Mound Explorations in the Southern Mississippi Delta:

A Progress Report on the Middle Segment of the

Mississippi Mounds Trail Project

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Interim report for Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Mounds Trail Stakeholders

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Introduction

During June and July, 2013, the University of Southern Mississippi archaeological field school conducted coring and limited excavations on a selection of Native American mound sites between Greenville and Vicksburg, MS. Most of the sites examined are along either MS Hwy 61 or Hwy 1, and will be part of an interpreted driving tour of mounds in the state between Memphis, TN and the Louisiana state line in Wilkerson County. USM is responsible for the middle segment of the route. Ed Jackson served as principal investigator and Jessica Kowalksi was the field director. Ronnie Wise and Stephanie Guest performed the duties of crew chiefs. Fieldwork was accomplished by students enrolled in the USM archaeological field school, along with several volunteers. At the outset, we have to acknowledge the cooperation of all the site owners, who graciously allowed us access to the mounds and to some extent disrupt their day to day operations: Jeff Shields (Refuge), Archaeological Conservancy (Cary), Lawrence Carter (Carter), Drick Rodgers (Mont Helena), Missy and Henry Goodman (Anguilla), Jim and Jason Wade (Grace), Sloan Carter and her siblings (Arcola), and the Mississippi Band of Choctaws (Hardee). We also appreciate the hospitality of Fred Milller who allowed us to stay at his hunting camp, Meg Cooper, Director of the Mississippi Lower Delta Partnership, who helped coordinate our efforts in the Rolling Fork area, and Draylan Grant, Director of the Mid-Delta Regional Airport, who provided lodging while we worked in the Greenville area.

Table 1 presents the cultural chronology of the southern half of the Mississippi Delta. Table 2 depicts finer subdivisions into phases of periods in the later part of prehistory. Mound building in the Delta is known to date as early as the Poverty Point culture, ca. 1500 BC. However, the sites we have examined thus far date primarily to the late Woodland Coles Creek and Mississippian periods. Our ability to date sites includes some radiocarbon sampling, but more often on the pottery that we collect. Blocks of time are defined on the basis of co-occurring ceramic varieties (sets). The temporal boundaries between phases are estimates based on radiocarbon dates, mainly from Winterville and the Lake George site.

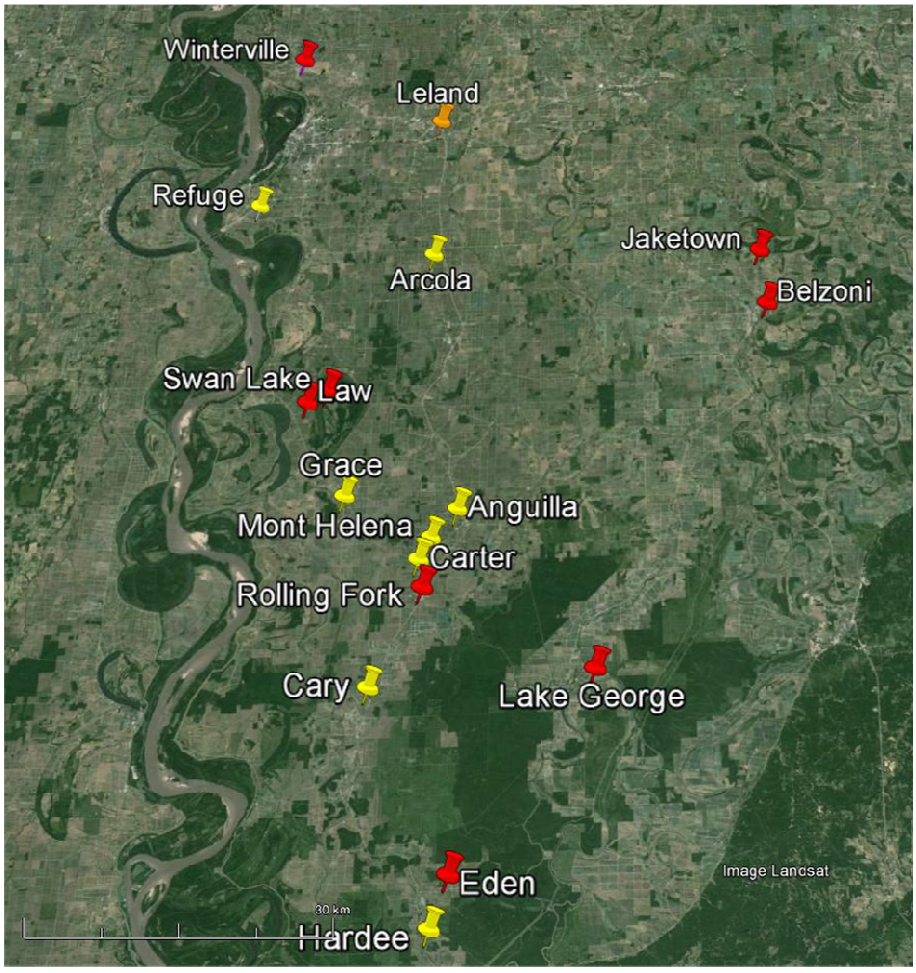

Figure 1. Sites identified as part of the middle segment of the Mississippi Mounds Trail. Bright yellow stickpins identify sites investigated in 2013. Google Earth © Image 2014.

