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Alabama Archaeological Society

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AN EDITORIAL - AND BOOK REVIEW

In reviewing the newly published book "Trail of Tears", by John Ehle, Doubleday, \$19.95, we were struck by the large number of historical errors made by the author. Just an example to illustrate our point - he locates the upper Creek town of Tuckabatchee at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers (P. 99), when in reality it was located upstream, just above the "Big Bend" of the Tallapoosa River. Brigadier General Joseph Graham commanded the Carolina troops during the Creek War of 1813-14; not, as stated by the author, General Thomas Pinckney (P. 106). Pinckney commanded the 6th Military District, having overall command of the troops (including Jackson's) during the War.

The examples, of themselves, are not a catastrophe, but the book is fraught with such errors. The author flip-flops in his chronology, ranging back and forth between the 1770's and the 1830's, making it difficult to arrange any continuity of the events being described. The "notes" methodology used is a list of notes in the back of the book, using page numbers as keys. In reading the text, there is no reference cited and no way to know if a note exists for a given page without continuously looking to the back of the book as each page is read. If this is the method of the future for references, then quality has taken another backward step. Anyway, most of the references are from secondary sources and are used somewhat sparingly. Andrew Jackson is depicted as some uncouth frontier maniac run amok looking for Indians to shoot and scalp. We are no defender of Jackson, but the author is way off base in his hostility and biased portrayal of Jackson.

We read and review such books with dismay and disappointment, since they are published and advertised as historical accounts of these tragic events, but then we get angry in knowing that the unsuspecting public, including ourselves, paid \$19.95 for what amounts to a work of historical fiction. The background of the author is a writer of novels, and a very successful one, we might add.

BEAR MOUNTAIN SITE

Some 21 members of the Huntsville Chapter travelled to Redstone Arsenal to visit and sink a test pit at the Bear Mountain Site under the

supervision of Charles Hubbert (Archaeologist at Redstone Arsenal). The hearty group turned out on Saturday morning, February 18, to encounter cold, rainy weather; nevertheless, they walked through briar patches, water and broom sage for some two miles to reach the site. The most notable artifact found was in the plow zone - a Kirk Corner Notch. The site is located on the second terrace of the Tennessee River and holds promise as the group continues work the next few weeks.

NATIVE AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM PLANNED

The Columbus Museum announces <u>Lost and Found Traditions</u>: A Symposium, to be held at the Museum May 19-20, 1989. The two-day symposium celebrates the richness and diversity of contemporary Native American cultures and focuses on the cultures indigenous to the Southeast. The symposium will be held in conjunction with the exhibit <u>Lost and Found Traditions</u>: Native American Art 1965-1985, on display April 16-October 15. Speakers include Ralph T. Coe, art historian and exhibit curator; Dr. Charles Hudson, University of Georgia anthropologist and noted authority on Southeastern Indian cultures; Claude Medford, Jr., anthropologist and traditional Choctaw craftsman; and Arnold Richardson, educator and traditional Holiwa-Saponi craftsman. Native American foods will highlight the symposium.

For additional information, please contact Anne King at the Museum, 404/322-0400.

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

At the January meeting of the Birmingham Chapter, Dr. Tim Mistovich of The University of Alabama presented a survey of underwater archaeology, with slides of wrecks from the Mediterranean to Mobile Bay. He explained the use of the magnetometer and the side-scan sonar in locating wrecks, and showed how a grid lowered into the water over the wreck served the same purpose as the stakes and strings on land.

It was especially interesting to hear his further comment on some of the ships we had read about in the "National Geographic": George Bass' pioneering work in rebuilding the craft from the 4th century B.C., long-term preservation process for the Vasa after more than 300 years in the icy mud off Stockholm, and the Mary Rose after more than 400 years!

Dr. Mistovich compared the loss to scholarship of the Spanish treasure ships found off the Florida coast to those off Padre Island, Texas after the Texas Antiquities Society intervened. Our interest was aroused by learning of the National Park Service's Isle Royale National Underwater Park in Lake Superior's cold, deep water.

Helen Mabry

STONES & BONES 2 March 1989

Cullman Chapter

The Cullman Chapter held its February meeting in the County Courthouse. The guest speaker was Mr. Charles Hubbert, who spoke on his current project, which consists of his search for early man on the confines of Redstone Arsenal. He is currently investigating a 1-1/2-mile-long ridge which promises to reveal Paleo sites and information. He is looking for volunteers to help him dig several test pits in the next few weeks.

Howard King

East Alabama Chapter

This chapter met on October 19th to hear Dr. John Cottier, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work, Auburn University, give a program entitled "Exciting Recent Finds in Alabama Archaeology". This was a presentation on the Creek Indians in Alabama and current excavations at the Fusihatchee site in Elmore County. Twenty-two members and guests attended.

On January 18th we met to hear Alfred Russell Scofield, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science, Auburn University, present a program called "Mesa Verde and the Anasazi". This was an archaeological look at the history and culture of the most famous cliff dwellings of the Pueblo Indians in the western United States. Known as the "Ancient Ones", the Anasazi abandoned the Mesa Verde site by 1300 A.D. Mr. Scofield worked at Mesa Verde during the summer of 1988. Twenty-six members and guests attended.

