

Aucilla Research Institute Cuban "Chug" Boat Project Blockade Running on the Weeki Wachee River



ADVENTURES

IN FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGY



EDITORS' NOTE



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KC SMITH FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Like many other pursuits in our world, archaeological research recovered from the early days of the pandemic. Field schools returned; funding was secured; development roared back, spurring contract archaeology; and archaeologists returned to the field to collect the data necessary to understand our past and protect significant resources.

In light of what is going on in the world today with the Russian invasion of Ukraine, it is prescient that many of the articles in this edition discuss research on conflicts or the archaeological data we can see and interpret as a result of conflicts. Uzi Baram writes the second article in his series on the Maroon community in Manatee County, who settled in this area after escaping slavery and the destruction of a British fort at Prospect Bluff in North Florida. We then turn to a study by researchers at the University of West Florida on "Chugs," boats fabricated and used by Cuban refugees in the 1980s and 1990s to flee their homeland for at a better life in the US. A recent study for proposed park improvements along the Weeki Wachee River reveals evidence of a shipwreck, most likely a blockade runner used to supply Confederate troops during the Civil War. Those of you who have kayaked the Weeki Wachee may have been unaware of the importance of the area in Confederate resistance to the Union blockade, and that you were floating over a historic shipwreck. An article from the Aucilla Research Institute doesn't speak to conflict, but does provide a fascinating take on environmental change in Florida over the millennia and methods being used to interpret these ancient sites. Finally, an article on the universal nature of archaeology and how we all are drawn to exploration by an archaeologist who started his career in Florida and most recently was on the research vessel in the Antarctic that found Earnest Shackleton's lost ship, *Endurance*.

Considering the significance of the research being conducted in academia, government, and commercial markets, we pay tribute to two distinguished archaeologists—Dr. Tom Penders, Department of Defense archaeologist, and the late Dr. Glen Doran, professor and former chair of the Department of Anthropology at Florida State University, who have been instrumental in interpreting the history of our state and preserving our significant cultural resources. Both men have taught numerous students the theory and methods of anthropological archaeology and made an indelible mark on our science.

Those of us who have been fortunate to have careers as archaeologists are thankful every day to get to make a living doing what we love. It is also rewarding, for those of us who chose a career in archaeology to the chagrin of our families, to prove that it was a viable career choice. In fact, a new study has shown that there is now a dearth of archaeologists to fill all of the archaeology positions currently available. So, for those of you who have always dreamed of being an archaeologist, now is the time to follow that dream.

SHARE YOUR RESEARCH AND PROJECTS IN Adventures in Florida Archaeology

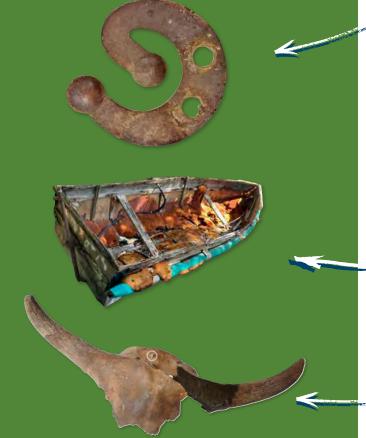
We welcome feature articles and regional news that focus on academic research, CRM projects, new technologies, artifacts, historic sites and museums, and other aspects of archaeological study. Abstracts for proposed articles are due by November 15; finished articles and images are due by January 15. For information and submission details, contact coeditors **Dr. Anne Stokes, anne@searchinc.com**, or **KC Smith, kcsmith614@hotmail.com**.

ON THE COVER

A sample of the artifacts pictured in this issue of Adventures in Florida Archaeology reflect the exciting diversity of sites, time periods, and cultures being studied by Florida archaeologists.

BACK COVER

The skeleton of a dog is among the remarkable remains helping to reconstruct the Angola community in south Florida.







Graphic design by Cliff Leonard, Hook Line & Sinker Design, Tallahassee Produced by Palm Springs Printing, Sanford

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WHAT WE FOUND OUT AB



Laboratory Results for the Early 19th-century Maroon Community

UZI BARAM

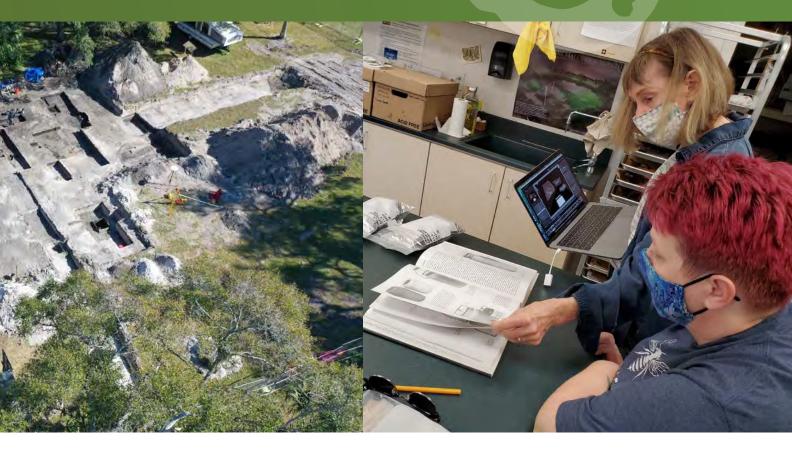
From Legend to History

Until recently, the history of the City of Bradenton—with a population now exceeding 60,000—started in the 1840s. The Indigenous history is ancient, but the Spanish entrada in Florida disrupted settlements and communities. Seminole history thus becomes incorporated through the Armed Occupation Act of 1842, when Anglo-American pioneers came to the Manatee River to take Native lands and start settlements that grew over the decades. Local history books relate tales of indigenous Native Americans on the Singing River, the exploits of Hernando de Soto, the battles of the 19th-century Seminole Wars, and of forts and a castle.

A nearly forgotten chapter in this history is archived in a 1973 presentation by Bradenton lawyer Dewey Dye Jr., who spoke on the maritime history of the region. A transcription of a speech to the Manatee County Historical Society includes mention of Angola, a name culled from the 1828 Spanish Law Claims Commission. In a 1990 publication, historian Canter Brown Jr. expanded on the history of Angola. Sarasota community scholar Vickie Oldham sought to find the exact location of that haven of liberty. I joined the interdisciplinary research team "Looking for Angola" as an archaeologist, dedicated to community-based research.

After several years of research and only a few weekends of volunteer excavations, I had assembled archival, geographic, and material evidence to declare success for "Looking for Angola." This community is an important chapter in the history of the freedom-seekers. It is a complicated past, with broad strokes that paint Spanish *La Florida* as a haven from slavery, famously at Fort Mose, and then at a British fort on Prospect Bluff on the Apalachicola River. Although a US naval engagement in July 1816 destroyed the fort

OUT ANGOLA



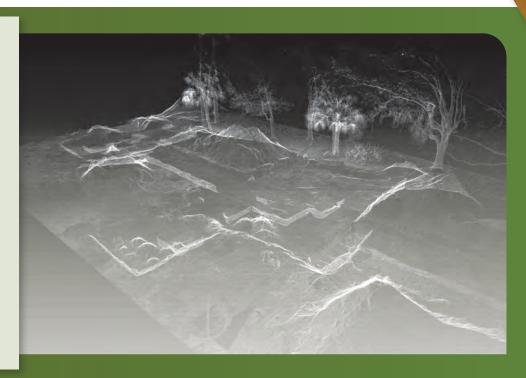
and killed hundreds of maroons and Native Americans, many escaped to Billy Bowlegs' town on the Suwannee River. In April 1818, Andrew Jackson led a raid into Spanish territory that caused refugees from the Battle of Suwannee to escape to Tampa Bay, where they joined others already at Angola on the Manatee River, swelling the number of residents to more than 700. They lived in liberty until summer 1821, when a slave raid destroyed the community. Hundreds of people were captured, but many escaped to the Florida interior or the British Bahamas, where their descendants continue to live.

In summer 2018 and 2019, an Angola descendant living in Bradenton organized relatives and friends to participate in a Back to Angola Festival. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented a festival in summer 2020. Throughout the project, the research team partnered with local residents and descendants to ensure the archaeology was meaningfully addressing heritage concerns and achievements. The celebration at the Manatee Mineral Spring felt like the culmination of the public anthropology program—descendants walking where their ancestors once found liberty.

Thanks to the efforts of Sherry Robinson Svekis of Reflections of Manatee, in 2019 the National Park Service "Network to Freedom" initiative recognized Manatee Mineral Spring as part of the Underground Railroad. But that was all we could say: there was a maroon community by the spring on the south side of the Manatee River in Bradenton. A location. Not all of the community, but a part of it. That insight was significant, but told us little about the lives of the people of Angola. It seemed that research would have to wait.

- LEFT: Because pottery styles have changed over time, ceramic sherds are useful in helping to date an archaeological site
- CENTER: An aerial view shows the excavations by the south side of the Manatee River. Courtesy of Kimley-Horr
- RIGHT: Students research artifacts at the New College Public Archaeology Lab.
 Except as noted, all photos and images are courtesy of Uzi Baram.

RIGHT: A 3D scan of the excavations. Extensive excavations to the water table revealed multiple landscapes, including the early 19th-century marronage of Angola; the 1840s village of Manatee to 1850s Branch Fort; late 19th-to early 20th-century growth of Manatee into Bradenton; and leveling the surface for development and a park for the mid 20th to early 21st century. Courtesy of Laura Harrison, Access 3D Lab



In April 2019, news that Bradenton's Riverwalk entertainment district would expand to the Manatee Mineral Spring Park led to a community-based effort organized by Svekis that enabled excavations in January 2020. Svekis also wrote a grant to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for laboratory analysis of the findings. Lab work now interprets the daily lives of the Angola maroons from the 1770s to the community's destruction in 1821. Angola no longer is a legend; rather, the history and people are known by what they did while living by Manatee Mineral Spring as well

as the spirit of their descendants.

