that Mr. Maggio collected. The points are obvious and most collectors would recognize them instantly; however, Figure 2 illustrates several utilized flakes and retouched flakes that require a fine eye for detail to identify them as artifacts. Over the years, Mr. Maggio obviously developed that eye and also an appreciation for the potential information that could be gleaned by more professional assessment of his collection.

The second and oldest collection donated to the Cultural Resources office came via a very delayed route. Captain Oscar G. Scoville was an artillery officer, a Battery Commander, stationed at Fort Bragg in the early 1960s. He had an interest in "Indian" artifacts and when he had the opportunity he walked the fields and parachute drop zones looking for them. In 1963 Captain Scoville noted that a new drop zone was being constructed in the south end of the Post. After searching the area, Captain Scoville made

two significant finds, which he later donated to the Cultural Resources office at Fort Bragg. A total of 60 artifacts were donated, including 52 projectile points or portions thereof. While searching the new drop zone Captain Scoville noticed an area on the ground that appeared different; that is, the sand was white, rather than the reddish sand which was prevalent. Within the white sand he found a cache of 11 points, most of which have been identified as Badin, including a Badin knife (Figure 3). A short distance away near a tree stump, Captain Scoville found an intact clay pipe that had a most unusual shape and design (Figure 4). Later analysis of this large elbow pipe showed that it was cord impressed with grit and grog temper. The pipe clay was crudely mixed and somewhat crudely made, and may never have been smoked. It is noted that Captain Scoville, with the encouragement of Dr. Joffre Coe, recorded this site and it became the first official archaeological site in Hoke County.

Although these are small collections, with limited provenience, they do provide us with useful information. The information would not have been obtained had it not been for the interest of these two individuals who felt that their collections belonged to science, and not on a den wall.

