

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 38, Issue 2

February 1996

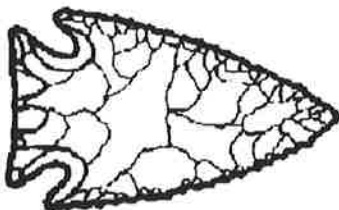
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What's Happening Around the State

The Auburn University Center for the Arts & Humanities and the Alabama Historical Commission will be cosponsoring a series of public humanities lecture/discussion programs in seven Alabama cities in 1996, entitled: **Visions of Our Past: Native Americans, Naturalists, Soldiers, Settlers**. The series is funded by a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the state agency of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The program will bring together citizens and noted scholars in history, anthropology, cultural geography, and archaeology to discuss the history and cultures of Southeastern Native American groups, the exploration and colonization of the state by Europeans, and the impact and legacy of Africans in the region. Speakers will include noted scholars from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida. Archaeologists John Cottier, Auburn University; Gregory Waselkov, University of South Alabama; and Craig Sheldon, AUM; geographer Louis De Vorsey, professor emeritus, University of Georgia; de Soto historian Lawrence Clayton, University of Alabama; and independent scholars

Sarah Hill from Atlanta and Kathryn Holland Braund from Dadeville will be among the presenters, as well as Gale Thrower of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Ned Jenkins of Fort Toulouse/Jackson, Robbie Ethridge from the University of Georgia, and author William Winn from Columbus, Georgia.

The first program in the series was hosted by the Alabama Department of Transportation on January 28th. The next program will be held on February 28th at the Magnolia Hotel in Foley and cosponsored by the Baldwin County Historical Society. Other cities and dates selected for the series include Marion, March 3rd; Fort Payne, April 14th; and Eufaula, September 15th. Birmingham will host a session on October 13th, Enterprise on October 20th, and Valley on November 17th. Local cosponsors include the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, the Pea River Historical Society, Landmarks of DeKalb, and Judson College.

For more information on the series and for specific session programs, contact the AU Center at: Auburn University, AL 36849, (334) 844-4946.

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services began excavation of a portion of 1Tu604, the Tannehill Furnace Site on November 6, 1994. The portion of the site that was subject to study is the area in front of the

Double Furnace (Furnaces No. 2 and 3). Prior research indicated it was probable that a roof of some type once had been present over the casting area in front of the Double Furnace. The purpose of this inquiry was to obtain evidence of the presence or absence of such a roof over the area that logically would have been the casting floor of the Double Furnace.

Due to the large volume of slag encountered, a backhoe was used to cut the test trenches and remove the overburden from the study area. Nine test trenches were cut. Trench profiles were troweled. Pertinent areas were shovel skimmed, and features were excavated manually. As a result of this excavation, (a) the depths of the bases of the furnaces were ascertained; (b) a casting floor was uncovered; (c) a rock wall which borders the casting floor was revealed; (d) evidence was found to support the contention that the furnaces were not in operation at the time of their destruction; (e) pedestals were exposed, providing evidence of the roof over the casting area; and (f) a stone drain was uncovered.

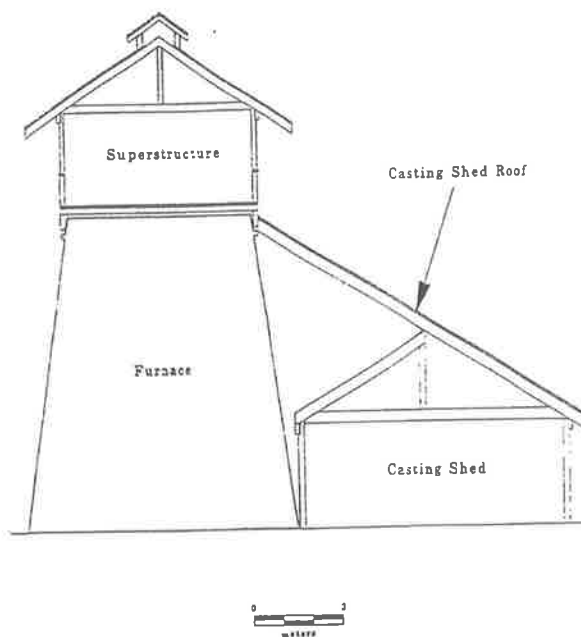
The base of Furnace No. 1 is 235 cm (94 in) below the ground surface, while the base of the Double Furnace is 60 cm (24 in) below the ground surface. It is reasonable to assume the shallower depth of the Double Furnace was a result of its hasty construction during the Civil War and contributed to the eventual collapse of the Double Furnace.

A 6 m (19.7 ft.) square casting floor was discovered beneath a slag ridden overburden. The surface of the smooth floor is composed of sterile yellow and overlying brown sand contaminated by spew. Several darkened areas are present in the casting floor. It is suggested that some of the silhouettes represent fallen cross members of the burned roof. The casting floor and the silhouettes should be protected and subject to future research. Various iron artifacts were recovered from the overburden of the casting floor, the most notable being a cast iron stop, which must have been one used to regulate the iron flow of the pigs. Fragments of a runner were recovered in the area between the casting floor and the front of Furnace No. 2.

