

The background of the cover is black, featuring several large, stylized red spiral patterns. One large spiral is on the left side, another is in the upper right, and a third is in the lower right. A fourth, smaller spiral is partially visible in the bottom right corner. In the center-left area, there is a red square with a smaller red square inside it, and a red circle to its left.

**CATAWBA VALLEY
MISSISSIPPIAN**

*Ceramics, Chronology,
and Catawba Indians*

DAVID G. MOORE

CATAWBA VALLEY MISSISSIPPIAN

Ceramics, Chronology, and Catawba Indians

DAVID G. MOORE

The University of Alabama Press
Tuscaloosa and London

Copyright © 2002
The University of Alabama Press
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0380
All rights reserved
Manufactured in the United States of America

Typeface is Meridien

∞

The paper on which this book is printed meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Science—Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48-1984.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Moore, David G. (David Gilbert), 1951–
Catawba Valley Mississippian : ceramics, chronology, and
Catawba Indians / David G. Moore.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0-8173-1163-7 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Catawba Indians—Antiquities.
2. Catawba Indians—History.
3. Catawba River Valley (N.C. and S.C.)—Antiquities.
4. Yadkin River Valley (N.C.)—Antiquities.
5. Mississippian culture. I. Title.

E99.C24 M66 2002

975.74'501—dc21

2002006424

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data available

Catawba Valley Mississippian

Dedicated to the memory of
Roy S. Dickens, Jr.
Charles Carey
Tom Hargrove

Acknowledgments

This book represents a revision of my dissertation submitted to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1999. I would like to thank my dissertation committee members, Vin Steponaitis, Carole Crumley, Janet Levy, Trawick Ward, and Steve Davis, for their guidance and support of my research. I especially appreciate the efforts that Vin Steponaitis made on my behalf. I would also like to thank Dick Yarnell for his support and especially for serving as the Chair of my committee following the death of Roy Dickens. Trawick Ward was my first mentor and I have benefited greatly from his friendship and all of his instruction, both in the field and out. At an earlier time, Trawick proposed to study Burke ceramics; I hope my work has done justice to his interests. Completion of the dissertation would not have been possible without the help and direction of Steve Davis. Over the years he provided advice, helped me at every stage on the computer, photographed pottery, and generally kept me on track. I cannot thank him enough.

I began the dissertation at the urging of the late Roy S. Dickens, Jr. Roy was fascinated by the work of Charles Hudson, Chester DePratter, and Marvin Smith on the routes of the sixteenth-century Spanish armies through the Southeast, and he encouraged me to use this new research to frame my investigations of the upper Catawba region. I enjoyed and was inspired by Roy's enthusiasm in our early discussions and I greatly miss his friendship. I was able to begin this research thanks to my supervisor, Tom Burke, who arranged a one-year leave-of-absence from my position at the Office of State Archaeology to conduct fieldwork and complete my course work at Chapel Hill.

The excavations of the McDowell and Berry sites were conducted from May to October 1986. I was helped by the kind and generous support of many Burke and McDowell County residents and organizations. Above all, I would like to thank James and Pat Berry, owners of the Berry site. Their wholehearted cooperation and the interest of the entire Berry family helped make the fieldwork more enjoyable and rewarding.

Financial support, equipment, and supplies for the field investigations were provided by the Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC-Chapel Hill, the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, the Western Office of the Division of Archives and History, the Historic Burke Foundation, the Burke County Historical Society, Sigma Xi, the Huffman-Cornwell Foundation, Charles and Alice Carey, Dak Brinkley, Lowes, Inc., of Morganton, and the Catawba County Historical Society. The Historic Burke Foundation also allowed us to use the historic McDowell House at Quaker Meadows for our field camp. I especially wish to thank Millie Barbee, who served at that time as Executive Director of the Historic Burke Foundation, for her tireless assistance and unending good cheer. James Roach and the late Robert Rowe provided welcome support of my work at the McDowell site.

One of the greatest pleasures associated with this project was the opportunity to work with students and volunteers. Eight students from Western Piedmont Community College and three students from Western Carolina University enrolled in the archaeological field school and more than 70 volunteers participated in the excavations. Although I wish I could thank them all individually, several volunteers in particular deserve mention. Thanks to Willy Israel, Ed Treverton, Nell Murphy, Wayne Pitts, John Harris, Carl Myers, David Dyson, and Mike Patton, who volunteered an enormous amount of time and energy to the project. I also owe a great deal of thanks to Mary Ann Holm, who served as Assistant Field Director. The excavated materials were washed and cataloged by members of the Western Office Archaeology Volunteers including Willy Israel, Ed Treverton, Chris and Jack Sheridan, David and Katie Warren, and Dick Albyn.