The Lab Work: Belongings and Naming

A month of excavations in an urban context led to more than 35.000 items being recovered. The lab work included cataloging what archaeologists typically call artifacts; however, I insisted we examine the material culture as belongings. "Belongings" shifts the perspective from an object made by a person to things possessed by someone. Nearly all the belongings were manufactured-ceramics from factories, massproduced metals, and machine-made bottles.

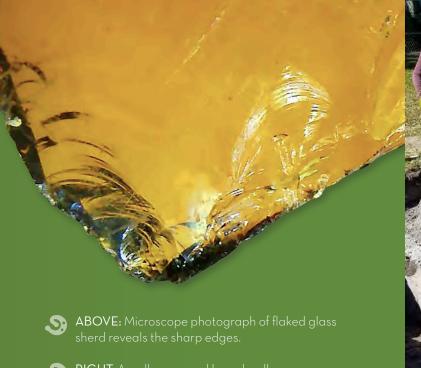
But thinking of them as belongings raises the question: to whom do they belong? In the consciousness-raising summer of 2020, when millions of people poured into streets in the United States and elsewhere in the world, with the imperative to remember the individuals and their stories—to say their names, the assemblages became connected to the names from the archives.

both those captured in 1821 and those who escaped to freedom in the Bahamas. Examples from the archives include the names of Sipsa, Nancy, Hector, Manuel, Mary, Peter, Cyrus, Ned, Queen, Dianna, Lewis, Charles, and more. Having collaborated with the descendants of Angola, as recent scholarship (Flewellen et al., 2021) makes clear: archaeology is antiracist, or it is nothing. Remembering these individuals, and their histories through their belongings, keeps the memories of their struggles and determination alive.

> The extensive report about the excavations and lab work lays out details from recovered items that date from the late 18th century to the present. Most materials from Manatee Mineral Spring, located on the south side of the Manatee River, post-date the marronage. The excavations consisted of trenching that created an atypical shape for the Manatee Mineral Spring Park property (with two additional trenches),

exposing an area 50 meters from north-south, and they ranged in width (east-west) from 2 meters for the north-south axis to 30 meters for the east-west trench. The two test trenches were both 10 meters going north-south by 2 meters going east-west. For the Power Property, a square, opened up by trenching, was 9 meters by 9 meters.

Secondaria Caracteria (1808) CENTER: 1808 coin recovered at the Angola



For the marronage, interpretations of the ephemeral discontinuous layer suggest multiple interesting features and findings. The contrast between the maroon landscape and the later periods, a thin and discontinuous layer versus the more robust layering for the Village of Manatee, is simply because the Angola community sought not to be seen. However, as archaeologists always note, people leave evidence, and if preservation allows, it can be recovered. The enigma is not the thin, discontinuous layer for the maroon landscape, but the absence of pre-Columbian remains. Until the 1930s, there was a mound nearby, as noted by the local collector Montague Talent. The material evidence for the layer being Angola comes from ceramics and a coin.

The recovery of an 1808 Draped Bust Half Cent (minted from 1800 to 1808)—which, according to Numismatic Guaranty Corporation, was "America's unwanted coin"—offers a clear dating tool. This type of coin supports a hypothesis that it belonged to someone who had been enslaved in the United States—a very low value and unwanted coin, but easily a remembrance or even a good luck piece.

As is often the case in historical archaeology, the more robust material evidence comes from ceramics. Jean Louise Lammie, who identified the 1,801 recovered ceramic sherds and presented her findings in the research report, generated a histogram that shows spikes in the early 19th and the mid- to late-19th century. The early 19th century is the Angola period, historically from the 1770s to 1821. The ceramics are British mass-produced wares, solidifying insights from historian Nathaniel Millet (2013) that the maroons saw



themselves as British subjects and received support from British merchants and military officers while in Spanish *La Florida*. The excavations examined only one locale for Angola, which spread from the mouth of the Braden River across the south side of the Manatee River and south to Sarasota Bay. The area by the Manatee Mineral Spring probably was a lookout point since the river used to turn shallow at that point, and the maroons, after their experience at Prospect Bluff, would have feared US naval ships.

Other materials were clarified through laboratory examination. Mary Maisel examined the nearly 8,000 pieces of glass, separating them into soda-lime, lead, manganese, borosilicate, cobalt, milk glass, and unidentifiable. Of the many sherds of mass-produced glass, some had sharp edges, suggesting they had been knapped. Excavations at known 19th-century Seminole settlements have yielded such flaked glass, once used as sharp tools.

After examining materials from the early 19th-century layer, the archaeological research has revealed intriguing facets about the daily lives of the freedom-seeking people, revolving around water, rituals, and animal companions.



Excavations revealed many features, and all but one were soil stains identified as postmolds—evidence of bygone structures, pits, or something else. The one well-preserved feature was a barrel well, which was surprising because the spring is nearby. Despite extensive research by Reflections of Manatee, no mention of a well for the village has been found.

The well is at the correct stratigraphic level for the maroon community. There were two posts on either side of the well, and debris was found on top of the well itself. A ceramic sherd embedded in the rust of a metal cube may offer support for the dating. The Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research is investigating the artifact.

Once cleaned out, fresh water gushed up the barrel. Remarkably, the well works as well in the 21st century as it did in the 19th century. However, why was there a well when a spring was nearby? Our hypotheses include health concerns, a sense that spring water might have been sacred, and easier protection for the water source.

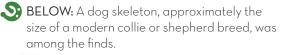
Archaeologists have been recovering material insights into the lives of people of African heritage in North America for decades. Decolonizing thinking allowed an understanding of objects in context to represent diasporic lives. From our excavations, two buried items—one in each pit located in the center of a probable structure—are intriguing possibilities.

Professor Rosalyn Howard wrote in the research report, "...the underlying intentions of the ritual objects,

to attract spiritual power for offensive or defensive purposes, remained and their physical placement inside or outside the home had significant meaning." As Howard noted, the G-shaped belonging could have been used for many purposes, including an ornament, buckle, or fastener, but its burial in a pit was intriguing. One cultural possibility is as a representation of the Yoruba orisa (deity) Ogun, a god of war and iron, who is honored by jewelry usually made of iron, but other metals could have substituted. Similarly, the flaked glass projectile point, while possibly broken, "could emit the spiritual energy of a good luck or love charm." These insights remind us of the humanity for people having survived military clashes and living in a harsh environment, seeking the supernatural for support. Buried, these belongings remained in the ground until excavations recovered and honored them.



BELOW: A wheel-thrown vessel, broken in three pieces, was the only non-mass produced ceramic find.





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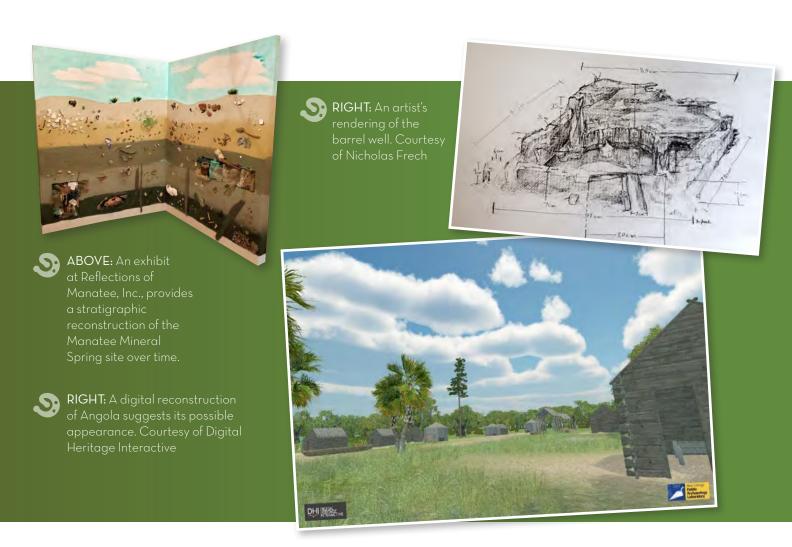
Among the finds, one item stunned the excavators and captivates those who hear about it: a complete dog burial in a rectangular wooden box. Only the soil stains remain of the box, but the skeleton, analyzed by Professor Diane Wallman, gives a clear sense of the canine.

The remains indicate the shoulder height as between 16-18 in (41-46 cm) high and the weight as 44-48 lbs (20-22 kg). Professor Wallman draws a size analogy to a border collie or Australian shepherd. Given modern, meaningful relationships with dogs, it is easy to imagine this dog, after loyalty to a person or group of people, being placed after death in a wooden box and carefully buried as a sign of respect. Archaeology rarely gives us emotional moments in time, but the excavations by Manatee Mineral Spring may offer such an opportunity.

The coin, ceramics, barrel well, and dog burial are fragments from the daily lives of the freedom-seekers. Inferences from the laboratory analysis offer several insights into the daily lives of the freedom-seeking peoples:

- Extensive use of British mass-produced goods;
- Seminole-style glass flaking;
- A robust agricultural community with livestock, pets, and marine resources; and
- A primary presence for the marronage by the Manatee Mineral Spring, with hamlets south of the Manatee River to Sarasota Bay.

2016, I worked with Digital Heritage Interactive to create a model for the Angola landscape, putting together elements from the small-scale excavations, archival research, and inferences on the time period. The landscape is available as a virtual world at "Commemorating Bicentennial of Tragedy Survival," and http://tragedyandsurvival.timesifters.org. Although the log cabins are too close together, the model has held up. The laboratory analysis has expanded the model to show the maroons with British mass-produced goods, connections to rituals and animal companions, and structures that facilitated years of liberty by the shores of the Manatee River. As archaeologists often say, there is much more research to be done, and as director of the New College Public Archaeology, I welcome researchers interested in continuing the program's efforts with these materials. Continuing in the spirit of "Looking for Angola," the research team took opportunities to share not only through public presentations, but also exhibits of the materials at the Mary Amelia Curry House at Reflections of Manatee, just meters from Manatee Mineral Spring (on display since June 2021); inclusion in the Museum of Florida History's Spirits of the Passage exhibit; and the Community Gallery at the Ringling Museum of Art, opened as From Legend to History: Archaeology of the Underground Railroad in our Backyard.



