

# NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

WINTER 1995, Volume 4, Number 4

## NEWSLETTER

### *The North Carolina Indian History Project*

It happened again in early November at the Indian Heritage Festival at Town Creek Indian Mound near Mt. Gilead, North Carolina. A young woman dressed in regalia was overhead telling a companion about an encounter she just had.

In a tone mixed with exasperation, hurt and wonder, she said to her friend: "This man just walked up to me and said, 'Hey, are you really and Indian?' I said, 'yes.' And he said, 'Well, you don't look like one, and, anyway, I thought they were all dead around here.'"

"So," she continued, "I just smiled at him and then pinched myself on the arm and said, 'No-o-o-o-o, I don't think so!'"

When she finished her story, she and her friend just stood near the entrance to the dance circle shaking their heads and chuckling ruefully. Then the Southern Sons Singers drum group began an intertribal, and the women entered the circle to dance.

Unfortunately, the man's misperception is not an isolated occurrence. Similar stories echoing challenges to Indian identity have been told by people from various tribes scattered across North Carolina--the Eno Occaneechi, the Haliwa Saponi, the Waccama Siouan, the Lumbee and the Cherokee. Even when acknowledged as alive and well, North Carolina's more than 80,000 Indian peoples find themselves confronting other commonly held myths. Most are rooted in notions that Indians are noble savages or, conversely, savage savages, or that they are generic, all-alike folks, or that they are fossilized vestiges of once-proud peoples whose cultures are dead or dying.

Two years ago, North Carolina Archaeology Society members Vincas Steponaitis and I came up with the idea for *The North Carolina Indian History Project* as one way to combat the misperceptions and the stereotypes that spawn from them. At base, the project's goal is simple--educate the public by sharing what more than 50 years of archaeological research has taught us about the state's 12,000 years in Indian history and the many links between past and present Indian peoples. Certainly, archaeologists had learned much during the years of research, but most of what

they knew was buried in technical reports not easily available to the public.

Since that brain-storming session two years ago, a strategy with several components and key partnerships has tackled the challenge of meeting the project's goal.

Teacher workshops have been the *Indian History Project's* main thrust. Two have been held so far, involving 35 4th through 8th grade teachers from public schools scattered across North Carolina. A week-long workshop was held in July 1993 and a two-week one took place in August 1994. Done collaboratively by The University of North Carolina's Research Laboratories of Anthropology and the Center for Mathematics and Science Education, both took place on the UNC campus. Each workshop blended lectures, hands-on activities and field trips designed to immerse teachers not just in what archaeologists know about the state's Indian history, but in the concepts and processes archaeologists use to reveal the past.

Where Indians lived, what their houses were like, what they ate, how they died, who they traded with, how their cultures differed from each other and how they changed over time were just a few of the topics covered. The teachers, some of whom were Native American, gave both workshops excellent reviews. After last summer's workshop, Haliwa Saponi Sharin Buffalo wrote: "This experience has meant a lot to me. You have not only taught me about Indian history, but you have given me knowledge of a part of our heritage that cannot be replaced."

The teachers carried back to their classrooms interdisciplinary teaching modules and activities to use for lessons ranging from social studies, history, and language arts to science and math.

But despite these materials and workshops' success, teachers said they needed something more--a concise, readable text on Indian history to supplement its scant treatment in the social studies and history texts adopted by North Carolina public schools. Their request led to an another phase of the *Indian History Project*, which is the research and writing of a teachers' guide featuring some of what archaeologists

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have learned about Indian cultures prior to European contact and settlement. Sponsored by the NCAS and funded by grants from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., the guide will be ready for publication in June 1995. Vin Steponaitis, project director, and I spent the fall researching the guide and are now writing it.

