

Stones & Bones

Jan. and Feb. 2013

Volume 55, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society

President's Letter

Fresh from the great AAS Winter Meeting in Mobile, I would like to thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as President in 2013. I would like to thank the Delchamps Archaeology Museum and the Center of Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama for hosting our recent Winter Meeting. Special thanks go to our outgoing President, Teresa Paglione, for two outstanding years of leadership and service. We all appreciate your hard work and your continued commitment to the Society as Assistant Editor of the newsletter and as head of the East Alabama Chapter.

Last year was a good one for the AAS. Both our 2012 Summer and recent 2013 Winter meetings were well attended – in fact, the Summer Meeting at Moundville must have broken an attendance record, as we had to divide the attendees between two rooms to learn about the past and present investigations at this amazing Mississippian mound center. The Society also sponsored several field trips in 2012, including excavations at Old St. Stephens (in conjunction with the University of South Alabama) and Community Archaeology Day at Fort Tombecbe (in association with the University of West Alabama's Black Belt Museum), in addition to several public education/outreach events and the activities of the local chapters.

In 2012, we made great strides at getting the Society's flagship journal, *Alabama Archaeology*, back on track and up-to-date. I would particularly like to thank our Journal Editor, Dr. Ashley Dumas, and her assistant editors for such hard work. Early this year, we will be publishing the second issue for 2010 (Vol. 56, Issue 2), and late this year, the 2011 volume. The 2011 volume will be a double issue, featuring a site report on the Paleoindian Belle Mina site by Blaine Ensor. Please note that these journals will be sent to members whose dues were paid in full for the particular volume's publication year – if you are a new member, these 'back issues' will be

available for purchase through the AAS Treasurer.

According to our Treasurer's report presented at the 2013 Winter Meeting, the Society's finances are in good shape with a net gain in proceeds in 2012. However, it should be noted that much of these proceeds are already ear-marked for the publication of the journal. As of last December we had a total of 287 paid memberships, with 38 new members joining the Society (many at the Summer Meeting). Unfortunately, our total membership is down, as we had 85 individuals elect not to renew - a net loss of 47 members. This year, one of our goals will be to convince our old friends to rejoin the society while continuing to recruit new members.

This is an exciting year to be involved in the AAS, as we observe the 200th anniversary of the start of the Creek War and the ongoing anniversary of the War of 1812 – pivotal events in the formation of the state of Alabama. I know for school-age children, it seems like Alabama has been here forever, but it has been only 200 years since Andrew Jackson and various militia units did battle with the Red Stick Creek across the land we now call home. The year 1813 saw the events prominent in Alabama history: the Battle of Burnt Corn Creek (July 27th), the Fort Mims Massacre (Aug 30th), the Battles at Tallushatchee (Nov 3rd) and Talledega (Nov 9th), the Canoe Fight (Nov 12th), the Hillabee Massacre (Nov 18th), the Battle of Autosse (Nov 29th), and the Battle at Holy Ground (Dec 23rd). Later this year, look for field trips and possibly a Summer Meeting at a site associated with these historical events. For a full list of upcoming events, please be sure to watch our website:

www.alabamaarchaeology.org, as well as our Facebook and Twitter pages for updates. If you would like to be put on an email list for updates, please contact me or one of the other officers (contact info is listed on the back page of this newsletter).

I would like to close by saying that it is an honor to lead a society that works so hard to preserve, protect, and educate the public about the archaeological resources of the state of Alabama. Stretching from

tiny Paleoindian lithic scatters to the grandeur of Moundville, and from historic plantations and abandoned state capitols, to the lowliest slave cabin and tenant house ruins; Alabama's rich archaeological record spans the gamut of human history in North America. We are fortunate to live in a state with such rich heritage, and I hope everyone will celebrate by visiting one of our state's many archaeological and historical parks.