The Many Histories: A New Archive for Research

More than Angola, the excavations offer thousands of belongings from the Village of Manatee and its successor communities. In 2004, Renker Eich Parks Associates provided Reflections of Manatee, Inc., with a thorough report about archival materials for the Manatee Mineral Spring property. The documentary record had limitations; even the location of some of the houses of the early settlement was not clear. Historical archaeology is predicated on archaeological research offering different as well as additional insights into the past, and the excavations provided materials for a new archive to complement and expand insights from the documentary record. I welcome scholars to delve into these materials and to organize and analyze the belongings to illuminate the lives over the centuries by the spring. We have a new archive for the maroons and on the beginnings of Bradenton, a key to the social and material dynamics that set the foundation for what became Manatee and Sarasota counties.

Dr. Uzi Baram is professor of anthropology and founding director of the New College Public Archaeology Lab at New College of Florida in Sarasota.

Notes

¹ The 2014 report is filed with the Florida Master Site File, and the insight appears in peer-reviewed publications.

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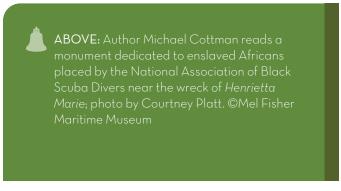


Interpreting a Maroon Community

Historians and archaeologists have long known about Florida's maroon communities, consisting of free Black people, formerly enslaved Africans, and their descendants, who were part of Florida's 18th-and 19th-century demographic landscape. Recent historical research and excavations at Prospect Bluff on the Apalachicola River and the Angola community in Bradenton on Tampa Bay have unearthed evidence that suggests these enclaves existed longer and were more prolific than previously believed.

A recent exhibition at the Museum of Florida History (MFH) in Tallahassee offered an opportunity to interpret Angola and display artifacts excavated from the site. In association with a large exhibit titled Spirits of the Passage: The Story of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, created by the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum in Key West, MFH staff created a special display relating to Angola. MFH added this component not only because Angola was an important haven of freedom for Black people in Florida—a role that has not been fully appreciated, but also to highlight new and emerging research about the community. This exhibit was the first time artifacts recovered from the site have been on loan.

During the War of 1812, Florida was still a Spanish territory. When the British offered freedom to formerly enslaved Africans, thousands fled bondage and joined the British military. The British recruited at least 400 people of African descent from the Florida Gulf Coast and trained them at a fort built on the Apalachicola River in 1814. After losing the war, the British left the fort to the Black soldiers with a supply of weapons and ammunition, and the area became a haven for freedomseekers. Known in the American press as the "Negro Fort," it protected a larger community at Prospect Bluff-settlements and agricultural fields that stretched for fifty miles up the Apalachicola River. Archaeologists now believe that the maroon communities on Prospect Bluff were more widespread along the Apalachicola River and likely predate the British period.



The fort was destroyed in 1816 when it was attacked by US forces. A hot cannon ball landed in the fort's munitions magazine, causing an explosion that killed more than 200 men, women, and children. However, hundreds of people escaped to Seminole and free Black settlements on the Suwannee River, eventually moving further south and joining the community of Angola on Tampa Bay. This settlement was lost in time until historian Dr. Cantor Brown discovered an 1822 Boston newspaper article detailing its destruction in 1821. However, recent archaeology at the site suggests the Angola settlement likely dates to the early 1770s.

Artifacts recovered from the Angola Community site and the wreck of the British ship Henrietta Marie are featured in the exhibit, The Story of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

Michelle Hearn is a senior curator at the Museum of Florida History, Tallahassee, FL.

BELOW LEFT & CENTER: Artifacts dating from the early 1770s to 1821, recently excavated at the free Black village of Angola, provide a complementary exhibit in *Spirits of the Passage*. Among the items on loan from Reflections of Manatee, Inc., are sherds of mass-produced British ceramics, glassware, tobacco pipes, a glass bead, an early 1800s coin, fishing wire and weights, and faunal remains. Photos by Elizabeth Johnson, Florida Division of Historical Resources





ABOVE: Flagon from the merchant slave ship
Henrietta Marie ©Mel Fisher Maritime Museum;

RIGHT: Shackles recovered from Henrietta Marie are a grim example of slave traders' efforts to control their cargo. ©Mel Fisher Maritime Museum; photo courtesy of Heffernan Films





ABOVE: Maritime archaeologist Dr. Corey Malcom documents wreckage of the Henrietta Marie. ©Mel Fisher Maritime Museum



LEFT: Spirits of the Passage:
The Story of the Transatlantic
Slave Trade, on display
at the Museum of Florida
History in Tallahassee, was
developed by the Mel Fisher
Maritime Museum in Key
West. The exhibit features
artifacts recovered from the
slave ship Henrietta Marie.

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Glen H. Doran (1950-2021)

Geoffrey P. Thomas and Rochelle A. Marrinan Department of Anthropology, Florida State University, Tallahassee

Family, friends, former students, and colleagues of Glen Harold Doran gathered August 7, 2021, to celebrate a life of significance. We were shocked to learn of his death on June 10, 2021, following a sudden heart attack. At the time, Glen and his wife Barbara were in the midst of a six-month fishing trip in Utah. They were visiting the family of his younger son when he died.

Glen was born on June 19, 1950, in Midland, Texas, the younger of two sons. He attended the University of Texas in Austin, earning a bachelor of arts degree in 1972 and a master of arts degree in 1975, both in anthropology. During his undergraduate and graduate years, he worked as an assistant archaeologist for the Texas Highway Department. For doctoral studies, Glen moved to the west coast to attend the University of California, Davis, where he studied under Martin Baumhoff. In 1980, he completed doctoral studies and was hired by Florida State University as an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, where he specialized in wet site archaeology, bioarchaeology, and forensic anthropology.

In 1982, Glen was asked to assess a pair of human crania unearthed by a backhoe operator, from a pond at Windover Farms housing subdivision near Titusville in Brevard County, Florida. Radiocarbon dates on these remains indicated that they were 8,000 years old. Excavation of this site covered three field seasons (1984-86) and was supported by the Florida Legislature after several years of intense lobbying. A portion of an extensive Archaic-period cemetery with remarkable levels of preservation was uncovered due to the layering of peat, which created an anaerobic environment. In addition to human interments, the site contained normally perishable organic materials, including hand-woven fabrics, wooden artifacts, animal bones, seeds, fruits, and brain tissue. Glen and co-principal investigator Dave Dickel oversaw the excavation of 168 individuals in total. Windover still represents the largest single Archaic-period mortuary

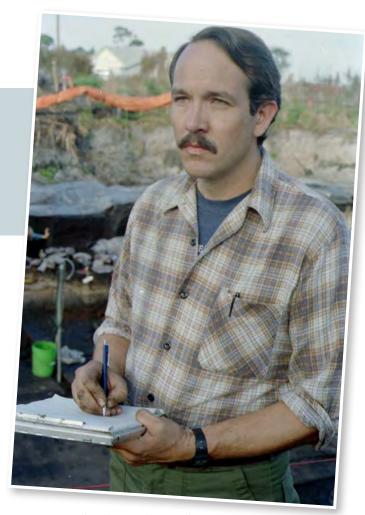


ABOVE: Glen at retirement; photographer unknown, family photo courtesy of Barbara Doran

pond excavated in North America that dates to before 7,000 BP. The site was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

In 1986, Glen was promoted to associate professor with tenure. He continued to work, collaborate, and publish research projects on the Windover population for the remainder of his career. His edited book, Windover: Multidisciplinary Investigations of an Early Archaic Florida Cemetery (2002), brought together the work of collaborators and his own analysis, and his leadership brought invitations to speak to international colleagues, particularly in Japan and Europe. Glen also continued bioarchaeological research and public outreach/education outside of Windover through contracts and grants. His osteological examination of the Buckeye Knoll (41VT98) remains is exemplary of his later scholarly production, and his commitment to the education of proper forensic techniques with Florida law enforcement officials covered more than twenty-five years of collaboration and training.

As a result of the economic recession of 2009, the Florida State Department of Anthropology came under threat. The bachelor and master of arts degrees and the doctoral degree programs were suspended, and faculty were encouraged to transfer to other departments or seek other employment. This occurred as Glen began his second tour as department chair (the first from 1999-2002 and again from 2008–15). He spearheaded the "Noles Need Anthropology" campaign to save the department and its programs. Glen and Barbara were integral in coordinating and organizing anthropology's



ABOVE: Glen during the Windover Excavation; Courtesy of Richard Brunk

presence during marches, demonstrations, and events. The remaining faculty, led by Glen, produced petition after petition, finally convincing the university administration of the importance of anthropology at an R-1 institution. The bachelor's degree was reinstated in 2013, the master's in 2014, and the doctoral degree will be reactivated with the hiring of additional faculty. His efforts earned him the University Leadership Award in 2013.

Glen's engagement was not limited to research and teaching. He was a lifelong advocate for the conservation and protection of archaeologically significant landscapes and sites. Public outreach had been a part of his Windover excavations, and public education about archaeology continued to be a concern throughout his career. He was named the "1986 Floridian of the Year" by the *Orlando Sentinel* as a result of the impact of the Windover excavations on the populace of Central Florida. In the 1980s, he helped draft the Unmarked Human Burial law (Florida Statutes, Chapter 872) and assisted in the state acquisition of the Governor Martin (de Soto-Apalachee) site in Tallahassee. Even after retirement, Glen continued to work for site conservation, preservation, and research.

