

# The Newsletter of the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum 1314 Broad Street Camden, SC 29020



*Preserving the past for the future*

Volume 17 - Number 1

June 2016

## Ancient People of South Carolina

By LON D. OUTEN, Research Assistant

Kershaw County is rich in history. Camden's strategic location on the Wateree River has made it a desirable area for living, trading, and conducting commerce for over 2,000 years. Although our history from the colonial period to the present is well documented, our knowledge of the ancient people who lived here prior to European contact is less well-known.

For these "ancient people," we rely on the work of archaeologists, ethnobotanists, and paleoethnobotanists to interpret their cultures and societies through the study of stone implements, petroglyphs, pictographs, camp sites, and village sites. Intriguing clues to these ancient people and to their way of life can be found in artifacts discovered in plowed fields and along rivers and streams in almost every part of Kershaw County. As you stroll the fields and waterways of Kershaw County, you can still find artifacts like arrowheads (points), stone tools, and pieces of pottery (sherds). Usually found near water sources, these artifacts are sometimes thousands of years old. They represent the work of countless master artisans who lived in this area long before "recorded" history.



*A Ceramic Figurine Head*

Currently on exhibit are a number of Native American tools, jewelry, points, and pottery sherds. The tools include a stone scraper, a net weight, a Celt or stone hammer, an ax, a fire starting stone, a pipe, a nutting stone, and a bone needle. A small selection of the museum's extensive collection of arrowheads (points) are on exhibit. Also on display are jewelry pieces made from shell (beads), European glass beads, and adornments fashioned from mica. Pottery sherds featuring diverse designs from several different time periods are also on exhibit.

The artifacts date from the Archaic Period (c8000BC) through the Mississippian Period (c1450AD) and were all found in Kershaw County along the Wateree River and the Lynches River (Big and Little) drainage areas.

### The Mississippian Period (c700AD-c1450AD)

The Mississippian Period arose after the Woodland Period (c1000BC) and prior to the Historical Period (c1550AD). The Mississippian Culture was a mound-building civilization that flourished in the mid-west, south, and southeastern parts of the United States. This society organized around groups of urban settlements and rural villages that formed trading and agricultural networks.

A significant component of the Mississippian Period was the construction of earthen mounds. The people built the mounds by carrying basket loads of dirt to a central location. At least one mound would have a level platform at the top with a structure used for either ceremonial or living purposes. On other mounds, rulers would be buried at the top. The mound would grow larger with each successive burial. The people used these earthen

mounds for both political and religious activities. They were a major characteristic of the Mississippian Culture.

Another significant component to the period was the increasing complexity of tools. In pottery making, simple designs using natural elements like cord, corn cobs, and reed, were improved by adding complicated stamped designs. Stone implements also became more elaborate and were used as jewelry (gorgets), medicine stones, and as religious items.

### Cofitachequi (ko-fit-uh-chee-kee) Chiefdom (c950AD-c1300AD)

The Cofitachequi Chiefdom was a part of the Mississippian Culture. Chiefdoms were societies governed by a small group of "elites" or by a single individual. The Cofitachequi Chiefdom covered a land area of several thousand square miles in the northwestern section of South Carolina. Evidence points to the Kershaw County area as being a major population center within the Cofitachequi Chiefdom. Archaeologists believe that the area known today as the Mulberry Mounds was the "capital" of the Chiefdom.

For hundreds of years, this area was an agricultural center with strong trading partners from the coastal areas to the mountains. Maize (corn)

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Drawing of Camden Archives and Museum by  
Camden Architect Henry D. Boykin

**Photographs** courtesy of  
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**Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum is a membership organization concerned with supporting programs, protecting a continually growing collection, and expanding the facility. The purpose of the Archives and Museum is to collect, organize, preserve, and make items of historical interest related to Camden and the surrounding areas available to the public.**

The Camden Archives and Museum newsletter is published twice a year.

### Co-Editors

Katherine H. Richardson  
Rickie Good

### Writers this issue

Katherine H. Richardson  
Lon D. Outen  
Sarah Murray  
Rickie Good

Story ideas, suggestions, and comments are welcomed and encouraged.

