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A HISTORY OF PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS
IN THE COASTAL PLAIN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

BY

David G. Anderson

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Wayne Neighbors, Editor
Archeological Society of South Carolina, Inc.
Columbia, S.C.

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"The old life and conditions are passing away — the future will be very different from the present. The Museum should collect and preserve for posterity all that it can gather of the old days. Again and again we have found ourselves unable to investigate Indian mounds, to collect rare animals and plants, or to obtain for the Museum relics of the old civilization of this region. All of these things are rapidly disappearing or passing into the hands of strangers. It would be nothing less than a calamity for us to fail to preserve what still can be obtained."

- Report of the Director of the Museum for the Year 1918, by Paul M. Rea, Director, The Charleston Museum.

INTRODUCTION

The Coastal Plain of South Carolina lies in a part of the Southeast that, until quite recently, has been largely unknown archeologically. As recently as 1970, for example, it was possible for Charles Fairbanks (1971:42) to note "South Carolina for long was more interested in ancestors than in artifacts and not too much information is readily available." Fairbank's review, focusing on changes in archeological knowledge in the Southeast since 1938, also noted that even basic descriptive and chronological data were lacking for much of the state. In the past few years, however, this situation has been changing dramatically. In 1971, in both the Coastal Plain and Piedmont, 762 sites were formally recorded in the files of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology (IAA) in Columbia, SC (Stephenson 1971). By the end of 1972 the total had risen to 1,103 (Stephenson 1972), and by 1975 it had reached almost 2,000 (Stephenson 1975:84). The quantity of research and reports has grown at a corresponding explosive rate.

The recent, tremendous increase in information has tended to eclipse or even obscure the results of earlier work conducted in the state. The effort of keeping up with current activity has tended to draw attention from investigations conducted earlier in the century or indeed, during the middle and latter parts of the last century. As will be seen, a modest amount of prehistoric archeological research has occurred in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina over the past 100 years. Much of this early work, however, is obscure, either unpublished or else scattered through a number of difficult-to-obtain sources.

A real need, therefore, has existed for a review of prehistoric archeological investigation in the South Carolina Coastal Plain. Waring's (1968a) history of Georgia archeology, for example, only briefly touches upon South Carolina, and most

recent summaries (i.e., Stoltman 1974:10-32, Ferguson 1971a) are either brief or else restricted to specific geographic areas, such as along the Savannah River, or to particular periods such as the Late Archaic or Mississippian. Some interest in the early history of archeological investigation in South Carolina has appeared in recent years, however, and the picture presented above is changing. Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, South Carolina State Archeologist since 1967, for example, has recently compiled a resumé of archeological research conducted in the state. Stephenson's (1975) synthesis provides a valuable alternative perspective to that offered here.

BACKGROUND: DISCOVERING THE PAST

To most present-day South Carolinians, the history of the human occupation of their state begins over three hundred years ago, with the establishment of the first enduring European settlement at Charles Towne Landing in 1670 (Wallace 1934:66-98). This initial and successful English settlement grew rapidly although the center of local politics quickly shifted across the Ashley River to the present site of Charleston, SC (Wallace 1934:95). Both the Carolina colony and ultimately the state of South Carolina can be said to have originated here. Historical scholars such as Quattlebaum (1956) and Wallace (1934) were quick to point out that while this initial English settlement was indeed a significant event in local cultural development, it was only a part of a lengthy tradition of European exploration and colonization in the area now recognized as the southeastern United States. By 1670 the Southeast, and in particular the immediate South Carolina area, had been the object of at least occasional exploration and attempted colonization for over 150 years. Following an initial period of discovery and colonization in the fifteenth century, Spanish settlements in the West Indies grew rapidly and were soon serving as a base for the exploration and settlement of the unknown lands beyond. From this rich staging area, Spanish exploration of the coastal area of South Carolina is known to have been underway by 1520 (Quattlebaum 1956:7-9).

South Carolina history for the period 1520 to 1670 is rich in accounts of discovery, attempted colonizations, and other activities reflecting the increasing rivalry between Spain, England and France for control of the region (Wallace 1934:26-55). The first attempt at European colonization on the North American continent north of Mexico was made in 1526 by the Spanish licentiate Lucas Vazquez de Ayllon, apparently in the vicinity of Georgetown, South Carolina (Quattlebaum 1956:18-31). Although this settlement met a quick and disastrous end due to famine, pestilence, and internal strife, Spanish interest in the area continued. Later in the sixteenth century De Soto and Juan Pardo traveled through the general area (Swanton 1939), perhaps through much of what is now central South Carolina, as Baker (1974) has recently suggested.

With increasing English and French activity in the New World, first indirectly through seeking to interdict Spanish supply and transport lines and later through actual colonization, the South Carolina coastal area increasingly became the scene of European activity. Detailed modern accounts of this early European activity in the Southeast, as well as in the South Carolina area, can be found in Swanton (1946), Quattlebaum (1956), and Baker (1974).

A considerable body of written records, primary data, exists outlining many of the salient points of early European activity in the area, including contacts and relations with the native inhabitants. While this record is impressive and more or less continuous for over three hundred years since the founding of Charles Towne in 1670, it is only a partial accounting. Modern archeological science is able to push the record of human habitation back to more than 12,000 years ago in the area.

Although the European-based occupation of South Carolina is well documented (Wallace 1934, Salley 1911), the evidence for earlier occupation is unknown to all but a few knowledgeable citizens or trained specialists — the latter usually anthropologists or historians. Most people, if reminded, are aware that there were human populations in North America prior to the arrival of Christopher Columbus, but few can state much about these populations in general, and fewer still know even a little about the original inhabitants of their particular area or region. In South Carolina this situation is particularly true. As Dr. Chapman Milling eloquently pointed out in his book Red Carolinians (1940), little trace today remains of the once sole occupants of the state. Milling carefully documented a direct result of European exploration and colonization — the early and almost complete extinction of the native populations (see also South 1972). Because this extinction happened so long ago (by the end of the nineteenth century for most of the coastal area) little remains except old records, place names on maps, and occasional reports of discoveries of 'Indian artifacts' to remind our modern people of the original inhabitants of the state.

A scholarly concern with recording, preserving, and understanding the life ways of the American Indian began to emerge in this country in the last century. The rise of the disciplines of anthropology and archeology in the United States is a history of this concern; both developed under the urgency of understanding a vanishing way of life. As anthropology has developed and become more scientific in its theoretical orientation and more rigorous in its particular methodologies, a better understanding of the Indian occupation of the New World has likewise developed. By the time the anthropological disciplines had begun to emerge, however, Indians had been gone from some areas of the United States for a hundred years or more. Thus, while in many areas of the western United States it was still possible for ethnographers to observe and record living groups, in the east the only available tools were archeology and ethno-historical reconstructions. In the immediate South Carolina area, where many Indian groups have been extinct or displaced for over 200 years, archeological investigation and ethno-historical reconstruction are the only means by which a picture of the state's Indian occupation can now be obtained. The Catawba Indians still maintain a presence in the Rock Hill area of the Piedmont. In recent years, however, they have become increasingly assimilated into the industrial-based society of the area now, and ties with the past are gradually disappearing such as the decrease in pottery manufacture (Hudson 1970, Baker 1972).

THE EARLY PERIOD: 1848-1890

Concern with the careful observation and description of the remains of South Carolina's prehistoric Indian populations began in 1848. In that year Dr. William Blanding's (1848:105-108) note on "Remains of the Wateree River, Kershaw District, South Carolina" were published in Ephriam Squier and Edwin Davis' Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley, one of the most significant volumes concerned with aboriginal remains released during the nineteenth century (Silverberg 1970). Blanding was a naturalist who spent much of his life in the Camden area, and his notes, written in the 1840's, contained descriptions, approximate measurements, and sketch maps of Indian occupation areas and earthworks in the vicinity of Kershaw County, SC (see also Ferguson 1974). Blanding reported the locations of rich surface artifact scatters in addition to discussing mounds. Of particular value are his descriptions of how sites in the Camden area were being affected by farming and natural factors such as flooding and erosion. One account describes a mound he called "H" that was being leveled for fill by a local farmer. The report included a rough stratigraphic breakdown of the nature and consistency of the mound layers observed during the leveling. The relatively early destruction of sounds and other prehistoric sites by agricultural practices should be considered during modern investigations in the South Carolina area. This point was also noted by C. B. Moore (1898a:165) a half-century later.

