

Inside this issue:

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update	1
Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update	2
Ask An Archaeologist	2
Meet An Archaeologist: Ron Anthony	3
Tools of the Trade: Archaeological Photography	4-5
History Written in Stone: Cemeteries in the State Park Service	6-7
Digs Around the World	8

Upcoming Events

*Founders Hall
 Archaeology Lecture Series
 presents*

"Miller Site Excavations"

by David Jones

Charles Towne Landing State
 Historic Site, Founders Hall

May 29th, 6 pm.
 For more info, call
 (843) 852-4200

For questions and
 submissions, please contact:

djones@scprt.com

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update



Wine bottle fragments from the "Miller Site."

Archaeologists at Charles Towne Landing are currently working on cataloging and conserving the artifacts they recovered from the "Miller Site" during the fall dig season. The artifact collection points to a late 17th-early 18th century occupation– a time frame that was previously absent from the archaeological record at the park. Will the "Miller Site" and the tabby floor they uncovered last fall bridge the gap between the colonial years and the plantation levels of the park? Archaeologists are planning to finish their reports and return to the site by the end of May. On May 29th they will

be sharing their finds with the public at a lecture, where the visitors will also get a chance to see the artifacts in person (see the "upcoming events" announcement to the left for more information). ■



Ceramics from the "Miller Site."

Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update

Archaeologists have had a busy season this winter at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site. The 1960s forestry house that resided on lot 103 of the 1697 Congregationalist town was dismantled piece by piece to ensure the protection and preservation of the archaeological record. Onsite archaeologists supervised the removal of the old residence to ensure minimal damage to the site. The removal of the old residence will not only provide visitors with a renovated ranger contact station located behind the old residence, but also give archaeologists a chance to peek at what lies beneath.

The renovated ranger contact station also houses the park's archaeology lab, which was expanded to house more artifacts. Because of the sensitivity of the area, the original footprint of the 1960s structure was used for the enclosure.

This season's field research will be conducted on what historians and archaeologists believe to be a tavern site, located across from the church on lot 95. The *South Carolina Gazette*, March 27 – April 3, 1755 reads, "This is to give Notice, that WILLIAM POWER, who formerly kept a store for several years in Dorchester, and is just arrived from England, with a



A 1742 map with town plots, with lot 95 outlined in red.

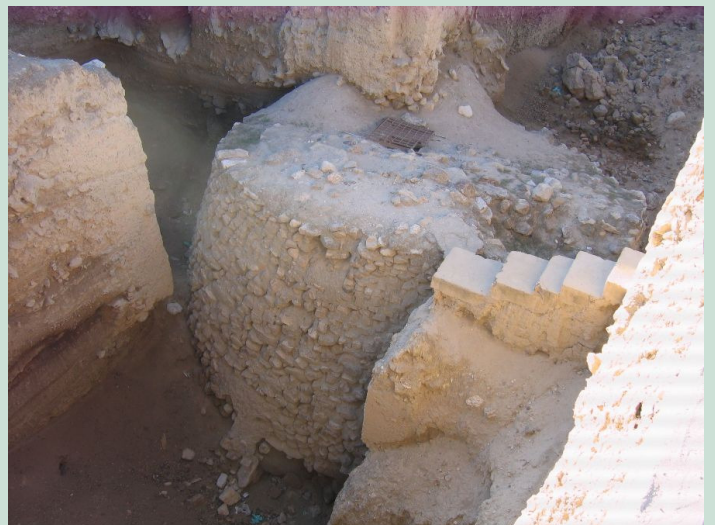
fresh parcel of GOODS, designs to open a STORE and TAVERN, the week after Easter, at the house near the church, where John Roberts, taylor, formerly lived, on Dorchester green."

A preliminary shovel test survey will be conducted on lots 94-96 and will allow us to see the boundary of the tavern site. Once the survey data has been processed and analyzed, onsite archaeologists will decide the placement of unit excavations. This new project is expected to reveal a portion of the town as yet undiscovered. ■

Ask An Archaeologist

Q: How deep do you have to dig?

