

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

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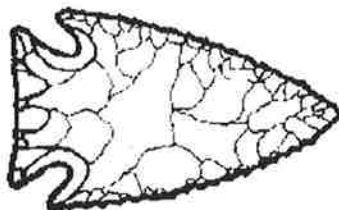
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Archaeological Preservation Legislation for 1999

The federal Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-298) transferred title of abandoned shipwrecks located in state waters to the individual states. The states now have the responsibility for caring for shipwrecks and other underwater cultural resources.

The Alabama Historical Commission has developed legislation in conjunction with professional maritime archaeologists, professional maritime historians, and other interested professionals and amateurs. The goal is to manage, protect, and maintain the state's submerged cultural resources. **HB 390/SB 109**, the **Alabama Underwater Cultural Resource Act (A.U.C.R.A.)** provides for:

- The identification, protection, and research of the State's submerged cultural resources.
- Provides professional guidelines for the exploration, excavation, or any such endeavor relating to submerged cultural resources.
- Provides that any such activity is in the best interest of the people of Alabama.

The jurisdiction of the proposed legislation is defined as waters belonging to the State of Alabama, including:

- Submerged lands.
- The State-owned bottoms of Alabama lakes, rivers, and bays
- The sea within the jurisdiction of the State of Alabama.

In essence, this law deals with artifacts that should be regulated and protected by the state because they are on state property (navigable waterways). This law codifies the state's ownership of these resources and provides for their preservation and protection. Contact your legislators today in support of this bill.

For more information contact:

Thomas Maher or

Greg Rhinehart (334)242-3184

Alabama Historical Commission

Visit the AAS Web Page:

<http://www.gulfmart.com/org/aas.htm>

What's Happening Around the State

1Ee493

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services (OAS) conducted a Phase II testing program at Site 1Ee493 in Wetumpka, Alabama. The site lies upon a nearly level terrace that is bound between an unnamed stream to the south and an intermittent stream to the north. Regionally, the site is situated on the back edge of the Coosa River flood plain, which is located less than one mile to the north. Discovered by OAS personnel during the survey of a proposed commercial property, preliminary investigations at Site 1Ee493 indicated that the site consists of a low to moderate density artifact scatter of unknown aboriginal origin. The remains of a historic structure were also discovered at the site probably representing an early twentieth century tenant dwelling. Considering the archaeologically sensitive nature of the Coosa River Valley and the depth of topsoil at Site 1Ee493, additional testing and research was recommended to determine the site's significance. The testing program included systematic shovel testing, the excavation of four 1m by 1m test units, a Ground Penetrating Radar survey, an evaluation of the historic structural remains, as well as research regarding the historical background of the region. The Phase II testing was performed during the week of February 8-12, 1999. Jeffery M. Meyer (Archaeological Technician) directed the field operations, Gene A. Ford (Architectural Historian) evaluated the structural remains and Maria J. Spry (Archaeological Technician) conducted background research for the project.

The Wetumpka area south to Fort Toulouse is historically significant because of its early eighteenth century settlements, plantation, and villages of the Upper Creek Nation. Site 1Ee493

occurs in the general vicinity of a variety of important historic aboriginal sites as well as the renowned French site, Fort Toulouse. The eighteenth century plantation of Alexander McGillivray, Little Tallassee, reportedly occurs in the Wetumpka/Fort Toulouse area. At the onset of the nineteenth century, European and American pioneers moved into the region. Site 1Ee493 lies on property acquired early in the century by a wealthy planter.

Results from the testing indicate that Site 1Ee493 is a sparse unknown aboriginal artifact scatter that is confined to a disturbed plowzone context. The majority of cultural material was recovered from the disturbed plowzone. Cultural material includes a single projectile point, lithic debitage, chipped stone, unmodified rock, and sparse amounts of aboriginal pottery, as well as historic artifacts. All of the pottery sherds are heavily eroded containing sand and/or grit temper with no decoration. Except for the discovery of the unidentified projectile point tenuously dating to either the Woodland period or to a more recent Mississippian/Protohistoric occupation, no other diagnostic artifacts were recovered. Sand tempered pottery in the region spans the Woodland period through Historic aboriginal times, thus, no specific cultural manifestation could be assigned to the pottery assemblage. The twentieth century tenant dwelling retains only the brick and concrete piers and the surrounding area is sparse in artifact density. Site 1Ee493 has been impacted by decades of cultivation.