Table 1. Cultural Chronology of the Lower Mississippi Valley

Years	Stage	Period	Lower Mississippi Valley Culture/Tradition
1700	Protohistoric		Natchezan
1500	Mississippi		Mississippian / Plaquemine
1200	Woodland	Late	Coles Creek
			Baytown
		Middle	Issaquena Marksville
A.D. B.C. 200	Gulf Formational	Late	Tchefuncte
		Middle	Poverty Point
800		Early	
1400	Archaic	Late	
2000		Middle	
3000		Early	
6000	Paleoindian	Late	
		Middle	
		Early	
8000			
11,500			

Table 2. Fine-scale Chronology Based on Changes in Ceramics.

<table>
<tr><td>DATING (End)</td><td>Period</td><td>PHASES</td><td></td><td></td><td colspan="5">SETS</td></tr>
<tr><td>1700</td><td></td><td>Russell</td><td></td><td>Yazoo 9</td><td rowspan="2">Yazoo 8</td><td rowspan="3">Yazoo 7</td><td rowspan="2">Pocho-hontas</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>1650</td><td rowspan="3">Proto-historic</td><td>Wasp Lake II</td><td rowspan="3">Bell</td><td rowspan="3">Yazoo 6</td><td rowspan="3">Holly Bluff 3</td><td rowspan="4">Holly Bluff 2</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Wasp Lake I</td><td rowspan="3">Yazoo 5</td><td rowspan="4">Yazoo 4</td></tr>
<tr><td>1500</td><td rowspan="5">Mississippi</td><td>Lake George II</td><td colspan="2"></td><td rowspan="3">Holly Bluff 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>1425</td><td>Lake George I</td><td colspan="3"></td><td>Yazoo 3</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>1350</td><td>Winterville II</td><td colspan="3"></td><td rowspan="3"></td><td rowspan="3"></td><td rowspan="3">Green ville</td></tr>
<tr><td>1300</td><td>Winterville I</td><td></td><td rowspan="2">Addis 2</td><td>Yazoo 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>1200</td><td rowspan="4">Coles Creek</td><td>Crippen Point II</td><td></td><td rowspan="2">Addis 1</td><td>Yazoo 1</td><td>Powell</td><td>Coker</td></tr>
<tr><td>1100</td><td>Crippen Point I</td><td colspan="3"></td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>1000 AD</td><td>Kings Crossing</td><td></td><td>Vicksburg</td><td colspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>900</td><td>Aden</td><td></td><td>Valley Park</td><td colspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>800</td><td rowspan="2">Baytown</td><td>Bayland</td><td></td><td>Sharfit</td><td colspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>700</td><td>Deasonville</td><td></td><td>Reed 1</td><td>Reed 2</td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
<tr><td>400 AD</td><td rowspan="2">Marksville</td><td>Issaquena</td><td></td><td>Satartia</td><td colspan="4"></td></tr>
<tr><td>200 AD</td><td>Anderson Landing</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
<tr><td>100 BC</td><td>Tchula</td><td>Tuscola</td><td colspan="6"></td></tr>
</table>

The Sites

We collected data from 12 mounds at eight sites, including Arcola and Refuge in Washington County, Grace and Hardee in Issaquena County, and Mont Helena, Anguilla, Carter and Cary in Sharkey County (Figure 1). We also cored one reported mound, Lake Lee, near Greenville that, although assigned a state site number, turned out to be a modern spoil pile. All sites we investigated are associated with the Coles Creek and/or Mississippi periods (ca. AD 700-1500)

We began with an original list of sites that were identified by MDAH as good candidates for inclusion on the trail. Investigation effort was weighed against existing information and several including Law, Lake George, Winterville, Jaketown and Rolling Fork, have received adequate professional investigations so were not examined. Two sites were added to the original list, Refuge and Lake Lee, both near Greenville. Our goal is to test several additional sites this summer, including the Eden site at the southern end of our segment of the trail, at Belzoni Mound in downtown Belzoni, and also do additional testing at Mont Helena, Arcola and Hardee, and further coring at Carter.

Some basic information about nearly all the sites, including field maps and surface collections is provided by the LMS survey in the 1940s as summarized in Phillips (1970) or available in the LMS archive. Exceptions to this are Lake Lee and Carter, which were recorded in the 1970s, The LMS

Figure 3. Augering with three inch bucket auger at Mt Helena

Figure 2. Coring with one inch probe at Refuge Mound.

Figure 4. Recording stratigraphy disclosed by probe

Figure 5. Excavation unit at Carter site

Figure 7. Recording mound stratigraphy, Carter site

visited two other sites on our list but did not find artifacts, Linden and Anguilla. The LMS notes indicate that the former was suspected of being a modern mound, while the latter was considered to be a prehistoric construction, but failed to produce any artifacts at the time of the LMS site visit. Available background information has been compiled in a separate report, *Phase I Planning Document Mississippi Mounds Trail, Middle Segment* (Jackson 1914).

