

Central Gulf Coast *Archaeological Society*



Newsletter

| December 2018 |

41 YEARS OF PROMOTING FLORIDA'S RICH HERITAGE
CGCAS IS A CHAPTER OF THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Upcoming Lecture:

Thursday, December 20th, 7pm
**ETHNOARCHAEOLOGY OF
ANCIENT FISHING
PRACTICES: INSIGHTS FROM
THE FLORIDA GULF COAST**

*GiNESSa Mahar, PhD Candidate
University of Florida*



Millions of people venture out into Florida's coastal waters each year to take part in an ancient practice: fishing. Whether for commercial or recreational purposes fishing has deep roots in the region - thousands of years deep. That Florida's ancient inhabitants have benefited from these bountiful coastal waters for over ten thousand years is not surprising. Coastal archaeological sites throughout the state are loaded with the remains of fish familiar to local fishing enthusiasts: mullet, red drum, seatrout, sheepshead and more. But while archaeologists have been able to identify what fishes ancient fisherfolk were catching, they have not been able to discern how they were catching them. Until recently.

Ethnoarchaeology is the study of living human practices to understand past human actions and archaeological materials. Methods like this are often used when archaeological investigations leave researchers with more questions than answers. This presentation tacks back and forth through time—over two thousand years—on a quest to better understand the knowledge, practices, and technologies of Florida's ancient fisherfolk.

The monthly CGCAS Archaeology Lecture series is sponsored by the Alliance for Weedon Island Archaeological Research and Education (AWIARE) and held at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. All talks are free and open to the public. Registration is not required, but to RSVP please go to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida or to the Weedon Island Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/weedon-island-preserve-cultural-and-natural-history-center-1250121017>

CGCAS Holiday Party!



Mark your calendar- Saturday, December 8th at Noon we will be meeting for our annual Holiday Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange!

WHAT: CGCAS Annual Holiday Party
WHEN: Saturday, December 8th at Noon
WHERE: AWAIRE, 1500 Weedon Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

BRING: Covered dish to share AND if you wish to participate in the gift exchange, bring a white elephant gift
REMINDER: Also a good time to remit your annual dues

Upcoming Archaeology Lecture this Spring 2019

WHEN: Thursday, January 17th at 7pm
WHERE: Weedon Island Preserve
1800 Weedon Dr NE, St Petersburg

The Rocky Road from Tampa to Chicasa: Hernando de Soto's Tribulations in the Interior Southeast

Charles Cobb, Florida Museum of Natural History

The beginnings of the journey of the members of the Hernando de Soto expedition were fairly auspicious. They encountered sizable and prosperous chiefdoms ranging from Florida through Georgia and the Carolinas, and by virtue of size and military technology were able to fend off hostilities from Native Americans. Their fortunes turned soured, however, in 1540 and 1541 as major conflicts at

Mabila (Alabama) and Chicasa (Mississippi) left scores of Spaniards dead and wounded, as well as major losses of pigs, horses, and equipment. Recent investigations at the Stark Farm site in eastern Mississippi have yielded a large number of likely sixteenth-century Spanish metal artifacts (e.g., adzes, axes, horse shoes) that seem to be related to the Soto encounter at Chicasa. This presentation considers the possibility of whether the Stark Farm is actually Chicasa, as well as alternative hypotheses to account for presence of European material at this location.



Charles Cobb is Curator and Lockwood Professor of Historical Archaeology at the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. He specializes in the archaeology and history of the southeastern United States, and has a particular interest in Native American engagements with European colonialism. He has been involved in sustained research on Indian towns on the Carolina frontier.

