
NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

109 EAST JONES ST., RALEIGH, N.C., 27601-2807

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NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the North Carolina Archaeological Society

The long-awaited merger has finally happened! In October, the Archaeological Society of North Carolina and the Friends of North Carolina Archaeology joined to form the **North Carolina Archaeological Society**. The merged organization is larger and stronger, and as a consequence much more effective in speaking for archaeology than either of its predecessors alone. Moreover, a larger and stronger organization will be able to provide better services for its members. Our first meeting (at Morrow Mountain State Park in November) was a great success; with lectures, site tours, and a variety of outdoor activities, it was the best-attended meeting in recent memory. We take this as a good omen for the future.

As with any membership organization, the continued health of the North Carolina Archaeological Society depends largely on you.

Members support the Society with their dues; they also support the Society with their participation. If you are interested in running for the board of directors, serving as an officer, helping with the newsletter, starting a local chapter, organizing a bus trip, or contributing your ideas or energy in other ways, please let us know. We will do everything we can to help. The more member participation there is at all levels, the healthier and more enjoyable the Society will be for everyone.

So, on behalf of all the new board members, welcome to the North Carolina Archaeological Society!

Kirby Ward, President
Richard Terrell, Vice-President
Bill Conen, Treasurer
Mark Mathis, Editor
Vin Steponaitis, Secretary

From the President

Most of you are by now aware that the merger of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina and Friends of North Carolina Archaeology was unanimously approved by both memberships thus beginning the North Carolina Archaeological Society (NCAS). This is a very exciting time for all of us.

Thanks to all of you who have worked so diligently to make this transition a success. Your hard work is very much appreciated. While there remains much to be done as we approach a new beginning, I am confident that our continued working together will make NCAS one of the best state organizations. We have a proud history to build upon and an exciting future.

Kirby Ward

Results of ASNC Merger Referendum

Last summer, the Archaeological Society of North Carolina held a mail referendum on whether to merge with the Friends of North Carolina Archaeology, as stipulated in the June agreement signed by the officers of the two organizations. A total of 242 ballots were mailed, and 175 (72%) were returned. The final tally was as follows: 170 in favor of merger, 3 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 ballot returned too late to be counted. In other words, the merger won by a landslide: it was supported by 97% of those who voted, who comprised more than 70% of the total membership at the time of the vote.

Surely this bodes well for the new organization!

Vin Steponaitis

Preservation Award Made To James and Josephine Worsley



(Left to Right: Beverly Webb, Josephine Worsley and James Worsley)

James C. and Josephine Worsley of Conetoe were presented with a 1991 Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit for outstanding efforts in the field of historic preservation. The award, presented during the annual meeting of the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, was made by President Beverly R. Webb.

The Worsleys were selected for the award as a result of their efforts to preserve an archaeological site located on their farm, and to allow intensive investigations at the site by a team of professional archaeologists and dedicated volunteers.

The Worsley Site, 31ED89, is a well-preserved mid-eighteenth century farmstead or small plantation. The site is the first of its time to be excavated in the inner Coastal Plain of North Carolina, and is providing valuable information on lifeways, settlement and standards of living during the early settlement of the region.

To date the site has yielded the remains of a brick-floored structure with Flemish-bond walls. Four courses of brick remain below the surface, suggesting that the structure had a raised first-floor with an English basement. Approximately 30 percent of the bricks are glazed with a deep blue-green glaze, and several of them contain fingerprints of the makers. The remains of one fireplace with an adjacent bulkhead entrance have also been uncovered. The entrance retains three steps with some of the wood treads surviving in place. The remains of two

additional structures have been discovered as have fencelines and trash pits.

Artifacts recovered from the site include ceramics dating from the early and middle eighteenth century. Many of the ceramics are from tea sets or decorative pieces, suggesting that the inhabitants were well-to-do. Personal items such as shoe buckles, gilded buttons, glass buttons and kaolin pipes have also been recovered. A small iron griddle was recovered from the hearth where it had probably been used for many years. A number of straight pins were also recovered from in front of the hearth, bringing to mind a vision of the seamstress working by the light of the fire. All of these small fragments give a picture of the life lived by the former inhabitants of the site.

