

Hilton Head Island Archaeology Chapter

April 2019

George Stubbs, Editor

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Welcome Sarah Miller as guide, Pon Pon Chapel of Ease

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last month, we had John Goldsborough speak to us about his experiences in the early excavations at Sta Elena with the legendary Stan South. I think we all enjoyed his very detailed presentation.

For our April meeting on April 13th, we will have a field trip to Pon Pon Chapel of Ease, which has been coordinated by Carol Dembowski with Dr. Sarah Miller, our February speaker. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to see a great site that is close by. See Carol's note for details. Thanks to Carol for all her hard work in putting this together.

Our colleagues at the Santa Elena History Center have two important events in April that I strongly recommend. The first is the visit of the replica of Columbus' ship *Santa Maria*, which will be in Beaufort 1-7 April.

The second event is their archaeological conference on "Shipwrecks of America's Lost Century," which will be from 9 to 4:30 on April 5th at the USCB Center for the Arts in Beaufort. I expect this to be a first-class event, as was the previous conference the Sta Elena Foundation put on a few years back. Details of both events can be found at <https://santa-elena.org/>.

Our May speaker will be Brandy Joy, who is doing her doctoral dissertation research on Stono Plantation. More to come.

--Dave Gordon

PON PON CHAPEL OF EASE

Established in 1725 by an Act of the General Assembly, Pon Pon Chapel of Ease was of two churches serving St. Bartholomew's Parish after the Yemassee War of 1715 aborted plans for a parish church. In 1754, a brick chapel was erected to replace the earlier wooden structure. This brick chapel burned in ca 1801, causing Pon Pon Chapel to become subsequently known as the Burnt Church. The chapel was rebuilt between 1819 and 1822, and was in use until 1832 when it again reduced to ruins. The façade of Pon Pon Chapel had a central, rounded arched entrance flanked by rounded arched windows on either side, all constructed in a brickwork pattern of one stretcher alternating with two headers. The chapel's historical significance is due in part to Rev. John Wesley, preaching two sermons here on April 24, 1737, for its burial ground that contains the remains of Congressmen Aedanus Burke and O'Brien Smith, in addition to numerous local leaders.

This article is a repeat to refresh your memory — our April meeting will be a field trip to the Pon Pon Chapel. Details on page three,

MEETING DATES

The April meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th starting at 11:00 AM in Pon Pon Chapel of Ease.

The May meeting will be on May 11th.

Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Coastal Discovery Museum by president, David Gordon. A quorum was present. In attendance were vice president George Stubbs, secretary Carol Dembowski, treasurer Rita Kernan, and 18 attendees.

Business:

The treasurer gave the March 2019 Treasurer's Report as follows:

Treasury balance on February 9, 2019: \$2,944.62

Dues Deposits on February 28, 2019: \$190.00

Chapter Treasury balance: \$3,134.62

Robert Campbell Memorial Fund balance: - \$2,345.00

Chapter's balance minus Campbell Fund: \$789.62

Dues collected for 2019 owed to ASSC: -\$290.00

Chapter's working balance: \$499.62

Old Business:

President presented old business as the availability of the 2017 Edition of South Carolina Antiquities for 2107 paid members who have not yet picked up their copy. President also announced an annual dues reminder for those who have not yet paid their 2019 memberships.

New Business:

President announced that our Vice President, George Stubbs, received the Robert L Stephenson Award for Lifetime Achievement from the ASSC at the 45th Annual ASSC Conference that was held Saturday, February 16. Congratulations George!

Treasurer Rita Kernan asked about cut off for dues. George Stubbs replied that dues paid in fall are for the next year.

David Gordon announced our next scheduled monthly meeting on April 13 will not be held at the Coastal Discovery Museum but will be a field trip to visit the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease in Jacksonboro, SC. This field trip will be arranged through our February guest speaker, Dr. Sarah Miller. (Trip details are in this newsletter.)

David Gordon announced our May speaker will be Brandy Joy who will talk about the Stono Plantation before and after the War.

David Gordon introduced our new display board which is purposed to highlight our chapter's continuing involvement in education and preservation of Low Country archaeology interests.

Guest Speaker:

The president introduced John Goldsborough, Jr., who gave a presentation on the phase I archaeological dig of the Santa Elena site excavations on Parris Island with Stanley South and crew. John spoke about the history of the early exploration, their findings and evidence of the importance of the site for American history.

The first mention of Santa Elena was in 1525, it was finally settled in 1566, and by 1569 it had 200 settlers with 40 structures and 90 dwellings. By 1587 it was abandoned for St. Augustine.

The team found numerous artifacts including glass, pottery, metal clothing pieces, metal tools, shot, and evidence of the early life and battles in Santa Elena in the 16th century.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Monument Offers Clues to Size of Cleopatra's Unwieldy Ships

A new study of a monument built to commemorate Octavian's victory over Cleopatra in the Battle of Actium has provided new information about Cleopatra's fleet of warships. The monument once featured bronze battering rams that had been taken from 35 of the 350 warships captured by Octavian during the battle. Recent excavation and measurement of the monument's niches has allowed archaeologists to calculate the size of the timbers that held the rams and ships together and therefore estimate the size of the ships. The largest ship may have been more than 130 feet long and carried rams about five feet tall and eight feet long.

Archaeology Magazine

FIELD TRIP TO PON PON CHAPEL OF EASE

We've made arrangements with Sarah Miller, our February lecture guest, to visit Pon Pon Chapel of Ease in Jacksonboro, SC. As you may recall, Sarah is a Professor of History at USC Salkehatchie. She talked about the history, archaeological research and preservation efforts at the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease near Walterboro.

Agenda for April 13th:

Wear comfortable and sturdy walking shoes, being prepared for wet conditions.

Everyone will provide their own individual transportation by car.

We will meet at Pon Pon at 10:45 AM. Sarah said it takes a little over an hour to get there from here, but plan for at least 1 ½ to 2 hrs. to account for traffic, etc (GPS says 1hr 40 min from Hilton Head).

At 11:00 Sarah will guide us around the chapel grounds, providing the history and research they have done there. That should take about an hour.

She also suggests visiting Isaac Hayne's burial site after that, which is less than ½ mile away. She can take us there as well.

We can end up at Walterboro for lunch and browsing. Sarah says Walterboro is a very nice town, historic with a lot to see and do, including the SC Artisans Center.

We should be able to arrive back home by late afternoon.

Contact Carol Dembowski at email ckd2007@hotmail.com by **Monday, April 8th**, if you intend to join us on this trip so we can be on the lookout for you at the Pon Pon Chapel. Cell phone is 607-761-0166 for texts and contacting as necessary, and if you have any questions or concerns.

Directions:

Take US – 17 to Jacksonboro. Turn left on Charleston Hwy (SC - 64) towards Walterboro. Then right on Jacksonboro Rd (SC - 40). Shortly turn right on Parker's Ferry Road. This a dirt road and see Pon Pon shortly. Pon Pon Chapel is about 3.4 miles from Jacksonboro.

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