



Online Resources Available from UNC's Research Laboratories of Archaeology

Steve Davis

Founded in 1939 as a center for the study of North Carolina archaeology, the Research Laboratories of Archaeology serves as the home to UNC-Chapel Hill's Curriculum in Archaeology and the North Carolina Archaeological Collection. Its three primary missions are to train students, conduct archaeological research, and provide programs and resources to inform and engage the public about North Carolina's first inhabitants—the American Indian. While much archaeological information has been made available through printed books, technical monographs, and journal articles, since the 1990s the RLA has increasingly used new technologies and media in an effort to reach a broader audience that includes K-12 students and educators, and the public at large.

Most of the RLA's educational resources are accessible to the public through its website at <http://rla.unc.edu>. We are currently in the process of revamping the site; however, this will not affect the resources that are available. In addition to providing access to digital copies of monographs, research reports, technical reports, and back issues of *Southern Indian Studies* and *North Carolina Archaeology*, several other resources are particularly noteworthy.

Excavating Occaneechi Town

One of the RLA's first efforts to present archaeological information in a data-rich and image-rich format culminated in the publication on CD-ROM of *Excavating Occaneechi Town: Archaeology of an Eighteenth-Century Indian Town in North Carolina* (edited by R. P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Patrick C. Livingood, H. Trawick Ward, and Vincas P. Steponaitis, University of North Carolina Press, 1998). This CD-ROM-based, interactive archaeological site report was one of the first of its kind, and allows viewers to explore the excavated Fredricks site at their computers. It contains articles, descriptions of archaeological features, drawings, data tables, and more

than 1,000 color images that can be retrieved interactively through the site's excavation plan. It also contains a program, called the Electronic Dig, that allows the user to re-excavate the site digitally in any manner they wish. The Electronic Dig has been widely used as a teaching tool. While *Excavating Occaneechi Town* is now somewhat dated, and the CD-ROM is not compatible with 64-bit operating systems, it is still freely available as a web application at <http://rla.unc.edu/dig/>.

Intrigue of the Past

Another effort in the late 1990s was the creation of a teacher's activity guide for fourth through eighth grades called "Intrigue of the Past: North Carolina's First Peoples." This guide was made available online to teachers through the RLA's website (<http://rla.unc.edu/lessons/>) and the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education's LearnNC website (<http://learnnc.org/lp/editions/intrigue/>). It was accompanied by a still-available print version (*Intrigue of the Past: North Carolina's First Peoples*, compiled and edited by Margo L. Price, Patricia M. Samford, and Vincas P. Steponaitis, Monograph No. 3, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2001). *Intrigue of the Past* remains a useful tool for North Carolina's school teachers.

The Archaeology of North Carolina

At the same time as these resources were being developed, Trawick Ward and Steve Davis authored a book on our state's early history as revealed through archaeology. Titled *Time Before History: The Archaeology of North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 1999), it was intended for both scholarly and public audiences. In order to make some of the book's contents more broadly accessible, an online exhibit was created by Duane

Esarey in 2010 called “The Archaeology of North Carolina” (<http://rla.unc.edu/ArchaeoNC/index.htm>). This exhibit is organized geographically and by time period, and provides many color images of the black-and-white photos contained in the book.

Search the North Carolina Archaeological Collection

Over the past several years, two other resources have been developed to allow the public greater access to the RLA’s North Carolina Archaeological Collection, which includes more than 8,000,000 artifacts (mostly from North Carolina) and more than 60,000 photographs of sites, excavations, archaeological contexts, and artifacts. One of these is simply titled “Search the North Carolina Archaeological Collection” and provides online access to the RLA’s archaeological specimen catalog (see <https://rla.lib.unc.edu/rla/>). This database can be used to explore and find artifacts in the collection and, in some cases, see photographs of those artifacts. It was developed by Steve Davis and Vin Steponaitis in collaboration with Tim Shearer, Steve Segedy, and Dean Farrell of UNC Libraries, and provides unprecedented access to the North Carolina Archaeological Collection by outside users.

