

Presentation to the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board  
July 23, 2012



George Wingard, SRARP

**The SRARP is a division of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) at the University of South Carolina (USC). The SRARP is an on-site presence at the Savannah River Site (SRS and manages the archaeological and other historic resources for the United States Department of Energy (DOE).**

# **What is Archaeology?**

**Archaeology is  
the scientific  
study of people  
from the past  
through the things  
they made and  
used.**

**As a result of the Federal and State laws and regulations, the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology/ Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SCIAA/SRARP) began in 1973 a phased approach to archaeological compliance involving reconnaissance surveys, general intensive watershed surveys, specific intensive surveys, data recovery and coordination with major land users on and around the Savannah River Site.**

**The Antiquities Act of 1906 (Section 3) and subsequent cultural resource laws and regulations state that the intent of Congress in the undertaking of cultural resource protection and investigation is to benefit recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing public knowledge (particularly the proposed new 36CFR800 Section 106, 110 regulations). Archaeological, historical and geo-archaeological research must be conducted within the Savannah River Basin in order to adequately investigate and properly manage cultural resources of the SRS for the future.**

# SRARP's three-fold mission:

- ◆ Cultural  
Resource  
Management
- ◆ Research
- ◆ Education

**The primary mission of the SRARP is to insure that the Department of Energy remains *in compliance* with the federal laws regarding archaeological and other cultural resources. To that end, the SRARP conducts regular archaeological surveys of the Savannah River Site as a part of the SRS Site-use process.**

**In addition to the Site-use process, the SRARP works closely with the United States Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR) to insure compliance in areas that have been slated for logging activities. From first thinning to complete regeneration, SRARP staff look for, and protect archaeological sites in areas of potential impact.**

**Because of the SRARP on-site presence we are able to insure that all undertakings comply with existing historic preservation laws, and do so with little or no impact to the planed project.**

# Cultural Resource Management

## Site Use



The SRARP field investigation team regularly responds to Site Use applications. These land altering proposals could potentially destroy archaeological resources.

# Timber Compartment Surveys



Each year SRARP surveys timber compartments to ensure cultural resources are not impacted by harvesting or planting activities.



# Curation

SRARP staff analyzes artifacts and identifies them according to type and function. To date, nearly 2 million artifacts have been analyzed and curated.

**Beyond our compliance responsibilities, SRARP staff members engage in archaeology research both on the SRS and throughout the Central Savannah River Area. Because historic occupants did not stop at the modern day boundaries of the SRS, this research furthers our compliance efforts by helping to develop the regional context for historical sites on the SRS.**

# Research

## Carolina Bay Research

A joint project with the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory investigates the creation and human land use of Carolina bays.



Studies of **Carolina bays** by SRARP and SREL provide context for:

- ◆ sediment collection
- ◆ prehistoric distribution of humans dating to as early as 10,000-8000 years before present

# The Mississippian Project

People of the Mississippian period (AD 1000-1600) were farmers, hunters and collectors. They lived in settled villages along river floodplains and in small family farms scattered throughout the uplands.



Four chiefdoms, each with its own mound site capital, once inhabited the area surrounding the SRS. Research focuses on the relationship between the mound capitals and smaller Mississippian sites on the SRS.

# The Bartley Site, Beech Island, SC

Archaeological excavations revealed an eighteenth-century farmstead belonging to three Swiss brothers who emigrated to New Windsor Township in 1737.



**Lead-Glazed Slipware**

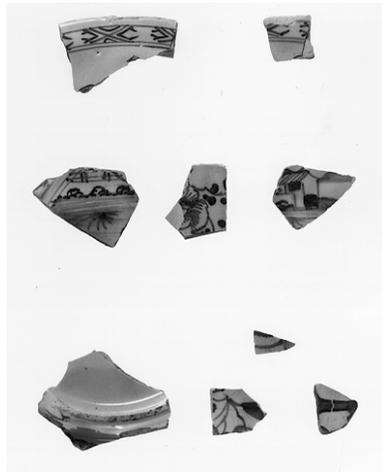
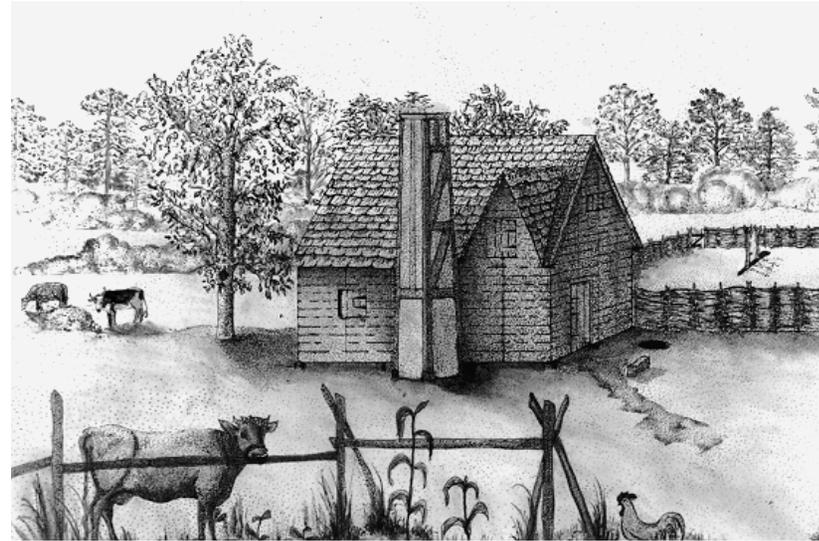


**Tobacco Pipe fragments**

Most of the artifacts recovered came from pits dug by the settlers. These and other artifacts provide information about everyday life.