I would like to thank Sam Phillips and Glen Bryson for permission to conduct the excavations at the McDowell site. Thanks to Charles and Alice Carey, Tom Stine, and Wayne Pitts for allowing me to use their personal pottery collections in my analysis. Larry Clark provided important assistance from Western Piedmont Community College. Thanks to Jim Krakker at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., for his assistance with the Caldwell County collections.

Charles and Alice Carey are responsible for much of the ongoing interest in the archaeology of the upper Catawba region. The Careys worked for more than 30 years to build our knowledge of Catawba valley prehistory. Their efforts laid the foundation for the Upper Catawba Archaeology Project and Charles was also instrumental in supporting the magnetometer survey at the Berry site in 1997. Sadly, Charles passed away in 2000 and with his passing, North Carolina archaeology lost an important friend.

While writing the dissertation, I benefited tremendously from discussions with friends and colleagues including Mark Williams, Brett Riggs, Mark Mathis, Marvin Smith, Ken Robinson, Jane Eastman, Ann Tippet, Steve Watts, Mary Anne Holm, Dan Simpkins, Tom Hargrove, Linda Carnes-

McNaughton, Greg Waselkov, Stanley South, Russ Skowronek, Tom Whyte, Scott Ashcraft, and Larry Kimball. I wish to thank Charles Hudson for his interest and encouragement and I especially thank David Hally, Chester DePratter, and Chris Judge for their support. My association with Janet Levy and Alan May has been both enjoyable and rewarding. I look forward to many more years of fruitful work with these friends.

I am indebted to everyone at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology and the Western Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History. I would never have completed my dissertation without their help (patience was their greatest virtue). A particular thanks to Steve Claggett for continual encouragement and for allowing me to take several extended leaves-of-absence, to Susan Myers for proofreading and general encouragement, to John Clauser and Dolores Hall, who usually had to cover for me while I was on leave, to John Mintz for site information, to Dee Nelms for being so efficient, and to Mark Mathis for help on the computer. At the Western Office, thanks to Diane Jones, Nick Lanier, John Beaver, John Horton, Jeff Futch, Clay Griffith, and Ron Holland, the best office manager one could ever hope for.

To my dear friends Bob and Jan Brunk—thank you for everything.

The University of Alabama Press staff guided me through the transition from dissertation to book and I thank them for their support and patience. I am indebted to copy editor Kathy Cummins, whose skills I greatly admire. I would like to thank Lynne Sullivan and Greg Waselkov, who reviewed the manuscript and whose comments and suggestions were extremely useful in the revision process.

Nick Lanier and Steve Davis provided the photographs of pottery and other artifacts.

While working on the book, I have received the support of many at Warren Wilson College. I would like to thank Sandra Hayslette, Laura Herman, Jim McGill, and David Harper for their assistance, advice, and support. I especially want to acknowledge the student Archaeology Crew—Megan Best, Isabel Salazar, Rachel Horn, Emily Dale, and Will Spoon—who had to tolerate me while I struggled with the demands of completing this volume. Megan Best also helped format the tables, Isabel Salazar helped edit figures, and Rachel Horn provided artwork for the book.

I am grateful to Chris Rodning and Robin Beck, who reviewed and commented on many of the revisions for this volume. Their advice and comments have greatly enhanced the final product and they were especially helpful in discouraging some of my most tortured prose. I also thank Chris for his many stimulating discussions and for his wonderful Chapel Hill hospitality. I wish to acknowledge Rob Beck for his key role in my research. He was responsible for the initial identification of the sixteenth-century Spanish artifacts from the Berry site, the discovery of which inspired both

of us to continue on our paths. I cannot thank Rob enough for all of his encouragement.

And in the end, I thank my family for their love and support. Between the dissertation and the book, I've missed too much time with all of you; special thanks to Kaitlyn, Linda, Jason, and Ben.