The aboriginal component at Site 1Ee493 may represent a temporary campsite. However, it may constitute the outskirts of a much larger site, as the site appears to extend beyond the immediate project boundaries. Considering the Historic aboriginal occupation of the region, there is the potential that Site 1Ee493 related to that time period. Cedar trees that appear to be 100 years old stand along a stream approximately 12m south of the project area. These trees are often associated with historic dwelling sites. Considering the early and long-term occupation of the property, early nineteenth century plantation remains may exist just outside of the project area. However, further

investigation of the site within the project area would unlikely yield pertinent information regarding the cultural history of the area and the site is considered ineligible for nomination to the NRHP.

1DS184

Over Spring Break, Troy State University conducted a Phase II testing of 1DS184, located at Blackwell's Bend in Dallas County. The site was first located ten years ago by Julie Lyons, at which time a buffer zone was established to deter further digging for sand and gravel. This Phase II survey was done to determine what portion of the 12 acre area actually contained cultural material.

Initially, the 12 acre project site was mapped and a 20 meter grid was established over the entire area. Once this was completed, 50 x 50 cm shovel tests were alternated with 30 cm diameter shovel tests until the entire 12 acres were tested on a 20 meter grid interval. All shovel tests were excavated in 20 cm arbitrary levels and all artifacts were bagged accordingly. This testing procedure was followed by the excavation of six 1x1 meter units that were removed in 10 cm arbitrary levels. These 1x1 meter units were placed in the area of the site that produced the heaviest concentration of artifacts both on the surface and below surface.

The results of the testing indicated that the northern 65% of the project area contained three small sites (less than an acre each) that contained cultural material from the Early Archaic period, the Gulf Formational period, the late Woodland period, and the Historic period which included both Indian and European artifacts. The Historic period Indian artifacts consisted mainly of pottery and the European artifacts were mainly salt glazed stoneware sherds and kaolin pipe stem fragments. Probably the most phenomenal artifact in the northern part of the survey was a whole Big Sandy projectile point found in a shovel test 80 cm below the surface.

The southern section of the project area contained the remaining portion of what was

probably a large and rich site prior to 1989. At that time, the site was mostly destroyed by gravel mining. The remaining portion of the archaeological site is about an acre in size and contains artifacts predominantly from the Gulf Formational and Middle Woodland periods. A large amount of pottery was recovered from the test units including zone punctate, check stamped with podal supports, simple stamped, plain sand tempered, and plain fiber tempered. One of the most interesting finds on the site was a large, heavy milling stone made of quartz. Immediately adjacent to it were three small, round quartz pebbles showing extensive wear around their edges. All four of these artifacts were recovered within a darkly stained soil from which soil samples were taken.

Several large stemmed projectile points were also recovered with the pottery. In the Coastal Plain of Alabama, typically diagnostic Late Archaic points are commonly found with Gulf Formational pottery including fiber tempered and Deptford. In addition to the large quantity of artifacts recovered, a very dense mussel and periwinkle shell midden was discovered on the site. The shells served to preserve a rich collection of fauna remains that was also recovered from the midden. Although an analysis of the fauna remains has not been conducted yet, a rough field check of the bones indicated that most were deer. The shell midden was discovered at a depth of 15 cm below the surface and extended to about 50 cm below surface and is associated with the Gulf Formational and Middle Woodland artifacts from the site. Below this level, a sparse amount of what is probably Middle Archaic lithic material was recovered to a depth of 60 to 70 cm below surface.

Stephen B. Wimberly Scholarship Winner

The Alabama Archaeological Society Board of Directors are happy to announce that Scott W. Hammerstedt is this year's winner of the Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship and the Edward C. Mahan Research Grant. Mr. Hammerstedt is a graduate student in anthropology at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. He is also a member of the AAS as required by the conditions of the scholarship. We look forward to learning the results of Mr. Hammerstedt's research and wish him the best of luck. Below is a synopsis of Mr. Hammerstedt's proposal.

Southeastern United States Mississippian period groups were largely chiefdom level societies (Service 1971). These are seen in the archaeological record as large earthworks and mounds and in the ethnographical record as descriptions from early explorers that describe fortified towns, powerful chiefs, and large populations. As the center of a chiefdom which controlled nearly 45 kilometers of the Black Warrior River Valley, the Moundville site in west-central Alabama is one of the most intensively studied prehistoric sites in the United States. However, because of this focus on Moundville itself, outlying sites have been largely overlooked. Little data exist on outlying sites which presumably made up a large segment of the population of the Moundville chiefdom or on the populations that existed in the area prior to the emergence of Moundville. At this time, there are not enough data on these sites to even provide an estimate of their number (Welch 1998: 174-175).

