

THE FLORIDA ANTHROPOLOGIST

VOLUME 77, NUMBER 4, DECEMBER 2024



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Right: Illustration by G. Luer of the Devlin Vulture Sherd, Manatee County, 1979. Photo: Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, ML51275501 by Paul Tavares, 2017, from the Macaulay Library, Cornell Lab (<https://macaulaylibrary.org/asset/51275501>).

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Left: Drawing of Fewkes Vulture Sherds, Pinellas County, 1924. Photo: Turkey Vulture, by Charles J. Sharp, sharpphotography.co.uk, CC BY-SA 4.0, (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=129777403>).

THE LOST POPLAR SPRINGS MOUND AND VILLAGE SITE AND THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY

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Introduction

This is the story of a significant Woodland mound and village site in northwest Florida that was looted long ago and is now gone, but its information can be reconstructed thanks to the benefits of site file data and local knowledge shared at public archaeology outreach programs. The site has a long and complicated history of investigation but epitomizes the need to work with avocationalists and artifact collectors of all kinds whenever possible. It also contributes to a better understanding of what Early and Middle Woodland mean in northwest Florida and adjacent areas, not only in terms of ceramics or terminology, but also as related to mound ceremonialism and everyday life during this time between about A.D. 300 and 700 in the South.

The Poplar Springs Mound and Village site, 8JA138, was never recorded by Clarence B. Moore (1902, 1903, 1907, 1918), who documented most of the known Woodland mounds in the region during his multiple investigations on the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee waterway system (Figures 1 and 2). It was only found later in the 20th century. Located about 24 km (15 mi) south of the Alabama line, 5.5 km (3.4 mi) east of the town of Marianna, and 700 m (2300 ft) south of Merritt's Mill Creek, the mound was at a place now within Indian Springs Golf and Country Club (Figures 3 and 4). It was about 20 km (12.4 mi) west of the lower Chattahoochee River, but Merritt's Mill Creek (now dammed and called Merritt's Mill Pond) drains into the Chipola River, which is the largest tributary of the Apalachicola. A couple kilometers upstream from the site, Merritt's Mill Creek issues from the famous huge Jackson Blue Springs, a first-magnitude spring (discharging an average of 100 ft³/second) with several smaller ones and underwater caves, surrounded by many prehistoric archaeological sites.

Local collectors discovered the Poplar Springs Mound in the mid-20th century (or earlier). It was recorded by professional archaeologists in the 1960s and 1970s, bulldozed away for construction, then still intermittently studied more by University of South Florida (USF) archaeology teams over the years, especially for an M.A. thesis in the early 2000s (Frashuer 2006). Another M.A. thesis (Lockman 2019) included the site in discussing all the known Woodland mounds in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley region. The twining together of threads of the site's history recounted here developed out of work on an unrelated project. But it all contributes to the widening understanding of Early and Middle Woodland that is emerging in this research region. The Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee region holds together both archaeologically and ecologically; beyond the boundaries shown in Figure 2, both environments and prehistoric material culture differ significantly (White 2024a).

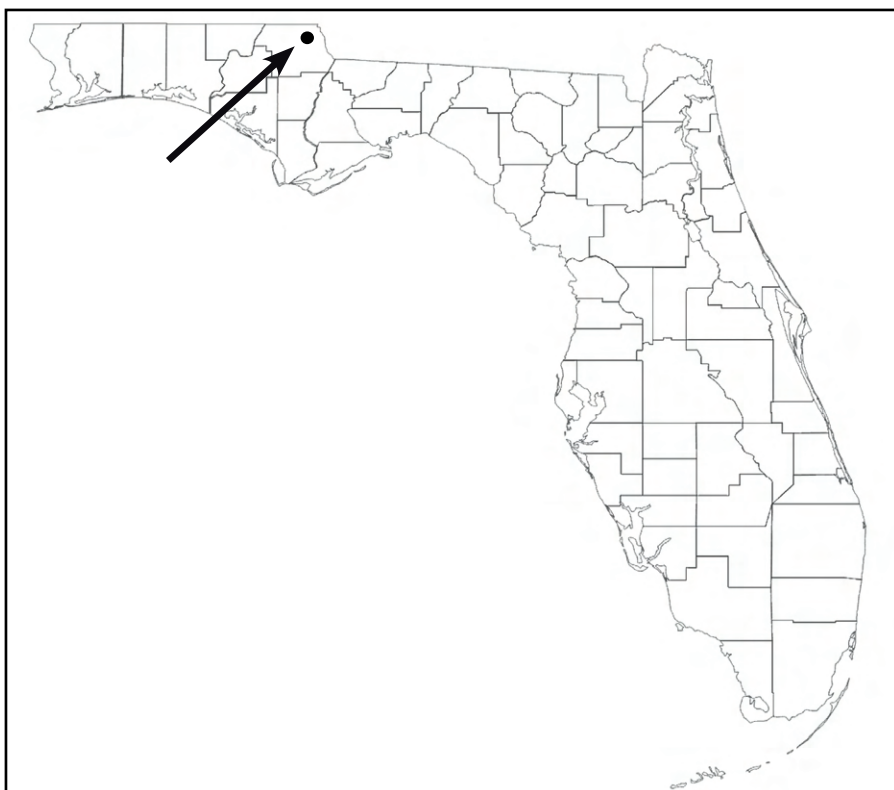


Figure 1. Location of Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site (dot) in Jackson County, Northwest Florida.

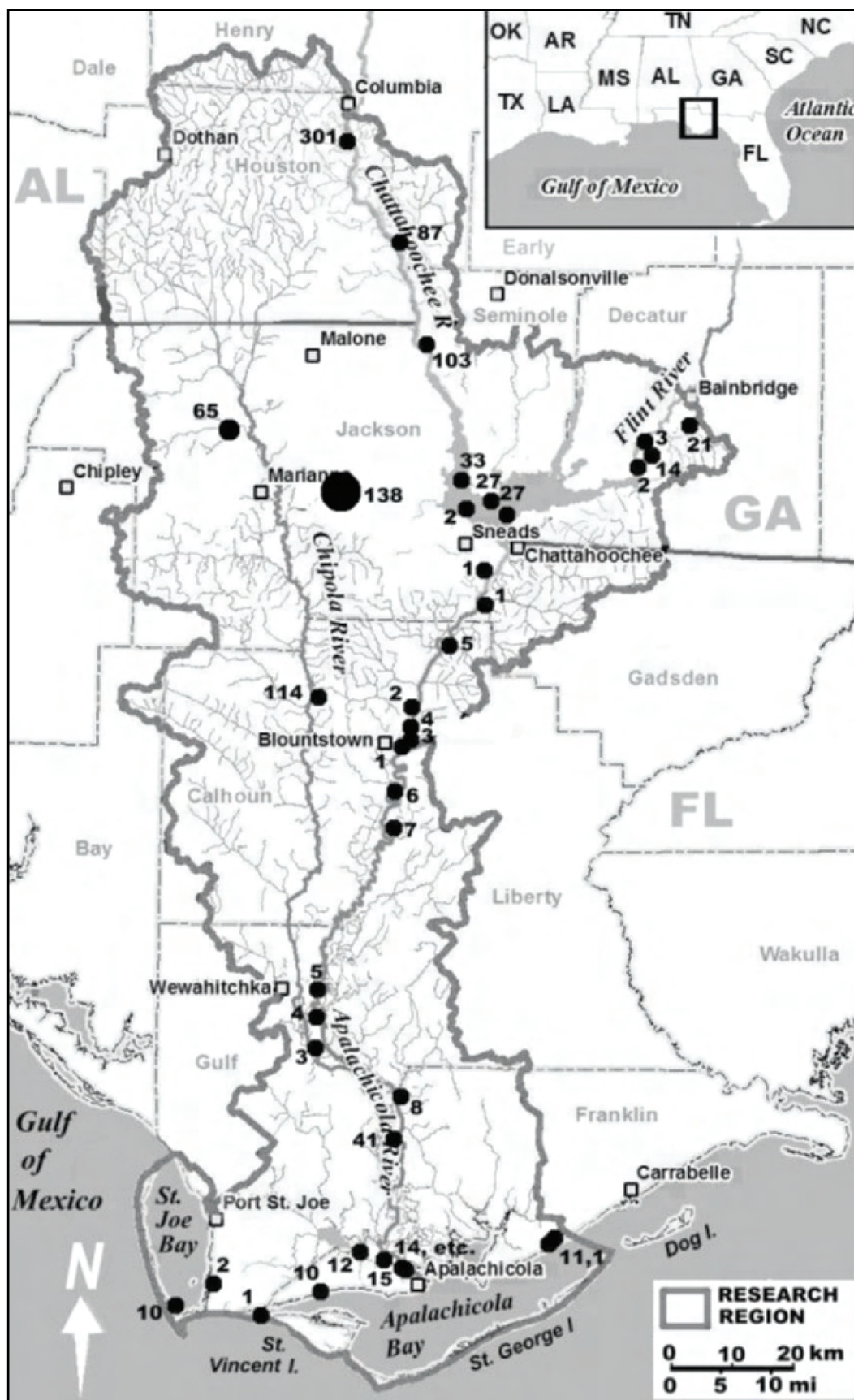


Figure 2. Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee Research Region (gray outline). Small numbered dots mark locations of Woodland mounds. Large dot shows location of Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site, 8JA138 (site number, county, and state prefixes can be inferred from the map).