On a more personal matter, Glen and Barbara were the longtime hosts of the anthropology department's annual spring semester Fish Fry, where he was known for tasty "kitchen sink"-seasoned grilled shrimp and his status as a ringer when it came to the blow-gun contest. He was a constant figurehead dressed in one of many Hawaiian shirts, cargo shorts, a straw hat, and a busy tobacco sauce or crawfish apron. During most of the festivities, you could find him either tending the grill, lounging by the pool, or sharing a drink with friends amongst his and Barbara's beautifully diverse and maintained garden.

Glen's global culinary expertise was often on full display even during everyday conversations. The consistent answer to the proverbial question, "Have you eaten X?," was inevitably, "Yes, that is really good when prepared like...." His abilities were never more impressive than when engaged in a challenge. Many have marveled at his seeming clairvoyance when tasting the "mystery meat" at the department's annual fall semester Pig Roast. Glen would approach the dish, scrutinize the appearance and texture, take a few small samples, and try it. Often a small smile and nod would be the only reaction, as if to affirm his suspicions. The success of the "mystery meat" each year was generally gauged by its effectiveness in stumping Glen. His culinary infamy only deepened when he provided and prepared rocky mountain oysters one year to a group of unsuspecting undergraduates.

Over the course of Glen's life and career (1980-2015) at FSU, he was known as a larger-than-life character, a gourmand of eclectic sensibilities, a compassionate friend, a dedicated husband and father, and a man thoroughly engaged with life and living. He will be remembered and missed by all who had the pleasure of his company.



CUBAN "CHUG" BOAT PROJECT:

JOHN R. BRATTEN
AND
MEGHAN MUMFORD

Documenting Hope and Resolve

As maritime archaeologists at the University of West Florida (UWF), we recently embarked on a ground-breaking but poignant project to record a collection of small boats and rafts that provided a conduit to freedom for unknown Cuban citizens.

In November 2021, we traveled to the Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden to visually inspect and begin documentation of a collection of Cuban refugee boats dating from the 1980s and '90s. Locally, these small boats and rafts are called "Chugs," referring to the distinctive "chug chug" noise they produce when propelled by a repurposed diesel engine. Many of the home-built vessels arrived in the Florida Keys or the Dry Tortugas in conjunction with the Mariel Boatlift in 1980. Others followed in the wake of the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1996—the "wet foot, dry foot policy" that granted work authorization permits and green card status to Cuban citizens who arrived in the US by legal or illegal means, and after one year of residency.

After arriving in Florida, many of these vessels were sunk, burned, or dismantled. Over the years, the Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden on Stock Island, an extension of Key West, acquired chugs and placed them in an outside exhibit after the vessels were cleaned of unused oil and gas. Researchers and residents agree that, as a testimony to the struggle of the refugees and social conditions in Cuba, the unique collection is worthy of saving, documenting, and exhibiting. Often, as many as twenty to thirty individuals embarked on a single chug, hoping to find refuge in the US after the perilous ninety-mile journey from Cuba. Isolated examples of these vessels can be found in south Florida, but the Key West Tropical Forest and Botanical Garden curates the largest collection in one place. When viewed as a group, the watercraft are a tribute to the ingenuity and resolve of the hopeful immigrants.

With funding from a Florida Division of Historical Resources small matching grant, we have begun the process of examining and assessing each chug to

Table 1. Cuban Chugs Display									
Vessel no.	Length (m)	Beam (m)	Vessel Type	Primary Material	Framing Material	Secondary Material(s)	Engine Type	Diagnostic Features	
1	5.61	2.56	2	Plastic tarpaulin (polytarp)	Rebar	Rubber inner tubes	Unknown, inboard, not present	Wheel for land transportation	
2	8.52	3	1	Wooden hull	Wooden frames	Organic caulking	Universal, inboard	FL Reg #US. FL1899HK	
3	6.17	1.97	1	Wooden hull	Wooden frames	-	Unknown, inboard engine present	Mariel painted on transom	
4	5.2	2.4	2	Plastic tarpaulin (polytarp)	Iron bands	Spray foam	Unknown, outboard, not present	Integrated gas tanks	
5	6	2.2	3	Aluminum hull	Iron bands	Fiberglass	Unknown, outboard engine present	Stylized American flag painted on port bow exterior	
6	-	-	-	-	-	-	OHC lawn mower (likely Briggs and Stratton), outboard lower unit	Engine only	
7	5.31	2.17	3	Aluminum hull	Wood with iron bands	Tubes with spray foam	Unknown, inboard engine present, Hyundai/Kia	Exterior floats/ stabilizers	
8	5.3	2.31	3	Aluminum hull	Wood with iron bands	Tubes with spray foam	Nissan engine, inboard	Exterior floats/ stabilizers	
9	3.88	1.89	3	Aluminum hull	Unknown	Spray foam interior	Unknown, inboard engine, not present	"USCG-OK" hand painted on exterior	
10	6.52	1.99	3	Aluminum hull	Wood with iron bands	Fiberglass	Thermo King, inboard	Refrigeration engine	

Photos courtesy of the Margaret J. Smith Archaeology Institute, University of West Florida

prioritize the restoration efforts. This involves determining and documenting the state of each chug; determining which vessels will remain part of the collection; and making recommendations for a treatment and restoration plan, including storage and conservation, for each chug. To date, we have assessed nine chugs and one outboard/lawnmower engine display and collated our initial data (Table 1). The numerical order is based on the current exhibit display numbers used by the Key West gardens.

The hull is made from six panels of aluminum, with a seventh creating the transom. The vessel is framed with six iron bands. Fiberglass was installed to waterproof the vessel's hull seams. There is evidence that three bench seats were built inside the vessel, but only one remains. An outboard engine is present, and the vessel features a stylized American flag painted on the portside exterior of the bow. The vessel was found on Boca Grande, 10 miles west of Key West.



Vessel #1 is fabricated from yellow and blue tarpaulin, rebar, galvanized pipe, polypropylene rope, and inner tubes. Additional buoyancy was provided with the use of spray foam insulation and foam panels. Its inboard engine is missing, but the angle iron support is present and testifies to its former presence. A surviving wheel attached to the bottom of the vessel on the starboard side indicates that it was built with its own "trailer" for easy transportation on land.

- 2 Vessel #2 is a former fishing vessel, believed to date to circa 1985, featuring a wooden frame and hull. The awning, a small cabin, and a Universal brand inboard engine proved useful to the hopeful immigrants.
- 3 Vessel #3 is known as Mariel for the painted name that still survives on its transom. Presumably, this vessel was associated with the famous Mariel boat lift whereby more than 100,000 Cubans made their way to Florida.





7 Vessel #7 is another "nut-andbolt" type vessel found in the Marquesas in 2008. The boat incorporates industrial tubes filled with spray foam, likely to assist with stability and buoyancy in what probably was an overcrowded voyage. The vessel has an inboard engine, likely a

Vessel Types

In general, we have identified three vessel types in the collection. Type 1 includes the two wooden vessels, numbers 2 and 3. Both vessels originally were built for non-refugee-related maritime activities. Significantly, vessel 3 has "Mariel" painted on its stern. Examples of a second vessel type (Type 2) include two chugs made from tarpaulin, vessels 1 and 4. Both watercraft are unique and feature a range of materials indicative of their homemade construction. Materials used include tarpaulins, rebar, welded iron bands, inner tubes, and spray insulation foams. Floatation for vessel 1 was achieved by filling a cavity created by tarpaulins with inner tubes. Vessel 4 was made buoyant by the addition of insulation foam sprayed into a tarpaulin that had been sewn into a long tube. This resulted in a boatshaped frame that included built-in gas tanks at the stern end of each tube.

The remainder of the vessels—numbers 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10—constitute Type 3. These feature aluminum panels as their primary structural component. The non-commercial construction of these vessels is quite

evident, but based on the similarities in construction, it is apparent that this was a shared "pattern," likely used to manufacture many other refugee boats. In most cases, the aluminum panels in Type 3 vessels were joined together using simple nuts and threaded bolts, fasteners likely acquired from a hardware store. The overlapping seams of these aluminum panels were waterproofed with fiberglass strips or spray foam insulation. Increased buoyancy and perhaps stability were achieved with the use of "outriggers" fabricated from plastic pipes or hoses filled with spray insulation foam (numbers 7, 8, 9). Individually, all five of these vessels are unique in terms of added framing (wood or iron straps), size, and propulsion. Because they are made primarily of aluminum, this five-vessel group is in the best state of preservation.

Finally, the collection includes one outboard engine display. This exhibit (number 6) includes the lower unit from an outboard engine and a modified Briggs and Stratton lawn mower engine placed atop to provide the propulsion for the propeller at the end of its drive shaft.



4 Vessel #4 features hand-sewn tarpaulins, spray foam, iron bands and hoops, gray plastic matting, and iron barrels that acted as integrated fuel tanks. The latter presumably powered the missing outboard engine.



8 Vessel #8 is fashioned from aluminum panels and may have had six benches for seating. The inboard Nissan diesel engine was fueled from a plastic tank mounted on a thwart. The vessel also features a modified exhaust pipe that likely produced the distinctive "chug chug" sound that for which these vessels are known.

Most of the extant inboard engines in the chugs are diesel. Vessel 7 features an engine with a Hyundai symbol and is also marked Kia. Vessel 3 contains an engine labeled "Kiki." The Japanese Kiki company made diesel engine components, not the actual engines. The data for the Kiki engine are not visible, but likely is repurposed from an Isuzu vehicle. Vessel 8 utilized a 4-cylinder Nissan diesel engine from another watercraft or automobile. Vessel 10 utilized a diesel engine from a Thermo King refrigerated trailer. Thermo King originally made gasoline-powered cooling units for trucks, trailers, and rail, but in 1958, the company started producing diesel-powered units. The ownership of the company changed, but probably after this engine was produced. Likely, this engine was fabricated in the United States.