Blanding was not the first to report on archeological remains in the South Carolina area, but he was the first to carefully record detailed information about them. Early European travelers in the area did report on extant native populations, as has been noted, and their records have been of great value in ethno-historical reconstructions (Swanton 1946, Baker 1974, Waddell nd). These records show little concern for material culture remains — which are the primary interest of the archeologist. Where such descriptions do exist, as in Lawson's (1903:28-30) descriptions of Waxhaw and Wateree houses made in the early 1800's, the record is more often shaped by ethnocentric considerations than objectivity rooted in an awareness of the concept of cultural relativism. This does not negate the value of the early accounts, but it must be recognized that they were frequently prepared with motives other than scholarship (Merrens 1969).

The earliest published accounts of archeological sites in the state are by Bartram in 1791 and Drayton in 1803. Bartram's Travels (1928), first published in 1791, gives an account of the naturalist's visit to the Silver Bluff Site in Aiken County along the Savannah River in 1778 (Bartram 1928:258-259). His description of these and other mounds encountered in his travels across Georgia and South Carolina are the earliest that provide any detail (Waring 1968:258-288). Drayton, in his View of South Carolina (1972), originally published in 1803, gives a brief description of the shell ring on Lighthouse Point in Charleston County, SC. His account is of particular value in documenting the destruction that the site underwent in the eighteenth century. The shell ring was partially reduced to provide a source of lime — a fate common to shell middens in the vicinity (Gregorie 1925:15-16). Drayton's account, the earliest that describes a coastal shell ring, contains a humorous observation that a local landowner had built his home within the ring enclosure because it was the only unflooded spot of land in the area during hurricanes. During one storm the flood waters "are said to have been completely banked out by this work" (Drayton 1972:57). While both Bartram and Drayton provided valuable contemporary descriptions, neither was actively concerned with more than this. Bartram's cautious and reasoned arguments about the great antiquity of many of the mounds he encountered, in fact, were largely ignored during the nineteenth century (Silverberg 1970:24). The first attempt at interpreting these remains through actual field investigation was that of Blanding. The interests of Bartram and Drayton, as opposed to Blanding, were much more those of the antiquarian than the scientist.

Much of the archeological investigation in the United States undertaken in the first three quarters of the nineteenth century was concerned with discovering artifacts and other evidence related to the origin and nature of the "mound builders" (Silverberg 1970). From the 1820's to almost 1890 little of the excitement of this problem generated (often vented in the careless plundering of sites) touched South Carolina. Virtually the only contributions to American archeology that came from the state during this period were of a secondary nature. Given the confused and wildly speculative nature of some of the then-current literature (Silverberg 1970, Powell 1894), it is probably better that the area remained obscure.

South Carolina made a minor contribution to the developing science of archeology in the middle of the nineteenth century in the education of Charles Colcock Jones at the College of South Carolina in Columbia (Waring 1968a:289). Jones spent most of his life in Georgia, living in Augusta in his later years, and wrote some of the best accounts of archeological remains in that state for the period (Jones 1861). His Antiquities of the Southern Indians (Jones 1873) mentions mound sites in South Carolina. This knowledge of South Carolina sites might have been acquired while pursuing his education in Columbia.

In addition to the work of Blanding and Jones, Henry Schoolcraft reported on Indian remains from South Carolina at some length in his monumental Indian Tribes of

the United States, published from 1851 to 1857 in six volumes. Of three articles dealing with South Carolina, one (Volume VI:179-182) containing a brief ethnographic study of the contact period Indians, is particularly noteworthy. In it, Schoolcraft discussed the rapid extermination of the coastal Indians and showed a singular perception, for his time, about the accuracy of the few English contact-period documents describing them:

"The earliest accounts scarce make any mention of them, which may be, in some measure, attributed to the fact, that in these historical sketches published in London, with the view of directing attention to emigration, the inducements for it would not have been enhanced by the introduction of such topics." (Volume VI:179)

In this regard, Schoolcraft anticipated by over a hundred years the reasoned arguments of the historical geographer H. Roy Merrens (1969). Merren's study gave several reasons, largely economical and related to emigration policies, for the glowing Garden-of-Eden-like accounts of South Carolina produced by the early English chroniclers. In such accounts little emphasis would be placed on the native inhabitants, with whom the land was in very real contention, as events such as the Yamassee War of 1715 indicated (Milling 1940).

In a second article, entitled "Archeological Remains in South Carolina" (Volume II:88-91), Schoolcraft noted the cursory and incidental nature of available reports on Indian remains in the area. He then briefly described (Volume II:89) a series of artifacts recovered from the Camden area, almost certainly found by Dr. Blanding. His article mentions the numerous shell middens of the Broad River area in Beaufort County (Volume II:89) and, of particular significance, indicated an awareness of the stylistic similarities in ceramics over much of this part of the Southeast, hinting at what Holmes (1903) later established: a South Appalachian Province, an area with shared ceramic tradition. Although this observation was only incidentally noted, it reflected a growing body of information from the general region.

The best of the three articles in the Schoolcraft volumes, in terms of presenting original archeological data, was the Reverend George Howe's "An Essay on the Antiquities of the Congaree Indians of South Carolina" (Volume IV:155-168). This account briefly summarized the travels of John Lawson and the history of the Yamassee War, and proceeded to give a lengthy series of descriptions of artifacts revealed by floods and plowing near Columbia. Howe noted an early penchant for artifact collecting that modern archeologists would do well to bear in mind when examining the surface of sites in the area: "I have many hundred arrow and spear heads, and many more are in the possession of others" (Volume IV:159). The results of over 100 years of such collecting activity are hard to imagine and assess but must be considered. The remainder of Howe's article is devoted to a lengthy description of artifacts and burials recovered in the immediate vicinity of Columbia and Richland County, SC. His description suggests a rich late prehistoric occupation in the area, a possibility supported by Ferguson's (1975a) recent geographic model for the Mississippian settlement of South Carolina. Howe also briefly reported on an artifact-rich mound near Darlington. Although no mounds are now known in this area, such a site would be a logical "nearest-neighbor" to the Camden mound complex in Ferguson's model.

The work of Blanding, Schoolcraft, and Jones dominated the archeological investigations undertaken in South Carolina during the first ninety years of the nineteenth century. Systematic investigation was only rarely undertaken, and aside from descriptions of particular sites such as those near Camden, there was little scientific concern with prehistoric remains. Artifact collecting was practiced at least occasionally, and mound sites were slowly obliterated by agricultural or industrial activity.

THE FALSE START: 1890-1900

The last ten years of the nineteenth century witnessed more archeological activity in South Carolina than during any comparable period before that decade. During those years the investigations and reports of three men — Henry L. Reynolds (in Thomas 1894: 326-327), Clarence B. Moore (1898a, 1898b), and William H. Holmes (1903) — produced a published data base for archeological remains in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina that was unrivaled until the 1940's. By present standards their work has obvious limitations, but it still stands as the only published information in certain areas. During the 1890's Reynolds and Moore excavated and reported on a number of archeological sites in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina, and Holmes made extensive use of their data in his discussions of ceramics in the general region. The specific accomplishments of each of these men will be discussed presently, but first it is necessary to place this period in its proper perspective to see how their work came about.

American archeology during the nineteenth century largely revolved around mound exploration. Silverberg, in his The Mound Builders, gave probably the best popular statement on this subject.

"A myth was born that dominated the American imagination throughout the nineteenth century. The builders of the mounds were transformed into the Mound Builders, a diligent and gifted race. No one knew where the Mound Builders had come from or where they had gone, but the scope for theorizing was boundless. The myth took root, flourished and grew, even spawned a new religion." (1970:5)

John Wesley Powell's famous pronouncement on this subject, in the introduction to the 12th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, underlined this judgement.

"It is difficult to exaggerate the prevalence of this romantic fallacy, or the force with which the hypothetic "lost race" had taken possession of the imagination of men." (Powell 1894:xli)

Many of the best archeologists in the country in the last quarter of the nineteenth century were involved in research attempts to resolve the problems of the mounds. The work undertaken in South Carolina in the 1890's was a direct result of this activity.

The Mound Division in South Carolina

In 1881 the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institute received \$5,000 from the U. S. Congress expressly for "archaeological investigations relating to mound-builders and prehistoric mounds" (Powell 1894:xli). This action, initiated by archeologists concerned with resolving popular controversy, and approved by an interested Congress and public, marked a major turning point in American archeology. Over the next ten years the Mound Division of the Bureau of Ethnology investigated mounds and other aboriginal earthworks in the eastern and midwestern United States, seeking to establish the nature and origin of these structures (Silverberg 1970).

