

Foreword

Southeastern archaeology lost a rising star when Timothy Paul Mooney was killed in an automobile accident near Chapel Hill, North Carolina, on January 30, 1995, one day short of his forty-fourth birthday.

Tim's career was unusual in its breadth. After graduating from the University of Arizona in 1972 with a Bachelor's degree in history, Tim enlisted in the U.S. Navy, where he acquired his considerable skills as a computer programmer. He then went on to attend the University of Arizona School of Law, which awarded him a JD in 1981. Soon thereafter, he took a job with the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C. While working as a lawyer, he became involved with the Archeological Society of Virginia and began volunteering on digs in the Fairfax County area. He found the experience so interesting that he decided to leave the legal profession and to become an archaeologist. He was admitted to the graduate program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and began his studies in the Fall of 1989.

Tim took to his new profession like a fish to water. He read voraciously and learned the essentials of the discipline in record time. By 1991, he had formulated an ambitious and important dissertation project, an archaeological investigation relating to the origins of the eighteenth-century Choctaw Nation. In 1992, he conducted an archaeological reconnaissance along the central Pearl River in Mississippi. In 1992 and 1993, he and I conducted two seasons of excavation at Mississippian mound sites along the Pearl, gathering valuable information on the late prehistory of this region. He was in the midst of analyzing the data we had recovered, and was preparing to write his dissertation, when his career was so tragically cut short.

Tim's overall research focus, and this monograph in particular, sprang in large part from his friendship with John O'Hear, who happened to be in Chapel Hill during the 1989–90 academic year taking courses for his doctorate. It was John who suggested that Tim undertake the analysis of the collections described herein, and who loaned the necessary materials to the Research Laboratories of Anthropology where Tim could have easy access. John also provided invaluable support and advice throughout the project.

The first incarnation of this work was presented to the Anthropology faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill as a "fourth-semester paper" in the spring of 1991. It was later substantially revised and submitted as a Master's thesis in 1994. This book is derived from the latter, with some minor editing that Tim himself completed just a few months before he died.

Tim was a wonderful human being. Kind and generous to a fault, he was always cheerful and ready to lend a hand. I miss him greatly as a student and a friend. I also mourn the loss to our discipline. But I do take some small comfort in seeing *Many Choctaw Standing* go to press, for I know that it will be a useful and lasting contribution—just the kind of legacy that Tim would have wanted.

Vincas P. Steponaitis
Chapel Hill
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