6 A lawn mower engine paired to the lower unit of an outboard motor testifies to the ingenuity of the Cuban refugees who paired these two together.





Long-term Preservation

A number of the vessels feature "spray foam" insulation as a construction component. Concerned about the long-term preservation of this material, we have initiated preliminary discussions with the manufacturers-i.e., BASF and Lapolla Industries-for guidance in the application of a chemical protectant. Similarly, we also are researching commercial products designed to clean and protect the aluminum panels. The Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden would like to continue displaying these vessels outdoors. To that end, UWF has conducted conservation experiments to assess the applicability of a commercially available protective coating for use in preserving the many varied structural components of the chugs, whether it is made of polytarp, foam, wood, or aluminum. Preliminary results suggest that the application of a clear fluoropolymer to similar test materials will form a very tough protective barrier that will resist deterioration from water and ultraviolet light. Equally important will be the design of a "chug cradle" to lift the vessels off the ground and the installation

of protective awnings. These efforts will enhance the protective environment of the exhibit area and further preserve the chugs as part of the cultural heritage of Key West.

Dr. John Bratten is chief conservator and chair of the Department of Anthropology at UWF. Meghan Mumford is the collections manager and a research associate with the UWF Archaeology Institute.

"The vessel also features a modified exhaust pipe that likely produced the distinctive 'chug chug' sound that for which these vessels are known."

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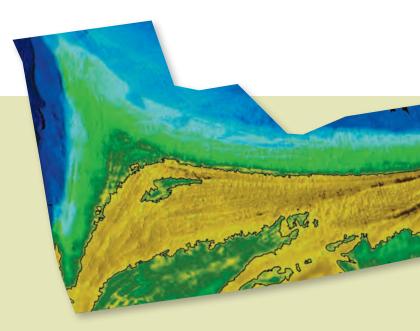


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ABOVE & RIGHT: Example of bathymetric multi-beam sonar data shows the ancient beach line and ridges and its backwater estuaries. Courtesy of Jim Dunbar.

JAMES DUNBAR AND ARI STAFF

The Aucilla Research Institute (ARI) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the study of past cultures and earth sciences, including paleoenvironments, which it views as significant and unique for interpreting an area's past. Institute efforts are guided by four primary goals:

- to attract and promote original research in the Big Bend area of Florida and south Georgia;
- to facilitate and support active field research, laboratory analysis, and dissemination of research findings;
- to enhance educational opportunities in the region for students of all ages; and
- to serve as a center for innovative thinking and activity relative to the environment and the prehistoric and historic past.

The idea to form the nonprofit center began after the inaugural "First Floridians: First Americans" conference in 2012. That event subsequently has become a conference series that addresses many topics in earth sciences such as geology, paleontology (fossil plants and animals), and past environments, as well as the area's archaeological and historical heritage. The conference series also has covered topics including innovative technologies The next two sessions in this series are planned for 2023 and 2025.

ARI efforts are enhanced by the use of various technologies. For example, staff use bathymetric LiDAR-a technique for recording the geospatial data of a coastline and shallow waters-in offshore and riverine

settings, as well as sea floor mapping using multibeam echo sounder data of a drowned barrier island on the margins of the Florida continental shelf. Both methodologies are somewhat similar, although LiDAR is best suited for shallow water, compared to multibeam echo sounder data, which is more suited for deep-water bathymetry.

Two examples of the bathymetric LiDAR employed in the Wakulla River, which were developed from GIS mapping, include cross-sectioning the river channel and developing a site map for the Vickery Mastodon site¹ at the headsprings. Because LiDAR is three-dimensional, river channel cross sections can be developed from any point from one side of the river to the other. River cross section derived by LiDAR effectively replaces the now-outdated method for developing river cross sections. The old method of wading, boating, and swamp slogging was more time consuming, with fewer bathymetric points and, therefore, more prone to error. In another example, LiDAR coverage at the Wakulla River headspring showed that a dredge-cut channel from the 1970s had missed the remains of a mastodon site, now called the Vickery Mastodon. The LiDAR coverage also allowed the river bottom to be mapped on a 20 cm contour interval as elevations above and below present sea level. It was developed as a site map prior to the 2018 site investigation.

Using multibeam data gathered from deep-water offshore at a location known as Pulley Ridge² revealed significant information in ways that most of us do not think about. As a result of investigation at the inland Page-



Ladson site in the Aucilla River, and its validation as the oldest confirmed Paleoindian site east of the Mississippi River, observations about the habitable ice-age Florida coastline were developed. Until recently, diagnostic artifacts belonging to Paleoindian Clovis culture were considered to represent the "First Americans" to occupy the American continent some 13,000 years ago. The Page-Ladson site has a Paleoindian component dating 14,500 years old-some 1,500 years before Clovis. At Clovis time, the sea level along the Gulf coast of Florida was between -50 m to -40 m below present. However, at 14,500 years ago, sea level was some -75 m below present, and the barrier island and estuaries at Pulley Ridge was the shoreline. Assuming that early human populations had already adapted to coastal habitats, Pulley Ridge may well have archaeological remains. Submerged archaeological sites already have been found as far offshore as Ray Hole Springs, about 32 km (20 miles) offshore and south of today's confluence of the Aucilla River with the Gulf of Mexico.

Besides LiDAR and multibeam sonar data, another remote sensing technology is Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), which is designed for use on land, but also can be floated on a raft in fresh water. A recent GPR investigation of the Alexon Bison site in the Wacissa River revealed a 2 m-thick stratigraphic sequence above limestone bedrock. Stone artifacts and a bison bone sample dated 13,000 years old (Clovis age) have been found at the site. The most striking artifact is a fragment of

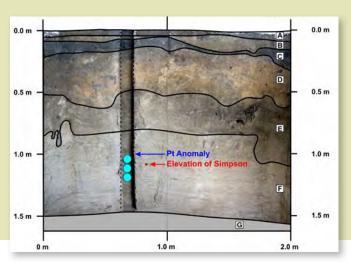
a chert object (flint is a type of chert) embedded in an animal's skull between the horn cores. An impact blow to that part of a bison, bull, or cow skull is used prior to initiating butchering. This technique has been used for thousands of years in prehistoric and historic contexts in the Old and New Worlds³. Using this technique with large animals is intended to prevent the person butchering the animal from getting hurt. Because a number of Pleistocene fossils have been recovered from the Alexon Bison site, including bison and horse, ARI believes the site deserves further investigation.

Archaeological work at the Wakulla [Springs] Lodge Site (8WA329)⁴ has identified a type of Paleoindian





LEFT: Medieval fresco showing the man getting ready to stun a cow prior to butchery. The woman holds the cow steady to receive the stunning blow. Courtesy of Shutterstock, Inc., used with permission



stone knife, called a Simpson point, that is older than Clovis. The Simpson artifact's stratigraphic position was confirmed by identifying an anomalous rareearth element, platinum (Pt), above it in a Clovis level. Contemporaneous Pt anomalies have been identified throughout the world in the northern and southern hemispheres. Pt anomalies also have been identified in all test units at the Wakulla Lodge Site 1.10 m deep. This site overlooks the main springhead on high ground. As mentioned, the Pt anomaly is Clovis age,⁵ and its identification at Wakulla Springs State Park places the Simpson point in an older position, 10 cm below Clovis.

In winter 2019, during preparations to investigate the Vickery Mastodon, a site grid was placed around the greatest concentration of bones. The results of this investigation, similar to other field investigations, gave rise to more questions about the site; nevertheless, initial but important findings were made. The first level of the site varied from 10 cm to 50 cm and was removed. This level consisted of sand and gelatinous sediment that covered more intact levels that contained the mastodon remains. Artifacts dating from a 1950s-era penny to an 11,400-year-old, Bolen-style projectile point were found. Clearly, the artifacts did not belong. The Vickery Mastodon is located in an area of Wakulla Springs State Park where modern visitors have enjoyed swimming for decades. A rather startling observation confirmed that the mastodon remains had been missed by a channelization operation in the 1970s. The mastodon remains were situated in sediment levels that were radiocarbon dated from about 13,500-13,000 years old. The most interesting finds were two small pieces of

bone tools recovered in the mastodon level, suggesting that Paleoindian-mastodon interaction may have taken place.

The Aucilla Research Institute has accomplished work on several historic sites in the Big Bend region. The Jefferson County Historical Sites Survey has investigated two Suwannee Valley Culture sites-Floyd's Mound (8MD6) and South Mound (8MD354). Floyd's Mound is in the area of, and has the potential to be, the Timucuan chiefdom of Asile mentioned in early contact and Spanish mission-era accounts. Investigations also have taken place at the Byrd/Chamberlain site (8JE2199), the site of the antebellum Trelawn Plantation, and at the Collins Pond South site (8JE2210), which appears to represent the site of the Aucilla Place Plantation owned by Thomas and Laura Randall prior to the Civil War. Collectively, these sites already have produced significant information about early contact cultures of this region and the local plantation system that existed during much of the 19th century.

Additionally, the Jefferson County Historical Survey has added new information about fifteen historic cemeteries and 138 newly recorded cemeteries to the Florida Master Site File, based on a survey by ARI. Information about these sites, as well as numerous historic African American sites in the region, has been compiled using a combination of oral history interviews, documentary research using historical records, and archaeological study directly involving local students and residents. Many of these students and residents are direct descendants of enslaved workers, while others are related and listed in historical documents, which



adds a unique and important dimension to the project. ARI has digitally copied more than 6,000 pages of official Jefferson County records from 1826 to 1871 including information about the transfers of enslaved people. Having these records available to scholars will allow a full and complete understanding of the lifeways of local residents before and during the 19th century.