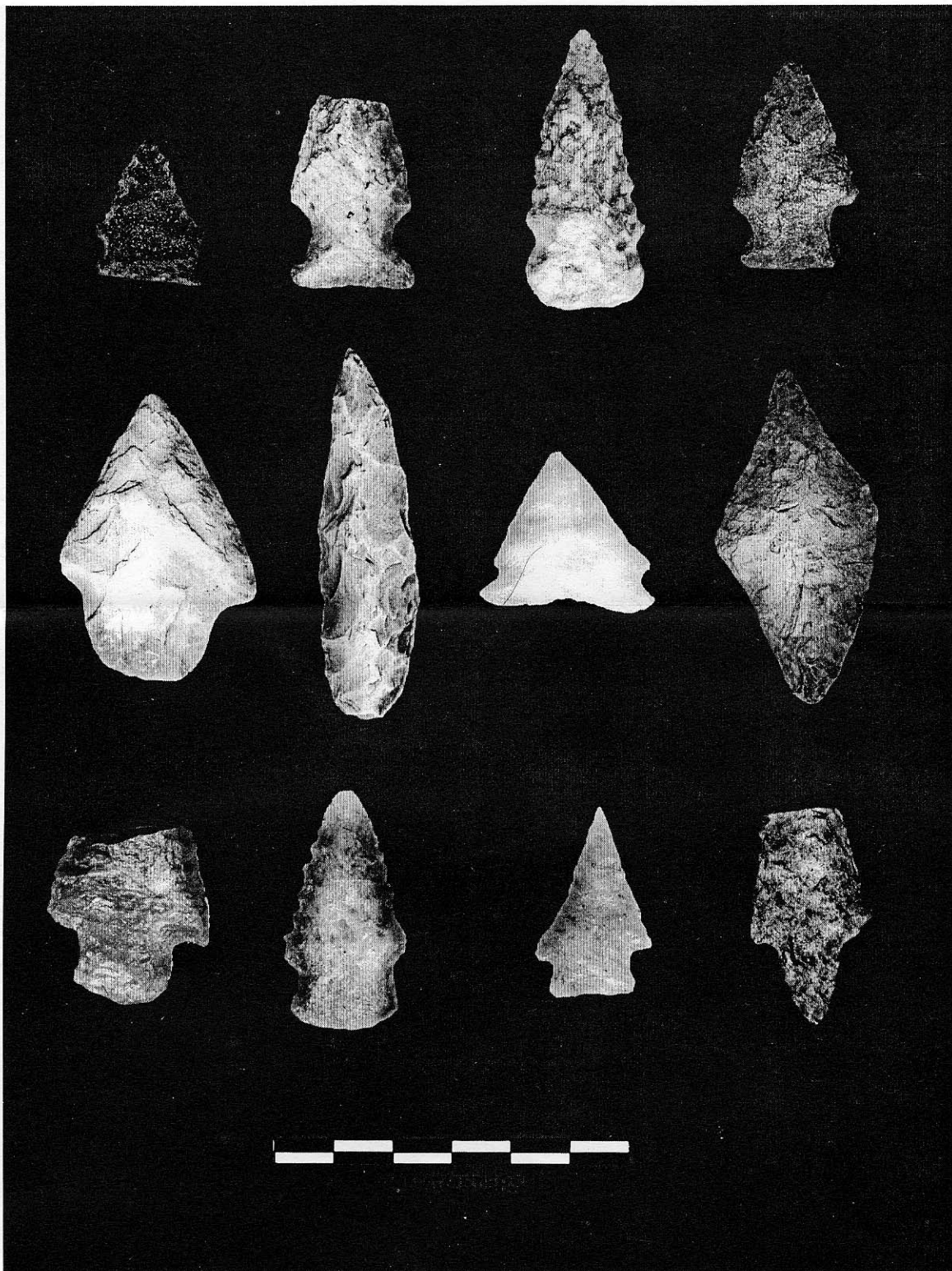


Figure 1. Maggio collection projectile points

