



# North Carolina Archaeological Society

# Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619 <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas> SUMMER & FALL 2005, Volume 15, Numbers 2 & 3

## William H. (Bill) Terrell RPA



When Linda Stine asked me if I would write a profile of myself for the NCAS newsletter, I was somewhat taken aback. But she explained that they were alternating between well established archaeologists and.....but I interrupted in jest with "and young upstarts?" Actually, while I am young in the profession, having received my M.A. in Anthropology from Wake Forest University in 1998, I took

a rather circuitous route to get to that point and just celebrated my 47<sup>th</sup> birthday in June of 2005.

Born and raised in High Point, North Carolina, I was number three of six children. Our parents always encouraged us in all our studies and extracurricular activities. My main interests in junior high and in high school were always in science and math, and in music. I was a pretty good trumpet player in the concert band, jazz band, pep band, and marching band, while at the same time many years of piano lessons proved rather unsuccessful. But from early childhood we would always pick up spear points from the "arrowhead patch," as we called it, at my parents' cattle farm in Randolph County, which evidently planted a seed of interest in me that eventually would not be denied.

At Guilford College (in Greensboro, NC) I tried my hand at a physics major for a while but finally found my place in biology, graduating with departmental honors in 1980. However, my trial run in physics actually gave me enough credits for minors in both physics and math. And a summer school trip to France for two months finished out the credits for a minor in French. Also at Guilford I quit playing the trumpet and took up the banjo, at which time I became a big fan of bluegrass music.

After Guilford College I studied zoology at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for one quarter, but it was when I started my second quarter that I had one of those life-altering realizations (like somebody just cracked you in the head with a bat). My grades were good, but something was not right. I realized I was on the wrong path in my life, so I dropped out of zoology and went to work on my dad's cattle farm for a while. In my spare time I would search for archaeological sites on the farm with my brother Richard. We only made surface collections and kept everything separate by sites, which we gave numbers to keep them all straight.

It was about this time (around 1981) that Richard and I went to our first ASNC meeting in Morganton (that was before our name change to NCAS). There we met this soft-spoken and sort of long-haired fellow named Dave Moore, who somehow realized that we were actually decent folks with good intentions regarding our archaeological interests. In a leap of faith, he soon recommended us to become ASNC board members, which we accepted in somewhat

stupefied humility. (My brother Richard eventually served as president of the Society for several years). It was this act of friendship and kindness from an established archaeologist that set me on the path that would eventually lead me to return to school in archaeology. Also, at another one of the first few Society meetings that we attended, Joffre Coe volunteered to go out and examine the artifacts we had brought in the trunk of the car. He spent quite a while explaining to us what types of artifacts we had and what it all meant. We were pleasantly surprised and quite appreciative of his efforts, and I realized he enjoyed every minute of it himself.

In 1984, Steve Claggett gave us a call requesting help with a few test units at the Thayer Farm site (31RD10), a strong Late Woodland site along the Uwharrie River located just a few miles from our dad's farm. This gave us our first chance to help with an actual excavation, even though it was just limited testing. We loved it! Getting all dirty had not been so captivating since we were kids playing in the creeks and mud holes. Soon thereafter we met up with Billy Oliver and I spent a few weeks each summer for several years helping him excavate in Richmond and Anson counties at the Leak and Teal sites as part of his Pee Dee Archaeological Project, which helped him finish out his doctoral degree at UNC Chapel Hill. Billy was an excellent and patient teacher, and when I expressed an interest in going back to school to become an archaeologist, his encouragement and faith in my abilities were instrumental in my being accepted at Wake Forest University.

While I was taking my two years of classes, Ned Woodall was taking a break from summer field schools, as they were analyzing all the materials from the previous seasons of fieldwork. But at the time I was determined to have some fieldwork that would show up on my transcript, so I arranged for an independent study with Steve Davis and helped the Research Laboratories of Archaeology in one of their field seasons at the Jenrette site in Hillsborough. As I was finishing all my classes, I realized that I had an excellent opportunity to incorporate my biology background by doing a faunal analysis for my graduate thesis. I somehow arranged to study zooarchaeology intensively for a week under the tutelage of Betsy Reitz at the University of Georgia in Athens. For my thesis I identified and analyzed the faunal remains from the Hunting Creek site (31DE155) in Davie County, a rich Late Woodland site occupied from about AD 1000 to 1300. Tom Whyte, our faunal expert in North Carolina, agreed to be the outside reader on my thesis committee. Tom was exceptionally kind, helpful, and accessible while I labored through my faunal identifications and analysis, and provided much needed insights while I was writing my

thesis. Of course, Ned Woodall (now retired) was chair of my committee and provided constant help on my thesis.

