

North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

SPRING 2008, Volume 18, Number 1

2008 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

May 17, 2008

North Carolina Pottery Center, Seagrove, North Carolina
Featuring the New Exhibit

*Contemporary Pottery from North Carolina's American Indian Communities
And Contemporary Catawba Potters*

Schedule of Events

- 9:00AM NCAS registration at the front table (name tags, lunch passes, sign in)
9:15AM NCAS Board of Directors meeting to be held in the NCPC Ed Building
10:00AM NCAS Business Meeting in the Education Building
10:30-11:30AM Guest **Lecture TBA** in Education Building
11:30AM-12:30PM Lunch by Jordan Catering
1:00-3:00PM **ALL DAY POTTERY ACTIVITIES** on the grounds
Pottery Identification and Dating (no appraisal please):
-Table for Prehistoric Pottery, Steve Davis
-Table on the NC Learn Project & American Indian pottery Teaching Kits, Theresa McReynolds
-Table for Traditional Pottery, NCPC director & LCM
-Table for Historic Pottery (Imported & US), Tom Beaman & Linda Stine
-Table for Prehistoric Lithics, Jeff Irwin
Pottery Creation: Building Coiled Pots
-Demonstration of Prehistoric Pottery Making by Joe Herbert
-Hands-On Coil Pottery Making by NCPC staff
Exhibits at the NCPC open to the public ALL DAY--FREE! Please be sure to view the new Contemporary American Indian Pottery Exhibit, the permanent historical exhibits, gallery exhibits and gift shop.

Meeting will conclude at 4:00PM

Lunch Form to be returned by May 9th

North Carolina Archaeological Society's 2008 Spring Meeting
Hosted by the North Carolina Pottery Center, Seagrove, North Carolina
Saturday, May 17, 2008

Name(s) as you would like it to appear on nametag: _____

Buffet lunch catered by Jordan Catering consisting of BBQ, fried chicken, two slaws, green beans, baked beans, potato salad, rolls, tea & lemonade, and dessert. \$10/each.

_____ @ \$10/ea. Total enclosed \$ _____

Mail form with payment to: Dee Nelms, NCAS, 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619 or for further information call @ 919/807-6552.

Exhibit Description

The North Carolina Pottery Center presents Contemporary Pottery from North Carolina's American Indian Communities and Contemporary Catawba Potters, on view May 9 - August 23, 2008.

Before the arrival of the first Spanish explorers in the mid 1500s, the Catawba Indian Nation controlled a land base of approximately 55,000 square miles which included portions of North Carolina and Virginia and most of South Carolina. Within the next two centuries, European settlement left the Catawba population decimated by disease, enslavement, and war, with treaties made and broken, hunting grounds and land for traditional farming methods taken from them.

Yet through the great destruction, the Catawba Nation maintained the longest unbroken pottery making tradition in the United States. Pottery provided much needed capital both for sale and trade. But just as importantly, the process and forms used to create the work preserved and conveyed cultural identity. Functional ware, ceremonial pieces, and work made for barter have been an integral part of the Catawba culture and its antecedents for thousands of years. Today the potter's work continues to evolve within the historical and prescriptive shapes and methods they honor.

The exhibit will effectively showcase the work of potters within the state-recognized North Carolina tribes and increase their public recognition. The exhibit will provide the opportunity to develop a digital record of the artists' work and compile biographical data to complete a Directory of North Carolina American Indian potters. In conjunction with the exhibit, several of the potters will hold a demonstration workshop for the public.

Today, North Carolina has the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi River, with almost 100,000 tribal members. The Eastern Band of Cherokee is federally recognized and the state of North Carolina recognizes the Lumbee, Coharie, Haliwa-Saponi, Meherrin, and Waccamaw-Siouan tribes.

Directions to the North Carolina Pottery Center

(250 East Avenue, Seagrove, NC 27341 [336-873-8430])

From Charlotte (84 miles):

Take either NC 49 or I-85 north to the intersection with US 64 (Asheboro, NC). Take US 64 East to the intersection with US 220. Take US 220 south about 11 miles, to exit #45 (Seagrove / NC 705). At the end of the exit ramp turn left and follow the brown highway signs to the Center.