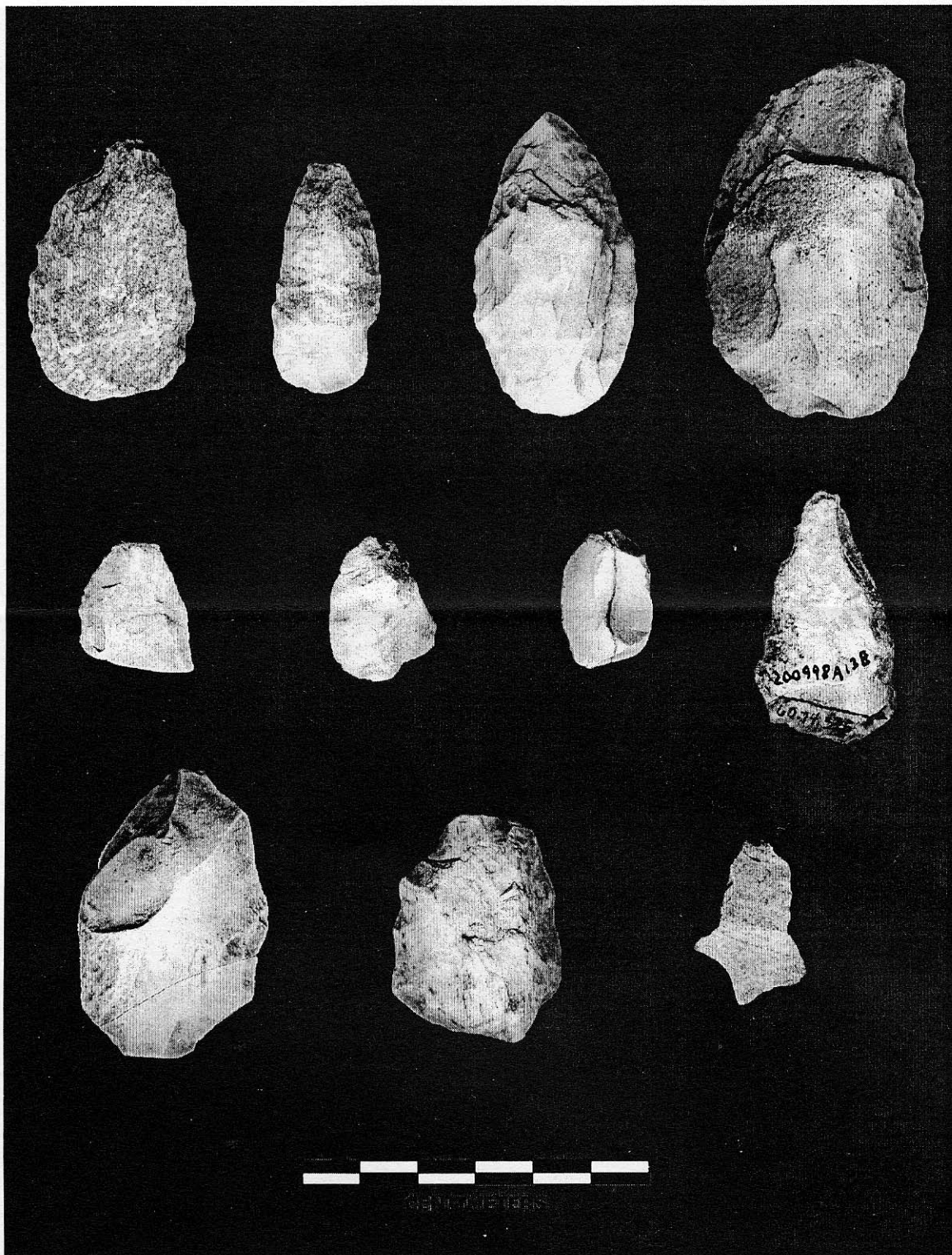


Figure 2. Maggio collection tools (utilized flakes, etc.)

