

Inside this issue:

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update	1
Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update	2
Meet an Archaeologist: Larry James	3
Featured Article: Geophysical "Dig" At Charles Towne Landing	4-5
Archaeology News	6

Upcoming Events

Piecing Together the Past with Archaeology

Charles Towne Landing
State Historic Site

March 10, 2012

10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Upcoming Events

Founders Hall Lecture Series

Teresa Farris-Dacar will discuss her book "From England - To Barbados - To Carolina, 1670-1700"

Charles Towne Landing
State Historic Site

May 8, 2012

6:30 pm

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update

The Second Annual Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Conference was held this February and was a great success.

The theme of this years conference was "Excavating Social Strata: Lifeways and Contributions of Marginalized Groups." Because history is often told from the perspective of those in power, an important role of archaeology is its potential to uncover the footprints left by the rest of the society. To this end, the eight papers presented at this years conference gave voice to those whose stories have been excluded or misrepresented, such as women, children, immigrants, servants, and the enslaved.



Sean Taylor demonstrates primitive technology

An entertainment filled reception followed the conference and attendees had the opportunity to learn about primitive technologies from archaeologist Sean Taylor and listen to a concert by local recorder group, *Olde Pipes Consort*.

The CTL archaeology staff would like to thank the presenters and everyone who came out to enjoy the conference. In addition we give special thanks to all of our sponsors who helped make this conference possible: the Friends of Charles Towne Landing, Archaeological Society of South Carolina Charleston Chapter, Sojourn Coffee, Pollo Tropical restaurant, Panera Bread Company, and Raisin' Cane's Chicken.

—CTL Staff



The conference also included an exhibit showcasing the material culture of these groups that was made possible by the Charleston Museum.

Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update



Two and a half centuries after the French and Indian War brought a fort and powder magazine to the small town of Dorchester, park staff, volunteers, and members of the Independent Company of South Carolina brought Dorchester's rich history back to life this February during the annual Low Country Colonial Days event.

Authentically clothed, historic interpreters from across the southeast descended upon Colonial Dorchester for two days recreating a mid-18th century military encampment of the Fort Dorchester Garrison of the Independent Company of South

Cooking demonstrations at the Cherokee camp



Carolina.

A record number of visitors came out to observe military drills and learn about the tasks of everyday Colonial life. American Colonial period skills such as open-fire cooking, blacksmithing, and medical practices were demonstrated by costumed interpreters. Militia reenactors fired black powder muskets, a wall gun, and an artillery cannon periodically throughout the day. Visitors encountered an archaeological excavation and talked to park archaeologists about how they discover Dorchester's past.

In addition to the Independent Company encampment, interpreters also represented 18th-century Cherokee Indians, British naval officers, an 18th-century long hunter and a laundress with the King's regiment.



Archaeologist Larry James discusses the archaeological resources at Dorchester

While you will have to wait a year to participate in the next Low Country Colonials Days, Fort Dorchester's Garrison Saturdays offer a similar opportunity on a smaller scale. The next Garrison Saturday will be April 7th. For more information call 843-873-1740 or visit the Independent Company of South Carolina's [website](#).

— SCPRT Staff

Meet an Archaeologist

Larry James



It was Larry James' lifelong passion for local history that eventually led him to the field of archaeology. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in American history at the College of Charleston he became interested in archaeology as a way to supplement his historical research. As an undergraduate James took a archaeological field school and volunteered on various sites throughout South Carolina. While excavating at the Topper Site in Allendale, SC he uncovered a cache of projectile points, an amazing find that he credits as the reason he began to seriously consider a career in archaeology.

Following graduation James initially found work in another field, however he could not stay away from archaeology for long. In 2005 he began his post graduate studies in anthropology and historic archaeology at the University of West Florida where he chose to focus his thesis research on a revolutionary war battle site. As a graduate student James gained experience in British and Spanish colonial archaeology by both participating in and supervising field schools and working on contract archaeology projects. Mr. James has also gained

valuable experience in historic preservation by working with the St. Michaels Cemetery Foundation in Pensacola, FL.

James says that his favorite aspect of archaeology is that it gives him a hands-on way "to pursue my passion of conducting research about the past."

He also loves "the freedom of working outside and not in a cubicle making sales calls."

Obviously Larry has a great appreciation for his field, but he also believes that archaeology has some room to grow. He admits that "archaeology is at a critical crossroads to re-invent itself as a field science" and is excited about the ability of new geo-physical technologies to provide broader methods of analysis and interpretation of sites while minimizing ground disturbance.

James encourages archaeology students to "get involved as much as possible," stressing that "archaeology, particularly in the Southeast, is like a big family" and that "it is important to make a contribution and make yourself known by volunteering or enlisting with current research projects." In fact, it was Larry's early volunteer work on excavations around Charleston and Summerville that led to his first full time job as an archaeologist with South Carolina State Parks.

