



**North Carolina  
Archaeological Society**

**Newsletter**

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

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## **UNDER THE BLACK FLAG: PAINTING PIRATE BLACKBEARD'S LIFE**

Blackbeard was a master of mind games and mystery, but in the end he lost his head. Arguably the most infamous of all pirates, his life has been interpreted in a new painting of artifacts, *Under the Black Flag*, by artist Jack Saylor. This is the first known painting of conserved artifacts from a pirate shipwreck or any other. The painting is part of the shipwreck project's 10-year anniversary and observance of the 2007 Cultural Resources theme "History Happens Here."

The painting of artifacts recovered from the wreck of the purported *Queen Anne's Revenge* (QAR), Blackbeard's flagship, will be unveiled at an invitation only reception at the N.C. Museum of History on Wednesday, May 23, and will be on exhibit through Friday, May 25. It will be shown at the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort Saturday, May 26, and Sunday, May 27. Reproductions will be sold.

"There's no portrait of Blackbeard, we really don't know what he looked like," observes Saylor. "These are artifacts from the shipwreck believed to be the *Queen Anne's Revenge*, and I wanted to be as accurate as possible. Depicting Blackbeard's actual shipboard articles represents the closest thing to a portrait of the pirate that we have. It is a portrait of Blackbeard."

As Saylor viewed a newly recovered cannon from the wreck site at Fort Macon last summer, his interest in the project and fascination with Blackbeard led him to offer to create a Blackbeard painting. He is allowing sale of reproductions to raise funds for the project.

"There are some objects that are synonymous with pirates and their ships, for example, the

cannon, the cannonballs and of course the bell, which by itself is a beautiful, beautiful object to paint," Saylor adds.

Dominating the painting is Blackbeard's flag, which ominously depicts a skeleton holding an arrow and a heart dripping blood. Saylor's wife Ann made the flag in the painting, which Saylor took to Ocracoke to photograph for use. That is where Blackbeard met his death at the hands of British Royal Navy Lt. Robert Maynard. A pewter plate, sector and wine bottles are among other items depicted.

Under the Black Flag reproductions will be sold after May 23 at the shops of the N.C. Museum of History, the N.C. Maritime Museum, Roanoke Island Festival Park, and other coastal sites. For credit card orders call (919) 733-7442 or use the N.C. Historical Publications Section's secure online store at <http://store.yahoo.com/nc-historical-publications>.

For additional information about the painting, call Fay Mitchell Henderson at 919-807-7389. For additional information about the QAR Shipwreck Project visit [www.qaronline.org](http://www.qaronline.org), or call Mark Wilde-Ramsing at 252-726-6841, ext. 169.

The *Queen Anne's Revenge* Shipwreck Project is administered by the Division of Historical Resources in the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history and culture. Now podcasting 24/7 with information about the Department of Cultural Resources available at [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com).



**Under the Black Flag**

Oil on canvas, 30" x 48" - Jack Saylor, 2007

This painting features artifacts recovered from the shipwreck of the purported Queen Anne's Revenge, the pirate Blackbeard's flagship, which ran aground near Beaufort, N.C., in 1718. The shipwreck is being researched through the Office of State Archaeology in the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

**BUY NOW!! online at <http://nc-historical-publications.stores.yahoo.net/blandqar.html>**

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## From the President

When I first became acquainted with Currituck Sound in the 1950s, largemouth bass fishing was so good and the fish were so plentiful that there seemed to be "no end" to them. This continued during the 1960s and 1970s but during the 1980s the decline began and now the resource that seemed inexhaustible is practically gone. The same example can be applied to archaeological sites. With the rapid development that is taking place in all parts of the state, many known and unknown sites are falling prey to the bulldozer and the developer. Many times our hands are tied and little can be done, but in all cases, prior knowledge of sites can help the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) formulate plans to preserve or, at least, examine these sites before they are

destroyed. This is where you can help!! If you know of a potential site or an area where artifacts are plentiful, take the time to fill out an archaeological site form and return it to the OSA. This form can be downloaded at the website <http://www.arch.dcr.state.nc.us> or request a form from the following address: Office of State Archaeology, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619. Completed forms are to be returned to the Site Registrar of the Office of State Archaeology. Remember—there is an "end" to all things. Let's preserve and treasure what is left.

Tom Oakes

# NEWS FLASH!

## OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGY IS MOVING!

The rumors are confirmed; the Office of State Archaeology's (OSA) central office in Raleigh (Heartt House, 421 N. Blount Street) will close in late Fall 2007 (or so I'm told). We will move to the main Archives and History Building on Jones Street, with new offices, address, phone numbers, etc. And much less space.

To prepare for that move, we are reducing 25 years of accumulated "stuff" to smaller collections that *might* fit into the new spaces.

**Please note that our offices will be closed to visitors on Wednesdays  
until further notice.**

If you need to use our files, talk with OSA staff members, or are just looking for a place to hang out, please schedule your visit for another day (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday). The number is (still) 919-733-7342.

Part of the clean-out involves excess reports, publications and books that the office, or staff, will have to dispose. Those will accumulate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor workroom, and be available on a first-come basis for anyone wanting a few more items to clutter their own bookshelves.

The supply will be replenished frequently, but we'll toss things that are not carted off within a reasonable period. No give-backs.

Related news on the OSA move will be communicated as available.

Please circulate or post this notice as you wish.

Thanks!

Steve Claggett  
NC Office of State Archaeology  
State Archaeologist

**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		

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