



**North Carolina  
Archaeological Society**

**Newsletter**

4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4619

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

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## Former NCAS President Whitey Graham Dies

Robert V. Graham, known to his many friends as Whitey, passed away on November 22, 2010. Whitey was an active member of the North Carolina Archaeological Society for more than 35 years. He served multiple terms as an executive board member, beginning in 1977, and was president of the Society between 1997 and 1999.

A native of Raleigh, Whitey's interest in archaeology began during his childhood in the late 1930s and early 1940s, when he collected artifacts on his grandparents' farm in Montgomery County and visited the early excavations by Joffre Coe at nearby Town Creek, then known as the Frutchey Mound. After graduating from Burlington High School and a stint in the U.S. Marine Corps, Whitey enjoyed a 40-year career with Western Electric, the manufacturing arm of AT&T.

As a longtime resident of Burlington, Whitey became an avid surface collector, recording numerous prehistoric and early historic archaeological sites in Alamance, Orange, and Guilford counties, and amassing a large collection of well-provenienced artifacts. His hobby as an avocational archaeologist was rivaled only by his love of golf; both endeavors provided solitude and allowed him to enjoy many hours outdoors. Over the past 15 years, Whitey worked with the staff of UNC's Research Laboratories of Archaeology to record the many sites he discovered, and his artifact collection now resides in the RLA's North Carolina Archaeological Collection. As a collector, Whitey was deeply committed to site preservation and educating landowners about the importance of archaeological sites to our understanding of the past.

Until last year, Whitey seldom missed an annual meeting of the Society. As an NCAS board member, he always sought ways to make the Society better and, from his business perspective, was keenly interested in the Society's financial security. Society members will forever be indebted to Whitey for his leadership in the sale of the NCAS's Blue Banks property near Greenville and the creation of an endowment fund (the NCAS Grant-in-Aid Program) from the proceeds of that sale. This endowment annually supports archaeological research in North Carolina by advanced archaeology students and avocational archaeologists. To honor Whitey's lasting contribution to the Society, its board recently renamed the grand-in-aid program the "Whitey Graham Award."

Whitey is survived by Peggy Campbell Graham, his wife of 51 years, his son Mark Robert Graham of Basking Ridge, N.J., and his daughter Elizabeth Graham Collier Asheville, N.C.

**R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr.**



# Revisiting the Scene: Archaeological Investigations at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site

John J. Mintz, Joshua B. Howard, Marty Matthews, and Fritz Farrow

Building on archaeological field methodologies first developed by Doug Scott and Richard Fox in their groundbreaking investigation at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1984, researchers John J. Mintz and Fritz A. Farrow of the NC Office of State Archaeology, Joshua B. Howard, archaeologist and military historian with the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and Marty Matthews, Curator of Research with the North Carolina Division of Historic Sites recently completed a fourteen-month archaeological and historical investigation at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site.

The project began as a seemingly innocuous conversation in the summer of 2009 between Mintz and Matthews on the steps of the NC Archives and History building in Raleigh. Initial discussion concerned the placement of interpretive signage at the site, but quickly turned into a multi-year, multi-disciplinary research endeavor, the Alamance Battleground Research Project (ABRP). The project focused on assembling never before collected archaeological information and reexamining the extant historical record with an overall goal of developing a better understanding of the events that took place on May 16 1771, just south of the small, backcountry village of Alamance.

The battleground is the site of the climactic event in the War of the Regulation. The battle occurred when a group of disgruntled farmers, known as Regulators, clashed with members of the North Carolina colonial militia under command of royal governor William Tryon. Tryon's forces sustained about seventy casualties in their rout of the well-trained, but poorly organized farmers. Although the number of Regulator casualties is not known, seven were hanged as a result of the insurrection.

In the 1940s, Mrs. G. A. Kernodle of the Daughters of the American Revolution began a movement to have the Alamance Battleground officially recognized. In 1952 the Alamance County commissioners decided the approximately forty-acre tract to the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development to be developed as a historic site. In 1955 the responsibility for the site was transferred to the Department of Archives and History. However, it was not until May 16, 1961, that the site was officially dedicated and opened to the public.

The systematic archaeological field investigation utilized a standard 100 x 100 foot square grid system. Forty-one units were examined, totaling over 400,000 square feet. Each study area was further divided into twenty-five, four-foot wide lanes, which allowed the project staff to undertake a systematic metal detector sweep, excavating and recording subsurface anomalies. A series of shovel tests and 5x5 foot excavation units were also placed throughout the project area to assist in identifying artifact distributions and to gather soils information relating to post battle erosion and depositional processes. At the conclusion of each field day, the locations were mapped using Geographic Position Systems (GPS) coordinates and transferred onto a

topographic map. The resulting map will allow the project staff to denote the locations of all recovered battle-related artifacts, helping to define and illuminate how the battle was fought across the site.