Mr. James joined the SCPRT staff this past December as the new archaeologist at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, a position he says is "truly his dream job." His future plans for archaeology at Colonial Dorchester include delineating the boundary of the St. George Church foundation and cemetery and developing new educational and informative outreach programs. Be sure to stop by the park and give Larry a warm welcome! ■

Featured Article

Geophysical “Dig” At Charles Towne Landing

By: Scott Carney and David Jones

Since the first archaeological excavations in 1967, we have been trying to gather information to reconstruct the original settlement at Charles Towne Landing. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to “see” the underground in order to guide archaeological investigations? Well, now we're one step closer to doing just that.

In December 2011, a Charleston-based geophysics firm, GEL Geophysics, LLC, helped us by donating their services and scanning three areas at Charles Towne Landing with their innovative Computer Assisted Radar Tomography (CART) system. The CART is a multi-channel Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) system that can deliver images of the subsurface with an unparalleled level of accuracy and detail, similar to that of a medical “CAT Scan.” The premise of multi-channel systems is that GPR energy can be beamed at an object underground from several different angles with several different antennas. Subsequent processing of the data with specialized software creates 3-D images of the subsurface that can be viewed inch-by-inch into the ground...a virtual excavation, so to speak. For those of us accustomed to looking at the wiggly lines of hard-to-interpret



The GEL Geophysics crew using the CART system to scan the ground.

GPR data, the clarity and resolution of CART images are impressive. We are fortunate to have GEL Geophysics in our backyard since they are only one of three companies in the United States offering the CART technology.

Our primary goal was to identify the location of former ditches to the north of the palisaded area. Of course, the ditches have been completely filled over the course of time and now hide beneath a level landscape. These former ditches may have represented property boundaries of the original settlement. If the locations of these ditches could be confirmed, we could ascertain the former property boundaries thereby giving us valuable clues

regarding life at Charles Towne Landing in the late 1600's.

The field work was completed in a single day, and all were pleased with the speed of the data collection. GEL Geophysics also deployed the CART system where a small cemetery was suspected to be located, although there is no surface evidence indicating the presence of graves.

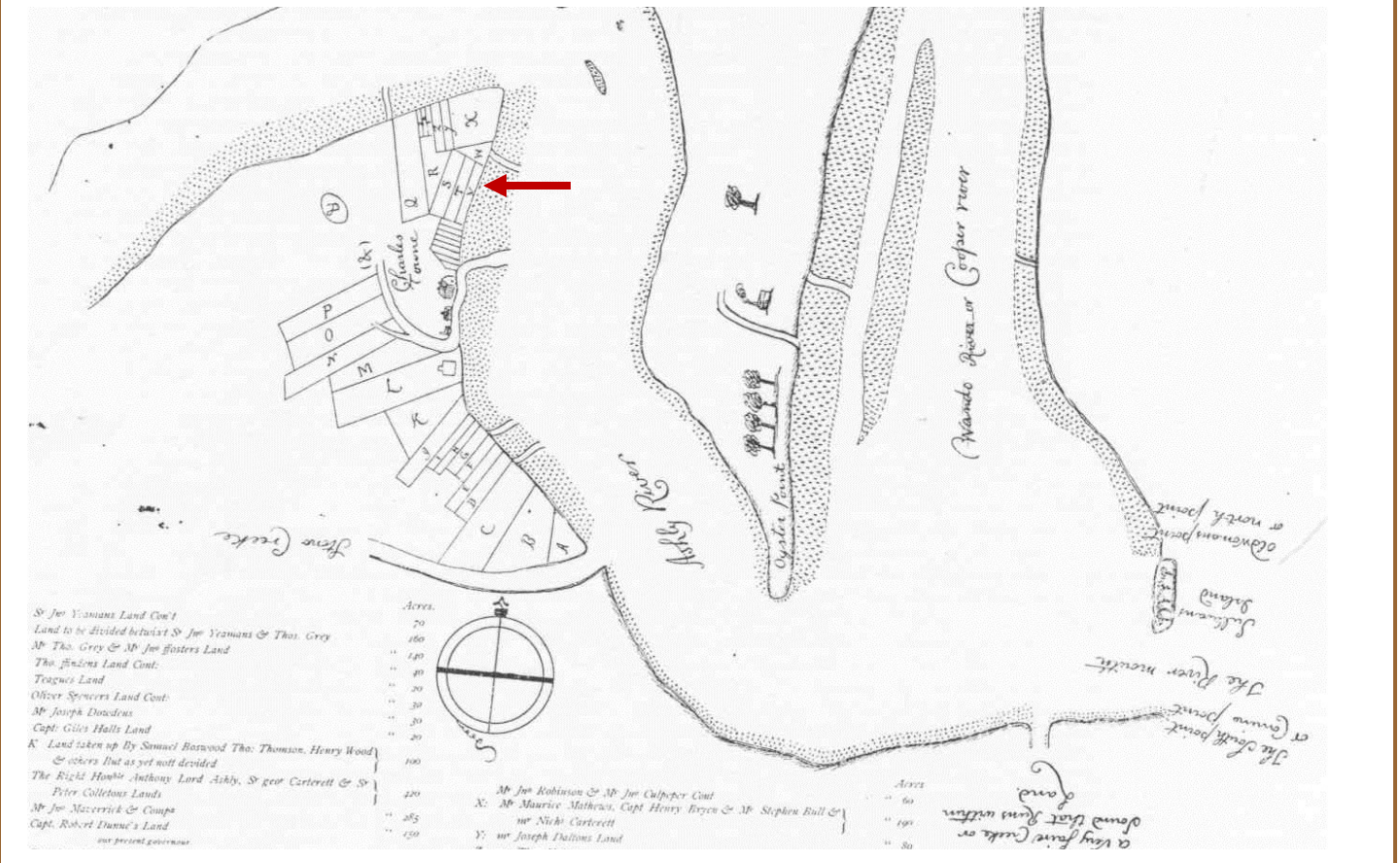
The results of the geophysical investigation were particularly effective in the Palisade area where the target ditches were evident in the CART data. As an added bonus, some 40 "point targets" were detected in this area. While we don't know what they are, some of these targets are likely artifacts that could have historical significance. With this data in hand, we can focus future archaeological excavations in areas that have a high concentration of these targets. In the Elk Habitat, the CART data was less conclusive in identifying

