South Carolina State Parks

ARCHNEWS

South Carolina State Parks Archaeology Newsletter

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VOLUME 1 NO 4 SUMMER 2010

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Update

Thanks to a great audience, the first installment of our Founders Hall Archaeology Lecture Series was a success. At this first lecture, our speaker David Jones presented the recent finds from the Miller Site excavations at Charles Towne Landing. After the talk, the attendees enjoyed a wine reception and viewed some of the artifacts recovered from the site, including the mysterious gold ornament Jones discussed in his presentation. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Friends of Charles Towne Landing, who provided the hors d'oeuvres and beverages for this event.

The Miller Site has received some attention from the press as well. We would especially like to thank Robert Behre of Post and Courier for coming out to the site to take photos and listen to our story, and the Channel 4 crew for saving us a spot on the 6 o'clock news. Thanks to their coverage, a number of other news sources reported our site as a rare and exciting discovery. An online version of the Post and Courier article can be found here. ■

▲ *Charles Towne Landing archaeologists are collaborating with a number of museums and universities in an effort to understand the function and the iconography of the gold artifact.*

◄ *Attendees filled the main room at Founders Hall for the Miller Site lecture.*

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events

Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Festival:

Piecing Together the Past With Archaeology

Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site

October 9, 2010, 11 am– 4 pm.

For more info, call

(843) 852-4200

Colonial Dorchester Archaeology Update

Archaeologists have been busy updating the archaeology lab all while conducting a preliminary investigation into the tavern site. The tavern site, thought to be located on lot 95 of the 1697 town, has revealed a number of artifacts consisting of early 18th century ceramics thus far. While various stonewares, slipwares, and Delft-like tin enameled glazed wares have been recovered in moderate amounts, no creamware has been found in this area, suggesting a relatively early occupation date for these lots. The lack of pipe stems and green bottle glass at the site continue to intrigue archaeologists. We hope that further investigations will provide greater insight into the history of the lot.

To support our archaeological exploration of the site, we are working to renovate our on-site lab to include a new climate controlled artifact storage facility. This addition is designed to reduce the rate of deterioration of the artifacts by keeping the temperature stable and the humidity to a minimum. Windows were left out of the curation facility to reduce the harmful effects of ultraviolet light. All artifacts have been placed in acid free bags and boxes to be shelved for permanent or long term storage. Two doors were added to the facility to maintain the security of the artifacts and to keep handling to a minimum.

We would like to thank each of you for your support in helping us to discover more about Colonial Dorchester's history. The public is welcome to observe archaeologists at work at Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site on Saturdays from 10 am to 2pm. The park is located at 300 State Park Road on the Ashley River in Summerville. The e-mail address is colonialdorchester@scprt.com. The phone number is 843-873-7475. On the Web, the park is at www.SouthCarolinaParks.com. ■

Ceramics from the tavern site.

CALL FOR PAPERS

CHARLES TOWNE LANDING ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE

The organizers would like to invite paper and poster abstracts for the upcoming Charles Towne Landing Archaeology Conference, scheduled to take place at Founders Hall on February 19th, 2011. Although there is no particular theme for this year's conference, special consideration will be given to papers and posters that focus on South Carolina archaeology. The conference will be divided into professional and student paper sessions; submissions from graduate and advanced undergraduate students are encouraged.

Abstracts for papers: Maximum 300 words, including the title, the name of the presenter and affiliation (Please state if you are a student).

Abstracts for posters: Maximum 300 words, including a list of proposed graphics and images, the size, the title, the name of the presenter and affiliation. Sample images or a draft copy of the poster may be submitted as supplementary material. Bulletin boards and/or easels will be provided, entrants will be responsible for printing their posters.

Deadline: November 15th, 2010. Please direct all submissions and questions to djones@scprt.com with CTL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE in the subject bar. ■

Meet an Archaeologist

Nicole Isenbarger

Nicole's family was an itinerant one: Her father was in the Army and they moved from one place to another, from Alaska to Italy. For Nicole, the best way to adjust and feel connected was to probe into her new home's past. "I always learned the history of where I was living through archaeology," Nicole says. Years later her curiosity turned into a way of life.

