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## Upcoming Events

### Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Conference

#### *Excavating Social Strata: Lifeways and Contributions of Marginalized Groups*

Sat. February 18th, 2012  
 9 am -5pm

Founders Hall, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site

## Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update

Excavations are once again underway at Charles Towne Landing!

After finishing up lab work from the Spring and Summer excavations, archaeologists and volunteers returned to the Miller Site in late September for the Fall Field Season.

This season's excavations are focusing on exposing the full dimensions of the tabby floor. Towards the end of last field season we were convinced that we were closing in on the horizontal extent of the tabby floor. After opening additional units this Fall, we were somewhat surprised to see the floor continuing to the north.



*Intact tabby floor in recently excavated unit at the Miller Site.*

To date we have 18 by 20 feet of the floor exposed. At this point our only certainty is that we have the southern edge defined. The eastern, western,

and northern edges all could continue to expand.

Artifacts are still abundant and remain consistent with those we have found in previous seasons.



*Dr. Smith answers questions following his lecture*

Notes from the Founders Hall Archaeology Lecture Series: On November 17th, Dr. Steven Smith gave an engaging presentation on Siege of Fort Motte. Approximately 50 people attended the event. The Friends of Charles Towne Landing provided wine and light hors d'oeuvre following the lecture.

Our next lecture will be the Second Annual Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Conference. The conference will be held on February 18, 2012 in Founders Hall. Be sure to mark you calendar! — CTL Staff

## Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update

Colonial Dorchester held its monthly living history garrison program on November 5th. A total of 185 adults and more than 90 children participated in interpretive programs, including military drills and musket firings. The next garrison program will take place Saturday December 3rd.



Leadership Dorchester, sponsored by the Greater Summerville/ Dorchester County Chamber visited the park on October 13th as part of their area history and tourism program. They were given a demonstration and recap of the archaeology that's been conducted at Colonial Dorchester over the years.



Colonial Dorchester is also proud to welcome Larry James as the park archaeologist. Larry earned his masters degree in historical archaeology from the University of West Florida. His experience in archaeological and historical interpretation will bring a fresh perspective to Colonial Dorchester. Larry will join the staff on December 2nd, be sure to stop by and say hello! — CD Staff

## Hampton Plantation Archaeology Update

State park archaeologists recently conducted a week long volunteer dig at Hampton Plantation. A total of 34 volunteers devoted their time throughout the week to help uncover the foundation of a possible slave house.

Seven new 5 by 5 foot units were opened and completed during the week. Additionally, work was completed on four units that had been opened in the Spring of 2011.

The objective of this excavation was to determine the dimensions of the structure. We succeeded in locating three corners and two chimney bases.

We can now say that

structure measures 20 by 30 feet with the long axis oriented northwest/southeast.

The mean ceramic date from previous excavations (New South Associates, 2010) was 1811. Although artifacts have yet to be washed and analyzed it appears that this date still applies.

Archaeologists plan to hold another volunteer dig at Hampton next Spring. Tentative dates are March 4th through 10th, 2012. — SCPRT Staff





## Meet an Archaeologist

### Stacey Young

As an undergrad at the University of Memphis, Stacey Young decided to take some anthropology classes just to fulfill some general education requirements. Little did she know that those classes would lead to a career in archaeology.

While at the University of Memphis, Stacey developed an interest in understanding communities and neighborhoods through anthropology and archaeology. She decided to pursue this interest with a master's

degree from the University of Southern Mississippi, where her studies focused on African American archaeology and slave lifeways, and in particular sub-floor pits of slave houses.

Stacey now has ten years of experience in archaeology, including internships with the USDA Forest Service and the National Civil Rights Museum, as well as participating in and directing CRM projects across the Southeast and in Puerto Rico.

Stacey says that her favorite thing about archaeology is "that you never really stop learning, each project offers something new." As for projects, she has a hard time choosing one standout favorite, but shares a few memorable ones with us. While



▲ Stacey recording a site during a survey.

trying to relocate structures at Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, she excavated a nearly complete teapot from a feature and in Puerto Rico she helped identify one of the largest batey, or ceremonial plaza, sites on the island!

