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# NORTH CAROLINA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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## NEWSLETTER

### "Necropology"

The study of cemeteries by the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) began in the early 1980's as a part-time activity -- a spin-off of the "burial law" (The Unmarked Burial and Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act) and other grave and cemetery protection laws. Initial studies consisted of investigations of grave sites threatened by development projects, and generally involved the delineation and removal of endangered burials. Soon, however, the OSA became involved in studies to determine whether or not suspected or reported cemeteries actually existed. Then, there were the really odd cases involving grave robbing and isolated bone discoveries. Over the years, the investigation of unmarked or abandoned cemeteries has evolved from a minor component to a major program element of the OSA, involving the North Carolina Cemeteries Survey, local law enforcement agencies and private citizens.

The first cemetery projects involved mapping graves and recording marker inscriptions. At the time, little else was expected. It was simply a matter of recording an archaeological site and filling out a site form. However, as the database grew (45 projects have been completed by the author so far), certain patterns were recognized, such as an east-west grave orientation and location on high ground. Background research found that these combined attributes have been called the "Southern Folk Cemetery" by D. Gregory Jeane (1989). Using the attributes ascribed to this generalized cemetery form, an understanding of individual cemeteries is possible. However, each cemetery was still studied as an isolated unit within this broader context, with no attempt to define more specific patterns or characteristics.

Recent cemetery projects in Brunswick County (five, all completed within a month) suggest that additional research may be fruitful in defining variations on the general "Southern Folk Cemetery" theme. What remains is to determine whether these variations are themselves patterned, or simply matters

of individual taste. In this context, Jeane (1989:108) observed temporal variations in the "Southern Folk Cemetery" as "three phases of evolution... pioneer, transitional and modern", further noting that "each phase clearly reflects the dynamic aspect of culture."

While these temporal differences had been recognized earlier, the narrow range exhibited in isolated cemetery studies has not sparked careful consideration of other permutations. For instance, geographical variations may be evident. Are there differences among and between cemeteries in the coastal plain, piedmont and mountains? Are there variations according to religious affiliation? We know, for example, that Moravian graves are arranged according to sex and marital status, a reflection of early communal living patterns. Are there other attributes and patterns?

We hope to answer some of these questions, or at least form additional questions, as more cemeteries are recorded. NCAS members can help by recording abandoned cemeteries. Recording can be as simple as filling out a cemetery survey form or as involved as mapping grave locations and recording marker information. Survey forms and information on standard recording techniques may be obtained by writing the OSA.

#### Reference Cited

- Jeane, D. Gregory  
1989 The Upland South Folk Cemetery Complex: Some Suggestions of Origin. In *Cemeteries & Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture*, ed. by Richard E. Meyer. UMI Research Press, Ann Arbor.

John W. Clauser, Jr.



## Beads

Society members interested in the study of beads will be pleased to learn that the third volume of **BEADS: Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers** has been recently published. The journal (104 pages, seven color plates) features four articles covering various facets of bead research around the world:

-*The Mohawk Glass Trade Bead Chronology: ca. 1560-1785*, by Donald A. Rumrill

-*French Beadmaking: An Historic Perspective Emphasizing the 19th and 20th Centuries*, by Marie-Jose and Howard Opper

-*The Beads from Oudespost I, A Dutch East India Company Outpost, Cape, South Africa*, by Karlis Karklins and Carmel Schrire

-*L'Impiraressa: The Venetian Bead Stringer*, by Irene Ninni, translated by Lucy Segatti

The journal is available for \$14.50 (U.S.) postpaid. Check or money order should be made payable to The Society of Bead Researchers and sent to: Karlis Karklins, SBR Editor, 802-2850 Cedarwood Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1V 8Y4, Canada. Volumes I and II are also available; please inquire when ordering.

**BEADS** is published annually by the Society of Bead Researchers, a non-profit, scientific-educational organization whose aim is to foster research on beads of all materials and periods, and to expedite the dissemination of the resultant knowledge. Subscription

is an automatic benefit of membership. Membership is open not only to those involved in the study of beads but also to those interested in keeping up with trends in bead research.

Members receive the annual journal, **BEADS**, as well as the biannual newsletter, **The Bead Forum**. **The Forum** includes shorter articles and an especially helpful bibliography of recently published articles and books.