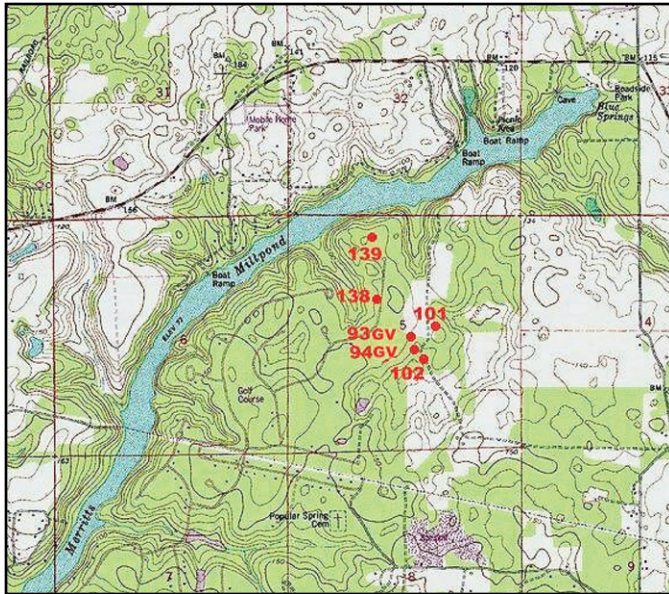


Figure 3. Portion of USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map *Marianna, Fla*, 2016. Map shows where the Florida Master Site File plotted the six sites included in the Poplar Springs Mound and Village site, including two with uncertain locations (“GV” for general vicinity).

Site History

William Gardner (1935-2002) grew up in the Florida panhandle. From scant records I could locate, it seems he was from the town of Marianna. He had a serious interest in archaeology that led him to become a professional. Collecting from this mound area in 1960 and 1961 when he was a student, he recorded it as the Watson’s Field site, 8JA93, owned by Harwell Watson. I have been unable to locate this landowner or any descendants.

Gardner knew that the site included a mound that already had been heavily looted and plowed down, and he also recorded other areas he called separate sites around it. His original site form says “Ground water comes out of the side of the gully in several places,” indicating the favorable location of the site between small springs and streams in gullies flowing into Merritt’s Mill Creek (Figures 3 and 4). The Florida Master Site File (FMSF) gave Gardner’s sites different numbers with the additional notation of “GV” (meaning “general vicinity,” a designation dreaded by archaeologists today!) on the *Marianna, Fla*, USGS quadrangle map. In other words, they were not sure exactly where these sites were.

After studying at the University of Florida (UF) and researching other northwest Florida sites (White 2024a, b), Gardner left Florida to pursue a Ph.D. degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana, in 1967. He later became a professor in the Anthropology Department at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., serving as

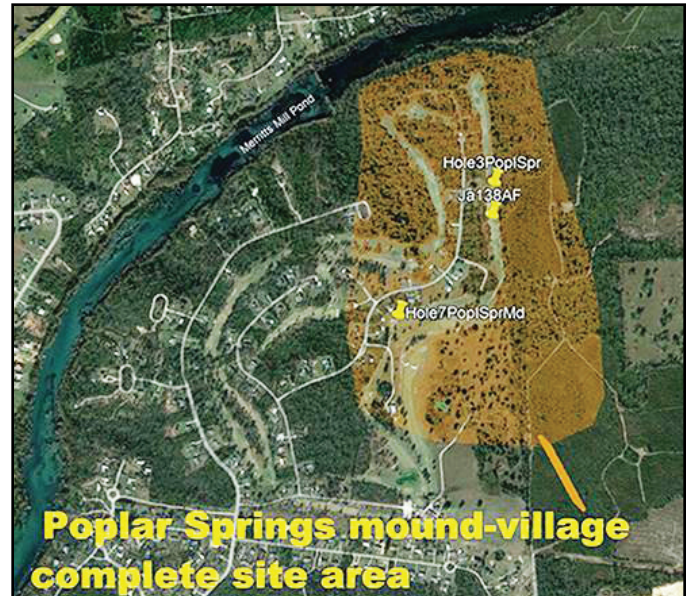


Figure 4. Site Area (lighter shading) on 2022 Google-Earth Image. Pin symbols mark the golf course Holes 7 and 3 and Frashuer’s (2006) location (AF = Anya Frashuer) for the mound.

department chair for many years, retiring in 2000. He was known for work in Virginia, especially at the famous Paleoindian Thunderbird site. He died in 2002.

In the 1970s, Gardner heard that archaeologist David Brose at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CMNH) and Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), and his students (I was one), had begun research in northwest Florida. Since Gardner was no longer involved in that region, he sent a box containing his artifacts in their original paper bags from several Jackson County sites to Brose, in case they could be helpful. He also sent a photocopy of a county map with some marks for sites and some accompanying notation. The small scale and low resolution of this map probably accounts for the “GV” locations, later translated as well as possible to the USGS quadrangle map. The original of Gardner’s county map (perhaps with some different colors to make it more understandable?) is in the UF Anthropology Lab, labeled “Field Copy,” according to the notation on the photocopy.

Meanwhile, Scott Nidy, an archaeologist with the Florida Division of Archives, History, and Records Management (today the Division of Historical Resources [DHR], Bureau of Archaeological Research [BAR]), visited the Poplar Springs site in February 1973 and reported its location. He labeled the mound as 8JA138, saying that it was totally demolished and that there were bone fragments in pothunters’ backdirt. He said that he heard that collectors had dug up as many as 14 whole pots. According to his site form, he picked up plain,

check-stamped, and Swift Creek Complicated Stamped ceramics, chert flakes, and unidentified calcined bone fragments, either human or animal, today in the BAR collections in Tallahassee.

In March 1973, Nidy also recorded the associated village as 8JA139, just north of 8JA138, though how he determined the boundaries is unclear since, if the mound was plowed down and scattered, it would be difficult to delimit. Why the different site numbers were issued for the same place is unknown, but they may relate to that old “GV” characterization. Nidy did say on his site forms that these could be the same as Gardner’s sites. He also noted that he recorded the large site 8JA139 with Jones (presumably B. Calvin Jones, longtime DHR archaeologist) and Potts, and that they obtained a lot of pottery, several points, cores, and debitage. Table 1 lists all these sites based on the descriptions by Gardner and Nidy, and Figure 3 shows their locations as accurately as possible.

As a student in the 1970s, I became involved in research on the archaeology of northwest Florida, southwest Georgia, and southeast Alabama, especially in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee River valley. Later, working at USF, I took my own students on archaeological expeditions for survey and test excavation. We developed networks of ethical collectors and local knowledgeable helpers as I held public archaeology education programs, usually every year, in different counties of the region.

In June 1986, as part of a big survey project along the Chipola River valley, my crew and I visited the “Indian Springs” development that was covered in planted pine but beginning to be built. A local resident had obtained many artifacts there, saying they came from a mound. We talked with a sales agent, who was apparently tasked with marketing homes to be built there, and obtained permission to be on the property, going on what we called (in the field notes) a “wild mound chase” (no mound was evident!). But we did pick up some Early/Middle Woodland pottery, lithic debitage, and historic ceramics. The sherds were small, indicating great disturbance, and the chert flakes were relatively numerous, probably because collectors do not pick them up, preferring finished stone tools.

