

13 A History of Archaeological Research in South Carolina

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Until the last third of the twentieth century, little systematic archaeological research was conducted in South Carolina. Unlike many southern states, where professional archaeologists have been at work for upward of fifty years, the founding of modern archaeology in South Carolina dates to the 1960s. At the 1970 meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in Columbia, a symposium was held on changes in archaeological knowledge across the Southeast since the founding of SEAC in 1938. Great advances were noted in almost every state, but Fairbanks (1971:42) observed that “South Carolina for long was more interested in ancestors than in artifacts and [as a result] not too much information is readily available,” and that basic descriptive and chronological data was lacking for much of the state.

Fortunately, from 1970 to 1999 a tremendous amount of research occurred in South Carolina, and it is probably safe to say we have as good a handle on the local prehistoric, historic, and underwater archaeological record as any other southern state. A few simple measures illustrate how far we have come. In 1960, the state site files encompassed some two hundred locations recorded at the Charleston Museum. In 1970, some five hundred sites were formally recorded in the state site files at the then-newly formed South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) (Stephenson 1971). By 1990 the total had grown to fifteen thousand, and as of January 2000 just over twenty-one thousand sites had been recorded (Figure 13.1).

The quantity of research and reporting has grown at a corresponding explosive rate. A comprehensive bibliography of South Carolina archaeology published in 1970 contained less than 140 entries (Thompson 1970). In 1990, that total had risen to more than thirty-seven hundred (Dering et al. 1991:ix), and from 1990 to 1999 more than fifteen hundred new manuscripts, reports,

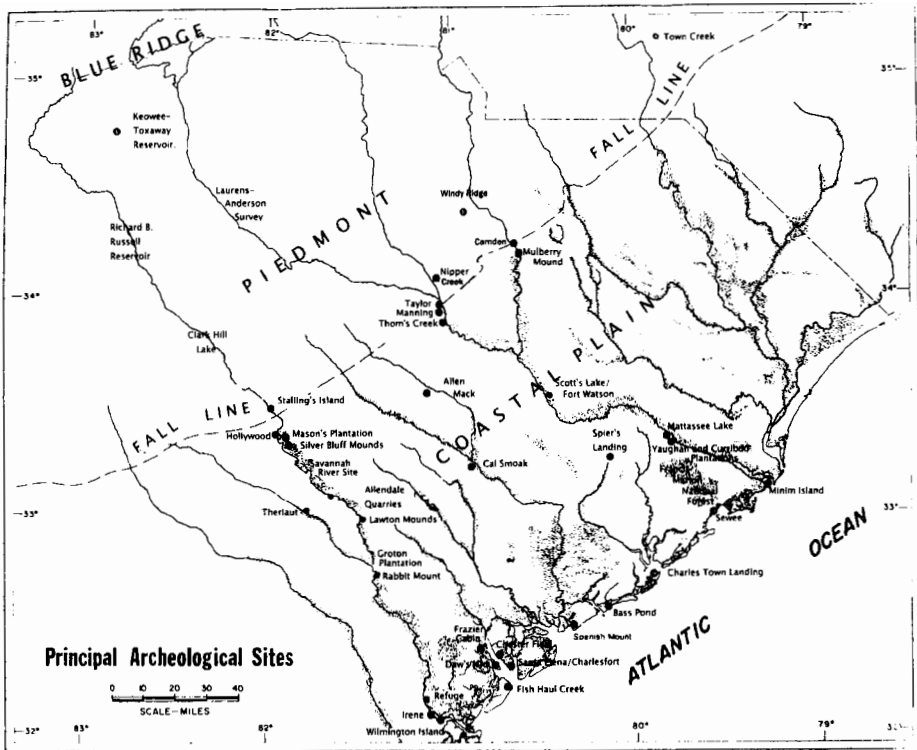


Figure 13.1. Archeological sites in South Carolina mentioned in text. (Courtesy of Keith M. Derting, SCIAA)

and documents were produced (Keith Derting, personal communication 2001). South Carolina's archaeological literature and site files have thus grown more than fortyfold since 1970, highlighting the pace of work being undertaken. It has thus been possible for some of us literally to live and work through the entire modern era of archaeological research in the state, a span that in some ways has encompassed Willey and Sabloff's (1974) *Descriptive, Classificatory-Historical, and Explanatory periods or stages of American archaeological research simultaneously*.

