

Alabama Archaeological Society

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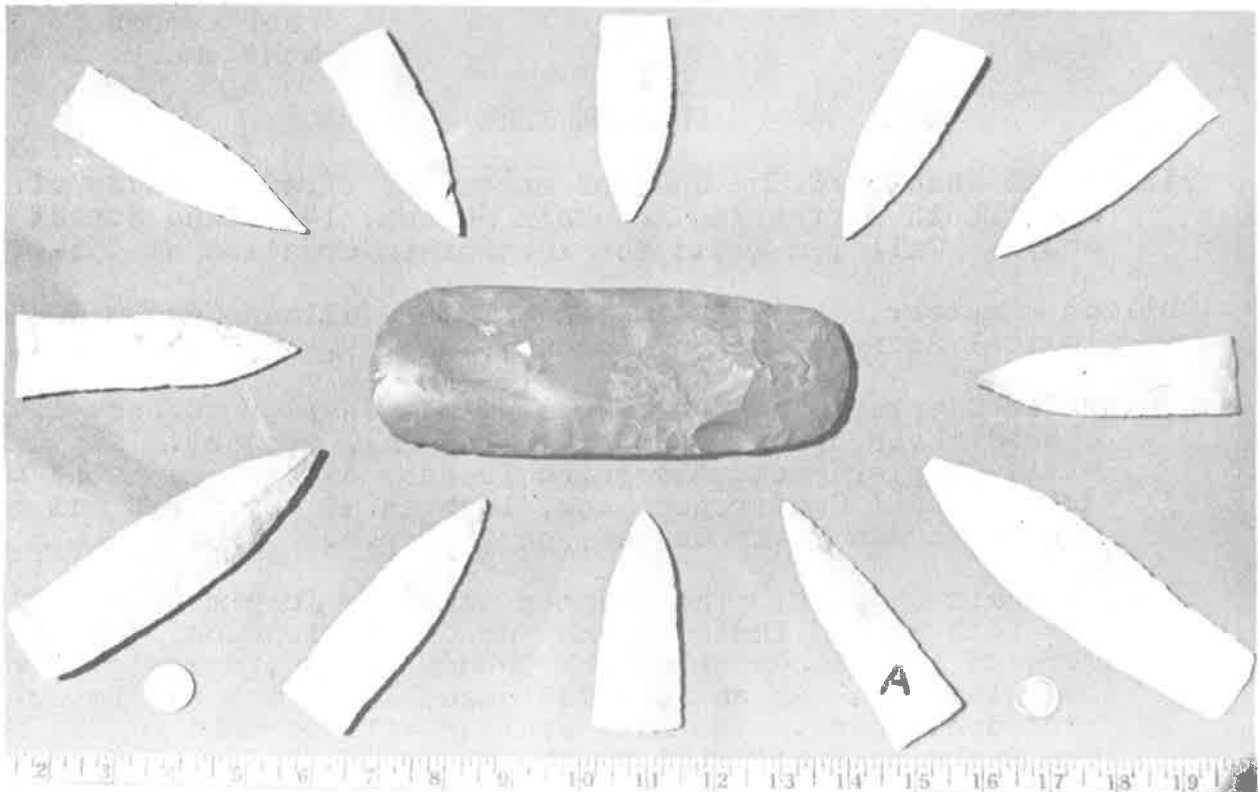
STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

MORE THAN 150 IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL SUMMER STATE SOCIETY MEETING

Attendees of the Alabama Archaeological Society "Early Man Conference" in Florence on July 15, 1978, enjoyed carefully prepared papers by archaeologists summarizing the results of recent archaeological investigations of "Early Man" in the Southeast. These plus many exhibits of Paleo lithic material provided a most useful and educational forum on a subject of perennial interest. Following the meeting, a guided tour of the Indian Mound Museum was conducted. A recent addition to the museum exhibits is an outstanding example of Copena workmanship—in a thirteen piece cache. Mr. Charles Moore, discoverer, reports that the cache was observed eroding out of a mud ridge in the Pickwich Basin during a period of low water on December 20, 1975. Point "A" was located first about 12 feet from the cache. Five points and the polished flint celt were next observed in a cluster and found to be covering the remainder of the points. All were pointing in the same direction, some lying flat while others were lying on the blade edge. If you are in the Florence area, a few minutes visiting this museum will be time well-spent.



