

NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Broad Reach Project Continues

Last year, a major project was initiated at the Broad Reach site (31Cr218), located on Bogue Sound, in Carteret County. Broad Reach is a large shell midden site containing a range of Early to Late Woodland period remains. So far, 426 cultural features have been identified at the site, including shell-filled pits, hearths, house patterns and human burials. Radiocarbon dates of AD 1158 and AD 1441 have been acquired for two of the features, both of which fall into the Late Woodland subperiod.

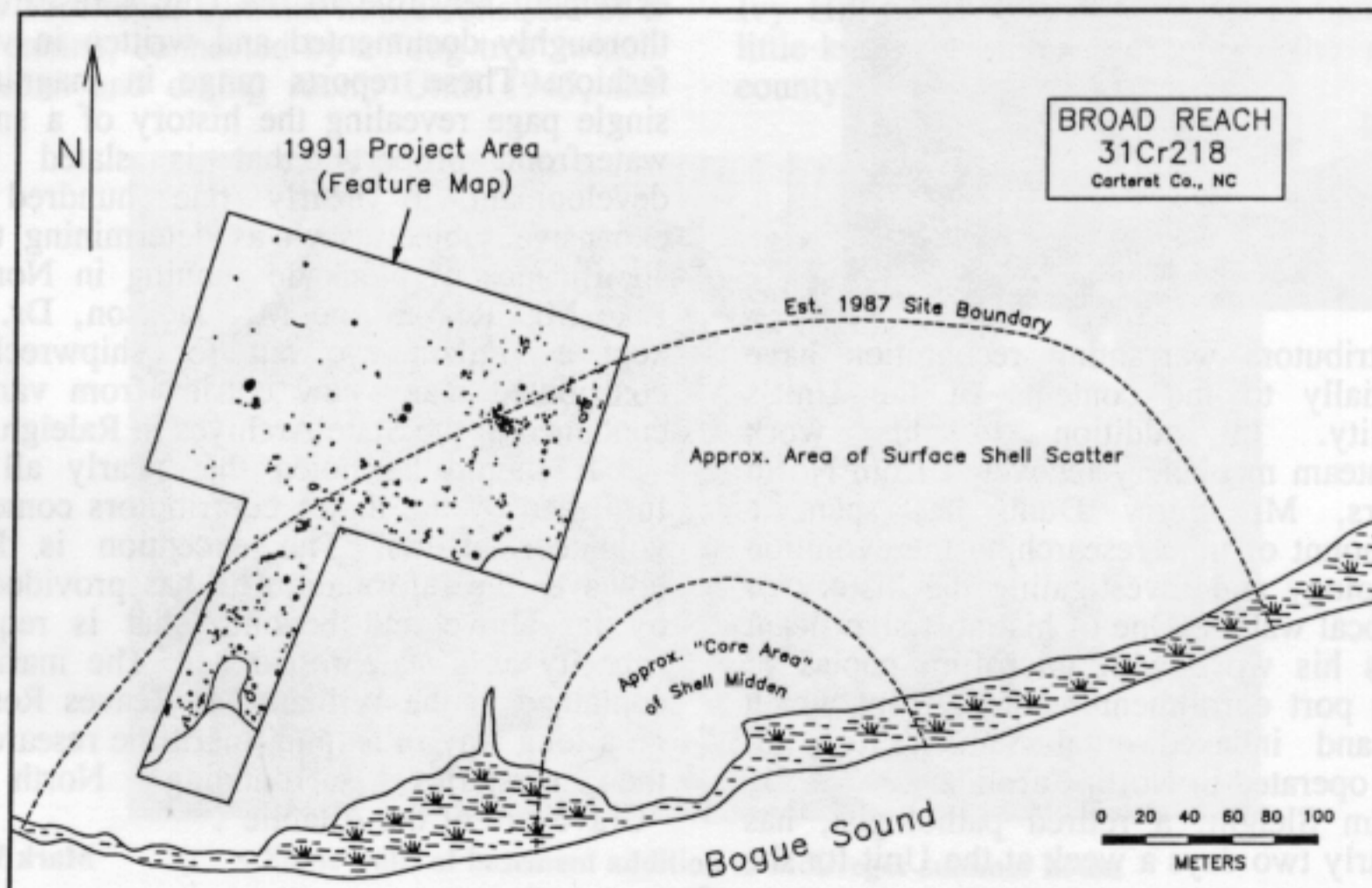
During the 1991 investigations, over 70 different NCAS members and professional archaeologists worked at the site with project director Mark Mathis, Office of State Archaeology. The 1991 work was partially funded by the property owners, Steve Stroud and Carlton Midyette of Broad Reach Investments, Inc.