In the 1960s, four efforts were undertaken to explore Big Bend-area river bottoms. In the late 1950s and throughout the 1960s, people increasingly obtained SCUBA diving equipment, which enabled them to

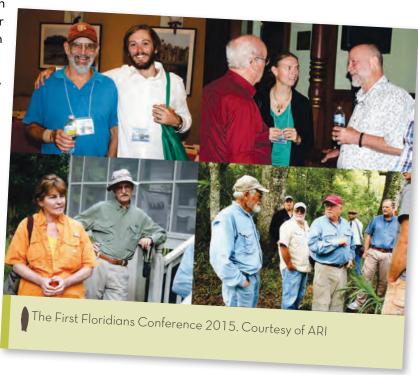
explore rivers and other submerged areas in Florida. For the first time, people in diving gear could investigate places that had not been traversed by humans in centuries.

One of the four efforts was initiated by paleontologist S. David Webb, professor and distinguished research curator of vertebrate paleontology at the University of Florida. During Webb's National Geographic-funded project in 1968, remains of a Columbian Mammoth⁶ skeleton were recovered from the Half Mile Rise section of the Aucilla River. The reassembled skeleton is now on display in the Florida Museum of Natural History (FLMNH) in Gainesville.

A second effort took place just prior to and after Webb's project. Dick Ohmes, a resident of Monticello at the time, recovered artifacts and fossils from various sites in the Aucilla River. One of his notable finds, a carved ivory shaft, was found in two pieces five years apart at the

same site. Before his death, Dick donated much of his collection to FLMNH, and recently ARI accepted the last part of his collection.

A third effort was undertaken by the Tall Timbers Research Station under the guidance of Drs. Bruce Means and David Gillette. Again, numerous fossils and artifacts were collected, resulting in at least two notable articles about the fossil finds⁷. Over the years, the focus of Tall Timbers' work changed, and several years ago, it offered its collections to ARI, where they now reside.





The fourth and perhaps most eclectic effort focused on the collection of the late Don Serbousek, one of the first SCUBA divers in Florida. Don owned a dive shop/TV electronics shop in Ormond Beach and had many diving adventures.8 In the mid-1960s, Don found a mastodon skeleton in the Aucilla River. He began to recover the remains, but was perturbed when he but did not find the skull. Dive after dive, he descended and always placed his hand on a huge limestone boulder embedded in the bottom sediment. Where was that mastodon skull? Eventually, he realized that the limestone boulder was the elusive skull-one of the few intact mastodon skulls ever found. Don named the mastodon Priscilla, after a pet pig from his youth that was the most stubborn animal he ever met. Although the mastodon actually was a male, the original name stuck because of Don's determine search for the skull. Some years later, Don joined forces with collaborator, Dr. Cliff Jeremiah, a retired physician,9 to mold and make casts of different types of large extinct animals. Eventually, Priscilla was among the animals that was molded and cast. ARI inherited Priscilla as part of Don's estate. ARI now has a life-sized replica of Priscilla from the Aucilla.

Most recently, ARI has been awarded grants that will allow staff to investigate archaeological sites damaged by Hurricane Michael in Wakulla Springs State Park and along the Taylor County coastline. Information about these projects will be provided in the ARI website (aucillaresearchinstitute.org) and newsletter (aucillaresearchinstitute.org/newsletter.html).

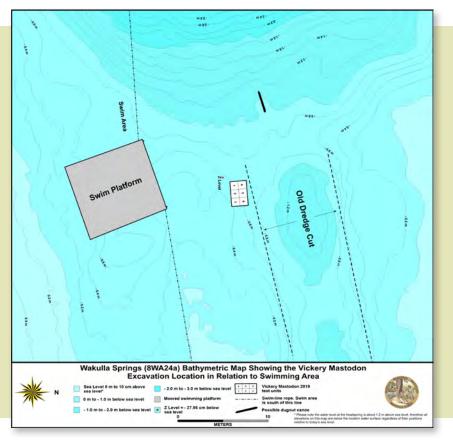
Dr. Jim Dunbar is chairman of the ARI board of directors. He worked for more than thirty years as a field supervisor and senior archaeologist with the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Florida Department of State. He also has consulted with numerous Florida state and federal agencies.

Notes

¹In 2007, Jason Vickery, then a park ranger at Wakulla Springs State Park, found mastodon remains in an area south of the springhead. He was planting eel grass in water about 1.5 m deep. The Vickery Mastodon, as it is now known, is part of a larger submerged site surrounding the springhead (8WA24).

²Pulley Ridge has been identified as a marine feature located offshore of Florida's southwest coast, on the edge of the continental shelf. Thanks to Professor David F. Naar, Geological Oceanography Department, University of South Florida College of Marine Science, for providing data that allowed the compilation of the map in Figure 4.

³This technique is still employed today in commercial slaughter houses using specialized equipment. As in the prehistoric past, this accomplishes the same goal of stunning the animal.





ABOVE: Priscilla the mastodon as reassembled for ARI by G-Fast another non-profit. Courtesy of Tom Harmon

LEFT: Bathymetric map derived from LiDAR.
The "Z" elevation point (red dot) and site grid
were established using a Total Station from
established control points on land. Courtesy of
Jim Dunbar

⁴The Florida Master Site File, administered by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, uses the Smithsonian Institution method to uniquely identify sites and historic structures in the state. For example, 8WA329 can be translated as 8 = state 8 or Florida, WA = Wakulla County, and 329 = the 329th historical/archaeological site to be recorded in the county.

⁵In a 2013 article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a large Pt anomaly was identified in a Greenland ice-core at a climate shift level (interval) known as the Allerød to Younger Dryas transition. That climate event later was dated in the same Greenland ice-core to 12,896 ffl 4 years before the year 2000.

⁶At the end of the Pleistocene, three elephant (Proboscidean) species inhabited Florida. These included the mammoth, a southern short-haired form adapted to warmer climate and grassland grazing; the mastodon, a browser that was common in the Americas; and the Cuvieronius, also a browser that was most common along the coastal strands of the time. For additional information, see Webb, S. David. 1974. Underwater Paleontology of Florida's Rivers. *National Geographic Society Research Reports* 1968 Projects: 479-481.

⁷Gillette related his findings in these 1976 articles: "A New Species of Small Cat from the Late Quaternary of Southeastern United States" in the *Journal of Mammalogy* [57(4):664-676]; and "The largest dire wolf: late Pleistocene of northern Florida" in the *Florida Scientist* [42(1):17-21].

⁸One of Don Serbousek's dive buddies was Ben Waller, who taught Hugh Downs, Elvis Presley, and Lloyd Bridges how to scuba dive. Ben was Lloyd Bridges' stunt double in the Sea Hunt television series. Don acted as a safety diver on a lesser-known TV series featuring mermaids in underwater situations. Don reckoned he had the better of the two duties.

⁹Cliff Jeremiah, a retired Florida physician, along with Don Serbousek, are known for molding and casting of large, now-extinct animals. They worked together to reconstruct the jaw of the giant shark *Megalodon*, an apex predator that became extinct about 2 million years ago. The jaw measures about 7 x 7 feet, and the entire shark likely reached 60 feet in length.

FLORIDA ARCHAEOLOGIST RECEIVES DOD AWARD

Thomas E. Penders has been awarded the 2021 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award in the Cultural Resources Management Individual/Team category. Tom has been a practicing archaeologist for more than thirty-eight years, having received bachelor of science and master of science degrees in anthropology from Florida State University.

Since 2006, Penders has served as the cultural resources manager and archaeologist for the 45th Space Wing—now called Space Launch Delta 45 (SLD 45). He supports mission-related activities at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, Patrick Space Force Base, Malabar Transmitter Annex, and the Jonathan Dickinson Missile Tracking Annex. These installations cover 19,241 acres and represent the most significant aspects of the US space program's history and future. He also is the manager of more than 500 cultural resources, including prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, missile crash sites, launch complexes, Man in Space National Historic Landmark District, World War II resources, historic cemeteries, and a lighthouse.

Penders received the award for innovative and cost-savings efforts on the bases, including partnerships and projects with universities (UCF, USF, FSU), and for using cutting edge technologies to accomplish projects that support the US Space Force's mission. Among these are multiyear, high definition 3-D laser scanning projects to document the nation's space history and the development of the Cape Canaveral Archaeological Mitigation Project (CCAMP). The latter is a partnership with the UCF Department of Anthropology to revisit previously recorded sites and conduct intensive archaeological investigations. Penders says his greatest challenge is coastal erosion from climate change that adversely affects the historic launch complexes and archaeological sites.



Penders says his greatest challenge is coastal erosion from climate change that adversely affects the historic launch complexes and archaeological sites.

Penders also is the founder and president of Archaeologists for Autism (AFA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that holds an annual event for children and young adults on the autism spectrum at no cost to the families. AFA strives to unlock the potential of children and young adults with autism and related disorders by providing opportunities to experience archaeology in a fun, low-stress environment. Additional information is available at archaeologistsforautism.com.

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In 1905, FHS became the first statewide organization to preserve Native American artifacts, promote archaeological research, and publish findings dating to the early 1900s. Archaeology enthusiast Clarence Moore, who joined the Society in 1907, donated his papers to the FHS Library of Florida History. In the 1940s, FHS helped to create the Florida Anthropological Society and the position of State Archaeologist, and the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, the Society's professional journal, has included articles by leading archaeologists for decades. From 2010 to 2013, FHS hosted the East Central Region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN), and in 2014, it established the Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute, based at the Library of Florida History in Cocoa. FHSAI's mission is to educate the public about Florida archaeology through research, publication, educational outreach, and by promoting complementary work by other organizations.

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BLOCKADE

RUNNING ON THE WEEKI WACHEE RIVER



JOSEPH GRINNAN, KYLE LENT, BARRY BLEICHNER, AND CHRISTOPHER LINSBECK ABOVE: A diver conducts a hand probe to determine burial depth.