### Camden Archives and Museum

1314 Broad Street  
Camden, SC 29020  
(803) 425-6050  
[www.camdenarchives.org](http://www.camdenarchives.org)

### Museum Hours

Monday-Friday 8 am - 5 pm  
Saturdays 10 am - 4 pm

Free admission

## From the Chairman

Dear Friends;

Thanks to all our "Friends" that have contributed for 2016 and to those that sent honorariums and memorials. You are the core that continues to make Camden a great community.

This issue of the newsletter is terrific. The staff of Sarah, Rickie, Katherine, and Lon never fail to enlighten and remind us of our wonderful legacy.

If you have not had a chance to mail your check or better yet drop by the Archives, please don't miss the opportunity.

Hope your summer months are wonderful and fulfilling.

Best Regards,  
Steve Van Horn

## Boykin Spaniel Society Becomes a Sponsor of the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum

By KATHERINE H. RICHARDSON, Director

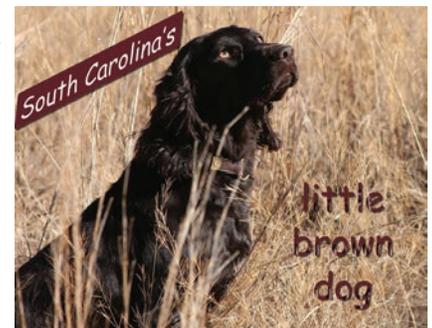
In the late winter of 2014, the staff began working on a Boykin Spaniel exhibit to be unveiled during the Boykin Spaniel Society's 2015 National Field Trials held in Camden in April of that year.

City of Camden Director of Tourism Development Susan Sale suggested that it might be a welcomed gesture from the city to feature an exhibit on Camden's own well-loved dog for the many visitors for the Society's event. The resulting small exhibit, contained in two sections of the Friend's Wing cases, has been very popular. A collaboration between Dawn Crites of the Society and the Archives and Museum staff, the exhibit features

original documents, images of the foundation stock, and the first conformation table from the society offices. The Archives and Museum staff continued to receive inquiries about the exhibit's availability long after the field trials ended. As a result, staff decided to make the exhibit a long term offering.

In response, the Boykin Spaniel Society's board voted "enthusiastically and unanimously" in February of 2016 to donate \$15 from each of their Silver Sponsor Level annual memberships to the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum. According to Boykin Spaniel Society staff, the resulting donation will total about \$4,000 annually. The society included the front page of the May 2015 Friends newsletter featuring the exhibit in their April 2016 publication, *The Boykin Spaniel Society Magazine*.

We thank the Boykin Spaniel Society for their donation and for the partnership which celebrates Camden's little brown dog!



## The Papers of F. Reid Buckley

By SARAH MURRAY, Cataloging and Reference Archivist



**F. Reid Buckley  
(1930-2014)**

On April 14, 2014 the people of Camden lost one of their most prominent neighbors when Fergus Reid Buckley passed away. About a year later, Mr. Buckley's family contacted the Camden Archives about donating his papers, which arrived in sixteen boxes on May 4, 2015. With information about Camden, about the Buckley family home on Kirkwood Lane (Kamschatka), and about Kirkwood Common, as well as manuscripts, screenplays, and correspondence spanning more than 60 years, this is a wonderful collection and a valued addition to the collections of the Camden Archives.

F. Reid Buckley was born in Paris in July, 1930, the eighth of ten children born to William F. Buckley, Sr. and his wife Aloise Steiner Buckley. When Buckley was growing up, the family split their time between their home in Sharon, Connecticut, and their home here in Camden, located at 108 Kirkwood Lane. Known as Kamschatka, the home had been built in 1854 by General James Chesnut and was purchased by the Buckley family in 1938. After graduating from Yale in 1952, Mr. Buckley spent the next two decades living in Europe, primarily in Spain, before returning to Camden in the early 1970s. He founded the Buckley School of Public Speaking in the 1980s and continued to be active in Camden's affairs until his death.

