March 2016 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

Archeologist Stanley South Dies at 88
Stanley A. South died March 20, 2016, in Columbia, SC. He was 88. South had a profound impact on historical archeology, especially in method and theory, and archeological pattern recognition. He edited “The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers” series which was a major source of information on historical archeology during the 1960s and 1970s.

South began his career with the former North Carolina Department of Archives and History in 1956, the first archeologist hired by the state. South then accepted the post of archeologist at Brunswick Town, excavating there for ten years. His work confirmed the importance of Brunswick in colonial America as a port and center for the trans-Atlantic trade in naval stores.


South received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Appalachian State University (1979), an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from the University of South Carolina (1997), and the Order of the Palmetto from South Carolina Governor Jim Hodges (1999). In 2006, he received the Old North State Award from Governor Mike Easley of North Carolina. For many years, South was a research professor with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. He retired in 2010.

From story by Ben Steelman, StarNews Online

NPS Archeology Program Finishes Another Great Webinar Season
The NPS Archeology Program has hosted its last webinar for the 2015-2016 season. A wonderful series of park archeology webinars preceded six talks on maritime archeology. Here is a list of the speakers:

- Adam Freeburg, NPS – 200 Generations: On the Beach of their Time: Human-Environmental Dynamics at Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Alaska (2006-2014) (Cotter Award Winner)
- Laura Bender, NPS – A Day in the Life: Artifacts from Pipestone Indian Boarding School, Pipestone, Minnesota
- Kelsey Reese, Southwest Archaeological Consultants, Inc.– Agency of Access: Public Architecture in Mesa Verde NP
- Staffan Peterson, NPS – Archeology of the Nez Perce War of 1877 in Yellowstone NP
- Bob Brunswig, University of Northern Colorado – Multidisciplinary Reconstruction of Interactive Change in Holocene Treeline, Paleoclimate, and High Altitude Hunting Systems in Rocky Mountain NP
• Tim Schilling, NPS – Challenges and Opportunities of Archeology in Urban Parks: An example from the Arch
• Josh Marano and David Gadsby, NPS – Reaching Across the Pond: The Archeological Investigation and Management of the HMS Fowey (1748) Shipwreck
• James Dixon, University of New Mexico – Evidence for Colonization of North America via a Pacific Maritime Route
• Charles Meide, Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program – The Search for the Lost French Fleet
• David Conlin, NPS – One Ship, Two Ships, Our Ship, Whose Ship? Untangling Submerged Cultural Resources Laws
• Stephen Lubkemann, George Washington University – The Wreck of Slave Ship São José
• Kenneth Stewart, Diving with a Purpose – Diving with a Purpose
• Michael Faught, Principal Investigator, SEARCH, Inc. – Submerged Prehistoric Sites: Pioneering into the Deep

The webinar platform that the Archeology Program has been using, MyMeetings, is no longer supported by Microsoft, so ArcheoThursdays will be moving to a new platform next year. This is good news for people who were not able to access the live webinars. There will be a new host as well – Mike Roller is taking over from Karen Mudar. Mudar is hanging up her microphone and moving on to other challenges.

These and other recorded webinars are available at http://www.nps.gov/training/NPSArcheology/html/index.cfm.

Enjoy!

By Karen Mudar

Tumacácori National Historical Park Hosts International Earthen Architecture Workshop

From March 14-18, 2016, Tumacácori NHP hosted over 100 participants in the 2016 Taller Internacional de Conservación y Restauración de Arquitectura de Tierra (TICRAT). Also known as the International Workshop on the Conservation and Restoration of Earthen Architecture, TICRAT is a bi-national, hands-on workshop focused on learning traditional techniques for conserving earthen architecture, including adobe, lime plaster, and painted plaster.

The 2016 TICRAT involved more partners than any previous event. The workshop was attended by over 100 preservation specialists, including 37 NPS employees. Additional participants came from INAH’s protected sites, regional and national offices; tribal organizations; non-profits; six U.S. universities; two Mexican universities; private
industry; and federal, state, and county government agencies. The event was coordinated to highlight cross-border as well as domestic partnerships with workshop stations held at Empire Ranch (BLM), Tubac Presidio State Historic Park (Arizona State Parks), and Canoa Ranch (Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation), and Mission San Xavier del Bac (Tucson Diocese of the Catholic Church & Tohono O’odham Nation).