RIGHT: This drawing of Bayport was included in Lieutenant Commander Semmes's report.¹⁰

The Weeki Wachee River is the embodiment of Florida's natural beauty. Located in Hernando County, the river's scenic views, wildlife, and colorful association with mermaids annually draws locals and visitors. However, hidden among the waving grasses and soft sands is an archaeological artifact that provides clues to the river's importance in Florida history. In 2018, funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made archaeological investigations possible due to a Hernando County park improvements project. The project included terrestrial and maritime surveys for archaeological remains.

According to County Community Services Director Christopher Linsbeck, "Staff at the Hernando County Parks and Recreation Department are honored to be part of this historically significant archaeological investigation. The findings enrich the values of our community's past, and as stewards of the parks, we understand the importance of preserving these important areas within our community."

The location of the archaeological artifact is not provided in this article to protect the shipwreck from disturbance and looting. Under Florida Statute 267.13, taking artifacts from public lands and waterways is a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000. Florida's cultural heritage belongs to everyone, and residents should do

their part into protect and promote the rich cultural heritage of the state.

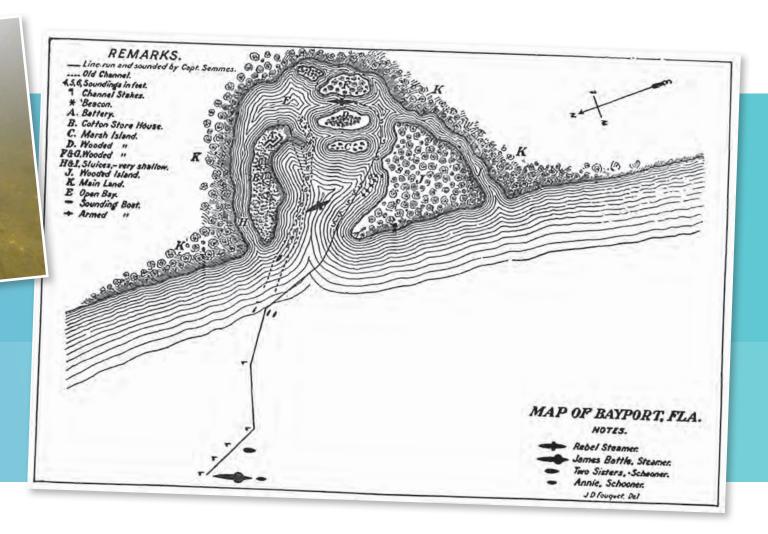
Union Naval Blockades

During the American Civil War, key conflicts played out in Florida, and many took place in state waters. Florida's vast coastlines made the state a naval battleground. In April 1861, President Abraham Lincoln ordered the blockade of all southern ports to prevent Confederate ships from trading goods and war supplies. Nonetheless, southerners found ways around the blockade. Lightweight vessels—known as blockade runners—were built to evade Union ships.

Blockade runners focused their operations on smaller, less-protected ports in shallow waterways. When spotted, these light, sleek, and fast vessels could outrun Union navy ships and were key in providing goods to the Confederacy.

Located at the mouth of the Weeki Wachee River, Bayport was an important Confederate site of operations. Being the only port located between Clearwater Harbor and Cedar Key—roughly an eighty-mile stretch of coastline, its shallow waters provided a haven for draft vessels to escape when larger patrolling Union spotted warships.

To ready themselves for war, Hernando County residents formed a militia company under the



command of Captain LeRoy G. Lesley. Additionally, Bayport founder Major John D. Parson raised another company to protect blockade runners from federal gunboats. Both preparation efforts focused on the protection of Bayport.

Battle of Bayport

The Battle of Bayport began in 1863, when Acting Rear Admiral Theodorus Bailey received word that ten blockade runners were leaving Havana to run the blockade along the Florida coastline. Of that fleet, seven reportedly were heading for Bayport. These vessels included the schooner New Year; steamers Onward, Amelia, Clarita, Linnet; and pilot boats Mary C. Harris and Virginia.

To prevent their arrival on Confederate shores, Bailey ordered Lieutenant Commander Earl English to patrol the western Florida coastline in search of the vessels. He ordered two armed launches from the warship St. Lawrence. The warship transported forty-six men to Cedar Key to meet Acting Lieutenant Edward Y. McCauley and locate the blockade runners.

On April 2, 1863, McCauley, a Union Navy commander of USS Fort Henry (a sidewheel steamer and converted New York ferryboat), made way to Bayport with multiple vessels. The shallow waters and difficult weather conditions slowed progress and limited Union vessel

movement, allowing Confederates to prepare for the Union arrival and clear the harbor.¹

McCauley arrived in Bayport and observed that the deep-water harbor was clear. He noted that the rebels had beached two sloops and two schooners up in the bayou and had concealed them with brush.² One Crystal River-based schooner, *Helen*, remained in the bay near the wharf. *Helen* was loaded with corn and was lying inshore and south of the harbor. McCauley dispatched a cutter to capture her crew and burn the vessel. Upon arrival, the crew of *Helen* informed McCauley that Bayport had a company of rebel soldiers inshore that included a two-gun battery, and that a schooner loaded with cotton was anchored in the bay.³

As the Union launches reached the waters within 900 yards of the battery, the Confederate soldiers, who had been hiding in the woods, opened fire with round shot from a "good number of riflemen." Firing continued for about thirty minutes. Once regrouped, Union howitzers—a small, long-ranged cannon—opened fire with grape shot for some fifteen minutes. A piece of shrapnel fell in the middle of the battery, and the rebels deserted. Union support vessels held position and maintained rifle fire.

Two-hours of engagement had taken a toll on McCauley's vessels and weaponry. The constant howitzer fire had





LEFT: A fragment of charred wood.

BELOW: The lower centerline structure of 8HE00633 was exposed.



LEFT: An exposed timber shows marine worm damage and fastener holes

overworked the guns, and the shallow waters had temporarily grounded Union vessels. This caused a retreat for fear of becoming grounded by the outgoing tide. As Union launches withdrew, they continued to receive fire from rebel riflemen hiding in the woods.

Once outside of Confederate firing range, Union vessels anchored to inspect the damage. They found that the first launch had taken two rounds to the bow, which disabled it entirely. The Union vessel Sagamore now held the only reliable gun for Union forces in the area. In his official report, McCauley wrote that the raid had been successful since Helen and the unnamed schooner loaded with cotton were destroyed, and because they forced the Confederate evacuation of the battery. Official records indicate that one Union solder was injured. Estimated Confederate casualties were one dead and at least three wounded.

The April 1863 raid on Bayport is an important naval skirmish that occurred on the Weeki Wachee River during the Civil War. While the Union considered the battle a success, Bayport itself remained in Confederate hands until the end of the war. Union patrol continued to observe Confederate activities along the shores. In the months following the battle, additional events at Bayport are documented in the historic record.

On September 5, 1863, C. H. Rockwell, the acting master of *Two Sisters*, reported the presence of a steamer in Bayport. Two days later, he discovered that the steamer was still present and described it as "painted lead color,

had side-wheels, one pipe painted white, one mast with a standing gaff upon it, and her after end was covered with a rounding top, apparently painted yellow." Rockwell subsequently dispatched Annie to Cedar Key with this information. By September 12, the vessel Two Sisters traveled within one mile of the battery, close enough to see a Confederate flag raised but still out of firing range. The previously sighted steamer had been moved behind the island.

By September 14, 1863, Lieutenant Commander A. A. Semmes and Lieutenant-Commander McCauley commanded James Battle and Fort Henry's launch and joined Annie and Two Sisters in anchoring outside the inner reef. Two unarmed cutters and an armed launch set to work identifying the passage, which had the channel markers removed.⁸ Lieutenant Commander Semmes kept a vigilant eye out for a reported steamer, which was spotted as disguised with tree branches. The steamer was described as being more than 200 feet long, with one mast and one funnel, and "decidedly English in appearance, although apparently reported to me as having gone in under French colors."

Once within 800 yards of the battery, Lieutenant Commander Semmes described, based on a sense of smell, that the steamer and a large cotton warehouse located near the battery had been set on fire, likely the result of Confederate activities in an attempt to prevent resources from falling in the hands of the Union.

Submerged Archaeological Investigations near Bayport

The first reported submerged archaeological investigation that targeted the events of the Battle of Bayport occurred in 2009. The project returned to an area that had been visited by Florida State Underwater Archaeologist Dr. Roger Smith in 1991, when he conducted a preliminary reconnaissance at the request of local historians, who had information on potential historic resources and shipwrecks in the area. Smith observed terrestrial and submerged archaeological resources during the site visit.

In 2009, a team of archaeologists conducted a maritime survey of the surrounding waters. The purpose was to identify submerged cultural resources associated with the Battle of Bayport.¹¹ The archaeologists were joined by volunteers from the University of West Florida and a local sport diving club, the BC Buddies.

The team identified two shipwrecks during the investigation. Each site was recorded and assigned a State of Florida archaeological site trinomial—that is, a unique identifier used by the state to track archaeological sites. One was labeled a "Possible Civil War Blockade Runner" (8HE00645), and the other was labeled the "BC Buddies' Wreck" (8HE00663). The possible blockade runner originally was identified by Dr. Smith in 1991, although it was not placed in the Florida Master Site File—the state's inventory of historical and cultural resources—until 2009.