After majoring in anthropology at the College of Charleston as an undergraduate, Nicole went one step further and earned her master's degree in the same field from the University of South Carolina. She worked on countless Native American, colonial, and plantation sites across the southeastern United States. While she mainly works in the South Carolina lowcountry, archaeology took her as far as the Bahamas. She also participated in a number of projects around downtown Charleston, including the Beef Market and Aiken-Rhett House. She is currently an archaeologist and a laboratory supervisor with Brockington and Associates.

Nicole considers her specialty to be plantation studies, more specifically African American archaeology and Colono Ware analysis. Her research revolves around community formation and marketing systems among enslaved Africans. Nicole sees archaeology as "a chance to give a voice to peoples who are not included in the written record." Colono Ware, a type of pottery primarily produced by the enslaved, is her favorite artifact type because it is "one of the few things handmade by African descendents that survive the archaeological record," Nicole says. Pottery traditions such as Colono Ware vessels play a key role in her research as indicators of economic activities and foodways. Luckily, her latest project at Dean Hall, a 19th century plantation on the Cooper River, yielded remarkable quantities of decorated Colono Ware fragments. She is currently trying to piece together the meaning of these markings and decorations.

Nicole Isenbarger visiting Monticello.

In addition to her regular duties as a field and lab archaeologist, Nicole likes to engage with students and participate in various archaeology-related outreach programs throughout the state. For Nicole, no child is too young for recruitment: She has been visiting elementary and middle schools in the area every year since 2006. Her word of advice to archaeology students is to volunteer or intern with as many projects as possible to get a sense of the unique kinds of experiences each site has to offer. "This will allow you to determine what you are interested in and gain experience in different methodologies, techniques, and artifact identification prior to starting your career or going on for a higher degree," Nicole says. ■

Featured Article

Colonial Tobacco Pipes and Makers' Marks

by Cicek Beeby

Shortly after the European conquest of the New World, the practice of smoking tobacco, or "drinking smoke" as it was known in those days, spread all across Europe. Although human imagination knew no bounds when it came to finding different ways to "drink smoke," clay tobacco pipes similar to the North American *calumet*, or "peace pipe", became increasingly popular among Europeans in the 16th century. In 1573, William Harrison in his *Great Chronologie* mentioned that,

> "the taking-in of the smoke of the Indian herbe called 'Tabaco,' by an instrument formed like a litle ladell, whereby it passeth from the mouth into the hed and stomach, is gretlie taken-up and used in England."

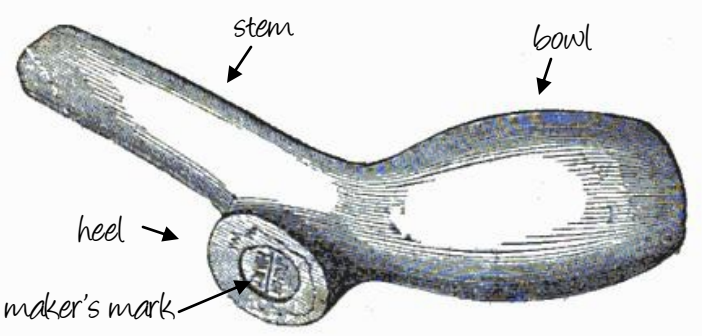
For hundreds of years, historians tried to pinpoint the identity of the first "pipe smoker" in England and much of this historical lore and legend concentrated around Sir Walter Raleigh. According to one popular story, Sir Raleigh's servant, who had never seen anyone smoke before, thought his master was on fire and promptly proceeded to extinguish it with a pitcher of water (or ale in other versions). Regardless of who smoked the first pipe, business boomed in England and merchants emerged in response to the demand. In the 17th century, tobacco pipe maker guilds were established in London and Bristol, two cities that dominated the market.

THE FIRST PIPE OF TOBACCO.
(Raleigh's servant thought his master was on fire.)