From Raleigh (80 miles):

Take US 64 West to the intersection with US 220. Take US 220 South about 11 miles, to exit #45 (Seagrove / NC 705). At the end of the exit ramp turn left and follow the brown highway signs to the Center.

From Winston-Salem / Greensboro (54/37 miles):

Take I-40 to the intersection with US 220. Take US 220 South, to exit #45 (Seagrove / NC 705). At the end of the exit ramp turn left and follow the brown highway signs to the Center.

From Southern Pines (41 miles):

Take NC 211 to the intersection of NC 705. Take NC 705 North 25 miles to Seagrove. Follow the brown highway signs to the Center.

Hotels/Motels

(Approximately 15 miles from Seagrove)

Hampton Inn
1137 Dixie Drive
Asheboro NC
(800) 426-7866

Holiday Inn Express
1127 E. Dixie Drive/Hwy 64
Asheboro NC
(800) 465-4329

Super 8 Motel
1020 Albemarle Road
Asheboro NC
(336) 625-1880

“Next to Two Rivers:” A Brief and True Report of the Wilson County Sesquicentennial Survey to Locate the Late Woodland and Protohistoric Tuscarora Community of Tosneoc

By Thomas E. Beaman, Jr., RPA

The name “Toisnot” is prominent in the folklore of eastern Wilson County and serves as the name of many places and things. There is Toisnot Creek, also referred to as Toisnot Swamp, a tributary of Contentnea Creek that originates just south of the Greene County border and terminates just over the border of Nash County. The first settlement by Europeans in what is now Wilson County, ca. 1740, was known as Toisnot Church. The original nineteenth-century name of Elm City was Toisnot Town before it was changed in 1913 (Powell 1968: 162). Toisnot continues to be used in modern day throughout the eastern part of Wilson County as the name for a reservoir, a park, a middle school, a fire district and fire department, street names in Wilson and Elm City, and a retail center (known as Toisnot Village).

Toisnot is the modern phonetic spelling of “Tosneoc,” an historically identified Tuscarora community. The Tuscarora were a Native American cultural group who resided in the northern Inner Coastal Plain from approximately 800 A.D. to the early eighteenth century. Mentions of Tosneoc are scant in known historical records as compared with other protohistoric Tuscarora communities. It is one of the fifteen Tuscarora towns named by John Lawson (1967 [1709]: 242) in *A New Voyage to Carolina*, a chronicle of his 1701 journey from Charleston, South Carolina, to what is now Bath, North Carolina. Tosneoc also appears with alternative spellings in 1711 and 1712 treaties between the Tuscarora natives and the colonies of North Carolina and Virginia, respectively, and on the ca. 1716 map of North Carolina by Baron Christoph Von Graffenried. In its most common spelling, Tosneoc means “next to two rivers” or “next to an unusual river” in the Iroquoian language of the Tuscarora, and alternative historical spellings such as “Tostohant” carry similar meanings (Rudes 2000). Local Wilson County historian and long-time artifact collector Marion “Monk” Moore recounts a more colorful derivation of the name Tosneoc, as he tells a story of a Tuscarora chief telling a native woman who was planned to throw her unwanted baby into a creek to “*Toss Not!*” (personal communication, 2005).

The persistence of the Tosneoc (Toisnot) name in Wilson County has led to speculation and previous searches for archaeological sites in Wilson County that may represent a late woodland and protohistoric Tuscarora village. By the 1960s, a location suspected to be Tosneoc was identified by the late Hugh Johnson, a local historian and artifact collector, on a ridge toe situated near the confluence of Toisnot Creek and Buck Branch. Not likely a coincidence, this was on property owned by Johnson and is still within his family. Yet through the efforts of the late Johnson and his protégé Moore, this location persists in local lore as the village of Tosneoc, and is even described

as such in Powell’s (1968:494) *North Carolina Gazetteer*. A more formal search for Tosneoc was conducted in 1990 by archaeologist Paul Gardner and students from Barton College. Gardner and his students visited and surface collected a total of fourteen sites along Toisnot Creek. He reported these surveys did not identify a potential site for Tosneoc, even noting that they were unable “to locate any sizeable Woodland period occupation” (Gardner 1991:1-2). Gardner (1991:2) does add that local informants claimed to know of such sites.