COPENA CACHE FROM PICKWICH BASIN

August 1978

NOTE

The Winter Meeting of the A. A. S. will be held in Montgomery - more details later.

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

The Alabama Historical Commission will hold its annual meeting in Selma this year on August 11 and 12. Last year our workshop in archaeology was a success, and this year we are trying to have an even better program. Two workshops will be conducted this year. The first session will be August 11, Friday, at 2:00, on "the significance of archaeological sites from the researcher's point of view", and the second session will be Saturday, August 12 at 2:00, on "the management (salvage and preservation) of significant archaeological sites". Coordinator for the sessions will be Mack Brooms, and Bennie C. Keel, Chief - Interagency Archaeological Services in Atlanta - will be special guest participant. Other members of the workshop panel will include archaeologists from several agencies and institutions who are directly involved in cultural resource management. The workshops will be informal with a great deal of the program involving questions and discussion from the audience.

For information concerning motels and conference registration, please contact Mrs. Jeanette Barrett, Alabama Historical Commission; 725 Monroe Street; Montgomery, Alabama 36130; Telephone 832-6621.

Mack Brooms
Montgomery

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum, 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: The July meeting of the Cullman County Archaeological Society was on Monday, July 17.

Huntsville Chapter: At the July meeting, Chapter members discussed their upcoming Constitution Hall project. The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Arts Council Conference Room, located at the north end of the Von Braun Civic Center, at 7:00 p.m.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter held its July meeting on the 10th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. There were 28 in attendance. Mack Brooms of Montgomery gave an excellent program on Fort Toulouse, featuring the latest work done there. The next meeting will be held August 14. The Pickwick Point will be the point of the month for study.

RUSSELL CAVE REPORT

As a service to the many who have expressed interest in the book INVESTIGATIONS IN RUSSELL CAVE, originally published by the National Park Service in 1974, the Huntsville Chapter has arranged for its reprint. The book is now available from Miss Cindy Sims, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer, at Chapter meetings for \$4.50, or postpaid, \$5. Write to Miss Cindy Sims; Route Two, Box 750; New Market, Alabama 35761.

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

Emmons, Mr. and Mrs. Trace (F)	Route Two, Box 211; Brewton, Alabama 36426
Farrer, Mr. John (I)	Route One, Box 37; Cedar Acres; Madison, Alabama 35758
Hensley, Mr. Roy L. (I)	310 South Blair Street; Florence, Alabama 35130
Holman, Mr. Walter M. (I)	Route Six, Box 20; Albany, Georgia 31705
McWhorter, Mr. James H. Jr. (I)	13028 Macbeth Drive, S. E.; Huntsville, Alabama 35803
Roys, Mr. and Mrs. Pat (F)	11015 Strong Drive, S. E.; Huntsville, Alabama 35803
Young, Mrs. Louise (I)	c/o Indian Mound Museum; S. Court Street; Florence, Alabama 35630

SEVEN MILE ISLAND

The Florence Historical Board is attempting to preserve Seven Mile Island on the Tennessee River west of Florence because of its archaeological heritage. The Board's position on the future of the island is as follows:

"We think that Seven Mile Island should be treated as if it were already on the National Register of Historic Places until such time as it is placed on the Register.

"We do not oppose a bridge across Seven Mile Island providing there is no access from the bridge to the Island.

"We think that in placing bridge supports on the Island and adjacent river bottom area, federal legal standards that require controlled excavation by trained archaeologists and salvaging of artifacts should be observed, and that a copy of the required report of the work on this site, and the artifacts be turned over to a local publicly owned museum for preservation and public display.

"We oppose any other construction, excavation, or earth removal that might change the natural shape and stratigraphy of Seven Mile Island.

"We strongly urge that Tennessee Valley Authority security personnel, and other peace officers, arrest and prosecute any person found digging for artifacts in an unauthorized manner in and around Seven Mile Island."