A modest amount of archaeological research did occur in South Carolina in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although much of this early work is in difficult-to-obtain sources. Two reviews prepared in the mid-1970s summarize this early period (Anderson 1977; Stephenson 1975), and the dramatic changes in South Carolina archaeology in recent years are examined in the 1989 festschrift volume dedicated to Dr. Robert L. Stephenson (Goodyear and Hanson 1989) and in the twenty-fifth anniversary issue of *South Carolina Antiquities*, the journal of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC), published in 1993 (Sassaman and Steen 1993).

Hints of a Remote Past: Investigations from 1848 to 1963 Blanding, Schoolcraft, and Jones: Nineteenth-Century Recording of Local Remains

Although archaeological remains are described by early travelers, such as Bartram (1928:258–259) in his visit to Silver Bluff along the Savannah River in 1776 (Anderson 1994:337, 355–357; Waring 1968d:258–288), detailed description of archaeological remains in South Carolina dates to 1848. In that year Dr. William Blanding's note on the "Remains of the Wateree River, Kershaw District, South Carolina" was published (Squier and Davis 1848). Blanding reported the locations of rich surface artifact scatters in addition to discussing mounds at sites we now know were associated with the chiefdom of Cofitachequi (DePratter 1989).

In the 1850s, Henry Schoolcraft (1851–1857) reported at some length on Indian remains from South Carolina. One local informant noted, "I have many hundred arrow and spear heads, and many more are in the possession of others" (Howe 1857:159), indicating a long history of collecting in the area.

In the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Charles C. Jones wrote highly accurate accounts of local archaeological remains, including a lengthy description of the Mason's Plantation mound group below Augusta, one of the largest Mississippian sites on the Savannah River (Jones 1873:148–157; see also Anderson 1994:193–194, 338–343). These mounds had eroded away by the time

Clarence B. Moore visited the area in the late 1890s, prompting him to observe that “the archaeological examination of the Savannah River has been too long deferred” (Moore 1898a:168).

During the last decade of the nineteenth century the investigations of three men—Henry L. Reynolds (in Thomas 1894:326–327), Clarence B. Moore (1898a, 1898b), and William H. Holmes (1903)—produced a published record about archaeological remains in the South Carolina area that was unrivaled until the 1920s. Reynolds and Moore excavated various sites in the Coastal Plain, while Holmes made extensive use of their data in discussions of ceramics from the general region.

Reynolds, Moore, and Holmes: Systematic Fieldwork and Analysis Comes to South Carolina

In 1891, Henry Reynolds, whose work at the Hollywood Mounds near Augusta was of unparalleled accuracy for its time (Anderson 1994:189–193; 343–354; Waring 1968d:293), began work on the Mulberry Mounds near Camden. Unfortunately, he became ill and died while in the field, and only a brief description of his work appeared in the famous *Report on the Mound Explorations of the Bureau of Ethnology* (Thomas 1894:326–327). Reynolds’s premature death left South Carolina’s mounds largely unexplored, which is regrettable because his skill and reporting ability (Powell 1894:xxvii) almost certainly would have yielded valuable data from sites since lost to agricultural or industrial development or thoughtless plundering.

Reynolds’s lead was followed at the end of the 1890s by Clarence B. Moore, who traveled along the South Carolina coast as far as Charleston Harbor and then up the Savannah River conducting excavations at promising locations. Moore’s research was oriented toward acquiring artifacts, and he was described by Waring (1968d:294) as “not interested in archaeological problems . . . so much as in the fun of digging mounds.” Nevertheless, Moore responsibly wrote up his work in a timely fashion, and although his reporting was far less detailed than modern archaeologists prefer, it was on a par with the professional work of the time. Moore (1898b:166) was not enthusiastic about the area’s archaeological potential, noting that “on the whole it would seem probable the South Carolina coast has little to offer from an archaeological viewpoint.” He found so little in his work along the Savannah River, in fact, that he noted, “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 1898a:167). This is perhaps fortunate because many of the sites he visited are still largely intact and can be explored using modern methods.

Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, William Henry Holmes of the Bureau

of Ethnology examined the artifacts recovered from the excavations of the Mound Division as well as materials recovered by Moore and others. The culmination of this work 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 (1903:130–133) proposed the existence of a distinctive South Appalachian carved paddle stamped ceramic tradition, an observation that has been widely adopted and is used to this day (e.g. Anderson 1998:775–776; Ferguson 1971; Griffin 1967).

The Early Twentieth Century: Origins of the First Local Collections

During the first half of the twentieth century little professional archaeology was undertaken in South Carolina, particularly when compared with what went on in neighboring states such as Georgia and North Carolina. The Charleston Museum played a paramount role in preserving the information we now have on research conducted during the early twentieth century. The Museum served as a repository for artifacts and site records and, under the leadership of capable directors and associates such as Anne King Gregorie (1925) and Laura Bragg (1918), actively sought out archaeological remains. It was at this time that the first archaeological site files were established.

In the early 1920s, excavations were conducted by Major George Osterhout (1923) at what was believed at the time, and has since turned out to be, the site of Ribault’s 1562 French Charlesfort, as well as Spanish Santa Elena (South 1993b). Santa Elena served as the capital of Spanish Florida from 1566 to 1587, when it was permanently abandoned, and over the time it was occupied at least two forts were built. As Stanley South (1993b:52–55) recounts, the probable existence of fortifications in the immediate area of Santa Elena had been known since at least the middle of the nineteenth century, and the site had been briefly explored at least three times prior to Osterhout’s excavations by local residents. Since the late 1970s, a research team led by South and Chester DePratter has been conducting research at Santa Elena, work that has been revolutionizing our understanding of Spanish settlement in the region. Also in the early 1920s, a young schoolboy named Robert Wauchope bicycled about the Columbia area gathering artifacts, including fluted points that seem to have come from the Taylor site in Lexington County (Wauchope 1939).

In 1929 the Stallings Island site near Augusta, Georgia, was excavated (Claffin 1931), sparking some interest in shell midden archaeology in the South Carolina area. Extensive excavations occurred soon after at the Chester Field shell ring in Beaufort County in 1933 under the direction of Warren K. Moorehead. Moorehead died before a final report could be prepared, although about a decade later a brief summary of the fieldwork appeared, written by Regina Flan-

nery (1943), a student assistant during the excavations, together with an analysis of some of the ceramics by James B. Griffn (1943a), whose paper contained the first detailed description of Stallings fiber-tempered pottery.

Missed Opportunities: The New Deal in South Carolina

Archaeological investigations in the Southeast were revitalized during the 1930s and early 1940s by the New Deal relief programs (Lyon 1996; Stollman 1973). Unfortunately, no WPA-sponsored fieldwork took place in South Carolina. No one locally seems to have had the interest or ability to develop a relief program directed to archaeological research, and in this regard South Carolina is unfortunately unique among southeastern states, most of which witnessed massive excavation programs. The reason is due in part to the absence of professional archaeologists in the state, who might otherwise have led such an effort. Opportunities were there—dams were constructed along the Santee and Cooper Rivers in the late 1930s and early 1940s, creating Lakes Marion and Moultrie, causing incalculable destruction to local archaeological and historic resources—but leadership was lacking.

A substantial amount of work did occur in immediately adjacent portions of Georgia and North Carolina, however, some of which has proven quite important to understanding South Carolina's archaeological record. In Georgia, work near Savannah yielded a cultural sequence for the ceramic prehistoric era that has remained largely unmodified to this day (Caldwell and Waring 1939; DePratter 1979, 1991; Waring 1968e), and that has been called "one of the finest local sequences based on stratigraphic evidence that exists in Southeastern archaeology" (Williams 1968:101). Likewise in North Carolina, work at sites such as Town Creek and Peachtree Mound (Coe 1995; Setzler and Jennings 1941) helped establish cultural sequences in that state.

The World War II Era to the Early 1960s

With the inception of World War II, New Deal archaeology quickly ground to a halt, as did most research throughout the region. After the war, archaeologists resumed activities in most southern states, usually within university or museum settings. Unfortunately, this did not happen in South Carolina, and for the next two decades the only investigations were those by researchers based elsewhere.