The investigation recovered over 120 battle-related artifacts, with approximately 115 formally classified as ordnance. The vast majority of the recovered ordnance originated from small arms, including musket and rifle balls, as well as buck and swan shot. Fortunately, several pieces of iron "grapeshot" were also identified in the artifact assemblage. The recovery of the grapeshot will assist us in determining where Governor Tryon's artillery was deployed. This information in conjunction with the historical data will allow us to develop a more precise timeline of the battle and to define both general and specific artifact patterns.

The archaeological field investigations were completed over six non-consecutive weekends during an approximate 14 month period and drew heavily upon the expertise of the Old North State Detectorists (a non-profit organization of metal detector hobbyists) who donated approximately 650 hours of their time. In addition, more than two hundred volunteers from across the state and from a variety of backgrounds participated and shared their enthusiasm to help illuminate an event that occurred some 239 years ago.

A day-long symposium discussing the results of the recent archaeological and historical investigations at Alamance Battleground is planned for May 14, 2011, the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. This symposium is free and open to the public, and will include a guided tour of the battlefield. As an added bonus, several guest speakers will also be featured. Dr. Larry Babits, Director of the Maritime History Program at East Carolina University and George Washington Distinguished Professor of History, will discuss the method and theory associated with military sites archaeology. Dr. Babits has extensive experience in maritime and military history. He was named a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians in 2007. His most recent books include: *The Historical Archaeology of Military Sites: Method and Topic*, (co-edited with Clarence R. Geier, Douglas D. Scott, and David G. Orr; [2010]); *Fields of Conflict: Battlefield Archaeology from the Roman Empire to the Korean War*. Potomac Books, Washington, DC (co-edited with Douglas Scott and Charles Haeker [2009]); and *Long, Obstinate, and Bloody: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC (co-authored with Joshua B. Howard [2008]).

Following Dr. Babits will be a presentation by Dr. Carol W. Troxler, Professor Emerita of History at Elon University. Dr. Troxler will discuss the history of Alamance County and the events leading up to the battle.

For further information please contact Alamance Battleground State Historic Site at 336.227.4785 or email at [alamance@ncdcr.gov](mailto:alamance@ncdcr.gov).



OSA Field Supervisor Fritz Farrow (right) instructs Boy Scout volunteer Zane Goins during the archaeological investigation at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site.

## NCAS Whitey Graham Award 2011

**Randy Daniel and David Moore**  
**Co-chairs, NCAS Endowment Committee**

The North Carolina Archaeological Society will continue its Grants-in-Aid Program designed to fund research pertaining to North Carolina Archaeology. At least one grant up to \$1000 will be awarded each year. An applicant must be a member of the North Carolina Archaeological Society and must be: (a) a graduate or undergraduate student actively pursuing a degree in archaeology or a related field; (b) an individual enrolled in an internship program with a museum, a state historic site, an archaeological park, or a Native American group (with state or federal recognition); or (c) an avocational archaeologist who has over time demonstrated a concern for the protection or study of archaeological resources within the state. The next deadline for

proposals is April 1, 2011. Full details and application instructions can be found on the web at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Grants/index.html>.

Grant recipients will be selected by the NCAS Endowment Committee, whose members currently include Randy Daniel (co-chair), Rick Langley, David Moore (co-chair), Ken Robinson, Vin Steponaitis, and Ann Tippitt.

The grants are underwritten by the NCAS Endowment Fund which was established in 2001 from the proceeds of the sale of the "Blue Banks" property near Greenville. The sale took place largely through the efforts of then-president Robert Graham. We owe him our thanks for making these grants possible!

# YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

## “Across the Border – An Archaeological and Environmental Discussion of the Sandhills Physiographic Province: A View from North and South Carolina.”

August 20, 2011

In conjunction with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Program, and the National Forests in North Carolina, The North Carolina Office of State Archaeology is pleased to announce the symposium, “Across the Border – An Archaeological and Environmental Discussion of the Sandhills Physiographic Province: A View from North and South Carolina.” Scheduled for August 20, 2011, from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. The conference will be held at Weymouth Woods State Park in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

The symposium will present the state of current research and provide suggestions for future studies for this unique physiographic region. Topics for discussion include prehistoric and historic settlement and subsistence practices, paleo-environmental studies, and military sites archaeology. Additional information forthcoming. For e-mail notification of updates, or with any questions, please contact John Mintz at 919-807-6555, or [john.mintz@ncdcr.gov](mailto:john.mintz@ncdcr.gov) with the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.