The upcoming investigations will focus on an area of about one-half acre adjacent to the shell midden. As with last year, we will first remove the plowzone using heavy machinery. This will expose obvious cultural features. The features will then be mapped

and recorded. Finally, a sample of the features will be excavated. Using the 1991 data as a base for estimating, we expect to find at least 75 features. Using a model developed from the 1991 data, combined with data from other sites in the region, we anticipate that most of the features will be associated with Middle to Late Woodland period shellfish processing, although other domestic activities may also be present, including possible Early Woodland remains.

Fieldwork is tentatively scheduled to resume at the site in late September and continue through October 11. As during the 1991 season, NCAS members are invited to participate in the effort. We are particularly in need of volunteers for weekdays, although we will work through weekends as well. Food and shelter will be provided to all volunteers. Unfortunately, due to limited accommodations, in addition to the ongoing heavy construction activities at the site, children are not welcome at the site.

If interested, contact Dee Nelms or Mark Mathis at 919/733-7342 to make your reservations.



Dedication of the Underwater Archaeology Unit's Research Facility

On April 15th, 1992 the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Unit's library was formally dedicated as the William M. Reaves Research Room. A beautiful plaque made of Fort Fisher red cedar was unveiled listing the names of major research contributors: Bill Reaves, Wilson Angley, Bill Sleight, Jerry Dunn and Sandy Jackson. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Reaves, Mr. Dunn, Dr. Angley, researchers from a variety of agencies and institutions involved with maritime history, and the Unit staff.

In honoring Mr. Reaves, the Underwater Archaeology Unit recognized the role he has played in developing their research library and files. Containing thousands of entries on North Carolina shipwrecks, ships, bridges, navigational improvements and many other maritime subjects, this body of information is a significant repository. Beyond the sheer numbers, what clearly makes this collection unique is that most subjects are extensively documented from newspaper references. This has been the result of countless hours Mr. Reaves has committed to reading old Wilmington, North Carolina newspapers, separating out topics relative to the Unit's interests, typing each entry on a separate sheet of paper and furnishing them to the Unit's staff for filing.



Other contributors warranting recognition have added substantially to the contents of the Unit's research facility. In addition to his work reconstructing steam machinery recovered from North Carolina waters, Mr. Jerry Dunn has spent a considerable amount of time researching the evolution of steam technology and investigating the history of steamships in local waters. One of his most significant contributions is his work with microfilm copies of North Carolina port enrollment records, from which he extracted and indexed vital statistics on all steamships that operated in North Carolina.

Dr. William Sleight, a retired pathologist, has volunteered nearly two days a week at the Unit for the

past seven years both in the conservation lab and working with research files. During the last two years he has been arduously working to prepare the Unit's historical shipwreck files for entry into a computer data base. For each wreck, the total of which now exceeds three thousand, he transfers vital statistics about the wreck event and the ship itself on to a standard form. Often he must check additional sources to insure that the information recorded for each entry is accurate and comprehensive. When completed and on the computer, this information will not only be an excellent management tool, but will allow a greater understanding of the whens, wheres, and whats of North Carolina ship losses.