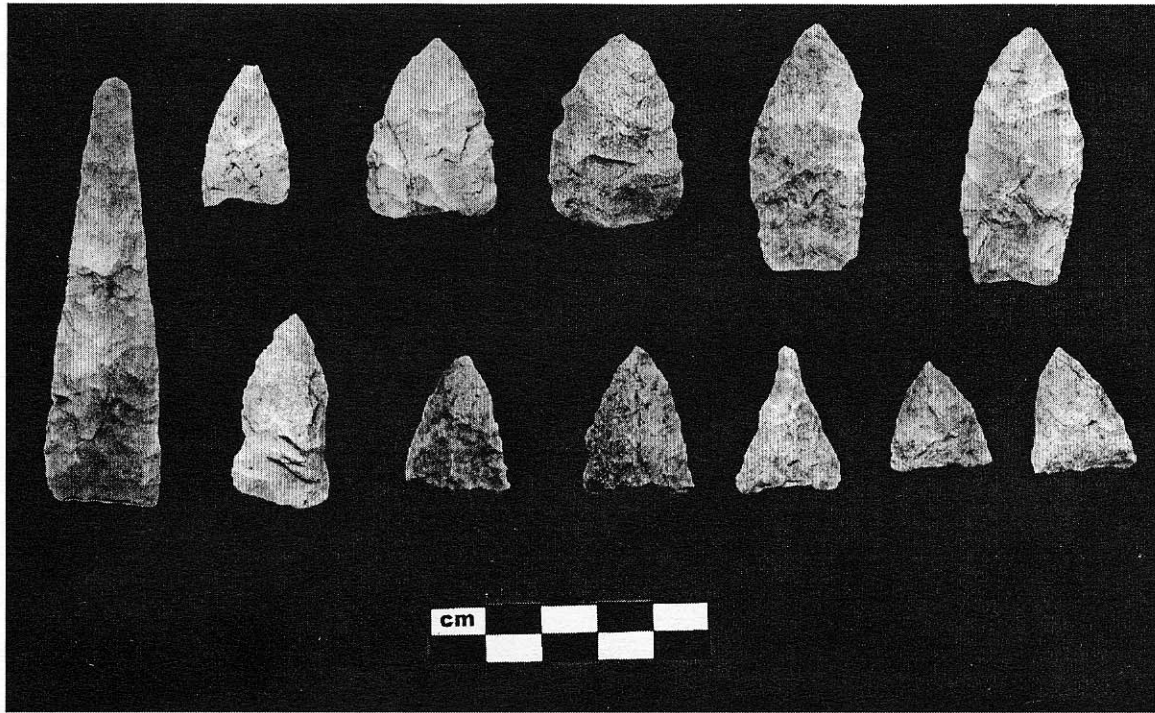


Figure 3. Scoville collection Badin cache

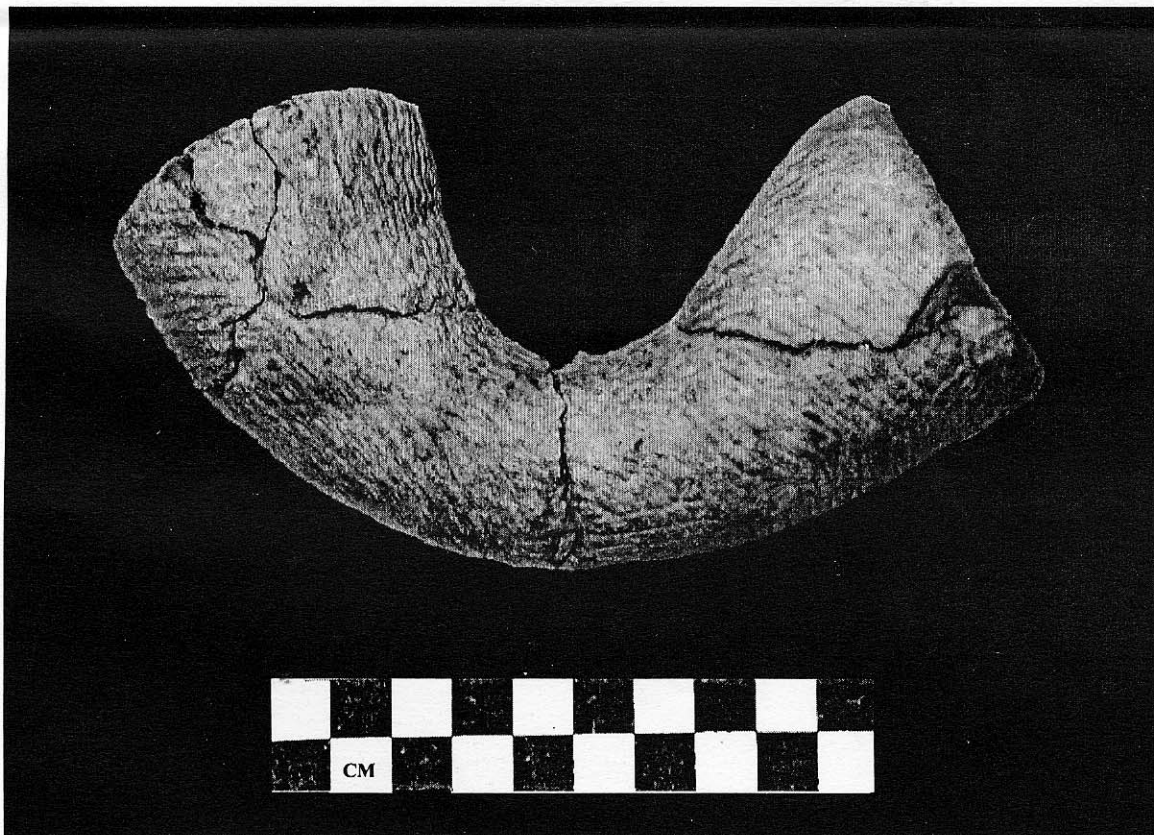


Figure 4. Scoville collection clay pipe

**NCAS Newsletter
Publication Schedule**

All NCAS members are encouraged to submit articles and news items to Dee Nelms, Associate Editor, for inclusion in the *Newsletter*. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Spring Issue	February 28
Summer Issue	May 31
Fall Issue	August 31
Winter Issue	November 30

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