Field Methods

General field methodology consisted of first coring around the perimeter of the mounds to try and identify flank midden or construction stratification, then placing a one by two meter unit into the flank. Coring was accomplished with an Oakfield 1-inch

Figure 6. Screening

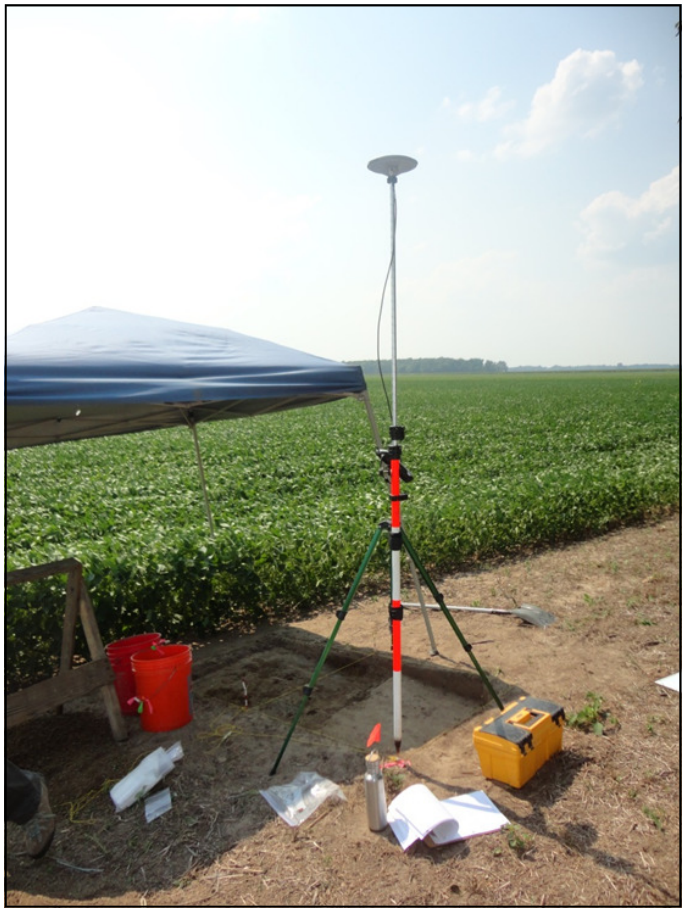

Figure 8. GPS unit set up over test unit corner

split spoon probe with extensions or a 3-inch bucket auger (Figures 2-4). Excavation was controlled in 10 cm levels and matrix was dry-screened through ½-inch mesh. (Figure 5-7) At each site two permanent datum points were set on or near the summit of at least one mound at each site. The locations of these datum points, as well as each probe location and the corners of each excavation unit were recorded using a pair of survey grade Promark 120 GPS units using NAD-83 UTM coordinates, and post-processed using GNSS Solutions © (Figure 7). Three sites, Lake Lee because it is modern, Hardee because we ran out of time, and Mont Helena for reasons explained in a moment, were cored but no test units were excavated.

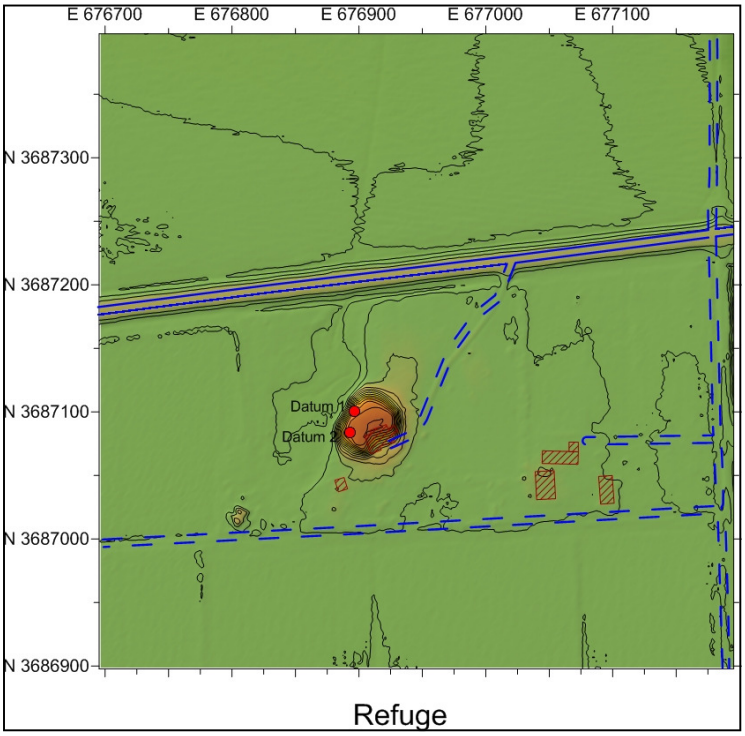

Figure 9. LIDAR based map of Refuge

Refuge Mound (22WS508)

The Refuge Mound is what remains of a three or four mound group that Phillips (1970:487) in the latter half of the Mississippi Period (Figures 9, 10). It is located near the modern Mississippi River course, just south of Greenville.

Figure 10. Refuge Mound, looking south.

At Refuge 15 probe holes were placed around the mound flanks and a single excavation unit was set on the northwest flank where a substantial dark midden-like deposit was identified in the probe. It was excavated to 170 cm below the highest corner of the unit (Figure 11) . A zone of wash with historic artifacts including a chain overlies a dark midden-like deposit. This in turn overlies the pre-mound sediments.

Figure 11. Stratigraphy exposed on northwest flank of mound.

Nonetheless, excavation produced a modest sample of 96 sherds related to mound construction or use. Bell Plain, *var. Greenville*, Cahokia Cordmarked, *var. Buford,* Mississippi

Plain, *var. Coker*, Old Town Red, *var. Old Town*, and Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, along with examples of Baytown Plain, *vars. Addis, Valley Park, and Vicksburg,* suggest a late Coles Creek Crippen Point II subphase, The only clear markers for a Winterville phase occupation are sherds of Leland Incised, *var. Bethlehem,* Pouncy Pinched, *var. Patosi,* Old Town Red, *var. Sharbrough* and a *Greenville* sherd. Lake George phase varieties consist of examples of Bell Plain, *var. Holly Bluff*, and Leland Incised, *var. Leland*. Other varieties such as Winterville Incised, *var. Winterville* and Parkin Punctated, *var. Hollandale*, occur in both Winterville and Lake George phase contexts.