Contents

List of Figures ix

List of Plates xi

List of Tables xiii

Acknowledgments xvii

Introduction 1

1. Catawba Valley Ethnohistory and Catawba Origins 11
2. Upper Catawba Valley Sites and Ceramics 50
3. Upper Yadkin Valley Sites and Ceramics 100
4. Middle and Lower Catawba Valley Sites and Ceramics 125
5. Late Prehistoric and Early Historic Period Catawba
 Valley Chronology 161

Conclusion 185

APPENDIXES

- A. The McDowell Site 197
- B. The Berry Site 213
- C. Catawba Valley Pottery 257
- D. Ceramic Analysis Methodology 289
- E. Report on Plant Remains from the Berry and McDowell Sites 299
Kristen J. Gremillion
- F. National Museum of Natural History Collections: Caldwell
County, North Carolina 315

References Cited 323

Index 345

Figures

1. The Catawba River drainage in North Carolina 3
2. Location of eighteenth-century Catawba and Cherokee Indian territories 12
3. Eighteenth-century members of the Catawba Nation 14
4. Indian towns visited by Hernando de Soto and/or Juan Pardo from Cofitachequi to Chiaha 21
5. Location of upper Catawba valley archaeological sites 51
6. Geographic range of Burke series and other soapstone-tempered pottery 94
7. Location of sites with Burke pottery on Upper Creek and Warrior Fork in Burke County 98
8. Location of archaeological sites in the upper Yadkin River valley 101
9. Illustrations of Caldwell County excavated sites reported in Cyrus Thomas, *Burial Mounds of the Northern Sections of the United States* 103
10. Location of archaeological sites in the middle and lower Catawba River valley 126
11. Location of Catawba and Yadkin valley phases, A.D. 1400 to 1600 177
12. Location of Catawba and Yadkin valley phases, A.D. 1600 to 1725 177
13. Plan view of the 1977 and 1986 excavation area at the McDowell site (31MC41) 198
14. Plan view of Excavation Block A at the McDowell site 199
15. Plan view of Excavation Block B at the McDowell site 202
16. Plan view of Excavation Block C at the McDowell site 204

17. Zoomorphic design traced from carved stone pipe at the McDowell site 207
18. Plan view of Excavation Block E at the McDowell site 208
19. Excavation plan and soil profiles for Features 1, 2, and 3 at the McDowell site 211
20. Plan view of the 1986 excavation area at the Berry site (31BK22) 215
21. Soil profiles for Area A at the Berry site 216
22. Excavation plan for Area B at the Berry site 219
23. Soil profiles for Area B at the Berry site 220
24. Plan view and profile drawings for Features 1, 3, 5, and 12 at the Berry site 225
25. Plan view and profile drawings for Feature 2 at the Berry site 226
26. Plan view of the feature group (Features 12–19) at the Berry site 228
27. Soil profiles for Features 13 and 18 at the Berry site 230
28. Soil profiles for Features 16 and 17 at the Berry site 233
29. Plan view and profile of Burial 1 at the Berry site 235
30. Plan view and profile of Feature 9/Burial 2 at the Berry site 238

Plates

1. Burke Incised cazuela bowl from 31BK1 62
2. Grit-tempered pottery from the McDowell site 71
3. Soapstone-tempered Pisgah Rectilinear Complicated Stamped pottery from the McDowell site 72
4. Burke curvilinear complicated-stamped potsherds from the Berry site 77
5. Burke curvilinear complicated-stamped potsherds from the Berry site 77
6. Burke type rim sherds, unmodified rim form, from the Berry site 79
7. Burke type rim sherds (applied, folded, and thickened rim forms) from the Berry site 80
8. Pisgah and Burke type pottery from the Berry site 81
9. Pisgah and Burke type pottery from the Pitts site 82
10. Burke pottery from 31BK1 83
11. Grit-tempered potsherds from 31BK1 84
12. Burke curvilinear complicated-stamped rim sherd with folded rim from the Berry site 85
13. Burke Incised constricted-neck jar from 31BK17 85
14. Burke Incised pottery from 31BK17 87
15. Burke Incised pottery from the Berry site 88
16. Iron artifacts from the Nelson Mound and Lenoir Indian Burial Place site, NMNH collection 108
17. Citico-style shell gorgets from the NMNH collection 109
18. Spatulate celts from the NMNH collection 110
19. Burke ceramic vessels from the W. Davenport Jones Mound, NMNH collection 111