One of the most exciting aspects of scientific archaeology is the on-going process of discovery and reinterpretation. Newly identified patterns of past cultural behaviors are regularly hypothesized and used to evaluate previously excavated archaeological collections to hopefully illuminate new meanings in older data. With this thought in reference to the location of prehistoric and protohistoric Tuscarora communities, previous archaeological data were considered in the development of a distributional model hypothesized by Byrd (1995, 1996) and successfully tested along the Lower Contentnea Creek in Lenoir, Pitt, Greene, and Wayne counties by Byrd and Heath (1997, 2004). The density of these communities along Contentnea Creek is not a coincidence, as Contentnea is a Tuscarora name that means “fish passing by” (Rudes, personal communication 2005). While Tuscarora villages and towns are named and described in Lawson (1967 [1709]: 242), Barnwell (1908a, 1908b), and various historical treaties and maps, these studies by Byrd and Heath provide archaeologists with a new model of Tuscarora settlement—not a single site, but a number of archaeological sites that represent a named community (Figure 1). Such community sites may range from nucleated villages to organized hamlets, single farmsteads, seasonal camps, and special activity sites, and were chosen by the Tuscarora more on similar environmental conditions of soil type, distance to water, and elevation than did their prehistoric predecessors in the same region (Byrd 1995, 1996; Byrd and Heath 1997, 2004; Phelps 1983:43; Phelps and Heath 1998:4).

With this new perspective on Tuscarora settlement patterns and the financial support of the Wilson County Historical Association and Wilson County Sesquicentennial Commission, a formal archaeological study was undertaken by Tar River Archaeological Research to locate and identify archaeological sites in Wilson County that may be associated with the Tosneoc community. A survey of Wilson County had originally been planned as part of the Contentnea Creek drainage study, but was later omitted due to limited time and budgetary constraints (Byrd and Heath 1997:2, 2004:117; Heath, personal communication 2005). The criteria defined by Byrd (1995, 1996) was adopted for use to make the search of Wilson County as

comparable as possible to the Lower Contentnea Creek study.

Additionally, the same criterion used to identify a Tuscarora archaeological component by Byrd and Heath (1997:32-33)—the presence of Cashie ceramics—was also adopted. Since its initial definition and description by Phelps (1980, 1983), the Cashie series of ceramics has more recently been subdivided into two different phases, Cashie I and Cashie II (Phelps and Heath 1998). Cashie I is the classic Cashie, and is used to describe the Tuscarora ceramics from the prehistoric and European contact period in the northern Inner Coastal Plain from approximately 800 AD to 1650 AD. Cashie II denotes specific differences in the ceramic tradition during the historic period, from approximately 1650 AD – 1715 AD (Phelps and Heath 1998:6). While there are many similarities between Cashie I and Cashie II, such as construction methods, pebble and granule sized quartz tempering, and surface treatments, the most pronounced differences that separate Cashie II are less vessel form diversity, vessel “hardness” (Cashie II is more friable), and lack of a “slip-like” finish on vessel interiors (Phelps and Heath 1998:6-10). Figure 2 illustrates the absence of an interior finish and coarse temper on three Cashie II sherds recovered from excavations “inside” Fort Neheroka (31GR4). Evidence of Cashie II ceramics have also been recovered from other historic Tuscarora sites, such as “Hancock’s Fort” (31LR230), and may represent a shift in female activities in the historic period from the production of high quality, durable pottery to increased hide tanning for the growing European deerskin trade (Heath, personal communication 2005).

The Wilson County Sesquicentennial Survey for Tosneoc resulted in the identification of twelve archaeological sites with Cashie components, as shown in Figure 3. These sites were located through the combined use of three different methodologies gleaned from previous successes and recommendations: evaluation of previously recorded sites, partnership with local artifact collectors to identify unrecorded locations, and finally field survey of high probability areas. While a technical report is currently in preparation, a brief summary of the preliminary findings is discussed below.

