

Edgefield County Historical Society



Dave Drake
Stoneware Vessel

**Cultural Creativity,
History & Heritage
in Edgefield, SC**

**Summer 2013
Speaker Series**



Face Vessel

These public presentations and discussions focus on the cultural creativity, history, and heritage of the societies and pottery enterprises that flourished in the landscape of the Edgefield District of South Carolina. Looking also to broader contexts, we will consider sites of natural and archaeological significance across South Carolina, including the prehistoric Topper site investigated by Dr. Al Goodyear and the many heritage sites under the stewardship of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. We explore the remarkable accomplishments of African Americans, European Americans, and Native Americans across time.

Join us at 6:00pm on May 30, June 4, 6, 13, 18, 20, and 27, 2013 at the Joanne T. Rainsford Discovery Center, 405 Main Street, Edgefield

And join us at 4:00pm on June 11, 2013 at the Sciences Auditorium, University of South Carolina at Aiken for the talk by Dr. Al Goodyear

Sponsored by the *Edgefield County Historical Society* and funded in part by *The Humanities Council of South Carolina*, a state program of the *National Endowment for the Humanities*

The Humanities Council^{SC}

inspiring. engaging. enriching.

Cultural Creativity, History & Heritage in Edgefield, SC

2011 excavations at Pottersville (right) revealed a 105-foot-long “dragon” kiln constructed by Abner Landrum and African-American artisans circa 1815.



Public Presentations & Discussions, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:00pm, at the *Joanne T. Rainsford Discovery Center*, 405 Main St., Edgefield, SC --

- ◆ **Maggi M. Morehouse**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC, May 30, 2013.
- ◆ **Orville Vernon Burton**, Ph.D., Creativity Professor of Humanities, Professor of History & Computer Science, and Director of the Clemson CyberInstitute, Clemson University, SC, June 4, 2013.
- ◆ **John Michael Vlach**, Ph.D., Professor of American Studies and Anthropology, George Washington University, June 6, 2013.
- ◆ **Jason Young**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, State University of New York, Buffalo, NY, June 13, 2013.
- ◆ **George Wingard and Keith Stephenson**, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, University of South Carolina, June 18, 2013.
- ◆ **April L. Hynes and Mark M. Newell**, Ph.D., Edgefield Stoneware Research Center and Georgia Archaeological Institute, June 20, 2013.
- ◆ **Sean G. Taylor**, Archaeologist, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Heritage Trust, Columbia, SC, June 27, 2013.

Public Presentation & Discussions, Tuesday, June 11, 4pm, at the *Sciences Auditorium, Room 327, University of South Carolina at Aiken* --

- ◆ **Al Goodyear**, Ph.D., South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, June 11, 2013.

Maggi M. Morehouse

Associate Professor of
History, Coastal Carolina
University



Thursday, May 30, 2013,
6:00pm.

Title:

Slave Life in Documents: Primary Sources on Edgefield's Enslaved Laborers

Abstract: This presentation will focus on uncovering primary sources that reveal the interior lives of enslaved people, specifically highlighting data from Edgefield's laborers. Where are the records located and how can they be utilized to give meaning to African Diaspora life in the Edgefield District? Many of today's African American population can trace their ancestry to locations and peoples who passed through South Carolina, and many people are engaged in research to find their family heritage and history from the region. But, what methodological issues do researchers face when attempting to craft the historical narrative? How does the researcher go back in time and utilize records that occluded ordinary voices? What sorts of non-exploitative techniques can the present day researcher employ in regards to creating an empathetic and "true" historical narrative? Specific methodologies are employed when the researcher collects data in the archives. Questions of access and understanding will be explored through examples from my African Diaspora fieldwork. In particular, I will discuss how research for a docudrama about an Edgefield plantation, Edgewood, uncovered a rich vein of voices about the enslaved people and their life on the plantation, and how those stories were visually illustrated.