The Bureau of Ethnology at that time was under the direction of John Wesley Powell, the famed Civil War veteran and explorer. Powell appointed Cyrus Thomas to direct the Mound Division, and Thomas in turn employed a number of field assistants to visit, excavate, and report on mounds throughout the eastern United States. In a period of ten years, from 1881 to 1891, the Mound Division explored over 2,000 mounds (Powell 1894:xlvi).

South Carolina remained untouched until 1891 when, almost as an afterthought, Henry L. Reynolds was sent to the state "to examine several important works" (Powell 1894:xxvii). Reynolds, whose work at the Hollywood Mound near Augusta, Georgia was

of unrivaled competence for the period (Waring 1968a:293), proceeded to the Camden area where he began to work on the Mulberry Mound. Unfortunately, he became ill and died while in the field. The complete results of the excavation were never reported, although a brief description did appear in the 12th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology. This report is the famous "Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology" by Cyrus Thomas (1894).

Thomas' work laid to rest the wild speculations concerning the mounds. Immensely popular and respected in its day, the volume has come to be regarded as one of the most significant archeological statements of the nineteenth century. Reynold's preliminary Mulberry report and his detailed statement on excavations at the Hollywood Mound were contained in this volume. The publication served to focus some attention on the archeological remains of the South Carolina area, notably along the Savannah River. Reynolds' premature death left South Carolina's mounds unexplored, which is regrettable since his skill and reporting ability (Powell 1894:xxvii, Waring 1968a:293) almost certainly would have yielded valuable data from sites since lost to agricultural or industrial development or to thoughtless plundering.

The Early Cruises of the *Gopher*: C. B. Moore in South Carolina

Reynolds' lead was followed at the end of the 1890's by Clarence B. Moore, a wealthy Philadelphian who spent his winters from 1892 until 1913 cruising along the coast and inland rivers of the Southeast examining mound sites whenever he found them (Silverberg 1970:114). During 1897 and the winter of 1897-1898 Moore traveled up the Savannah River and immediately along the South Carolina coast as far as Charleston Harbor conducting excavations at promising locations. Moore's research strategy was oriented toward acquiring artifacts, and he has been described by Waring (1968a:294) as "not interested in archeological problems raised by his work so much as in the fun of digging mounds." Nevertheless, Moore responsibly reported his work, and although his reporting was far below what modern archeologists prefer, it was still on a par with much of the professional work done at the time. His reports in the Journal of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia (1897, 1898a, 1898b) were lavishly illustrated and contain some of the best examples of coastal ceramics from the late prehistoric period.

Moore's investigations along the coast of South Carolina (1898a) consisted of traveling along the inland tidal waterways looking for mound sites, with frequent stops to question local inhabitants for leads. Most of the investigations were confined to the Beaufort area, with search of the creeks between St. Helena Sound and Charleston Harbor proving fruitless. Although he included details on a number of sites, Moore was not enthusiastic about the area's archeological potential: "On the whole it would seem probable the South Carolina coast has little to offer from an archeological viewpoint" (Moore 1898a:166). Nevertheless, his reports and observations were, until recently (Flannery 1943, Michie 1974, Widmer 1976a), the only detailed accounts on the coastal remains from the Savannah River mouth to St. Helena Sound.

Moore, like Schoolcraft before him, noted the abundant shell heaps in the Broad River area and commented briefly on two shell rings — on Bulls Island and at Guerard Point. He had earlier conducted test excavations at Sapello Island, a Georgia shell ring, with "varying results" (Moore 1897:71-73). Perhaps his relative lack of success with that ring, finding only bone fragments instead of more exotic artifacts, caused him to do little more than note the existence and similarity of the South Carolina structures. Much of the remainder of Moore's report presents the results of test excavations at a number of sites that appear by today's criteria of artifact types to be either Late Woodland Wilmington (Waring 1968a, South 1973a) or later Mississippian period sites. In addition to detailed descriptions of several

sites and some of the more eloquent artifacts, his account also details their state of preservation. It is apparent that many of the earthen mounds in the area had been previously "explored" or were rapidly vanishing before the effects of intensive cultivation by small landlords and tenants (Moore 1898a:165).

Considering the long interest in shell-midden archeology in South Carolina, one of Moore's final comments is of some surprise and interest. In his opinion:

"It would seem then that the use of the oyster as an article of diet by the coast Indians decreased going northward, since the shell deposits of South Carolina are greatly exceeded by those of Georgia, which, in their turn, yield the palm to the mighty masses of shell along the Florida coast. Whether the restricted use of shell-fish for food on the South Carolina coast arose from a less bountiful supply of molluscs, a preference for other articles of diet on the part of the aborigines, or a sparse population, we are unable to decide." (Moore 1898a:165)

Such an observation, if rigorously demonstrated, could provide a regional background to compare the results of local-area studies of prehistoric coastal subsistence and demography. If coastal South Carolina indeed has comparatively fewer or smaller shell middens than areas further to the south, this may imply lower populations or less emphasis on shellfish as a dietary staple.

After completing excavations along the South Carolina coast Moore proceeded inland up the Savannah River, where he again had little luck. This is probably fortunate, for as Moore notes:

"The few mounds found back from the river in cultivated fields were small and had been rifled by seekers after treasure, and the swamp mounds seemed made for domiciliary purposes. Therefore, we did not pursue our usual custom, totally to demolish each mound discovered, as we had done, as a rule, in Florida and on the Georgia coast." (Moore 1898b:167)

Moore's observations on the archeology of the Savannah River, other than those noting the sparseness of rich sites, are of some interest. Several "mounds" he investigated on the reports of local citizens proved to be geological formations. Archeologists today often follow similar leads to the same end. Aside from limited and fruitless testing (a trench 45' long, 4' wide, and 5' deep) at what are almost certainly the Lawton Mounds in Allendale County, SC, Moore confined his work to the Georgia side of the river, and soon abandoned that. One interesting aspect of Moore's Savannah River report is a description of his visit to the Stoney Bluff flint quarries (9BK5) in Georgia. Moore (1898b:172) noted that the site had been heavily collected by local people, but that he was able to gather a few points during a surface search. After 1898 Moore never returned to the South Carolina area, although he actively pursued his interest elsewhere in the Southeast for another fifteen years.

William H. Holmes and the Origin of the South Appalachian Ceramic Tradition Concept

The field investigations of Moore and Reynolds, coupled with the results of earlier investigators such as Blanding, enabled William Henry Holmes to appraise available ceramics from South Carolina with those recovered from elsewhere in the region. Throughout the 1880's and 1890's Holmes had examined the artifacts recovered from the excavations of the Mound Division. The culmination of his work with the ceramic artifacts appeared in 1903 as the 20th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology under the title "Aboriginal Pottery of the Eastern United States"

(Holmes 1903). In this volume Holmes synthesized the tremendous masses of information on the ceramic artifacts that had been recovered. In addition to the descriptive reporting of ceramics from differing regions, Holmes discussed at length the distribution, functional significance, and manufacturing technology of the ceramics recovered. His clear illustrations of the methods for producing linear check, cordmarked, fabric impressed, and dentate stamped designs are of great value to local investigators, since all of these finishes are to be found in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. Similar replication experiments have recently been initiated in South Carolina, using Stallings and Thom's Creek wares for models, with some degree of success (Sutherland 1973, 1974, and Trinkley 1973).

Holmes' major contribution to the archeology of South Carolina was his recognition that the ceramics of this and contiguous areas were characterized by a series of distinctive attributes. As he noted:

"A culture of somewhat greater marked characteristics comprises the states of Georgia, South Carolina, and contiguous portions of Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee. ...the ceramic phenomena of this province include one great group of products to which has been given the name South Appalachian stamped ware, and also several less distinctive varieties, belonging, in the main, to groups typically developed in neighboring areas. ...this stamped pottery is obtained from mounds, graves of several classes, village sites, and shell heaps. ...the remarkable style of decoration, more than other features, characterizes this pottery. Elaborately figured stamps were rarely used elsewhere, except in Central and South America." (Holmes 1903:180-133)

Holmes's recognition of a South Appalachian province characterized by a distinctive ceramic tradition stands to this day as a major step in the understanding of the later prehistory of the region. His concept has been widely adopted (Griffin 1967), and successfully used as a model for the testing and evaluation of regional phenomena, as Ferguson's (1971a, 1975a) work with South Appalachian Mississippian has clearly demonstrated.