20. Burke ceramic vessels from the W. Davenport Jones Mound,
NMNH collection 112
 21. Shell masks from the NMNH collection 113
 22. Shell gorgets from the NMNH collection 114
23. Burke ceramic vessels from the R. T. Lenoir Burial Pit,
NMNH collection 116
24. Burke ceramic vessels from the R. T. Lenoir Burial Pit,
NMNH collection 117
25. Burke Burnished jar from the Broyhill-Dillard site 122
26. Burke Complicated Stamped vessel from the Broyhill-Dillard
site 123
27. Cowans Ford Plain/Smoothed tall cazuela-form cup from
the Low site 133
28. Cowans Ford Burnished jar with "pseudo-nodes" from
the Low site 134
29. Cowans Ford vessels from the Low site and the NMNH collection 137
 30. Cowans Ford vessels from the NMNH collection 138
31. Late-style Cowans Ford Complicated Stamped potsherd 141
 32. Cowans Ford potsherds from 31CT94A 147
33. Cowans Ford Complicated Stamped vessel fragments from
the Belk Farm site 156
34. Portion of Excavation Block C (McDowell site) showing
Feature 12, Structure 3 205
35. Carved soapstone pipe from square 90R350 at the McDowell site 207
36. Plan view of basket-loaded mound fill in excavation unit 380R290
at the Berry site 215
 37. Berry site excavation area B 220
38. Features 17 and 18 (Berry site) after excavation was completed 231
 39. Iron knife from Burial 1 at the Berry site 236
 40. Berry site sixteenth-century Spanish artifacts 253
41. Stone pipes from the Lenoir Mound site, NMNH collection 319

Tables

1. Mounds reported in the Catawba valley region by Cyrus Thomas 52
 2. Summary of McDowell site potsherds by temper and other selected attributes 67
 3. Summary of McDowell site potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 68
 4. Frequency of decoration attributes for selected exterior surface treatments on McDowell site potsherds 69
 5. Summary of Berry site potsherds by temper and other selected attributes 75
 6. Summary of Berry site potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 76
7. Frequency of Burke Incised potsherds from 31BK17, 31BK18, and the Berry site 86
 8. Artifacts from NMNH catalog for Caldwell County sites 118
9. Summary of 31CW8 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 121
 10. Ceramic assemblage sizes for sites in the Cowans Ford Reservoir Survey 132
11. Summary of Low site potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 136
12. Summary of 31ID2 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 142
13. Summary of 31CT1 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 143
14. Summary of 31CT18 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 144
15. Summary of 31ID3 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 145

16. Summary of 31ID107 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 146
17. Summary of 31CT94A potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 148
18. Summary of 31ID51 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 149
 19. Summary of Shuford site potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 150
 20. Summary of Belk Farm site potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 155
 21. Ceramic attributes for selected early, middle, and late Lamar phases 166
 22. Ceramic attributes for Wateree valley phases 169
 23. Calibrated radiocarbon dates for the Catawba valley and other related areas 175
24. Chronological framework for the Catawba and upper Yadkin valley in the late Prehistoric and early Historic periods 176
25. Distribution of artifacts from Excavation Blocks A, B, C, and D at the McDowell site 201
26. Distribution of artifacts from features at the McDowell site 210
 27. Distribution of artifacts from Area A excavation levels at the Berry site 217
 28. Distribution of artifacts from selected Area B excavation units and levels at the Berry site 221
29. Distribution of artifacts from features at the Berry site 224
30. Percentages of exterior surface treatments on pottery from Burke County sites 243
31. Frequency of decoration attribute states at the Berry site and 31BK17 248
32. Frequency of decoration and decoration location attributes for selected exterior surface treatments for Berry site potsherds 250
33. Frequency of decoration by rim form and decoration location at the Berry site 251
34. Percentages of exterior surface treatments on pottery from McDowell County sites 269

35. Summary of 31MC12 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 271
36. Summary of 31MC39 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 272
37. Summary of 31MC43 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 273
38. Summary of 31BK1 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 274
39. Summary of 31BK12 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 275
40. Summary of 31BK17 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 276
41. Summary of 31BK18 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 277
42. Frequency of decoration and decoration location attribute states for selected exterior surface treatments at the Berry site and 31BK17 278
43. Rim form percentages at 31BK17, 31BK18, and the Berry site 279
 44. Percentages of decoration attributes by rim form for 31BK17 and the Berry site 279
45. Summary of 31ID4 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 281
46. Summary of 31ID38 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 282
47. Summary of 31CT10 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 283
48. Summary of 31CT94 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 284
49. Summary of 31CT96 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 285
50. Summary of 31ID42 potsherds by exterior surface treatment and other selected attributes 286
51. Scientific names of plants mentioned in text 301
 52. McDowell site plant remains 301
 53. McDowell site plant food remains 302