Charles E. Moore
Florence

NOTE

Representative Bill Nichols is supporting a bill in Washington to correct the erosion along the Coosa River banks at Fort Toulouse and the Indian Mound. It has passed the Senate and is expected to have no trouble in the House with Nichols' backing.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

MEETING

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held November 9-11 at the Ramada Inn West; 7621 Kingston Pike; Knoxville, Tennessee 37919. To guarantee reservations for accommodations, make them before October 9, 1978 and be sure to mention the SEAC. A tentative program has Meeting Registration start on Wednesday, November 8, from 7-9 p.m. On Thursday morning registration starts at 7:30 a.m., with the Symposiums and Contributed Papers and Report Sessions starting at 9:00 a.m. and continuing through the day, Thursday, Friday and until noon on Saturday. The Business Meeting will be at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, with a reception and cash bar on Friday 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. If you wish to present a paper and have not received a copy of the Guidelines for Papers, contact Jefferson Chapman, Department of Anthropology; University of Tennessee; South Stadium Hall; Knoxville, Tennessee 37916. The deadline for submission is September 1, 1978, although exceptions may be allowed for Current Research and Field Reports.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

PROPOSED DEFINITION - OBJECT OF ANTIQUITY

Object of antiquity as used in the American Antiquities Act of 1906.34 Stat. 225 (16 U.S.C. 431, 432 and 433) and in this Part, means -

(A) Any artifact that is at least 100 years of age, including but not limited to petroglyphs, pictographs (prehistoric and historic rock art), intaglios, rock alignments, paintings, pottery (ceramics), tools, implements, ornaments, jewelry, coins,

fabrics, clothing, containers, ceremonial objects (items of socio-religious or political significance, vessels, ships armaments, vehicles, structures (or remains thereof), and buildings;

(b) When found within a cultural context, any skeletal remains of humans or other vertebrate animals (including fossils), that are at least 100 years of age;

(c) Any object that is at least 100 years of age and is located in or associated with an archaeological, historic, or paleontological site, if the site has been physically posted or marked by the land manager as protected, or has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places; or

(d) Any remains of extinct fossil vertebrate species.

(From the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 69 - Monday, April 10, 1978)

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

WORKSHOPS IN NATIVE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY

Workshop Activities. The 1978 summer Workshops included the following activities:

Pottery-making (from selection and preparation of clays to firing completed vessels)

Constructing dugout canoes

Stone tool manufacture (chipping finished tools from flint)

Elements of traditional house construction

Weaving mats and other textiles

Collecting and processing wild foods

Location: The Workshops in Native American Technology are conducted at the Kampsville Archaeological Center on the Illinois River, 270 miles southwest of Chicago (50 miles north of St. Louis).

MEETINGS

September 29030 - 19th Annual Conference on Historic Site Archaeology in Old Salem, North Carolina. August 1 is the deadline for titles of papers to be sent in for inclusion in the program. Stanley South, Chairman CHSA; Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina 29208.

October 13-14 - Annual Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology at Kennesaw College, Marietta, Georgia. Dr. Betty Smith, Secretary SGA, Social Science Division, Kennesaw College, Marietta, Georgia 30061.

November 2-5 - Eastern States Archeological Federation.

November 14-19 - American Anthropological Association in Los Angeles.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

BOOK REVIEWS

Ancient Scilly: From the First Farmers to the Early Christians, by Paul Ashbee, David and Charles Pub., London, c. 1974. \$18. Illustrated, photos, maps and drawings.

This is a fascinating book about a small group of the islands located in the English Channel. They all have interesting names such as Samson, Bryher, Tresco, St. Helens, Tean, Annet, etc.

These British-owned islands have a long history of occupation, from prehistoric to historic times. In 1793, William Borlase excavated around these islands and left a written report of his findings. In later years there have been many excavations and studies made. The enormous numbers of stone cists, cairns, walls, forts, standing stones and house sites are of much interest, and many date back to 2000 B. C.

Not too many artifacts have been found other than the large collections of sherds and some pottery. The present inhabitants of the islands raise large crops of daffodils in some areas, and other houses and buildings have taken their toll of destruction of some sites.

This is a well written and well researched book by a talented professional archaeologist who spent many years excavating on these islands.

A Field Guide to Conservation Archaeology in North America, by Georgess McHarque and Michael Roberts, Lippincott pub., c. 1977. \$8.95. Illustrated, maps, drawings and photos.

