

**North Carolina
Archaeological Society**

Newsletter

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Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 2759-3120
<http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas>

The Kron Collection Curation Project

by Jacque Dinnes (North Carolina State University), Emily McDowell (Office of State Archaeology),
and Mary Beth Fitts (Office of State Archaeology)

The Kron Collection Curation Project cataloged and properly curated artifacts excavated in 1957 from the cellar of the Kron House site (31St113) located within the boundaries of Morrow Mountain State Park in Stanly County, North Carolina. Completed as a part of the first author's (Dinnes) Master's studies in Anthropology at North Carolina State University, the project addressed an enduring problem in archaeology—the ongoing neglect of artifact collections—which contributes to the persistence of the curation crisis. The collection currently is stored at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Research Center in Raleigh.

Dr. Francis Kron purchased the 234-acre Attaway Hill Plantation in 1834. Settling there with his family, he established a successful business as the first doctor to practice medicine in the southern Piedmont of North Carolina. Dr. Kron died in 1883 and his children, Elizabeth and Adelaide, continued to live on the plantation until their deaths in 1896 and 1910, respectively. In the 1930s, the land that comprised Dr. Kron's plantation was acquired for the development of Morrow Mountain State Park, which opened to the public in 1939.

During the 1950s and 1960s, the state park restored and recreated parts of Attaway Hill Plantation, including Dr. Kron's house, office, medical clinic, and greenhouse. In 1957, the State Park Service began an excavation of the Kron House site to locate the building foundations for their reconstruction project. Unfortunately, the management of the excavation resulted in extensive damage to the archaeological record. In particular, the cellar, thought to be associated with Dr. Kron's medical office and clinic, was hollowed out and its contents discarded as backdirt. Stanley South, a consulting archaeologist at the time, sifted through the backdirt and salvaged the surviving artifacts. These materials remained unanalyzed for nearly 60 years, until the current project by Dinnes rectified this long-term neglect. The project also generated an assessment of the collection's future research potential and provided interpretive materials to Morrow Mountain State Park to foster collaboration, communication, and community engagement.

As part of the project, Dinnes evaluated and categorized each artifact based on Stanley South's (1977) classification system, which identified nine broad artifact groups: Kitchen, Bone, Architectural, Furniture, Arms, Clothing, Personal, Tobacco Pipe, and Activities. The objects in the Kron Collection were predominately associated with the kitchen category (70 percent). A high prevalence (62 percent) of the kitchen items were either glass bottles or bottle fragments, with 36 percent classified as medicine bottles. Overall, medicine bottles accounted for 22 percent of the collection. Of the 118 medicine bottles, 79 percent were associated with some portion of Dr. Kron's life at the site. Based on these findings, Dinnes concluded that the majority of the medicine bottles belonged to Dr. Kron and contained remedies used to treat patients for various illnesses. Few other medical objects were identified in the collection. The absence of other medical items was surprising considering that Dr. Kron operated his business on site and may have used the cellar to store medical instruments and equipment for his practice.

Following the initial study by Dinnes, three bottles and their contents were subjected to x-ray fluorescence

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(XRF) analysis by the co-authors (McDowell and Fitts) during a workshop in April 2017 instructed by Dr. Lindsay Bloch at the Research Laboratories of Archaeology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The bottles were analyzed using a Bruker Tracer III-SD Handheld XRF Analyzer in “Lab Rat” mode with the voltage set at 40kV, default current, and the vacuum pump engaged. These settings enabled the detection of all elements between magnesium and plutonium. The bottle glass was analyzed using a 0.006” copper, 0.001” titanium, 0.012” aluminum (“green”) filter, with default current and the voltage set at 40kV. These settings are designed to identify trace elements in silicate materials. All analyses were conducted for a duration of 60 seconds.

The contents of each bottle varied. One olive green bottle contained a white powdery substance that proved to be antimony, which was used primarily as a purgative (see Figure 1 on page 3). A second bottle contained a lead fragment along with a yellow powder that proved to be sulfur and iodine (Figure 2). While both sulfur and iodine were used widely in medicine, the purpose of the lead fragment is unclear. The last bottle with a glass stopper contained a liquid or syrup that had solidified (Figure 3). No elements of potential medical value were identified in this material, possibly due to sampling error. Analyses of the bottle glass identified traces of their contents (antimony in the olive green bottle and iodine in the other bottle), along with the base elements of glass (silica and calcium), as expected. The two older bottles showed higher concentrations of iron. Two of the bottles also yielded traces of arsenic. Arsenic was used to treat syphilis, in addition to being used to de-colorize glass, making its interpretation somewhat ambiguous. Nevertheless, elemental analysis supports the conclusion that the bottles contained medicinal treatments.