This year’s event also included a presentation of the Director’s Partnership Award to R. Brooks Jeffery, Director of the Drachman Institute and Chair of the Heritage Conservation Program at the University of Arizona. The award was presented by Stephanie Toothman (Associate Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science) to recognize Jeffery’s 15-year partnership with the NPS, the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (DS-CESU), and facilitation support of the TICRAT workshops.

The workshop series was started in 1994 in partnership with Mexican counterparts with INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia). Each year, the workshop alternates being held in the United States and Mexico, with all sessions taught in English and Spanish. Coordination for this year’s TICRAT was provided by Tumacácori NHP. Funding was provided by the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program through the Desert Southwest CESU.

By Adam Springer

Conversational Archeologist: Stephen Potter
Stephen Potter is the Regional Archeologist for the NPS National Capital Region, a position he has held for 36 years. It was exciting to interview someone who had such a long perspective on NPS archeology!

Stephen was born in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1950. I asked him how he became interested in archeology. He said that, initially, he was attracted to exploring the ways that his family’s history was entwined with the history of the land. As a small boy, his grandmother Viar told him stories that were told to her by her grandfather, who had been a soldier in Lee’s Army in the Civil War. When Stephen walked around his grandfather’s farm, he occasionally found bullets from the war. The connection between his ancestors and the Civil War inspired him to learn more.

At age 11, he began collecting Native American artifacts from his grandfather’s fields. He was thrilled by this proof that Native peoples had lived on land that his grandfather farmed. Archeology was a way to continue exploration of connection between personal history and national history, and his later research returned to the East Coast and the Potomac Valley.

When Stephen was a teenager, his mother learned that members of the public could meet with specialists at the National Museum of Natural History, and he frequently went to learn more about the artifacts in his growing collection. In his junior year of high school, Dr. Clifford Evans, Curator of South American Archeology at the Smithsonian Institution, offered him a summer job, a paid 10-week internship. Stephen worked in the Processing Laboratory of the Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, for three summers in a row. Later, he returned to the Smithsonian on a Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

Stephen earned his BA degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia, and soon, thereafter, was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served on active duty for two years. After being discharged, he
began graduate studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where he earned his MA and PhD. Stephen’s PhD came two years after another important event that was to shape his career. In 1980, the NPS hired him as the National Capital Region (NCR) archeologist, a position that he still holds.

There were 13 years between Stephen and the last regional archeologist, B. Bruce Powell. In the interim all of the files, collections, and books related to archeology in the NCR had been moved or thrown away. One of his first challenges was to figure out where all his materials had gone. After two years of searching, Stephen was unable to find anything from Powell’s tenure as the first Regional Archeologist for NCR.

I asked Stephen what helped him the most when he started work at the NPS. He said that because of his internships at the Smithsonian and exposure to the archeological and anthropological literature as a high school student, he was able to take two graduate-level seminars as a senior undergraduate at the University of Missouri, which were very helpful. The skills that he acquired in several rigorous courses enabled him to write persuasive and concise grant and project proposals, keep track of details, and analyze information. Stephen also said that mentors were very important to him when he first started work, and he was fortunate to have several good mentors.

He is justly proud of developing a solid regional archeological program. Over time, Stephen grudgingly morphed from being an archeologist to an archeocrat, to being a program manager, but he still manages to get in the field occasionally and get his fingers dirty. He says “People are the heart and soul of an organization” and he is justly proud of the way that he had grown the Archeology Program in the National Capital Region. Between the mid-1980s and mid-1990s, he secured a facility, interns, projects, 3 new permanent positions, hiring Bob Sonderman, Marian Creveling, and Karen Orrence.

Stephen is also proud of the projects that he worked with parks to carry out, including overviews, assessments, identification and evaluation studies of Prince William Forest Park, Rock Creek Park, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal NHP, Catoctin Mountain Park, and Antietam National Battlefield. The C&O Canal NHP project took over 9 years to complete, and identified 105 new sites and assessed 79 additional sites. Another achievement he ranks high is the creation, with Tom Gwaltney, Marian Creveling, and Karen Orrence, of a Regional Archeology Program website intended for four audiences: the general public, kids, teachers, and professionals in historic preservation.

I asked Stephen what advice he can give archeologists at the beginning of their NPS careers. He said being archeologically ambidextrous is more important than ever, with education and experience in both the cultures of native peoples and those who came to the Americas from somewhere else. Too often we’re being asked to advise managers and planners on the spur of the moment, so the more varied your archeological knowledge and experiences, the better off you are.

Thanks, Stephen, for a great conversation!