Sincerely,

Eric Sipes, AAS President

The 2013 Winter Meeting

By Teresa Paglione

Over 70 AAS members and guests enjoyed the evening reception at the Delchamps Archaeology Building and Museum Friday night, and on Saturday, the presentations illuminating the new research of Alabama's prehistory and history. Our hosts, the University of South Alabama (USA) Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) staff, the Archaeology Museum staff and the AAS Southwest Chapter (Mobile) are to be commended for a wonderful meeting. Not to be forgotten are the sponsors of our meeting who graciously donated funds to subsidize our meeting: MRS Consultants (Tuscaloosa), Brockington & Associates (Norcross, GA), Wiregrass Archaeology (Dothan/Mobile), Panamerican Consultants (Tuscaloosa), Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research (Huntsville), Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants (Waverly Hall, GA), New South Associates (Stone Mountain, GA), and the Southwest and the East Alabama chapters of AAS. We had plenty of food and drinks Friday and Saturday during and after the meeting – more than enough, really!

Saturday's presentations began with Dr. Kristrina Shuler (Auburn), who discussed her study of skeletal material that focused on the stress markers found at the junction of ligaments/tendons/muscles and bone in "Upper Limb Entheseal Change with the Transition to Agriculture in the South-

eastern United States: A View from Moundville and the Central Tombigbee River Valley.” Next, Tara Potts (CAS) discussed how the analysis of maps and subsequent testing of potential locations resulted in the discovery of an important Creek War town with “Holy Ground: A Historic Creek Village and Battlefield.” This virtually undisturbed historic site has since been purchased by the Archaeological Conservancy for preservation. Teresa Paglione (USDA NRCS) gave an overview of how volunteers have been used to research and map sites in “NRCS and AAS Volunteer activities: Riverview, Jimmerson and MT 99.” Dr. Phil Carr (USA) described stone beads and their production in “The Organization of Prehistoric Chert Bead Technology.” He showed examples of chipped, ground and drilled stone beads and the tools used to make them. Before the first morning break, we heard from Kassandra Williams, a Troy student, regarding several surveys and sites adjacent to wetlands in “Soggy Sites: Surveys of Selected Wetland Reserve Program Lands.”

After the break, Hamilton Bryant (Auburn) gave an overview of the newest discoveries at a site that has been intermittently tested by university field schools over the last decade with “Trenches, Remote Sensing and Soil Cores: Investigations at the Ebert Canebrake.” The site includes several structures as well as a palisade wall clearly visible via remote sensing. We then had a bit of a different topic just over the state line with the discussion of an underwater site by Rebecca Booker (U West FL). “Life in a Floating Lumber Camp: An Archaeological Survey of a Submerged Site on the Escambia River” was a unique look at the structural remains (and aerial features) of an industry that involved removing cypress logs in wetlands and swamps. Returning to a more familiar subject, Scott Butler (Brockington and Associates) discussed “Prehistoric Site Distributions in West Central Alabama-Results of the 2011 Survey of the I-85 Extension Corridor.” After Scott, we were treated to an in-depth look by Ned Jenkins (AL Historical Comm./Ft. Toulouse) at a favorite subject – “where de Soto slept” – aptly entitled “The Hernando deSoto Entrada through Central Alabama: September-November, 1540.” Ned discussed following – or rather recognizing the clues to locating the specific trails and sites de Soto and his troops visited.

After lunch we convened our Business meeting, which included reports by our

treasurer and publications editors as well as elections (the new roster of officers is listed on page 7). Following the election, presentations resumed with Dr. Ashley Dumas (UWA) presenting “Updates on the Fort Tombecke Archaeological Project” which included finding the French walls, bread ovens, a “Public Archaeology” event on National Archaeology Day (October 20) and an opportune visit by Alabama’s US Senator Jeff Sessions, whose departure was delayed by a rainstorm – thus allowing more time to see Alabama history first-hand and talk to the archeologists about the interpretations of the artifacts and features in context. Ben Hoksbergen (Redstone Arsenal) described how prehistoric features discovered eroding from the riverbank were investigated with “Water, Time, Gravity...Money: Salvaging Archaeological Data on the Tennessee River Bank along Redstone Arsenal.” Our next speaker, Jeremy Davis, PhD candidate at Alabama, gave us an update on what has been found by remote sensing and testing at Moundville just since our summer meeting with “On Common Ground: Memory, Identity, and the Remaking of Communal Tradition at Early Moundville.” The results of a ground penetrating radar survey together with limited testing has enabled the interpretation of different types of magnetic anomalies which should result in a map of Moundville depicting its buried structures. Next was another Auburn graduate student, Kelly Ervin, who presented an analysis of the shellfish recovered on sites with “Woodland Exploitation of Freshwater Mollusks in the Upper Alabama Drainage.” The bivalve species were identified to better understand the mid-late Woodland subsistence strategy and the environments where such shellfish thrived – or used to thrive since some are now extinct due to the construction of dams, sedimentation and slow-moving, warmer waters. Finally, we returned to the topic of Moundville for Brandon Thompson’s (UA Office of Archaeological Research/ Moundville) “Preliminary Results of the 2012 Mound P Flank Excavations.” The excavations are necessary prior to the construction of a ramp and viewing platform from the museum to the mound.