Background research was the first step. When this study formally began in 1995, there were a total of 291 archaeological sites listed in the files of the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology that had been previously recorded in Wilson County. These sites ranged from early locations initially reported by Johnson and other collectors to the University of North Carolina prior to the establishment of the Office of State Archaeology, as well as a small number identified through university studies (e.g., inspection by David Phelps of East Carolina University and Gardner [1991]), but the vast majority were the result of mandated cultural resource management studies. All site reports for Wilson County were consulted to ascertain sites that may have yielded Cashie ceramics, as well as scrutiny of previously recorded sites that met the criteria of Byrd’s (1995, 1996) model. With artifacts from specific sites identified for examination, the inspection of collections curated at the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory of East Carolina University, The Research Laboratories of

Archaeology at the University of North Carolina, and the Office of State Archaeology Research Center yielded very positive results. Four sites with Cashie ceramics were recorded in cultural resource management studies, and Gardner (1991) and his students collected four sites with Cashie ceramics, one of which was in a previously undocumented location. Site 31WL37, now referred to as the Wilson Bypass site, was a common link; it was surveyed and excavated for the North Carolina Department of Transportation as part of the Wilson Bypass construction (cf. Millis 1998, 2001), as well as revisited by Gardner (1991). In total, background research that entailed the visual inspections of artifact collections yielded a total of a total of seven distinct sites that contained Cashie ceramics.

In his report, Gardner (1991) remarked that local artifact collectors had knowledge of other sites with large Woodland components in Wilson County. Many archaeologists have had a long history of both friendship and frustration when they rely on and work with artifact collectors. While most collectors willingly show their collections, many are less forthcoming with the specific locations from which these collections were obtained until a solid level of trust has been established. As a long-time resident of Wilson County, I have personally known many of these collectors for years. Trust with unfamiliar artifact collectors was relatively easily obtained through mutual friends with a Coe Foundation for Archaeological Research (CFAR) projectile point poster and a promise to help document their collections. The real difficulty in working with collectors during this study was that most saved only unique stone artifacts (like projectile points), and for various reasons generally did not pick up or pay attention to prehistoric pottery sherds. Yet discussions with many local artifact collectors eventually yielded leads to the identification of two new sites that contained Cashie ceramics. An added benefit was the goodwill built towards archaeological research in the recollection of many previously undocumented artifact collections, several of which contained unreported finds of Paleo-Indian points.

Following the background research and discussions with artifact collectors, intermittent field surveys yielded three additional sites. At the beginning of the project, high probability areas were identified based on Byrd’s (1995, 1996) distributional model using soil type and distance from water sources. Site elevation could not be initially used, as Wilson County is located on a different geologic escarpment, and the average site elevation of Tuscarora settlements in Greene, Pitt, Lenoir and Wayne counties was lower than all of Wilson County. Following the background research, the seven previously documented sites with Cashie ceramics, as well as the Thorpe Site (31NS3) just over the border in Nash County, were used to calculate a new average site elevation. This variable allowed for redefined high probability areas. As all of these were in agricultural fields, permissions from landowners to examine these locations were obtained with a general agreement to survey between planting cycles for better ground visibility and to avoid potential damage to crops. After almost two years of intermittent surveys, all of the high probability areas along Toisnot and Contentnea creeks had been covered, and resulted in the recording of three

new sites with Cashie ceramics. During this time, new collections were also made from all of the sites identified in the background research and by artifact collectors.

Overall, the Sesquicentennial Search for Tosneoc succeeded beyond its initial goals, as it provided an opportunity to take a new look at the prehistory and history of Wilson County. In addition to a reevaluation of decades worth of existing artifact collections made by archaeologists with fresh perspective, twenty nine new archaeological sites were recorded and fourteen existing sites were revisited. Consultation with dozens of local collectors built substantial goodwill and education on more responsible artifact collecting, including basic record keeping practices. From private collections, three newly discovered Clovis points were identified from six Paleo-Indian period projectiles, and were documented by Randy Daniel as part of his North Carolina Fluted Point Survey.