While Mr. Buckley's entire collection is fascinating, the materials about Camden are particularly interesting. This information is widely varied and includes such items as architectural drawings of a guest cottage on the grounds of Kamschatka (1948), an inventory of the home's furnishings (c1950), correspondence about the creation of Kirkwood Common (mid-1950s), and materials related to Aloise Buckley's investment in the *Camden News* (late 1950s). Correspondence between Mr. Buckley and members of the Daniels family at Mulberry Plantation is also included, related to Buckley's living in one of the plantation's cottages for part of each year in the 1960s and early 1970s. Buckley's papers also indicate that he was always ready to share ideas and concerns about events in Camden and surrounding areas. For example, he was concerned about pollution that might result when the Union Camp plant was constructed in Eastover in Richland County, he was opposed both to the development of the Beechwood property on Knights Hill Road and to the paving of Kirkwood Lane, he thought that the development of a Senior University Center in Camden would make the town more attractive to seniors, and he wanted an Andrew Jackson Heritage Committee to purchase the lot across from the Robert Mills Courthouse on south Broad Street, for the construction of a colonial-era jail (complete with gallows).

Mr. Buckley also wrote about Camden, to make the town and its people known to readers everywhere. He wrote at least three versions of a manuscript entitled "The Anatomy of an American Town," which varied in length from fewer than 30 pages to nearly 300 pages. In all three versions of this manuscript Buckley described the people of Camden as aristocratic, tolerant, honorable, self-reliant,

at times defiant, and wholly dedicated to making Camden a better place to live. In the manuscript he also described efforts to preserve the town's historic buildings and to revitalize the town, including the opening of Historic Camden, as well as efforts to balance demands to maintain Camden's small-town character and traditions with the need to grow its economy (through the fight to build the DuPont May Plant in the early 1950s). The shortest version of this manuscript was published in the Spring 1974 issue of *Modern Age* magazine, and the 75-page version was commissioned by *Life* magazine (although it was never published). Mr. Buckley submitted his longest version of the manuscript to two of his publishers, Curtis-Brown, Ltd. and Doubleday & Company, but it was never published. Many of the anecdotes recounted in the manuscript, however, were published in 2008 in a pamphlet entitled *A Most Peculiar Town*, which is also in the collections of the Camden Archives.

Being a writer by profession, it is no surprise that letters make up a large part of Mr. Buckley's collection. Included in his papers are hundreds of letters written between Buckley and editors at publishing houses such as Doubleday & Company, Curtis-Brown, G.P. Putnam, and Alfred A. Knopf, and between Buckley and friends at *Reader's Digest* and the *Boston Globe*. Buckley also corresponded with literary critics, philosophers, and political figures like Barry Goldwater and Henry Kissinger, as well as with members of his extended family and friends in Spain. These letters contain a mixture of ideas and thoughts about his writing as well as information about his family and personal life, making them very interesting reading.

Mr. Buckley's papers also prove that he enjoyed writing in a variety of formats. He was a prolific writer of journal articles and book reviews, most of which were written between 1955 and 1985 and were published (some under his pen name Peter Crumpet) in magazines and journals such as *National Review*, *Southern Partisan*, the *New York Times*, *Triumph*, and *American Spectator*. Mr. Buckley also wrote short stories, poems, novels, and screenplays, one of which became a movie starring Karl Malden and Olivia Hussey entitled "Summertime Killer." It appears that out of the nearly 20 short stories and nine novels included in his papers at the Camden Archives, only one, *Servants and Their Masters*, was published in 1973. The others which were not published often include drafts and edits with the finished product, which offer a small glimpse into the amount of work Mr. Buckley put into his writing.

Finally, Mr. Buckley kept a file folder which he named "Notable People." This folder contained letters that he received from celebrities like John Wayne, Edith K. Roosevelt, Max Lerner, George H.W. Bush, Pat Buchanan, Charlton Heston, Ronald Reagan, and others. The content of these letters varies widely and includes personal, political, and social messages.

F. Reid Buckley was a friend and neighbor who will be missed in Camden, but his words and wisdom will live on, thanks to the generosity of his family who decided to share his papers with us all.



**Sarah Murray  
working on the  
Buckley Collection.**

***Ancient - Continued from page 1***

and squash were a major part of their diet, supplemented with meat and other plants. Along with the agricultural activities of the people, artisans used local materials to make decorative articles and tools. Craftspeople used mica found in the Liberty Hill area to make ornaments and they used local river mussel shells for beads. Trade with the coast produced shell products and trade from the mountains brought access to different types of stones used in tool making.