The Friday evening reception (6-8pm) allowed everyone time to visit the museum and to chat with other AAS members and the general public in a leisurely atmosphere - without having to worry about missing presentations or a long drive home in the dark. Saturday was a full day of presentations, but we still had time to return to the museum for snacks and drinks

for an hour or more before everyone had safe drives home to Pensacola, Mobile, Birmingham, Florence, Eufaula, Opelika, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, Selma, Montgomery If you missed the meeting , you missed a really good one!



Southern Lights: Digging Deep into Childhood Dream, Pastime

By Ben Windham
(reprinted with permission from the *Tuscaloosa News*)

The following editorial by Ben Windham originally appeared in the Tuscaloosa News on January 20, 2013. In the article, Mr. Windham describes an attempt in the 1960s, to make the transition from artifact collector to pro-fessional archaeologist, only to make the mistake of "digging" without formal training. A negative encounter with the late Dr. David DeJarnette soon followed. Everyone familiar with Alabama archaeo-logy knows the excellent contributions that Dr. DeJarnette made to the field - at Moundville and elsewhere. However, Dr. DeJarnette was also known for his intolerance of artifact collectors. This encounter eventually led a younger Mr. Windham to totally abandon archaeology.

Like Mr. Windham, I too spent my childhood walking my family's farm fields collecting "relics", having been introduced to it by my grandfather (an avid collector himself). As a college sophomore, I was fortunate to meet the late Dr. Christopher Peebles at a lecture. He was kind enough to look at my collections and instructed me on the importance of provenience as we carefully documented the location of each of my finds. When we were finished, he invited me to join the archaeological fieldschool later that year, and after that I was hooked. Now, almost twenty-five years later, I work as a professional archaeologist and currently serve as the president of the AAS.

After reading Mr. Windham's editorial, I can't help but feel that if things had gone just a little differently that first year - if Dr. Peebles had not been so patient with a young artifact collector, perhaps I would have run away from archaeology myself. The most important goal for all archaeologists is the education of the public, and I believe that Mr. Windham's

story is an important lesson in patience for both collectors and professionals.

A few weeks ago, I extended an invitation for Mr. Windham to rejoin the Society, and if he accepts, I hope we can help rekindle his love of archaeology.

Eric Sipes, AAS President

Newspapers, I have long maintained, are the family disease.

My father spent most of his working years as a writer for newspapers and magazines. My mother was a longtime newspaper reporter and editor. A kinsman was editor of a country newspaper. Another relative was a frequent feature-and letter-writer for another newspaper.

Others in the family have newspaper associations ranging from selling advertisements to delivering the finished product.

I decided early on that I would break the mold. I wanted to be an archaeologist.

As a small boy, I amassed a collection of Indian relics – arrowheads mostly – that were plucked from fields around my hometown. Reading and studying Emma Lila Fundaburk's *Sun Circles and Human Hands*, a picture book of Indian relics of Alabama and the Southeast, further fueled my interest.

That interest was cemented in the summer of 1963, when I met in Greece with Paul McKendrick, a classicist and author, for a walking tour of archaeological sites around Athens. Back home, I joined the Alabama Archaeological Society and was a charter member of my hometown branch.

The local group was composed mostly of relic hunters. Many of them were adult men who took me along on their weekend searches. One was an insurance salesman who had a son who was roughly my age; another was a department store manager who enjoyed the exercise of walking for miles in the outdoors along the plowed furrows.