The New Deal did have one important legacy for South Carolina. One of the many archaeologists involved in the work near Savannah, Antonio J. Waring, at the time a medical student with a strong interest in archaeology, returned from the war to live and practice in Savannah. In 1947 Waring (1968f) conducted a series of test excavations at the Refuge site in Jasper County, South

Carolina, revealing the presence of an intermediate culture between Stallings and Deptford, and in 1961 he described several fluted points from the Beaufort area (Waring 1961). Unfortunately, in 1964 Waring died of cancer at age forty-nine, a great loss to local archaeology. Stephen Williams performed a major service by collecting and editing his papers, which were released in 1968. This volume remains an indispensable reference for anyone wishing to practice prehistoric archaeology in the South Carolina area.

From 1948 through 1951, Carl Miller and Joseph Caldwell conducted survey and testing work along the upper Savannah in the proposed Clark Hill Reservoir. Other than a few brief papers, though, the work was not reported until the 1990s, when Dan Elliott (1995) produced a synthetic monograph using the project notes and collections. In the summer of 1952, Joseph Caldwell and A. R. Kelly conducted extensive excavations at the Mulberry Mound near Camden. The main mound was profiled, and a large block unit was opened in a nearby village area. The results of this fieldwork were reported in 1974 in a series of papers assembled by Leland G. Ferguson (1974). One of the 1952 crew members, George Stuart (1970, 1975), eventually based his master's and doctoral research on materials from the Camden area, describing local sites and the late prehistoric cultural sequence. In 1952, Caldwell published the first synthesis of South Carolina prehistory in the "Green Bible" (Griffin 1952b). Caldwell's paper indicates how far we have come in the intervening half-century. Little was then known about the Paleo-Indian and Archaic periods, and even the local prehistoric ceramic sequence was unknown away from the Savannah area. From November 1952 to February 1953, a single-person reconnaissance survey was conducted in the then-proposed Hartwell Reservoir area on the upper Savannah River (Caldwell 1974a), the recommendations that ultimately led to large-scale excavations at the Chauga Mound site in Oconee County in 1958 (Kelly and Neitzel 1961).

The Modern Era: 1963 to the Present

The Emergence of Local Institutions and Support

In the 1960s, the bleak picture that had characterized South Carolina archaeology began to change. The first state archaeologist was hired in 1963, Dr. William E. Edwards, whose lasting contribution was shepherding an act through the legislature in 1963 creating the South Carolina Department of Archaeology as a separate state agency (Michie 1993:8–9; Stephenson 1975:51–52). Four individuals have held the position of South Carolina State Archaeologist: William Edwards (1963–1968), Robert L. Stephenson (1968–1984), Bruce E. Rippeau

(1984–2000), and Jonathan M. Leader (2000–present). Under Edwards's tenure, various field projects were conducted, including a large field program in the proposed Keowee-Toxoway Reservoir (Beuschel 1976).

In 1967, SCIAA was established at the University of South Carolina, replacing the Department of Archaeology and placing the organization within the university system. From 1968 on, under the direction of Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, SCIAA began a statewide archaeological survey program and established formal site files and a curation facility for local collections and records. This had a tremendous impact on research in the state by providing a repository for information gathered during cultural resource management projects. These began to occur in ever greater numbers in the early 1970s as a result of the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 and the National Environmental Policy Act in 1971. By the mid-1970s, a great deal of archaeological fieldwork that was directly mandated by these laws was occurring across the state. The process was routinized by the establishment of a State Historic Preservation Officer, the Director of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, who soon hired staff archaeologists to handle the project review workload.

Also in the 1960s, two local residents, Eugene Waddell and James L. Michie, developed an interest in archaeology and began conducting research on a professional level. While a student at the College of Charleston in the early 1960s, Waddell worked at the Charleston Museum, where he reorganized and updated the collections and site files, which provide an invaluable record of coastal South Carolina archaeology. Most important, Waddell (1963, 1965a, 1965b) produced three technical papers delimiting the distributions of Thom's Creek and Awendaw pottery, and all of the then-known fluted points in the state. His work marked the first rigorous artifact distributional studies locally and has guided many subsequent efforts (e.g., Anderson 1975; Goodyear et al. 1990; Michie 1976; Sassaman and Anderson 1994; Trinkley 1980a).