Initial excavations at the site were conducted in the summer of 1989 when a volunteer crew worked to salvage whatever information could be obtained before spring planting. When the initial test units encountered a mass of brick rubble and the potential for intact remains, Mr. Worsley decided not to deep-plow the field. As the volunteer crew continued with the excavations, it became apparent that the site was an extremely important archaeological resource. Since that time, the Worsleys have removed the site area of the field from cultivation and have allowed the excavations to continue. Because the work is being conducted on weekends with a volunteer crew, the work has continued for two years, and is still underway.

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During this time, the Worsleys have not only allowed access, they have also provided security for the site. They have provided water, restroom facilities, and have even fed the crew. Mr. Worsley has kept the area mowed, and has provided mechanical equipment and an operator to work with the archaeologist to remove the plow zone from large areas of the site.

James C. and Josephine Worsley were awarded the Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit to recognize their contributions to the

field of archaeological research. They have allowed access to and excavation of a significant resource, and have provided substantial in-kind contributions. Without their assistance, the retrieval of valuable archaeological information would not have been possible.

For more information on the archaeological investigations contact Coastal Carolina Research, Inc. at 919/641-1444.

Loretta Lautzenheiser

Some Thoughts on the Election of Officers

In the past two years (at least) a disturbing trend seems to have been established within the archaeological officers. Members have been presented a slate of candidates with one name per office and asked (barring nominations from the floor) to vote to accept the slate by acclamation. The worst abuse of this process occurred at the NCAC meeting last spring, but it has occurred at ASNC and FNCA meetings also. What is equally disturbing is that the same names keep appearing in elections of all three organizations.

Let me make it clear that this is not an objection to the people chosen to fill the various officer or director positions in the organizations. They are all very capable, dedicated individuals whom I'm sure will do a competent job. Many of the individuals are personal friends and colleagues. Nor am I so paranoid that I see a conspiracy of a small clique bent on taking over archaeology in North Carolina! I simply want to offer my comments and suggestions on the advantages of democratic elections.

When I have inquired as to why there were no other candidates presented, I have received the answer, "It's just too hard to get people to agree to be candidates for office." I don't believe that. I believe that this state is filled with competent, interested, and dedicated archaeologists, both professional and avocational, who would serve their societies well if they were asked. Perhaps they are much too busy with other things (aren't we all?) to take on additional responsibility, but as things are now, we have put that duty on a few individuals only. Taking a part in conducting the business of an organization should be a shared responsibility of all of the members of that organization.

If a committee charged with nominating candidates for office in an organization can only come up with one name per office, we must conclude either that the organization is in such poor shape that the majority of its members don't care what happens to it, or we must conclude that the nomination committee failed miserably in its task.

I would strongly suggest that nominating committees be composed of outgoing officers and that they put forth slates of candidates with a minimum of two names per office. All elections should be conducted by mail in order to involve the membership in the election of officers. Now that ASNC and FNCA have merged, we must decide whether to continue to rely upon a small group of overly burdened individuals to provide leadership to the organization, or whether we want to become less exclusive and more inclusive of the membership, open to new ideas and willing to put new talents to work.

Tom Padgett

ASNC/FNCA T-Shirts and Hats

ASNC T-shirts are available in grey (w/ a black design) in adult medium and small and in blue (w/ a black design) in adult small.

FNCA T-shirts are available in four colors (black w/ a white design, ecru w/ a black design, navy w/ a white design, and white w/ a navy design) in all adult sizes (small, medium, large, x-large).

FNCA hats are available in a winter style in dark brown (w/ an FNCA patch on the front).

T-shirts can be purchased for \$8.00 each and hats for \$7.00 each (includes postage/handling) from NCAS, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807 or (919) 733-7342.