Most of our society meetings were devoted to showing off our collections, but we had the occasional expert come in and tell us about one phase of archaeology or another. A couple of times, we enlisted David DeJarnette, the director of Mound State Monument. He would drive down from Tuscaloosa to show us slides and talk about excavations.

As a member of the archaeological society, I was privileged to volunteer one summer weekend at a dig that DeJarnette was running near Leighton, in north Alabama.

The relationship between amateurs and

professional archaeologists is occasionally uneasy. The pros don't particularly like the amateur's selfish tendencies and destructive collecting methods. On the other hand, trained archaeologists are in short supply, particularly in Alabama, and they often rely on amateurs for information on sites and for scut-work at digs.

In Leighton, I got my share of the scut-work, emptying wheelbarrows after the dirt had been screened by University of Alabama students. DeJarnette didn't suffer fools or amateurs gladly, but he was delighted to get volunteer labor.

For my part, I was fascinated by what they were finding, but I wasn't allowed to touch anything.

Sensing my frustration, a local educator, Horace J. Holland – they were using his high school's gymnasium as a kind of headquarters for the dig – took me on a relic-collecting tour in fields along the back roads of the area.

I don't know if we were in Tennessee or Alabama, but in one of those fields, I found the most beautiful lance point in my collection. Made of dark flint and delicately carved, it was long, intact and lethally sharp.

The collecting itch scratched, I returned to work with the University of Alabama field team, emptying wheelbarrows.

As I say, they were making some fascinating discoveries, but it was entirely different from the way that Holland and I made our surface finds. Everything on the excavation was exactly measured. The trenches, staked out with string, seemed to be mathematically precise. Finds were placed in marked bags, carefully labeled. I took note of their tools and methods.

That weekend seemed to bring to a head a struggle for my soul, or at least an internal battle of interests. On one hand, the scientific method of the archaeologists held a great appeal to me. The precision of the digging and the record-keeping, backed up by photography, seemed to memorialize the vanished cultures that the archaeologists were exploring.

On the other hand, I came up as a collector. As a guest of fellow collectors in my community – I was much too young to drive – sometimes I would find myself in the company of pot-holers. And I participated in the potholing, right along with them.

Potholer is the derogatory term that archaeologists use to describe collectors who dig, willy-nilly, on Indian sites in hopes of finding valuable relics or items to enhance their holdings.

I'd visited the home of an elderly

collector in my hometown, a true potholer. Looking for intact pottery and grave associations, he dug up burials on a site in Wilcox County. He even had thin steel rods, complete with push handles, manufactured for us to use as probes into the site's sandy soil.

When we hit a hard place, we'd dig. Often, we'd find a glazed, decorated urn inverted over a bigger urn containing a skeleton.

I never kept what we found – I was mainly included on the pothunts because this collector had a heart condition and couldn't shovel much – but he wasn't averse at all to carting away what we'd found. I visited his home once and saw one of the burial urns decorating his hearth. The urn contained the skeleton of a small child.

Somehow that just didn't seem right.

His argument was that the Indians lived and died a long time ago. Before we dug them up, nobody knew they were in a country field in Wilcox County. It was like putting a dinosaur bone on display in your home.

Well, it was true that I liked visiting the museum at Moundville to see the displays of the skeletons in there. They fascinated me. But there was something repulsive about having a child's skeleton on display in a private home. It may have been anonymous and ancient, but still, it was somebody's child.

The more I thought about it, the more I despised it. I quit being a potholer and concentrated on real archaeology.

These thoughts of a time almost 50 years ago were revived by the recent publication of a marvelous book, *Bottle Creek Reflections* by Ian W. Brown of Tuscaloosa. Brown, a professor of anthropology at the University of Alabama and curator of Gulf Coast archaeology in the Alabama Museum of Natural History, has trained generations of budding archaeologists. He is primarily responsible for the archaeological explorations of the Bottle Creek site in the Tensaw Delta of south Alabama.

Being an archaeologist is tough work. Brown writes with wit and humor about all the things he had to do as leader of his Bottle Creek expeditions. He had to repair everything from broken pipes to aging vehicles to finicky boat motors; shop for food for his hungry crew; learn to dodge snakes, alligators, and ravenous insects; deal with daily summer storms; fend off curious (and occasionally drunken) outsiders; juggle finances; serve as a mediator, ambassador, peacemaker and

role model; become an expert on poisonous plants; and plan and organize logistics on a daily and long-term basis.