By the mid-1960s, James L. Michie of Columbia also began publishing articles centering around the description of early projectile point and flaked stone tool forms, such as the Taylor, Brier Creek Lanceolate, and Broad River point types; the Edgefield scraper; and local variants of Dalton points (e.g., Michie 1966, 1967, 1968a, 1968b, 1969a). An architectural draftsman, Michie went on to complete undergraduate and master's degrees in anthropology and became one of the state's most distinguished archaeologists in the 1980s and 1990s. He is perhaps best known for his formative role in founding, with Robert L. Stephenson, the Archaeological Society of South Carolina (ASSC) in 1968 (Michie 1993). The society has published a scholarly journal, *South Carolina Antiquities*, for some thirty years now and, since 1975, with SCIAA, has

sponsored the Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology. Major society excavation projects have been conducted at the Taylor, Thom's Creek, Cal Smoak, Manning, and Allan Mack sites, and ASSC members have assisted at numerous other excavations in South Carolina. The teaching of anthropology also began to receive increased attention at schools around the state. The number of anthropologists assigned to the faculty of the University of South Carolina rose rapidly in the early 1970s, and field schools in archaeology began to be held on a regular basis, including for many years at the Mulberry Mound site near Camden (Cable et al. 2000).

Research Directions in Modern South Carolina Archaeology

Much of the fieldwork that has occurred over the past thirty years has been driven by environmental legislation. The greatest amount of systematic work has occurred on federally owned lands, and large portions of the national forests, military bases, and the Department of Energy's Savannah River site have been surveyed. This is particularly evident when archaeological site locations in South Carolina are examined (Figure 13.1).

Large-scale excavation projects have occurred at various sites and areas. Interest in shell midden archaeology was rekindled as increasing numbers of radiocarbon dates indicated an unexpected early age for fiber-tempered wares. In the 1960s, two graduate students from Harvard, James B. Stoltman (1974) and Drexel Peterson (1971), conducted survey and excavation programs on Groton Plantation along the lower Savannah River in Allendale County. Stoltman's (1966) work at the Rabbit Mount shell midden produced extremely early dates for fiber-tempered ceramics, at about 2500 B.C. uncalibrated.

Stanley South was hired by SCIAA in 1969, and one of his first projects was at Charles Towne Landing in anticipation of the three hundredth anniversary of English settlement in 1970. He exposed and mapped a late prehistoric ceremonial center (South 1971). Also in 1969, excavations at the Thom's Creek site by Michie (1969b) provided the first local test of Coe's (1964) Archaic projectile point sequence. Michie's (1971, 1996) work the following year on the Palmer and Dalton components at the Taylor site stands as one of the first large-scale excavations at a Paleo-Indian site in the Southeast. Both South and Michie used heavy equipment to expose large areas to great advantage, procedures that many contemporary researchers now follow when sites are threatened.

In 1971 and 1972, ASSC members Sammy Lee and Bob Parler conducted excavations at the Cal Smoak site along the Edisto River, work reported in the society's first Occasional Paper (Anderson et al. 1979). In 1972 Don Sutherland (1974) began excavations at the Spanish Mount shell midden, and Michael Trinkley, one of his students, undoubtedly received some of the inspiration

that has led him in the years since to improve markedly our understanding of Late Archaic settlement, chronology, and ceramic typology (e.g., Trinkley 1976, 1980a, 1980b, 1986).

In 1972 and 1973, Leland Ferguson (1975) conducted extensive excavations of Revolutionary War-period Fort Watson, which he found in a remarkable state of preservation atop a temple mound along the Santee River. Ferguson, whose 1971 dissertation was a major synthesis of South Appalachian Mississippian archaeology, went to the site to examine the prehistoric remains. His interest in historic sites archaeology was kindled by what he found, however, shaping the direction of much of his subsequent career.

In 1974 an intensive program of archaeological investigations was launched by SCIAA and the ASSC across the river from Columbia along Congaree Creek, work prompted by plans to build the I-77 Beltway. Several proposed highway corridors were surveyed, and various sites were intensively examined (e.g., Anderson 1974, 1979; Anderson et al. 1974; Goodyear 1975; Wogaman et al. 1976). Also in 1974, I conducted a distributional study of Coastal Plain ceramics using collections from more than three hundred sites, revealing distributional patterns that have held up more or less intact to this day (Anderson 1975).