An Interview with Ginessa Mahar on Gulf Coast Fishing Technology and Ethnoarchaeology

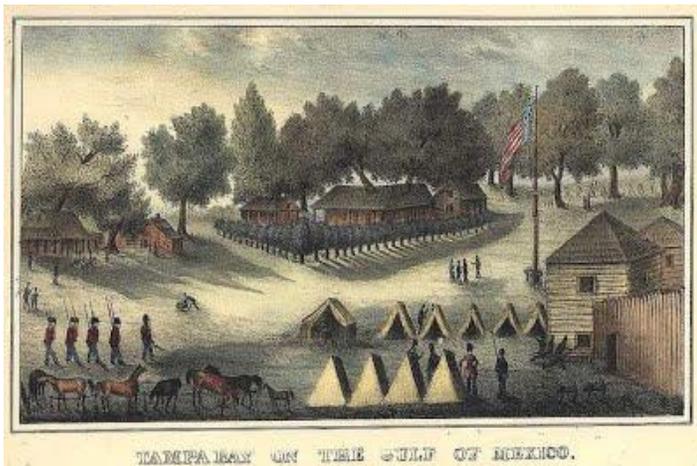
BY: NIGEL RUDOLPH, FPAN CENTRAL

After finishing an outreach event at Cedar Key Public Library this past summer, I stumbled on an archaeological dig going on in the yard of a historic house built on a small midden along the Gulf. There I met Ginessa Mahar, PHD candidate in archaeology from the University of Florida. We chatted briefly about the work she was doing; her dissertation is focused on prehistoric fishing technologies employ-
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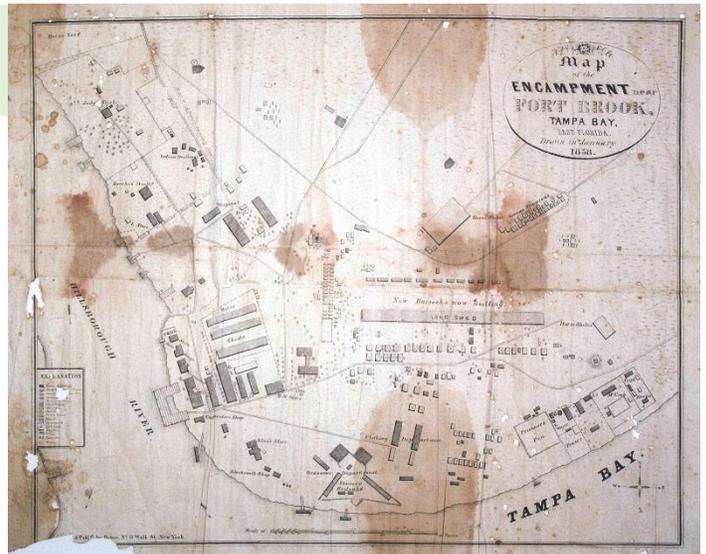
Water Street Tampa Uncovers Graves from 1800s and More of City's Past

BY ANASTASIA DAWSON, CHRISTOPHER
O'DONNELL AND RICHARD DANIELSON

TAMPA — Above ground, developers are breathing new life into the once derelict stretch of downtown waterfront property that will be reborn as the long-awaited Water Street Tampa project. But it's what lies beneath the \$3 billion entertainment district that has captured the attention of archaeologists and city officials — an unknown number of what are believed to be human remains. Strategic Property Partners officials confirmed late Wednesday that a number of graves believed to date back to the 1830s have been discovered in an area north of Channelside Drive. Their presence is not a surprise. Much of the project lies in the area that was once Fort Brooke, a long perished Army post established in 1824 to protect Tampa's early settlers from nearby Seminole tribes. It has yielded glimpses of its past almost every time dirt is disturbed in the area. "From what I've been told, they appear to be very, very old probably dating back to the time when it was Fort Brooke," said Mayor Bob Buckhorn, who was briefed about the findings about two weeks ago. "I was not surprised given the history of that particular site and what took place there hundreds of years ago."



Lithograph showing Fort Brooke circa 1840. Fort Brooke was established to control the local Seminole population, and served as holding area where Seminole people were kept before they were forcibly removed from their lands to Reservation land in Oklahoma.



This map of Fort Brooke from 1838 shows the many structures and features that made up the fort at that time in the area that is now south of Whiting Street.

Strategic Property Partners is the development company launched by Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik and Cascade Investment, the capital fund owned by Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates, to build Water Street Tampa. Company officials said the discovery is not expected to significantly impact construction timelines.