The work of Holmes, Moore, and Reynolds resulted in the widespread distribution of information about prehistoric archeological sites in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. In a relatively short period a number of sites were excavated and reported, yet surprisingly little archeological work followed this activity for a long time. Just as fifty years earlier Blanding, Howe, and Schoolcraft attracted a short-lived attention to the archeological potential in South Carolina, so too was the work of Moore, Reynolds, and Holmes in the 1890's quickly forgotten.

SPORADIC INVESTIGATION: 1900-1960

During the first sixty years of the twentieth century so little professional archeology was undertaken in coastal South Carolina compared to what went on in neighboring states such as Georgia and North Carolina that the era could be charitably regarded as one of benign neglect. Virtually the only records that exist describing archeological activity during this period are those kept in the files of the Charleston Museum or the Smithsonian Institution. Technical papers were occasionally published, but these were usually brief and contained little more than descriptive information on artifacts from one or a few sites. Even when taken together these articles did little to reveal the archeological record of the area.

Archeology at the Charleston Museum: Origins of the First Local Collections

The Charleston Museum played a paramount role in preserving what information we now have on archeology in South Carolina during the first half of the twentieth century. The Museum served as a repository for artifacts and site records. Under the leadership of a number of capable directors, the Museum actively sought out information about prehistoric remains on several occasions. The Museum's role was primarily curatorial, although archeological information was occasionally sent to the Smithsonian Institute for further consideration.

Interest in prehistoric archeology in the Charleston area began to pick up after 1900. The acquisition files of the Charleston Museum show a dramatic increase in the number of artifacts, particularly about 1915. Much of this interest can be linked to the activity of Laura M. Bragg, who served as director of the Museum in the 1920's. Bragg's interest in archeology appears to have been most intense from 1918 to 1925. During this period large quantities of artifacts entered the Museum's collections, many collected by Bragg. Her interest appears to have encouraged other collectors, for the period from 1920 to 1940 saw an influx of donated materials unequalled before or after, at least until the activities of Eugene Waddell in the early 1960's.

Three short papers were published during this period by the Charleston Museum, detailing some of the archeological activities that were going on then. The first dealt with some mound explorations near Greenville in the Piedmont (Bragg 1918), while the second briefly discussed artifacts recovered from shell middens in the Charleston County area (Bragg 1925). A third paper by Anne King Gregorie (1925) entitled "Notes on Sewee Indians and Indian Remains of Christ Church Parish," is one of the best archeological statements of its day from the southeastern Atlantic coastal area.

Gregorie (1925:19) began collecting artifacts about 1900 in the vicinity of her home near Porcher's Bluff (38CH8), and in 1916 donated a number of artifacts from that site to the Charleston Museum. She knew Bragg and apparently accompanied her on Museum field activities on occasion. Gregorie's report contained a number of valuable observations about archeological sites along the coast north of Charleston. In particular, she commented on the numerous shell heaps and rings in the area, noting the destructive effects of colonial lime burning activity upon them. In addition to recognizing the relationship of certain shell mounds to fresh water sources, Gregorie's discussion and illustration of artifacts were of unusual quality. She noted the manner of tempering and method of decoration of a number of wares, and her illustrations of coastal ceramics remain unsurpassed. Gregorie was the first person to comment on both the presence of shell tempering and finger-pinching in the area. The former attribute is now regarded as an indication of Mississippian and the later of Late Archaic culture (Waddell 1965a, 1970).

About this time G. H. Pepper (1924) published a brief note which illustrated a Pee Dee complicated stamped vessel and, referring to it and other artifacts, indicated that they were recovered from a mound flooded during construction of Wateree Lake north of Camden. The papers by Bragg, Gregorie, and Pepper were the only original reports on coastal South Carolina archeological sites or remains published in this century until the late 1930's. These notes, while important, provided only a small amount of new information and appear in retrospect like the tip of an iceberg with what was actually going on. The Charleston Museum files, and Laura Bragg's various editorial notes in Gregorie's paper, indicate that a great deal of activity was occurring at the time. The Charleston Museum site files contain numerous references to the Museum's expedition of April and May 1921, to sites throughout Charleston County. Large quantities of artifacts were recovered from sites near Three Sisters, Walnut Grove, Narvarina, Hamlin, and Fairchild Plantation. Bragg refers to a Museum

Archaeological Survey of South Carolina "that had practically covered the parish" (Gregorie 1925:16), meaning the area from Charleston Harbor to Awendaw Creek in Christ Church Parish. Unfortunately, although a great deal of material was collected and still exists within the Museum collections, many of the sites are now merely names. None of the expedition's records, often referred to in the files, can be found, and no reports were ever released. It is possible that these records may be relocated some day, providing secure proveniences for these collections. One limited analysis and locational reconstruction of these collections has been attempted by Koob (1976) in an examination of projectile points from the Anne King Gregorie Collection.

In spite of the ill-fated results of the 1921 expedition, Bragg, often assisted by E. B. Chamberlain, collected large samples of archeological materials from throughout Charleston County. Many of the sites she collected and tested are well known. The Buzzard's Island shell ring is perhaps the best known. Other collectors were also at work. Among them was Robert Wauchope, who later went on to become a noted archeologist both for his work in the Southeast and Mesoamerica (Wauchope 1950, 1966). During the 1920's Wauchope bicycled about the Columbia area gathering artifacts including some from what must have been the Taylor site where Michie's (1971) excavations revealed some of the earliest materials in the state in secure context (Wauchope: letter to Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Jan. 19, 1971). Wauchope went on to teach anthropology at Tulane University, and two of his students, Donald R. Sutherland and William Ayres, later served as teachers at the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at the University of South Carolina in Columbia in the early 1970's.

During the 1930's the Charleston Museum continued to receive artifacts from a number of private sources. The collections and site files were set in order by G. Robert Lunz, one of the Museum's curators at that time. Lunz also submitted written information on the location of archeological sites in the state to the Smithsonian Institute, as well as a number of artifacts. In 1933 Lunz and Chamberlain visited and prepared a detailed map of the Andersonville shell mound (38CH9), a major Late Archaic through Mississippian site that has since been destroyed by construction activity (Lunz 1933). Without this map it would now be impossible to attempt to reconstruct the original size and appearance of this site.

Warren K. Moorehead and the Rise of Shell Midden Archeology in South Carolina

In 1929 the Stalling's Island site near Augusta, Georgia, was excavated and reported by Claflin (1931). This report sparked modern interest in shell midden archeology in the Savannah River area. The first extensive excavations undertaken in coastal South Carolina in the twentieth century occurred soon after, as a shell ring. What is interesting is that the investigations were directed by Dr. Warren K. Moorehead, one of the most famous American archeologists of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. From 1886 to 1890 Moorehead had worked on Fort Ancient, Ohio, and the following year began excavations at the Hopewell mound group itself. The incredible finds of exotic materials recovered from this site were prominently displayed at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Moorehead's work with Hopewell was followed by a long series of excavations about the eastern United States, culminating in 1925-1928 with his excavation of Mound C at Etowah, Georgia. Here, his field techniques were such that they horrified Waring.

"His efforts resulted in the accumulation of a striking collection of ceremonial objects relating to the late Southern Cult but he destroyed forever the context in which they were deposited."
(Waring 1968a:294)

Virtually the last extended fieldwork Moorehead undertook was in the Beaufort, SC area. Here, in early 1933, Moorehead directed a series of test excavations at several

sites, particularly at the Chester Field shell ring. Moorehead's work came about through the efforts of Woldemar H. Ritter, an architect from Boston who traveled along the South Carolina coast during the thirties, collecting surface artifacts and occasionally testing sites. From the files of the Charleston Museum it is apparent that Ritter was quite industrious. He later donated all of his materials to the Museum, including extensive collections of artifacts from the Lighthouse Point shell ring (38CH12) and the Andersonville Mound (38CH9). Ritter's site numbers and files, which came to reside at the Charleston Museum, formed the nucleus for the county-by-county, statewide inventory that was established by the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology in the late 1960's (Alan Liss: personal communication). Ritter's interest appears to have been directed towards shell midden sites, and it was he who persuaded Moorehead to come to the area.