Much later, I learned that an anonymous caller had contacted DHR in July 1991 to report that a burial mound was being destroyed in the construction of a golf club at Indian Springs. State archaeologist Louis Tesar responded by visiting the area in the company of the landowner/developer and the development overseer, inspecting a large area but finding no evidence of a burial mound, only Archaic and Middle Woodland artifacts. Tesar noted that the land owner had been sensitive to environmental concerns and sought to preserve large trees on the development, as well as a mound-like feature in a wooded area that did not appear to be a real burial mound. The landowner was very cooperative and showed his collection from the area of many artifacts indicating perhaps a village, including an Archaic and a Middle

Table 1. Sites Included in Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site, 8JA138.

Site #	Name, First Recorder	Location	Date Recorded	Diagnostic Materials	Interpretation, Comments
8JA93	Watson’s Field, Gardner	just south of or all around mound	December 1960	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, Carrabelle Punctated, Tucker Ridge Pinched, net-marked, cord-marked, red-painted, check-stamped; biface fragments, greenstone celt fragment	Early and Middle Woodland mound and village, looted
8JA94	WSW Watson’s Field, Gardner	“100 yds [WSW?] from mound”	May 1961	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, Keith Incised, red-painted, Weeden Island Incised, historic sherds	part of destroyed mound or village
8JA101	ENE Watson’s Field, Gardner	“500 yds ESE of mound”	May 1961	check-stamped (NO MATERIALS FROM GARDNER)	village east of mound
8JA102	no name, Gardner; given name Poplar Springs S. Village	village SSE of mound	May 1961	Deptford Linear Check Stamped, Deptford Simple Stamped, Swift Creek Complicated Stamped; stemmed point	earliest Early Woodland occupation
8JA138	Poplar Springs Mound, Nidy	maybe 700 m SSE from Merritt’s Mill Creek	February 1973	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, check-stamped; bone fragments? (in BAR collections)	Woodland mound
8JA139	Poplar Springs Village, Nidy	plowed field “adjacent to mound” on north side	March 1973	sherds, points, cores (in BAR collections)	village area north of mound



Figure 5. Swift Creek Complicated Stamped Pottery. Shown here is material donated in 2000 to USF from private (SE) collection.

Woodland occupation. Tesar stated that the landowner had met with DHR archaeologist B. Calvin Jones, who visited the site in the 1970s but apparently left no report. The result of Tesar's (1991) investigation was that no burial mound was identified, but a large prehistoric village was recognized.

In June 2000, I met with collectors in Jackson County to share information, as part of my regular USF fieldwork and public outreach in northwest Florida. These serious avocationals had organized the Chipola Archaeology Society to document finds properly and to record them with the FMSF during Florida's Isolated Finds Program (now discontinued). A man (initials: SE), who was four years old when his grandfather and father dug in Poplar Springs Mound, visited our field camp and invited us to see artifacts he inherited from his family (Figures 5 and 6). They had called it the "Turkey Pen Mound" since a turkey pen sat on top of or near it.

The man, SE, and his brother had split the inherited collection. SE wanted to donate most of his share to the USF Archaeology Lab to be curated professionally and studied. The collection included Swift Creek and early Weeden Island series ceramics. Some appeared to be whole vessels now in pieces, and many sherds had traces of glue. He tried to show us the mound's location, which he thought was somewhere near or under the powerline (going there required driving under the powerline). He said he had no human remains from it, nor knew of any, though his grandfather said he found human bones bound to a burned log (Frashuer 2006:14). We did not establish the mound location at that time.

We met SE again in 2003 for several reasons. His brother (initials: RE) had loaned us his pots to photograph. They were 13 mostly whole vessels: Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (Early and Late varieties), Keith Incised, and plain (Figures 7 and 8). We interviewed the brother, RE, who was living in Tallahassee. He was about 10 to 12 years old when his grandfather brought home many pots with dirt still in them from Poplar Springs Mound. The grandfather had raked leaves from the top of the mound and saw the rims of pots sticking out, but probably had broken many "wheelbarrow loads" of pottery in the process.

The artifacts that the grandfather and father did recover were many, but apparently at least some of them were later stolen and others probably sold to a private collector. One ceramic vessel was a composite of three round bowls, attached in a row, smaller to larger, and was the most ornate pot of the collection. The brother, RE, said the mound had been about 8 ft (2.4 m) high and maybe 60 to 80 ft (18 to 24 m) in diameter, with huge trees on top, including an oak about 2.5 ft (76 cm) in diameter.¹

SE then donated more from his own collection to the USF Archaeology Lab. We also tried to locate the site more precisely. By this time, the area had been drastically remodeled as a golf course. Our reconnaissance showed no signs of a mound or bones. Various local residents told us the mound once had been near Hole 3 at the golf course, or Hole 7 (see Figure 4). Around those places, we found scattered surface ceramics, two projectile points,



Figure 6. Small Swift Creek Complicated Stamped Jar. Side and bottom views show how it was glued and how basal perforation might have been started but perhaps not completed. This jar was in the collection donated in 2000 (same as pot in upper left of Figure 5; cat# 8Ja138-00-4.1).



Figure 7. Pots in Collection of SE's Brother. These were seen in 2003 (3 or 4 pots with flat bottoms, all with kill holes; two in center are red-painted).



Figure 8. Two Swift Creek Complicated Stamped Jars. These were in the collection of SE's brother (they are shown in center right and center left in Figure 7).

and lithic debitage of different multicolored raw material, typical of Middle Woodland in this region.

In addition, avocational archaeologist Jeff Whitfield reported a chert scraper and a Tallahassee-type projectile point (serrated, notched, ground concave base; either Woodland or Paleo-Indian) that an unidentified woman had picked up from Indian Springs Estates. USF graduate student Anya Frashuer (2006) based her M.A. research on the work at this site, comparing it to other mounds in the valley. The paucity of materials and small size of the sherds we found, while actually surveying there, suggested heavy disturbance of the entire site from looting and from construction and maintenance of the golf course.

Meanwhile, CMNH wished to deaccession its Florida collections and asked BAR to take them. I agreed to drive to Ohio with some students to get them in 2005 (with BAR providing a little gas money) if I could first use them for further research before delivering them to BAR. Of course (as often happens), this research took a long, long time! I did not even realize, until later, that some of Gardner's bags of materials were from Poplar Spring Mound and the village around it. His paper bags had minimal information, no dates or site numbers.

On some bags, he wrote "Ja__", and I later obtained numbers from the site file forms he (or someone) filed. Some artifacts in the bags were numbered with CMNH accession numbers, which now are obsolete.

The trigger for this article was the SnowVision/World Engraved project. It was initiated by archaeologist Karen Smith of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (2022) and her assistant, archaeologist Sam McDorman, and supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and other agencies. This research includes three-dimensional (3-D) scanning of Swift Creek Complicated Stamped ceramics and putting resulting patterns into a machine learning system that can link similar designs across the South, to see potential social and other connections. USF students and I were honored to be chosen to participate in this research from 2020 through 2023 and to scan our complicated-stamped sherds, contributing to the huge database.

I had accomplished some 170 river/navigation miles of survey in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee valley region, and had sherds from some 40 sites. From Poplar Springs, 12 sherds were 3-D-scanned for the SnowVision project (as indicated in Appendices 1 and 2).

Smith also requested a site report for each site from which we chose potsherds to scan. At the same time, I realized that we needed to go through Gardner's bags of materials from Jackson County, not only to see if there were any complicated-stamped sherds, but also to have them properly inventoried (at last) so they could be taken to BAR. This is when I opened the FMSF data and saw that there were several already-numbered sites associated with the Poplar Springs Mound. So, I had to "dig in" and figure it all out; hence, this article.

As soon as I inspected all the materials and information, I saw that, first, Frashuer's location of the mound in her M.A. thesis, was not correct. With SE's help, but realizing he was just a small child when his family made this collection, Frashuer had placed it on the existing golf course at Hole 3. Not only did this location not jive with Gardner's and Nidy's map data, but also another local collector later told me that the original location was closer to Hole 7 (and also the golf course has renumbered its holes, according to local resident Dale Cox). On a map of the golf course's layout, I saw that Hole 7 agreed more with the original mound location from Nidy's description (see Figures 3, 4). Nidy's site form for 8JA138 estimated that the mound had been 30 ft (less than 10 m) in diameter and 5 ft (less than 2 m) high, considerably reduced from the estimate noted above.

Also, the four sites recorded by Gardner and the two recorded by Nidy are clearly all part of the same mound-village complex. Furthermore, given all the disturbance

from plowing to bulldozing to landscaping to golfing, distinguishing mound from village has not been possible for a long time. The site is now estimated to have extended some 1400 m (4600 ft) north-south and 900 m (2950 ft) east-west. It was a big Early-Middle Woodland center, spread out by later massive land alteration. I am recommending to the FMSF that it should include all six of the numbered sites as part of the Poplar Springs Mound and Village area, 8JA138 (Table 1).