And that's just the start.

Sometimes, he writes only half-jokingly, the job almost drove him crazy. But the love of archaeology and anthropology shines through. It's a marvelous book.

Brown, who continues to teach, had the career that eluded me. As a rule, archaeologists don't become rich – they are paid only a fraction of what they're worth – but they seem to share Brown's enthusiasm and passion.

As an ex-pothunter and fledgling archaeologist, I decided to take home what I'd learned in Leighton. I'd found an Indian site near my hometown that would soon be flooded by dams being built on the Alabama River. I decided that it would be a good place to practice what I'd seen in north Alabama.

With some friends, and with the landowner's permission, I invaded a cow pasture on the river bank, staked out trenches and began to dig. We went carefully, level by level, sifting dirt in homemade implements using mesh-wire screens – copies of what I'd seen in Leighton – and faithfully recording every-thing in paper bags.

We didn't make any spectacular finds. The field had been plowed for years and years before we got there, and mostly we recovered broken pottery and a lot of rocks. But there were interesting bits and pieces.

That fall, I won a ribbon in the high school science fair for a display detailing our methods and showing off some of the things we found.

The whole project needed a professional's imprimatur. So naturally, I turned to DeJarnette.

My mother and I carted sacks, samples and photos to his office in Moundville.

I don't know what I expected, but what I got was far different. DeJarnette looked at what I brought in and blew up.

"You dug?!" he shouted, red-faced. "You dug?!"

We didn't stay long in his office.

He was right, of course. I had no idea of what we were doing. Not really. The whole project was just copying what I had seen one weekend in Leighton. In retrospect, it was a bit like the cargo cultists' construction of imitation airstrips and planes.

Were there remnants of post-holes or hearths at our site? What kind of trade goods were there? What kind of pottery

was manufactured there? I don't know and will never know. The site is now vanished.

So had my ambition to be an archaeologist.

Never mind that the site was soon to be eradicated. I dug. I was a potholer. And I was ashamed.

So I put archaeology aside and pursued other interests, easily contracting the family disease.

I became correspondent for the local newspaper, which paid the old-fashioned way, by the column inch, for my stories. I even used to measure my articles with string, becoming a real "stringer" for the newspaper.

And the archaeology? I saw some of the old paper sacks from the ill-fated dig the other day in the rear of my late mother's garage. They were musty, moldering, rotting. Forgotten.

In last week's column, a reader from The Netherlands pointed out that Carl Perkins died in 1988, not when the column stated. I was wrong on that too.



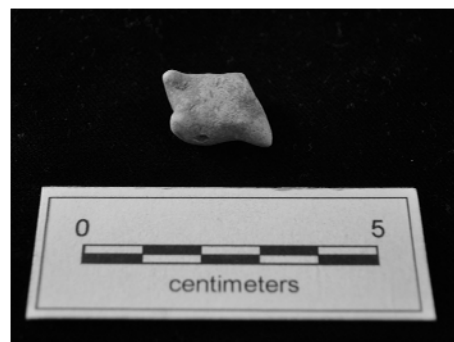
Gaming and the Moundville Deer Astragalus Effigy

By Brandon S. Thompson, RPA

Between September and November of 2012, the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research excavated three two meter by two meter test units into the western base, flank, and summit of Mound P at the Moundville Site (1Tu500) in Moundville, Alabama. These excavations were in association with the ongoing construction of a stairway and viewing platform on the mound. An abundance of artifacts was recovered, including almost 25,000 ceramic sherds and nearly 5000 lithic artifacts. If one includes all ceramics, lithics, fired clay, daub, fauna, and shell, nearly 600 lbs. of artifacts was recovered from the three test units. Many artifacts were unique and interesting, but one such artifact is truly exceptional; a deer astragalus effigy, or a clay recreation of a deer ankle bone (Figures 1-2).