But did this study locate Tosneoc? Based on the identification of twelve archaeological sites with Cashie ceramics as compared with the folklore in eastern Wilson County, it can be argued that most, if not all, of these sites do represent the Tuscarora community of Tosneoc. One site does match the general location hypothesized by Hugh Johnson and Marion Moore, and four of the sites visited by Gardner (1991) appear to be part of the community as well. As with the other six Tuscarora communities identified by Byrd and Heath (1997, 2004) shown in Figure 1, the sites with Cashie pottery in Wilson County do cluster more on smaller tributaries than on Contentnea Creek itself. Many of the sites in the southeastern portion of the county are also located "next to two rivers" of Contentnea Creek and Toisnot Creek. While most of the sites appear to be smaller hamlets and farmsteads, there are several candidates for larger, nucleated village sites. Though Byrd's (1995, 1996) distributional model for Tuscarora sites (with a modified site elevation variable) was again successfully tested, archaeological models are largely self-fulfilling prophecies; there may be additional sites with Cashie pottery that fall outside of the high probability locations.

Though the Sesquicentennial celebration of Wilson County has passed, the Wilson County Historical

Association continues to sponsor more substantive evaluations of these twelve sites and the search for additional sites to better define the community of Tosneoc, and Tar River Archaeological Research continues to involve many local volunteers and artifact collectors as part of this effort.

Acknowledgments. A multifaceted study of this magnitude is not the sole effort of an individual but a collaborative endeavor of many, for which the author wishes to thank for their valuable assistance and encouragement and hopes the final product reflects well on their efforts. While space prohibits an extensive list of individual contributions at this time, allow me to specifically thank Jerry MacLean and Phil Mooring of the Wilson County Historical Association for their overall enthusiastic support, Nick Jarman for stalwart field companionship and lithic analysis, Joe Herbert for sharing his knowledge of coastal Carolina ceramics, Alex Keown and Gray Whitley of the Wilson Daily Times for outstanding press coverage, as well as the dozens of land owners, collectors, and local volunteers who participated in this study. I am also deeply indebted to Charles Heath, who graciously shared his time, expertise, and ideas on Tuscarora settlement patterns and Cashie ceramics. And of course, thanks always to my wife Pam, for everything.

Collections. The collections used in the background research phase of this study are housed at the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory of East Carolina University in Greenville, The Research Laboratories of Archaeology at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and the Office of State Archaeology Research Center (OSARC) in Raleigh. Charlie Ewen, Steve Davis, and Billy Oliver, respectively, allowed me access to requested collections for which I am most appreciative. All artifacts collected during this project are presently housed at Tar River Archaeological Research in Wilson.

Disclaimer. The author assumes full responsibility for any factual errors and the interpretations presented in this newsletter article.

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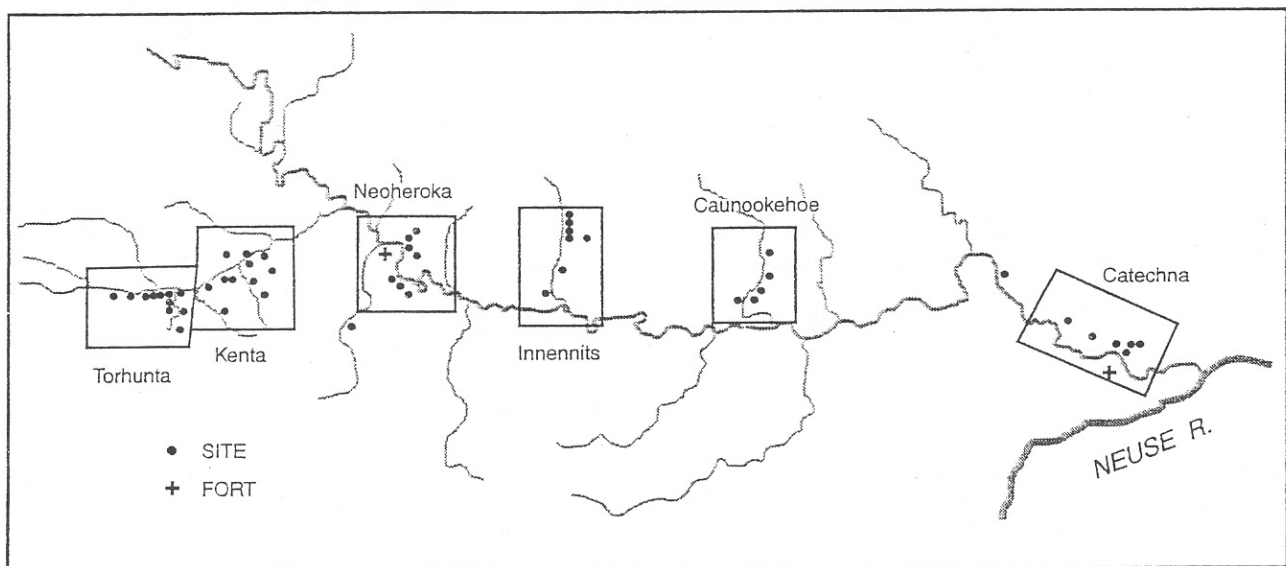