Finally, during 2023 fieldwork, students and I obtained permission at the golf course to walk around and see what remained. It was a record-hot summer and we learned more about golf than we ever wanted, including that a golf course is enormous. Yes, we saw very tiny potsherds on the open ground under some trees near Hole 7 and elsewhere, suggesting that this was a huge occupation area as well as a once-significant mound, now thoroughly pulverized and devastated. Nothing resembling the elevation of an actual mound is left (Figure 9).

It was easy for us to see gullies from which natural springs flowed (Figure 10), attracting people to this location. Those doing the excavation, ground-leveling, and golf course landscaping also collected prehistoric materials (Tesar 1991), as likely did many other local people. In addition to our recent fieldwork, a variety of maps and imagery that we consulted, including LiDAR (aerial laser scans showing ground elevations), show that the site is essentially gone.



Figure 9. Location Where Poplar Springs Mound Probably Once Existed. The spot (center left of photo) is now mostly leveled on the golf course. Fieldworkers are Hui Xiao (pointing to possible mound remnant) and Victoria Freitas, August 2023.



Figure 10. Gully Southwest of Probable Mound Area. Photo shows heavy vegetation in the spring-fed gully containing a stream, August 2023.

Materials Recovered

Before discussing the archaeological assemblage from the Poplar Springs Mound and Village site, it is important to give the full inventory. Table 2 and Appendices 1 through 7 list all the known materials from the site except what is in the BAR collection from Nidy's work (all ceramics listed are body sherds unless otherwise indicated). I present these data in chronological order based on when the collections were probably recovered from the site, not necessarily when they arrived at the USF lab for study nor in order by originally assigned site number.

Table 2 lists what we saw of SE's brother's 13 pots in 2003. These artifacts are probably still in private hands. They could be studied for only a few hours when we photographed them. Since these were the most intact objects pulled from the mound by early family members, they might have been some of the first taken from the site. They were probably the ones reported by Nidy when he said in 1973 that a local person had obtained 14 whole pots. The timeline is a bit uncertain. Gardner dated his site forms 1960 and 1961, and SE said he was 4 years old when his father and grandfather dug in the mound, which would have made it also around 1960 to 1961. Probably hearing about the looting is what brought Gardner, a local resident, to the site in the first place. It is unknown if Gardner and Nidy knew (or knew of) each other or compared data on the site.

Appendix 1 lists the artifacts donated to USF by SE in 2000, which are probably also some of the first to have been dug up. Their catalog numbers reflect proveniences consisting of the collector's box number and the USF bag (lot) number. Significance of the different boxes is unknown but may relate to different now-broken individual vessels. Many of the plain sherds are broken on the coil marks, which may be a Deptford/Early Woodland characteristic in this region (White 2024a:207). Appendix 2 lists the materials that SE donated in 2003, presumably from the same collection made during initial digging into the mound, possibly as mentioned by Nidy. Many of these sherds appear to be from the same vessels, perhaps broken over decades of storage.

Appendices 3, 4, and 5 list materials in bags donated by Gardner to the CMNH and later tabulated at USF using the site numbers assigned to his site names (as well as materials in several other bags with unknown meaning). Based on Gardner's descriptions, I have labeled his Watson Field site, 8JA93, as the mound area, and the other numbered sites as the mound and village area. Written on these artifacts are the CMNH catalog numbers, as indicated (which are now extraneous). Appendices 6 and 7 list the artifacts surface-collected by USF's brief expeditions. As noted, materials recovered by Nidy in 1973 are stored at BAR and were not studied for this analysis.

From the available materials, it is possible to characterize some aspects of the site. Tabulating type percentages by weight or number of sherds is common in typical site descriptions. It is often not a rigorous scientific method of analysis, but it is frequently all we have. The numbers of sherds and relative frequencies of various ceramic types are not necessarily true quantitative indicators of assemblage composition since they depend on the vagaries of chance, what was available and seen at times of collection, what was most trod upon and broken, what was shared by collectors and not hidden or lost. Proveniences for all the materials listed in these tables can only be general surface, except those excavated by looters, which may or may not have been burial offerings. For all these objects, it is impossible to tell mound assemblages apart from village materials, or specifically where artifacts came from or what they were associated

Table 2. Poplar Springs Mound Ceramic Vessels (n=13) in a Private Collection (SE's brother's collection, current location unknown; dug up in 1960?). Most are pictured in Figures 7 and 8).

Recorded as from 8JA138, Poplar Springs Mound (Frashuer 2006)
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped bowl, square flat bottom, oval kill hole
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped jar, flat base
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (teardrop pattern) jar, pointed bottom, kill hole
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped jar, pointed bottom, notched rim
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped (diamond-pattern) jar, pointed base
Keith Incised jar with folded rim
Swift Creek Complicated Stamped small bowl (nested circle-pattern), broken, kill hole
plain bowl with constricted neck, flat bottom, irregular kill hole
plain open bowl with small kill hole
plain open bowl with folded rim
plain open bowl with red-painted interior
plain burnished simple bowl
plain bowl with incision below rim, kill hole

with, given the conditions of collection (after the site was so spread around by unauthorized digging, plowing, dirt road building, and later golf course construction).

Nonetheless, as with most archaeological collections, summarizing artifact types and relative abundances is important and does tell something about the site. The following discussion uses type definitions by Willey (1949) and lately refined to permit sorting in the lab (dates and raw data for Woodland sites in the region and an artifact sorting guide are available online through the USF library digital commons, *Apalachicola Valley Archaeology Supporting Data*; White 2023).

Ceramics

Of the 1447 prehistoric ceramic sherds listed here and available for study, weighing over 25 kg (55 lbs), about 12% (calculated both by sherd number and by weight) are Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, as are 6 of the 13 whole pots in the private collection unavailable for further study (and there is at least one St. Andrews Complicated Stamped, with parallel lines at usually right angles). Complicated stamping first appears in the region during the late part of the Early Woodland period (ca. A.D. 200

to 300) and continues for several centuries through the earliest part of the Late Woodland (ca. A.D. 700 to 800). Where the stamping pattern relative to the whole vessel is discernible, it is clear that most of the pots from Poplar Springs are of the Late Variety (Willey 1949), with the design not stamped on the whole vessel but in a band around the neck. However, on some pots, the stamping continues quite far below the neck (see Figures 5 through 8), so calling it a “band” may be a relative attribute.

A total of 204 sherds (over 5 kg), constituting 14% of the assemblage by number and 20% by weight, are generic check-stamped (Figure 11). This means they could date to any time from the earliest Early Woodland through early protohistoric (a time span of some 2000 years). Lip and neck forms are highly variable, with large and small folds or no fold, and check sizes also vary widely.

Other types represented by only a few examples are still significant. Unmistakable Early Woodland types (Figure 12) are Deptford Linear Check Stamped (on which lands or protruding lines of one direction are more prominent than those oriented in the right-angle direction) and Deptford Simple Stamped (with dowel-impressed straight lines, sometimes crossing). These two types appear a few centuries before the Early Woodland complicated-stamped pottery. The recovery of a tiny handful of these from what Gardner called 8JA102 (the road surface about 700 m south-southeast of the mound) led him to consider this area to be a separate, earlier site. However, this area also produced so much potentially later material, and also was so close to all the other site areas, that it can only be suggested as the initial or earliest settlement area before the site expanded and the mound began to be constructed.

Poplar Springs ceramics restricted to Middle Woodland *only* (ca. A.D. 350 to 700) are the Weeden Island Incised sherd (Figure 13a, easily recognized by incisions terminated by decisive punctations) and the plain vessels with red-painted surfaces (Figure 7, center). The types Carrabelle Punctated (Figure 14) and Carrabelle Incised, Keith Incised, Tucker Ridge Pinched, and generic cord-marked (Figure 13b) and net-marked pottery were first described by Willey (1949) as part of the general Middle to Late Woodland sequence (his “Weeden Island I” through “Weeden Island II”). They are less diagnostic in establishing a specific time period.

Significantly, the largest portion of the ceramics, by both number and weight, including nearly half of the collector's whole vessels, are plain (Figures 7 and 15), though many plain sherds could be from the bottom portions of decorated pots. Plain rims also show great variability (rounded, folded, simple, etc.). Plain whole



Figure 11. Poplar Springs Site Check-Stamped Rim Sherds. These show varieties of lip and neck treatment (all cat# 8Ja138-03-01.9).