From February 8th to March 12th, 1933, Moorehead and Ritter conducted a series of test excavations at several sites near Beaufort. Almost all of the field notes and artifacts were later donated to the Charleston Museum, where they are still to be found. In the 1940's two short reports were released on the work. The first was a brief summary of the field work by Regina Flannery (1943), a student assistant during the excavations; and the second was an analysis of some of the ceramics by James B. Griffin (1943). Both Moorehead and Ritter died before a final report could be prepared. The extensive field notes and drawings now in the Charleston Museum coupled with the two technical papers of Flannery and Griffin, however, give a good picture of the overall project.

Test excavations were undertaken at Lake Plantation (38BU28), where the association of Wilmington cordmarked ceramics and shell heaps was noted, and also at a shell semicircle — possibly an eroded shell ring — on Mr. Chester Field's property. The Chester Field site (38BU29) produced Stalling's fiber tempered ceramics, while the Lake Plantation site yielded a range from Stalling's to complicated stamped (Mississippian) wares (Griffin 1943:165-168). An inspection of the Chester Field material in the Charleston Museum (not available to Griffin) indicates that, in addition to Stalling's ware, several sherds of Thom's Creek ware were also found by Moorehead (Anderson 1975a). One sherd of sand tempered Awendaw finger pinched ware was also found at Lake Plantation, an apparent southern limit for this ware. Both Thom's Creek and Awendaw (Late Archaic period) ceramics tend to occur on sites further up the coast, and are only rarely observed that far south (Waddell 1963, 1965a; Anderson 1975a, 1975b; Trinkley 1976b).

Ritter and Moorehead's activity, together with the earlier work of Braqq and Gregorie, resulted in the Charleston Museum's acquisition of a large collection of artifacts with accurate provenience information from the immediate coastal area of South Carolina. Even today the Museum's collections, made during the 1920's and 1930's, are the most extensive available from this area. Archeological activity away from the littoral, however, appears to have been virtually unknown. Robert Lunz seems to have spent some time mapping the mounds at Fort Watson during the early 1930's, although only cursory records of this activity survive. Newspaper clippings in the various county files at the Charleston Museum indicate that, on occasion, Indian artifacts were found and received popular attention.

Henry Clyde Shetrone, writing in 1930 on earthen mounds in the eastern United States, remarked about South Carolina:

"While a number of mounds have been located in South Carolina, particularly toward the west, very little exploration has been effected and comparatively nothing is known of their contents. Two or three small tumuli explored by the Bureau of American Ethnology yielded only meager results." (Shetrone 1930:444)

Aside from the occasional donation of artifacts and site location information to the Charleston Museum, no serious field work appears to have been undertaken away from the coast during the first half of the twentieth century. What little is known from this period is due almost entirely to the activity of three women: Laura Bragg, Anne King Gregorie, and Regina Flannery.

The WPA in the South Carolina Area

Archeological investigations in the southeastern United States were revitalized during the 1930's and early 1940's by the government-sponsored Works Progress Administration--WPA--program (Stoltman 1973). During this period a tremendous mass of material was recovered from the Southeast. The quantities exceeded even the exploits of the Mound Division in the 1880's or C. B. Moore somewhat later. In North Carolina the Peachtree Mound was excavated. In Georgia, beginning with Kelly's work at Macon Plateau, a large number of sites were investigated. The results of some of this work only recently appeared (Wauchope 1966), and much of it has never been reported. The nature of the relief program was to provide employment for large numbers of unskilled laborers. Attention focused on excavations at large sites with associated mound complexes and/or massive midden deposits. Stoltman (1973:136-142) and Wauchope (1966: vvi-xviii) give valuable descriptions of what life for archeologists was like at this time, and it is clear that in spite of the many problems a tremendous range of activity was underway.

Unfortunately, no WPA-sponsored field work took place in South Carolina. A substantial amount of work did occur in immediately adjacent portions of Georgia and North Carolina. The results of this work is extremely relevant to modern research in South Carolina. In Georgia, work along the Savannah at sites such as Deptford (Caldwell and McCann: nd), Irene (Caldwell and McCann 1941), Bilbo (Waring 1968c:152-197), and on Wilmington Island (Caldwell 1952:316-317) yielded a cultural sequence for the ceramic prehistoric that has remained largely unmodified (Caldwell & Waring 1939; Waring 1968b).

During the heyday of the WPA, Robert Wauchope (1939) published a brief article on fluted points recovered in surface collections near Columbia. He noted that the chert that comprised some of the specimens was apparently of an unknown, nonlocal material. This point has been discussed by Michie more recently (1976), in a study employing a much larger sample of these (PaleoIndian) artifacts. In 1940 Dr. Chapman J. Milling published his monumental history of the contact-period Indians of South Carolina, Red Carolinians. This book served as an important reminder to people then that there really were Indians in the state at one time, a point that appears to need repeating from time to time.

Early in the 1940's Flannery's (1943) account of Moorehead and Ritter's excavations appeared, as did Griffin's (1943) accompanying article describing ceramics recovered from the Chester Field and Lake Plantation sites. This paper by Griffin, and a second published in 1945 on ceramics from the Thom's Creek (38LX2) and Cut-Off Landing (38KE14) sites in central South Carolina, stand to this day as the best ceramic descriptions for the state. Written on the basis of collections sent to the Ceramic Repository at the University of Michigan, these two papers contain the first accurate descriptions of Stallings Plain and Punctate (Griffin 1943:155-157) and Thom's Creek Punctate (Griffin 1945:467) ceramics, which Griffin recognized as related to some degree. In the course of describing the remainder of the ceramics from these sites, Griffin touched upon most of the wares known to be present in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina (South 1973a, Anderson 1975a).

While the WPA activity in neighboring states was in full progress a major archaeological tragedy was occurring in coastal South Carolina. The construction of the

dams across the Santee River in the late 1930's and early 1940's (creating Lake Marion and Moultrie) inundated a major segment of this drainage in the Coastal Plain. The rise and fall of the water levels in these lakes continues to erode sites. The construction of these dams, completed in 1941 as part of the Federal Power Commission's Santee-Cooper project (U. S. Corps of Engineers 1973), did attract attention of archeologists in the region. Unfortunately, these projects were completed without provisions for even minimal archeological investigations (A. R. Kelly: personal communication).

The Post-WPA Decline

With the inception of World War II the WPA quickly ground to a halt, and serious archeological investigations in the southeast Atlantic Coastal Plain ceased for several years. From 1940 to 1960 the only extensive field work undertaken in the South Carolina Coastal Plain was that by Waring (1968d) at the Refuge site in 1947, and the excavations of Kelly, Caldwell, and Stuart at Mulberry Mound near Camden in 1952 (Ferguson 1974). Other than work in Georgia and North Carolina that indirectly applied, only a handful of brief papers appeared that were directly concerned with the South Carolina Coastal Plain.

In 1948 Joseph Caldwell published a brief note on a number of artifacts found at the early historic Creek town of Palachacolas on the Savannah River in Hampton County. Among the materials recovered were ceramic fragments related to Lamar, Ocmulgee, and Kasita wares in Georgia. In 1950 Carl F. Miller published a description of ceramics from nine sites near Myrtle Beach in Horry County, SC. Miller's descriptions include references to sand and fiber tempered sherds, but surprisingly he found no sherds with either sherd or shell tempering — attributes South (1960) found to be fairly common in this area. Over sixty percent of the ceramics reported by Miller were either cord or fabric impressed. Recent investigations indicate that these finishes are extremely common north of the Santee River in coastal South Carolina (South 1960; Anderson 1975a, 1975b).

In 1952 Joseph R. Caldwell published the first synthesis of South Carolina prehistory. Entitled "The Archeology of Eastern Georgia and South Carolina," it appeared in the monumental survey volume Archeology of Eastern United States, edited by James B. Griffin (1952). Caldwell's paper reflects the state of knowledge in about 1950, and when viewed from the 1970's provides a valuable perspective. Virtually nothing was known about the preceramic Archaic in the state at that time, although Coe's (1952: 304) work in North Carolina was beginning to shed information on this problem. Paleo-Indian occupations were inferred from scattered surface finds of fluted points, but nothing further was firmly known about them.