Arcola (22WS516)

Arcola is located on Deer Creek a couple miles south of the village bearing the same name (Figures 12, 13). Three of the original six mounds remain, the largest two of which, A and B, are still in good shape (Although the east side of B was clipped by railroad construction that was routed through the center of the site, Figure 14). Mound C has been damaged by earth mining on its south side. A total of 27 probe holes were placed in Mound A, 25 in Mound B, and 10 in Mound C. Probing depths ranged from roughly 150 to 200 cm. Probing was discontinued when sub mound natural levee sediments were deemed to have been encountered.

A test unit on Mound A was located on the southeast flank (Figure 15). As is the case for all mound flank excavation units, the first level was excavated as a single unit to the depth that produced a horizontal floor (being at the level of the downslope unit corners. Below this, 10 cm excavation levels were maintained and the unit was further subdivided into 1-x-1 m upslope and downslope units. The unit was excavated to a depth of 190 cm below the northeast (highest) corner. The unit (Figure 16) encountered undifferentiated slope wash, Mound fill, evidence of lensed slope wash in the early building stages, and several features including a wall trench and several apparent postmolds. Sub mound deposits were reached.

Figure 12. The Arcola site.

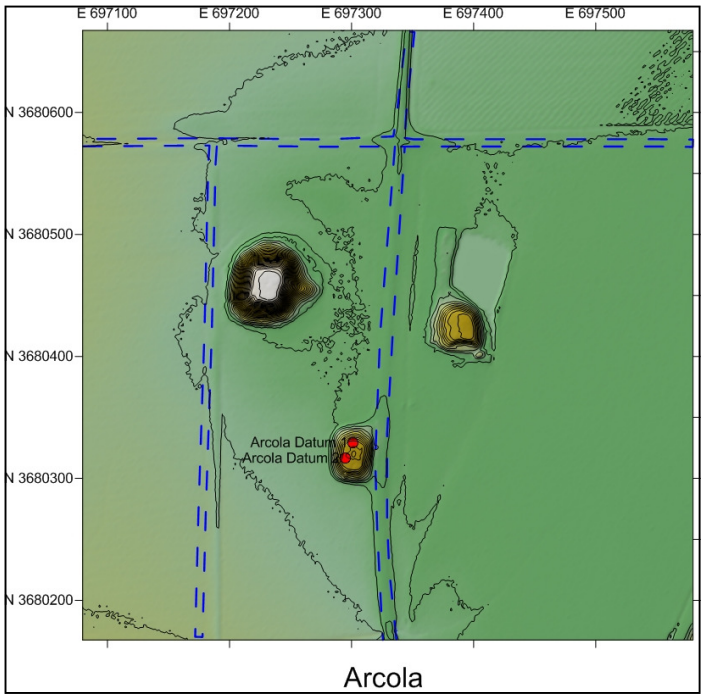

Figure 13. LIDAR based map of Arcola.

Figure 14. East Flank of Mound B. Road is located on old railroad right of way. .

Figure 15. Flank excavation, Mound A, Arcola

Figure 16. Stratification exposed in Mound A, Arcola

Figure 17. Stratification exposed in Mound B, Arcola

The Mound B test unit was placed on the northwest flank (Figure 17). It reached 190 cm below the highest unit corner. Two postmolds and an apparent wall trench were encountered during excavation. The wall trench is in the lowest 10 cm level and may be related to a pre-mound structure.

Over 1500 sherds were collected during the investigation. In addition to artifacts recovered from excavation we collected more than 900 sherds from the surface between Mounds A and B. From a chronological standpoint, as predicted by Phillips, there is a good representation of Lake George varieties, including Bell Plain, *var. Holly Bluff*, Leland Incised, *vars. Leland, Deep Bayou, Ferris, Russell* and *Williams*, Winterville Incised, *var. Belzoni*, and Owens Punctated, *var. Poor Joe*. But there is a significant roster of varieties that represent an earlier Winterville phase component that include Anna Incised, *var. Anna*, Carter Engraved, *vars. Carter* and *Sara*, Grace Brushed, Leland Incised, *var. Bethlehem*, Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, Mississippi Plain, *var. Coker*, Old Town Red, *vars. Old Town* and *Sharbrough,* and Plaquemine Brushed. Two sherds, one Mazique, *var. Manchac* and the other, Coles Creek Incised, *var. Greenhouse* hint at an even earlier Coles Creek Crippen Point phase occupation. At the later end of the time scale, a protohistoric continuation of site occupation is indicated by examples of Leland Incised, *var. Bovina,* Old Town Red, *var. Beaverdam*, Owens Punctated, *var. Menard*, and Winterville Incised, *var. Wailes*.

Two charcoal samples were submitted for radiocarbon dating. From Mound A, the sample which was collected from between 170 and 180 cm below surface, produced a two sigma calibrated date of AD 1400-1440, while that from Mound B produced a somewhat later and messier two sigma calibrated date of AD 1440 to 1510 and 1600-1620, the latter possibility being corroborated by two Winterville, *var. Wailes* sherds. Table 1 presents radiocarbon dates obtained from sites investigated in 2013.

