



North Carolina
Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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1995 Archaeological Field School Research Laboratories of Anthropology University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

Patricia Samford



During the summer of 1995, the University of North Carolina's Research Laboratories of Anthropology (RLA) held its eighth archaeological field school along the banks of the Eno River in Hillsborough, North Carolina. This area, in the floodplain of a U-shaped bend on the north side of the river, was the site of four Siouan villages dating from the 11th to the early 18th centuries. The bottomland, with its adjacent forest and waterways, would

have provided abundant natural resources and well-drained soil for the Siouans, who depended on a mixed subsistence of hunting, gathering, and agriculture. The villages were also adjacent to the Great Trading Path that ran from present-day Virginia to Georgia. One of these villages was described in 1701 by English surveyor John Lawson, and it was the search for "Occaneechi Town" that led to the discovery of this and three other

villages. The continuing excavation of these sites has allowed archaeologists to trace culture change among the Siouan cultures of piedmont North Carolina. Of interest are the effects of contact with the English, particularly in terms of the impact of diseases on native populations and how new technologies and exchange networks were organized within traditional Siouan subsistence and economic systems.

For five weeks in May and June, 17 students enrolled in the archaeological field school and several volunteers excavated portions of two of these villages. The 1995 excavations were directed by RLA research archaeologists Steve Davis and Trawick Ward and graduate teaching assistants Jane Eastman, Christopher Rodning, and me. At the Fredricks site, believed to be the Occaneechi Town described by Lawson, all but a small portion of the site had been excavated in previous years. Excavation of the remaining segment in the southwest corner of the village was completed and revealed soil stains delineating the former locations of vertical posts

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which had once formed the settlement palisade. A burial dating to the late 17th or early 18th centuries was also excavated.

The majority of the field season was spent investigating the 17th-century Jenrette site and an area between the Fredricks and Jenrette sites. One of the goals of the excavation between the two villages was to determine whether households were located outside the palisaded enclosures. Although a smudge pit possibly used for tanning hides and several storage pits were discovered, no house patterns were visible in the area excavated this past summer.

Previous excavations at the Jenrette site, located directly northwest of the Fredricks site, had revealed a palisaded village dating from the mid-to late-17th century. The aim of work in 1995 was to continue tracing the southern limits of the palisade and record any features associated with the village. In addition to the

anticipated roasting and storage pits, excavation also disclosed a cemetery extending along the inside of the walled village. Traces of up to eight burials were discovered and it appears that the cemetery extends beyond the limits of this summer's excavation. Four of the burials were excavated and yielded information which changed the previous interpretation of the Jenrette site. Prior to this discovery, archaeologists believed that the Jenrette site was occupied in the third quarter of the 17th century and had been abandoned and destroyed prior to Lawson's 1701 visit. The quantities and types of European trade goods contained within the graves are consistent, however, with other early 18th-century excavated burials. These grave goods, combined with the placement of the burials along the palisade line, suggest that the village was still being used in the early 18th century.

Analysis of the skeletal remains was completed on-site by UNC physical anthropologist Clark Larsen, visiting faculty Patricia Lambert, graduate research assistants Elizabeth Monahan and Marianne Reeves, and Leslie Sering, a graduate student from the University of Michigan. Their analysis revealed that three of the four burials were children, ranging in age from 18 months to 12 years. The fourth burial was that of a female in her thirties. Although the causes of death for these individuals could not be determined, one possibility is that they were victims of infectious diseases brought by Europeans. In accordance with the wishes of the Occaneechi Tribal Elders, the skeletal remains were disturbed as little as possible and reburied immediately after analysis was completed.

Continued excavations are planned for the Jenrette site in the summer of 1996.

Book-Signing Party

There will be a book-signing party for Dr. Joffre Coe's book *Town Creek Indian Mound: A Native American Legacy* to be held at Town Creek Visitor's Center on Sunday, December 10, 1995, in the afternoon (2:00 pm). The reception is being hosted by the site's non-profit support group, The Friends of Town Creek. Refreshments will be catered, and Dr. Coe will be on hand to autograph personal copies. Hardbound volumes will sell for \$45.00 and paperback copies for \$18.95. The first one hundred copies of this first edition are going to be autographed and numbered on specially-designed bookplates. These volumes will be priced accordingly by the Friends of Town Creek and plans are to auction off #1 of this series to the highest bidder. Proceeds from these numbered/autographed copies will go to support educational heritage programs provided at the Site. Archaeologists (famous and infamous) who contributed to the archaeology and analyses of this significant prehistoric site are being invited to this event. Please plan

to attend and bring your families. If you require overnight accommodations for Saturday please call The Holly Inn located in Pinehurst, NC for your reservations, 1-800-682-6901. For further information contact Archie Smith or Carolyn Plowman at Town Creek (910)439-6802, or Linda Carnes-McNaughton at Historic Sites (919)733-9033. An RSVP would be appreciated.