A: This is one of the most frequently asked questions, but there is no single answer. It all depends on the site. Generally speaking, we dig until there is no more to be learned archaeologically from a particular site. This sometimes means reaching subsoil levels, untouched clay deposits, or bedrock. If a site was not occupied for long, the archaeological record can end early. If depositional construction materials, such as brick, stone, or mudbrick were used and the site was occupied for hundreds of years, archaeologists may have to dig several feet. ■



The earliest levels of the ancient city of Jericho in the Jordan River Valley date back to ca. 9000 BC.

Meet an Archaeologist

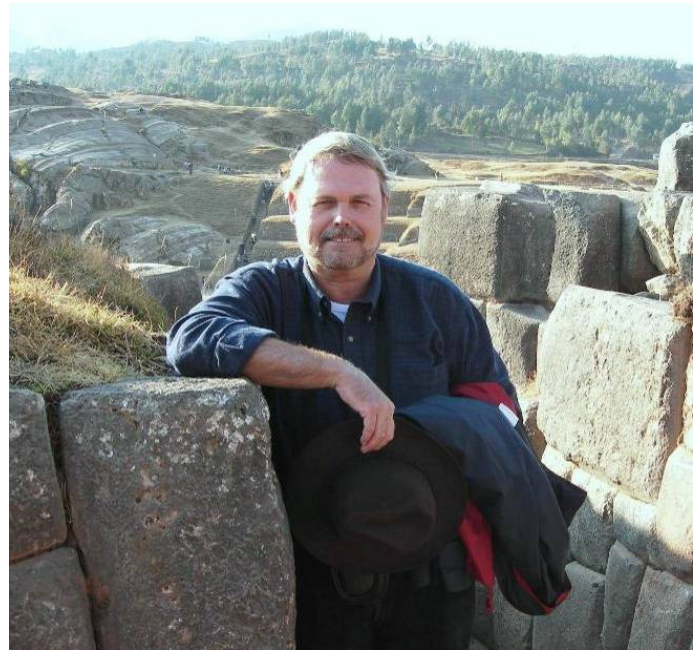
Ron Anthony

Just like most archaeologists, Ron Anthony fell in love with his field at an early age— when he was about 10 or 12 years old. He was intrigued by the past and different customs of foreign cultures. He decided to pursue his interest as an undergrad in 1972 and hasn't stopped since.

With an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and an M.A. from the University of South Carolina under his belt, Ron has participated in countless archaeological projects in the Carolinas, as well as excavations in Ireland and Peru. From 1977 to 1987, he was a partner and the primary field archaeologist with *Carolina Archaeological Services*, one of the first Cultural Resource Management firms in South Carolina. Since 1989, he has been an invaluable part of the archaeology team at the Charleston Museum. College of Charleston students will also recognize him as their instructor for a number of archaeology and anthropology classes he teaches regularly.

Early in his career, Ron focused on prehistoric settlements of the southeastern United States. Later on, his involvement in the excavation of the slave quarters at the Spiers Landing Site in Berkeley County sparked his interest in plantation archaeology and the material culture of the enslaved. "My research interests since the late 1970s have focused on plantation archaeology, particularly that of slave communities," Ron says. His colleagues consider him an expert on Colono Ware— a subject he explored in numerous articles over the years.

Ron still remembers the marvelous artifacts he found at the ridge top urban site of Queyash Alto, Peru: 2,000-year-old llama figurines, copper tupu pins, exotic pottery... He emphasizes, however, the



Ron Anthony in Peru.

value of collecting *information*, not just artifacts.

"There are no second chances once damage is done to a site. The public needs to know and agree that the real value of an archaeological site is the information," Ron says, contemplating the dangers sites face when people disregard the importance of preserving a site in their quest for *stuff*. He ruefully

states that the only part of his job he dislikes is witnessing "the wanton and selfish actions of site vandals who dig, collect, that is, damage sites for their own personal reward as they rob everyone of their heritage through their destruction of archaeological context."

