

RESEARCH

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Excavations at the Longtown sites yielded over 9,800 artifacts
- All of the collections have been curated by Chicora and the Mungo Co. at the SC Institute of Archaeology & Anthropology
- A public education component is being prepared.

MUNGO CO. FUNDS RESEARCH ON TENANT SITES

With the generous assistance of Mr. Stewart Mungo and Mungo Homes, Chicora has recently completed a first-ever study of three tenant sites in Richland County. Looking at three unique features — two privies and a well — the research provides an exceptional glimpse of tenancy in upper Richland County.

The study involves three sites on the Mungo Longtown tract near Killians, east of I-77 and was conducted in late 2005.

Chicora's work provides a detailed history of late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm life in this part of South Carolina, drawing on census records, historical documents, and — most particularly — ar-

chaeological examination of the three features.

The report provides a rare look at the variety of artifacts present in the lives of South Carolina's cotton tenants, using period catalogs to identify, compare, and price the artifacts found discarded at the sites.

One unusual finding were the number of items that might have been used by women of the period to avoid pregnancy or perhaps cause a spontaneous abortion. The collections also clearly document the lives of the children in the families of these poor farmers, revealing clothes, toys, and medicines of everyday life.

The report, illustrated with numerous artifact photographs



Chicora archaeologist Nicole Southerland working in one of the features at Longtown.

and line drawings is available from Chicora for \$75. Order ISBN 1-58317-065-0.

ARTIFACT CLOSE-UP: FLY-TOX

This rather plain looking clear glass bottle is embossed at the neck, "Fly-Tox," the only clue concerning its contents.

A 1926 advertisement for Fly-Tox warned parents of the disease and death caused by flies and other insects, exclaiming, "flies cause forty thousand

deaths" and "for healthy, happy little folks spray every room with Fly-Tox."

Its leading competitor was the Standard Oil Co. pesticide Flit, made famous by Theodore Seuss Geisel's (Dr. Seuss) ad campaign with the phrase, "Quick Henry, the Flit!".



All contained various chemicals, including DDT.

Fly-Tox bottle recovered by Chicora archaeologists in a tenant well.

THOM'S CREEK ARCHAEOLOGY IN CHARLESTON

Chicora archaeologists have just completed two-weeks of excavations at a small Thom's Creek shell midden in northern Charleston County.

Funded by Carolina Park Associates, the site produced an interesting assemblage of Thom's Creek pottery, consisting almost entirely of plain, finger pinched, and finger smoothed varieties. Also recovered are very large quantities of faunal remains,

especially small fish and bird bones. While the most noticeable feature of the site are the masses of oyster shell, one goal of the research is to examine what archaeologists call biomass — or the energy contribution — of the different foods such as fish, shellfish, deer, and hickory nuts.

Research at the site includes radiocarbon dating, pollen and phytolith studies, floral and faunal identification, and

detailed pottery studies. We hope to have the report completed by the end of the year.

Chicora archaeologist Julie Poppell conducts waterscreening for the recovery of small bones.



CHICORA RE-INTERRS AFRICAN AMERICAN REMAINS

During the excavation of the Youghal Plantation in 2003 one of the surprise recoveries was that of a human burial about 20 feet away from a colonial structure. Additional investigations failed to identify any other remains and why this one individual was buried in this location remains a mystery.

With approval of the Charleston County Coroner and the

S.C. State Historic Preservation Office, the remains were excavated, examined, and in 2006 re-interred at Magnolia Cemetery in Charleston.

The remains were found to be those of an African American child between 5 and 9 years old at the time of death. The African descent was determined through DNA studies. Because of the young age it was not possible

to determine sex, stature, or body build. Cause of death was also not evident. There was, however, evidence of systemic stress, possibly related to diet, during the child's life.

Reburial was arranged by Sintra Development Corporation of Charleston and the coffin for the child was donated by Dunbar Funeral Home of Columbia.

Additional information concerning Youghal and this enslaved African American child is available in Chicora's report

MEET INTERN ALYSON HERBERT

Chicora hosted Alyson Herbert from Mississippi State University this summer. For 10 weeks Alyson worked at Chicora, conducting background research, doing field work, cataloging collections, and examining human remains from a recovery in Berkeley County.

Alyson is a Master's student

of Dr. Homes Hogue at the Cobb Institute and that institution requires its students to have real-world experience.