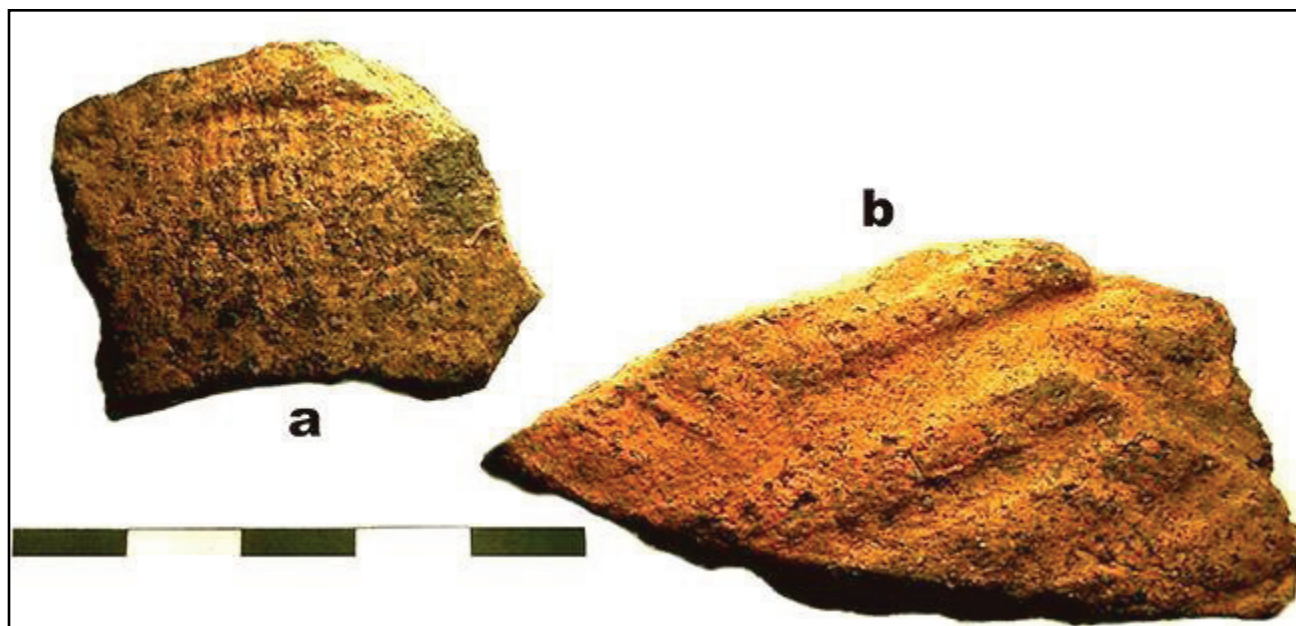


Figure 12. Poplar Springs Mound and Village Early Woodland Sherds. a: Deptford Linear Check Stamped (cat# 8Ja93-3.4); b: Deptford Simple Stamped (cat# 8Ja102-1.2).



Figure 13. Pottery from Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site. a: Weedon Island Incised (cat# 8Ja138-00-5.3); b: cord-marked (cat# 8Ja138-00-5.4) with impressions of rows of twisted cords.



Figure 14. Carrabelle Punctated Rim Sherds (cat# 8Ja138-00-5.1) from Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site.



Figure 15. Plain Ceramics from Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site. These vessel portions (cat# 8Ja138-00-7.6) show rim treatments and one flat/square-bottom (lower left).

pots might have been interred with burials. Though not fancy, their importance might have been from association with the deceased or with other ceremonial functions.

Several vessels were made with flattened bases (Figures 7 and 15), rather unusual in prehistoric ceramic morphology in the region, and occurring as far as I have seen only in late Early Woodland and Middle Woodland times. Tempers of all the ceramics are predominately sand and/or grit and, less often, grog, with a single limestone-tempered plain sherd of unknown significance (limestone is plentiful in the area). Natural glittery mica flecks in the clays, distinctive to this region, characterize most of the ceramics.

It is interesting that a single sherd in the 2003 donated collection is of the type Cool Branch Incised. This type is clearly Fort Walton in cultural association, many centuries to a half-millennium younger than the rest of the whole assemblage. A random sherd like this is not surprising as people moved around the landscape during all time periods, and during later Fort Walton times population densities were possibly greater than ever before in the region. Later peoples probably recognized the ritual or monumental significance of this mound site, which could have been attributed to revered ancestors.

Lithic Materials

Chipped-stone artifacts available for study are surprisingly few but include three points, some bifacial and unifacial tool fragments, and some lithic debitage. Collectors usually pick up points and tools but not often chert flakes. Thus it is surprising that there was not more debitage for professionals to pick up (perhaps stone tools were only maintained but not manufactured here).

The three known points (Figure 16) could fit into the Baker's Creek, Duval, or related types (resembling little Christmas trees) widely associated with Middle Woodland times (Bullen 1975:13; Cambron and Hulse 1964:8). Other stone items include a probable sandstone hone and a greenstone celt fragment. Hones are flat, grooved stones associated with all time periods and evidently were for sharpening bone, shell, and wooden tools. Greenstone celts, made of rock imported from the north Georgia mountains, were often burial items from Early Woodland through Fort Walton times, but they were also everyday tools. Someone's woodworking or digging implement might be included as a burial item even if it displayed heavy use-wear from being a utilitarian implement, and worn greenstone axes or adzes are seen frequently in this region in such contexts (White 2024a, b).



Figure 16. Chert Projectile Points. Left to right: two from USF 2003 surface collection near golf course Hole 3 (cat# 8Ja138-03-1.6); one from Gardner's Poplar Springs Mound South Village (cat# 8Ja102-1.8) (CMNH catalog number written on it).



Figure 17. Flat Limestone Resembling Projectile Point (both sides shown; cat# 8Ja138-86-1.14).

An unusual object is a flat limestone fragment. It may be natural, collected prehistorically for its interesting shape, but it also might have been fashioned into a near-projectile point shape (Figure 17). Its function is unknown, but we cannot forget the possibility of toys or learning implements for children to practice skills they would need in adulthood.

Other Artifacts

A few historic items are in the appendices. Stoneware, blue transfer print, and glass sherds indicate more recent human activity. They probably are related to the earliest historic plowing and use of the site as an agricultural field.

Analysis and Interpretation

Woodland Ceramics in the Research Region

Middle Woodland pottery is the fanciest, most flamboyant of any made by Native American peoples in the eastern United States (Willey 1999:202). In the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee region and elsewhere, Middle Woodland is defined based on pottery types. Willey (1949) set up two ceramic series: Swift Creek, with complicated-stamping, and early Weeden Island, his “Weeden Island I,” with incised, punctated, modeled, excised, cutout, and red-painted pottery.

The Swift Creek series is named after a type site in central Georgia, and Weeden Island’s type site is on Tampa Bay in central peninsular Florida. Both these locations indicate where these kinds of ceramics were first recorded, not necessarily where they are the earliest. Both type sites are located far from the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee research region, where these two ceramic series might have originated or at least appeared very early, and where they overlap. The two are understood as Appalachian and Gulf pottery traditions, respectively, that flourished in this region. In the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee research region, they both characterize the Middle Woodland material signature, at both mounds and habitation sites. By contrast, Willey’s “Weeden Island II” ceramic types carry on well into Late Woodland times in the research region.

As the time of elaborate burial mound ceremonialism, the Middle Woodland period has had a great deal of archaeological investigation in Florida (e.g., Milanich 1994), but differs in different areas. Milanich (2002:352-356) recognized the great temporal variation in the appearance of Middle Woodland ceramics. I have elsewhere explained the problems with equating ceramic series with prehistoric cultural or temporal periods in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley region (White 2024a:218-251).

Suffice it to say that the central portion of northwest Florida, also encompassing the corners of southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia, is very different archaeologically from other areas of Florida. In this research region (see Figure 2), where I have worked for decades, Swift Creek Complicated Stamped pottery appears early, in late Early Woodland times, ca. A.D. 300, and lasts into the early Late Woodland period, A.D. 700 to 800, long after burial mound building was gone in the region and maize cultivation had begun. The early Weeden Island types such as Weeden Island Incised or Punctated, or red-painted, which are Middle Woodland

only, appear by about A.D. 450 and disappear by A.D. 700. Data and dates supporting these interpretations are now abundant (White 2023, 2024a, b).