Concerned about the non-renewable nature of archaeological resources, Ron deems educating future archaeologists about the ethics of preservation essential. "Archaeological ethics are **always** 'black and white' - no grey areas," he warns students. "If you breach your ethics, even once, it'll haunt you your entire career." ■

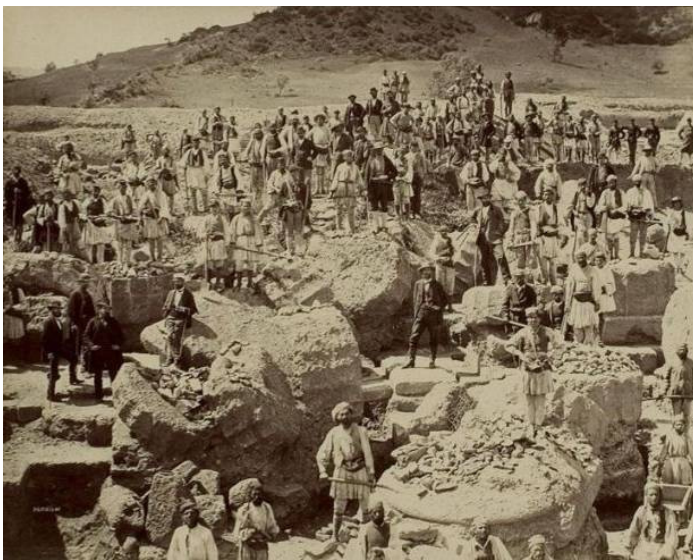
"Archaeological ethics are always 'black and white' - no grey areas."

Tools of the Trade

Archaeological Photography

“Excavation is destruction,” some archaeologists say. Even though an archaeological excavation is a meticulous, painstaking process, archaeologists change their surroundings irrevocably every step of the way. When a shovelful of dirt is removed from a unit, it can never be put back the same way it laid under our feet for hundreds of years. Once an archaeologist picks up an artifact, it is separated from its context forever. For these reasons, documentation is essential in a proper archaeological project.

Archaeologists have been using photography to document excavations since the arrival of this new technology in the 19th century. Due to the complicated nature of early camera equipment, however, a systematic and frequent method of photographic documentation was yet to be established. The earliest uses of photography in archaeological expeditions were mostly limited to shots of monuments and crew members.



1875/1876 excavation season at Olympia, Greece.

Today, advances in technology enable archaeologists to take multiple and frequent shots of units, artifacts, and features. These photos are kept in



Elizabeth Ilderton, providing shadow for a photo.

◀ An ideal photo would have a north arrow and a legible photo board.

archival records for future reference, as well as lectures, presentations, and publications in scientific journals. If a photograph is to be presented to the scientific community, usually certain technical standards are expected. First of all, the units must be thoroughly cleaned with trowels and brushes, the tools and other equipment must be cleared. For plan-view photos of units, the photographer must ensure that the entire unit is within the frame and a north arrow, an identification board, and a scale are included in the picture. Since subtle soil differences are difficult to capture in photos, it is better if the entire area is in the shade and sunlight is not playing any tricks on our eyes. It is not always easy to meet all these criteria; that's why archaeologists



often resort to extreme measures, such as using bed sheets for shadow or “cherry picker” trucks for height.■

For that perfect photo, sometimes we go to great lengths (or heights).

Anatomy of a Bad Photo



Featured Article

History Written in Stone: Cemeteries in the State Park Service

by Dan Bell

Old cemeteries and tombstones are wonderful historic resources. They are history written in stone. A cemetery might be the only visible remnant of a church, community, or family farmstead. The tombstones in a cemetery can tell us many different stories—how people lived, how they died, and how they were remembered by those they left behind. Some stones are simple markers that show where a body is buried. Others are memorials, testaments to the memory of the deceased and reminders of their achievements in life. Some tombstones are works of art, beautiful examples of the skills of a master stone carver or homemade grave markers crafted with care from local materials.

The South Carolina State Park Service is fortunate to have many of these incredible resources on its properties. A preliminary inventory has identified 45 cemeteries and individual gravesites containing almost 750 grave markers. Graves and cemeteries can be found on 18 State Park Service sites. This count does not include four isolated graveyards that are maintained as historic cemeteries by nearby state parks.