A team of archaeologists are working to ensure all the remains that were found are treated with respect. A historical survey of the site was conducted prior to the start of construction. The team anticipated finding the long-abandoned Estuary Cemetery north of Channelside Drive, according to a statement from the developer. The contents of the graves are believed to have deteriorated due to prior development from the 1960s and 1970s. The company plans to reunite any recovered remains with Tampa's earliest residents buried in local historic cemeteries.

Fort Brooke served as a major outpost on Florida's west coast during all three Seminole Indian Wars and the Civil War. The fort also played a part in the development of the village of Tampa. Its footprint included a southern stretch of the city's downtown lining Garrison Channel, parcels that now hold the Tampa Bay History Center, the Tampa Convention Center and Amalie Arena.

In 1980, archaeologist Ken Hardin uncovered a burial site for soldiers, civilians and American Indians killed during the Second Seminole War, from 1835 to 1842. The remains were unearthed as developers prepared to construct the Fort Brooke

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Mahar Interview Cont.

-ed along the Florida Gulf Coast, specifically the small islands of North Key, Seahorse Key, and Snake Key located off Cedar Key. What I found most intriguing was her method of research, integrating both archaeological and ethnographic approaches. I had the opportunity to sit down with Guinnessa and talk more about her work.

Understanding the Nature Coast's rich archaeological heritage, why did you pick Cedar Key to focus your research?

I used to work for the Museum of Natural History in New York and our field project was on the Atlantic Coast in Georgia. I did my Master thesis there, ran their field projects. I've been a coastal archaeologist for close to a dozen years now. So I got here and started thinking about the "missing millennium," that period between the late archaic and woodland (roughly 3,000 to 4,000 years ago). So we [Mahar and Dr. Ken Sassaman] were thinking if that evidence is anywhere it would be on the Gulf Coast. We're more likely to find it out there because of the gradual slope in coastal water depth. That was my initial focus, but then very quickly it became something else when I took a class in ethno-archaeology. I realized I enjoy talking to people. I can talk to them about sea level change and learn how it has affected their lives. There are a lot of folks out there that have seen entire islands disappear in their lifetime! But even more than that, I was better understanding their connections to traditional methods and lifeways associated with fishing. I think that's been a strong tradition for thousands of years across the planet! So I think research like this is applicable especially with the loss of fishing communities over time, for all kinds of different reasons. So when I first decided to look at fishing on the gulf coast, because we have 5,000 years of people being fisher folk out there, I decided to start working with local community members to see how I could understand fishing in that particular area. So it really started as an ethnographic approach to archaeology. Let me see how people practice fishing and then maybe I can find reconstructions of that in the archaeological record. So if they were using nets or they were using weirs, hook and line, they (current fisherman) understand the fish and how they target different fish species.

Will you please describe what a "fish-weir" is as opposed to cast-nets or other types of net?

A fish weir is a fish trap You can have a "tidal weir" where at high tide the fish can swim over the barrier, but at low tide they are trapped behind this barrier and confined in a place. So what you have done is lured the



Setting up a fish weir near Cedar Key.

fish into a trap and then you can harvest them more easily. Mostly you can trap demersal or bottom dwelling fish that aren't used to swimming up into the water column, fish like flounder, sheepshead, or other small demersal fishes with a tidal weir. Then there's another kind of weir called a "long-shore weir" that's constructed by having a leader or a fence that comes out perpendicular from the shoreline. That leader goes into deeper water and at the end of it there's a heart-shaped pod, where again the fish will swim down the leader and into the trap. For this kind of weir, it's dependent on fish behavior. Schooling fish will swim into the trap and just perpetually swim around in circles. They won't know that the entrance is also the exit. Then at low tide you can go and harvest them. We know through ethnohistorical accounts that there is documentation by Spanish explorers of evidence of fish weirs being constructed out of limestone cobbles. In south Florida there's word that the Calusa made them out of heaps and piles of oyster shells. So essentially the fish come to you, it's a more passive fishing method.

Do you think the "fisher folk" you've worked with on Cedar Key had an understanding of the archaeology of the area?

