

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor  
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### CALL FOR PAPERS

All papers to be presented at the joint Winter Meeting of the Alabama and Georgia Archaeological Societies must be submitted before Saturday, September 15, 1990. The meeting will be held at Columbus Museum in Columbus, Georgia, on October 27, 1990.

Papers will be 15 minutes in length - perhaps some leniency in length if few papers are submitted. Each of the three sessions will be chaired and will be divided as such: 1) Paleo-Archaic, 2) Woodland, 3) Mississippian-Historic.

Title, abstract, request for tables, equipment needs, etc., must be submitted by September 15, 1990 to Mr. Dave Chase; 1801 Summit Creek Drive; Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Philip E. Koerper  
A.A.S. Program Rep.

### A.A.S. SUMMER MEETING

The city of Anniston graciously invited the Alabama Archaeological Society to have their summer meeting in conjunction with Jacksonville State University's on-going excavations at the Blue Hole site. The area has recently been purchased by the city for public parks and a golf course. Located near two small streams between rolling hills, the limestone sink is in a great location. Known locally as a "bottomless" pit, the blue-colored water sink is a beautiful site that offers exciting possibilities for local archaeology.

Tom Mullendorf and Wyatt Amos shared an outstanding display of some of their excellent artifacts, including points and pottery. Linda and Don Frazier, in native dress, added to the day. They helped the young visitors learn about tanning, flaking points and throwing the atlatl. The huge teepee seemed to belong exactly where they had placed it on the site. The loose horses and friendly dogs also seemed to fit in with the occasion. The weather could not have been more perfect.

Society President Charles Ochs conducted a short business meeting. Plans for the combined Georgia-Alabama meeting in October of this year are being finalized. The new facility in Columbus, Georgia promises to offer

July 1990

an outstanding event. The two-day event will include both tours and professional papers. More information will be available soon. The June 1990 issue of the Journal has just been completed and mailed. The next issue is being prepared, and so are the combined back issues.

Those who attended the meeting had a great chance to enjoy the fine day and a great location. Those who were unable to attend missed an occasion with a chance to investigate a great site and share a day with good friends.

Nancy Rohr  
Huntsville

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Huntsville Chapter

Eugene Futato of Moundville spoke at the June chapter meeting. Eugene's presentation focused on recent archaeological investigations near Moundville, which indicate that the Indians in the area did not live in large villages, but in small settlements of one or two houses. Eugene showed slides of one such site, where pottery and lithic material were discovered; this find has been replicated hundreds of times near Moundville. These investigations are changing archaeologists' viewpoints on this whole area.

Ned Jenkins is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the July 24 chapter meeting; his topic will be Fort Toulouse.

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.

Dorothy Luke

### Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter met on June 11 on top of the Indian Mound in Florence. The chapter sponsored a hamburger cookout, with members bringing covered dishes, desserts, etc. The 33 members and guests enjoyed a great meal and then proceeded into the Indian Mound Museum, where Charles Hubbert brought us an excellent program on site preservation. He discussed some sites on Wheeler Lake where he has recently been involved with a site survey. Charles gave us an overview of his subject by using a video cassette of some sites on Wheeler. He then told us the Indians' point of view on preservation, and concluded with a discussion of the petroglyph that was recently rescued from vandalism or destruction in Colbert County.

The chapter will recess for the summer and resume meeting in October.

Charles Moore

### Dothan Chapter

The Dothan Chapter is reactivated, and those in the area who are interested in archaeology should contact:

Dr. Leonard Roberts, Dothan - 792-8783  
Mr. Greg Creel, Dothan - 792-6033  
Mr. Clay Bell, Dothan - 983-3378

### ESAF - CALL FOR PAPERS

Last call for papers - 1990 Eastern States Archeological Federation Annual Meeting, November 9-11 - Columbus, Ohio. The meeting will be held at The Great Southern Hotel, a restored 1890's hotel near German Village and the Columbus City Center.

Abstract deadline is July 10, 1990. Abstracts may be submitted to:

Verna L. Cowin, 1990 ESAF Program Chair  
5800 Baum Blvd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
412/665-2602; FAX 412/665-2751

Papers are not to exceed 20 minutes. Notification of acceptance will be mailed prior to July 31.

### FIRST 10 YEARS

A new Life Member of the Society needs a copy of THE FIRST 10 YEARS OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY. If you would be interested in selling a copy, please contact Dorothy Luke; 233 Queensbury Drive, #2; Huntsville, AL 35802; Tel. 880-2825.