Illustration from the 1893 edition of The Beginner's American History *by D. H. Montgomery.*

Tobacco pipe fragments are common but valuable finds in archaeological contexts. There are several reasons why archaeologists are so fond of these seemingly inconsequential pieces. First of all, tobacco pipes were inexpensive and readily available to all levels of social classes. In addition to their widespread use, clay pipes were easily broken and thrown away within a few years. Due to their low cost they were not mended or kept as heirlooms. Their short life span provides a tight date range and their abundance is always welcome in archaeological sites.

Unfortunately, their fragility also means that they are almost always recovered in fragments from excavations and it is near impossible to put the pieces together to form a whole tobacco pipe. On the other hand, most parts of the tobacco pipe are dateable independently unless the pieces are minuscule in size. A European clay pipe consists of two basic parts: the bowl and the stem. Occasionally a flat heel or a protruding spur can be seen at the bottom of the pipe where the bowl connects to the stem.



Parts of a tobacco pipe. Drawing after Abraham Hume, 1863.

The bowl of the pipe went through a number of stylistic changes over time. The earlier types were smaller and "bulbous" in shape, mostly plain but occasionally decorated with grooves or series of

notches called *rouletting* along the rim of the bowl. In the 19th century, elaborately decorated bowls became increasingly common. Although these stylistic differences can vary from maker to maker, a general date can usually be assigned to the bowl.

Pipe bowl with rouletting along the rim.

The stem evolved over time in an entirely different direction. From the late 16th century onwards, the stem of the pipe became increasingly longer, while the bore hole inside became smaller in diameter. In contrast with the 3-4 inch stems of the earliest pipes, by the end of the 17th century pipes with 11-12 inch stems were not uncommon. Although archaeologists find the pipe stems in much smaller pieces, the diameter of the hole can still be measured. When the hidden potential of the stem was first realized in the 1950s and 1960s, the study of the bore hole attracted immediate attention from archaeologists and mathematicians alike. Archaeologists still use the progression charts and formulae developed as a result of these extensive studies, albeit with a wary eye.

Perhaps the most exciting (and most promising) clue of all is the occasional stamp of the maker on the pipe. These "signatures" varied in style, ranging from simple incisions of the maker's initials to elaborate designs in relief-molded cartouches. They are most commonly found on the flat base of the heel of the 17th century pipes, although in the late 17th– early 18th centuries marks on the bowls themselves began to be seen. Some makers preferred to put their marks around the stem flanked by multiple rows of decorations. Many of these initials and marks can be identified and traced back to the guild members of major production centers. These signatures do not only introduce a more personal, human element into the picture, but also point to possible trade connections. For instance, a study of makers' marks recovered at Charles Towne Landing primarily points to the Bristol industry. Most recently, archaeologists recovered a pipe bowl fragment with a relief cartouche bearing the name of H. Edwards spread across three lines. This mark can be traced backed to Henry Edwards of Bristol, who was producing pipes between 1699-1727. Another pipe from the same site had "RT" impressed on the back of the bowl. These initials probably stand for pipe maker Robert Tippet II, active in Bristol between 1678-1713. A pipe bowl marked "WE" and a stem with the name "WIL EVANS" both belong to one of the two pipe makers named William Evans from Bristol. William Evans I worked from 1660 to about 1682, while William Evans II produced his pipes between 1667-1697. Another pipe bowl with "EB" stamped on the flat base of the heel may be attributed to Edward Battle of Bristol, who finished his apprenticeship in 1660. ■

Pipe stem made by William Evans of Bristol.

H/[E]DWA/RDS: Henry Edwards' mark.

