

CMAAS Kolb Site 2009

After sitting through hours of lecture in preparation for the visit, fifteen members of the Camden Military Archaeological Society descended upon the Kolb Site (38da75) in Darlington County on March 18, 2009. Here they were finally able to get their hands dirty, performing archaeological excavations as deep as 80 centimeters below surface, well into the Archaic layer bearing artifacts as old as 10,000 years old. The Kolb Site has been under the supervised excavation of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Diachronic Research Foundation for the past 13 years. During this time archaeologists have found evidence of occupation from freedmen in the late 19th Century, slaves living there in the early 19th Century and early European settlers in the 18th Century. Beneath these components, prehistoric Native American artifacts have been found from the Mississippian phase (400-1,000 years), the Woodland phase (1,000-3,500 years), the Archaic phase (3,500-10,000 years) and even the Paleo-Indian phase (10,000-12,500 years). Cadets found bottle glass, nails and ceramics from historic times. Beneath that, they found stone debitage, animal-bone and Woodland pottery. At even deeper levels, they found Archaic ground stone and stone tool fragments. "Their excavations were as well-done as any first time field archaeologist, better than some," said Christine Dorney, professional excavator and veteran of the site.



The CMAAS Kolb Site Crew--(left to right) Zack Azari, Matt Liner, Tommy Eppink, Bryce Hill, Jacob Andrew, David Miller, Jacob DeJonge, Johnny Ham, Josh Clementz, Lucius Bullock, Juan Zepeda, Irfaan Mukul, Abdallah Rabie, Chris Taylor



Johnny Ham cleans the floor of his unit



The cadets sift the soil for artifacts.

I think I found one.



Johnny Ham stands inside a completed unit



Tommy Eppink trowels through Zone I.