The boundary of the casting floor is delineated on the north, south, and east sides by a line of cut rocks, which appears to be a wall. Five sandstone pedestals positioned about 4 m (13 ft) apart in a line beyond the east wall of the casting floor provide evidence that a roof structure was once over the casting floor.

An additional pedestal was found in front of Furnace No. 2. It is smaller than the ones that border the casting floor. It is probable that other pedestals are located in the area not excavated in front of Furnaces No. 2 and No. 3.

Kenneth D. Hester, an architect with knowledge and expertise in the subject of historic furnaces and the Tannehill complex, studied the location of the excavated pedestals. Hester has allowed us to present his drawing of the double Furnace and the shed over the casting floor. The drawing is based on the location of the pedestals and construction practices during the period when the Double Furnace was built. It presents an elevation view of the Double Furnace. Hester's drawing shows the roof of the casting shed rising to the small ledge extending from the top of the furnace where it joins the superstructure which covered the top of the furnace and kept rain from falling into the hearth when the furnace was filled.



The findings of this investigation support Bergstresser's (The Archaeology of the Interiors of the Civil War Blast Furnaces at Tannehill State Park, Alabama 1994) conclusion that Furnaces No. 2 and No. 3 were not in operation at the time of Croxton's attack. While Bergstresser presented such evidence as solidified iron and charcoal, known as a salamander, found in the bottom of Furnace No. 2, the present investigation of the area beneath the arch of Furnace No. 3 yielded an elongated object that appears to have been the result of waste iron dripping out of the furnace after the final firing, indicating Furnace No. 3 was not in production at the time of destruction.

*Submitted by: Beverly S. Curry, M.A.
Archaeological Specialist
Office of Archaeological Services
The University of Alabama*

Summer Internships in Historical Archaeology

The Hermitage will host its eighth year of internships in historical archaeology during the summer of 1996. Interested students may apply for either five-week or two-week sessions.

Five-Week Sessions: Intended for advanced undergraduates and early-phase graduate students who have had some field training in archaeology and who are looking for more experience in a research-oriented setting. The program provides room, board, and a \$1000 stipend.

Dates:

Session I, June 2- July 6

Session II, July 14-August 17

Two-Week Sessions: Intended primarily for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in such fields as history, African-American studies, American studies, folklore, and geography who are interested in gaining knowledge in the archaeological study of the recent past. No archaeological experience necessary. Two-week interns will receive room, board, and a \$400 stipend.

Dates:

Session A, June 23-July 6

Session B, July 21-August 3

Session C, August 4-17

Fieldwork in 1996 will continue investigations of Hermitage dwelling sites occupied by slaves. Interns will participate in all phases of field excavation and laboratory processing of finds.

Application is by letter, which should include a summary of education and research experience and a statement detailing your specific interest in the program. Be sure to indicate if you are applying for the two or five-week internship, and include a first and second session preference. Applicants must have a letter of recommendation sent under separate cover. If you would like to be notified once your application is complete, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard. Send letters and inquiries to:

Dr. Larry McKee

The Hermitage

4580 Rachel's Lane, Hermitage, TN 37076

Questions about the program can also be directed by email to:

Lmckeeherm@aol.com.

All application materials must be received by April 10. All applicants will be notified of selection decisions no later than May 1.

Calendar

March 8, 1996- The Alabama Academy of Science will be held at Tuskegee University. A number of interesting papers in archaeology and anthropology will be presented by both students and professionals around the state. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Dr. Harry Holstein at Jacksonville State University for more details.

May 16-18, 1996- The Center for the Study of Southern Culture, the National Park Service's Natchez Trace Parkway office, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will examine the multi-layered cultural landscape of the

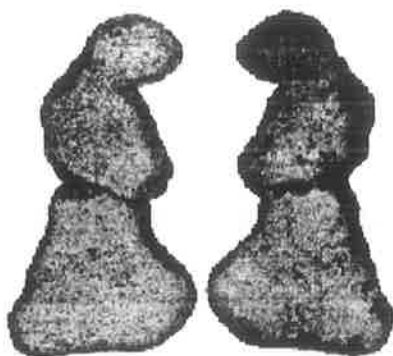
In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past

Twenty-one years ago in February, 1975, the Cullman County Chapter listened to Charles Moore, who discussed the Regional Indian History of the Florence area and brought artifacts from the area for exhibit.

The Choccolocco Chapter listened to Dr. John Clayton, who entitled his program "God, Man and Cave Man," which was an explanation of the origins of man.