Smith listed the vessel remains as a "possible Civil War blockade runner." He observed an iron hull and wooden decking and beams. Machinery also was noted, including a steam driven pump and other badly concreted machinery remains. The 2009 investigation relocated the possible blockade runner (8HE00645), which was photographed and documented.¹²

The BC Buddies' Wreck (8HE00663) was recorded on the final day of fieldwork. The 2009 report indicates that the BC Buddies' Wreck was mostly buried but contained identifiable structural elements, including disarticulated futtocks (the "ribs" of a ship) and numerous fasteners. In addition, a badly deteriorated rudder with evidence of sheathing also was located. The archaeologists noted that wooden hull remains showed evidence of a burning event.¹³

Based on preliminary findings, the team concluded that the BC Buddies' Wreck likely was a 50- to 70-foot sailing vessel that was built sometime after 1835. Its location relative to the historic record, as well as its general size and overall vessel characteristics, suggested that the vessel most likely was involved in blockading activities prior to its destruction, and that it likely had met its demise during one of the Union assaults at Bayport.¹⁴

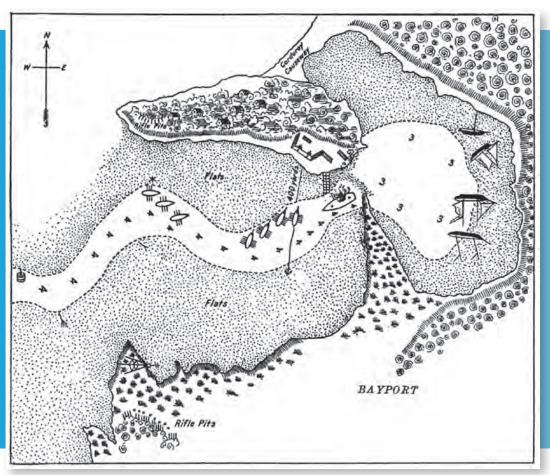
Recent Archaeological Investigations at the BC Buddies' Wreck

SEARCH archaeologists recently completed a series of site visits targeted at the BC Buddies' Wreck.¹⁵ The work occurred over a period of two years, between 2018 and 2020. The archaeological investigations were facilitated following an opportunity to document site conditions as part of a larger, county-wide park improvements project. Part of the project involved a short-term monitoring plan for the protection of the submerged resource.

SEARCH archaeologists conducted fieldwork in gradual stages, with all work performed under a State of Florida Archaeological Research permit. SEARCH began by performing a diver assessment of the site as well as identifying its boundaries. ¹⁶ The purpose of the initial visit was to record the wreck's exposed structural elements, delineate buried vessel remains, and provide a condition report on the current state of the site.

The investigation revealed that the shipwreck was mostly buried below the sediment line, although a portion of the vessel's keelson and lower hull structure, and some frames, were exposed. The ship remains are oriented approximately east/west, and sit on shallow layer of sand atop a predominately karstic riverine bottom. Although much of the wreck was covered with sand and grasses, hand probing indicated the vessel remains measured approximately 19 m (63 ft) by 6.0 m (20 ft). Exposed hull structure has degraded over time, with evidence of marine boring organisms (such as teredo worms) impacting the wood remains, while extensive evidence of burning also was noted. Multiple unidentified concretions ranging in size from 15 cm (6.0 in) to 0.9 m (3.0 ft) in diameter also were observed. As part of the site visit, SEARCH generated a preliminary site plan to document the perimeter and exposed features of the site.17

The site of the wreck has been heavily impacted by environmental conditions over the last 150 years. Debris from the wreck is scattered over a wide area and includes modern debris, fishing tackle, as well as modern to recent historic bottle glass. The wreck is in a high traffic environment and is often subjected to pollution and debris from other sources. Subsequent site visits identified cultural material that offers additional research potential. Such artifacts include a kedge anchor, a stoneware ceramic jug, and a porcelain jar. These seemingly mundane artifacts can provides historically significant information that could enhance our understanding of American history. For instance, the anchor location suggests that it was in use to anchor the ship at the time of the wrecking.





LEFT: Drawing illustrates the April 1863 engagement at Bayport. US Naval War Records Office.



Conclusion

Archaeology has the potential to fill in the gaps left behind in history. In this case, the historical gaps are the naval technologies that supported supply lines, blockade runners, and military operations in the Florida coastlines during the American Civil War. Additionally, it reinforces the important role Bayport and the areas surrounding the Weeki Wachee River played in the development of US history. Historical documentation exists for the Battle of Bayport. Historical documentation also exists for blockade runners. This documentation is primarily based on official war records and Union correspondence, and like all historical information, it is biased. The archaeological artifacts contained in these sites not only add to this important part of Florida history, but also have the potential to correct errors in the historical record.

With regard to the historical record, the steamers Fannie and Warrior are the only two vessels discussed by Acting Rear Admiral Bailey as he prepared to run the blockade along the Florida coast. Neither is mentioned as captured or successfully running the blockade in Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies. ¹⁸ Fannie or Warrior are plausible identities for the Confederate burned steamer at Bayport. ¹⁹ Either one of these could have been present during the Union attacks. Unfortunately, Confederate records from Bayport are scarce and no records exist that aid in further identifying the vessel name. ²⁰

While neither the possible blockade runner site (8HE00645) nor the BC Buddies' Wreck (8HE00663) can be identified positively at this time, SEARCH confirmed that, in the case of the latter, the site does retain integrity, and it does offer valuable archaeological research potential.

The site gives us the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the direct thought process involved with selecting vessels suitable for blockade-running activities. These vessels would have been selected because of their sleek, fast, and generally well-built characteristics. These characteristics are observed at the BC Buddies' Wreck in the numerous fasteners and hard woods present, which indicate the vessel was constructed with premium materials. These materials would have provided desirable characteristics for a vesselifit were to be used for blockade-running activities. These remains offer information that has the potential to aid in our overall understanding of oceangoing watercraft preference for the act of blockade runninginformation that seemingly has been lost to the sands of time, but not the sands of the Weeki Wachee River.

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ABOVE: Kedge anchor.

BELOW: Stoneware jug.

Courtesy of SEARCH, Inc.





Site plan of BC Buddies' Wreck: SEARCH's archaeological investigations reveal that the vessel remains are preserved well enough to offer exciting research opportunities. Specifically, the construction-related features identified during SEARCH's investigation can offer insight to the construction methods, functional characteristics, and, most importantly, the vessel preference with regard to the type of craft employed during the Civil War. Image courtesy of Bleichner and Lent, 2018

Notes

¹USNWR 1903:404-409, 662; Morris et al., 2011. ²Ibid., 410; Morris, Ibid.

³lbid.; Morris, Ibid.

⁴lbid., 406.

⁵lbid.

⁶lbid., 560-561.

⁷lbid., 561.

8lbid., 540-542.

⁹Ibid., 540.

¹⁰Ibid., 541.

11 Ibid.

¹²Ibid.

¹³lbid.

¹⁴Bleichner and Lent 2018; Lent and Grinnan 2020.

¹⁵Bleichner and Lent 2018.

¹⁶Morris et al., 2011.

¹⁷Ibid.

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It's -20 degrees Fahrenheit. Minke whales breach under the snow-filled sky. Seals and penguins peer into the deep quiet of the ethereal blue hole that our icebreaker, S.A. Agulhas II, has smashed in the frozen Weddell Sea, as petrels wheel and call above the resting place of the Endurance. This is the vessel at the heart of Sir Ernest Shackleton's legendary escape from the Antarctic, perhaps the greatest tale of pure human grit ever recorded, and named the most difficult wreck to find on earth by Endurance22, the epic expedition undertaken by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust. I know it was. I was there.

One of the most beautiful things about archaeology is that it is universal, especially the maritime aspect. As a graduate student, I spent three years diving the waters of north Florida under the guidance of Dr. Jessi Halligan, now an associate professor at Florida State University. Excavating and mapping Paleoindian sites and canoes in those clear springs and rushing, tannic rivers helped define my career and perspective on the field. As our custom Saab Sabertooth ROV descended into the eerily still water of the hole in the ice astern, I was reminded of drifting down into the shadowed depths of Orange Grove spring or down the anchor line into the tannic black of the Aucilla River.

I felt a large part of my life come full circle the day we found *Endurance*. In my role as the Maritime Archaeology Sector Lead at Florida-based SEARCH Inc., it felt incredibly appropriate to remember my Florida diving roots on this most momentous of occasions. To have

sailed for ten days from Cape Town, South Africa, across the Southern Atlantic to the Weddell Sea; to have surveyed for more than twenty days in some of the harshest conditions on earth, in a game of constant readjustment due to the ever-changing pattern of the current-driven ice floes; and then to achieve our goal for all humanity in the nick of time, and then pay tribute at the great man's grave on the island of South Georgia—it was the expedition of a lifetime, as well as a modern story of adventure, risk, and success that I hope will remind all Floridians and people of the world to dare greatly, and never give up.

John Albertson, MA, RPA, is a senior project manager and maritime archaeology sector lead at SEARCH, Inc.

ABOVE LEFT: Ernest Shackleton's ship, Endurance, was caught in an ice pack in the Weddell Sea during his Antarctic expedition, 1914. Courtesy of the Royal Geographical Society; photograph, Underwood and Underwood, New York; https://www.britannica.com/topic/Endurance-British-ship

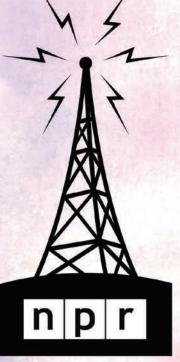
ABOVE CENTER: John Albertson and the S.A. Agulhas II, on the frozen Weddell Sea

ABOVE RIGHT: The wreck of the Endurance was found in 2022 near the bottom the Weddell Sea at a depth of 3,048 meters (10,000 feet). Courtesy of the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust/National Geographic; https://endurance22.org/enduranceis-found

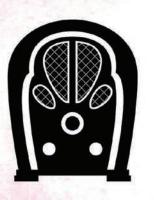


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Archaeology enthusiast Clarence B. Moore became a member of FHS in 1907 and donated his papers to our Library of Florida History. In the 1940s, FHS helped to create the Florida Anthropological Society and the position of State Archaeologist. The FHS academic journal, the Florida Historical Quarterly, has included articles by leading archaeologists for decades. From 2010 to 2013, FHS hosted the Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) East Central Region. Since 2014, the Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute (FHSAI) has continued more than a century of the FHS educating the public about Florida archaeology through research, publication, and educational outreach. FHSAI publishes this magazine, Adventures in Florida Archaeology, annually.