Board Members

Board member elections were held at the Fall Meeting of September 30th at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem. Bill Moxley moved from vice-president to president (two-year term), replacing Richard Terrell. Bob Graham was elected as vice-president (two-year term, then becoming president for a two-year term). New board members include Scott Ashcraft (Asheville) and Charles Ewen (Greenville), replacing Tom Padgett and Ruth Wetmore. Thank you Richard, Tom, and Ruth for a job well done.

News from the Tarheel Chapter

The Tarheel Chapter of the North Carolina Archaeological Society meets on the third Monday of every month at the May Memorial Library, 342 S. Spring Street, Burlington, North Carolina.

Some of our past programs include: *Town Creek and The Sauratown Woman Project* by Bill Oliver, *Coastal Archaeology* by Mark Mathis, *The Haw River Site* by Steve Claggett, *The Saura Town Site* by Trawick Ward, *The Little Tennessee River Survey* by Steve Davis, Joffre Coe on his many experiences in North Carolina archaeology, *Cultural Patterns of the Piedmont Woodland Indians* by William Murry Vincent, tool assemblages representing each prehistoric culture found in North Carolina by William West, and *The Frozen Family of Utkiavik: Excavations at an Eskimo Village in Barrow, Alaska* by Daniel Cassedy.

The Tarheel Chapter made a portable display for loaning to schools and for special events. Many of their members donated artifacts and replicas for the display. The display is to represent what an excavation unit would look like. There is an Archaic hearth and lithic reduction area with the upper level consisting of a Woodland display with roasted deer bones, ceramic sherds, shell, and of course projectile points.

Please join the Tarheel Chapter each month and share the learning experience.

Peace be with you.

Leonard A. Miller 1922-1995

From the newsletter of the
Tarheel Archaeological Society, October 1995

It is with our deepest sympathy that we announce the death of one of our dearest friends Leonard A. Miller. Perhaps our most loyal member and co-founder of our local Society, he was a retired Major in the Marine Corps (a pilot in World War II and the Korean War, and an aviation instructor until his retirement in 1968). Leonard was head of the Commercial Arts Department at Alamance Community College, president of the Alamance Arts Council, president of the Eno Archaeological Society, and president of the Tarheel Archaeological Society. He often worked at the Good Shepherd kitchen for homeless people. He was a conservationist and wildlife artist and had a deep respect for wildlife and wilderness places. He was part of the restocking program that brought wild turkey back into many areas of North Carolina.

He was always the first to arrive at our meetings, preparing the meeting room and greeting our guests. Leonard was a perfectionist but never expected that of anyone else. For others, he always encouraged them to do their very best. If I had just one word to describe Leonard it would be "Humble". He will always be remembered as the man with the unforgettable smile.

Tarheel Officers 1995

J.W. Busick (Gibsonville), President
Gary Parrish (Snow Camp), Vice-president
Bob Cook (Graham), Secretary

Lori McCravey (Snow Camp), Treasurer
Gerald Johnson (Swepsonville), Program Chairman
Mark McCravey (Snow Camp), Newsletter

1995 NC State Fair



The archaeology exhibit at the 1995 North Carolina State Fair (located in the Kerr Scott building), featuring the Cane River site in Yancey County (31YC91), was again a tremendous success. It appears from semi-official tallies that we reached over 15,000 people with the exhibit.

We also displayed a poster and provided brochures and stickers for the Historic Sites Section of the Department of Cultural Resources' 40th Anniversary.

Cooperative, work-intensive efforts like the Fair exhibit benefit our group through new memberships and enhanced public identities. We attract people's attention by showing them artifacts and photographs. And then we can pass along the real message about the need for protecting and interpreting North Carolina's archaeological resources. This is public education at its best.

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

NCAS Officers

President: William D. Moxley, Jr., 2307 Hodges Road, Kinston, NC 28501.

Vice-President: Bob Graham, 2140 Woodland Avenue, Burlington, NC 27215.

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Executive Board Members: Scott Ashcraft, Charles Ewen, Mark McCravey, Anne Poole, Margo Price, Larry Rose.

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