In addition to bottles, the Kron Collection contained a variety of artifacts representative of other activities, such as construction hardware, clothing, kitchen utensils, and animal bone. The cellar where these artifacts were found served as storage, accumulating a range of objects throughout its use. The animal bones, however, are unusual finds in a cellar context, since food remains would have been disposed of as trash rather than stored.

The artifacts from the Kron Collection were disturbed during excavation, having been recovered from backdirt, which may or may not have been contaminated by artifacts from other locations or by modern materials. This potential admixing may help to explain the presence of food trash (i.e., animal bone) in the cellar, as well as the absence of other expected items, such as medical artifacts. The circumstances surrounding the excavation may have resulted in the loss of artifacts and the mixing of artifact contexts from different locations, and we do not know if all artifacts associated with the cellar were even recovered from the backdirt. Given our understanding of the assemblage, the research value for the Kron Collection is moderate. Because the artifacts were found in the same general area of the site, however, it is possible with further research to generate broad interpretations about life at Attaway Hill Plantation.

Special thanks to the Dinnes’ M.A. committee members (Dr. John Millhauser, Dr. Troy Case, and John Mintz) and to the staff at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Research Center (Bonnie Johnson and Emily McDowell).

SAVE THE DATE

**COMING
UP**

Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology

Saturday & Sunday, Sept 15–16, 2017

The 6th Annual Southeastern Conference on Historic Sites Archaeology (SECHSA) will meet on September 15–16 at the historic Spencer Shops, located just north of Salisbury, North Carolina. The theme for this year is “The Archaeology of Transportation.” Whether through travel by path, plank, or paved road, on rails, over water, or through the air, transportation has historically played, and continues to play, a vital role for the movement of people, their cultural practices, as well as material goods. Related topics on industrial archaeology, the distribution of locally and commercially produced goods, and the establishment of transportation buildings and settlements also will be discussed. Details of the program, sponsors, and how to register to present a paper or just to attend can be found at <http://sechsa.org>.



Figure 1. Olive green medicine bottle with white powder residue containing antimony. Dated between 1815-1865.



Figure 2. Medicine bottle with yellow powder containing sulfur, iodine, and a lead fragment. Dated between 1845-1865.



Figure 3. Stoppered medicine bottle containing solidified liquid or syrup. Dated between 1870-1910.

New T-Shirts and Hats Coming Soon!



Stay tuned to see the new designs, plus the return of some old favorites, later this summer.

Love our current styles? Order yours today at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Merchandise>.

NCAS Revises Chapter Guidelines

At the spring NCAS Board of Directors meeting held Saturday, April 29, the Board approved revisions to the Guidelines for Chapters and Affiliated Societies to make it easier for groups of Society members to establish and maintain local chapters. These new guidelines (outlined below) also can be found on the NCAS website at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Chapters/Guidelines.html>.

[Revised] Guidelines for Chapters and Affiliated Societies

According to Article X, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, Inc., "Subsidiary local chapters may be established. Their policies must be in accord with those of the Corporation and their members must also be members of the Corporation." Because some local archaeological societies currently exist within the state which are independent of the NCAS, and it also is the desire of the NCAS to be inclusive and serve as an umbrella organization for all who support the purposes of the NCAS as outlined in Section 3 (a-f) of the Articles of Incorporation of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, Inc. Article X, Section 2, states: "Independent archaeological societies may affiliate with the Corporation. Their policies must be in accord with those of the Corporation." Proposed guidelines for creating local chapters and establishing affiliations with independent societies are presented below.

Chapters

A chapter is a local organization of NCAS members. In order for such an organization to be formally recognized by the NCAS as a chapter, it must:

- 1 have at least eight current members of the NCAS. If the membership of a chapter falls below five for a calendar year, the Board may, upon written notice to the president of said Chapter, disband it.
- 2 establish a chapter name, mailing address, and adopt a set of bylaws (this can be patterned after the NCAS Bylaws);
- 3 elect officers (minimally a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer);
- 4 petition the NCAS Board of Directors (in writing) for recognition as a chapter.

Chapter status will be conferred following the affirmative vote of a simple majority of the Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present. Chapters are encouraged to organize and schedule their own meetings, publish a newsletter, and undertake activities that are consistent with the purposes of the NCAS. Chapters also are invited to host statewide NCAS meetings and contribute news to the NCAS Newsletter.

Chapters may also choose to raise funds from their members to support Chapter activities. Each chapter shall submit an annual financial statement to the NCAS Treasurer as well as a brief annual written report of Chapter activities to the NCAS Secretary. In the event that a chapter dissolves, all of its assets shall revert to the NCAS.