Unfortunately, the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee region is too often compared with single, famous, often distant sites. For example, Kolomoki Mounds, Georgia, is at least 35 km (22 mi) upriver but in an archaeologically very different zone, and includes mounds built of stone, log-lined graves, semi-subterranean houses, and many other differences from what is downriver (e.g., Sears 1956), even if it has both Swift Creek and early Weeden Island pottery. The McKeithen Site is 250 km (155 mi) to the east in north-central Florida, another region very different archaeologically, in which, for example, Swift Creek pottery is rare (Milanich et al. 1984).

In addition, Willey originally defined a Santa Rosa-Swift Creek period with pottery having rocker-stamped surface designs, as well as complicated-stamped wares. Santa Rosa is prominent in the far western part of the Florida panhandle, around Pensacola. But in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee region, rocker stamping is extremely rare, known from fewer than a dozen sherds.

Early Weeden Island types, which do not occur north of the Gulf Coastal Plain (Jenkins and Sheldon 2014:104), appear in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee region later, during Middle Woodland, than the Swift Creek types. One interpretation of the contemporaneity of the two ceramic series here is that they reflect different ethnic groups, possibly demonstrating movements of people into new areas. But ethnicity is notoriously difficult or impossible to see in artifact types. The societies who participated in these widespread and diverse pottery-making traditions engaged in long-distance exchange networks encompassing widely different materials and ideas (no surprise for much material culture; in my kitchen are ceramics made in China, Finland, Indonesia, Mexico, Spain, and the United States).

Furthermore, people keep and curate old objects for various reasons, from spiritual significance to frugality to simply pleasure. For example, I listen to record albums, cassette tapes, CDs, and streamed music; how would their remains found together be interpreted archaeologically? Though I am now older, perhaps nostalgic, and in a minority in the United States with those preferences, it is also true that vinyl records are coming back in the 2020s.

Willey (1949) observed that northwest Florida was the only place where the Swift Creek and early Weeden Island ceramic series (known in the 1940s for the Southeast) could be related (Milanich 2007:18). The complicated-stamped pottery resembled that of central

Georgia, and it was often found in association with incised and punctated ceramics of Willey's Weeden Island I series, which resembled pottery in the Lower Mississippi River Valley in Louisiana. To interpret Poplar Springs Mound, it is important to understand how Swift Creek and early Weeden Island may be two different pottery series, but their occurrence together within the 160 river miles (257 km) of the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley region marks Middle Woodland times, with the proportions of each probably indicating more fine-tuned chronology.

Interpreting check-stamped pottery is more difficult. Stamping with a checkerboard-carved paddle was introduced during the Early Woodland period, perhaps as early as 500 B.C., in the Deptford series, and this surface treatment continued for well over two millennia as part of Native American pottery technology. For check-stamped body sherds, specific types and ages are impossible to tell apart, despite decades of attempts and tedious long days of measuring check sizes (e.g., White 1982). Willey defined Gulf Check Stamped as the Middle Woodland representative of this genre, but it is only recognizable with rim sherds that are notched, scalloped, or otherwise unusually shaped (of which we have no examples from Poplar Springs). The check-stamped sherds from Poplar Springs could be associated with the Early or Middle Woodland components. Linear check-stamped sherds are more distinctive and diagnostic of Early Woodland only.

Chronological and Regional Placement

At present, the only way to estimate the age range of the Poplar Springs Mound and Village site is through the total ceramic assemblage. Thus, we can infer a small occupation during the earliest part of the Early Woodland, perhaps the last century B.C. through the first century or two A.D., and the much larger village occupation and mound construction during later Early Woodland and Middle Woodland, continuing perhaps through A.D. 600. Most of the complicated-stamped vessels and sherds are of the late variety, contemporaneous with the time when the early Weeden Island Island-specific types first appear.

But there are relatively few examples of these early Weeden Island types and, in the extant collections, little of the ornate embellishment or flourishes that seem to be unique to the Middle Woodland craftworker's imagination (Smith and Knight 2017). There are a few red-painted sherds and one known red-painted whole pot, and several Weeden Island Incised sherds. In fact, if the materials in Table 2 and Appendix 1 reflect better the assemblage from the actual mound, as opposed to the surrounding village, it is clear that there were a lot of utilitarian wares

potentially interred with the honored dead, as the majority of ceramics are plain. Furthermore, many are of types such as Carrabelle Punctated that continued through Late Woodland times as probable utilitarian vessels.

I would not be surprised if even complicated-stamped pots were more utilitarian than not, since they are ubiquitous in space and time. Perhaps they served to contain specific foods, like a soup bowl versus a plate in our modern tableware. Or, perhaps they signify different levels of formality or social context, like a coffee cup and saucer versus a mug.

Many possibilities could explain artifact assemblage diversity, such as different meanings or functions or social factions, not necessarily different peoples. Significantly, in the research region and throughout the eastern United States, Early and Middle Woodland burial goods were not always elaborate. They were often mundane items, including plain pottery that Moore frequently called "inferior ware."

A dichotomy of "sacred versus secular" supposedly explained how mound assemblages differed from those of habitation sites (Sears 1973). Given common scholarly inertia, this opposition is often repeated as fact rather than a hypothesis needing testing. The real picture is far more complex, and most archaeologists now realize that the sacred-secular idea should be discarded.

It is a modern ethnocentric construct, unsupported, first of all, by the material evidence. While ornate and exotic objects are often found in mounds, they also occur in domestic middens. In addition, mundane objects were often grave goods: plain pots, hammerstones, pebbles, hones, utilitarian chert tools, shells, sandstone and other rocks. Artifacts used in ceremonial contexts could have been produced and used for everyday purposes before they were brought to funerals and left in graves. "Sacred" may not mean the artifacts themselves but their special uses at funerary ceremony or just their possession by the deceased and later involvement in burial rites.

A second reason for rejecting the sacred-secular duality is that, if "sacred" means having to do with spirituality or belief systems, it may not be separable from "secular." Many peoples across the globe, including Native American cultures, understand that spiritual concerns (deities, ancestors, nonhuman beings, magic, beliefs in the non-ordinary) do fill daily life (e.g., Sahlin 2022). In many traditional societies, and for some groups in western culture, the supernatural is always present. And other, non-religious or non-spiritual practices related to the formation of group identity are often supported by specific material manifestations (say, team colors or mascot shapes, political party symbols, and so on).

Where observable on whole vessels, the practice of “killing” or knocking the bottom out of pots seems to have been common at Poplar Springs (see Figure 7), no matter what the ceramic type, as it was for most Middle Woodland mound ceramic vessels in the region and throughout the South. In fact, killing pots was possibly anticipated, such as with the jar in Figure 6, where the bottom was not originally detached but cracked in anticipation of detachment. The practice of breaking ceramics and other artifacts before burial implies releasing something. Perhaps it let go harmful associations or spirits or ended the use life of the object, along with the ended life of the owner, or the demonstration of social group emotion. Some West African societies smash pots over graves to create a clear break between the living and the dead (Barley 1997:151-152).

Of the 40 known mounds/mound centers within the boundaries of the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley research region (Figure 2), nearly all are Middle Woodland, with an estimated 10 including an Early Woodland component (White 2024a). At many of these mounds, the Early Woodland materials could represent the earliest mound-building stage(s), or later stages when earlier occupational debris from local habitation activity was scraped up and piled on top of a later mound. Less clear examples are many other burial mounds in the region for which Moore unearthed only pottery that is clearly Early Woodland as well as check-stamped ceramics, which could be any time from Early Woodland through the contact and protohistoric period. Controlled data, which we do not yet have, are needed to assess the timing and dates for Early Woodland burial mounds in the region.

Meanwhile, many of these mounds, both Early and Middle Woodland, have produced spectacular ceramics and other fancy artifacts made from materials obtained from far away. Pierce Mounds Complex (8Fr14 and other numbers) is the best example, especially since it has the largest number of Woodland mounds at one site in the region (at least half of its estimated 13 mounds) and it sat at the strategic location of the Apalachicola River mouth. Its artifacts include unusual pot shapes, a bison-bone pendant, copper, shell cups, even silver (White 2013).

But a very small number of these 40 mound sites have produced few or no clearly Middle Woodland (early Weeden Island) ceramics. These sites may be interpreted as perhaps dating to the time when those new influences were just not there yet or were minimal. Such an interpretation, based on the extant material evidence, is proposed for the Poplar Springs Mound and Village site, and it implies a date for the major mound use at about A.D. 350 to 450.

Conclusions and Future Research

The Poplar Springs Mound was probably originally conical, probably for burial of important persons or families. The village apparently extended hundreds of meters in all directions around it. This was not a ceremonial space visited by users only at times of ritual performance, but a thriving habitation center surrounding what was undoubtedly an important, if small, monument.

