

Foreword

In 1959, 1960, and 1962, Ripley P. and Adelaide K. Bullen of the Florida State Museum, today the Florida Museum of Natural History, excavated several archaeological sites on the former Palmer family estate in Sarasota County, Florida, north of the town of Osprey. They prepared a report on the project, *The Palmer Site*, that appeared in 1976 as Publication 8 of the Florida Anthropological Society. Included in that monograph-length study are twelve pages recounting the results of the Bullens's excavation of a sand mound known as the Palmer Mound. The remainder of the publication details their work in various middens and shellworks on the estate, which had been established in 1910 by Bertha Matilde Honoré Palmer, widow of Chicago tycoon Potter Palmer. (Today the sites, including the mound, are within the Historic Spanish Point natural and historical area, which is open to the public [www.historicspanishpoint.org].)

While *The Palmer Site* was in final preparation Ripley was quite ill. At the time I was a newly hired assistant curator at the Florida State Museum and was recruited to assist the Bullens in readying the publication for printing (camera-ready copy was required). Thanks to a generous grant from the Wentworth Foundation, created by A. Fillmore Wentworth, and its president, William M. Goza, we were able to have Publication 8 in print before Ripley died in December 1976.

Because of Ripley's illness, he and Adelaide were not able to prepare as complete a report on the Palmer Mound as they wanted. Their plan to have the large human skeletal collection from the mound analyzed was never carried out. Over the years that osteological collection, one of the largest from any site in Florida, remained unpublished and largely unstudied.

The importance of the Palmer collection did not escape bioarchaeologist Dale L. Hutchinson, who began working in Florida in the 1980s while a graduate student at the University of Illinois. Since that time, Hutchinson has continued his research interest in the bioarchaeology of American Indian populations in Florida and the southeastern United States while a faculty member at East Carolina University and, most

recently, at the University of North Carolina. That research led him to the Palmer Mound collection curated at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He was quick to recognize the Palmer Mound population as a potentially significant source of new data for helping us to understand more about Florida's past inhabitants.

In *Bioarchaeology of the Florida Gulf Coast: Adaptation, Conflict, and Change*, Hutchinson has used the analytical approaches and other tools of his trade to interpret the Palmer population, including such topics as health and diet, trauma, and demography. His analysis, which places the Palmer population in the context of what is known about other coastal societies, provides a fresh and detailed view of those pre-Columbian Indians who made their livelihood by hunting, collecting, and fishing, rather than farming. The presentation is exemplary. Of special note are the many excellent illustrations that help tell the story of the Palmer and other coastal people.

Ripley and Adelaide Bullen would have loved to read Dale Hutchinson's comprehensive study of the Palmer Mound population (Adelaide died in 1987); it is a fitting tribute to their own work at that site. I am delighted to have this important contribution to bioarchaeology and Florida archaeology in the Bullen series.

Jerald T. Milanich
Series Editor

Preface

It has long been recognized by prehistorians that the lifestyle practiced by indigenous Florida Gulf coast populations prior to the arrival of Europeans was organized around the use of maritime resources. Perhaps nowhere along the Florida Gulf coast have human ties to the sea been emphasized more than for the south Florida Calusa of the Charlotte Harbor region. At the time of European contact in 1566, the Calusa were a ranked society with a paramount chief, subsidiary chiefs, trade networks, and a subsistence based entirely on foraging.

Agriculture, often seen as a correlate of complex sociopolitical organization, was conspicuously absent among the Calusa. The presence of maize has often been seen as a prime mover in the development of cultural complexity, but its absence has served as both a catalyst for debate and a welcome deviation from an often formulaic and linear evolutionary explanation for the development of socially ranked societies. Indeed, the potential of marine resources to sustain large populations, the chronology of marine resource dependence, and the origin of the ranked chiefdom organization of the Calusa have all served as items of debate for more than 50 years (Goggin and Sturtevant 1964; Marquardt 1986, 1987, 1991, 1992; Widmer 1988).

Far less scholarly attention has been devoted to populations north of Charlotte Harbor. Dietary reconstructions have shown that those populations also relied largely on maritime subsistence items and that they did not practice maize agriculture. In fact, most of the Florida peninsular populations adopted maize much later than populations farther north, some after European contact and the influence of Spanish missionaries and government officials (Hutchinson et al. 1998, 2000; Larsen et al. 2001).

In this book, I examine the human biology of prehistoric and proto-historic populations inhabiting the central Florida Gulf coast, emphasizing the time period A.D. 500–1400. Central to the discussions is the Palmer population, interred at one of the largest systematically excavated coastal mortuary sites in the southeastern United States. Several other large popu-

lations from Tampa Bay are used with Palmer to form the nucleus of the study. Comparative populations from the Florida Gulf coast, from the Florida interior, and from coastal and noncoastal areas in the greater Southeast are used to interpret the human biology of the central Florida Gulf coast. The synthesis of data along the Florida Gulf coast can contribute important information regarding the transition from foraging to farming, the emergence of complex social and political networks, and the nutrition and health of Florida coastal and adjacent populations.