When the Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto traveled near the Camden area in 1540, the leader of the chiefdom, known as the “Lady of Cofitachequi,” welcomed the Spanish visitors. Although the Cofitachequi Chiefdom was well established when Spanish explorers traveled through the area from 1540 to 1627, the society was already in decline. Competition from other chiefdoms, over-use of resources, encroaching tribes, and European diseases all contributed to the abandonment of the towns, villages, and mound sites. Eventually, other Mississippian people, like the Choctaws, the Creeks, the Chickasaws and the Cherokees, moved into the area once part of the Chiefdom. The Cofitachequi Chiefdom eventually broke into a number of smaller groups like the Waterees, Kadapaw, and Esaws (Ushery.) These tribes later joined the Catawba Nation.



***Lon D. Outen***



***Adamson Mound, c1400AD***

***Mounds also existed in the Archaic (c8000BC) period and in the Woodland period (c1000BC).***

***Mounds in Kershaw County***

The Wateree River basin has a large number of earthen mounds. There are upwards of 19 known mounds in Kershaw County and other mounds are located in surrounding counties on the same river system. The majority of the Kershaw County mounds are near and below Camden. Most of the mounds around Camden and Mulberry are from the Mississippian period and were used for religious, political and burial purposes.

***The Mulberry Mounds***

The Mulberry Mounds consist of a number of separate mound sites, including the earliest mound associated with the Cofitachequi Chiefdom. This site was originally a single-mound center and town that initiated the beginning of the chiefdom of Cofitachequi. This site eventually grew into an important hub in a major land and river transportation system.

At the Mulberry complex, there are a number of other earthen mounds, including the Belmont Neck site. The Belmont Neck site appears to be the first of twelve mound towns along the Wateree and Catawba Rivers.

The area around Camden contained at least five major land routes connecting various communities, villages, and small towns in the southeastern United States. Several paths followed the Wateree and Catawba Rivers and at least four major paths traveled northward along the Flat Rock Road, Lockhart Road, Old Wire Road, and Porter Road. One of the paths connected the small town of Yca near the Lynches Forks area and went onward to the Cheraw area and into North Carolina. The rivers themselves promoted trade with distant localities and the Mulberry Mounds contain evidence of extensive coastal trading.



***Jewelry Made From Shells and Mica***



***Pottery Sherds***

***Some pottery designs found at the Mulberry site are similar to other areas within the chiefdom. However, the area has one distinct marking that cannot be found anywhere else. This marking is known as the “house centipede” design.***

*Continued on page 5*

Although the incorporated town of Camden (1791) can celebrate its 225 birthday this year, and is recognized as the oldest inland European town in South Carolina, in actuality, this area could celebrate its 1,100 year as a Native American population center and the principal town of the Cofitachequi Chiefdom. The same attributes that convinced Europeans to settle here and to create the Town of Camden also convinced the ancient people of South Carolina to choose to live in the Camden area.



*King Haigler, Patron of Camden, and Joseph Kershaw, Father of Camden, on Town Green.*

## The South Carolina Digital Library

By RICKIE GOOD, Curator of Collections

One of our goals at the Camden Archives and Museum is to make our collection more accessible to the public. As related in the May, 2015 newsletter, research assistant Windy Corbett worked diligently to digitalize our entire photographic collection. As of this newsletter, patrons can come into the Archives, sit at our public computer, and browse all of the photographs in the Archives. Patrons can even print a copy of the photographs directly from our database! While we are not yet able to provide online access to our database or to the photographs, that is slowly changing.

The South Carolina Digital Library ([scmemory.org](http://scmemory.org)) is a collaborative statewide program composed of libraries, archives, historical societies, and museums to provide “free access to historic materials... illustrating the history and culture of South Carolina.” More than forty cultural institutions have contributed over 200,000 digital items to the library. The Camden Archives and Museum is pleased to announce that we have joined this partnership.

The first digital collection that the Archives contributed to the Digital Library is a photographic album from the Wilhelmine Kirby Waller Collection. Marion DuPont Scott commissioned photographer Bert Clark Thayer to document Camden’s “equine community” in the late 1930s. She then presented the album to her good friend Harry Kirkover “In appreciation of your great work in furthering steeplechasing and racing in Camden.” The images are of Kirkover and other Camden residents engaging in outdoor recreational pursuits. It is a beautiful work of art that can now be viewed by people all around the world!