Many historic and ethnographic sources make note of astragali being used for gaming and divination (Koerper and Whitney-Desautels 1999). Indeed, the practice was, and continues to be in places, widespread historically and prehistorically

across the globe. Ancient Egyptians and Babylonians (Gabriel 1996), prehistoric Native American peoples in Central and South America (La Barre 1948; Lumholtz 1902; Pennington 1963), and the Lozi people of Zambia (Prins 1980) all used astragali as dice. In ancient Rome and Greece, astragalus bones were used as jacks, game dice, divination dice, and appear in ceramic art and coinage (Gabriel 1996; Koerper and Whitney-Desautels 1999; Richter 1946). Lovett (1901) lists several different populations that used astragali recreationally including the Turks, Arabs, Persians, western Europeans, and Native Americans of the Southeast. Indeed, he notes the work of C.B. Moore and how worked and worn astragalus bones were found in mound contexts in Florida and Georgia (Lovett 1901).



Ceramic deer astragalus effigy from Moundville

What makes the astragalus bone recovered from the Mound P excavations unique is that it is constructed of clay. In addition to the bone astragali found in archaeological and modern settings, bronze, crystal, and agate astragali were found in ancient Roman and Greek contexts (Lovett 1901). However, no sources make reference to ceramic astragali. Recovered in mound construction fill on the flank unit of Mound P, the deer astragalus effigy weighs only 0.1 oz and is 0.75 in long and 0.5 in wide. It is easy to speculate that it reflects gaming and shamanism/divination, but more study is necessary to place it in the larger scope of the Moundville site. It is a unique artifact and one worthy of sharing.

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Historical Cemetery Recordation and the Alabama Army National Guard Cultural Resources Program

By Heather Puckett

The Alabama Army National Guard (AL ARNG) Cultural Resources Program welcomes Andrew Scruggs to the Cultural Resources Specialist position at the Fort McClellan Army National Guard Training Center (FM-ARNGTC) in Anniston (Calhoun County), Alabama. The AL ARNG currently oversees 84 facilities throughout the state, ranging from Readiness Centers (formerly referred to as armories) to maintenance shops and training areas. At FM-ARNGTC, the AL ARNG has documented a wealth of archaeological sites representing occupation and utilization of the area from the Paleoindian to the modern military eras. These include sites on the Main Enclave as well as the training range, known as Pelham Range.

The AL ARNG acquired the FM-ARNGTC in 1999, through the Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). That being said, the history of the

military post dates to 1917, when it was developed as Camp McClellan for use by National Guard soldiers. In 1940-42, the War Department acquired the land that comprises present-day Pelham Range; the training lands were first used by members of the 27th Infantry Division from 1940-1942, followed by the 92nd Infantry Division (Buffalo Soldiers) in 1942-1943. Since then, the area has had a continual military presence.

Pelham Range, itself, encompasses more than 22,000 acres. Historically this area was the ancestral home to the Creek, Cherokee, Shawnee, and Seminole. Following removal, settlers arrived in the area – then known as Benton County. In 1858, the county was renamed for John C. Calhoun due to his stance on slavery and the economic interests of this agricultural community; Calhoun County was agrarian predominantly, with the economy centered on cotton, tobacco, corn, and grain production. Cotton and saw mills flourished, along with iron workings such as the Janney Furnace (in nearby Ohatchee) and along Cane Creek (present-day Pelham Range). As a result, on Pelham Range, the communities of Morrisville, Polkville, Peaceburg, Zula, Mead, Piney Grove, Mt. Sellers, New Bethel, Cane Creek, and Bera were established. Much of the infrastructure was decimated by the Union Calvary's attacks in July 1864. Although gristmills, a few shops, and residences were constructed at Morrisville after the American Civil War, a flood in 1884 wiped out many of these structures. By the 1940s, the War Department began purchasing properties for the World War II-era training base, with many of the residents relocating to nearby Anniston, Alexandria, and Oxford, or elsewhere, taking with them the majority of their belongings.