Dr. Morehouse is the first graduate of the African Diaspora Studies program at the University of California Berkeley, completing her Ph.D. in May 2001. Today, she teaches Southern History at Coastal Carolina University, with a focus on connecting the American South to global diasporas and migrations. She has been working with media providing historical consultation and crafting oral histories into visual short stories on topics ranging from black World War II soldiers, to enslaved potters, to southern women, to African Diaspora migration.

Vernon Burton

Creativity Professor of Humanities, Professor of History & Computer Science, and Director of the Clemson CyberInstitute, Clemson University

Tuesday, June 4, 2013, 6:00pm.



Title: *Edgefield and Matters Conventional, Exceptional and Inventive*

Abstract: The history of a place influences its culture and arts, and its culture and arts influence its history. The record of Edgefield involves the natural environment, immigration patterns, demographics, and race relations. Each aspect influences the other, not in a continuous single line that we can easily analyze, but in ripples and circles of causation and repercussions. Historical context is complex, but essential for any real understanding. As Eudora Welty suggests in *The Eye of the Story*, “One place comprehended can make us understand other places better. Sense of place gives equilibrium; extended, it is sense of direction.” Nineteenth century Edgefield County was a typical rural area of South Carolina, representative of the large Piedmont section of the up-country that stretched from North Carolina, through South Carolina, to Georgia. Almost all the people farmed, and farming techniques used in Edgefield were representative of techniques used throughout the Carolina and Georgia Piedmont. And yet, Edgefield produced exceptionally strong and creative leaders in the community, political leaders and business leaders, as well as artists. Burton’s talk will discuss how the exceptional, the extreme even, can be typical.

Orville Vernon Burton is Creativity Professor of Humanities, Professor of History & Computer Science, and the Director of the Clemson CyberInstitute, Clemson University. He was the founding Director of the Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Science at the University of Illinois, where he is emeritus University Distinguished Teacher/Scholar, University Scholar, and Professor of History, African American Studies, and Sociology. Burton serves as vice-chair of the Board of Directors of the Congressional National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. He has served as president of the Southern Historical Association and the Agricultural History Society. He is an elected member of the Society of American Historians and an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer. Burton is a prolific author and scholar (16 authored or edited books and more than two hundred articles). *The Age of Lincoln* (2007) won the *Chicago Tribune* Heartland Literary Award for Nonfiction and was selected for Book of the Month Club, History Book Club, and Military Book Club. His *In My Father’s House Are Many Mansions: Family and Community in Edgefield, South Carolina* (1985) was featured at sessions of the Southern Historical Association and the Social Science History Association annual meetings. *The Age of Lincoln* and *In My Father’s House* were nominated for Pulitzers.

John Michael Vlach

Professor of American
Studies and Anthropology,
George Washington
University

Thursday, June 6, 2013,
6:00pm.



Title: *African Diasporas and Material Culture in the South*

Abstract: The tremendous scope of Dr. Vlach's work is captured by a brief summary of just one his books, *The Afro-American Tradition in Decorative Arts* – “Covering basketry, musical instruments, wood carving, quilting, pottery, boatbuilding, blacksmithing, architecture, and graveyard decoration, John Vlach seeks to trace and substantiate African influences in the traditional arts and crafts of black Americans. It is a widespread tradition, he observes, readily visible in areas such as the coastal regions of South Carolina and Georgia but discernible as well in places far to the west and north. . . . Vlach not only examines the form and content of the artifacts and structures but also relates them to the complex cultural context from which they sprang -- the interwoven strands of African and European influence.” Dr. Vlach will discuss subjects such as the material culture of African-American architecture, iron work, basketry, cemeteries, and ceramics.

John Michael Vlach has studied aspects of African diasporas through field research in Africa, the Caribbean, and across the American south for over three decades. Author of ten books, his titles include *By the Work of Their Hands: Studies in Afro-American Folklife*, and *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*.



