

North Carolina
Archaeological Society

Newsletter

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Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120

Society Website: <http://www.ncarchsociety.org>

THE CYPRESS STREET SCHOOL (31GF601) – A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT WITH SWANN MIDDLE SCHOOL, GREENSBORO, NC

Sarah Lowry & Samantha Taylor (New South Associates, Inc.)



Figure 1 – New South Associates and Cypress Street School on the 1919 Sanborn Map.

When New South Associates (NSA) moved into our new building in Greensboro, one of the first things we did was to consult the historic Sanborn Maps for the neighborhood. Our “new” office building was built in circa 1910 as part of the Cone Brothers’ development of a residential neighborhood around Summit Avenue, northeast of downtown Greensboro. At the turn of the twentieth century, Summit Avenue was one of the premier neighborhoods in the city. Just south of the office, we noticed the footprint of the Cypress Street Public School, an area that is presently a mowed field on the grounds of our neighbor, Swann Middle School (**Figure 1**). Swann is in a National Register-Listed building, constructed in 1922. We reached out to the administrators at Swann to ask if they would be interested in bringing together the history of their school and a lesson in archaeology for the students. NSA was quickly met with great enthusiasm from the staff eager to celebrate the school’s 100-year anniversary and excited to get their hands dirty.

The project started with archival research. NSA worked with Ben Porter at Swann to put together a history of the school property. The Cypress Street School was built between 1916 and 1917 and used as a grade school until the



Figure 2 – 1937 Aerial showing both the Cypress Street School and Swann Middle School.

construction of Swann (then known as Charles B. Aycock Elementary School) in 1922 (**Figure 2**). The building was then used for the Greensboro Historical Museum in 1930. That building was torn down sometime before 1950. Names of students and teachers at the school who earned honors were found in the local newspapers whereas teacher salaries were identified in the annual city budgets.

Students at Swann examined all this information in order to develop research questions. They wanted to know what kinds of kids had gone to this school and what they had left behind. Before beginning excavations, NSA did a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the suspected school location. The results of this survey clearly identified the foundations and some internal building structures (**Figure 3**). NSA archaeologists and Swann students looked at these maps and decided on excavation unit locations.

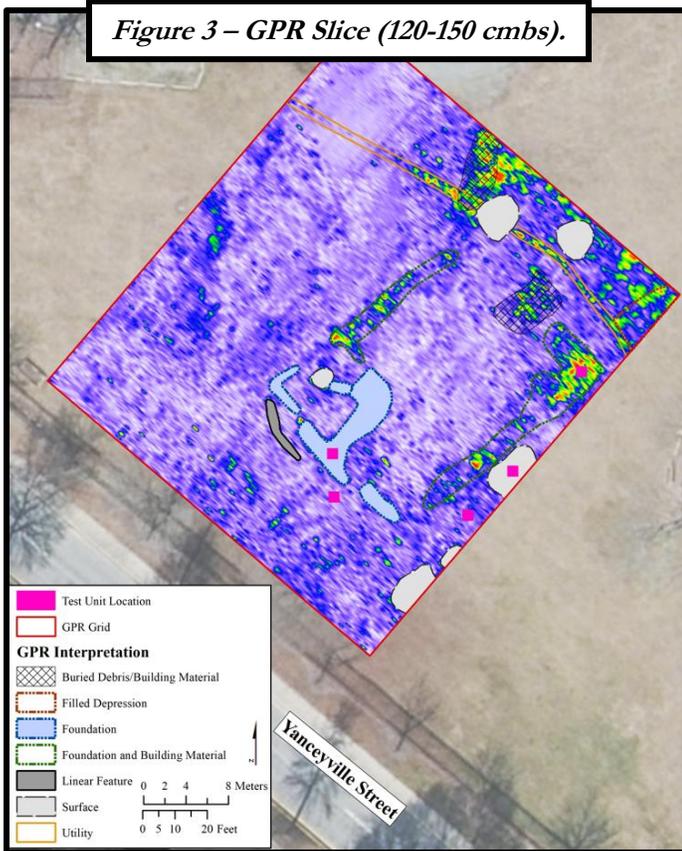


Figure 3 – GPR Slice (120-150 cmbs).