A site survey is proposed to serve as a pilot study in order to develop the framework for further, more extensive survey research in the future. Questions to be considered include sizes and densities of sites, geomorphological characteristics of site locations, the potential for dating sites using surface collections, and the

nature of site clustering (e.g., due to environmental or social variables). To accomplish this, an intensive surface survey of plowed fields will be conducted along two transects that cover the valley from wall to wall. This will result in the identification of many previously unknown sites.

The transects to be surveyed will cover a range of landform types as well as areas both near and far from previously identified mound centers. By ensuring coverage of a variety of conditions and areas, it will be possible to make a more reasonable estimate of the number of sites and their patterns since a more representative sample of the valley will be utilized.

Fieldwork will take place in May and June 1999, with lab work to be completed by Fall 1999. Preliminary results will be presented at professional meetings during the fall of 1999 and final results will be disseminated by June 1999 as an M.A. thesis through the Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama.

Among the benefits of this type of survey are that a number of previously unknown sites will be recorded for later excavation and further study. It will provide a valuable starting point for further investigation into the characteristics of Mississippian settlement in the Black Warrior Valley.

Several important research goals will be attempted during the course of this pilot study. These are as follows:

1. Mississippian period sites are generally characterized by the presence of shell-tempered pottery. The uniformity of site size and density will be examined to see if it is consistent with known farmsteads and to see if there is evidence for site types other than farmsteads.

2. Diagnostics will be used to determine the prospects for dating sites using surface evidence. The re-visitation of known sites and the use of existing collections will be used in order to increase sample size.

3. Consultation with a geomorphologist will provide information on the types and relative age of landforms in the area. It is important to determine on what types of landforms and

geographic situations these sites occur and to what degree these are predictable.

4. If it is possible to show clustering of sites, it will be important to determine if it is influenced by environmental or social variables. By placing transects near Moundville and near a secondary center, the centrifugal impact of these centers on outlying sites, if any, may become apparent. Also, clustering may be seen correlating with topographical variables in the area.

This survey will also provide an opportunity for a preliminary look at West Jefferson phase settlement as a background to Mississippian emergence. To date, the only excavated West Jefferson sites are in Jefferson County. As a result, little is known about West Jefferson sites near Moundville. The size and density of these sites, as well as their variability (as can be seen from surface evidence), will be investigated.

American Society for Ethnohistory 1999 Annual Meeting

Call for Papers / Notice of Meeting Dates

Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research
Center
Mashantucket, Connecticut

20 - 24 October 1999

Organized Sessions, Special Events, Speakers, and Papers are encouraged for our 1999 Annual Meeting. Ethnohistorical work concerning any part of the world is welcome, but sessions and papers on the following topics are especially encouraged:

- ethnohistory of northeastern Native Americans;
- representations of indigenous people and their histories in museum exhibitions;

- American Indian gaming/gambling and economic history;
- Indigenous conceptions, presentations, and control of history.

Individual paper and/or session abstracts of 50-100 words should be typed on the appropriate forms, which will also be available at <http://www.ethnohistory.org> in **May 1999**.

Abstracts **must** be accompanied by preregistration fees of \$50 (for regular participants), \$25 (for students and retired participants) and postmarked by **June 12, 1999**.

Contact:

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Brown University
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Shepard_Krech_III@brown.edu

Limited travel funds will be available on a competitive basis for students presenting papers. More detailed abstracts will be required. Contact the Meeting Organizers for application forms and further details.

Conference details will be forthcoming throughout the summer at
<http://www.ethnohistory.org>.

AAS Board Meeting

The next board meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999 in Cullman, Alabama at the All Steak restaurant. All Steak is on the fourth floor of the Cullman Savings Bank Building, 314 Second Avenue SW (Hwy 31) in downtown Cullman. Please be there at 6:30 pm to order and eat. The meeting will start at 7 pm.

From I-65 take Hwy. 278 exit to downtown Cullman. There is a parking deck next to the bank building and elevators in the parking deck. Take the elevator to the fourth floor.