Figure 1. Distribution of Cashie sites along the Lower Contentnea Creek and the Tuscarora communities with which they are associated (after Figure 5.8 from Byrd and Heath 2004).

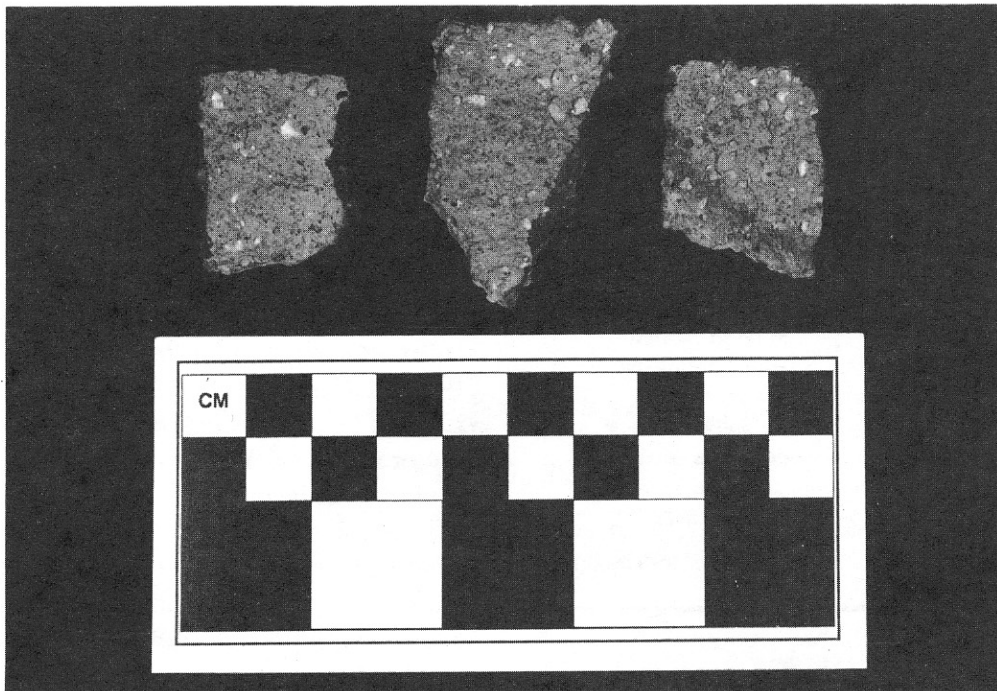


Figure 2. The interior of three Cashie II sherds excavated from “inside” of Fort Neoheroka (31GR4). Note the absence of an interior slip and coarse temper. These sherds are part of the Fort Neoheroka artifact collections curated by the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory at East Carolina University, and were photographed by the author with their permission.