Though agreeing that these finds were exciting, Stacey says she enjoys large scale surveys of many thousands of acres the most. According to Stacey, it is those projects that "give you a chance to really get an idea of where people

were living from prehistoric through historic times, and what resources they had available. And you never know what you're going to walk up on." Of all of the large surveys she's done Stacey holds a particular fondness for those in the Francis Marion National Forest, in which you can find sites occupied continually throughout thousands of years that allow her to think about "what the landscape looked like over time with the different occupations."

It's a good thing Stacey loves surveys, because she'll be spending the next three months working on one in South Carolina's midlands. Wish her luck! ■





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SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in *St. James Santee* in the County of *Charleston*, State of *South Carolina*, enumerated by me on the *1st* day of *June*, 1870.

Post Office: *Charleston S.C.* *Assistant U.S. Marshal.*

| 1                   | 2        | 3         | 4        | 5              | 6                                | 7                     | 8                        | 9                        | 10                            | 11                            | 12                                  | 13                                  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name                | Sex      | Age       | Color    | Married        | Profession, Occupation, or Trade | Place of Birth        | Place of Birth of Father | Place of Birth of Mother | Place of Birth of Grandfather | Place of Birth of Grandmother | Place of Birth of Great-grandfather | Place of Birth of Great-grandmother | Place of Birth of Great-great-grandfather | Place of Birth of Great-great-grandmother | Place of Birth of Great-great-great-grandfather | Place of Birth of Great-great-great-grandmother | Place of Birth of Great-great-great-great-grandfather | Place of Birth of Great-great-great-great-grandmother | Place of Birth of Great-great-great-great-great-grandfather |
| <i>James Santee</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>Married</i> | <i>Farmer</i>                    | <i>South Carolina</i> | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                       |
| <i>Betty</i>        | <i>F</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>Married</i> | <i>at home</i>                   | <i>South Carolina</i> | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                       |
| <i>Mary</i>         | <i>F</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>at home</i> | <i>at home</i>                   | <i>South Carolina</i> | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                       |
| <i>Phoebe</i>       | <i>F</i> | <i>5</i>  | <i>B</i> | <i>at home</i> | <i>at home</i>                   | <i>South Carolina</i> | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                       |
| <i>Henry Snyder</i> | <i>M</i> | <i>20</i> | <i>B</i> | <i>at home</i> | <i>at home</i>                   | <i>South Carolina</i> | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>    | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>         | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>               | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                     | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                           | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                 | <i>South Carolina</i>                                       |

U. S. Federal Census for 1870, Charleston County South Carolina, Saint James Santee Parish. Williamson family members are highlighted in red box.

structure similar to the one currently being excavated by archaeologists at the site. There, they and the unknown number of slaves who remained may have largely supervised themselves during the Civil War in the absence of the white family members, who were elsewhere during this time. By 1865, a Union officer explained that along the Santee River enslaved men and women “on many of the plantations have ceased to work.” By this he probably meant that they had ceased to work for the planters; obviously they had to continue working for themselves if they wanted their families to survive.

Following emancipation Jack Williamson probably remained in the vicinity of Hampton. Now a free man, Jack was listed as a blacksmith in the 1870 census, living with his wife Betty, daughters Mary and Phoebe, and son-in-law Henry Snyder (spelled Schneider in the census). Considering that Jack Williamson was a driver during the antebellum period, he may have continued this same role into the 1870s. Later, his son-in-law Henry Snyder would work as the Rutledge family foreman at Hampton for at least 25 years (roughly 1894-1919), continuing a family pattern that dated back at least to the 1850s. Peter Williamson apparently returned safely home from the war and married Henry Snyder’s sister, also

named Phoebe (listed in census as Sibby). Around 1869 they had a daughter named Emma, the first of at least six children.

