



North Carolina Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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

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A Belated Happy Birthday

This past year marked the North Carolina Archaeological Society's 80th anniversary. Formed in 1933 by a group of forward-thinking individuals interested in the discovery and preservation of sites, artifacts, and information vital to understanding the state's ancient past, the NCAS is one of our nation's oldest archaeological societies. The NCAS continues to support archaeology in North Carolina through public-outreach and educational programs, grants, publication of research, and annual meetings.

The following, written by Dr. Wallace E. Caldwell in 1934 for the first issue of the Society's new journal, *The Bulletin of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina*, describes the events leading to the Society's creation as well as its initial goals. Eighty years later, it is worth reflecting on the fact that all virtually all scientific archaeology conducted within our state derives from that humble beginning.

"For some years past a group of men interested in the study of the Indians of North Carolina have talked of the desirability of an organized approach to the problem. This talk finally resulted in a call which was sent out a year ago for a meeting of those known to be interested. At Chapel Hill, May 12, 1933, a temporary organization was made, with Douglas L. Rights as president. The aims and purposes of the society were discussed and plans were laid for future activities. The second meeting was held at the home of Burnham S. Colburn in Biltmore Forest on October 7, 1933. It was eminently successful as a meeting. Dr. Swanton and Mr. Judd of the Smithsonian Institution were present and gave addresses. The greatest contribution to the success of the meeting, however, was the fine hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Colburn, which those who were fortunate enough to attend will always remember.

The Society now feels itself ready to launch forth into activities appropriate to it, in token whereof we present this first number of the Bulletin. While the Society has as an important part of its program the study of the present-day Indians on the reservations, its immediate attention is directed to the past. It plans a careful and thorough archaeological survey of the state in order to secure such knowledge as possible of those Indian tribes which once occupied it. The officers of the Society hope that soon we may have active members in every county and local museums for the study and preservation of artifacts in important centers, with a central museum at the state university. For the present, however, we must appeal to our members and to all other interested persons to cooperate with us. We ask, therefore, that any person knowing of mounds or burial grounds, village sites, workshops, battle grounds, or fields where large numbers of Indian artifacts are or have been found, send as complete information as possible to the secretary of the Society. In this way, steady progress may be made toward the complete survey."



Some of the new Archaeological Society of North Carolina members attending the October, 1933, meeting in Biltmore Forest, including Mr. and Mrs. Burnham Colburn (front row, center), Wallace Caldwell (front row, left), Guy Johnson (front row, right), Neil Judd (middle row, left), James Bullitt (middle row, third from left), Douglas Rights (middle row, right), and John Swanton (back row, right).

In Memoriam

Jennifer Lynn Gabriel-Powell

July 23, 1979 – March 30, 2014

Jennifer Gabriel-Powell, known to her many friends as Jenn, passed away on March 30. Having discovered archaeology as both a passion and pathway to the past in her late 20s, Jenn had barely embarked on what was to be a promising, life-long professional odyssey of archaeological excavations and material analyses. Her field experiences were centered in North Carolina, and ranged from 18th century colonial period households, 19th century Civil War barracks, forts, and battlefields, but also included Bronze Age round houses in Britain. In the weeks following her untimely passing from a sudden subarachnoid hemorrhage, friends and colleagues from Mexico, Britain, and across the United States took to Facebook for consolation; it seems everyone who ever met or worked with Jenn in the field or classroom took solace through shared tales too numerous to count of how much she was loved, appreciated, and admired.



Jenn with the first artifact she found during the ADA Walkway clearance project at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site on June 24, 2008.

Jenn was a native of Stanley, North Carolina. After working for several years following high school, she attended the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. While at UNC-W, in spring of 2008 she accepted a position as a history intern at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. As part of her internship, Jenn participated in test excavations prior to the construction of the ADA Walkway led by John Mintz and Tom Beaman. When she found her first artifact—a fragment of British trailed slipware—I fondly remember in Jenn’s eyes how her discovery of a simple pottery sherd turned into a key to unlock the past as she learned more about it. It immediately inspired her to discover more of the past through archaeology, a passion she never lost. During her completion of a degree in Anthropology at UNC-W under Scott Simmons and Nora Reber, Jenn participated in additional excavations at Brunswick Town, including the documentation of the Gun Emplacement on Battery B, the 2009 William Peace University Archaeological Field School, and helping supervise the 2009 UNC-W Summer Ventures Program.

Beginning in the fall of 2010, Jenn began to pursue her MA degree in Anthropology under Charlie Ewen at East Carolina

University. She endured (“and survived”) the sweltering heat and excavations of sand dunes that cover the Elliason House site at Fort Macon, then again returned to Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson to help run the 2011 Summer Ventures Program and to finish gathering data for her thesis. Her thesis and subsequent work were pattern recognition studies of two colonial period households around which Civil War barracks were constructed. Jenn defined and named the “George Moore House” (the first new household named since Stanley South’s original work on the site), and also constructed the first material interpretation of the “Wooten-Marnan” house and kitchen. Her results were presented at both the Society for Historical Archaeology and Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology meetings, and appeared in published form in volumes 61 (2012) and 62 (2013) of *North Carolina Archaeology*.

Following the completion of her MA degree in 2012, it was during Jenn’s “first paying archaeology job” with Ewen and the Lost Colony Research Group that she met Andrew Powell, a published British historian who would become her future husband. After the project ended, a courtship over Skype followed, and Jenn moved to Britain. She and Andy were wed in January 2013. Jenn continued to remain active in archaeology by organizing the 17th and 18th century pottery collections at the Biddeford Museum, and in the excavation of three Bronze Age round houses. And, as a favor to a friend, she returned and co-supervised the investigations at Fort Caswell on Oak Island through May and June 2013.