8:00-8:15 am *Welcome and Introductions*, John J. Mintz, and Lea Abbott, North Carolina Office of State Archaeology

8:15-8:45 am *Holocene Changes in Environments of the Sandhills*, Barbara Taylor, Freshwater Fisheries Research Laboratory, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Shawn Patch, New South Associates, Inc.,

8:45-9:15 am *38RD841/842/844: Archaeological and Geomorphological Research at an Archaic Period Site in the South Carolina Sandhills*, Audrey R. Dawson, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and Andrew Ivester, University of West Georgia

**Abstract.** Site 38RD841/842/844 is a large, multi-component site located on the U.S. Army Garrison of Fort Jackson, Richland County, South Carolina. Intensive excavations were conducted in the areas of the site containing deep, culturally stratified deposits in order to understand the Mid-Holocene occupations of the Carolina Sandhills. This paper will examine the unique suite of excavation methods, the extensive geomorphological analysis of the sediments and optically stimulated luminescence dating of selected samples in terms of how they inform our archaeological understanding of the Mid-Holocene adaptations of bands/micro-bands in the Sandhills environment.

9:15-9:45 am *Geoarchaeology Investigations in the Sandhills of the Southeastern U.S.*, Keith C. Seramur, Seramur and Associates, PC and Ellen Cowan, Department of Geology, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC

**Abstract.** The Sandhills region of the Coastal Plain is one of the more difficult areas in which to conduct geoarchaeology surveys. The leached, acidic sandy soils, lack of visual

stratigraphy in soil profiles and extensive bioturbation all contribute to the challenges in applying geoarchaeological methods to archaeology sites in the Sandhills. However, scientific advances and new methodologies used to analyze and interpret landforms and buried cultural horizons have allowed geoarchaeology to contribute significant data sets that can aid in interpretation of archaeology sites and the lifeways of indigenous cultures.

LiDAR digital elevation models show evidence of evolving Late Pleistocene and Holocene aeolian landforms. Evaluation of statistical parameters of particle size distribution of profile samples show aeolian depositional events within a micro-stratigraphy often not visible. OSL dating can be used to date these strata. Soil chemistry and magnetic susceptibility can provide evidence of the distribution of activity areas within a site. Soil micromorphology is used to observe evidence of pedogenesis, site occupation and bioturbation.

The time and laboratory analysis required to apply these techniques during archaeology studies is expensive and not all techniques work on the different types of occupation areas. Soil chemistry, magnetic susceptibility and soil micromorphology may not be appropriate techniques to use at short-term temporary occupations along migration pathways. However, important evidence of the types of occupations could be obtained using these methodologies at archaeology sites with a history of longer-term occupation near resources such as springs or quarries. This paper presents examples of results generated by applying multiple methodologies to archaeology sites in the Sandhills and illustrates how the evidence obtained from these geoarchaeology investigations can be used in site interpretation.

Examples will include correlating stratigraphy with buried cultural horizons in vertical profiles using soil chemistry and OSL dating. Elevated elemental concentrations are correlated with activity areas across archaeology sites. The relative age of soil horizons and evidence of bioturbation is observed from soil micromorphology in thin section.

9:45-10:00 am BREAK

10:00-10:30 am *Pine Barrens and Possum's Rations: Early Archaic Settlement in the Carolina Sandhills*, Christopher R. Moore, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and Jeffrey D. Irwin

**Abstract.** Competing models of Early Archaic settlement in the Southeast suggest broad-scale organization conditioned by either lithic raw material availability or seasonal exploitation of biotic resources and social interaction. In this paper, a view from beyond the quarries and away from the river is offered with data from the North Carolina Sandhills, a unique physiographic zone of the interior Coastal Plain. Distributional analysis of Early Archaic tools, analysis of tool assemblages

from possible upland base camps, application of GIS 'least-cost' analysis, and consideration of possible overland corridors are used to place local evidence of raw material use and settlement within a larger cultural landscape of the Early Holocene. The implications of Sandhills data for competing settlement models are explored.

10:30-11:00 am *Prehistoric Activity Areas in the Carolina Sandhills: Methodological and Archaeological Consideration*, Shawn M. Patch  
New South Associates, Inc.

**Abstract.** Recent excavations at multiple prehistoric sites in the North and South Carolina Sandhills have yielded important data about site structure and activities. This paper will discuss the utility and information potential of a range of specialized analyses used in conjunction with large block excavations for making inferences about hunter-gatherer activities.