The Williamson family’s connection to Hampton is further underscored by evidence of burials at the plantation cemetery. These include Phoebe Snyder (Williamson) in 1927, her husband Henry in 1921, and two children of Charley Williamson: Isaiah Williamson in 1939 and

Isabella Garret (Williamson) in 1938. It is also reasonable to believe that Jack, Betty, Peter and Charley may also have been buried at Hampton since their children, siblings and grandchildren had been. All of these graves and probably many others are unmarked, hidden somewhere in the quiet cemetery located in the heart of Hampton Plantation.

While the Williamson family history may be remembered by descendants somewhere, it was unknown to the staff at Hampton Plantation State Park until recently. It is hoped that their story will help bring to life the experiences of the many enslaved families who once lived and worked at this historic place.

For further reading:

Obernuefemann, Kelly. “The Hands of Hampton: Slavery on a St. James Santee Rice Plantation.” Unpublished paper prepared for Hampton Plantation State Historic Site, 2000, copy available at [http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/African%20American/AA\\_The%20Hands%20of%20Hampton.pdf](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/African%20American/AA_The%20Hands%20of%20Hampton.pdf)

Laney, Elizabeth. “Rediscovering Roots at Redcliffe Plantation.” *Ancestry Magazine*, March-April 2010.

[http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/Redcliffe%20Plantation/RP\\_AncestryArticle.pdf](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/files/State%20Parks/Redcliffe%20Plantation/RP_AncestryArticle.pdf) ■

*Al Hester is a historian with the South Carolina State Park Service*

# Digs Around the World

NEWS

• Archaeologists believe a recently discovered burial in Italy may indicate that the site was a graveyard for witches. A 800 year old skeleton of a woman was found with nails driven in to her jaw and around her body. Archaeologist Alfonso Forgione claims this was an “attempt to make sure the woman, even though she was dead, did not rise from the dead and unnerve the locals who were no doubt convinced she was a witch.” Learn more about this discovery [here](#).



• Underwater archaeologists in North Carolina have begun a month long investigation of the Queen Anne's Revenge shipwreck. Excavation and conservation of the ship, believed to belong to the famous pirate Blackbeard, has been ongoing since it's discovery in 1996. The current expedition will focus on excavation of the vessel's foremast and galley area and on retrieval of one of the ships largest cannons. The team will also continue to preform “in-situ” conservation of the ship's remaining cannons. To learn more about these excavations read The Daily News [article](#) or visit the Queen Anne's Revenge project [website](#).

◀ 1736 Engraving of Edward Teach, aka Blackbeard the Pirate

• There is new debate over the use of one Turkey's oldest structures. The large, art adorned stone pillars of the Gobekli site, located near the city of Urfa, are believed by many to part of one of the world's oldest temples, but Canadian archaeologist Ted Banning is challenging that belief. According to Banning, archeological evidence of flint knapping and food preparation found at Gobekli “suggests that the site was not, after all, devoid of residential occupation, but likely had quite a large population.” In other words, he believes that the Gobekli pillars “may have been houses for people, not gods.” Read more about Banning's theories [here](#).



▲ Carved pillar at Gobekli

• New evidence has forever changed long held beliefs about the peopling of the Americas. A mastodon bone with a spear point embedded inside of it, originally discovered in 1970 in Washington, was recently proved to be 13,800 years old. This date contradicts the “Clovis-first” model which claims that humans did not reach North America until 13,000 years ago. Thanks to many recent archaeological finds that suggest human migration to the Americas occurred as early as 15-16,000 years ago, including South Carolina's own Topper Site, many archaeologists have already been losing faith in the “Clovis-first” model. However, “Clovis-first” adherents had refused to accept these new theories. Thanks to this recently dated bone there is no longer any doubt about a pre-Clovis occupation. According to archaeologist Michael Waters, “there's nothing harder to change than a paradigm, than long-standing thinking. When Clovis-First was first proposed, it was a very elegant model but it's time to move on, and most of the archaeological community is doing just that.” Both the [BBC](#) and [NPR](#) have informative articles about this topic, check them out to learn more.