Caldwell's summary of the Late Archaic through early historic periods, in contrast, is rich in detail and a valuable source of information. The paper describes WPA activity along the Savannah, giving the only detailed summary until the work of Williams (1968) and Stoltman (1974). Caldwell (1952:315) noted the presence of Thom's Creek ceramics throughout coastal South Carolina, and indicated that differences existed between coastal and inland assemblages — a point recently reemphasized by Trinkley (1974a). The occurrence of Wilmington ceramics and associated remains was noted, and a restricted, coastal distribution was inferred (Caldwell 1952:320), another distribution only recently confirmed (Anderson 1975a, 1975b). The existence of a number of sites with Lamar-like ceramics was also noted (Caldwell 1952:320), marking the first attempt since Holmes (1903) to place the late prehistoric material in a regional perspective.

Little else appeared during the period 1940 to 1960. The collections and files of the Charleston Museum saw little addition, and interest in archeology appears to

have been at a low point for the century. Caldwell, Kelly, and Stuart spent part of the summer of 1952 excavating at the Mulberry Mound near Camden, and in the same area Stuart was developing a personal collection of artifacts from a number of sites. The results of this activity did not appear, however, until long after this time (Ferguson 1974, Stuart 1970).

Antonio J. Waring: The WPA's Legacy for South Carolina Archeology

The WPA era did leave one important legacy for South Carolina archeology. Of the many archeologists involved in the work along the Savannah, Antonio J. Waring continued to remain active and spent more and more time working with South Carolina materials. After 1941, Waring was the only person to actively investigate the archeological remains in the Savannah River and coastal South Carolina area on a regular basis. Except for his papers and comments at various meetings of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, the area remained virtually unknown and professionally unrepresented. Waring was a medical doctor practicing in Savannah, Georgia. While a student he had worked on a number of WPA projects in the Savannah area, including work at Deptford and Irene. He directed the excavations at the Bilbo site (Williams 1968:vii-xi). Although a life-long resident of Georgia, Waring's archeological interests were not confined to that state. In 1947 he conducted a series of test excavations at the Refuge site in Jasper County, SC. This site is important because it revealed the presence of an intermediate ware — Refuge — between Stallings and Deptford (Waring 1968d). By the late forties and in the fifties, Waring's interests seemed to be leaning more and more toward South Carolina archeology. In his classic paper on "The Ceramic Sequence at the Mouth of the Savannah River" (Waring 1968b), delivered at the 1955 Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Waring presented a number of perceptive observations on the distribution of prehistoric ceramics in South Carolina.

The results of much of Waring's work were not published until the late 1960's until Stephen Williams (1968) assembled and edited his papers. Waring, who had given up his medical career in 1962 to devote his full time to archeology, died of cancer less than two years later in 1964. His premature death was a great loss to Southeastern archeology, and to South Carolina in particular. Eugene Waddell, then of Florence, SC, noted that Waring encouraged his activities in the late 1950's and early 1960's, and Waring (1966:2) mentioned his work with Waddell as well as with artifact collections from the South Carolina area. A photograph in the Darlington County site files at the Charleston Museum shows Waring and Waddell viewing a test excavation that they had opened at the High Hill site (38DA1), in Darlington County, SC.

THE MODERN ERA: 1960-1976

Beginning about 1960 the somewhat bleak picture that had characterized archeology in the South Carolina Coastal Plain began to change. The ensuing period has seen a literal explosion in the amount and variety of information gathered from the area. Waring continued to be productive until his death in 1964. In 1961 he published a brief paper describing four fluted projectile points found in surface collections from Jasper and Beaufort Counties. Waring's advice and encouragement, as noted, helped to develop the interests of Eugene Waddell of Florence. It was with Waddell's work in the early 1960's — the first undertaken by a resident of the state since the twenties — that the modern era of South Carolina coastal archeology began.

Waddell, Michie, and Others: The Rise of Modern Interest in Coastal South Carolina Prehistory

Waddell, initially a collector, gathered artifacts from a large number of sites in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina in the 1950's and early 1960's. While a student

at the College of Charleston, he worked at the Charleston Museum. He completely re-organized and updated the collections and site files, setting them in an order conducive to examination by other investigators. Waddell's own collections and site reports are filed with the Museum. His work both in acquiring artifacts for the collections and recording and reordering artifacts far exceeded any previously accomplished. A primary result of Waddell's efforts exists in the collections of the Charleston Museum — the finest extant from the immediate coastal area from Georgetown to Beaufort Counties. Waddell also produced three technical papers in the early 1960's delimiting the distributions of Thom's Creek and Awendaw ceramics, and all of then then-known finds of fluted points (Waddell 1963, 1965a, 1965b). His work marked the first attempt at rigorous distributional studies of artifacts in the Coastal Plain, and his results have only recently been confirmed and expanded upon (Michie 1976; Anderson 1975a, 1975b).

By the mid-1960's James L. Michie of Columbia, SC, was also publishing articles concerned with the prehistory of the state, in particular about the surface finds of Archaic and PaleoIndian projectile points. Michie's (1965, 1966) work represented the first serious attempt to investigate South Carolina's preceramic era, and reflected a growing interest in the Archaic in the Southeast. This interest had been fostered in part by the impressive results achieved by Coe (1964) on the Fall Line in North Carolina, and DeJarnette, et al (1962) at the Stanfield-Worley Bluff shelter in Alabama. Both Michie (now an archeologist at the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology, USC) and Waddell (now Director of the South Carolina Historical Society) provided significant help and critical review in the preparation of this paper.

Beginning in the late 1950's and early 1960's interest in shell midden archeology in the area began to grow as an increasing series of radiocarbon dates indicated an unexpected early date for fiber tempered wares (Bullen 1961). The excitement has continued to this day, and a number of South Carolina shell middens have been examined in recent years, beginning with Stoltman's work at Rabbit Mount in Allendale County in 1964. Stoltman's excavations, in addition to being the first since the 1930's on a local shell midden, also produced the earliest date for fiber tempered ceramics now known: 2,500 B.C. \pm 135 (GXO-343) (Stoltman 1966). During the early and mid-1960's, it should be noted, there was virtually no professional archeology initiated from within South Carolina. The best work for this period derived from the activities of then nonprofessionals such as Michie and Waddell, or from work undertaken by investigators from other states. These outside investigators included James B. Stoltman, a PhD candidate at Harvard, Antonio J. Waring from Savannah, Georgia, and Stanley A. South, then an archeologist at Brunswick Town historic site in North Carolina. South (1960) conducted a survey of part of coastal North Carolina that extended down to several sites in Horry County, SC. His work marked the first attempt since Miller's to deal with artifacts from this area, and produced a viable ceramic taxonomy for the northern coast. From the late 1950's until 1967 South Carolina had a state archeologist in W. E. Edwards, who excavated at a number of sites about the state. Unfortunately, only one site, the Sewee shell mound, was reported during this period (Edwards 1965).

The Development of Institutional Support for Archeology within the State

At the end of the 1960's the situation began to change markedly, with extensive investigation initiated from several quarters. In 1967 the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology was established at the University of South Carolina, and from 1968 on, under the direction of Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, the Institute began a state-wide archeological resource survey program, as well as major excavations at a number of historic and prehistoric sites (Stephenson 1971, 1975). The establishment of the Institute as a centrally-based research organization given over to

investigating archeological resources of the state has had a tremendous impact on research in the Coastal Plain (and all of the state) in recent years. About the same time as the founding of the Institute, the teaching of anthropology began to receive increased priority at schools around the state. A major reason for the dearth of archeological information from the Coastal Plain and for the state as a whole was the lack of skilled local investigators. The number of anthropologists assigned to the faculty of the University of South Carolina rose rapidly in the early 1970's. In 1975 the Columbia faculty achieved departmental status as the Department of Anthropology under their new chairman, Dr. Karl G. Heider. Recent University of South Carolina field schools in archeology have included research activities within the Coastal Plain, notably Sutherland's (1973, 1974) work at Spanish Mount (38CH62), an early ceramic shell midden site on Edisto Island, and Ferguson's work at the Manning Site (38LX50) on the Fall Line near Columbia. In addition, excavations have occasionally been undertaken by instructors at other schools in the state, usually in conjunction with programs of the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology (Strickland 1971, Carpenter, et al 1970).

