

Alabama Archaeological Society

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MOUNDVILLE NATIVE AMERICAN FESTIVAL 1992

Once again we are planning our annual Moundville Native American Festival to be held at Moundville Archaeological Park celebrating the lifeways of the first inhabitants of Alabama. This year's festival theme will be "Alabama Before Columbus" honoring Alabama's first inhabitants, those Native Americans who lived in the Southeast before Columbus landed in the New World in the 15th century.

Beginning on Monday, October 5, and running through Saturday, October 10, 1992, the Alabama Indian Resource Center, a unit of the Alabama Museum of Natural History, will feature a number of skilled craftspeople, many of whom are now affiliated with modern Alabama Indian tribes.

Native American artisans will demonstrate crafts such as pottery making, basketry, beaded work, musical instruments, blowguns, flintknapping, wood carving, dressmaking, and Indian cooking. Festival guides throughout the park will provide information about the Mississippian culture for the visitor.

Special Saturday performances of the highly acclaimed Choctaw dancers with music and songs in the Choctaw language are planned, along with Indian stickball games. In addition, a lacrosse tournament will take place on the plaza between the mounds.

The Moundville Native American Festival presents a unique opportunity for teachers and parents to present a real life experience for children in the area of Alabama history and culture. We encourage each of you to attend.

Please join us for a journey back in time to the days of Alabama before Columbus.

Douglas Jones, Ph.D.
Director
Alabama Museum of
Natural History

September 1992

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Alabama is celebrating its first statewide Archaeology Week this October. The date has been set to coincide with Moundville's Native American Festival, October 4-10.

The Alabama Archaeological Society has been invited to participate in the Festival on October 10, a Saturday.

Tickets for the barbeque will be \$5 per person, and you need to make reservations. Contact Betsy Jones, Alabama Indian Resource Center; 1 Moundville Archaeological Park; Moundville, AL 35474.

Also, we will need a few volunteers at the Society table. If you would like to assist, contact me at the Archaeology Division, Alabama Museum of Natural History; 1 Moundville Archaeological Park; Moundville, AL 35474.

Eugene Futato
Moundville

A.A.S. ANNUAL MEETING

The Alabama Archaeological Society Annual Meeting will be held in the auditorium of the State Capitol in Montgomery on Saturday, November 21. The theme of the meeting will be The Paleo Indian in Alabama. Paleo point registration will continue at the Annual Meeting.

Watch for more information on the meeting, a list of suggested hotels, etc., in the October STONES & BONES.

NEW MEMBERS

John K. Bowman - Denver, Colorado
Phillip W. Bowman - San Francisco, California
Becky Elder - Birmingham, Alabama
Chris S. McLaughlin - Leeds, Alabama
Elliott Rikard, Jr. - Leighton, Alabama
Terry C. Sisson - Enterprise, Mississippi*
Randall Taylor - Gallion, Alabama
Barbara Vokoun - San Bernardino, California

*Mr. Sisson joined the A.A.S. in 1986 and is now a Life Member.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Conferences, special guest speakers, festivals, A.A.S. meetings, etc. - please send your event date to me or bring it to the A.A.S. winter meeting in Montgomery on November 21, 1992. A calendar will be established and published for 1993. I would appreciate your help in this matter!

Phillip E. Koerper
A.A.S. President
Jacksonville

CHAPTER NEWS

Huntsville Chapter

Charles Moore from the Muscle Shoals Chapter spoke at the September Huntsville Chapter meeting. Charles made an excellent presentation on "Artifact Replication Identification" - a short course in differentiating between authentic artifacts and modern copies.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

THE DE SOTO CHRONICLES

Forty-seven years after Columbus discovered America, Hernando De Soto, a Spanish adventurer with an army of almost 700 men, landed near Tampa Bay, Florida. For the next four years (1539-1543), De Soto's expedition traveled from Florida to Georgia, through the Carolinas, to Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas.

The De Soto expedition was the first major encounter of Europeans with aboriginal Indians in the interior of eastern North America, and, as such, is of monumental importance in the study of Native Americans before European contact. Much of what we know about southeastern North America before the coming of Europeans is based on the eyewitness accounts written by members of the De Soto expedition.

The projected publication of The De Soto Chronicles: The Expedition of Hernando De Soto to the United States in 1539-1543 in March 1993 by the University of Alabama Press is a landmark and one of the "most significant scholarly contributions to the Columbus Quincentenary," according to scholars.