2011 archaeology field school participants and an 1825 map of Edgefield

Al Goodyear

**South Carolina Institute of
Archaeology and
Anthropology, University of
South Carolina, Columbia**

**Tuesday, June 11, 2013,
4:00pm**



Sciences Auditorium, Room 327, University of South Carolina at Aiken

Title:

The Topper Site and Prehistory of the Americas

Abstract: From the Allendale Expedition web site – “In 1998, archaeologists from the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina, while excavating a prehistoric site on the Savannah river in Allendale County, SC, discovered stone implements far deeper in the ground than they had ever encountered before. Subsequent excavations and studies have revealed that ancient humans were present 16,000 or more years ago, some two to three thousand years earlier than previously allowed by textbooks. Known as the Topper Site, it appears to be one of several sites in the eastern U.S. producing evidence that humans were living in the western hemisphere during the last Ice Age.”

“The Topper discovery has received national and international media attention from CNN, U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek, The National Geographic, the New York Times, Scientific American, Science Magazine, NOVA and Time Team America. It is currently the subject of a special program developed by S.C. Educational Television. The Topper site offers an exciting opportunity to participate and experience multi-disciplinary archaeological field work seeking answers to the fascinating questions surrounding the early occupation of the Americas.” Read more online at <http://www.allendale-expedition.net/>.

Dr. Goodyear is “best known for his excavations at the famed Topper site, located along the Savannah River on the property of the Clariant Co. in Allendale County. He has been conducting research there since 1998, unearthing myriad tools from the Clovis people as well as micro-lithic tools from a pre-Clovis people who lived in South Carolina before the last ice age, some 50,000 plus years ago. His findings continue to capture international media attention and put the archaeology field in flux, opening scientific minds to the possibility of even earlier pre-Clovis occupation of the Americas” (USC News).

Jason Young

Associate Professor of
History, State University
of New York, Buffalo

Thursday, June 13, 2013,
6:00pm.



Title:

“We Wear the Mask”: African Diasporic Art and Ritual in South Carolina

Abstract: In the mid-19th century African American potters in the Edgefield district of South Carolina produced a fascinating set of ceramic face vessels that have since inspired scholarly controversy across disciplines as successive generations of historians, anthropologists, archaeologists and others have debated the provenance and the ultimate significance of these astonishing vessels. First described as “weird-looking water jugs, roughly modeled . . . in the form of a grotesque human face . . . intended to portray the African features,” face jugs were long regarded as representative of the “art of the Southern negroes, uninfluenced by civilization” (Edwin Barber 1893). More recently, scholars have returned to South Carolina face jugs in service of novel understandings of various topics, including the continued significance of African cultural continuities in the United States, the persistence of the trans-Atlantic Slave trade in the late-antebellum period, and as a new idiom for sustaining African American religious beliefs while resisting slave power. Growing evidence suggests that the late arrival of captive Africans served as a catalyst in the emergence of a rich and fertile field of African-inspired art, religion and culture throughout the American South.

Dr. Young is the author of *Rituals of Resistance: African Atlantic Religion in Kongo and the Lowcountry South in the Era of Slavery* (Louisiana State University Press, 2007). He is also the co-editor, with Edward J. Blum, of *The Souls of W.E.B. Du Bois: New Essays and Reflections* (Mercer University Press, 2009). His talk will address the ways in which the process of African American cultural formation in the lowcountry region of South Carolina connects it to similar processes occurring throughout the United States and in the larger African diaspora. When viewed in this light, African-American cultural production in South Carolina is best viewed in relation to the art and aesthetics of the larger plantation Americas.

**George Wingard and
Keith Stephenson**

**Savannah River
Archaeological Research
Program, University of
South Carolina**

**Tuesday, June 18, 2013,
6:00pm.**



Title:

Rural Life on the Aiken Plateau: Investigations at an Early 20th-Century Tenant Farm and the Stoneware of Enslaved African-American Potter-Poet Dave

Abstract: Recent excavations at the Savannah River Site by the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) focused on an early 20th-century tenant farm. Investigations concentrated on a refuse midden adjacent to the farmhouse. The most significant artifact recovered in context was a 19th-century stoneware vessel manufactured in the Edgefield District, South Carolina inscribed by the literate, enslaved potter known as Dave. This utilitarian vessel harkened back to a rural lifeway of subsistence farming. The first half of the 20th century saw an economic restructuring in the rural lifeway from subsistence to that of consumerism. The SRARP has also utilized the vessel as a tool in its community outreach program as well as it being the focus of an upcoming documentary -- *Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay*.