"Indian Projectile Points and How They Were Made" was the subject of our February 8th meeting. Dr. John Cottier presented this program, which provided an introduction to the materials and methods used to make different types of projectile points and other stone items. Fourteen members and guests attended.

On March 4th we are planning a field trip to the Etowah Mounds. On the last weekend in March, we plan to attend the Horseshoe Bend celebration.

Caroline Dean

Huntsville Chapter

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

The Chapter met on January 24 to hear Charles and Mary-Eliza Moore of Florence talk about the Spiro Mound Complex. Houston Wright is scheduled to present the February program, a talk entitled "Geology and Flint from Dover, Tennessee and Wells Creek Crater".

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals Chapter

On December 12 the Muscle Shoals Chapter held its December meeting. Several members brought cookies, cakes and pies as well as punch and coffee. Twenty-five members and guests attended. Houston Wright presented an interesting talk and color slide program on early man. This was a follow-up on early man programs that he had brought us in the past.

Our January meeting was held on the 9th. Twenty-six members and guests attended. Dr. Richard Cobb brought us a program on the Smith Bottom Bluff Shelter excavation. Dr. Cobb has been the staff of this excavation for three years and was also the discoverer of the cave as being a good prospect for excavation. The summer meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held at that site next summer (more information to follow this spring).

The Chapter met at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence on February 13. Twenty members and guests attended. We were pleased to have three Cullman Chapter members - Howard and Eulis King and DeWitt Coleman - at the meeting.

The program was presented by Charles Moore and consisted of a slide narration on archaeological sites in Ohio. Due to AEA Week, the next Chapter meeting will be delayed one week, to March 20 at 7:15 in the Indian Mound Museum.

Charles Moore

Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter's January meeting was held at the town library. Guest speaker was Mr. Bruce Bizzoco of Shelton State Junior College. Mr. Bizzoco spoke and showed slides on the 1987 Tuscaloosa Bank site dig, in which the Tuscaloosa Chapter participated. Also Joe P. Sanford, President of the Fayette Chapter, visited this meeting.

Bill Adkison

A. W. BEINLICH, JR.

We regret to announce that Mr. A. W. ("A1") Beinlich of the Muscle Shoals Chapter died in February after a long illness. Mr. Beinlich was a long-time member of the Alabama Archaeological Society and well known for his wonderful artifact collection. He was most generous in sharing his collection with our members (including at the 1987 A.A.S. Winter Meeting in Huntsville). He was a contributor to the "Journal of Alabama Archaeology" and was author of "Miniature Monolithic Ax", which appears in the "First Ten Years of Alabama Archaeology".

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 1989 New Members

NAME	TYPE	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Ms Carolyn Allen	. 1	2811 Sixth Avenue, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Mr Keith H Ashley	1	1315 Belmonte Terrace, Jacksonville, FL 32207
Mr J Steven Beasley	1	3327 Woodview Drive, Smyrna, GA 30080
Mr Alan Bennett	I	1707 Truman Drive NE, Huntsville, AL 35801
Ms Sue A Brown	I	10015 Willow Cove Road SE, Huntsville, AL 35803
Mr R Olive Brunson	I	787 Pine Avenue, Chattahoochee, FL 32324
Dr Donald H Dahlene Jr	1	2140 Vaughn Lane, Montgomery, AL 36106
Ms Frederica R Dimmick	1	10 Sassamon Road, South Natick, MA 01760
Mr Marvin L Ellis III	I	318 Forest Hills Drive, Montgomery, AL 36109
Ms Delores Godfrey	I	1910 Crapemyrtle Green SE, Huntsville, AL 35803
Mr Jeffrey S Hughes	S	2500 Redstone Road SW -#27, Huntsville, AL 35803
Mr Lewis R Humphries	1	425 Cherokee Trail, Ohatchee, AL 36271
Mr Terry L McClung	I	417 Reed Street #18-A, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Mr Lee McKenzie	I	205 Simmons Street, Brewton, AL 36426
M/Ms Curtis L Putnam	JS	7430 Logan Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35802
Miss Christy L Reed	1	Route One, Box 1750, Brookwood, AL 35444
Mrs. Kathryn Reinhart	I	812 Fifth Avenue North, Birmingham, AL 35203
Ms Olga Marie Steiner	I	1000 Airport Road SW #F-2, Huntsville, AL 35802
Mr Jimmy Tucker	F	Route Two, Box 1242, Ohatchee, AL 36271
Mr Dan Turner	I	4015 Centaur Boulevard SW, Huntsville, AL 35805
Ms Doris D Watson	1	2117 Shades Crest Road SE, Huntsville, AL 35801
Joanna & David Whitworth	F	422 Hughes Dr, Redstone Arsenal, Huntsville, AL 35808
Mr David Yeager	I	1812 - 47th Avenue NE, Holt, AL 35404
We especially welcome ou	r two r	new Individual Life Members:
Mr C Adrian Shamblin Mrs Joann G Wiegand	L L	P O Box 12407, Atlanta, GA 30355 Box 423, 303 Crescent Drive, Conway, SC 29526

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*Immediate past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society.					

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