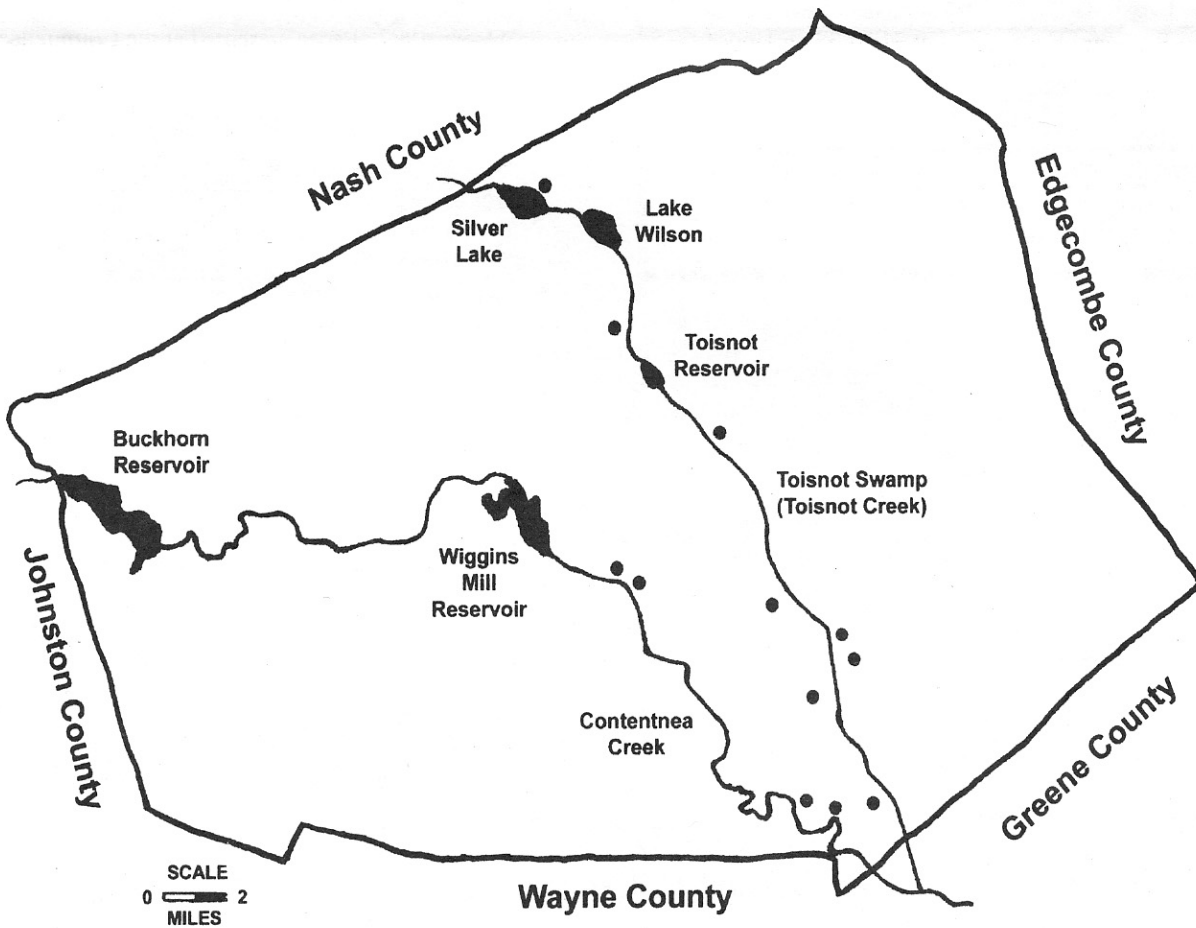


Figure 3. Distribution of Cashie sites through Wilson County, many if not all of which comprise the Tuscarora community of Tosneoc.

INVITATION

The Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) would like to invite the membership of the North Carolina Archaeological Society to attend the 2008 Annual Meeting of the ASV. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 9, through Sunday, October 12, at the Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville, Virginia. A fourth day has once again been added to the meeting schedule to include a presentation on the developing Virginia State Plan (for archaeological resources) with papers to be presented describing the current available knowledge base of the archaeological time periods. Further information is available on the recently redesigned ASV website at www.asv-archeology.org and will be updated as further plans for the Annual Meeting become available.

Charles "Mike" Wilke, President
Archeological Society of Virginia

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

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