Grace (22IS500)

Grace includes the largest two mounds at what originally was a five mound group (Figures 18, 19) . It is located between the Mississippi River and Deer Creek. At Grace, we pulled 24 cores from Mound A and 17 from Mound B. The Mound A test unit, placed on the southwest side, was excavated to a depth of 130 cm, when sub-mound sediments were reached (Figure 20). Three linear features were encountered which are tenta-

Figure 18. View of Grace Site, looking west.

Figure 19. Grace Mound A,, looking east

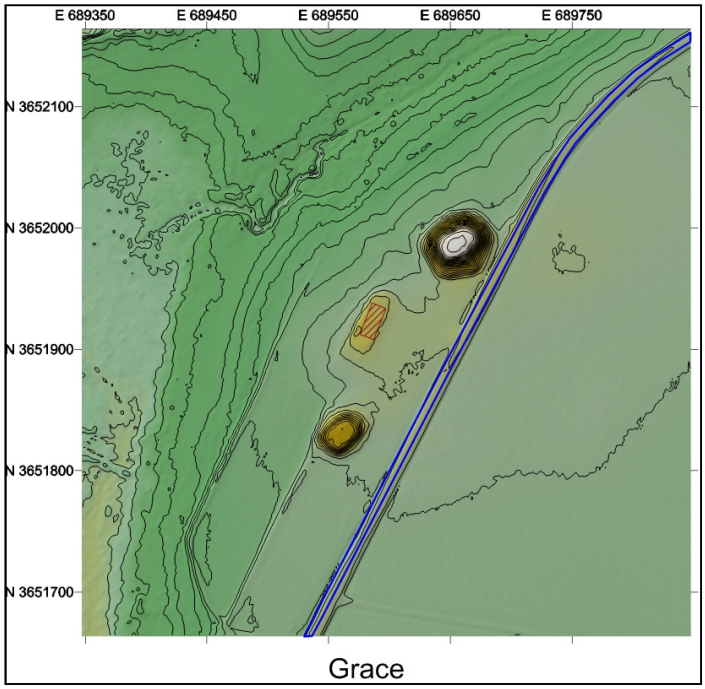

Figure 20. LIDAR based map of Grace site

Figure 21. Possible wall trenches exposed by Mound A excavation, Grace.

Figure 22. Stratification exposed by Mound A excavation, Grace

Figure 23. Stratification exposed by Mound B excavation, Grace

tively interpreted as wall trenches, although they are somewhat narrower than is typical (Figure 21). Plow scars were considered but even if covered in slopewash the plow horses would have had to be climbing the mound to accomplish this possibility. The features are in a slightly darker matrix than overlying slope wash and are mottled with charcoal and bits of baked clay. This stratum overlies alternating strata of sandy silt and somewhat darker sandy loam (Figure 22).

Mound B was excavated to a depth of 110 cm. very near the margin of the mound (Figure 23). A layer of slopewash overlies basket loaded fill and a zone of sandy clay mottled with charcoal and burned clay. At approximately 100 cm submound natural level sediments were encountered. At the base of the test hole excavated into the unit floor backswamp clays were encountered30 cm or so deeper.

One hundred forty sherds were collected, 72 from the test unit in Mound A, 29 from Mound B and the balance from the surface around the edges of the mounds. The earliest sherd is a single example of Mazique Incised, *var. Mazique*, which would be indicative of an early Coles Creek Aden phase occupation. Crippen Point markers included Baytown Plain, *var. Addis,* Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, Coleman Incised, *var. Coleman*, Plaquemine Brushed, and Old Town Red, *var. Old Town.* Winterville varieties include Bell Plain, *var. Greenville*. Lake George phase varieties include Bell Plain, *var. Holly Bluff*, and an unidentified incised sherd on *Holly Bluff* ware.

A single radiocarbon sample from Mound A was submitted for dating. The two sigma calibrated range is AD 1450-1530, AD 1540 to 1550 and 1550 to 1620. A sample taken from 150-160 cm below surface from Mound B rendered a date of AD 1440-1510 and 1600-1620. The earlier ranges correspond with the retrieved ceramics.

Anguilla (22SH510)

Anguilla is a single mound site located on Deer Creek in the town of Anguilla (Figures 24, 25). Its height was reduced historically by levelling to construct a cistern for the nearby house, and again later when this cistern was dismantled. Nine probe and seven auger holes were excavated before excavating a single test unit on the north side of the mound to a depth of 190 cm. The upper meter is push from the summit and contains a scatter of brick fragments from the dismantled cistern. Below this is compact silty clay mound fill (Figure 26). An exposure on the east side of the mound (where a former next door neighbor borrowed dirt to fill some holes in the yard) was scraped back with a shovel. No stratification was noted and the soil, like that exposed by the test unit was silty clay.

A total of 53 sherds were collected, all but three from the test unit. The meager collection is dominated by plainware including *Addis, Little Tiger*, and *Valley Park* varieties of Baytown Plain, Mississippi Plain, *var. Yazoo*, and Bell Plain, *var. Holly Bluff.* The only decorated sherds include Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Blackwater*, Carter Engraved, *var. Sara*, and Old Town Red, *var. unspecified*, which suggest a Winterville phase occupation.

A radiocarbon sample from 160-170 cm b.s. returned a two

Figure 24. Anguilla. Looking southeast.

sigma calibrated date of AD 1320 to 1350 and 1390 to 1430. The earlier interval corresponds well with the decorated ceramics.