The people that I work with out in Cedar Key, it took them a little while to believe I was an archaeologist because I would just be asking questions all the time about what they do fishing. They were wondering what that had to do with anything. But I think now they get it. They seem to have a sense or a pride or connection with Native Americans that live there before them because they have such a love for that place. Especially when they start thinking that these weren't just Native Americans wondering around in the woods, we're talking about fisher people!

Mark Your Calendar – CGCAS Fieldtrip to Historic Spanish Point this February!



TOP: View of the water and historic boats. CENTER: Pioneer Cemetery and reconstructed chapel. BOTTOM: Window Into the Mound gives visitors an inside view of a real midden.

With an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida prehistory, Historic Spanish Point is referred to as one of the largest intact actively preserved archaeological sites of the prehistoric period on the Gulf Coast of Florida. The museum's "A Window to the Past" exhibition is the only place in the country where visitors go inside a prehistoric shell midden and are surrounded on three sides by evidence of the past. The rich heritage of human habitation at Historic Spanish Point entered a new phase in 1867 when John Greene Webb and his family from Utica, New York, established a homestead on the shores of Little Sarasota Bay. To experience the 140 year old pioneer heritage preserved and interpreted at Historic Spanish Point, visitors may tour the carefully maintained 1901 Guptill House, the reconstructed Mary's Chapel, and a reconstruction of the Webb Citrus Packing House.

CGCAS is planning a fieldtrip to visit Historic Spanish Point in Osprey this coming February, we hope you can join us! We will get a guided tram tour of the various archaeological sites within the park, then go out to lunch at a nearby waterfront restaurant. See below for more details or email Linda at lindaallred18@gmail.com to RSVP, spaces on the tram are limited.

WHEN: Saturday, February 9th, 2019
WHERE: Historic Spanish Point, 337 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey, FL

ADMISSION: Adults: \$15 per person, Seniors (65+): \$12 per person
Active Duty Military and Veterans with a CAC Card or VA card: \$12

UPCOMING EVENTS!



Scuba Diving History in Florida

Wednesday, December 12th
from 3-4pm

Florida Maritime Museum,
4415 119th Street West,
Cortez, FL



Winter Solstice Celebration: SE Native American Festival

December 15-16th, 2018

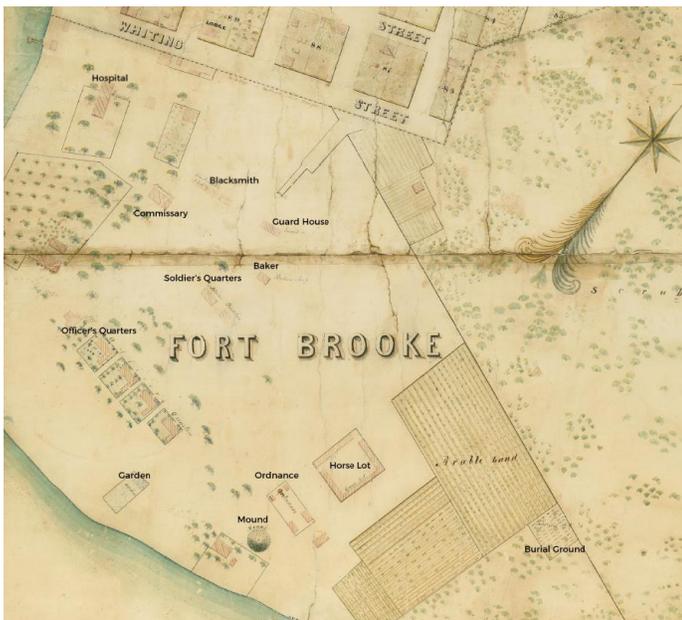
Mission San Luis
2100 West Tennessee St,
Tallahassee, FL
www.missionsanluis.org

Fort Brooke Cemetery Cont.