I finally received my M.A. in Anthropology in May of 1998. In October of that year, while I was enjoying a much needed rest from my labors, Ken Robinson came to the Wake Forest University Archeology Laboratories to become Director of Public Archaeology. That is when I signed on at WFU as an archaeology supervisor, and I have been there ever since. Ken has been quite patient and helpful in pushing me to broaden my archaeological experience and further develop my writing skills. My duties include supervising fieldwork (mostly prehistoric), artifact and data analysis, and writing the reports for those projects that I supervise. I would love to do more faunal analyses, but very few jobs have come our way. However, I have enjoyed the opportunity to help teach several WFU undergraduates whose senior theses involved faunal analyses.

Apart from my longstanding membership in the North Carolina Archaeological Society (about 25 years), I also serve as a board member for the Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research (CFAR) and was accepted for membership in the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA).

On a more personal note, in the fall of 2003 I became reacquainted with my college sweetheart (having not seen each other for 22 years), and we got married in June of 2004. My wife Donna is a criminal defense attorney with a firm in Yadkinville. We live on her family's farm just outside Yadkinville, where we are in the process of building a new home. For about the last 15 years I have been quite active playing bluegrass music. After many years playing the banjo, I briefly tried my hand at the mandolin and fiddle, but for the last five years I have found my musical calling on the dobro (that's the instrument that Jerry Douglass plays with Alison Krauss and Union Station). I attend several bluegrass festivals every year and have been pleased to find several regular bluegrass jam sessions in the Yadkinville area.

Over the years, in all phases of my developing interest in archaeology, I have been befriended and encouraged by professional archaeologists from all corners of our great state. Many of these people are NCAS members, and all of them serve as ambassadors to the growing public interest in the fascinating field of archaeology. One of the main goals of the North Carolina Archaeological Society has always been to cultivate a relationship of trust, understanding, and familiarity between professional and amateur archaeologists. As I develop my own career as a professional archaeologist, one of my primary goals is to return the kindness shown to me by providing the same encouragement to others.

## 2005 Annual Fall Meeting

September 23 & 24, 2005

East Carolina University, Greenville NC

(see insert)

# New Monograph on Roanoke River Archaeology

## Now Available

*Archaeology on the Roanoke*, by Stanley South, Monograph no. 4, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2005. xx + 253 pp., 43 figures, 54 plates, 25 tables, 8 maps, 5 appendices, biblio., index. (paper). (Also includes a foreword by R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr., and an article by Sydne B. Marshall comparing South's investigation with modern cultural resource management studies of the reservoir.)

In 1955, the first major dam along Roanoke River was constructed at Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Prior to impoundment, a basin-wide archaeological survey and excavations at two prehistoric sites—the Gaston and Thelma sites—were undertaken by Stanley South and Lewis Binford, then graduate students at the University of North Carolina who would go on to have prominent careers in the field of archaeology. While Joffre Coe later summarized the Gaston excavations, along with South's discovery of deeply buried Archaic strata, in *Formative*

*Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont* (1964), the full project report and analysis, which was originally prepared by Stanley South as his 1959 master's thesis titled *A Study of the Prehistory of the Roanoke Rapids Basin*, was never published.

Fifty years later, South's account of the Roanoke Rapids Reservoir project is now available as *Archaeology on the Roanoke*. In this thorough, detailed, and richly illustrated monograph, the author documents archaeological evidence for three Woodland phases (Vincent, Clement, and Gaston) and three Middle-Late Archaic phases (Guilford, Halifax, and Savannah River). Using stratigraphic evidence, pottery seriation, and radiocarbon dating, South constructs a nearly 6,000-year occupational sequence for the middle Roanoke River valley.