As noted, one of Gardner's sites, 8JA102, located perhaps 500 m (1640 ft) south of the mound and given no name, was described as a separate site. This was because it had four sherds of clearly Deptford-series Early Woodland pottery. However, an Early Woodland occupation site ending up having a nearby burial mound with later Early and Middle Woodland fancy grave goods is typical of the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley region.

Poplar Springs Mound and Village was not enormous and was not on a large river like so many mounds in the region. Perhaps that is why it was preserved longer in its rural surroundings. Our view of Middle Woodland ceremonial centers and settlement patterns is perhaps skewed, since most information comes from Moore's work, conducted out of the steamboat *Gopher* (usually with a crew of African-American workers from Sopchoppy, a tiny town 100 km [64 miles] to the southeast, in Wakulla County).

Thus, Moore was oriented toward riverine and coastal shoreline locations, producing most of the mound distribution pattern in Figure 2. But Poplar Springs is on a branch of a very long major tributary in a huge river system that reached hundreds of miles into the interior, to the north Georgia mountains. It was probably easily accessible. The site was around multiple springs, showing that fresh water was evidently the ultimate determining factor, not only of settlement but also perhaps for spiritual and other aspects of Indigenous life beyond the utilitarian.

In addition, a large cave system exists beneath the golf course, according to local historian Dale Cox. He told me that he explored it during the drawdown of the mill pond not long ago, and he found it to be large and opening onto the creek. If it was accessible during Early to Middle Woodland times, it would have added to the attraction that the site had for visitors and residents.

The Poplar Springs Mound and Village site was damaged, investigated, then destroyed and lost, but some of its information has been found. The collections described here will be taken to Tallahassee for permanent storage at BAR. Given more than 25 kg (55 lbs) of ceramics and

many other artifacts, a lot more research could be done, including comparing whatever is already curated at BAR from Nidy's work with the results described here.

Investigations of the ceramic sherds to see if clay minerals indicate local manufacture or not, perhaps using portable X-Ray fluorescence (Tykot et al. 2013) or other techniques, may show something about social interactions. Different composition of pastes according to ceramic type may show temporal and spatial trends. Did people bring offerings in pots from the wider region when they congregated for mound ceremonies, or were pots manufactured locally, meaning the mound was more like a local parish church, not a cathedral where people from greater distances gathered for pilgrimages? So far, we do not have results from the SnowVision project to indicate if Poplar Springs had any specific ties to other sites across the South, but probably it did. We await additional data.

Dozens, probably hundreds of other mounds, riverine or not, are long gone in the Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee research region, but some remain to be discovered. A recent project to inventory precontact burial mounds and mound loss in Iowa (Whittaker 2023), using historical records and LiDAR, estimated that over 15,000 once existed over the 56,273 square miles of that state. They especially clustered along the central Des Moines River valley, with numbers severely declining since the 19th century.

The Apalachicola-lower Chattahoochee valley region occupies perhaps 5% to 6% as much area as Iowa covers. The valley region has a warmer, more benign climate, and it probably had a higher precontact population density than in the Midwest, so that the 40 known mound sites may represent a tiny percent of what once existed. Therefore, documenting details of any of them is important to understand not only past Native American lifeways and ritual systems but also to understand landscape alteration over time and ancient population sizes and densities.

This paper attempts to detail better what is known of one important ceremonial and habitation center. The Poplar Springs Site can be a part of the expanding bigger picture showing the great variability in the Middle Woodland period in the South. Finally, it is crucial to show how field archaeology can only advance with good record-keeping and with professionals who realize that they can learn by working with local people who really know the land.

Note

1. The brother, RE, mentioned that their father also had collected a shell gorget, a copper "headpiece," and a figurine from the Waddell's Mill Pond site, 8JA65, a famous Early Woodland and Fort Walton mound site nearby in Jackson County (Gardner 1966; Tesar and Jones 2009). Those first two significant artifacts I have been trying to trace for years (White 2024a:198-199, 253; White 2024b:66, 77, 123-126). I had not heard of the figurine before. RE said that those three artifacts had been stolen. He claimed that people in the generations of his parents and grandparents, women included, had collected a great amount of prehistoric materials from several sites, often bringing home hundreds of artifacts in a day.

Acknowledgments

Great thanks for help with this research are due to many: the late SE, donor/collector, and his family, as well as other avocationals in Jackson County; researchers Jeff Whitfield and Dale Cox for all their assistance over the decades; USF grad student Anya Frashuer for working so hard on her M.A. thesis on this topic; Ph.D. student Hui Xiao for tabulating the inventory of the Poplar Springs site materials; the Indian Springs Golf Course for allowing us to walk around their lands; and Karen Smith for inspiring this work with her own SnowVision project.

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Appendix 1. Poplar Springs Mound, 8JA138, Materials (dug up in 1960?). These were donated June 18, 2000, by SE, cat# 8Ja138-00- (last part of catalog number [column 1] designates collector's box number and USF bag [lot] number).

#	Description	N	Wt (g)	Notes
1.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	3	52.8	1 scanned for SnowVision project
1.2	Weeden Island Incised, red-painted	6	390.2	red interiors and exteriors; most of a single vessel? some have lacquer
1.3	grog-tempered plain jar rim	1	106.2	brushed a little
1.4	sand-tempered plain jar neck	1	36.4	
2.1	check-stamped	3	31.3	
2.2	indeterminate punctated	1	24.9	finger nail punctations
2.3	indeterminate incised rim	1	12.1	grit-tempered
2.4	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped rim	1	5.3	
2.5	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	1	10.0	
2.6	sand-tempered plain	70	492.0	many from same pot? many broken on coil marks; some have glue
2.7	sand-tempered plain rim	1	38.2	
2.8	grit-tempered plain	12	117.2	
2.9	grog-tempered plain	3	39.9	
2.10	indeterminate incised	1	5.5	grit+grog-tempered
3.1	indeterminate incised	1	15.3	grit-tempered
3.2	check-stamped	1	32.0	sand-tempered
3.3	sand-tempered plain	57	1201.3	probably many from same vessels
3.4	grit-tempered plain	4	389.6	1 has glue, fits to another
3.5	grog-tempered plain	1	54.9	
3.6	sand-tempered plain rim	2	38.4	
4.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	1	406.2	partial vessel
4.2	red-painted, grit-tempered	3	26.0	2 have glue and incisions
4.3	check-stamped	2	28.1	
4.4	indeterminate incised rims	2	26.2	sand-tempered
4.5	sand-tempered plain	28	404.8	so eroded cannot tell if any are rims
4.6	grit-tempered plain	3	79.2	
5.1	Carrabelle Punctated	11	780.5	at least 2 vessels
5.2	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	15	202.1	mostly grit-tempered
5.3	Weeden Island Incised	1	19.8	sand-tempered
5.4	cord-marked	1	69.4	
5.5	sand-tempered plain	1	38.2	
6.1	sand-tempered plain, red paint	1	34.3	
6.2	limestone-tempered plain	1	47.8	
6.3	sand-tempered plain	26	1520.5	many from same pot?
7.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	2	148.7	both scanned for SnowVision
7.2	check-stamped	1	31.2	
7.3	sand, grit+grog-tempered plain	1	24.9	
7.4	grit-tempered plain	1	75.9	
7.5	sand-tempered plain	10	478.4	some have glue; many or all from same pot
7.6	sand-tempered plain basal sherds	2	192.6	one has square base
7.7	sand-tempered plain rims	4	244.0	2 folded, 1 with incision below lip, 1 plain
8.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped jar	1	671.1	late variety; 2 scanned for SnowVision
9.1	check-stamped	1	55.6	
9.2	sand-tempered plain	1	16.9	red paint on interior
9.3	sand-tempered plain rim	1	21.9	tiny notches on lip
9.4	sand-tempered plain rim	2	137.9	smooth
9.5	sand-tempered plain	39	1372.3	
9.6	grit-tempered plain	2	40.9	2 glued
10.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	3	86.0	very eroded
10.2	check-stamped	3	70.6	sand- and grit-tempered
10.3	grit-tempered plain	2	8.8	
10.4	sand-tempered plain rims	3	147.8	smooth
10.5	sand-tempered plain	53	1226.4	many with black residue (dateable?)
	TOTAL CERAMICS	399	11828.5	

Appendix 2. Poplar Springs Mound, 8JA138, Materials (dug up in 1960?). These were donated by SE, June 3, 2003, cat# 8Ja138-03-01 (lot numbers in left column).

