

## Hilton Head Island Archaeology Chapter

February 2019

George Stubbs, Editor

Volume 17, Number 2

**Welcome Sarah Miller discussing the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease**

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

February will be a very busy month for both our chapter and for the statewide Archaeological Society.

Our January speaker was Rita Elliott, who presented on the Revolutionary War battle of Purysburg. Rita was assisted by Dan Elliott. They have conducted archaeological research at the Purysburg site as part of The LAMAR Institute out of Savannah. They combined a professionally done documentary with a great discussion of their field work to give us a most excellent program. Thanks to Rita and Dan.

Please remember to mark February 16th on your calendars for the 45th Annual Conference of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, to be held in Columbia. The program is shaping up nicely, with a morning session focused on the effects of rising sea levels on archaeological sites in the Southeast. The afternoon will be a series of papers on archaeological research throughout South Carolina. Admission is \$10.00, but is included in your dues if you are an ASSC member. Please let me know if you are going.

Our Chapter speaker this month is Dr. Sarah Miller, who is Professor of History at USC Salkehatchie. She will be taking about the history, archaeological research, and preservation efforts at the Pon Pon Chapel of Ease near Waltherboro. Welcome Sarah!

--Dave Gordon

### MEETING DATES

The January meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 PM in Discovery House, Coastal Discovery Museum.

The March meeting will be on March 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 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.

### SARAH MILLER, Ph.D

Dr. Miller is Professor of History at USC Salkehatchie. Her Ph.D is from the University of Toledo, and her MA is in Public History from Wright State University. She is the historian of the Colleton County Historical and Preservation Society. She was the preservation specialist and historical consultant for "The Burnt Church: An Exploration of Pon Pon Chapel of Ease". Sarah's presentation will focus on the reasons for the production of the documentary film. She will share the history of Pon Pon and then elaborate on the preservation attempts for the ruin. In the last few years, a renewed interest in saving Pon Pon has resulted in a flurry of research and activity to save the chapel before it is lost.

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2019

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Coastal Discovery Museum by the president, David Gordon. A quorum was present. In attendance were vice president George Stubbs, secretary Carol Dembowski, treasurer Rita Kernan, and 11 attendees including members.

**Business:**

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

Treasury balance on December 31, 2018: \$2,625.62

Dues Deposit January 11, 2019: \$55.00

Chapter Treasury balance January 12, 2019: \$2,680.62

Broken down:

Robert Campbell Memorial Fund balance: \$2,345.00

Chapter's working balance: \$335.62

Rita also announced that our chapter is working with the Beaufort County Passive Parks Program on the creation of a new passive park at Ford's Shell Ring including plans for signage, tours, and a viewing area. Our chapter will work with the Coastal Discovery Museum and the Passive Parks Program to create and maintain the proposed new park.

The president presented old business as the 2017 Edition of South Carolina Antiquities availability for 2107 paid members who have not yet picked up their copy.

The president announced the treasurer will be collecting 2019 dues. Dues categories and information can be found on the chapter brochure available during the meeting.

The president announced the Annual ASSC Conference on Saturday, February 16, 2019, in Columbia, SC at Gambrell Hall on the USC Campus. This year's theme is "Heritage at Risk: Coastal Archaeological Sites in South Carolina", keynote speaker David Anderson. Free admission for ASSC members.

The president called for other new business. No new business was introduced.

**Guest Speaker:**

The president introduced Rita Elliott who spoke on the Revolutionary War Battle of Puryburg, of April 29, 1779.

Rita's presentation started with a documentary video "Documenting the Battle of Puryburg" depicting the excavation, discoveries, and research of the battlefield. Rita displayed a PowerPoint presentation which included the details of the work she and Dan Elliott and their crew performed in 2014-2015 on the battle site.

Their work was funded by the Department of Interior, National Parks Service American Battlefield Protection Program to document the battle, key events, discover and to share information about the American Revolution and weave that into the broader context of American history.

Rita and Dan's work found and documented the entire battlefield, building the story of the battle, providing a study in the sociology of warfare, and identifying a key component of American history.

Rita brought an enthusiastic energy to her presentation, describing how they met their archaeological goals of providing chronologies and historical research, documenting related cultural information, and creating public outreach.

For more information on the work that Rita and Dan are involved with, including the Battle of Puryburg, go to [www.thelamarinstitute.org](http://www.thelamarinstitute.org).

The president announced our next meeting date as Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

## **ARCHAEOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD**

### **When did sailors first cross the Strait of Gibraltar?**

Ferrara, Italy – Analysis of mitochondrial DNA obtained from people who lived on the Iberian Peninsula between 4,500 and 3,000 years ago suggests they were related to people living in sub-Saharan Africa, according to a New Scientist report. It had been previously thought that the dangerous waters of the Strait of Gibraltar prevented the movement of people between Africa and Spain and Portugal until the eight century A.D.

ARCHAEOLOGY MAGAZINE

## ANNUAL DUES

It is that time of year again. Please submit your Chapter and Society annual dues to the Treasurer, either at the regular meeting or by mail. Make your check payable to the Hilton Head Island Archaeological Chapter. Note, per ASSC By-Laws, you must be a member of the Society to be a Chapter member. Write one check for the total to our Treasurer and Rita will send your dues to the Society's treasurer. Please include your email address and phone number on your check or on a separate paper.

	Individual	Student	Family	Senior (62+)	Senior Family	
ASSC	\$25	\$15	\$30	\$15	\$25	
HHI Chapter	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	
Total	\$40	\$30	\$45	\$30	\$40	I

Please invite friends, family members, and neighbors who are interested in history and archaeology to join the Society and our Chapter. The goal of the society is to preserve the prehistoric and historic culture of South Carolina.

The treasurer's address is: Rita Kernan, Treasurer, 48 Hearthwood Dr., Hilton Head Island, SC 29928.



2013 field trip to Harbour Town ship wreck – name and date unknown.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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