Mr. Sandy Jackson has been an associate of the Unit while enrolled in the graduate program at East Carolina University and more recently, as an underwater archaeologist with Tidewater Atlantic Research. Three years ago while conducting exhaustive historical research on a shipwreck near New Bern, North Carolina for his master's thesis, he began furnishing the Unit with newspaper accounts on maritime subjects, much in the same fashion as Mr. Reaves. What makes Mr. Jackson's contributions so valuable is that they deal with an earlier time period and another region of the state. Mr. Jackson has also furnished the Unit's library several treatises on shipbuilding from the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Dr. Wilson Angley is an archival researcher employed by the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. For the past ten years Dr. Angley has provided many maritime overviews of the state's rivers, inlets and towns. These reports are always extremely sensitive to the Unit's research questions, thoroughly documented and written in very readable fashion. These reports range in magnitude from a single page revealing the history of a small piece of waterfront property that is slated for modern development to nearly one hundred pages, on expansive subjects such as determining the historical significance of blockade running in North Carolina. Like Mr. Reaves and Mr. Jackson, Dr. Angley has kept a vigilant eye out for shipwrecks, and has contributed many new entries from various sources contained in the State Archives in Raleigh.

It should be noted that nearly all information furnished by the major contributors comes from their volunteer efforts. The exception is Dr. Angley, however the information he has provided the Unit is by far above and beyond what is required in his capacity as a state researcher. The maritime records contained in the William M. Reaves Research Room go a long way in helping maritime researchers unravel the mysteries surrounding North Carolina's "Graveyard of the Atlantic".

Mark Wilde-Ramsing

Summer Structures in Transylvania County

A recent archaeological survey and testing project in Transylvania County identified the remains of several early 20th century structures as well as prehistoric occupations. This investigation was conducted by Ruth Wetmore for the Pruitt Corporation of Toccoa, Georgia, prior to construction of a nursing home. North Carolina Archaeological Society members who helped with the project included crew members Chris and Jack Sheridan and volunteers Dick Albyn and Rowell Bosse.

The 5-acre survey area was located on a flat, wooded ridge. A large prehistoric site occupied the lower portion of this ridge until 1971-72, when the Transylvania Community Hospital was built there. Prehistoric materials recovered during this survey included two broken Early Archaic Palmer points, stone flake and cobble tools, and Woodland pottery sherds.

The project area was part of a 20-acre property purchased in 1912 by William Henry Davis, pastor of the Davidson River Presbyterian Church. Information on the site's history was provided by two of the Davis grandchildren, Dr. Davis McGregor of Clemson, South Carolina, and Mrs. Rebecca Wood of Charlotte, North Carolina, who visited the site while fieldwork was in progress.

One of the structures, consisting of scattered foundation stones and a few planks of flooring, was identified as a garage. After William Davis' death in 1919, his widow and daughter operated a summer camp for girls during the summers of 1921, 1922, and 1923. No local record of this short-lived Camp Ivy Hill could be found.

Later, two families had summer houses on the property. The McGregor summer house consisted of a pair of camp cabins, connected by a "dog trot" which served as kitchen and dining room. Until 1945, the

McGregor family came from South Carolina to spend entire summers here, and returned for shorter summer visits until 1975. A basement with cobble-stone walls was a later addition, and had not been completed when this summer house burned around 1980.

The Patton family summer house, outlined by stone piers, was also created by combining two structures. The elongated southern section was a summer camp cabin and the square northern portion was the one-room "kitchen wing" end of the Davis house, which stood north of the survey area. This summer house was used for storage but had not been completed or occupied when vandals burned it in the early 1940s.

Melted glass slag from a bottle collection and a variety of ceramics were recovered from the Patton house vicinity. Porcelains from Japan, Germany, and England were recovered, and it was possible to reconstruct most of a 4-gallon stoneware jug. English earthenware used as a premium by a local Brevard grocery store before 1930 was found, as well as earthenware made by a local Pisgah Forest potter and dated 1940.

This project provided information on two types of early 20th century recreational structures. Seasonal houses and camps have a long history in the county and continue to be important economically. South Carolina families began building summer homes in this area before the Civil War, a practice thriving nearly 150 years later. The presence of Japanese tea sets and other foreign items with locally manufactured ceramics in one structure suggests that summer life in the mountains was not limited to utilitarian necessities.

Documentation of the history and layout of Camp Ivy Hill is of considerable local interest, since this little-known camp was one of the earliest in the county.

Ruth Y. Wetmore



Stone walls of basement addition to McGregor summer house