General inquiries, membership dues, address changes and orders for additional journal copies should be sent to: Lester A. Ross, SBR Secretary/Treasurer, 564 El Dorado Drive, Yucca Valley, CA 92284-4230.

Books for review and manuscripts intended for the journal, as well as items for the newsletter (such as short articles, announcements of publications, requests for information and summaries of current research) are welcome. Please address these to: Karlis Karklins, SBR Editor, Canadian Parks Service, 1600 Liverpool Court, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3, Canada.

If anyone has any questions, or would like to arrange to drop by the Office of State Archaeology to look at copies of the publications, please give me a call at 919/733-7342. I would be interested in hearing what bead topics you would like to see researched.

Susan G. Myers

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## Upcoming Conferences

### Southeastern Archaeological Conference

November 3-6, Raleigh Radisson Plaza Hotel

North Carolina will host the 50th Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference (SEAC) in November. SEAC is one of the largest, oldest and most respected regional organizations in the country. In recent years, about 400 archaeologists have attended the meeting. The Office of State Archaeology and the Research Laboratories of Anthropology at UNC-Chapel Hill are hosting the conference. All NCAS members and interested amateurs are invited to attend and hear some of the 125 papers dealing with archaeology in the Southeast. Registration for the meeting is \$35.00. For more info or registration forms contact Mark Mathis or Dee Nelms at 919/733-7342.