Search RLA Photos in the Carolina Digital Repository

The RLA’s fully digitized photographic collection resides in the Carolina Digital Repository, or CDR (see <https://cdr.lib.unc.edu>). To see photographs belonging to the RLA, select Browse | Browse Collections from the home page and then scroll down to “Research Laboratories of Archaeology.” From there, you can explore the folders containing photographs; alternatively, you can click on the Advanced Search button, limit the search to “Research Laboratories of Archaeology” under “Collections,” and search the photo archive using keywords (for example, Hardaway or Town Creek). All accessible photographs can be downloaded. Other documents, including RLA and NCAS publications, also are archived in the CDR and are available as pdf files to view or download.

Early Maps of the American South

Finally, Vin Steponaitis has compiled an extensive digital archive of historical maps of eastern North America from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. These include: Early Maps of the American South (<http://rla.unc.edu/EMAS/index.html>); Early Maps of the American Midwest and Great Lakes (<http://rla.unc.edu/EMAS/EMMGL.html>); The Crown Collection of Photographs of

American Maps (<http://rla.unc.edu/EMAS/CC.html>); and Early Architectural Drawings of Colonial Louisiana (<http://rla.unc.edu/Louisiane/bldgs.html>).

Virtual Museum of North Carolina Archaeology

Vin Steponaitis, Ashley Peles, Brad Erickson, Marissa Wojcinski, and Steve Davis are currently developing a new online museum of North Carolina archaeology titled “Ancient North Carolinians: A Virtual Museum of North Carolina Archaeology.” This project is supported by the C. Felix Harvey Award to Advance Institutional Priorities (UNC-CH) and the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust’s Kenan Creative Collaboratory Project. It also will draw upon the expertise of archaeologists, educators, and other interested stakeholders from across the state.

This Virtual Museum will feature (1) exhibits on North Carolina archaeology and the ancient history of the state’s American Indian peoples; (2) resources for K-12 teachers and students, including lesson plans and inquiry-based activities; and (3) information for field trips and heritage tourism related to archaeological sites, Indian tribes, and other relevant cultural attractions within the state. The goal is to make this the premier web site for disseminating information on North Carolina’s ancient past to the general public and particularly to the state’s teachers and schoolchildren. We take as our model successful initiatives of this kind that have been carried out in other states, a prime example being the award-winning web site called Texas Beyond History (<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net>).

This ambitious project, to be accessible online by late 2016, will provide archaeological coverage of the entire state from the Paleoindian period through the nineteenth century.

3D Images on Sketchfab

As part of the Virtual Museum project, Steve Davis and student research assistants Stephanie Grant and Abigail Gancz have begun creating 3D models of artifacts from the North Carolina Archaeological Collection using a photogrammetric method called Structure from Motion. This method uses multiple, overlapping photographs to create accurate, photorealistic models that can be visually manipulated on the computer screen, measured, and even printed on a 3D printer. Our first task has been to model the projectile point type specimens illustrated in Joffre Coe’s *The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont* (1964). Almost 100 models have been created so far, including models of other artifacts and excavations. These are accessible at <https://sketchfab.com/rla-archaeology>.

Brett Riggs Named Sequoyah Distinguished Professor at WCU

In August, Brett Riggs resigned his position as Research Archaeologist and Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was named the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University. Brett has spent more than thirty years studying Cherokee archaeology and history, particularly the Cherokee Removal and Trail of Tears, and before coming to UNC in 2001 worked as an archaeologist for the Tribal Historic Preservation Office of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. His new position will allow him to continue and expand that research while working to strengthen ties between WCU and the Cherokee people.

Brett joins archaeologists Jane Eastman and newly hired Ben Steere at WCU. Ben comes from the University of West Georgia and also has conducted archaeological research in western North Carolina for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. We wish Brett well in his new position and also welcome Ben back to North Carolina.

The Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC plans to hire another archaeologist with North Carolina research interests to replace Brett.