Affiliated Societies

In order for an independent archaeological society to be formally recognized by the NCAS as an affiliated society, it must:

- 1 profess, through its bylaws and actions, the ideals, goals, and purposes of the NCAS as outlined in

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SAVE THE DATE

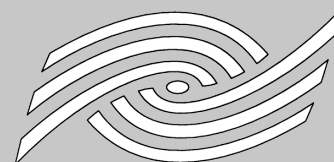
**COMING
UP**

NCAS Fall Meeting and Bus Tour

Saturday, October 14, 2017

Join us for a tour of Town Creek Indian Mound,
the Hardaway site, and Morrow Mountain State Park.

Additional details coming soon!



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Section 3 (a-f) of the Articles of Incorporation of the North Carolina Archaeological Society, Inc.; and
2 petition the NCAS Board of Directors (in writing) for recognition as an affiliated society.

The petition for recognition should include the society's bylaws and other supporting documents, such as newsletters, that illustrate the organization's goals and activities. Affiliate status will be conferred following the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present. Likewise, the revocation of a society's affiliate status also will require a two-thirds majority vote of the Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, and following 30-days written notification to the society in question of the pending action.

New NCAS Newsletter Editor Selected

Steve Davis has stepped down as Newsletter Editor after taking on this role in summer 2015 following the retirement of long-time editor Dee Nelms. Thank you, Steve, for your service! Heather Lapham (Research Laboratories of Archaeology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) has been selected as the new editor. Please email future submissions to her at hlapham@unc.edu. See page 6 for submission deadlines.

Office of State Archaeology Speaker Series

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) will host speakers each month throughout the year on the many great aspects of archaeology. Topics will focus on recent investigations and research conducted in North Carolina. All lectures are free and open to the public. Please join us at 11:30am at 109 East Jones Street in Raleigh.

May 23, 2017 • Commerce and Conflict: Exploring North Carolina's Maritime Heritage *presented by John W. Morris and Greg Stratton (OSA - Underwater Archaeology Branch)*

During the American Civil War, blockade runners played an invaluable role in keeping Confederate forces supplied with munitions and other goods. Members of North Carolina's Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB) are rediscovering some of these important pieces of history. Please join us as John "Billy Ray" Morris and Greg Stratton tell the story of two ships, the Agnes E. Fry (sunk in 1864) and the Condor (the best preserved blockade runner), and the important work done by the UAB to research and preserve North Carolina's maritime heritage.

June 13, 2017 • Rediscovering the Ailey Young House: Continuing the Legacy of the Young Family of Wake Forest *presented by Michelle Michael (Town of Wake Forest), Sherry Boyette, Rosie Blewitt-Golsch, and John J. Mintz (OSA)*

The Ailey Young house was built in 1875 by Professor William G. Simmons of Wake Forest as a part of a group of tenant farm houses known as "Simmons Row." After his death in 1895, his widow, Mary Elizabeth, sold the house to Ailey Young, a married African-American woman. Ailey and her husband, Henry, raised their 13 children in the house, including son Allen Young, founder of the first school for African-American children in Wake Forest. Please join us as we discuss the culmination of a partnership between public, private, and government stakeholders to rediscover and protect this important part of North Carolina heritage.

July 12, 2017 • Applying Archaeological Geophysics in the 21st Century: Examples from the Southeastern United States *presented by Sarah Lowry (New South Associates, Inc.)*

Geophysical techniques are used to make maps of buried archaeological features. These techniques have the ability to give archaeologists vast amounts of intra-site spatial data without costly, time-consuming, and inherently destructive excavations. Lowry will outline the most common archaeological geophysics instruments and provide case studies of their use at different archaeological sites in the Southeast. Examples, focusing on the application of geophysics in cultural resource management, include Mississippian villages, historic sites, battlefields, and cemeteries.



Archaeology and Heritage Day

Saturday, October 7, 2017

Hands-on activities, demonstrations, and live entertainment at Jordan Lake State Recreation Area.

2017 Dues Reminder

If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2017 dues payment to: North Carolina Archaeological Society, Research Laboratories of Archaeology, Campus Box 3120, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3120.

You also can renew your membership through PayPal at <http://www.rla.unc.edu/ncas/Join/PayPal.html>. Your current (paid) membership year is indicated at the top right-hand corner of the mailing label below.

NCAS Officers

- President:** Tom Beaman, 5210 Carr Road, Wilson NC 27893
- Vice-president:** Hannah Smith, 9 Kings Mount Court, Durham NC 27713
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NCAS Newsletter Publication Schedule

Members should submit articles and news items to Heather Lapham (hlapham@unc.edu) for inclusion in the Newsletter. Please use the following cut-off dates as guides for your submissions:

Winter Issue – January 31	Summer Issue – July 31
Spring Issue – April 3	Fall Issue – October 31

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