In 1975 John House joined the highway archaeology program at SCIAA, which had been established under the direction of Albert C. Goodyear in 1974 and where it was housed until the agency developed its own program in the late 1970s. House's work on the I-77 survey and the resulting Windy Ridge mitigation helped improve our understanding of Piedmont archaeology dramatically (House and Ballenger 1976; House and Wogaman 1978). During this same period, Goodyear, with House and Neal Ackerly (1979), was working on the Laurens-Anderson highway corridor survey, leading to another major overview of Piedmont archaeology. During the same period Ken Lewis was developing his frontier model of colonial settlement based on work in the Camden area (Lewis 1976).

In 1976 Jim Michie completed his senior honors' thesis on Paleo-Indian occupations in South Carolina, which included an analysis of fluted point finds that he had been systematically recording for more than a decade. The fluted point survey has continued thanks to the efforts of Michie, Goodyear, and particularly Tommy Charles, and several hundred early points are now known from the state (Goodyear et al. 1990).

In 1979 extensive work was conducted along the lower Santee River in conjunction with the construction of the Cooper River Rediversion Canal, whose impact zone was surveyed in the early 1970s by Bob Asreen (1974) and myself and later by Paul Brockington (1980). At the Mattassee Lake sites, ortho-quartzite quarrying behavior was examined, and a detailed Woodland ceramic sequence was proposed, supported by more than a dozen radiocarbon dates

(Anderson et al. 1982). Excavations at nearby sites directed by Mark Brooks and Val Canouts (1984) found evidence for several Woodland and Mississippian structures.

The late 1970s saw the initiation of a collector survey by Tommy Charles (1986), work that has been of tremendous value to subsequent researchers. Besides markedly expanding the state's fluted point inventory, Charles collected primary typological and raw material data on more than eighty-five thousand points. These data have since been used to examine research topics as diverse as models of early Archaic settlement, changing raw materials selection strategies, the reduction in hunter-gatherer annual ranges during the Archaic, and the operation of buffer zones during the Mississippian period (e.g. Anderson and Hanson 1988; Sassaman and Anderson 1994; Sassaman et al. 1988).

In the late 1970s, Chester DePratter's (1979, 1991) refinement of the mouth-of-the-Savannah ceramic sequence was published; it is still used, with minor refinement, to classify artifacts and date sites in the southern coastal region. About the same time Michie's (1979) report on the excavations at the Late Archaic Bass Pond site on Kiawah Island appeared, which included a synthesis of his views on coastal settlement. In 1979 and 1980, thanks to a great deal of hard work and not a little personal financial support by Wayne Neighbors, two major ASSC publications also appeared, the Cal Smoak site report and the *First Ten Years of South Carolina Antiquities* (Neighbors 1980). Anyone who wants a feel for what research was like in the late 1960s and early 1970s in South Carolina, when the archaeological record was slowly coming into focus, should read these volumes. Also in 1980, Michael Trinkley's doctoral dissertation on prehistoric occupations along the central South Carolina coast appeared, and the same year his detailed analysis and typology for Thom's Creek ceramics was published (Trinkley 1980a, 1980b).

During the late 1970s, extensive survey and testing began in the proposed Richard B. Russell Reservoir along the upper Savannah River, and from 1980 to 1982 large-scale excavations were conducted at various sites (Anderson and Joseph 1988; Kane and Keaton 1993, 1994). Also in the 1970s, permanent archaeological compliance programs were initiated on the Sumter and Francis Marion National Forests and on the Department of Energy's Savannah River Plant (SRS) (e.g., Anderson and Logan 1981; Sassaman et al. 1990). The late 1970s also saw the beginnings of the Department of Anthropology's long-term research program at the Mulberry Mound site near Camden, work that has led to several technical papers and student theses through the years (summarized in Cable et al. 2000).

In the early 1980s, Ken Sassaman's (1983) master's thesis appeared from the Department of Anthropology at the University of South Carolina. In it he challenged traditional notions of the Middle Archaic as a period of increasing

sedentism locally, beginning a long involvement with prehistoric research, as recounted in many papers and reports (e.g., Sassaman 1983, 1985, 1989, 1991, 1993a, 1993b, 1995). Also in 1983, the annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference was again held in Columbia, and papers from a symposium devoted to the archaeology of South Carolina were used to create a festschrift in honor of Dr. Robert L. Stephenson (Goodyear and Hanson 1989). This volume remains a major source of information on historic and prehistoric archaeology in the state.