Tony Boudreaux Leaves ECU

Tony Boudreaux, an anthropology professor at East Carolina University since 2008 and former NCAS board member, returned to his home state in July and is now Associate Professor of Anthropology and Director of the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Mississippi. Over the past seven years, Tony and his students at ECU have undertaken numerous field and lab-based research projects focused on the Town Creek site near Mt. Gilead, North Carolina. Tony hopes to continue his research related to Town Creek in addition to his new duties at Ole Miss, and we look forward to hearing about his new insights about this important site. At this time there are no immediate plans by ECU to refill his faculty position.

Dolores Hall Retires from OSA

Dolores Hall, Deputy State Archaeologist at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, retired from her position in November after a lengthy tenure spanning

five decades. As “keeper” of the institutional memory at OSA, Dolores was sought out often for her extensive firsthand knowledge about the governmental management of archaeological resources in North Carolina. The OSA website listed her duties as “National Register of Historic Places, Library Manager, Environmental Land Review, and Fieldwork;” however, those were just a few of the many ways Dolores has made a positive impact on North Carolina archaeology. A search is underway to fill her position, but she will be difficult to replace.

NCAS Business Office Moves to RLA

Effective January 1, 2016, the business office of the North Carolina Archaeological Society will transfer to the Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120. Please direct all correspondence regarding the Society to Lisa-Jean Michienzi (michienz@email.unc.edu).

NCAS Fall 2015 Meeting and Election of New Officers

The 2015 fall business meeting of the NCAS was held on Saturday, October 3, at the Jordan Lake Visitor's Center in Apex, NC. Unfortunately, the Archaeology Day events scheduled for later that day had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Following the quarterly meeting of the Society's board, election of new officers was concluded. Hannah Smith was elected president-elect for 2016-2017, and Tom Beaman moved from president-elect to president. Theresa McReynolds Shebalin stepped down as president after completing her term. Jon Schleier and Alice Wright were elected to the board of directors for 2016-2018, replacing Daryl Armour and John Krebs. Thank you Theresa, Daryl, and John, and welcome Jon and Alice. The board also welcomed Lisa-Jean Michienzi, department manager of the Research Laboratories of Archaeology, who has replaced Dee Nelms in handling the day-to-day business of the Society.

Several topics were discussed at the fall meeting, including: the transfer of NCAS financial records and membership files from OSA to RLA; updates to the NCAS webpage and Twitter account; plans for a new membership brochure; a review of NCAS by-laws regarding the establishment and function of regional chapters; a donation of NCAS items to SEAC student prize; NCAS representation; and plans for a spring

meeting in Cherokee. Stay tuned for more exciting information from your NCAS board, and please send any suggestions or thoughts for future programs and/or events to Tom Beaman (tebeaman@waketech.edu) or Linda Carnes-McNaughton (linda.f.carnes-mcnaughton.civ@mail.mil). We'd love to hear from you.

2016 Dues Reminder

It is time to renew your membership in the North Carolina Archaeological Society. Please fill out the dues form that was mailed with this newsletter and return it, along with your check, to: North Carolina Archaeological Society, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

NCAS Social Media Reminder

Looking for a way to stay up to date on the latest in archaeology news? Social media has become one of the most common ways to do so. Join the North Carolina Archaeological Society group on Facebook or follow @NCArchSociety on Twitter to stay up to date on news from North Carolina and the Southeastern US.

Save the Date for the NCAS Spring Meeting in Cherokee, NC!

The NCAS will host a spring meeting and archaeological bus tour in Cherokee, NC, on Saturday, April 23. Dr. Brett Riggs, Dr. Jane Eastman, and other archaeologists will teach us about the area's history through visits to Judaculla Rock, Kituwah, and other archaeological sites. Full details will be posted on the

NCAS website in early 2016 and included in the spring newsletter. If you want to reserve a spot in advance or have questions about local accommodations, please contact Theresa McReynolds Shebalin at theresa.shebalin@da.org or 919-749-5212.

NC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

All NCAS members are encouraged to submit articles and news items to Hannah Smith (hs@hannahpsmith.com) 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 30

Fall Issue – October 31