By Karen Mudar

**Historic Preservation Grant Awarded to Park Partner**

March 1, 2015 the Beckley Area Foundation awarded the Raleigh County Historical Society, a New River Gorge National River partner, a $6,500 grant to nominate the historic Beckley Grist Mill to the National Register of Historic Places. Matching funds will bring the total budget for the project to just under $10,000. A 2014 historic and archeological study by Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. determined that the
mill, which was built during the late 1830s, is eligible for listing on the National Register based on its association with Alfred Beckley and its integrity and research potential. In addition to preparing the National Register forms, the contract will develop an historic context for early settlement and industrial development in the lower New River region.

**Contact:** NERI Cultural Resource Specialist, David N. Fuerst, at david_fuerst@nps.gov.

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**Historic Prince Brothers Store Study Completed**

Prince Brothers Store is an historic late 19th-mid 20th century building that is located in the New River Gorge National River of southern West Virginia. Recently, Chris Swisher, a park volunteer and graduate student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, used archival records from the store to study consumption patterns during the World War II era. The report entitled “Economic Effects of World War II in the New River Coal Field: A Primary Source Analysis,” documents changes in the types of goods sold at the store before, during and after the war.

**Contact:** Chris Swisher at c.k.swisher@iup.edu for an electronic copy of the report.

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**FEDERAL NEWS**

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**Sacred Site Pe’ Sla Gains Indian Land Status**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs placed a sacred site in the Black Hills of South Dakota in trust. The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe raised $9 million to purchase Pe’ Sla, a 2,022-acre site that plays a central role in Lakota history, culture and cosmology. The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe has joined the other tribes in protecting the site by providing an initial financial contribution, according to the press release.
Pe' Sla means The Heart of Everything and is central to the star knowledge of the Sioux Nation and the understanding of the universe. The tribes acquired the land in two separate purchases, according to the Indian Land Tenure Foundation, which helped facilitate the transactions.

The Black Hills were promised to the Sioux Nation by the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie but the land was taken by the federal government. Some parcels, including the ones at Pe' Sla, were later sold to non-Indians.

The tribes celebrated after learning of the BIA's March 10 decision.

*From story posted on Indianz.com*

**Proposed Law Threatens Protection of Federal Archeological Resources**

Congress has introduced legislation that would diminish the authority of federal agencies to enforce federal public lands law. A bill introduced March 16, 2016, targets BLM and USFS law enforcement personnel. The Local Enforcement for Local Lands Act of 2016 would strip BLM and the USFS of their law enforcement functions completely, affecting abilities to uphold cultural resource protection laws, while providing block grants for local authorities proportional to the percentage of public land in each state.

Nate Catura, president of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA), cited several concerns with the transfer of power. Primarily, he noted, local law enforcement is not prepared to deal with the functions federal agents are specifically trained and equipped to handle, such as timber theft, protecting archeological resources and investigating wildfires.

A USFS spokesman said the agency is reviewing the legislation and is working to provide more information on its law enforcement activities. Kristen Lenhardt, a BLM spokeswoman, declined to comment directly on pending legislation, but refuted the general notion that eliminating law enforcement responsibilities at the agency would help it focus on its “core mission.”

The new CAP study finds the federal agencies that manage U.S. public lands already have too few rangers and law enforcement officers to adequately combat criminal activities on public lands. The USFS has 765 full-time law enforcement officials covering 193 million acres, while the BLM has just 124 law enforcement rangers who are responsible for 245 million acres of land. That’s one officer for every 3,000 square miles of land.

These rangers are responsible for dealing with the threat of armed anti-government extremists, but they also have several other key duties, including protecting Native American cultural resources from destruction and looting, preventing theft and vandalism of natural and other cultural resources, and dealing with illegal marijuana cultivation on public lands. H.R. 4751 directly undercuts their ability to both protect themselves and others on these lands and to fulfill the rest of their duties.

*From story by Jenny Rowland*

**US Cancels Oil and Gas Lease on Montana Land Sacred to Tribes**

The Obama administration on March 17, 2016, canceled a disputed oil and gas lease just outside Glacier NP, on land considered sacred to the Blackfoot tribes of the U.S. and Canada. The move came after U.S. District Judge Richard Leon criticized the government over its decades-long delay in addressing the matter. He accused the government of trying to "run out the clock" on a lawsuit from Solenex LLC, that
wants to drill for oil and gas on the 6,200-acre site. Leon now will decide if the company's arguments were valid and the lease should be reinstated.

Solenex sued the government in 2013 to force a decision after the dispute dragged on for decades. Attorneys for the company pointed out that the lease went through multiple environmental reviews over the years and was never said to be invalid until recently. Appropriate compliance with Federal cultural resource laws, however, allowed tribal concerns to be heard.