*From the Waller Collection*



The second collection being prepared for inclusion in the South Carolina Digital Library is a group of photographs in the Barbara Brown Collection. Ms. Brown discovered a box filled with photographs of members of Camden’s African American community and of Mather Academy at a yard sale. She purchased the entire box and donated them to the Archives. Just as the photograph album documents Camden’s outdoor life in the 1930s, these photographs document the lives of Camden residents at work and play during the 1940s. We look forward to the Barbara Brown Collection achieving a wide audience through the Digital Library.

The Camden Archives and Museum looks forward to a long and rewarding partnership with the South Carolina Digital Library!

*From the Brown Collection*

## Calendar of Events

**Now through July 29, 2016 – Exhibit: “The Campbell Street Story: An African American Heritage Tour”** Learn about some of Camden’s African American historic sites, many of which were centered around the Campbell Street corridor.

**August 18, 2016 through January 31, 2017 – Exhibit: “John Bartlam, Master Potter: America’s First Porcelain”** Free and open to the public.

**Ongoing Exhibit – “The Ross E. Beard Collection.”** An exceptional collection of firearms.

**Ongoing Exhibit – “South Carolina’s little brown dog.”** The Boykin Spaniel exhibit has been a huge success. Come see Camden’s own little brown dog!

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*This newsletter and other activities in support of the Archives and Museum are made possible by the generous contributions of the following people and organizations:*

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*Names of donors, memorials and honorariums are current through May 1.*

# Why you should join Friends of the Archives

With a mission of “Preserving the past for the future,” the Camden Archives and Museum is a treasure chest of Kershaw County history. In its beautiful expanded facility, it offers visitors an opportunity to explore a wealth of artifacts, displays, documents, records and various other historical research materials.

## What happens at the Archives?

With funding from the City of Camden and support from the Friends of the Archives organization, the Archives staff collects, preserves and makes accessible items of importance to the history of the area. Artifacts in the museum represent a diverse collection of items relating to cultural heritage.

The Camden Archives and Museum is recognized throughout South Carolina and the Southeast as having one of the best research libraries for genealogical research. It houses a diverse collection of books, microfilm, maps, files, periodicals and general reference materials which will aid visitors in their research for ancestry.

## What is found in the Archives?

The Archives has a growing collection of photographs and is also the repository for a number of city-related records, including city minutes, early ordinances and many other miscellaneous records. Census records, publications, cemetery surveys, local newspapers, vertical files and SC Daughters of the American Revolution Certificates from 1915-1952 are also available for research. The S.C. Daughters of the American Revolution Library and the S.C. Society Colonial Dames XVII Century Library are housed in the Archives building.

More information about the Archives and its collections can be found on its website at [www.camdenarchives.org](http://www.camdenarchives.org). Features there include a partial list of records available for research, information about current exhibits, a list of local history books for sale at the Archives, and an explanation of research services offered by Archives staff.

## How can you help?

You can support the efforts of the Archives by joining the Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum. This organization began in 1998 to encourage and manage monetary donations for the betterment of the Archives and Museum.

Since 1999 the Friends group has raised in excess of \$750,000. Most of these funds were used to help finance construction and renovation projects. The Archives has many other needs which exceed available funding. Your donation to the organization will help provide for those needs.

“Friends of the Archives is a great group of folks who recognize the value and importance of maintaining, in most cases, the irreplaceable. Additionally, we all know that our membership is the only way to maintain the level of stewardship to which the core founders of the Friends aspired,” says Stephen Van Horn, president of the Friends of the Archives.

## How do you join Friends of the Archives?

You can join “Friends” using the application on page 8 of this newsletter. You can also make donations to the Archives through honorariums or memorials. Your support will make a difference and help promote the Archives’ mission of “preserving the past for the future.”

As a member of Friends of the Camden Archives and Museum, you will receive our twice a year newsletter as a benefit of your tax deductible donation. Please consider joining by submitting the form on page 8 with your donation. An updated list of donors will be published in the year-end newsletter. Thank you for your consideration and support!

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