

NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

SUMMER 1994, Volume 4, Number 2

NEWSLETTER

Erosion Control Project At Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site

In January work began on an erosion control project at Town Creek Indian Mound State Historic Site, and National Historic Landmark Site, located on the Little River in Montgomery. This project, in the planning stage for two years, was designed to arrest years of riverbank erosion which had occurred just below the stockade wall. Floods along the Little River have crested more than 10 feet above normal in the past, as evidenced by cornstalks dangling from the upper limbs of some trees. The wall, recently completed, is situated on the west bank and consists of a gabion wall 9 feet tall and 145 feet long (Figure 1).

Gabions (rock-filled wire baskets) were stacked in three courses and wired together. As each row of gabions was installed, earth fill was packed in between the wall and the old bank, then tapered upslope. Geotextile was used to line the bottom foundation and separate the rows of gabions. A total of 300 tons of rock were used to fill the 42 gabions. In addition, 280 cubic yards of earthfill were used to support and landscape the wall. A revegetation program is now underway to restore the riverbank to a more natural appearance.



Figure 1. View south along river with gabion wall partially completed. Stockade wall at top right.

(continued on next page)

The project, originally sponsored by a local development council, became a cooperative effort from various state and local agencies. Engineers from the Soil Conservation Service provided critical supervision for construction of the wall. The Friends of Town Creek provided some financial support while the majority of funds originated in the state legislature. Labor was provided by the State Department of Corrections' IMPACT Program, a para-military bootcamp for young (16-25 yrs. old) first-offenders. Archie Smith, site manager, and other site personnel provided valuable assistance and project

coordination. Archaeological supervision was done by me, also with the Historic Sites Section.

Working the IMPACT trainees, the archaeologist cut two large profiles into the bank in areas where the gabion wall was placed. Profiles were photographed and drawn. Soil was screened and artifacts labeled according to provenience. The remnants of a large natural geological dike were exposed in lower portions of the profile. At the south end of the project two large tree stumps had to be removed to facilitate placement of the wall (Figure 2). These were removed by hand using mattocks, shovels



Figure 2. IMPACT trainees removing and screening soil from two tree stumps at south end of project area.

and trowels. All soil removed was screened and numerous artifacts were retrieved in the bank immediately above these stumps. Several intact hoes, scrapers, cspgs, and bifacial tools of Morrow Mountain rhyolite were found in addition to a few sherds of complicated-stamped pottery (Pee Dee series). The prehistoric artifacts represented an early to late Woodland period occupation. One kaolin pipe bowl fragment, nails, and glass represented the historic period.

With the project now completed, the test of strength will be by water as Spring rains have already started to raise the river. This preservation project will hopefully insure that the archaeological resources at Town Creek Indian Mound will be here for the following generations to learn about the past cultures of our land.

Linda F. Carnes-McNaughton

Life In Stone

*I walked across the furrowed field, and stood where others had trod-
some mere twelve thousand years ago, upon this very sod.*

*The ground where I was standing, cried out from another day-
when ancient man had made a life of hunting along this way.*

*I bowed my head in reverence, to those hunters and their kin-
who stood where I was standing, all wrapped in fur and skin.*

*With head bowed low, my eyes did glow, as I peered upon the ground-
for there beside me in the soil, laid a spearpoint- but not a sound.*

*Was I the first to hold in hand this treasure from the past,
who fashioned by some artisan- stories it held fast?*

*Oh, by the stream, many years ago, lived a hearty kind of soul-
though none was there to pen these things, still his LIFE IN STONE is told.*

*You see, each stone he worked by hand, has a living quality-
'to those ancient hunters and their kin- I hold in DIGNITY!*

Gerald L. Johnson, Jr.

Oops!

The poem *Life In Stone* by Gerald L. Johnson, Jr. printed in the Spring 1994, Volume 4, Number 1 newsletter, is reprinted in this issue due to a word omission. Sorry Gerald.

Sign Up Now

1994 NC State Fair (October 14-23)

We still have open slots to work the booth at the State Fair. If you are interested in signing up to work, please contact Dee Nelms @ 919-733-7342. We need your support. Thank you.

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:

<u>Spring Issue</u>	<u>March 31</u>	<u>Fall Issue</u>	<u>September 30</u>
<u>Summer Issue</u>	<u>June 30</u>	<u>Winter Issue</u>	<u>December 31</u>

November 9-12

Southeastern Archaeological Conference/ Midwest Archaeological Conference Annual Meeting

This year the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Midwest Archaeological Conference will hold a joint meeting, November 9-12, 1994, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Lexington, KY. A keynote address will be given by Dr. Alison Wylie. This joint meeting is an exciting opportunity for archaeologists working in the Southeast and Midwest to exchange information and ideas. The local arrangements chair is Mary Lucas Powell. The program co-chairs for SEAC are John Scarry and Margaret Scarry. The Program chair for MAC is Richard Jefferies. Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 1994. Contact SEAC/MAC Committee, 101 American Bldg., University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0100. Phone: 606/257-1944. FAX: 606/323-1968.

SALE

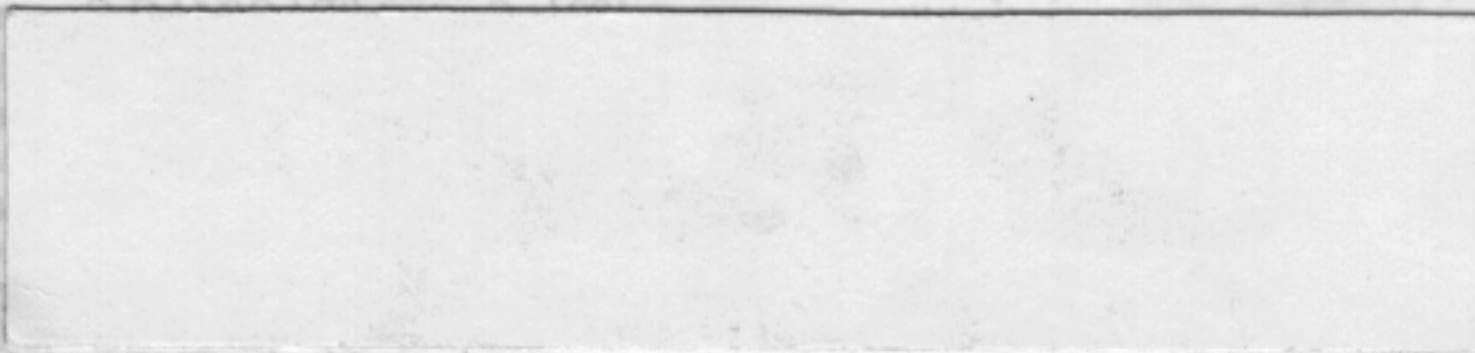
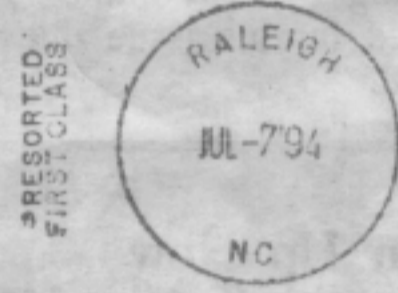
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North Carolina Archaeological Society
 109 East Jones Street
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27601-2807



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