Cemeteries in the State Park Service range from individual graves to whole graveyards. At Givhans Ferry State Park you can see the grave of Mary Ford, who died in 1818 at the age of 3 months and 29 days. The Barnett Cemetery, one of several family graveyards at Croft State Natural Area, contains homemade grave markers made from soft local soapstone, some of them still showing the scribed horizontal lines that guided the placement of inscriptions cut nearly 200 years ago. Most gravestones at the state parks mark the burial sites of everyday people, with the exception of four sites that contain the graves of more famous figures. The graves of Revolutionary War heroes Thomas

Sumter, Francis Marion, and Isaac Hayne are found at the historic burial sites that bear their names. Former South Carolina governor William Henry Gist is buried at his family's cemetery near Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site.



Careful cleaning can reveal details and problems.

While cemeteries can tell us much about the past, they can also pose many preservation challenges in the present. Gravestones are not indestructible. They are very fragile reminders of our past, and damage to them can occur quickly. Trees and limbs falling in a storm can easily break old markers, or vandals can knock over many stones in a night of senseless destruction. Often damage occurs gradually. Grime can obscure inscriptions, and acid rain and other pollutants can dissolve stones or leave dark stains. Mosses and lichens can cover markers and secrete acids that etch soft stones. Long neglected stones sink below the surface. Broken or displaced stones slowly get covered with leaves and soil, and become lost. Careless lawn maintenance can leave permanent scars from mowers and weed whackers. There are, of course, dangers posed by too much attention as well.

Improper and unnecessary cleaning can lead to rapid deterioration. Well-meaning efforts to make a faint inscription more visible can leave permanent scratches.

Many of the cemeteries in our care require attention. Most still have to have baseline surveys done and conservation assessments performed to determine their basic needs. Given the number of cemeteries at State Park Service sites, we have had to prioritize our preservation efforts. The Gist family cemetery near Rose Hill Plantation is an example of a graveyard with immediate needs. One side of a brick wall enclosing the cemetery is collapsing, threatening the nearby tombstones. The wall will soon be righted in the first phase of a multi-part project that will attempt to preserve as much of the fragile old brickwork as possible.



The leaning wall at the Gist Cemetery threatens nearby stones.

Carefully righting a historic brick wall and doing similar conservation work in an old cemetery requires experience and specialized skills. It also takes the assistance of archaeologists. Before the wall at Rose Hill is straightened, archaeologists will excavate outside the wall to ensure that no subsurface features or information is lost in the process. The probability that cemeteries contain

additional, unmarked burials means that any job requiring digging—such as resetting a tipping tombstone—needs archaeological review. Archaeology is also needed to answer those questions that a survey of what is above ground cannot answer: Are there more burials? Are there any grave stones or remnants of walls or fences that lie buried under the surface? How far across the landscape do burials extend? This last question is especially important. It helps the State Park Service set a protective zone around a cemetery so that trails or construction or other uses won't disturb the site.

Visitors can help preserve the old headstones and graveyards at our sites. At Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site I have given a cemetery tour called "Tiptoe Through the Tombstones." That's a good bit of advice to remember when visiting any historic cemetery. Old stones are fragile. Don't stand on, sit on, or lean against them. Don't try to make an inscription more legible by scratching the face of the stone with a stick, spraying the stone with shaving cream, or dusting it with talcum powder. All this can harm a stone. Finally, don't take rubbings. There is just too much potential for causing damage. Take photos instead. Pictures can capture inscriptions along with texture, color, light, form, condition, and materials—everything that a rubbing can't.

So with these cautions in mind, please come out to explore the many cemeteries at your South Carolina State Parks. Brochures for the cemetery at Colonial Dorchester and the Isaac Hayne Burial Site interpret the graveyards and provide all the inscriptions from the gravestones. We will soon have a similar brochure available at the Francis Marion Burial Site. And if you notice any problems while you are in one of the cemeteries, please notify the staff or contact the park that manages the cemetery. With your help, we can preserve these precious connections to our past for future generations. ■

Dan Bell is the Historic Resource Coordinator of the South Carolina State Park Service.