11:00-11:30 am *The Geography of Native American Ceramic Sequencing on the Southeast Atlantic Slope and its Implications for Modeling Social Interaction and Cultural Relatedness in the Carolina Sand Hills*, John Cable, Palmetto Research Institute

**Abstract.** Ceramic production traditions are composed of a complex system of technological, stylistic and functional elements, all of which hold significance for evaluating the degree of social interaction and cultural relatedness between and within regional populations. Although archaeologists generally recognize this quality of ceramic traditions, methods and approaches directed toward systematizing and quantifying regional patterns of ceramic interaction have been slow to develop. This paper will provide a broad overview of what is known about pre-contact and contact regional ceramic sequences on the Southeast Atlantic Slope and attempt to develop a framework for examining the cultural relationships between regional populations. Specific focus for this paper will be placed on the cultures of the Carolina Sandhills, but it will become evident that the cultural profile of any single region cannot be understood without a broader view of ceramic trait distributions. In conclusion, strategies for further developing inter-regional data comparability are discussed.

11:30 am-12:00 pm Joe Herbert, Fort Bragg Cultural Resources Management Program

12:00-12:45 pm LUNCH

12:45-1:15 pm *Developing a Science of Compliance: 15+ Years of NCDOT Sponsored Investigation in the North Carolina Sandhills*, Scott E. Halvorsen, Matt Wilkerson (NCDCT) and Lawrence E. Abbott (NCOSA)

**Abstract.** Substantial growth and development within the Sandhills region of North Carolina over the last twenty years has resulted in an unremitting whirlwind of Section 106 activity tied to the expansion, construction, and maintenance of new, highway transportation systems in the area. A consequence of this work was the recordation of hundreds of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites and the mitigation of those NRHP eligible resources affected by these highway projects. A series of data recovery investigations was completed on 12 archaeological sites between 1999 and 2011 in the Sandhills, with an additional 5 sites slated for inquiry over the next few years. During that period of time, the NCDOT Archaeology Group, in

consultation with other state and federal agencies/entities, has made diligent and appropriate efforts/measures to incorporate more empirical field and laboratory methodologies in the exigency of paramount data and interpretation from the resource bases. This discussion will briefly relate archaeological site information garnered during the survey phases of investigation, and attempt to examine the successful methodologies employed during data recovery that may well afford the best opportunities to address future archaeological investigation in the region.

1:15-1:45 pm *Recent Archaeological Investigations in the Sandhills of North Carolina*, Jay Gray, TRC Solutions, Inc.

**Abstract.** The Blackjack Site (31CD1035) and McFayden Pond (31CD1008) sites are located on the Fort Bragg military Reservation and both recently underwent data recovery excavations for planned infrastructure improvements. The Blackjack site is a small, densely concentrated lithic site that was primarily deposited during a single episode of prehistoric occupation, while the McFayden pond site is a large palimpsest of Archaic and Woodland occupations. The data recovery operations focused on the structural interpretation and radiometric assessment of individual occupations as well as site taphonomy issues and the results of the investigations have implications for the relative data potential among these site types in the Sandhills.

1:45-2:15 pm *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Conflict in the Sandhills*, Josh Howard, North Carolina Office of Archives & History Research Branch

**Abstract.** The Sandhills region was largely settled by Europeans refugees of warfare, most notably the Jacobite rebellions. However, the Sandhills themselves became the scene of intense conflict in both the American Revolution and Civil War. Examining not only the major campaigns that traversed the Sandhills Region, but also the bloody, partisan warfare that took place there, is key to understanding the area's rich history.

2:15-2:45 pm *History and Archaeology of Fayetteville, North Carolina: Gateway to the Sandhills*, Kenneth Robinson and Bruce Daws

**Abstract.** This presentation summarizes the history of the Upper Cape Fear River region and the town of Cross Creek (later Fayetteville), and the town's position as a gateway for entry into the Sandhills throughout the historic era. Historical information about the development of the town is presented, along with archaeological information about early town infrastructure and transportation features. Regional trade and transportation connections are also summarized.

2:45-3:15 pm *Longleaf in the Sandhills: Growth and Decline*, Lawrence W. Early

**Abstract.** Longleaf pine was once a major natural and cultural resource that defined the character of the Sandhills region. Its exploitation by turpentiners and loggers hastened its decline.

3:15-4:00 pm Discussion

Discussants

Chris Espenshade, New South Associates, Inc.  
Paul Webb, TRC Solutions, Inc.

**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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**Vice-president:** Butch "Archie" Smith, 143 Cobble Ridge Drive, Pittsboro NC 27312

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