CONTINUED FROM PG. 3

Parking Garage on the site, and once they were properly removed the garage was erected on top of the former graves. Seven years later, Hardin got another call from developers working at a site just three blocks away. Construction workers unearthed brittle, brown bones buried about three feet beneath the foundation of Tampa's downtown convention center. Hardin speculated those bones could be about 1,000 years old and belong to as many as 12 different American Indians from an indigenous tribe predating any known living relatives. Remains were also unearthed during construction of Amalie Arena in 1994. An unmarked grave was discovered just outside the 20,000-seat arena's footprint in a stretch of land that archaeologists say once held Fort Brooke's officer quarters, as well as an adjacent prisoners' pen. Unlike those discovered down the street, these remains were likely buried in the 1820s. Water from Tampa Bay seeped into the small grave, helping to preserve a simple wooden coffin and its contents — a small scrap of leather and the corpse of a young man believed to be in his early 20s.

Tampa Bay History Center curator Rodney Kite-Powell said the findings sound similar to those discovered under the parking garage in 1980. The downtown area has been home to people for thousands of years. "It's really interesting to hear this," he said. "There is a potential for archeological discovery anywhere in downtown." Article at this link: <https://bit.ly/2rfUJbM>



Map of Fort Brooke from 1853

Mac Perry Public Archaeology Student Paper Competition

In honor of the memory of longtime Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) member Mac Perry's dedication to bringing archaeological knowledge to the public, CGCAS is starting a student paper competition. Just as Mac did with his book *Indian Mounds You Can Visit*, CGCAS hopes to promote the dissemination of archaeological research and findings to the general public in an engaging manner through this student paper competition.

The goal of this competition is to encourage students of archaeology, whether at the **undergraduate** or **graduate** level, to present their research in a way that is interesting and accessible to the general public. Students should try to present their archaeological research in a way that is inspiring, accessible, and interesting, without sacrificing the scholarly content or findings of their work. Papers will be judged on how well they represent this goal. Papers should be 8-10 pages and should be submitted along with a PowerPoint presentation (other presentation formats such as Prezi are also acceptable) to go along with the paper.

The selected student will receive \$200 and will be expected to present their work at the March meeting and lecture series of the Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (Thursday March 21, 2019) at the Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center in St Petersburg. The winner must present their paper to the general membership in order to receive their prize. **Paper title, abstract, and contact information for the student (including name, email, university enrolled in, and level of education) should be submitted to Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu before January 23rd, 2019.** For more information please contact Becky O'Sullivan at rosulliv@usf.edu.

Who can submit a paper? Undergraduate or Graduate level students in Anthropology, Archaeology, History, or related fields. Papers related to research in Florida or the Southeast are preferred. You can even submit a paper you prepared for something else, or plan to present at an upcoming conference!

Deadline to Submit Paper and Powerpoint: February 13th, 2019

Check out our New Website!



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Welcome to Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS), the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society.

When you are cruising around on the web be sure to check out our website – it is getting an update! We hope to make our website even more useful to our members with a better layout, more tabs and features, and content. Is there something you would like to see on our website? Let us know and we can work with our web designer to make it happen. Email Kassie Kemp at kkemp@usf.edu with your thoughts.

Go to www.cgcas.org to see what has changed!



PARDON OUR SHAKER BOX DUST: WE ARE EXCAVATING A NEW WEBSITE. STAY TUNED FOR THE RESULTS . . .

CGCAS was organized in 1977. We are a State-chartered non-profit organization and have dozens of members from all walks of life. We are dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great



The Society

The Central Gulf Coast Archaeological Society (CGCAS) is an association of amateur and professional archaeologists and concerned citizens dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Florida's great cultural heritage. CGCAS is a chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society (FAS) and is a state chartered non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with a sincere interest in the cultural past of Florida and who is dedicated to the understanding and preservation of that heritage. Amateurs, professionals and concerned citizens are welcomed as members. Membership is yearly and all dues are payable in January. Contact Kassie Kemp at kkemp@mail.usf.edu for more information.

Dues

Individual	\$25.00
Student	\$12.00
Family	\$30.00

Contact Us

You can find us online at the links below:

Website:

<https://www.cgcas.org/>

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CGCASflorida/

Central Gulf Coast
Archaeological Society

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