Chapter News

Cullman County Chapter

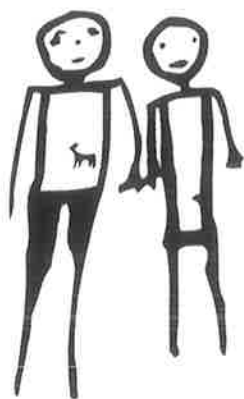
The Cullman County chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society held its regular meeting on April 15, 1999. The meeting was held in the Cullman County Library. The program was given by Mr. Steve Edge, with the American Indian Museum.

East Alabama Chapter

The East Alabama chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society held a presentation on April 20, 1999 entitled "Materials and Artistic Skills of Prehistoric Native Americans in Alabama." The presentation was given by Tim Atkins and Stacye Hathorn of the Alabama Historical Commission. They discussed basic materials, artistic skills and technologies of prehistoric Alabama--specifically flintknapping, Native American pottery, basket making, and cordage.

Troy State Chapter

The Troy State University Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society recently voted to begin meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 4 p.m. This change was agreed upon to increase the opportunities for member attendance. During April, the chapter watched two films from the "How the West Was Lost" series; the Cherokee and the Seminole.



Book Review

"The Mummies of Utumehi"

by Elizabeth Wayland Barber

W.W. Norton & Co. New York, 1999

Barber traveled to northwestern China near the Mongolian border where she studied several mummies of tall, light skinned, fair haired Caucasians, some 3000-4000 years old. One man was 6'6" tall, and a woman was over 6', red headed, wearing a leather skirt, woolen shawl, and fur moccasins. A 3 month old baby was found nearby and had a nursing bottle made from the nipple and skin of a sheep.

Sheep were first domesticated in this area thousands of years ago and had hair akin to that found on deer. Inbreeding of the domestic sheep created the curly wool found today. It is believed this occurred about 6000 years ago.

Barber suggests that tribes from Iran (Persia) traveled west as far as Scotland and Ireland and east to China. She bases this on the woven plaid patterns found on the mummies that are a virtual match for the wool patterns found today in Scotland. A remnant of this woven plaid has also been found in Hungary. The preservation of the mummies and material items was due to their burial in the salt flats of the Tarim Basin just south of the Gobi desert in Mongolia. The burials are located near the Old Silk Road of later times.

There are hundreds of graves in the basin and the Chinese have excavated a number of these, but are having difficulty in housing and preserving the mummies.

*article written and submitted by
Amos J. Wright Jr., Huntsville*

Indians Want Yahí Brain Returned

"Ishi. The Last Yahí Indian. 1916." These are the words etched on a simple black jar in Colma, California. Inside are only ashes, while miles away his brain floats in formaldehyde as part of the Smithsonian Institution's anthropological collection.

American Indians want Ishi restored in whole to his tribal homeland. The problem is that since he was the last of his tribe, there is no one left to lay proper claim to his remains.

Smithsonian officials are willing to return the brain, but not until they have determined who has the legitimate claim. This is likely to be a complex task because the Yahí were long ago wiped out by settlers and disease. And while Ishi was long described as the last Yahí, other theories about his ancestry may complicate the repatriation.

Ishi walked out of the past and into post-Gold Rush California early one August morning in 1911. He was found emaciated and near starvation near Oroville, in Butte County, and soon drew the attention of University of California anthropologists.

Ishi was soon installed at the university's anthropology museum in San Francisco. There, he settled into an odd, but apparently congenial routine. He became a kind of living exhibit, making spears, bows and arrows as fascinated visitors watched.

The middle-aged Ishi never told his name. Anthropologists came up with Ishi, which means "man" in a local Indian dialect.

By all accounts, Ishi was happy at the university. But civilization and alien germs proved too much for him. He died in 1916 of what doctors believed was tuberculosis.

taken from an Associated Press article in the Montgomery Advertiser, April 5, 1999.

Archaeology's Chief Critic Hits Stance

Hershel Shanks made a name for himself with a relentless and ultimately successful crusade in his magazine, Biblical Archaeology Review, to have the Dead Sea Scrolls, then controlled by a few secretive scholars, made accessible to the wider academic community.

Now Shanks is stirring up the archaeological community again with his provocative proposals for combating the problem of widespread looting of archaeological sites.