Alyson's primary interest is forensic anthropology but she gained broad experience during her South Carolina sojourn. She also impressed us with her amazing stories, good nature, and ability to

withstand just about anything we threw at her. She also left South Carolina with two new family members, kittens she adopted from the Columbia Cat Clinic — Bagley and Clops.

Alyson even gained experience in different aspects of monument conservation during her work at Chicora.



MUSINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

You may have read The State newspaper's examination of the extraordinary funding being given to the Hunley. Millions of dollars are flowing to this one object and the "museum" that may perhaps house it.

Maybe the Hunley is worth it. Maybe not.

But what I think we all should be able to agree on is that while this one artifacts eats

up millions, the rest of our State's heritage is largely ignored. While this one artifact gets exceptional state support and funding, developers must foot the bill for everything else. And what isn't funded is bulldozed, eroded, or looted.

And that is a tragedy. It's a tragedy so much is lost. And it's a tragedy that private developers are being forced to do what the state has de-

ecided to do for an artifact that was safely buried and out of harm's way.

I can't help but wonder when the State of South Carolina may get around to enacting meaningful legislation that protects and enhances the heritage of all of our state, rather than just one small special community?

Are there any legislators out there listening?



NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE SITE DESTROYED BY LOOTING

A late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm site in Dorchester County was destroyed by looters, metal detector enthusiasts, and bottle collectors.

The site had been identified by Chicora several months earlier and a data recovery plan was being prepared that would have collected information from the site and

made it available to the public. When the site was revisited, we discovered that both features had been "gutted" down 10 or more feet. Discarded artifacts — broken, and no longer worth keeping according to the looters, artifacts were found strewn on the ground around the wells.

The looting was reported to the Dorchester County Sher-

iff's Department, but the chance of catching the vandals is slim.

This looting destroyed a site that could have provided information for all South Carolinians. Instead, the artifacts were converted to private ownership by thieves of time — individuals whose only interest is what an item can be sold for.

"Looting, relict collecting, metal detecting are all forms of stealing from the public and converting our public heritage into private ownership."

WE ARE NOT ALONE

No, we aren't talking about being visited by extraterrestrials. We're talking about how understanding history and archaeology give students a sense of place and belonging. The study of past ties us to things that came before, that helped make us what we are. And Chicora is proud to be able to offer some of the

best hands-on programs available to South Carolina teachers and students.

In a time of shrinking budgets, Chicora's in-school programs provide students with real artifacts, real experiences, and real learning.

We have programs that range from forensic anthropology to

Egyptian archaeology to the three cultures of South Carolina.

We also have a broad range of curricular materials, including an excellent program on rice cultivation.

For more information visit our website or call 803-787-6910 and ask for Debi.



Students experiencing the thrill of real artifacts. Chicora gives meaning to heritage preservation.

We're on the web

www.chicora.org

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Chicora Foundation is public, non-profit research foundation with 23 years of experience. We operate under a broad heritage preservation umbrella, conducting archaeological and historical research, providing a broad range of public education programs, and offering technical preservation for museums, libraries, and archives.

Our web site, at www.chicora.org, provides a great deal of additional information about our work and includes lists of all available publications.

If you have additional questions, please contact us and we'll be happy to provide additional information.

P R E S E R V I N G T H E P A S T F O R T H E F U T U R E

THE REST OF THE STORY: WHAT'S "THOM'S CREEK"

On page 2 we have a story about a "Thom's Creek" site we're working on in Charleston County. Some readers are probably wondering what this is.

Thom's Creek is a Late Archaic or Early Woodland (ca. 1800-900 B.C.) culture defined by archaeologist James B. Griffin in 1945. Thom's Creek sites occur throughout the coastal plain of South Carolina and extend into North Carolina. In Georgia similar ceramics are called Refuge.

Thom's Creek shell middens



are common on the coast, including shell rings that probably were occupied year-round. Interior sites are usually small, perhaps indicating temporary, perhaps seasonal use. Common artifacts on the

coast include Thom's Creek pottery, finely worked bone tools, Savannah River stemmed projectile points, shell beads, worked whelk shells, and occasionally steatite items.

Thom's Creek pottery is similar to the earlier Stallings pottery (the earliest ceramic produced in North America) and is decorated with finger pinching, smoothing,

punctations, and incising. Vessels were generally either bowl shaped or sometimes deep containers.