Cicek Beeby *is an archaeologist at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site.*

Site Spotlight

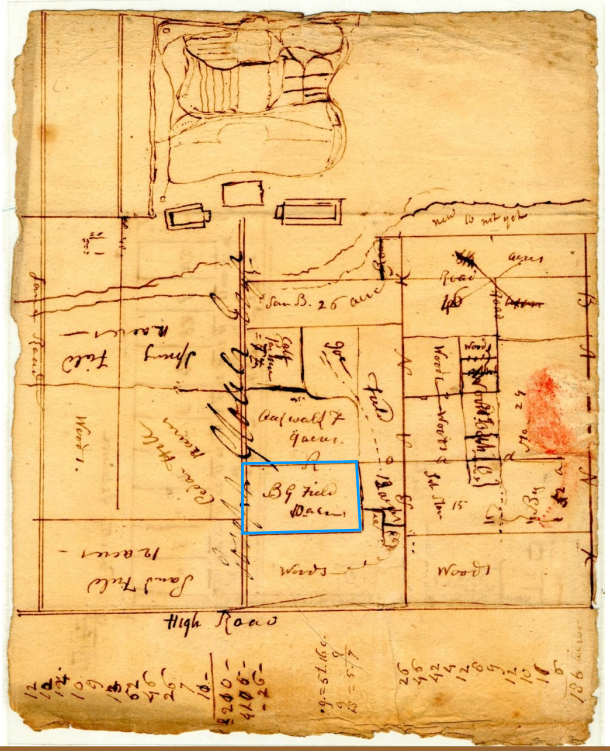
Expanding the Limits: The African American Cemetery at Drayton Hall, Charleston, SC

by Sarah Stroud

In both the past and present, Drayton Hall's African American cemetery has functioned as a "Sacred Place" to the people of African descent—enslaved and free, named and unknown—that contributed to Drayton Hall's growth, development, and survival. Located on the "High Ground" just to the south of the Drayton Hall entrance road, the cemetery remains active today and recent research now points to it having been in use since the 1790s. The most recent burial is that of Richmond Bowens (1908-1998), a native of Drayton Hall and a descendent of enslaved African Americans at Drayton Hall. His father John Bowens (d. 1928) is also buried in the Drayton Hall Cemetery.

In preparation for the erection of a commemorative archway designed by the late Phillip Simmons and his cousin and protégé Joseph "Ronnie" Pringle to memorialize the African and African Americans buried in the cemetery and in order to improve the associated parking area, an archaeological survey was conducted to determine the overall extent of the cemetery limits. At the outset of the project, there were 33 known burial plots visible by either grave markers, or shallow depressions in the ground. All were located within a grove of trees, set back about 100 feet from the entrance road. The origination date for the cemetery was thought to be during the third quarter of the nineteenth century as the existing grave markers all date from this time period. Questions arose, however, when manuscripts from the turn of the nineteenth century began to hint that the cemetery might have a much earlier start date and span a substantially greater area than what is visible to the naked eye.

Drayton Hall was created on the banks of the Ashley River in March of 1738 as the home seat of John Drayton. The house was occupied by the mid-1740s, and it was here that John Drayton made his home until his death during the Revolutionary War in 1779. Following his father's death, Charles Drayton gained ownership of the home in 1784 from his stepmother Rebecca Drayton. It is from Charles Drayton's copious journal entries and drawings that we are now gaining more insight into the possible origins of the Drayton Hall Cemetery. A map of Drayton Hall surviving from this period (c.1800) outlines the property's fields and lists relative acreage. On this map, Dr. Carter C. Hudgins, Director of Preservation at Drayton Hall, noticed that in the same area as the current Drayton Hall cemetery, the map indicates the location of an active cemetery, labeled "B G Fields, 10 acres," now thought to stand for "Burial Ground" Fields. The 10



Sketch map of the Drayton Hall Property by Charles Drayton c.1800, with "BG Fields" outlined in blue.

acre area encompasses the current cemetery area, but also extends out of the woods to the north near the entrance road where the current visitor parking area is located. The eastern boundary is a historic road, now known as Macbeth Road where a number of African American house sites from the late 1800s are known to be located from an archaeological survey conducted after Hurricane Hugo in 1990.