In addition to the impetus from the establishment of the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology and university training programs, archeological investigations in South Carolina have been spurred on from a third source in recent years. In 1968 the Archeological Society of South Carolina was formed, largely through the efforts of Dr. Robert L. Stephenson and James L. Michie. This organization has grown to include most professionals in South Carolina, a large number of avocational archeologist, and other concerned citizens of the state. Its membership extends to a number of adjoining states. The Society is assisted by and closely affiliated with the Office of the State Archeologist and the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology, USC. It is chartered and incorporated under State law and operates as a nonprofit organization. Among its principal objectives is a united effort to promote a better understanding of the history and prehistory of the state and the preservation of the state's cultural resources. The Society accomplishes this in several ways. Monthly meetings are held to provide a forum for lectures, films, and special interest displays. Some speakers have been James B. Griffin, Lewis R. Binford, Joffre L. Coe, William M. Bass, Michael B. Schiffer, Christopher S. Peebles, Don Crabtree, and many others both professional and nonprofessional within and outside the state. Beginning in 1975, the Society began a cooperative venture with the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology in sponsoring Annual Conferences on South Carolina Archeology for the presentation of formal papers on recent work in South Carolina in historic, prehistoric, and underwater archeology that have been most productive. The Society also initiates its own field programs of research, with the support of the Institute. Two major Society excavation projects have been at Cal Smoak (Lee & Parler 1972; Anderson, Lee, and Parler: In Press), and at the Manning Site. Society members have also cooperated at numerous other excavations in South Carolina, principally those conducted by the professional archeologists of the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology. In 1976 the Society membership began a special cooperative venture with the State Archeologist to make themselves available on a volunteer basis for an advance reconnaissance program. In this program Society members do the advance "field survey" to locate and report endangered sites (A-95 Program) and provide reports to the Institute's coordinator, Paul E. Brockington. This larger body of Society members, trained in field survey techniques, is then able to provide early warning when more detailed survey and excavation are needed by the professional staff of the Institute. The results have been impressive to date. The Society also publishes a monthly newsletter, "Feature & Profiles," and a semiannual scholarly journal, South Carolina Antiquities. Recently the Board of Directors approved a monograph series that will be titled, "Occasional Papers in Archeology and Anthropology," to publish book-length manuscripts of special interest to South Carolina. The first such manuscript is now being prepared for publication dealing with excavations at the Cal Smoak site.

The Directions of Recent Coastal Plain Field Activity

An immediate result of recent institutional developments has been a tremendous increase in the amount of archeology done in the state. Some of the work has clearly been done due to recent federal environmental legislation and funding provisions. It has, however, also reflected the varying research orientations of the increasing number of people working within the area. Much of the recent activity has taken the form of intensive investigations of single sites or relatively small, well-defined geographic areas and, as a result, samples of archeological materials now exist from many parts of the state.

Extensive archeological survey has recently occurred along the Savannah River where there has been a tradition of interest and research. Stoltman (1974) and Peterson (1971) conducted surveys of the Groton Plantation area of Allendale County during the 1960's, as well as extensive excavations at the Rabbit and Clear Mount shell middens within the river swamp. Combes, Hanson, and Ferguson (all from the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology, USC) have each conducted extensive reconnaissance surveys along the South Carolina side of the river in the 1970's. Combes and Hanson have also worked at the Savannah River Plant site in Barnwell and Aiken Counties (Hanson, et al: nd), and Ferguson surveyed on lands immediately to the north and south. In addition, all three have conducted brief reconnaissances elsewhere along the river (Combes 1973, Ferguson 1973a). The collections and preliminary site reports for these projects are on file at the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology, USC, Columbia.

A second area that has seen a great deal of attention in recent years has been the coastal tidelands. Work has tended to focus on Late Archaic shell ring or midden sites, and has included excavations at the Fig Island (Hemming 1970) and Sea Pines (Calmes 1968) shell rings. Hemmings and Waddell conducted an extensive survey along the Georgia and South Carolina coasts in 1970 (Hemmings 1972:60), specifically examining shell rings. Their notes and artifact collections on file at the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology are the best source of information available to date on these structures. Shell midden sites that have been excavated include Daws Island (Michie 1973a), Spanish Mount (Sutherland 1973, 1974), and Marett Mound (Trinkley 1974b). Work on the first two midden sites is continuing.

Along the littoral in North Carolina the work of Haag (1965) and South (1960) stand out as excellent examples of intensive archeological reconnaissance surveys of the coastal area. Work of this scope has unfortunately never been attempted along the South Carolina coast. This situation is rapidly changing, however. Trinkley and Carter (1975) recently conducted a limited statistically-based survey in the vicinity of Charleston County and, in addition, a number of brief environmental-impact related surveys have been conducted in the same area (Bianchi 1974, South 1973b, Hartley and Stephenson 1975, Widmer 1976b). These recent efforts are significant in that they deal with areas ignored for the most part in shell-midden oriented surveys.

Archeological reconnaissance work elsewhere in the Coastal Plain, although still relatively scarce, has been appearing with increasing frequency in recent years. This has been due, in part, to recent federal legislation, and field procedures have tended to take the form of site location followed by general surface collecting. As a result of such surveys a number of sites have been reported recently from along the PeeDee (Ryan 1971, South 1973c), the Santee (Ferguson 1973b, Asreen 1974, Kimmel 1974), and Edisto Rivers (Ferguson and Luttrell 1973).

Excavations at prehistoric sites in the interior of the Coastal Plain are still relatively infrequent, however, and have been limited primarily to sites on or near the Fall Line, or along the Savannah River. The work along the Savannah River has been

the most extensive. Several shell midden sites have been excavated including: White's Mount (Phelps & Burgess 1964, Phelps 1968), Stallings Island (Bullen & Green 1970), and Lake Spring (Miller 1949) in Georgia, and Rabbit and Clear Mount in South Carolina (Stoltzman 1974, Peterson 1971). In addition, Brockington (1971) reported at length on excavations at the Theriault site, a major chert quarry along Brier Creek in Georgia, and Ryan (1971) published a brief report on a burial found in Hampton County, South Carolina.

Excavations undertaken along the Fall Line in central South Carolina include Michie's (1969, 1971) work at Thom's Creek and at the Taylor sites, both on the Congaree River. These projects marked the first attempt, through excavation, to learn about the preceramic occupations in the state. At the Thom's Creek site, Michie found a sequence of preceramic artifacts comparable to that found by Coe (1964) in North Carolina. At the Taylor site early Archaic components were discovered, in undisturbed context, immediately below the plow zone. A second season of excavations at Thom's Creek, conducted in 1972 by Donald R. Sutherland (and students from USC), has recently been reported by Trinkley (1974c).

Work at a third Fall Line locality along the Congaree River, at the Sable site (Ryan 1972), has provided information about Woodland occupations in this area. Recent activity by the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology (Goodyear 1975a, Ackerly 1976, and Wogaman, et al 1976), and the Archeological Society of South Carolina (Anderson, Michie, & Trinkley 1974; Anderson 1974, 1975c) along Congaree Creek has proven a major source of information about the Woodland and Archaic occupations on the upper Congaree River. Work has also occurred at other Fall Line locations, notably along the Wateree River near Camden, at Mulberry Mound (Ferguson 1974), and along the route of a proposed highway corridor (Goodyear: nd). Ferguson's work on Mulberry Mound includes a summary of information recovered in previous investigations, including the work of Blanding, Reynolds, and importantly, the results of Caldwell, Kelly, and Stuart's 1952 excavations.

Ferguson (1975b) has also recently reported the results of limited excavations in aboriginal occupation middens at the Scott's Lake site (38CR1), an important late prehistoric ceremonial center along the Santee River in the central Coastal Plain. The Fort Watson site area was renamed Scott's Lake due to the multicomponent nature of the site as revealed during excavations by Ferguson. Aside from these excavations and those at Cal Smoak, activity in the remainder of the Coastal Plain (excluding the Fall Line and littoral) has been limited to minor testing operations in conjunction with field survey work.

COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA ARCHEOLOGY VIEWED FROM 1976

When viewed in perspective, it is apparent that much of the archeology in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina prior to 1970 focused on either shell middens or on earthen mound sites. In addition, much of the published literature has been, until recently, purely descriptive in orientation. Until the 1960's there was a complete absence of systematic archeological investigation in the state. Even the nature of the artifacts in the area is still largely unreported. This situation is rapidly changing, however, and it seems safe to say that more knowledge about the prehistory of the Coastal Plain was generated from 1970 to 1976 than in the previous 150 years combined.