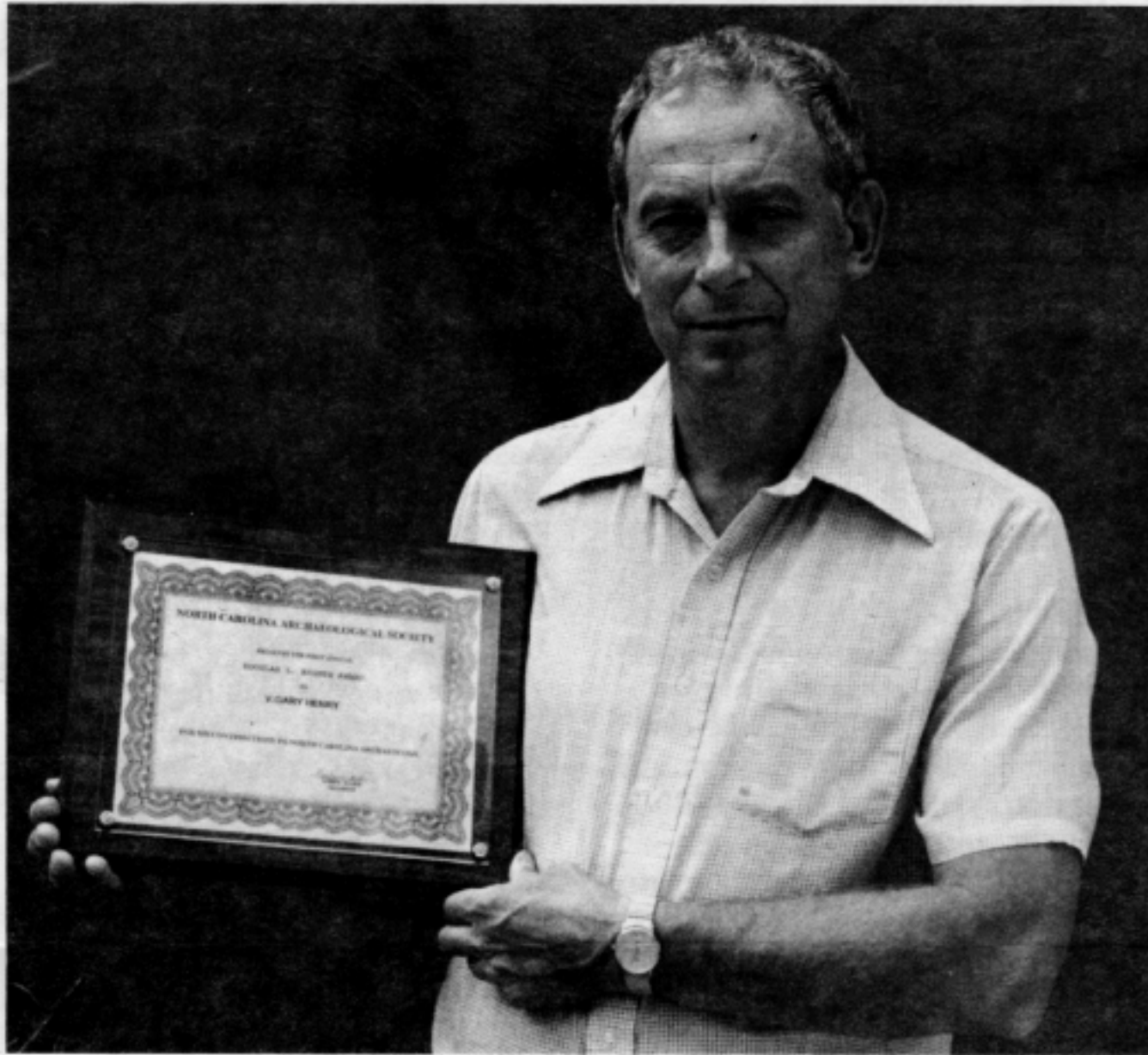
### American Society for Ethnohistory

November 4-7, Indiana University Memorial Union

November 4-7, Annual Conference, Indiana University Memorial Union, Bloomington, Indiana. Deadline for proposals for organized sessions and individual abstracts (50-100 words): July 15, 1993. Abstracts must be accompanied by \$30 preregistration fee (\$15 for students and retired). Program Chair, Raymond J. DeMallie; Local Arrangement Co-Chairs Douglas R. Parks and R. David Edmunds. Address: American Indian Studies Research Institute, Indiana University, 422 N. Indiana Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47405 (812/855-4086).



# Gary Henry Wins First Douglas Rights Award



The first annual Douglas Rights Award for Contributions to North Carolina Archaeology was presented to V. Gary Henry at the spring meeting of the North Carolina Archaeological Society in Boone, North Carolina. The Rights Award was authorized by the board of directors of the Society to honor contributions to the knowledge of North Carolina's archaeological resources by amateur archaeologists.

The award is named for Douglas L. Rights, author of *The American Indian in North Carolina*. This book, published in 1947, was a compilation and synthesis of the state of the knowledge concerning the native inhabitants of North Carolina. This work is still in use as a valuable reference tool. It seemed entirely appropriate to name this award which honors contributions by non-professional archaeologists for Dr. Rights.

Gary Henry received the first award to recognize his contributions to the archaeology of the western

mountains. Mr. Henry has systematically surveyed surface sites in Buncombe, Haywood, and Madison counties. He has covered over 31,000 hectares and submitted nearly 400 site forms to the Office of State Archaeology. He has also cataloged the recovered artifacts, over 21,000 specimens. He has prepared a projectile point key for use to assist avocational archaeologists in identification (published in *Southern Indian Studies*, Vol. 40, 1991). Gary also compiled his data into a paper which he presented at the 1992 Uplands Conference. This paper detailed the results of the survey. One significant finding of the survey was the fact that it usually takes 6 or 7 revisits to a site to document all the temporal components present.

V. Gary Henry is a worthy recipient of the Douglas Rights Award, and is to be commended by the society for his contributions.



## From the President

Our Spring meeting on April 24th at Appalachian State University in Boone proved to be very successful. Tom Whyte did an excellent job of planning our meeting. We had an excellent turn out by members and three very interesting speakers including: Norman Dean Jefferson, Cherokee National Forest (Managing Cherokee National Forest's Cultural Resources), Gerald F. Schroedl, University of Tennessee (The Chattooga Archaeological Project and the Study of Eighteenth Century Cherokee Culture), and Brett H. Riggs, University of Tennessee (Cherokee Households and Communities During the Removal Period in Western North Carolina).

Appropriately at this meeting was formally recognizing our first Chapters to join under our new NCAS structure. We welcome the Otarre Chapter as our first official Chapter and the Appalachian Chapter (which is in process of forming). Good luck to both of these groups. There are other local groups that are planning to become chapters as well.

I hope all of you have a good summer and look forward to seeing you at Town Creek in the Fall.

J. Kirby Ward

## NCAS Officers

**President:** J. Kirby Ward, 101 Stourbridge Circle, Cary, NC 27511.

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