George Wingard received his BA from the University of South Carolina in 1992 and has worked for the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology/Savannah River Archaeological Research Program since 1993. His research focuses mainly on the history of the Savannah River Site (SRS) -- a 300 square mile Department of Energy Complex encompassing portions of Aiken, Barnwell, and Allendale counties, SC. He is currently working with SRARP employee Maggie Needham on analyzing stoneware excavated from around the SRS focusing on type, manufacturer, and form. George is also co-producer -- with Mark Albertin of Scrapbook Video Productions -- of the documentary *Discovering Dave: Spirit Captured in Clay* which is now in its final editing stage.

**April L. Hynes (with
Mark M. Newell)**

**Edgefield Stoneware Research
Center, Trenton, SC**

**Thursday, June 20, 2013,
6:00pm.**



Title:

“Where I Come From . . .”

The Wanderer Africans and the Edgefield Face Jug Tradition

Abstract: In “Where I Come From” April Hynes tells the remarkable story of how, in the course of trying to learn the origins of a piece of inherited pottery, she unearthed a long-forgotten episode of American history -- the stories of the survivors of the 1858 illegal importation of more than 400 enslaved West Africans aboard the slave ship *Wanderer*. In her dogged efforts to find out who might have made her face jug and how it ended up in Philadelphia, she found herself enthralled by the story of the *Wanderer* survivors and the Kongolese roots of the Edgefield face jugs. In this presentation she traces the jug’s origins back to Edgefield County, South Carolina and discovers how her face jug traveled 700 hundred miles north. Teaming up with archaeologist, Mark M. Newell, they were introduced to many ancestors of the survivors of the *Wanderer*, the slave ship many earlier scholars such as Vlach and Thompson believe were instrumental in igniting the face jug tradition in America. In the later years of the 19th century strange jugs began to appear in pottery collections and museums. Their staring eyes and grinning mouths of white kaolin clay intrigued historians. The jugs’ connection to the Kongolese group was still unproved until she met with the descendants of Edgefield *Wanderer* survivor, Ward Lee. Hynes and Newell have continued the preservation of African American cultural traditions in Edgefield County by visiting local communities and capturing memories on film. The full story of this research is found at the *Wanderer* Project web site.

April L. Hynes is a professional level genealogical and archival researcher, and an independent scholar with a specific interest in the African Diaspora. Ms. Hynes is a Research Associate of the Edgefield Stoneware Research Center at Trenton, SC. She has lectured throughout the U.S. on her research, including presentations at the Smithsonian Institute, Milwaukee Art Museum, and Boston University. She has also consulted with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Ms. Hynes’ work has been supported by the Georgia Archaeological Institute, the Chipstone Foundation and Ancestry.com, Jekyll Island Museum, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

**Mark M. Newell (with
April L. Hynes)**

**Georgia Archaeological
Institute**

**Thursday, June 20, 2013,
6:00pm.**



Title:

Africanized Face Jugs of Edgefield County: Archaeological Data

Abstract: Dr. Newell's presentation provides a brief introduction to the presentation by April Hynes. The first archaeologically documented discovery of a large scale face jug production site at 38ED221 is detailed, along with information on the more than 3,000 face jug sherds recovered from a 4x4 meter section of the site. Reconstruction of the face jugs made at the site leads to the first attribution of an extant face jug style to the Miles pottery located at this site in the 1860-70 decade. This work was followed by a replication project to study the fabrication techniques of the face jug potters. Finally, details are given on a joint research project initiated with the Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee Art Museum, University of Illinois, and the University of Wisconsin.