Left unresolved was the fate of 17 remaining leases in northwest Montana's Badger-Two Medicine area, site of the Blackfoot creation story. Blackfoot leaders say the leases were illegally issued in 1982. Government attorneys said the Solenex lease was improperly sold, in part because an environmental study on drilling did not consider its effect on the tribes. Most of the 17 remaining leases in the area are held by Devon Energy of Oklahoma. USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack recommended canceling all the leases in an October letter to Jewell.

*From story by Matthew Brown, Associated Press*

**GRANTS AND TRAINING**

**NPS Offers Free Course on NPS Cultural Resources**

*Foundations of Cultural Resources* is a quick and fun way for all NPS employees to learn about NPS cultural resources. This self-paced online class shouldn’t take more than two hours to complete. By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Identify the significance of cultural resources to the NPS Mission.
- Discuss the ways that you and your work support the stewardship and management of cultural resources. To do so, you’ll go through sections of the course that focus on specific questions, including:
  - What are cultural resources?
  - Why does the NPS preserve and protect cultural resources?
  - Where does cultural resource work happen?
  - Who does cultural resource management?
  - Why and how do I contribute to the preservation and protection of cultural resources?

To access the class, log into DOI Learn and search for Course Code NPS-CRS4010 or go to: [https://gm2.geolearning.com/geonext/doi/coursesummary.CourseCatalog.geo?id=169179](https://gm2.geolearning.com/geonext/doi/coursesummary.CourseCatalog.geo?id=169179)

**Advisory Council for Historical Preservation Offers Webinar Series**

The ACHP Office of Federal Agency Programs is offering the spring Section 106 Webinar Series. Topics featured include the advanced level course "Innovative Approaches to Section 106 Mitigation" and intermediate level programs on "Understanding 36 CFR 800.12: Disaster Response and Emergencies" and "Managing Confidential Information and Section 304."

ACHP staff instructors lead these hour-long learning experiences. A small group format of 25 participants allows for interaction with colleagues and the instructor. Intermediate level programs assume basic familiarity with the Section 106 review process, while advanced topics are designed for experienced users of the regulations.
Spaces remain in ACHP’s classroom courses for those seeking more comprehensive Section 106 training. The one-day Section 106 Advanced Seminar is coming to New Orleans on March 30 and Anchorage on April 21. The Section 106 Essentials will be offered in Anchorage on April 19-20 and in Philadelphia on May 24-25.

Course details and the full season calendar are available at [www.achp.gov/106select.html](http://www.achp.gov/106select.html).

**Contact:** Reid Nelson, webinar@achp.gov.

**SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC:** Animation Showcases the Pompeii Disaster

Archeologists describe rich arrays of artifacts recovered from their utilization contexts as the “Pompeii effect” after the Roman town near modern Naples that was destroyed after eruptions by the Vesuvius volcano. But do we really know what that means? How does the Pompeii effect happen?

On August 24, 79 AD Mount Vesuvius literally blew its top, spewing tons of molten ash, pumice and sulfuric gas miles into the atmosphere. A “firestorm” of poisonous vapors and debris engulfed the surrounding area, suffocating the inhabitants of the neighboring Roman resort cities of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae. Tons of falling debris filled the streets until nothing remained to be seen of the once thriving communities.

Now, an animation from an exhibition aptly named ‘A Day in Pompeii’ gives a sense of how the assemblages of material remains excavated from Pompeii and neighboring towns were preserved in context. The exhibition uses 3D renderings to present a more accurate picture of the impending disaster and its baleful effects over a span of 48-hours surrounding the eruption. This fascinating animation wowed over 330,000 visitors at the Melbourne Museum, Victoria, Australia.


Here is more information about the Pompeii eruption in the form of two extended letters from Pliny the Younger to Tacitus describing the eruption. His letters describe his experiences during the eruption while he was staying in the home of his uncle, Pliny the Elder. The senior Pliny was an official in the Roman Court, in charge of the fleet in the area of the Bay of Naples and also a naturalist. The elder Pliny died during the volcanic eruption, probably from the effects of the noxious fumes on his asthmatic condition. Although these are long letters, they give such vivid eyewitness accounts that they are a perfect accompaniment to the animation.