Today, remnants of these communities are being documented as historical archaeological sites. With the addition of Andrew to the program, the AL ARNG is focusing on documenting the cemeteries associated with these former communities. Eight cemeteries fall within the Pelham Range boundaries: the Hampton and Pace graves, as well as New Mount Sellers, Morrisville, Church of Christ (Peaceburg), Shady Glenn, Cane Creek, and New Bethel. Among the earliest graves in these cemeteries are: Amy Pace (1843), Sarah Hampton (1851), Julia Morris (1854), Charles A. Brothers (1856), Rebecca A. Allen (1857), Lutela Gladden (1872), and Infant Womack (1886). Although these cemeteries are unlikely to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places,

they are protected under the present burial law, *Code of Alabama*, 1975, §13A-7.23.1. The AL ARNG plans to record these cemeteries with the Alabama Historical Commission's *Alabama Historic Cemetery Register*. Additional information about recording cemeteries in Alabama is available at <http://www.preserveala.org/cemeteryprograms.aspx>.



Can't identify those bones? Think Camel!

Linda Derry, site director at Old Cahawba Archaeological Park, is researching a large number of camels from the Canary Islands that were imported into Alabama in 1859. This importation was supposedly an experiment to determine if dromedary camels could replace the sterile mule in plantation agriculture.

Historic documents reveal that at least ten camels arrived in Dallas County in 1859 and ten in Marengo County in 1860. In December of 1859 these animals were exhibited at the State Fair, and then pitted against a mule in a plowing contest in the shadow of the capitol in Montgomery. At one time, a Mobile merchant offered 30 young camels for sale, and one was drowned there in 1860 during a hurricane. All these animals were part of a shipment of at least 89 animals that arrived in Galveston Texas in the fall of 1858; many were shipped to Alabama through Mobile, and since some were advertised as "stud" camels, their number could have increased over time.

The normal lifespan of a camel is about 40 years, so a few could have survived into the early 20th century. In fact, the last Dallas County camel was killed by a train after it fell asleep on the tracks sometime in the first decades of the 20th century! Some camels may have ended up in pet burials, but don't discount bones with butcher marks on them. After their long sea voyage, these animals were allowed to roam the streets, and some curious locals reportedly turned a few into "camel steaks."

Please contact Linda if you have found camel bones on a historic site, or if you have historical evidence or even oral traditions about camels in any Alabama community before, during, or shortly after the Civil War. Contact her by email: cahawba@bellsouth.net or address regular mail to: 719 Tremont St., Selma, AL 36701.

Chapter News

News from the Coosa Valley Chapter by Robyn Smith:

The Coosa Valley Chapter/ JSU has gotten off to a great start for the 2012-13 year. The Chapter has gained new members at each meeting to date. The Chapter has had very interesting and informative guest speakers at the meetings with plans for future speakers in 2013.

The first meeting (September 27) of the 2012-13 year had a record attendance which filled the Archaeological Lab in Martin Hall on the Jacksonville State University Campus. Dr. Philip Koerper, Chapter President, opened the meeting with a welcome to members and guests. He introduced Dr. Harry Holstein, who presented a slide show and talk about the ongoing excavations at Bain's Gap. Dr. Holstein discussed the May 2012 Field School at Bain's Gap and showed slides of many of the University's finds at Bain's Gap and of the Native American stone structures in the Choccolocco Mountain area.

The October 25th Meeting at Martin Hall brought an increase in attendance and membership. Dr. Koerper brought the meeting to order, welcomed members and guests, and attended to old and new business. He then presented the evening's guest speaker, Mr. Brian Conary, who presented a very interesting lecture about the procurement and distribution of supplies for Andrew Jackson's troops during the Creek War of 1813-14. The lecture was followed by a question and answer session on the lecture, and refreshments (provided by Dr. Miriam Hill).

After calling the December 6, 2012 Meeting to order, Dr. Koerper welcomed members to the meeting and introduced several guests. The guests included Tamara Levi, Native American History at JSU; Larry Bean and Keena Graham, National Park Service; and the evening's speaker Mr. Larry Joe Smith. Additional members joined the Coosa Valley Chapter at our meeting.

Mr. Smith is a past president of the Coosa Valley Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society and the former Financial Aid Director for Jacksonville State University. Mr. Smith's lecture was "Three Missions: Schools for Cherokees in Alabama from 1820 – 1836". He also discussed the Trail of Tears as it pertained to the Native Americans in our area. Mr. Smith mentioned that Gale King, who had helped him with research into the Trail of Tears, had died this past November. The lecture and slide presentation was followed by an interesting and informative question and answer session and by refreshments.

We also had members join the Coosa Valley Chapter at that meeting.