In order to verify that the c.1800 map is accurate and to ensure that the proposed commemorative arch location was not going to impact any below ground features, archaeological testing was conducted in two phases, first in the fall of 2008 and again in the winter of 2010 by the Drayton Hall Preservation Department archaeologists. During the 2008 testing, nine five-by-five foot units were placed in both the existing parking area and proposed memorial location. The memorial location did not uncover any below ground features, but further north in the existing parking area two new lines of graves were located. Five additional grave shafts were identified, all on the same east-west axis as the 33 previously known graves. The location of the new grave shafts is consistent with the northern border of the "B G Fields" shown in the c.1800 map. With this knowledge, further testing was conducted this winter to investigate the limits of the cemetery to the east and west. Five additional units were placed 60 feet to the west of the recently uncovered line of graves, but no additional grave shafts were located in this direction. Seven units were then placed 150 feet to the east and just inside of Macbeth Road where two more additional grave shafts were located.

The discovery of seven new grave shafts along the boundaries of the historic map is expanding both our knowledge of the historic cemetery and the interpreted limits of this sacred space. Upon discovery of the grave shafts in the parking area the limits of the parking were immediately altered and during the spring of 2010 a new parking area was installed across the main entrance road in an area that is free of archaeological features. The new memorial arch will be installed this coming fall. Please join us for the dedication ceremony on Saturday, October 9th 2010; further details are available at www.draytonhall.org.■

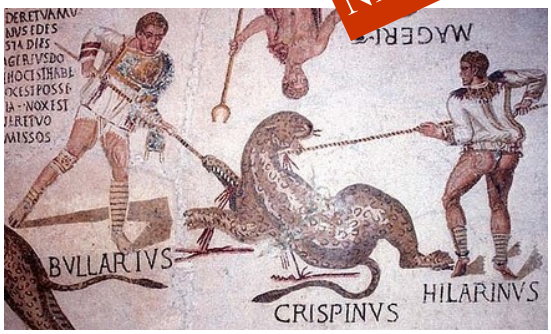
◄ *Plan view of the archaeological investigation at Drayton Hall's African American cemetery.*

***Sarah Stroud** is an archaeologist and the Preservation Coordinator at Drayton Hall.*

Digs Around the World

NEWS !

- More than 80 decapitated Roman skeletons were found in York, England. Based on signs of cranial trauma and tooth marks from large animals, perhaps lions or tigers, archaeologists have concluded that they have discovered a gladiator cemetery. Archaeologist John Walker says that the bones belong to muscular men of above average build, and the right arms are generally more developed than the left, resulting from heavy training in handling weapons. NPR has the story.



Roman fighters known as venatores specialized in combating wild animals in the arena.

The Cave of Altamira is home to polychrome paintings of bison, horses, and deer.

- Spanish officials have decided to reopen the Cave of Altamira to visitors. The cave system has been closed for eight years due to damage caused by body heat and moisture from breathing. Scientists recommended that the UNESCO World Heritage Site remain closed and warned against potential deterioration of the valuable Paleolithic paintings in the caves. A committee has been set up to establish guidelines and limitations for controlling tourist flow. More of the story is available here.

- A new colonial shipwreck discovered off the coast of St. Augustine may be one of the oldest in the region, marine archaeologists say. The wreck is completely buried under sand, which prevented its discovery by recreational divers. The Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) investigators believe that the shipwreck dates to the 1700s based on the artifacts recovered from the site, including lead shots and a cauldron. Read more about it here.

- Italian archaeologists believe that they may have found the remains of Baroque artist Caravaggio. The bones were identified after an extensive study of 200 sets of human remains found in a crypt in Porto Ercole, Italy. To learn how scientists identified his bones and how certain they are, read the Telegraph's report.

Caravaggio died in 1610 in Porto Ercole.

- A new bill regulating the removal of archaeological resources by unauthorized parties in South Carolina has been signed into law. This new amendment to the existing property laws states that "it is unlawful for a person to willfully, knowingly, or maliciously enter upon the lands of another or the posted lands of the state and disturb or excavate a prehistoric or historic site." Violators will face misdemeanor and felony charges. The full text is available here.

- A strikingly well preserved 5,500-year-old leather shoe was discovered in an Armenian cave by a team of Irish archaeologists. The shoe is made out of a single piece of leather held together by lace strands and lacks reinforcement in the sole. The grass that was found inside could be for insulation or to preserve the shape of the shoe, archaeologists say. To see photos of the mysterious shoe, click here.