Artifacts or Just Art? Indian Relic Trade is Risky Business for Amateurs

The increasing demand for Indian Relics has created an alarming surge in pothunting, and recent arrests of individuals who were caught desecrating protected sites are bringing this problem to the public's attention. However this increased demand for artifacts has created another serious issue which has failed to make the headlines; home-made replicas of Indian artifacts are frequently sold to unsuspecting amateurs as the real thing.

A veteran surface collector recently confessed that he could not resist temptation when offered a beautiful Clovis for only \$100. Some time later he learned that the seller of this point was an expert flintknapper whose "artifacts" were almost entirely self-made. Coupling this information with the realization that a true Clovis of similar quality was worth much more than what he had paid, the collector sadly admitted that he had been cheated.

"Sir, can you tell me how old this is and what tribe it came from?" asked a middle-aged woman to an archaeologist at an ASNC meeting a few years ago. She presented a beautifully worked, ceremonial blade which her husband had purchased for "more than a hundred dollars". After a minute of scrutiny, the archaeologist informed her that the artifact was a forgery, it had been recently made, and was no Indian relic.

Stories such as these are becoming much more common as amateur collectors seek to accumulate prized artifacts. One of the reasons

for the dramatic escalation in artifact forgeries seems to arise from the nature of an artifact's value in the eyes of some collectors.

An artifact appears to attain its monetary value from two sources: (1) the quality of the object's physical attributes such as size, shape, color and quality of workmanship, and (2) the object's age and rarity. It is this second factor which cannot be manufactured, however by deceiving the unwitting buyer, the addition of antiquity value brings handsome profits to the seller. In North Carolina alone there are many talented craftsmen who are capable of making artifact replicas which appear real even to a seasoned collector. Some of these craftsmen will stoop to deception and they have learned many tricks which lend an ancient appearance to their handiwork. Since very few individuals have the experience and expertise to authenticate an artifact, Indian relic rip-offs have become a lucrative business.

The focus of this article is to draw attention to fraud in the artifact trade (which is as widespread as it is unpublicized) and should not be construed as an accusation that all who flintknape and sell artifacts are deceitful. Certainly it is good that we have artist receiving a fair price for his work. But unless you are an expert at artifact authentication, anyone who seeks to improve their collection by buying artifacts should take to heart the age-old expression "caveat emptor", which means "let the buyer beware".

Richard Terrell

1991 NC State Fair Exhibit

The underwater archaeology exhibit at the 1991 North Carolina State Fair (located in the Kerr Scott building) featuring **Hidden Beneath the Waves**, was a tremendous success. It appears from semi-official tallies that we reached over 20,000 people with the exhibit.

North Carolina has a long and rich maritime heritage. This nautical tradition, coupled with a hazardous coastline and naval warfare, has left a unique legacy. Hidden beneath the waves, often buried in the sand or mud, lie countless shipwrecks and other relics from the past.

For over two decades underwater archaeologists have been exploring and charting these submerged sites in an effort to better understand our history.

Cooperative, work-intensive efforts like the Fair exhibit benefit our group through new memberships and enhanced public identities. We attract people's attention by showing them artifacts and photographs. And then we can pass along the real "message" about the need for protecting and interpreting North Carolina's archaeological resources. Public education at its best.

Free Catalog

Offers Wide Variety of North Carolina
Publications

A new 1991-1992 catalog that describes more than 150 North Carolina related publications is now available free of charge from the Historical Publications Section of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. Among the recent titles and old favorites are paperback books about pirates, lighthouses, the Civil War, highway historical markers, sports history, whaling, and the early automobile in North Carolina. Also included are county histories, books about North Carolina's participation in military engagements from the War of the Regulation to World War II, periodicals, documentary volumes containing the edited papers of notable North Carolinians, maps, facsimile documents, posters, archival guides, and guides to five state historic sites. New titles and publications of special interest to genealogists are designated. To receive a free copy (or copies) of the 1991-1992 catalog, write: Historical Publications Section, Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807; or telephone 919/733-7442.

NCAS Officers

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!