During three days of excavations, every student at Swann had a chance to get their hands on a trowel, shovel, and screen (**Figure 4**). We showed students how to dig in levels, how to screen dirt, and identify artifacts while excavating four units. We identified building debris, slate roof shingles, brick foundations, and several small clues, which reminded us how the building was used, such as a ceramic doll hand, a Coke bottle dating to the early twentieth century, an inkwell, and a pencil fragment (**Figure 5**). Most importantly students got to experience the archaeological excavation alongside NSA archaeologists.

The next step is curating the identified artifacts, writing a report to go on file at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, and presenting our results to the students of Swann so they can all see what they accomplished this year. NSA would like to acknowledge the following folks: Ben Porter, Dramaine Freeman, John Kimes, Jordan Cole, Sherry Teal, Danny Gregory, David Cranford, Hannah Lyons, Brittany Hyder, Maeve Herrick, Shawn Patch, Edie Brewer, the Swann Middle School Social Studies Department, and the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.

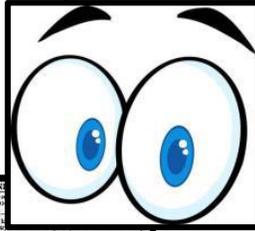




Figure 4 – Swann students learning the excavation process.



Figure 5 – Ceramic Doll Hand.

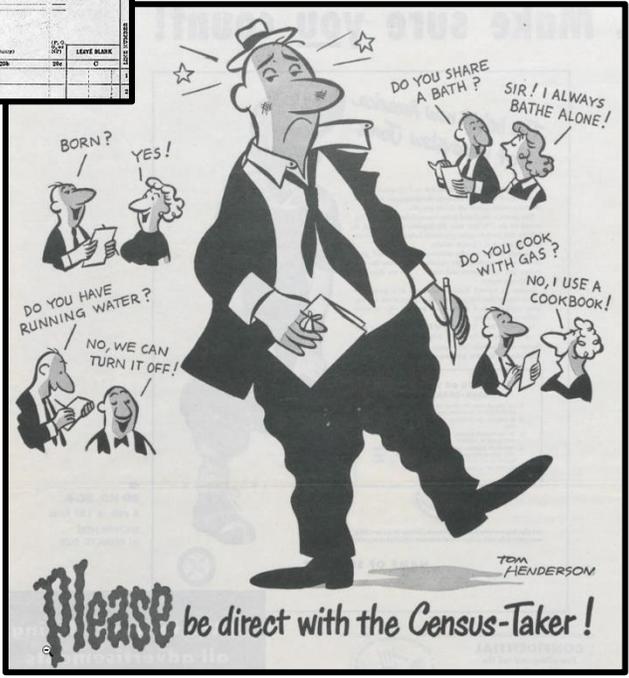


FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD										FOR ALL PERSONS										FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER																																																																															
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DIGITAL SPOTLIGHT: “1950 Federal Census Release”

[Once a Decade: Exploring the 1950 Census Release with Kelly Karres of the U.S. Census Bureau - YouTube](#)

On April 1, 2022, the 1950 Federal Census records were released to the public by the U.S. National Archives. This presentation will take you back in time to explore how the 1950 Census was conducted as well as the content of the questionnaire and population statistics from that era. Resources for data users and genealogical researchers will also be provided. Join us for a chance to learn more about this historic release.



For more information, feel free to explore the [1950 Census - Home | 1950 Census \(archives.gov\)](#). There are approximately 6.57 million Population Schedules for the U.S. and territories within the 1950 Census records, along with 33,360 Indian Reservation schedules and 9,634 enumeration district map images with 234,447 enumeration district descriptions.

NCAS WORD FIND: ???????

So... I have this potter friend of mine, named Haywood Wilson, who made me an exquisite piece using Clay from a Pitt on his property. It was to be a gift for a Person I met while visiting my aunt in Cleveland. I watched him Macon the piece, with muddy water flying everywhere. With all the smoke, I remember being rather Greene around his beehive kiln and observing from afar as he proceeded to Hyde the item amongst several other orders. At the opening, I was Jones'ing to see the piece. He carefully pulled it out and brushed off a little Ashe to reveal the beautiful decorations, a picturesque scene of stone fences and Gates, reminiscent of a lea in Scotland. Orange you wondering what the theme is yet? If you know that there are 86 more to go, then you should also know which one is missing. Don't set the first precedent. Answer key will appear in the following issue of the newsletter.