"The theory is," writes Shanks, "if the collectors are vilified enough, they will stop collecting." While this position gives archaeologists "a fine, warm fuzzy feeling from the high moral ground they see themselves occupying," he argues it has been "an absolute, utter failure" in stopping antiquities trafficking.

Archaeologists instead should encourage dealers and collectors to finance excavations and, without being pilloried, "reveal their treasures" so they can be studied, Shanks adds. He condemns looting and says looters should be punished. Still, Shanks compares the purchase of looted antiquities to the payment of "ransom" for kidnap victims.

Shanks also charges that archaeologists "avert their eyes from unprovenanced artifacts as if they were the most vulgar pornography." A stance that "deprives all of us of valuable information."

Not surprisingly, Shanks is not much loved in archaeological circles. Critics call him a publicity hound. Many archaeologists have a bigger gripe than self-promotion though. Shanks publishes ads from antiquities dealers in his magazines. By doing so, archaeologists argue, he helps create demand for illicitly obtained artifacts.

Shanks notes that his editorials advise readers not to become antiquities collectors and he is not one himself.

Prevailing wisdom among archaeologists is that when collecting stops, looters will go out of business.

"We really are on the same side," Shanks says of himself and archaeologists. He hopes his essay will "start a discussion" on how to enlist collectors and dealers in the battle against the looting of antiquities. It's a topic, he says, on which "there has never been an open public debate."

taken from an article written by Caryle Murphy for The Washington Post, April 4, 1999.

1999 Renewals

Doris H. Allegri, Fairhope AL
Philip D. Causey, Tallahassee FL
V. Keith Fleming JR, Port Townsend WA
Molly Gamble, Selma AL
Alan Gruber, Ackworth GA
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA
Lee Luis, Montgomery AL
Phillip E. Meadows, Decatur AL
M/M James H. Miller, Florence AL
Tim S. Mistovich, Tuscaloosa AL
Bibs Page, Watervliet MI
Nancy Rohr, Huntsville AL

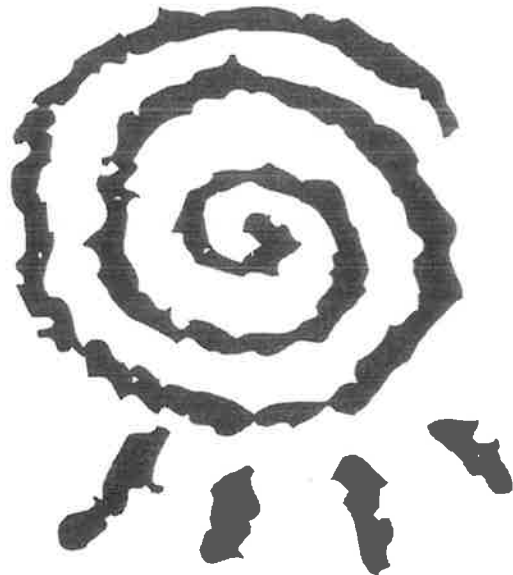
Corrections

We wish to make the following corrections to the February 1999 edition of Stones and Bones:

The Chair of the Scholarship Committee is Van King, and the Chair of the Finance Committee is Beverly Curry.



Deadline for articles to be included in the June Stones and Bones is May 20th.



Available Publications

Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>)	\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>)	\$6.00pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)</i>	
Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....	\$7.50pp
<i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	
Special Publication 2	\$6.00pp
<i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	
Special Publication 3	\$8.00pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$15.00pp
<i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> by Lively, Long, and Josselyn	\$3.00pp

Membership

The form below may be used for any or all of the following: applying for membership, payment of annual membership dues, change of address, or donations. Please be sure to print your name and address clearly, and check the appropriate boxes. All checks should be made payable to: **Alabama Archaeological Society**. Send the membership form and/or publication orders to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
Archaeological Services
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

The Alabama Archaeological Society Membership Form

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP

☐ ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT

☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ DONATIONS

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☐ Sustaining (individual).....\$20.00

☐ Joint Life (husband & wife).....\$300.00

☐ Sustaining (husband & wife).....\$25.00

☐ Annual (individual).....\$20.00

☐ Annual (institutional).....\$17.00

☐ Annual Family (husband, wife,
children under 18).....\$15.00

☐ Associate (students under 18).....\$9.00

☐ Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund* \$ _____

☐ Edward C. Mahan Research Fund* \$ _____

☐ Public Education Special Projects Fund* \$ _____

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STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