January 31, 2013 is the tentative date for our next Chapter Meeting. If anyone has any questions or is interested in attending and needs additional information, please email JSU_Archaeology_Club-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You may also visit our group at http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/JSU_Archaeology_Club/.

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AAS Chapters

2012 Chapter Presidents

Troy: Joel Jackson
jjackson39792@troy.edu

Cullman: Robbie Camp
robbie@alabamaprinting.com

East Alabama: Teresa Paglione
tlpaglione@gmail.com

Muscle Shoals: Gerald Hester
GeraldRH@aol.com

Huntsville: Ben Hoksbergen
benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

Birmingham: Steven Meredith
mered003@gmail.com

Southwest Chapter: Carey Geiger
careygeiger@bellsouth.net

Coosa Valley: Phillip Koerper
pkoerper@jsu.edu

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You can pay AAS membership dues
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www.alabamaarchaeology.org

Or, send a check made out to
"Alabama Archaeological Society"

to

Alabama Archaeological Society
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

DUES

Type	U.S.	Foreign
Annual Associate (under 18 years of age)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Annual Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual Family	\$30.00	\$35.00
Annual Institutional	\$50.00	\$55.00
Annual Sustaining Individual	\$35.00	\$40.00
Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint	\$600.00	\$700.00

AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the project must be located in Alabama; 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to present a paper on the archaeological project at the Winter Meeting; 4) the project director or other personnel working on the project must submit a written report for publication in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology within twelve months of receiving the grant.

Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce the grant recipient(s) at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1st. Each eligible student nominee must have an academic sponsor who must submit the nomination on the student's behalf. The nomination must take the form of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee. The letter must clearly identify both the nominee and the academic sponsor and must include pertinent contact information for both. The nomination letter must indicate the academic degree being sought and progress made to date toward that degree. The letter should include and discuss all the information necessary for the committee to evaluate the nominee. The sponsor should summarize the academic credentials and achievements of the nominee in the body of the nomination letter. The student must also be a member of the AAS.

Submit applications and questions to Erin Phillips, phill018@crimson.ua.edu, or Erin Phillips, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama, P.O. Box 870210, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Additional details are available on the AAS website at:

www.alabamaarchaeology.org/aasgrants

Stones & Bones

Editor: Ben Hoksbergen; Assistant Editors: Teresa Paglione and Jason Mann

Stones & Bones is published bi-monthly at the beginning of January, March, May, July, September, and November. The deadline for submitting articles is the end of the month prior to publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

or via U.S. mail to:

Ben Hoksbergen
3699 US Hwy. 72
Paint Rock, AL 35764

Alabama Archaeological Society

President: Eric Sipes, esipes@charter.net

1st Vice President: Linda Derry, cahawba@bellsouth.net

2nd Vice President: Stuart McGregor, stuman41@comcast.net

Secretary: Heather Puckett, heather.r.puckett@gmail.com

Treasurer: Eugene Futato, efutato@bama.ua.edu

Assistant Treasurer: Brandon Thompson, branthompson@hotmail.com

Journal of Alabama Archaeology Editor: Ashley Dumas, ashleydumas@usa.net

Journal Editorial Assistants: Steven Meredith, mered003@bama.ua.edu; Ned Jenkins, toulouse1@bellsouth.net

Stones & Bones Editor: Ben Hoksbergen, benhoksbergen@yahoo.com

Stones & Bones Assistant Editors: Teresa Paglione, teresa.paglione@al.usda.gov; Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

Web Editor and Photo Archivist: Jason Mann, jmann@troy.edu

AHC Representative: Craig Sheldon, csheldon@aum.edu

Board of Directors:

Terms expire 2014:

Hunter Johnson, hunter@tvaresearch.com

Richard Kilborn, RLKilborn@charter.net

Charles Moore, cemoore@comcast.net

Terms expire 2015:

John Hall, jhall@uwa.edu

Van King, melvanmd@hopper.net

Cathy Meyer, cathy.mrsconsultants@yahoo.com

Kristi Shuler, kas0007@auburn.edu

Terms expire 2016:

Matt Gage, mdgage@bama.ua.edu

Margaret Russell, srussell@eufaula.rr.com

John Van Valkenberg, joycevan@knology.net



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