Generous grants from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc. in Winston-Salem provided the financial cornerstone of the *Indian History Project*. The Foundation funded the pilot teacher workshop in 1993. That grant also included money to host a week-long intertribal Heritage camp for Indian youth that Eno-Occaneechi tribal member Forest Hazel directed. Money from the federal Eisenhower Foundation funded the 1994 teacher workshop. UNC's Research Laboratories of Anthropology and the Center for Mathematics and Science Education (CMSE) gave--indeed, continue to give--the *Indian History Project* in-kind and administrative support. CMSE's director

Russell Rowlett and staff member Lin Dunbar-Frye, who co-directed the teacher workshops, have been the key to the workshops' reach and success. At the workshops, NCAS members Steve Davis, Trawick Ward, Linda Carnes-McNaughton, Jane Eastman, and Randy Daniel were also invaluable, donating time to lecture or lead field trips. Instrumental, too, were the staff of Town Creek Indian Mound in Mt. Gilead and the Office of State Archaeology, with, respectively, special thanks to Archie Smith, Bill Oliver and Steve Claggett.

The *North Carolina Indian History Project* is truly a collaborative one. Future plans include joining with the federally funded Bureau of Land Management's Project Archaeology program to do a series of 10 hour workshops that will carry a condensed version of the longer ones done in the summers directly into North Carolina schools for in-service teacher training. A notice will appear in the NCAS newsletter when the details are finalized.

Margo Price

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## New NCAS Logo

Last fall, the North Carolina Archaeological Society sponsored a contest in which undergraduates from UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism were invited to design a new logo for our organization. More than 80 entries were received. These were judged by a committee of five: three were NCAS members Margo Price (UNC-Chapel Hill), Susan Myers (Office of State Archaeology), and Vin Steponaitis (UNC-Chapel Hill); the other two were professional graphic designers Kate Newton Anthony (Raleigh News and Observer) and Dana Bayley (UNC Division of University Relations). The winning entry was submitted by Jason Frank, who based his design on a complicated-stamped sherd found at the Hardins site and published in *Southern Indian Studies* vol. 39, figure 30 (1990). Four additional entries by Kristin Prelipp, Sarah McCarty, Ken Singer, and Erin Wall--were given honorable mentions. Special thanks are due to Professor Jay Anthony of the UNC School of Journalism for organizing the contest, involving his students, and providing guidance to all those who participated.

The contest winner was awarded a cash prize of \$100. Subsequently NCAS's Board of Directors

officially adopted his winning entry as the Society's new logo. This logo will soon be incorporated in the Society's publications and other communications. Watch for it!

Vin Steponaitis



North Carolina  
Archaeological Society

# ANNOUNCING----JOINT MEETING

**NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**AND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**AT**

## **TOWN CREEK INDIAN MOUND**

**STATE HISTORIC SITE**

**MT. GILEAD, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, N.C.**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1995**

**10:00 a.m. 'til 5:00 p.m.**

**Featured Speaker: Stanley A. South**

***Reconstructing the Temple Mound at Town Creek***

**\*\*\***

**Presentation/Tour: Linda Carnes-McNaughton**

***Site Stabilization at Town Creek***

**More information to come around mid March.**

**Catered Barbecue Lunch: Order Early for a Great Deal!**

**Return enclosed card by April 7th**

**Tell all your friends and neighbors--open to the general public.**

**Contact Joy Shattuck @ 919/733-7342 if you are interested in participating in a North/South softball game.**

## 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      March 31      Fall Issue      September 30  
Summer Issue     June 30        Winter Issue    December 31

## 1995 Dues

If you have not already renewed your NCAS membership for 1995, please do so as soon as possible. Your continued support is appreciated.

### NCAS Officers

**President:** Richard Terrell, 3789 Hoover Hill Road, Trinity, NC 27370.  
**Vice-President:** William D. Moxley, Jr., 2307 Hodges Road, Kinston, NC 28501.  
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**Editor:** R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Research Laboratories of Anthropology, CB# 3120 Alumni Building, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599.  
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**Executive Board Members:** Mark McCravey, Thomas Padgett, Anne Poole, Margo Price, Larry Rose, Ruth Y. Wetmore.

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