

Name: Matt Pawelski
Title: Maritime Studies Program, East Carolina University
Email: pawelskim20@students.ecu.edu

Title of Proposal: Metropolis and O'Keefe: Studying a Currituck Beach Shipwreck

Abstract: On January 31, 1878, the steamship Metropolis ran aground off Currituck Beach, North Carolina. The wreck brought with it national notoriety due to its large loss of life. In the time since, there has been an ongoing public interest in locating the remains of the vessel. Reports and stories going as far back as the early 20th century identify wreckage on the beach as Metropolis, and popular identifications of onshore wreckage as Metropolis continue to appear on social media and in local news articles. While work has been conducted on a potential offshore site, the onshore proximal sites have not been studied in great detail with an aim of establishing or disproving a relationship with Metropolis. Using historical sources along with archaeological evidence, this paper outlines an in-progress thesis that seeks to clarify the relationship of Metropolis with the nearby sites.