#	Description	N	Wt (g)	Notes
.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, sand-tempered	9	171.9	3 scanned for SnowVision
.2	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, grit-tempered	2	17.2	1 scanned for SnowVision
.3	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, grit-tempered rims	2	26.3	1 scanned for SnowVision
.4	indeterminate incised, sand+grit-tempered	1	18.7	
.5	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, grit, sand, grog-tempered	2	59.3	1 scanned for SnowVision
.6	Carrabelle Punctated	1	4.9	
.7	Weeden Island Red rim, painted red inside and out	1	17.9	has lacquer on it
.8	Cool Branch Incised rim, grit-tempered	1	24.7	Fort Walton period
.9	check-stamped rims, sand-tempered	44	1837.3	
.10	check-stamped body, sand-tempered	68	1914.5	
.11	check-stamped with some grog temper	4	66.7	
.12	check-stamped, grit-tempered	7	244.8	
.13	sand-tempered plain rims	16	662.6	
.14	sand-tempered basal sherds (flat base)	3	96.7	
.15	indeterminate stamped, grog+sand-tempered	2	97.6	
.16	fabric-marked (fine weave)	1	51.2	
.17	sand-tempered plain	25	347.0	
.18	sand-tempered plain rims with notches	2	47.0	
.19	grit-tempered plain	7	250.7	
.20	chert flake	1	2.3	numbers .21-.27 not used
.28	St. Andrews Complicated Stamped	1	46.1	scanned for SnowVision
	TOTAL CERAMICS	199	6003.1	

Appendix 3. Materials from 8JA93, Gardner's Watson's Field Site (Poplar Springs Mound). Artifacts are labeled 231.A.001, .002, .003 on the CMNH system for bags 1, 2, and 3 (their significance is unknown; these numbers can be ignored); USF cat# 8Ja93- (bag and lot numbers in left column).

#	Provenience	Materials	N	Wt (g)	Notes
1.1	surface of field, bag 1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped rim	1	7.4	
1.2		Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	20	137.7	sand, grit, + grog-tempered
1.3		Carrabelle Punctated rim	1	21.3	
1.4		net-marked	2	39.8	
1.5		cord-marked	1	7.3	
1.6		red painted, sand-tempered plain	1	4.0	
1.7		check-stamped	4	36.6	
1.8		grit-tempered plain rims	5	32.3	
1.9		grit-tempered plain	18	178.4	
1.10		sand-tempered plain rims	4	68.4	
1.11		sand-tempered plain, body	12	119.8	
1.12		grog-tempered plain	7	72.7	a little sand + grit
1.13		biface fragments	3	84.5	1 large (71.9g)
1.14		greenstone celt fragment	1	17.1	
2.1	surface of field, bag 2	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped rim	4	18.6	
2.2		Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	24	210.4	
2.3		sand-tempered plain rims	3	25.2	1 has drilled repair hole
2.4		sand-tempered plain	43	382.1	
2.5		grit-tempered plain rims	2	20.0	
2.6		grit-tempered plain	27	177.2	
2.7		grog-tempered plain	4	35.0	
2.8		chert triangular biface	1	15.8	length = 5.5 cm; width = 4.4 cm at base
3.1	Watson's Field #2 (unknown where, probably surface)	check-stamped body sherds	49	797.7	mostly grit-tempered
3.2		check-stamped rims	4	37.7	
3.3		Tucker Ridge Pinched	1	18.5	
3.4		Deptford Linear Check Stamped (?)	2	33.0	
3.5		Swift Creek Complicated Stamped body	3	12.4	
3.6		Swift Creek Complicated Stamped rim	1	12.0	
3.7		sand-tempered plain	4	87.9	
3.8		sand-tempered plain rim, folded	1	43.6	
3.9		grit-tempered plain body sherds	11	188.3	
3.10		grit-tempered plain rims	2	18.1	
3.11		grog-tempered plain	4	36.8	
3.12		chert bifaces	2	27.0	1 broken base, 1 rounded base
3.13		unifacial scraper chert	1	35.1	
3.14		chert secondary flakes (2 with use wear)	3	11.4	
3.15		flat tabular sandstone (hone?)	1	39.5	
	TOTAL CERAMICS		265	2880.2	

Appendix 4. Materials from 8JA94, Gardner's West-Southwest Watson's Field (Poplar Springs Mound and Village), "surface 100 yards from mound." USF cat# 8Ja94-1; CMNH numbers 231-A-003 on sherds can be ignored; USF lot numbers in left column.

#	Materials	N	Wt (g)
.1	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	13	142.3
.2	Keith Incised	3	16.7
.3	red-painted (interior + exterior), grit-tempered, plain, folded rim	1	4.1
.4	check-stamped	10	66.1
.5	check-stamped rims	2	16.8
.6	cord-marked	1	8.7
.7	Weeden Island Incised	2	10.9
.8	indeterminate incised	17	115.7
.9	sand-tempered plain (2 have black residue)	148	1169.1
.10	sand-tempered plain rims, some folded, some plain, some with an incision below lip	34	348.9
.11	indeterminate punctated (some fingernail)	7	43.1
.12	Carrabelle Incised	1	10.2
.13	grit-tempered plain	98	922.5
.14	grit-tempered rims, some folded, some with incision below lip	7	63.8
.15	grog-tempered plain	20	195.2
.16	grog-tempered plain rim	1	22.8
.17	chert biface fragments	2	38.2
.18	salt-glazed stoneware jar basal sherds (historic)	1	18.4
.19	thick green glass sherd (historic)	1	6.4
	TOTAL PREHISTORIC CERAMICS	365	3156.9

Appendix 5. Materials from 8JA102, Gardner's "surface of road going into mound at Watson's Field" (Poplar Springs Village south side), 1962, 700? m SSE of mound. CMNH numbers on sherds (231-A-004, some with 003 scratched out) can be ignored; USF cat# 8Ja102-1 (lot numbers in left column).

#	Materials	N	Wt (g)
.1	Deptford Linear Check Stamped	2	58.7
.2	Deptford Simple Stamped	3	77.2
.3	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, body	37	439.1
.4	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped, rims	6	66.8
.5	sand-tempered plain, rims	7	125.5
.6	sand-tempered plain, body	6	60.1
.7	grit-tempered plain, body	7	35.6
.8	stemmed chert projectile point; Baker's Creek type? base broken	1	2.9
	TOTAL CERAMICS	68	863.0

Appendix 6. USF Poplar Springs Mound and Village Site, 8JA138. These were materials collected by USF, 1986, surface of graded (?) road and planted pines fields, cat# 8Ja138-86-1 (lot numbers in left column).

#	Materials	N	Wt (g)
.1	check-stamped, sand-tempered	1	8.2
.2	indeterminate incised, grit-tempered	3	14.5
.3	indeterminate incised, sand-tempered	6	38.7
.4	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	16	45.3
.5	sand-tempered plain + crumbs	47	114.5
.6	sand+grit-tempered plain + crumbs	29	99.1
.7	sand+grog-tempered plain	4	17.4
.8	chert primary decortication flake	3	139.0
.9	secondary decortication flake	5	81.0
.10	block shatter chert (2 = notched)	6	181.4
.11	secondary chert flake	109	229.6
.12	quartz pebble	2	1.0
.13	quartzite pieces (1 has use wear)	2	38.1
.14	flat sandstone or limestone (white, point-shaped?)	1	12.2
.15	blue transfer paint whiteware (historic)	1	2.5
	TOTAL PREHISTORIC CERAMICS	106	337.7

Appendix 7. Poplar Springs Mound and Village, 8JA138, Materials. These were collected by USF in 2003, cat# 8Ja138-03 (provenience and lot numbers in left column).

#	Provenience	Materials	N	Wt (g)
1.1	surface E and W of golf course Hole 3	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	6	14.3
1.2		sand-tempered plain	23	68.3
1.3		grog-tempered plain	3	5.5
1.4		grit-tempered plain	5	8.2
1.5		chert unifacial scrapers, some with cortex	6	270.4
1.6		chert projectile points, Baker's Creek type	2	13.2
1.7		chert secondary decortication flakes, blocky	10	20.4
1.8		chert secondary flakes, some tiny, many red	43	26.6
2.1	surface around golf course Hole 2	Swift Creek Complicated Stamped	1	1.0
2.2		grit-tempered plain	2	8.2
2.3		sand-tempered plain	1	2.1
2.4		chert secondary chert flake	1	0.3
		TOTAL CERAMICS	41	107.6