In the mid-1980s, Al Goodyear and Tommy Charles (1984) began a long-term research program centered on the major chert outcrops in Allendale County, work that has done much to refine our understanding of early settlement in South Carolina. About the same time, Glen Hanson directed large-scale excavations in both Archaic and Woodland deposits at the G. S. Lewis site on the SRS (Sassaman et al. 1990). Major survey and excavation projects have occurred on the SRS almost every year from the mid-1980s to the present, giving an outstanding overview of the archaeological record of the inner Coastal Plain (e.g., Brooks and Hanson 1987; Cabek et al. 1996; Sassaman 1989, 1993a; Sassaman et al. 1990).

Important work on shell midden sites continued along the coast through the 1980s, with significant monographs produced on the work at the stratified Minim Island site in Georgetown County (Drucker and Jackson 1984; Espenshade and Brockington 1989). In 1986 Michael Trinkley produced a major overview of his work at the Stalling's period Fish Haul Creek site on Hilton Head Island, where evidence for a structure was found. Although his research spans all periods of prehistoric and historic sites archaeology locally, appreciable effort has been directed to shell midden sites (e.g., Trinkley 1974, 1980a, 1986, 1989, 1993).

During the mid-1980s, a major excavation program was conducted at the Nipper Creek site in the lower Piedmont, documenting Archaic period components in stratified context (Wetmore 1986; Wetmore and Goodyear 1986). The mid-1980s also saw a flurry of publications on the University of South Carolina's field school efforts at the Mulberry site (e.g., Grimes 1986; Judge 1987; Sassaman 1984). In the late 1980s the first detailed Mississippian ceramic sequence was produced for the Waterre River (DePratter and Judge 1990), and DePratter (1989) synthesized archaeological and ethnohistoric evidence for the sixteenth-century province of Cofitachequi encountered by De Soto in this area (see also Baker 1974).

Research Trends in the 1990s

Although it seems hard to believe, the 1990s have witnessed a tremendous amount of fieldwork and publication that in some ways rivals all that came

before. More than 90 percent of the some fifteen hundred reports generated during this decade were produced by CRM work (Keith Derting, personal communication 2001), and the implications of all this activity are only slowly being absorbed. Following Hurricane Hugo in 1989, for example, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a massive program of survey and excavation in the Francis Marion National Forest (Morgan 1993). All of Fort Jackson near Columbia has been intensively surveyed (Poplin et al. 1993), as have large portions of most other military bases in the state. Overviews of Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic research (Anderson et al. 1992; Anderson and Sassaman 1996), and Middle and Late Archaic period research (Sassaman and Anderson 1994) statewide have appeared, as have books documenting Mississippian and Late Archaic occupations along the Savannah River (Anderson 1994; Sassaman 1993b). Major synthetic survey and excavation reports are also increasingly common (e.g., Cabek et al. 1996; Cable et al. 1993, 1998; Drucker and Davis 1998; Garrow and Holland 1996; Gunn and Wilson 1993; Joseph et al. 1991; Sassaman 1993a; Southerlin et al. 1999; Trinkley 1993).

The Development of Local Prehistoric Cultural Sequences

The amount of published literature concerned with sequence development and taxonomy has steadily increased in recent years. Thanks to the massive amount of fieldwork that has occurred and the efforts of a number of hard-working individuals, we now have excellent local ceramic sequences from many parts of the state, including from the central South Carolina coast (Cable et al. 1993; Trinkley 1980a, 1980b, 1983); from the southwestern coast near Beauport (Trinkley, ed. 1986); from the Waterre River valley at and below Camden (Cable 1998; Cable et al. 2000; DePratter and Judge 1990); from the lower Santee River (Anderson 1982; Cable 1992, 1993; Espenshade and Brockington 1989); and along the lower, central, and upper reaches of the Savannah River (Anderson 1994; Anderson et al. 1986; DePratter 1979, 1991; Hally and Rudolph 1986; Sassaman and Anderson 1990). Extensive effort has also focused on the ceramics of specific time periods, particularly the Late Archaic Stallings and Thom's Creek series (Sassaman 1993b; Trinkley 1980a; see also Anderson 1996 for a recent overview of local research).