the target ditches. However, several linear features of interest were found, and they may be the elusive ditches. Further field work will be needed to confirm the CART data, but at least now we have a starting point and can minimize the number of excavations needed to get some answers. Finally, the cemetery area was wooded and overgrown in many parts, so CART data could be collected in only a portion of the area. In these areas, however, the CART data quality was relatively good. And based on the CART data, no evidence of burials was found in this area.

This one-day investigation successfully gathered a lot of information...and points us in the right direction as we continue to discover the birthplace of the Carolina colony. ■

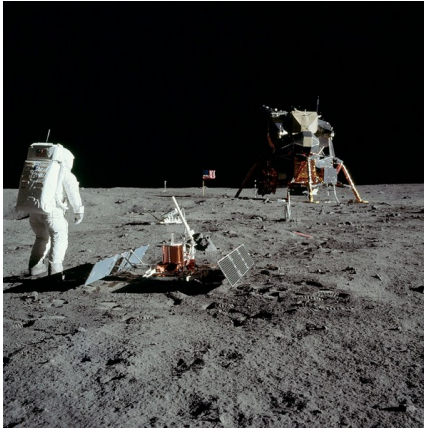
Scott Carney the director of GEL Gephysic, LLC, we greatly appreciate his contribution to the archaeological research at CTL

The Culpeper Map, which dates from 1671, shows the original property divisions of Charles Towne. The boundary ditch in the elk habitat could be the boundary between lots "T" and "V". The red arrow points to this area.



Digs Around the World

NEWS



- Archaeologists and historians are making efforts to preserve sites on the Earth's moon. Based on recent interest in lunar travel by Russia, India and private organizations, many believe there is a need to protect Tranquility Base, the location of NASA's lunar landings. Dr. Beth O'Leary of New Mexico State University first began looking into historic protection for the Apollo sites in 1999 and has succeeded in having the artifacts from these sites listed in California and New Mexico's catalog of historic artifacts. A NASA team has also issued recommendations for a protection radius for the Apollo 11 and 17 landing sites. The [New York Times](#) has more on this story.

◀ *Astronaut Buzz Aldrin during the Apollo 11 moon landing*

- Investigations of a slave cemetery in Rio De Janeiro, known to locals as the "cemetery of new blacks" is changing long held beliefs about the South American slave trade, reports [The Guardian](#). Analysis of isotopes in tooth enamel from skeletons found in this cemetery indicate that slave traders ventured deeper into the interior of Africa than previously thought. Cosmetic modifications of some of the teeth also show that some of the 3 million slaves brought to Brazil came from as far as Sudan and Mozambique, not just Africa's west coast. According to Della Cook, the biological anthropologist working on the site, "there is a lot of scholarship on slave cemeteries and the slave trade in North America but very little in South America, which is one of the things that makes this site fascinating." Continued research has the potential to improve the interpretation of slavery in Brazil.

- A temple complex currently being excavated in Ness of Brodgar, Scotland is believed to predate Stonehenge by 500 years, a date that could rewrite ancient British history. Archaeologist Julian Richards says, "We have tended to think we know how things were in the Neolithic period, then something like this turns that on its head." Red, orange and yellow colored rocks found at this site have also provided the first evidence of the use of paint for building decoration by Neolithic people in Britain. Read more about this discovery [here](#).



Excavations at the Ness of Brodgar site

- Archaeologists in Ha Noi, Vietnam have uncovered a section of the Thang Long Imperial Citadel wall. This section of wall dates to the Le So dynasty, which ruled from the 15th to 18th century. A total of 17 cultural levels have been excavated and artifacts including metals, pottery and kilns have been found. [Viet Nam News](#) has the story.

- Deforestation of the Amazon rainforest has led to the discovery of hundreds of large geometric land carvings that is changing our understanding of pre-Columbian South America. Built between 1,000 to 2,000 years ago, these geoglyphs are believed to have held ceremonial importance. Once believed to be uninhabitable for sophisticated societies, thanks to this discovery scholars now think the dense forests of the Amazon could have supported large populations with towns and road networks. Get the rest of this story [here](#).