Professor Lawrence A. Clayton, Latin American Studies Program, Department of History at the University of Alabama, serves as the general editor. Associate editors are Assistant Professor Vernon James Knight, Jr., University of Alabama Department of

Anthropology and Curator of Southeastern Archaeology at the Alabama Museum of Natural History; and Dr. Edward C. Moore, the Museum's former Assistant Director for Administration and formerly Senior Vice Chancellor of the University of Alabama System.

These journals, contemporary with the 16th century expedition, are among the earliest surviving records of the Mississippian-era Indian culture - the most advanced native cultural achievement in North America.

The work, written in two volumes, is made up of accounts written by a number of De Soto's contemporaries. Volume I contains 464 pages and includes "The Account by a Gentleman from Elvas," translated and edited by James Alexander Robertson in 1933, with updated notes and revisions, "The Account by Luis Hernandez de Biedma, Factor of the De Soto Expedition," newly translated and edited; "The Canete Fragment," identified and translated with commentary.

Other sections of Volume I include a "Parallel Itinerary of the Expedition" by the 1935 De Soto Expedition Commission; a brief biography of Hernando De Soto; an appendix of Indian proper names; an introduction to and bibliography of De Soto studies; and various other documents from archives and collections.

Volume II, 568 pages, contains "Garcilaso de la Vega, Inca," by Francis Crowley; La Florida by Garcilaso de la Vega, the Inca, newly translated, edited with notes, along with an appendix.

The Program for Cultural Cooperation Between Spain's Ministry of Culture and United States' Universities and the Alabama De Soto Commission have assisted with the cost of publication. Tentative pricing of the two cloth volumes is set at \$50. For information about the publication or purchase of The De Soto Chronicles, call The University of Alabama Press, 205/348-5182, or write Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0380.

MUSEUM USES RADAR TO EXPLORE GROUNDS OF HISTORIC SITES

The Alabama Museum of Natural History's Division of Archaeology conducted a survey of the Jemison-Van de Graaff mansion grounds as a service to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society this spring.

"Ground Penetrating Radar is the newest technology in detecting underground features such as wells, cisterns, flower beds, and so forth, which might be on the grounds of the Jemison home, as well as other historic and prehistoric archaeological sites," said Carey B. Oakley, Assistant Director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History at The University of Alabama.

"The new radar equipment, a generous donation by Transco Energy Company, is helping us to do remote sensing of buried

objects and archaeological features without disturbing the surface of the ground, and in doing so, saving time and expense, while preserving the environment." Museum archaeological assistant Scott Shaw, technical operator of the GPR, has surveyed a number of areas including Tannehill State Park.

"One of the most interesting discoveries we've made with the GPR was at Moundville Archaeological Park, where we found patterns representing Indian homesteads within the plaza between the mounds," Shaw added. "We have also been successful in identifying unmarked cemetery plots, as well as objects such as conduits and pipelines."

Ground Penetrating Radar has the potential to locate soil changes, water tables, foundations, trenches, burials, and large artifacts up to 100 meters where the ground is dry. The depth to which objects may be detected depends on the water, salt, and clay content of the soil. These elements inhibit the ability of the energy waves produced by the equipment to penetrate the earth. Although the GPR may indicate the presence of an underground feature, it does not identify the object.

"Features are located by towing an antenna by hand or by vehicle. As the antenna is moved, a continuous image is recorded on paper for immediate viewing. The information is also recorded on magnetic tape for use in the computer. We have a special computer program which defines the image and displays it for color print-out," explained Shaw.

According to Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society executive director Nancy Patrie, "The Jemison-Van de Graaff house, an 1858 Italianate mansion located on Greensboro Avenue in Tuscaloosa, is considered one of the most significant of its type in the Southeast. The mansion was the first home in Tuscaloosa to have indoor plumbing, gas lights, and central heating."

Acquired by the Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County through efforts by the City of Tuscaloosa last year, the estate is now overseen by the Jemison-Van De Graaff Mansion Foundation, which will raise funding to restore the landmark.

For information about the Ground Penetrating Radar, call Carey B. Oakley or Scott Shaw at 205/348-7774 or 371-2266.

ANNISTON EXHIBIT

"Survivors: A New Vision of Endangered Wildlife" will be on display at the Anniston Museum of Natural History from September 18 to November 1, 1992. The exhibit consists of photographs of endangered animals by documentary photographer James Balog. To emphasize the threat of extinction, Balog removes his subjects from their natural surroundings and photographs them against a simple - often stark - background.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint	\$7.50 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$6.00 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$8.00 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$15.00 pp
<i>Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

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SEND CHECKS TO: Journal Editor, A.A.S.
Division of Archaeology
1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

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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.

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