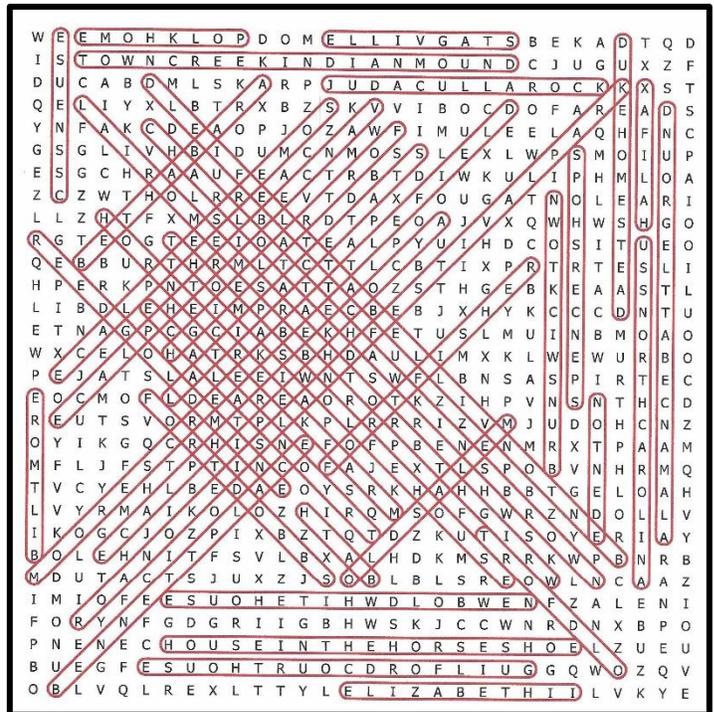
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MYSTERY ARTIFACT ID! While a relatively common hunting practice among the upper status class in Colonial North Carolina, material vestiges of fox hunting in the archaeological record are scarce. This button, which would have been worn on a long outer coat, shows a fox hunting scene, complete with a man riding a horse and dogs chasing a fox past a tree. It was recovered during the 2009 William Peace University Archaeological Field School at Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site in the yard of the Wooten-Marnan House. Touting "THE JOY OF IT", research with fox hunting clubs in America and Britain have not yielded any specific club or individual who might have worn this button.

Answer Key for Winter Issue Word Search

MAY FIELDWORK DATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK IN DOWNTOWN WILMINGTON



You are invited to join the Corps for a volunteer workday on May 28th at an urban 18th-century archaeological site in the heart of downtown Wilmington. What the site was is still a mystery, but there are a lot of artifacts to help solve that mystery and tell the story of our local history.

Safety first! PAC will provide water. You need to provide hard-sole boots or work shoes, protective clothes, a hat, a covid mask, and lunch (although there are restaurants in the vicinity). Public parking is available within easy walking distance.

Key Information – PAC Members: Free, Non-Members: Free; Date: Saturday, May 28, 2022; Start Time: 9:00am; End Time: 4:00pm; Location: 10 S. Front Street, Wilmington, NC (across from Platypus and Gnome. Henderson Alley runs right behind the site.)

To Participate – This is a FREE event, but we do need you to register through our website [Public Archaeology Corps](#). If you already have a PAC account, please Sign in to your account ([Log In – Public Archaeology Corps](#)) first and then select Current Events from the drop down menu.





mark your **Calendar**

Association for Gravestone Studies
Beverly, MA, June 9-19
[2022 Conference \(gravestonestudies.org\)](http://gravestonestudies.org)

North American Society for Oceanic History
Wilmington, NC, June 22-25
[Conferences \(nasoh.org\)](http://conferences.nasoh.org)

Southeastern Conference on Historic Site Archaeology
Columbia, SC, August 5-6
[SECHSA 2022](http://SECHSA2022.org)

Southeastern Archaeological Conference
Little Rock, AR, November 9-12
[Meeting Details – Southeastern Archaeological Conference \(southeasternarchaeology.org\)](http://southeasternarchaeology.org)

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NCAS Newsletter

Publication Schedule

All NCAS members should submit articles and news items to Paul J. Mohler (pjmohler@ncdot.gov) 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

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