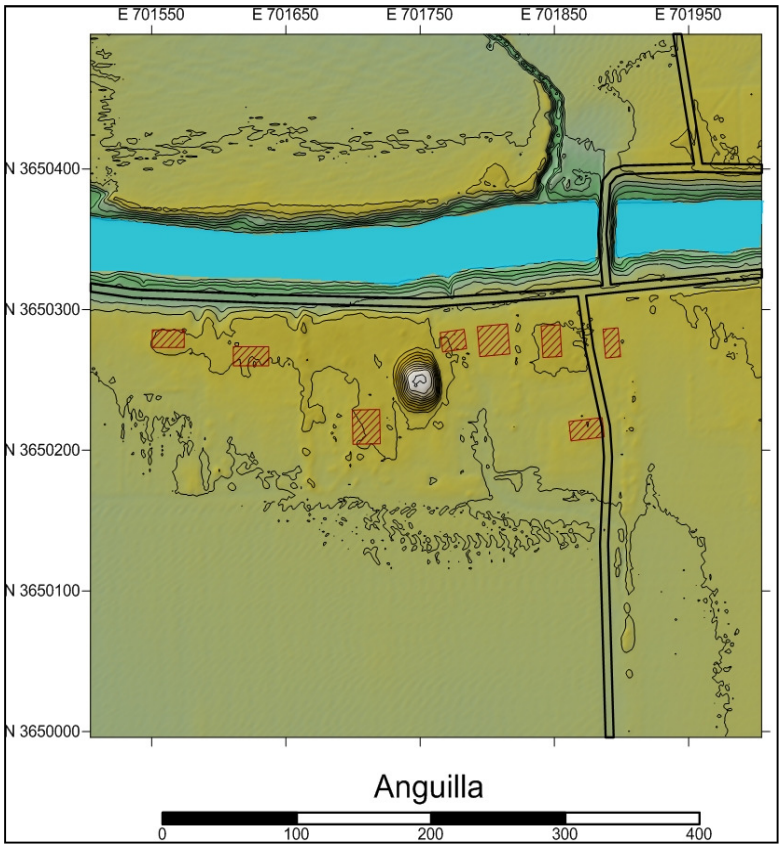

Figure 25. LIDAR based map of Anguilla.

Figure 26. Anguilla. Stratification exposed by exca-

Mont Helena

Mont Helena located near Deer Creek north of Rolling Fork has a reputation as being somewhat of an enigma (Phillips 1970). It is a magnificent mound, even though it was altered when the house atop it was erected in the 1870s (Figures 27, 28). The site has never given up a single artifact despite having been visited by many archaeologists over the last century. Our plan was to end this drought, and the mound received a concerted coring effort, both in the flanks and on the summit

Figure 27. Mont Helena. Tree line in background is Deer Creek. Looking northwest.

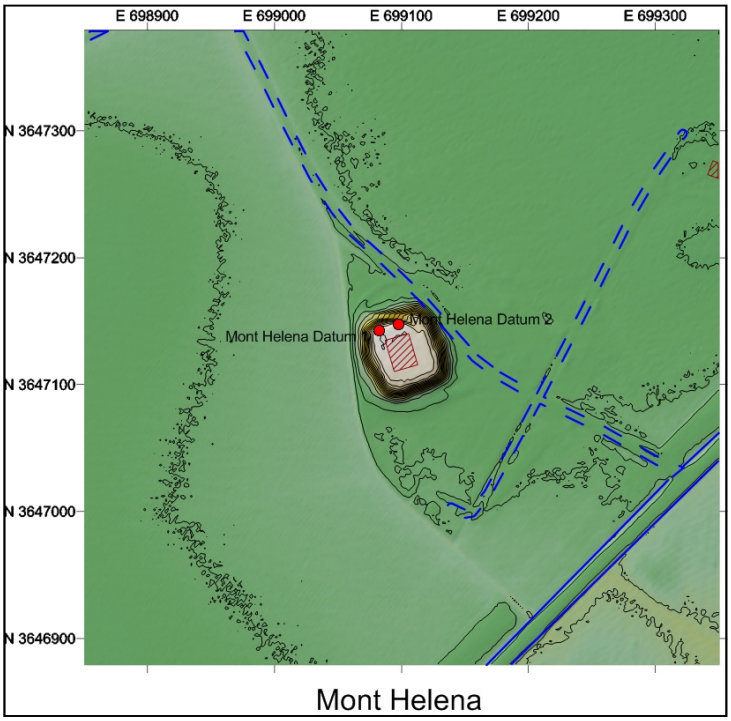

Figure 28. Mont Helena. LIDAR based map topographic map.

Figure 29. Mont Helena. Height of auger is the depth of cores taken from mound summit. Looking west.

(Figure 29). In spite of our efforts, the investigation failed to locate even the slightest indication of the presence of artifacts or midden. An auger on the summit, when flank auguring failed to find productive deposits, did indicate a succession of coarse and clay sediment layers suggesting a series of construction stages. But like previous investigations its date of construction still remains a mystery. In the interest of making progress at the productive sites we were working at, we postponed further excavation at Mt. Helena until the next field season.