To order, please send a check for \$23 (\$20 + \$3 shipping & handling) to: Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

## The "Prez Sez"

Tom Beaman

This is my last column as the President of the North Carolina Archaeological Society. Has it really been two years already? How the time has flown!

It seems like only yesterday that I outlined what I had hoped to accomplish in my term as President. With the help of feedback from members and the Board, I'm pleased with our efforts and hope I leave this post with the Society a little better of an organization.

As the main vehicle of communication to all our members, I hope the newsletter will continue to grow and offer more current news and research, member profiles, and opportunities for you to participate. In an effort to enhance our communication and improve our programs, the Board recently voted to join the Society for American Archaeology's Council of Archaeological Societies. We will have the chance to discuss ideas, programs, and activities with other groups like ours around the nation. This expanded network will hopefully spark new opportunities for member involvement!

Beginning with the Fall Meeting on September 24, our efforts to improve the visibility of the Society will culminate with Archaeology Month 2005, the annual booth at the North Carolina State Fair, and a newly designed membership brochure! Board Member Paul Mohler and his committee have put together a terrific package for Archaeology Month. The theme will be "Lessons from Our Legacy," and be featured on a poster and a statewide calendar of events for October. The State Fair booth will tie into this theme by focusing on "Teaching Archaeology,"

where we will be able to offer ideas and resources to interested educators on how to bring more archaeology into their lessons. We still need volunteers to help staff this booth, so contact Shane Peterson if you are interested. Additionally, Board Member Brian Overton and his wife Bonnie have designed a new, larger, two-color brochure for the Society that is attractive and informative. It will hopefully be available by the Fall Meeting.

The only thing I wish we had made more progress on is to reinvigorate the five NCAS local chapters. The local chapters offer a chance to get together regularly with others in your area and provides a good opportunity to share your discoveries and good fellowship with Society friends! Hopefully this is one challenge new President Tom Oakes and the Board will undertake in the forthcoming year.

I do want to thank long time Society stalwarts Treasurer Bill Conen, Secretary Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Editor Steve Davis, Assistant Editor Dee Nelms, as well as the other current and past members of the Board, for all they have done and continue to do for the Society. They are a terrific source of information and support, and continue to help steer the Society towards a bright future. And thanks to you for your continued support of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, for without you, there would be no Society!

I hope to see everyone at the Fall Meeting on September 24 in Greenville!

## Volunteers Needed for Tosneoc Search

As part of Wilson County's Sesquicentennial Celebration, Tar River Archaeological Research is presently attempting to locate archaeological sites related to the protohistoric Tuscarora community of Tosneoc (Toisnot). Building on John Byrd and Charles Heath's 1995-1997 study of Tuscarora sites along the Contentnea Creek basin in Lenoir, Pitt, Green, and Wayne Counties, the Tosneoc community has long been thought to be within what is now Wilson County. Members of the North Carolina Archaeological Society are welcome to participate in this project by volunteering to help in the field or lab. Contact Tom Beaman if you wish to volunteer (5210 Carr Road, Wilson, North Carolina 27893, or by email at [TBeamanJr@aol.com](mailto:TBeamanJr@aol.com)).

### 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	Fall Issue	August 31
Summer Issue	May 31	Winter Issue	November 30

### NCAS Officers

**President:** Tom Beaman, 5210 Carr Road, Wilson, NC 27893.

**Vice-president:** Tom Oakes, 113 Perkins Lane, Coinjock, NC 27923.

**Treasurer:** E. William Conen, 804 Kingswood Drive, Cary, NC 27513.

**Secretary:** Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Dept of the Army, Public Works Business Center (AFZA-PW-E) (Carnes), Fort Bragg Garrison Command (ABN), Installation Management Agency, Fort Bragg, NC 28310.

**Editor:** R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Research Laboratories of Archaeology, CB# 3120 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

**Associate Editor:** Dee H. Nelms, Office of State Archaeology, NC Division of Historical Resources, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619.

**Executive Board Members:** Linda France Stine, John Mintz, Paul Mohler, Brian Overton, Archie Smith, Ruth Wetmore.

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