The amount of published literature concerned with taxonomy has steadily increased in recent years, and the nature of the regional data base is gradually being exposed. Reid's work with late prehistoric artifacts from Hollywood and Town Creek, mound sites in Georgia and North Carolina, together with his descriptions of the wares found at Town Creek, has resulted in a viable taxonomy for many of the previously undescribed

late prehistoric ceramics found in the South Carolina Coastal Plain (Reid 1965,1967). Concern with the Late Archaic ceramic taxonomy has also developed considerably (Stoltzman 1972; DePratter, Jeffries, and Pearson 1973). Phelps (1968) has provided a detailed statement on Thom's Creek ceramics based on material gathered at three sites in Georgia near the Savannah River. Trinkley (1976b) has recently completed a taxonomic consideration of Thom's Creek ceramics found in the Sea Island area, complementing Phelps' descriptions.

A ceramic sequence for the South Carolina coast, similar to Waring's (1968b) for the mouth of the Savannah River, was proposed by Waddell (1970), based on his survey work in the area. This model, while logical, was soon eclipsed by South's (1973a) "Indian Pottery Taxonomy for the South Carolina Coast." South's taxonomy, making use of all available established type descriptions, hierarchically ordered known coastal ceramics on the basis of paste and surface finish. This model, based on physical attributes of the data with less emphasis on its geographic place of origin or posited chronology, has been increasingly popular.

One of the more encouraging aspects of recent archeological investigations in South Carolina has been the increased concern with modern method and theory. A classic example is Ferguson's (1971a, 1975a) work with the late prehistoric sites and assemblages, particularly his demonstration that environmental parameters such as soil and drainage are important determinants of Mississippian settlement. Goodyear's (1975b) general research design for the Institute of Archeology & Anthropology Highway Archeology Program, which began in 1974, documents the opportunities offered for serious, problem-oriented contract research. His research design outlines procedural and theoretical goals for the highway program, and serves as an example of the potential for multi-faceted contributions that can arise from work in a contract environment.

Distributional studies encompassing the entire Coastal Plain of South Carolina have also recently appeared, employing quantifiable site and artifactual data. These studies have served to delimit the occurrence of PaleoIndian projectile points (Michie 1976), Mississippian platform mounds (Ferguson 1971a, 1971b), and most known prehistoric ceramic taxa (Anderson 1975a, 1975b). In addition to illuminating the regional material culture, these studies are also significant in that they propose explanations for observed distributions, such as environmental associations.

The kinds of sites that are being excavated have also been changing in recent years, with a greater emphasis on diversity instead of on larger or unique features. While "shell midden archeology" has led to impressive results, it is becoming apparent that shell middens represent the remains of a temporally and spatially limited adaptation, even in the areas where middens have been extensively excavated. South's 1970 excavation of an Indian ceremonial center at Charles Town Landing was at that time an almost unique archeological undertaking for the coastal area — excavations at a prehistoric site without any associated mounds or shell middens (South 1971). Now such work is becoming more common. A recent excavation at the Palm Tree site (38BK211) along the Cooper River, for example, yielded finger-pinched Awendaw ceramics (Widmer 1976c), a ware previously associated with shell middens. As a result, a new perspective on coastal adaptation is emerging, with less emphasis on shell fish and more on the recognition of a diversified subsistence system.

Concern for the development of more precise and reliable sampling strategies for use in the Coastal Plain has also grown in recent years. Methods have been tested on both the individual site (Anderson 1974, South & Widmer 1976, Goodyear: nd), and on the regional level (Trinkley & Carter 1975). In addition, concern for the recovery of ethnobotanical remains has been growing, and promises to prove quite rewarding in the investigation of subsistence patterns (Trinkley 1976c). Osteological analyses have appeared, dealing with skeletal materials from late prehistoric (Carter & Chick-

ering 1974) and late Archaic groups (Michie 1974). Finally, there has been an increasing interest in replication experiments involving both ceramics (Trinkley 1973, Southerland 1973) and lithics, as characterized by Michie's (1973b) Dalton point butchering experiments.

Archeological activity in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina is growing at a rapid rate, and the period from 1970 to 1976 has been the most extensive period of research in the past 150 years. If the trend of recent years continues, the next ten or twenty years should prove both rewarding and exciting, as the prehistoric occupation in the Coastal Plain becomes better understood.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This paper was first submitted in 1974 as a chapter of a book-length manuscript that the Society accepted for publication as the Cal Smoak site report. As the manuscript grew in length and scope, it was determined to remove the chapter represented by this paper and publish it separately in the journal. The author has had an opportunity to revise and update this paper, but the references cited remain essentially unchanged and current through 1976. A similar survey of the history of archeological research in the South Carolina Coastal Plain written even a few years in the future would undoubtedly contain a hundred more references so rapid has been the expansion of work and publication in the area. It should be noted that the author mentions the growing number of archeological sites reported and recorded in the Office of the South Carolina State Archeologist. This rapid expansion of work and reporting is reflected by recent statistics. For the state, a recent total of sites recorded reached 4,000.

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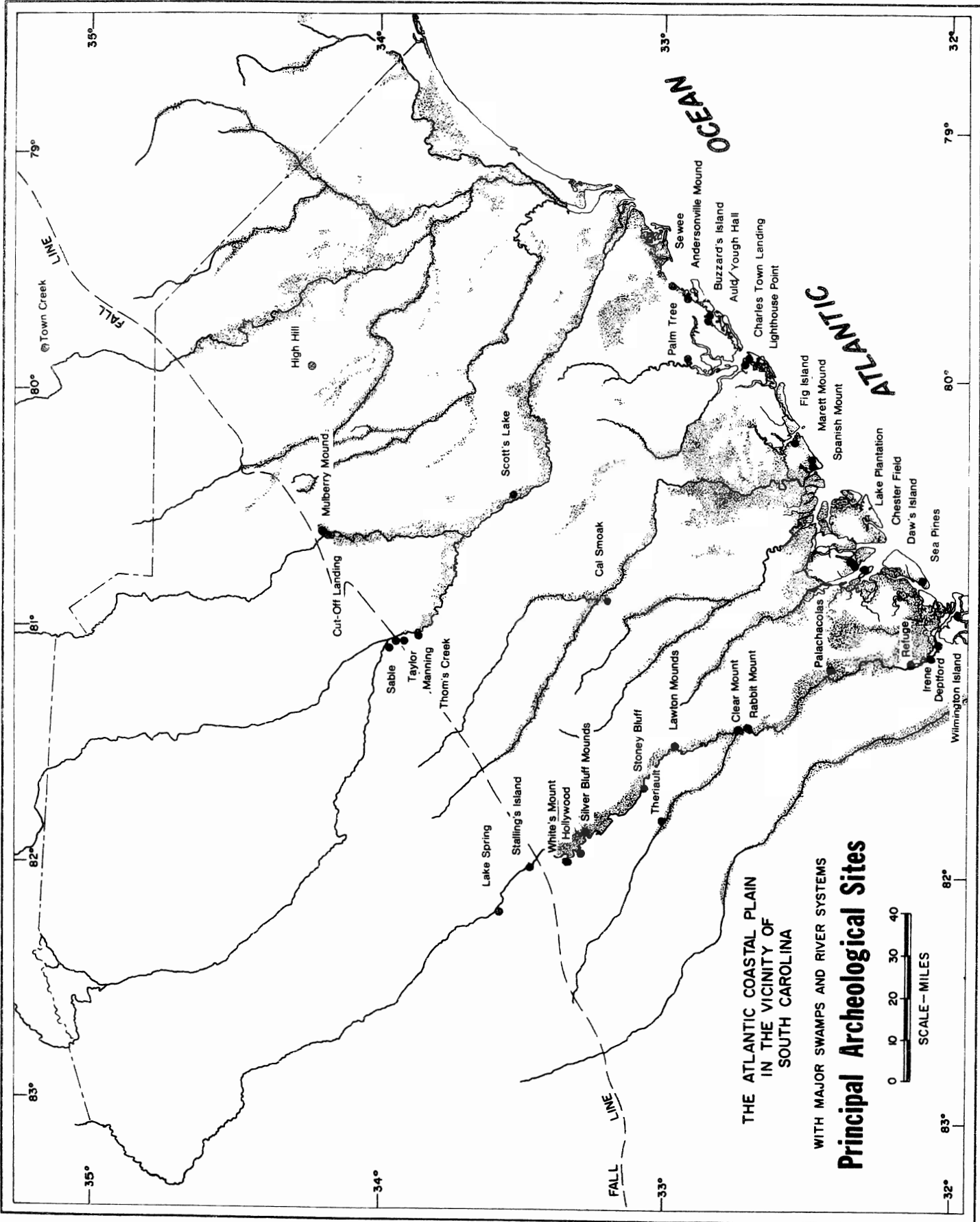
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