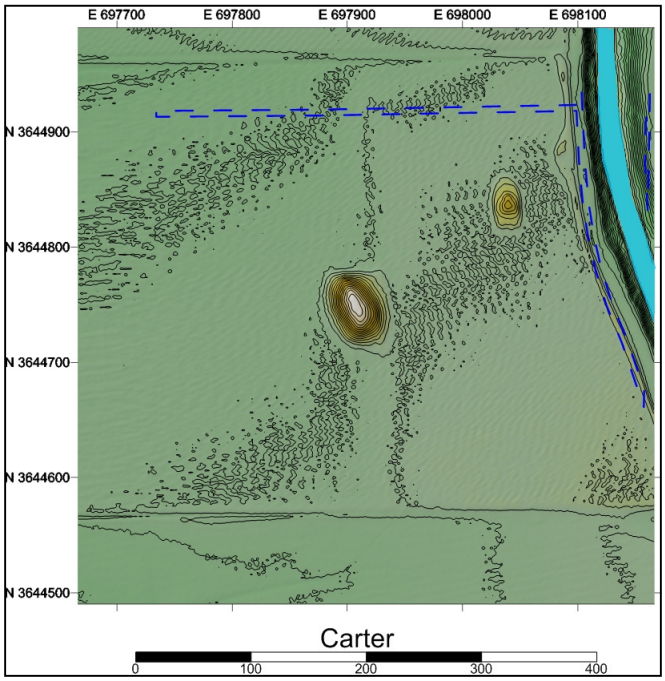

Figure 30. LIDAR based map of Carter Mounds

Carter (22SH532)

The Carter Site, located across Deer Creek from Rolling Fork, offered an exciting possibility for investigation in that it is the only site of our sample not visited by the Lower Mississippi Survey (Figures 30-32). Not even a surface col-

Figure 31. Carter mound A (right) and B (left). Looking South southwest

Figure 32. Carter mound A. Looking west

lection clouded our expectations. The site consists of two mounds oriented east-west, with the larger Mound, A, on the west side. Whether Mound A was ever rectangular is not known and presently it is oblong and bears a similarity to Mound A at Swan Lake, a Coles Creek mound complex in Washington County (Phillips 1970). Unlike Carter, the main mound at Swan Lake is located on the east side of the group. Mound B is a low dome-shaped mound that has been reduced by plowing in the past although presently it is kept out of cultivation.

At Mound A we took 16 soil cores and excavated a test unit on the east side, reaching a depth of 180 cm. The excavation disclosed mound fill and in the lower half a deposit that sloped steeply down to the south and to the east, and may represent an eastward facing ramp associated with an earlier mound stage (Figure 33).

The investigation of Mound B included nine cores and a unit on the west flank of the mound. Surface disturbance had revealed a number of bone fragments that were determined to be human, which we took to mean that this was a burial mound. In the hopes of avoiding human remains, we set our unit as close to the western margin of the mound as possible. At 30 cm we encountered disturbed bone in the east half of the unit, and closed this part of the excavation continuing in a 1 by 1.

Figure 33. Stratification exposed in test excavation on east side of mound A.

This was excavated to a depth of 210 cm. Stratigraphy consists of zones of basket-loaded fill separated by thin lenses that mark surfaces (Figure 34). At the bottom of the unit excavation encountered what appears to be a berm or marker mound constructed of contrasting basket loads (Figure 35). We don't think the excavation quite reached sub-mound surface as the lowest deposits look like basket fill, which means that the ground surface at the time of the mound's construction could be a meter and a half or more below the present ground surface. The possibility of buried occupational areas will be a task for additional coring in the upcoming field season.

Figure 34. Stratification in the upper portion of test excavation in Mound B showing wash lenses.

Figure 35. Stratification in the lower portion of test excavation in Mound B showing basket loads of different colored fill that form a berm or small marker mound. .

Ceramic analysis of the material collected at Carter is still underway and therefore these remarks are tentative. The analysis is being accomplished by Cecilia Henderson, a graduate student at USM, who hopes to combine this with a comparison to pottery from another Mounds Trail site, Eden, which appears to be of similar age. Almost 2500 sherds were collected making it the largest sample of the sites we investigated. More remarkable is that less than 50 were surface-collected. The collection is dominated by Coles Creek decorated varieties, with a few earlier Baytown types and one possible sherd of Carter Engraved that could be late Crippen Point or early Winterville phase in age. Decorated sherds span from the Isaquena through Crippen Point I phase. The most common decorated type is Coles Creek Incised, and the most frequent variety of this type is Coles Creek, *var. Coles Creek,* which along with Mazique Incised¸ *var. Mazique* indicate an early Coles Creek occupation. Other decorated varieties and plainwares extend the occupation through the Crippen Point I phase. With respect to the latter, the most frequently identified are Baytown Plain, *vars. Percy Creek/Valley Park* and *Little Tiger* constituting 90% of the sherds examined thus far. Kings Crossing and Crippen Point I phase decorated varieties include Coles Creek Incised, *vars. Blakely Campbellsville, Greenhouse, Hardy* and *Mott*, Mazique Incised, *var. Kings Point* and *Manchac*, Chevalier Stamped, *var. Perry,* Coleman Incised, and Avoyelles Punctated, *var. Dupree* and *Tatum*.

Another intriguing artifact class produced by the excavations into both mounds is quartz crystal fragments. Quartz crystal is almost a diagnostic for Coles Creek period Plum Bayou culture sites across the river in Arkansas (Rolingon 1982, 2002).

One radiocarbon sample from each mound was submitted for dating. The Mound A sample, collected from 120-130 cm below surface, provides a two sigma calibrated date of AD 990-1040 and 1110 to 1120. The earlier range fits well with the early Crippen Point phase ceramics. The Mound B sample, taken at 50-60 cm below surface, returned a date of AD 1030 to 1210, again the earlier part of the range is the more likely. Because the majority of ceramics derive from mound fill, the earlier time range suggested by the ceramic assemblage is most likely due to earlier occupation deposits having been scooped up for use as fill. Therefore, they would identify the age of the site's occupation, but not necessarily when the mound stage was constructed.