# Catherine Brown's Cowpen

Excavations at a cattle ranch showing domestic life on the South Carolina frontier of the mid-eighteenth century.



Eating utensils and ceramics found during excavation reveal the Browns to have been moderately wealthy.

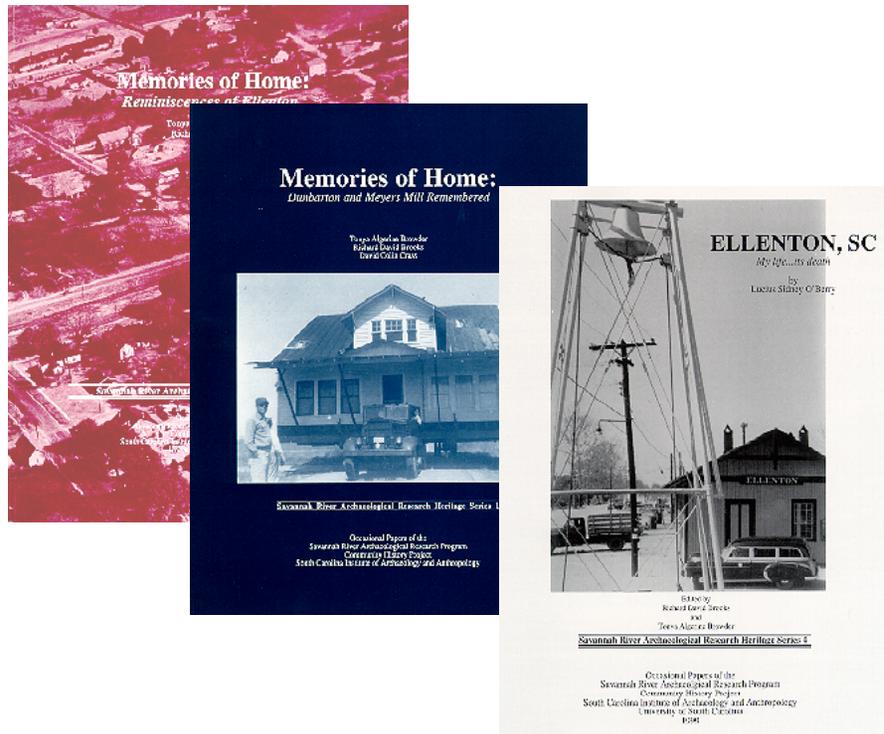
# Investigation at the 19th-century Bush Hill Plantation



**Aerial View of the Excavated Site**



Planter George Bush amassed considerable wealth and influence. His home was probably a symbol of prosperity and social status.



## Community History Project

SRARP has written and edited several volumes on the former communities of the SRS. Nearly twelve-thousand copies have been presented to interested individuals.

# Volunteering



Volunteers  
contribute  
valuable time  
and effort to  
research  
projects both in  
the lab and in  
the field.



# Education

**Annual Summer  
Archaeology Camps**

**Exhibits**



**Public Tours of Excavations**

**Public Dig Opportunities**

# Outreach Programs for Schools



***Classroom Dig*** is a simulated excavation offered to CSRA schools, complete with teacher activity book to enhance learning.



Cassel's Longstore, November 29th, 1950.

# "Victims of the Cold War"

Nearly 7000 people were moved out of the area needed to construct the Savannah River Plant. These towns and hamlets were named:



Dunbarton  
Hawthorne  
Denora  
Greenland  
Sleepy Hollow  
Leigh  
Meyers Mill  
Robbins  
Ellenton

*Boundary Lines Of AEC Facility Are  
Changed; Snelling And Jackson Removed*

# Moving the dead.



Over 130 cemeteries,  
(nearly 6000 graves),  
were removed during  
the construction of the SRS.  
Thirty-two cemeteries  
remain in the site boundary.



Aerial of the town of Ellenton-circa 1950



Leigh Banana Case Company



Two of the remnant cemeteries and an outhouse-sentinels of the displaced towns.





Archaeologist Geoff Hughes excavating base of the alkaline-glaze stoneware “Dave” vessel



Sherd with the date  
“1862” being excavated  
from the soil



1950 Atomic Energy Commission photo of the tenant house and the trash midden (in foreground) where vessel was found.



Pottersville. Kiln is located under hill on left.



Film-maker Mark Albertin (on left) filming author of “Carolina Clay” Leonard Todd