(Taken from the 1975 issue of Stones&Bones)

Mysterious Find



This is a modified sand-tempered pottery sherd recovered by Troy State University Archaeological Research Center at 1Bu18, a prehistoric site near McKenzie. There are some hypotheses but the identification is somewhat a mystery. Hypotheses include an effigy of a beaver, a female effigy, a child's toy, or a burnishing tool to establish pottery rims. The object has been subjected to experimental testing and the best theory thus far is that it is a burnishing tool. All edges of the artifact have been ground and the inside edge has been beveled. An identical artifact was found at another site 1/2 mile away. If you

can give insight into this perplexing problem, please contact TSUARC: (334) 670-3639

fax: (334) 670-3706

Troy State University

Archaeological Research Center

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy, AL 36082



Membership

In the fall of 1995, the TSU Chapter mailed AAS membership forms accompanied by a letter explaining what the AAS was all about to every public library in the state. As a result, 20 public libraries have joined the AAS. The TSU Chapter expanded its efforts in January by mailing AAS membership forms to every public high school in Alabama. During the coming year, we hope to be able to also contact all Jr. High Schools as well as elementary schools.

Dues

AAS dues are now overdue. If you have not renewed for 1996, please do so today! Mail your renewal form and dues to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

- Vol. 20-31, each issue (*two issues per volume*).....\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (*two issues per volume*).....\$6.00pp
Stanfield- Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)
Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....\$7.50pp
Special Publication 2 - *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*.....\$6.00pp
Special Publication 3 - *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend* .. \$8.00pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types.....\$15.00pp
Lively, Long; Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper..... \$3.00pp
Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology (Juvenile).....\$9.00pp

MEMBERSHIP

The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that appropriate boxes are checked.

TO: THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

- ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES
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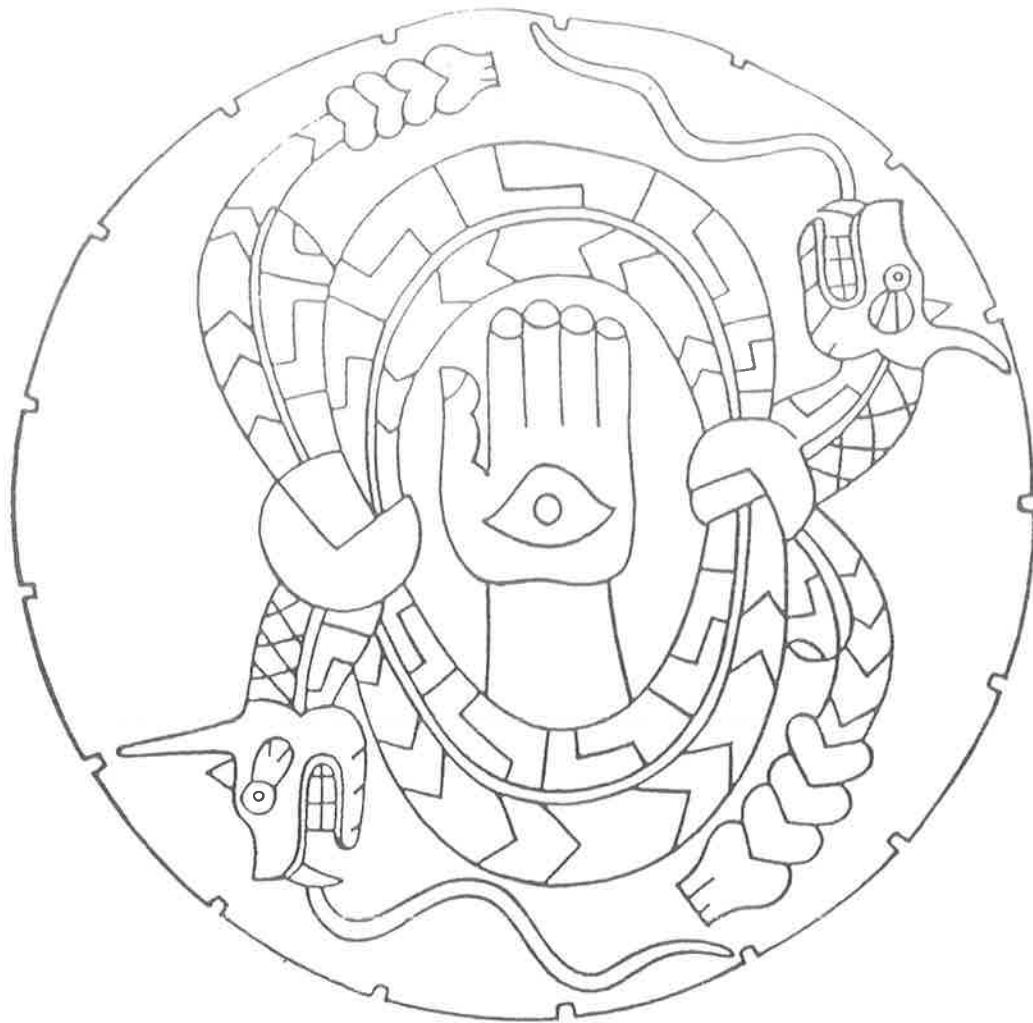
Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico \$2.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional Membership, (\$20.00 additional for Individual Life and \$25.00 additional for Joint Life Membership

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