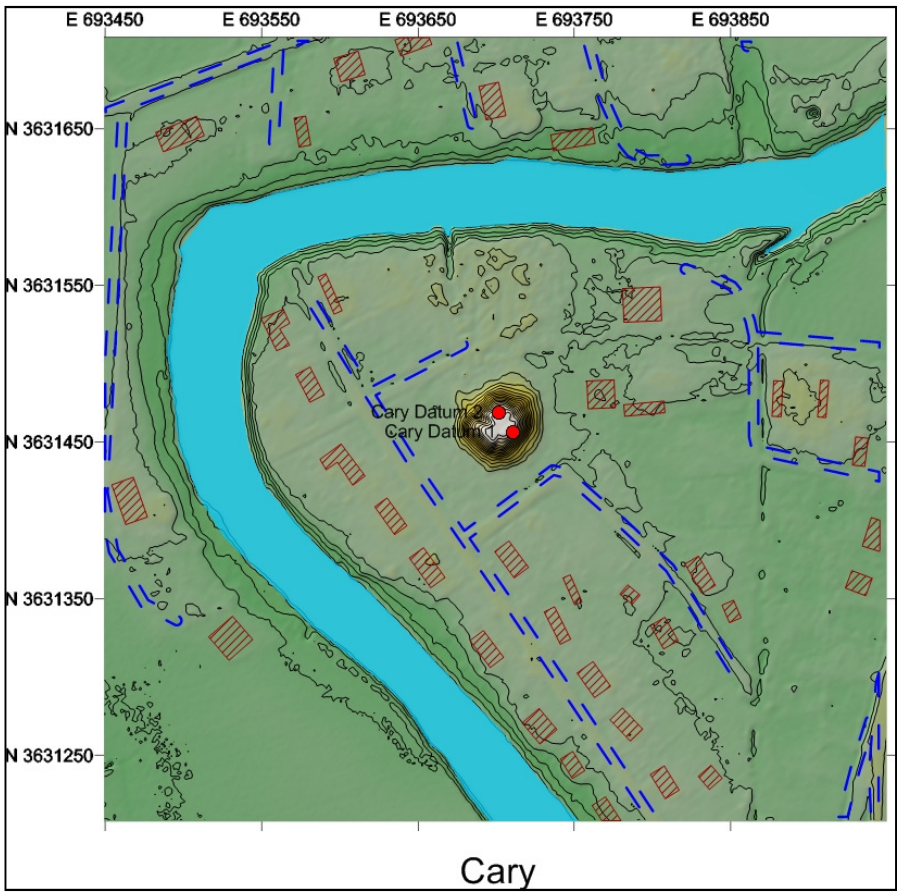

Figure 36. LIDAR topographic map of Cary.

Cary (22SH507)

The final site we were able to place an excavation unit into is the Cary Site, on Deer Creek south of Rolling Fork (Figures 36, 37). Originally the site included three mounds, of which only the largest survives and is presently under the protection of ownership by the Archaeological Conservancy. We took 17 cores and placed a unit on the east side of the mound that was excavated to a depth of 140 cm.

Figure 37. Cary Mound (Google Earth © image).

In the test unit the first meter is mound fill (Figures 38-40). At 110 cm a submound occupation surface was encountered with faunal remains and a significant uptick in the amount of pot-

Figure 38. Excavation of test unit on east flank of Cary Mound.

Figure 39. Cary. Postmolds below mound fill..

tery, including a Parkin Punctated pot break. Below the midden two large posts were noted.

A total of 308 sherds were collected, all of which save one came from the test unit. The majority point to a Mississippian time of construction, and both early Winterville and later Lake George phase markers are present. The majority, 247, are Mississippi Plain. Winterville markers include Bell Plain *var. Greenville,* Grace Brushed, *var. Grace*, and Old Town, *var. Old Town*. Lake George ceramic varieties include Bell Plain, *var. Holly Bluff,* Leland Incised, *var. Deep Bayou*, Owens Punctated, *var. Poor Joe*, and possibly an unidentified thin shell tempered engraved sherd. Parkin Punctated and Winterville Incised, *var. Winterville*, are also present.

A single radiocarbon sample from the midden level returned a two sigma calibrated date of AD 1440 to1510 and 1610 to 1620, the former range being consonant with the Lake George Phase.

Figure 40. Cary. Stratification of mound fill exposed in test unit.

Hardy

Hardee (Figure 41, Figure 42) is a single mound south of Evergreen. It is presently a two tiered mound, but whether this was its original shape is unknown. Lack of time prevented excavation in 2013, but we were able to put probes around its margins and identify areas along the flanks that are likely to be productive (Figure 43).

Figure 42. Hardy Mound. Looking south.

Figure 41. Hardy Mound. Looking east.

Figure 43. Hardy Mound. Augering.

Final Comments

We have only just begun correlations of ceramics and dates to stratigraphy, so our interpretations here are preliminary. However, to date, we can say that the project has cast considerable light on the complexity of cultural dynamics of the Lower Yazoo Basin. The facile collapse of Winterville that engenders what Phillips called the Deer Creek Phase –now the Lake George phase – is not supported as these Deer Creek phase sites such as Arcola (the definitive Deer Creek phase site), Anguilla, and Carey have their roots in the Winterville phase, developing contemporaneously with the type site. In addition to sites about which we had historical clues, we have been able to narrow down the cultural possibilities of less well documented sites, including Anguilla and Carter. The latter presents the possibility of significant new information about Coles Creek culture in the hinterland between Lake George and Winterville.

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