Emphasis on Sound Method, Theory, and Resource Management

One of the most encouraging aspects of archaeological investigations in South Carolina has been a continuing emphasis on archaeological method and theory and sound cultural resource management. The state is one of the leading centers for research in historic sites archaeology. Much of Stanley South's revolutionary quantitative approach to historic archaeology, as reflected in his book *Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology* (South 1977b), for example, was

developed with materials from local sites. Likewise, many of the papers in South's (ed. 1977) reader titled *Research Strategies in Historical Archaeology* were written by archaeologists who had recently or still were working in the state, and many of the articles were based on South Carolina materials.

This tradition of solid historic sites research has continued, as reflected by works such as Leland Ferguson's (1992) synthesis of African American archaeology, *Uncommon Ground*; Joe Joseph's (1989, 1993a) work with plantation archaeology; Ken Lewis's (e.g., 1976, 1984, 1989) long-term research on the frontier period at Camden and elsewhere; Stine et al.'s (1993) overview of landscape archaeology; and Martha Zierden's (e.g., Zierden 1993a; Zierden and Calhoun 1984, 1986a, 1986b) work on the archaeology of early English and American life in Charleston. The historic research of these individuals has been complemented by outstanding studies of African American life such as those by Wheaton et al. (1983) at Yaughan and Curriboo Plantations in Berkeley County; Garrow and Holland's (1996) work at the Frazier cabin in Beaufort County; and Lesley Drucker and Ron Anthony's (1979) work at Spier's Landing in Berkeley County. A great many of America's leading historic sites archaeologists have trained or worked in South Carolina to the benefit of our understanding of the local archaeological record (as summarized in Joseph 1993a; Steen 1993; Zierden 1993b).

The same is also true for prehistoric sites research, where outstanding scholars such as John Cable, Al Goodyear, Mike Trinkley, and Ken Sassaman have been working and publishing for many years (Anderson 1977, 1993a). Likewise, South Carolina has been the home of Chester DePratter for more than a decade, a scholar who, working in cooperation with colleagues such as Charles M. Hudson and Marvin T. Smith, has revolutionized our understanding of Mississippian chiefdoms and early Spanish exploration. An active underwater research program has been in place at SCIAA for more than twenty-five years under the direction of first Alan Albright and then Chris Amer.

Concern for the recovery of paleosubistence data has also grown. Ethnobotanical and zooarchaeological analyses are now a routine part of research. Physical anthropological analyses have explored aspects of health and diet among local Late Archaic through early historic populations (e.g., Larsen et al. 1992; Michie 1974; Rathbun 1989; Rathbun et al. 1980; Wilson 1997). Finally, there has been an increasing interest in replication experiments, as characterized by Michie's (1973) early but still famous Dalton point butchering experiments.

One of the most encouraging developments is the establishment of the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program. Under the skillful leadership of Chris Judge (1993), many archaeological sites have been purchased and preserved over the past fifteen years. The state site files have been entered into a Geo-

graphic Information System (GIS), a project inspired by the vision of Jim Scurry of the South Carolina Water Resources Commission and implemented by SCIAA staff member Holly Gilliam. This computerization effort builds on the solid empirical foundation provided by Keith Derting and Sharon Pekrul of SCIAA's Information Management Division (and their many predecessors down through the years), who have developed what I believe are among the cleanest and most problem-free site records in the region.

Conclusions

We have come a long way in South Carolina. Although we are hard-pressed to make sense of all that is occurring, most of us would rather be where we are today than go back to where we were thirty-five years ago. That we have learned so much in so short a time is, in part, because of the mandates of modern environmental legislation. Nonetheless, South Carolina has also done a great deal with this opportunity, more than many states, for two reasons. First, we have been fortunate in possessing skilled administrators capable of developing the funding and institutional support base for local archaeologists. Second, the scholars who have gravitated to the state have included many with the drive and vision to initiate solid research and then follow through with the production of reports and papers on their efforts. We are where we are today because of the hard work of a great many talented people interested in learning about and preserving South Carolina's past.

Notes

Portions of this paper appeared earlier in *South Carolina Antiquities* (Anderson 1977, 1993a, 1993b), although these writings have been substantially revised and updated. Also, I wish to thank Charles McNutt, Jane Hill, and Shannon Tushingham for help, patience, and assistance in the preparation of this chapter. I also thank Ken Sassaman and Bruce Rippeau for specific advice and commentary and Jim Michie for help with all my earlier historical summaries.

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