Mark M. Newell, Ph.D., first began historical research on Edgefield potteries in 1970. Today he is based in Augusta, Georgia, as an archaeologist associated with the Georgia Archaeological Institute of Savannah, Ga., and Heads the Edgefield Stoneware Research Center of the Georgia Archaeological Institute. His archaeological projects include Archaeological Director of the project that found the CSS H.L. Hunley in 1994, discoverer of the largest historical ceramics find in North America in Edgefield County, SC, 1996, major contributor to the preservation of the USS Constitution (letter of recommendation from the Secretary of the Navy) and discoverer of the remains of the Santee Canal near Charleston, SC. He teaches field courses in Archaeology at Armstrong Atlantic State University in Georgia, and also teaches underwater archaeology in Bermuda and the United States.

Sean G. Taylor

Archaeologist, South
Carolina Department of
Natural Resources and
Heritage Trust, Columbia,
SC

Thursday, June 27, 2013,
6:00pm.



Title:

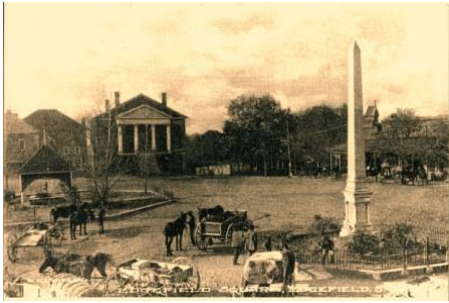
Cultural Resources Management and the SCDNR Heritage Trust Program

Abstract: The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Heritage Trust Program was created in 1976, the first such program in the nation, to help stem the tide of habitat loss by protecting critical natural habitats and significant cultural sites. Enabling legislation directed the SCDNR to set aside a portion of the state's rich natural and cultural heritage in a system of heritage preserves to be protected for the benefit of present and future generations.

Protected natural areas and cultural sites provide resources for scientific research and serve as reservoirs of natural and historical elements and habitats for rare and vanishing species. Heritage Preserve visitors may observe natural biotic and environmental systems as areas for both study and enjoyment and as examples of the lands, structures and related artifacts which represent significant aspects of South Carolina's historical and cultural heritage. As of 2013, more than 100,000 acres have been protected as Heritage Preserves.

The 17 properties which make up the Cultural Heritage Preserves protect a diverse array of archaeological sites and exhibit artifacts that span the entire human occupation of South Carolina. As the sole archaeologist within the SCDNR, Sean Taylor works with staff in the management and protection of these irreplaceable resources. Sean will discuss the efforts that go into the protection of these properties and other management aspects that rarely come to mind when one thinks about archaeology.

Sean Taylor serves as the Archaeologist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. He grew up in rural Lexington County, South Carolina where his fascination with the past began at a very young age. His interest in archaeology further developed while attending the University of South Carolina and he has spent over a decade in the field of Cultural Resource Management, locating, excavating and learning about various aspects of South Carolina's rich cultural heritage.



Edgefield County Historical Society

Bettis Rainsford, Esq.

Project Coordinator

The **Edgefield County Historical Society** was founded in 1939 and is one of the oldest societies in the State, with headquarters at Magnolia Dale in Edgefield. The Society maintains the Joanne T. Rainsford Discovery Center, which is operated by the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and presents three living history projects: the Old Edgefield Pottery, the Village Blacksmith and Carpenter's Stand. The Society works with various partners, including the Old Edgefield District Genealogical Society, the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and other historical societies throughout the region.

Christopher C. Fennell

Associate Professor & Associate Head,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Illinois

Speaker Series Coordinator



Chris Fennell specializes in historical archaeology, African diaspora studies, and legal anthropology. He is the founding editor of the *Journal of African Diaspora Archaeology and Heritage*, publisher and editor of the *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*, and a member of the board of directors of the *Society for Historical Archaeology*. Chris also teaches as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Chicago. He serves as the coordinator and project director for this speaker series.

The Humanities Council^{SC}

inspiring. engaging. enriching.