Acknowledgments

My first archaeological experience in Florida was brought about through collusion between my master's degree advisor, Clark Spencer Larsen, and the principal investigator of Tatham Mound, Jerald T. Milanich. To both of them I owe tremendous gratitude for including me in a project that has absorbed me for years. I benefited immensely during that first field experience in Florida from the able knowledge of Jeffrey Mitchem and his familiarity with southeastern archaeology. Expeditions to collect data along the entire Florida Gulf coast with Jeff provided a deeper exposure to Florida archaeology, as well as enjoyable companionship.

My name is on the cover of this book as author, along with my two coinvestigators, Lynette Norr and Mark Teaford. Unfortunately, the structure of a nonedited volume does not allow for other authors. I would be negligent if I did not acknowledge those who contributed to the research reported in this volume and to my current thoughts on issues discussed here, or those who labored to help me make a better final written product. In that order, those with whom I have been privileged to collaborate on research for this and related projects include Clark Spencer Larsen, William Marquardt, Jerald Milanich, Jeffrey Mitchem, Lee Newsom, Lynette Norr, Chris Ruff, Katherine Russell, Margaret Schoening, Scott Simpson, Mark Teaford, and Karen Walker. In addition, several colleagues at East Carolina University and in Florida have contributed to my knowledge and insights regarding Florida archaeology. They include Ann Cordell, Randy Daniel, Susan DeFrance, Charlie Ewen, Laura Kozuch, George Luer, David Sutton Phelps, Donna Ruhl, Mike Russo, and Brent Weisman. My graduate and undergraduate students have been among my closest colleagues: Lori Higginbotham, Suzanne Johnson, Kristina Killgrove, Larry McSwain, Ferzana Siddiqui, and Bree Tucker. For editing and comments, I thank especially Lorraine Aragon and Kristina Killgrove.

The Palmer burial mound skeletal remains are curated at the Florida Museum of Natural History. I thank Jerald Milanich for permission to analyze the Palmer skeletal materials and his dedication to obtaining photographs and tracking down museum specimens. Elise LeCompte excelled in the role of registrar of the museum, and Theresa Schober assisted in the organization of the remains for analysis. David Hunt provided assistance at the National Museum of Natural History.

Preparation of the stable isotope samples was also facilitated by Theresa Schober. She kept the isotope samples in processing and saw them through to completion. With only a day to collect them, Bobby Knight of the Bokelia Fish Company provided numerous modern samples of fish for isotope analysis. Lee Newsom, Charles Blanchard, and Karen Walker assisted in the collection of plants and animals for stable isotope analysis on Pine Island. Robin and Jan Brown provided isotope samples, personal insights on potential food resources, and lunch on my sudden visit to Fort Myers in 1998. M.G.M. Gilliland and Elizabeth Claus provided their equipment and assistance in obtaining radiographs. Susan Brannock-Gaul was responsible for all of the maps, and her dedication during many years of collaboration is appreciated. Funding for this study was generously provided by the East Carolina Faculty Senate Research and Creative Activities Fund and the National Science Foundation (SBR 9707921).

Writing a book entails numerous late arrivals for breakfast, late nights at the computer, and other periods of solitary confinement away from family. Lorraine and Will, my family, have tolerated those obsessions with patience. They have participated in the study when possible through plant and animal collecting expeditions along the shores and estuaries of the Florida Gulf coast, and visited numerous archaeological sites. My gratitude to them both exceeds any words I could give them.

Author's Note

In 1997, I proposed a study to the National Science Foundation focused on coastal adaptation of late prehistoric populations from North Carolina. I wanted to compare a variety of dietary and pathological indicators of nutrition and health from inner coastal and outer coastal populations inhabiting the estuary system of North Carolina. For comparative purposes, I included the Palmer population in Florida. Because the analysis of the Palmer and the North Carolina populations was undertaken as a single larger study, the research design and data collection are identical.

The course of writing is one of growth and change. Consequently, despite similar themes in the two books—coastal adaptation, the transition to agriculture, and human health—there are enough separate research issues, comparative populations, and independent discussions to warrant the presentation of the data in two separate volumes.

The approach to the background ecology and data analysis in the two books is similar. I first present the ecological and cultural context of the region, then the basic theory behind interpreting skeletal and dental pathology as an indication of nutrition and health and, finally, the results obtained by analysis of the remains. The two books deviate in the next two sections, where the interpretation of the data and comparison with other populations are presented in a synthesis and conclusion. I view the North Carolina volume (Hutchinson 2002a) and the Florida Gulf coast volume (this work) as companion discussions, each with a focus on coastal populations, but each addressing several separate theoretical issues. The reader interested in coastal adaptation would profit by examining both volumes.