"My uncle was stationed at Misenum [the largest base of the Roman Navy], in active command of the fleet. On 24 August, in the early afternoon, my mother drew his attention to a cloud of unusual size and
appearance… He called for his shoes and climbed up to a place which would give him the best view of the phenomenon. It was not clear at that distance from which mountain the cloud was rising (it was afterwards known to be Vesuvius); its general appearance can best be expressed as being like an umbrella pine, for it rose to a great height on a sort of trunk and then split off into branches, I imagine because it was thrust upwards by the first blast and then left unsupported as the pressure subsided, or else it was borne down by its own weight so that it spread out and gradually dispersed. In places it looked white, elsewhere blotched and dirty, according to the amount of soil and ashes it carried with it.

My uncle's scholarly acumen saw at once that it was important enough for a closer inspection, and he ordered a boat to be made ready, telling me I could come with him if I wished. I replied that I preferred to go on with my studies….

As he was leaving the house he was handed a message from Rectina, wife of Tascus whose house was at the foot of the mountain, so that escape was impossible except by boat… He gave orders for the warships to be launched and went on board himself with the intention of bringing help to many more people besides Rectina, for this lovely stretch of coast was thickly populated.

He hurried to the place which everyone else was hastily leaving, steering his course straight for the danger zone. He was entirely fearless, describing each new movement and phase of the portent to be noted down exactly as he observed them. Ashes were already falling, hotter and thicker as the ships drew near, followed by bits of pumice and blackened stones, charred and cracked by the flames: then suddenly they were in shallow water, and the shore was blocked by the debris from the mountain.

For a moment my uncle wondered whether to turn back, but when the helmsman advised this he refused, telling him that… they must make for [his friend] Pomponianus at Stabiae. He was cut off there by the breadth of the bay (for the shore gradually curves round a basin filled by the sea) so in danger, though it was clear that this would come nearer as it spread. … This wind was of course full in my uncle's favour, and he was able to bring his ship in. He embraced his terrified friend, cheered and encouraged him, and thinking he could calm his fears by showing his own composure, gave orders that he was to be carried to the bath…

Meanwhile on Mount Vesuvius broad sheets of fire and leaping flames blazed at several points, their bright glare emphasized by the darkness of night. My uncle… went to rest and certainly slept, for as he was a stout man his breathing was rather loud and heavy and could be heard by people coming and going outside his door. By this time the courtyard giving access to his room was full of ashes mixed with pumice stones, so that its level had risen, and if he had stayed in the room any longer he would never have got out. He was wakened, came out and joined Pomponianus and the rest of the household who had sat up all night.

They debated whether to stay indoors or take their chance in the open, for the buildings were now shaking with violent shocks, and seemed to be swaying to and fro as if they were torn from their foundations. Outside, on the other hand, there was the danger of falling pumice stones, even though these were light and porous; however, after comparing the risks they chose the latter… As a protection against falling objects they put pillows on their heads tied down with cloths.
Elsewhere there was daylight by this time, but they were still in darkness, blacker and denser than any ordinary night, which they relieved by lighting torches and various kinds of lamp. My uncle decided to go down to the shore and investigate on the spot the possibility of any escape by sea, but he found the waves still wild and dangerous…

Then the flames and smell of sulphur which gave warning of the approaching fire drove the others to take flight and roused him to stand up. He stood leaning on two slaves and then suddenly collapsed, I imagine because the dense, fumes choked his breathing by blocking his windpipe which was constitutionally weak and narrow and often inflamed. When daylight returned on the 26th - two days after the last day he had been seen - his body was found intact and uninjured, still fully clothed and looking more like sleep than death."

In a second letter to Tacitus, Pliny describes what happened to him and to his mother during the second day of the disaster:

“Ashes were already falling, not as yet very thickly. I looked round: a dense black cloud was coming up behind us, spreading over the earth like a flood. 'Let us leave the road while we can still see,' I said, 'or we shall be knocked down and trampled underfoot in the dark by the crowd behind.' We had scarcely sat down to rest when darkness fell, not the dark of a moonless or cloudy night, but as if the lamp had been put out in a closed room...

A gleam of light returned, but we took this to be a warning of the approaching flames rather than daylight. However, the flames remained some distance off; then darkness came on once more and ashes began to fall again, this time in heavy showers. We rose from time to time and shook them off, otherwise we should have been buried and crushed beneath their weight. I could boast that not a groan or cry of fear escaped me in these perils, but I admit that I derived some poor consolation in my mortal lot from the belief that the whole world was dying with me and I with it."

The younger Pliny survived the event.

Read the full account at http://www.eyewitnesshistory.com/pompeii.htm.

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward Archeology E-Grams to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The Archeology E-Gram is available on the News and Links page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at dca@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.