Digs Around the World

NEWS!

- Greek archaeologists recently discovered what could be one of the oldest man-made walls in the world. The 23,000 year-old wall was built at the entrance of a cave during the most recent ice age to protect the inhabitants from harsh weather. According to the Greek ministry of culture, the age of the wall was determined by optical dating, which calculates a given object's last exposure to sunlight.

<http://www.physorg.com/news188483227.html>

- Is "space archaeology" a possible future subfield? A group of archaeologists are lobbying to register the remains of the Apollo 11 mission as a UNESCO Cultural Heritage Site. The Lunar Legacy Project, led by anthropologist Beth O'Leary, has inventoried over 100 objects left behind on the moon by the Apollo 11 astronauts. In January, California named the lunar landing site a state historical resource in an effort to protect the remains from possible destruction. Other states are expected to follow with similar legislations.

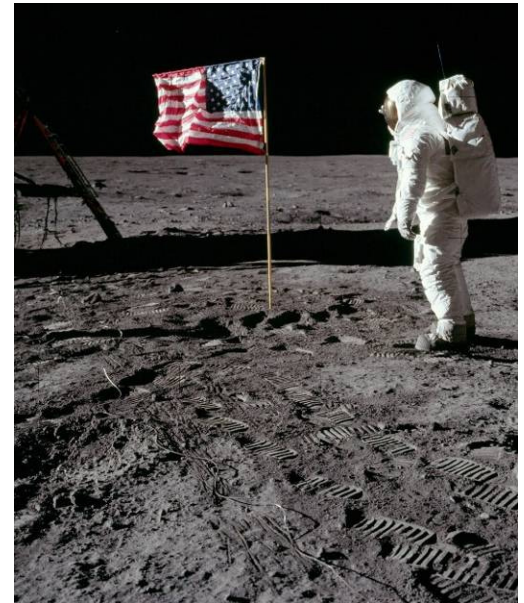
<http://articles.latimes.com/2010/jan/29/local/la-me-moon-junk29-2010jan29>

- Archaeologists excavating a Knights Templar fort on the island of Ilheu de Pontinha found a Late Roman period nail in a decorated box. The Knights may have believed the nail to be a relic from Christ's crucifixion, archaeologists say.

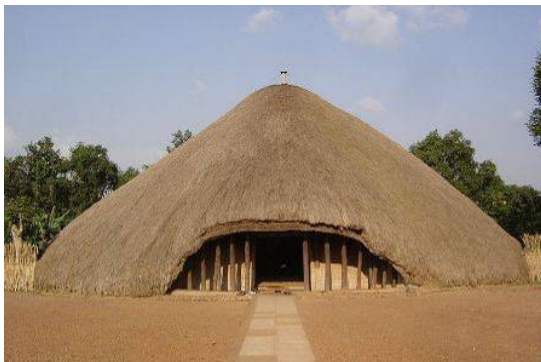
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/howaboutthat/7350166/Nail-from-Christ's-crucifixion-found.html>

- A German tourist is being criticized for her actions after breaking into a protected Maori rock art site in New Zealand and posting the photos online. The curator of the Ngai Tahu Maori Rock Art Trust, Amanda Symon, said the tourist could have caused damage to the paintings as she brushed up against them in her effort to squeeze in around the fence. People should worry about "things that really matter," the tourist wrote in her blog. She later apologized.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/3402075/Tourist-unrepentant-over-rock-art-break-in>



The US flag and astronaut footprints are part of the archaeological inventory prepared by the Lunar Legacy Project.



The Kasubi Tombs before the fire.

- The Kasubi Tombs, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Uganda, were destroyed by a fire. The tombs housed the remains of four kings and were built with organic materials such as wood and thatch. The site was a very significant spiritual center for the Baganda ethnic group. Protesters suspect government involvement and three people were shot by the presidential guard during demonstrations.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/mar/17/kampala-protests-kasubi-tombs>