This is quite an informative book for all amateur archaeologists. The book lists archaeological areas of North America. Also, chapters deal with surveying information and the locating of sites.

There are reading lists of books pertaining to archaeology, addresses of professional societies, names of state archaeologists, and where maps may be obtained. There is a summary of archaeological laws and a fine glossary.

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

PUBLICATIONS

Ballena Press Publication on North American Rock Art, #1: C. W. Clewlow, Jr., Editor. Four Rock Art Studies - paper cover, \$5.95. Ballena Press, P. O. Box 1366, Socorro, New Mexico 87801.

THE FORGOTTEN FRONTIER: FLORIDA THROUGH THE LENS OF RALPH MIDDLETON MUNROE. Arva Moore Parks, Miami: Banyan Books, Inc., 1977. 178 pp., b/w illus., index, \$25. A remarkable, previously unknown collection of photographs by one of the few people to document the early years of the settlement of Florida, this volume includes scenes of a Florida that has long been lost to highways and highrises.

GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST FROM MY GRANDFATHER'S TRUNK, by John Peavy Wright. This historic and genealogical data relating to Lee County and East Alabama is available for \$10 from the author, 631 North Ross, Auburn, Alabama 37830.

THE POVERTY POINT CULTURE, by Clarence H. Webb. Volume XVII of the Geoscience and Man, 83 pp., \$5.00 plus \$.75 postage and handling. Order from Publications Section, School of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803.

CONFEDERATE FORTS by Zed H. Burns (Southern Historical Publications, \$9.95, 110 pp.) This study of civil war forts, including Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines in Alabama, with many color plates, is available from Southern Historical Publications, P. O. Box 906; Natchez, Mississippi 39120.

FACT AND FABLES OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, by Johnny Hester. The former County Historian tells the area's tales from Indians to Jesse James in an 80-page paperback book. Copies are available for \$2.25 from the author, P. O. Box 610; Russellville, Alabama 35653.

IF WALLS COULD TALK, by Dot Graf (Oxmoor Press, \$22.50, 132 pp). This privately published history containing drawings and sketches of many Cullman landmarks is available from L. M. Glasscock, 801 Second Ave., Cullman, Alabama 35055, along with information on drawings, water colors and postcards of your home or historic building.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

CARBON-14 DATING: NEW POSSIBILITIES

A new technique for radiocarbon dating promises to greatly improve the accuracy of the procedure, more than double its range of validity in time and permit the use of much smaller samples. The new method was developed at the University of Rochester Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory by an interdisciplinary team of American and Canadian scientists.

Carbon dating of biological tissues involves measuring the ratio of radioactive carbon-14 atoms to those of ordinary carbon-12 in a sample. Assuming that the ratio of these two isotopes in atmospheric carbon dioxide is constant, one can determine the age of a biological sample by measuring how much of the C-14 is left. Since the "half-life" of C-14 is 5,730 years, a sample that old would have an isotope ratio only half as large as when the organism was alive.

Previously, the measurement of C-14 was done by detecting its radiation, a technique that earned the Nobel Prize for its inventor, Willard F. Libby. This procedure requires several grams of sample material, however, in order to produce a measurable amount of radiation. The new technique involves counting directly the individual carbon atoms released from a source only a few milligrams in size.

Laboratory director Harry E. Gove told SCIENCE NEWS that by counting the carbon ions directly, three great benefits might be obtained compared with the conventional procedure of measuring radiation. First, sample size could be reduced a thousandfold. Second, accuracy could be increased so that at 5,000 years, a sample's age would be uncertain by only a decade, compared with about 150 years uncertainty using previous techniques. Finally, the device should now be able to date samples as old as 70,000 years and, with modifications, eventually to push back nearly 100,000 years. Present techniques are limited to about 40,000 years.

One drawback toward wide application of the new technique will be the cost. Gove estimates that a device built from scratch to perform the new carbon dating procedure might cost half a million dollars. In the existing mass spectrometer facility, however, the individual 6-minute runs required to determine the age of a specimen would not be very expensive, compared with conventional carbon dating.

(From SCIENCE NEWS, Volume 111, No. 26 - June 25, 1977)