Jenn is survived by her parents, Watson and “Deb” Dickens Gabriel of Stanley, and her husband, Andrew Gabriel-Powell of Umberleigh, Devon. A series of memorial events are scheduled around North Carolina through the month of May where condolences can be made in person to her parents and husband.

For those wishing to honor Jenn’s love of archaeology and Brunswick Town, a named student internship for undergraduate Anthropology majors has been established for Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site. Those who wish to make a contribution to the Jennifer-Gabriel Powell Internship can do so through the site’s support group, the Friends of Brunswick Town (c/o Shannon Walker, 8884 St. Phillips Road SE, Winnabow, North Carolina, 28479). Please note that any donation made to the Friends of Brunswick Town in remembrance of Jenn is for this internship.

Those of us who knew Jenn as a close friend still have to hold back our tears and will for a long while to come. While it is tragic for any life to end prematurely, the ethics, abilities, motivation, and an infectious passion for the past that Jenn had made her an all too rare breed of archaeologist. That is why she easily became so personally treasured as a fierce friend by many she encountered. While her trowel has been laid to rest, we are fortunate that the contributions Jennifer Gabriel-Powell made to archaeology in North Carolina endure, and will be both remembered and continue to be rediscovered for years to come.

Submitted by Thomas E. Beaman, Jr. and Hannah P. Smith

Excavate at Town Creek on June 7

NCAS Board Member Dr. Tony Boudreaux will host an NCAS members-only excavation day at Town Creek on Saturday, June 7. The excavations are part of Dr. Boudreaux's 5-week field school offered through East Carolina University. They also coincide with Town Creek's celebration of World Atlatl Day, which includes an atlatl-throwing competition and a tour of the site (check the Town Creek website for a full schedule of events: <http://www.nchistoricsites.org/town/town.htm>).

The fieldwork is planned for 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, and Society members are encouraged to participate. Activities include digging and sifting soil to recover artifacts. Several other board members will be available to train participants in field methods, so no previous experience is required. Reservations are necessary, however, and can be made by emailing Dr. Boudreaux (boudreaux@ecu.edu) or calling Rich Thompson (910-439-6802) at Town Creek. Please plan to bring your own lunch.

NC Archaeology in the Digital Age

This edition's featured website is the new North Carolina Archaeological Society Group Facebook page! In an effort to up our social media game, NCAS President-elect Tom Beaman created an open group for posting Society events, photos, updates, and interesting archaeology articles. Check it out and join the group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/204717659701514/> (or search Facebook for "North Carolina Archaeological Society").

The Archaeological Conservancy Continues to Expand in the Northeast

2014 marks the 34th year of The Archaeological Conservancy's efforts to permanently preserve the nation's most significant archaeological sites. As the only national nonprofit organization dedicated to this cause, the Conservancy has now protected over 465 sites in 41 states, including some considered to be America's most remarkable and famous. Without taking action, many of these sites would have been destroyed and the information that they contain lost forever. Once sites are acquired, they are managed as permanent open-space, archaeological research preserves which are available to professional archaeologists for research; and descendant communities for passive use. Any excavations conducted must guarantee that part of the site will remain unexcavated and undisturbed in accordance with an ethic of conservation. In order to pursue diverse sites in all areas of the United States, the Conservancy operates through five regional offices. The Eastern Regional Office is located in Frederick, MD, and handles the area from North Carolina to Maine.

In its more than 10-year history in Frederick, the Eastern Regional Office has doubled its holdings to over 50 sites dating from the Paleo through the 19th century. This includes sites at Lamoka Lake, NY; Thunderbird, VA; the Royal Blockhouse at Fort Edward, NY; the Pamplin Pipe Factory, VA; Ely Mound, VA; King's Quarry, PA; and Contentnea Creek, NC.

Recently, the Eastern Office has acquired the PE Soapstone Quarry, located in central Virginia. It is the largest and most intact soapstone quarry that has been found in the state thus far. Another recent acquisition is the well-known, 16th century Cayadutta Mohawk village near Johnstown, NY. The

village site is featured in archaeologist Dean Snow's Mohawk Valley Project and it is where Snow conducted excavations in the early 1980s. In 2013, the Conservancy also acquired several other important Iroquois village sites across New York and made advances in the acquisition of several sites in Pennsylvania and Virginia. In Maryland, we have wrapped up our project with the Maryland Historic Trust to compile a database of all National Register eligible sites.

In addition to saving important sites, the Conservancy also publishes *American Archaeology* magazine and offers archaeological-based tours throughout the Americas. These tours are generally 1-week long bus trips that take visitors to important archaeological sites and museums in the area. The Eastern office offers tours focusing on themes of the Colonial Chesapeake, the French and Indian War, and Iroquoia, with plans to add a tour of the Archaeology of Canada. The eastern regional office's next tour will visit sites connected to the French and Indian War in September of 2014.

The Conservancy's eastern regional office is led by Andy Stout. Kelley Berliner is the region's new Field Representative. They can be reached at 301-682-6359 or tac_east@verizon.net. Nationally, the Conservancy has also expanded its staff and it is launching a new website and outreach initiative for 2014. For more information on the Conservancy and to join its nearly 25,000 members, see their Facebook page or visit them on the web at www.americanarchaeology.org.

-Kelley Berliner

Save the date of October 18 for the Fall Meeting at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site!

**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:

Winter Issue – January 31 Summer Issue – July 31
Spring Issue – April 31 Fall Issue – October 31

NCAS Officers

President: Theresa McReynolds Shebalin, PO Box 676, Mebane NC 27302

Vice-president: Tom Beaman, 5210 Carr Road, Wilson NC 27893

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

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Executive Board Members: Daryl Armour, Tony Boudreaux, David Cranford, Charles Heath, John Krebs, Hannah Smith

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