### COLBERT PLOTTING TO KEEP ARTIFACT

Note: The following is from an article in "The Montgomery Advertiser"; Friday, May 18, 1990.

"A drive is under way in Colbert County to keep state officials from moving a large sandstone rock bearing Indian footprints and other symbols to a building in Montgomery. Archaeologists believe the inscriptions on the rock were put there by Mississippian Indians living on the south shore of the Tennessee River between 1000 A.D. and 1400 A.D.

"'The rock belongs to the state, but we have a strong urge to do what the people of Colbert County want done', said state Conservation Commissioner James Martin. Mr. Martin received a barrage of protests from Colbert County residents hoping the rock will be permanently displayed near the home of Helen Keller in Tuscumbia.

"The sandstone petroglyph, or rock carving-writing, was found on Martin Mountain near Tusculumbia earlier this year and removed by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for protection from vandals.

"The stone is now at Joe Wheeler State Park in Lawrence County. Conservation officials have said they want to house the stone in a display in a new office building in Montgomery."

Arthur Page  
Montgomery

#### NEW LEGISLATION IN TENNESSEE

On April 10, 1990, Governor Ned McWherter of Tennessee signed into law House Bill 2129/Senate Bill 2350, which amended and added new sections to the Division of Archaeology statutes. This bill was initiated by Indian activists from Tennessee and other states as a means to make radical changes in the law.

Through meetings with the primary sponsors, Sen. Douglas Henry and Rep. Garry Odom, the Division of Archaeology, and representatives from amateur societies who represented the interests of artifact collectors, unworkable sections of the original bill were deleted. The final version represents a reasonable compromise, since in the legislative process, neither opponents nor proponents usually get everything they want.

From an archaeological standpoint, the most significant changes in the law are the sections which cover burials and reburial. Human burials which are excavated or discovered after April 10, 1990 must be reinterred within six months after discovery.

The new law requires that, except for excavations authorized by the Division of Archaeology, the discovery of human remains during construction or other activities must be reported to the county medical examiner and to the Division of Archaeology. Failure to notify is a misdemeanor offense. Normal farming operations are exempted from this penalty. The law also prohibits the public display or exhibition of Native American human remains and prohibits the import or export of human remains, with some exceptions. It adds three Indians to the Archaeological Advisory Council and gives Indians the right to be present during excavation of Indian remains. The Council will set rules and regulations for reburial.

(From "Tennessee Anthropological Association NEWSLETTER", May-June 1990)

#### SLACK FARM SITE, KENTUCKY

Misdemeanor charges against 10 individuals accused of desecrating hundreds of graves at the Slack Farm site (15UN28) were dismissed in March of this year. The previous County Attorney, Ben Stockton, had been reluctant

to pursue the case. Eberly Davis, Stockton's predecessor, was also reluctant to bring the case to trial. In dismissing the case, the judge placed the 10 defendants on one-year probation. He stated that if they were again caught desecrating graves, then they would be charged for desecrating the Slack Farm burials as well. The reluctance of local prosecutors to pursue cases involved with the looting of burials is not unique to Union County. It is a problem that archaeologists and law enforcement personnel have encountered in other Kentucky counties and one that the Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists (KYOPA) is trying to resolve.

(From "Tennessee Anthropological Association NEWSLETTER", May-June 1990)

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY LOCATES BLACKSMITH SITE

After several months of archaeological survey this spring at the Old Mobile site, the University of South Alabama research team has located the remnants of several structures in the French colonial town of Old Mobile. Most significant is the discovery of a blacksmith's shop located directly west of the Canadian voyageur's house excavated last year. The shop was situated on the outskirts of town next to a swampy stream, a sensible place for blacksmithing given the fire hazard associated with that activity. The bulk of the artifacts found during the limited excavations undertaken to date consists of scrap iron and iron slag in huge quantities, along with an abundance of charcoal and coal. Some of the earliest historical documents from Old Mobile refer to barrels of English coal sent from Europe for the colony's gunsmiths and blacksmiths.

This particular site seems to have been involved in all sorts of metalworking. Here he patched copper and brass kettles and repaired long knives and dress swords. But the main activity evidently was iron forging, with scrap iron collected from town being reworked into nails, strap hinges, and many other objects. Unfortunately, the site's acid soils have caused thick corrosion to form on the surfaces of the iron artifacts. Before most of these artifacts can be identified, they will have to be X-rayed to determine the original form and whether any iron remains intact beneath the rust. Those objects still containing solid iron will then be cleaned by electrolysis and chemically stabilized for preservation and further study.

Although few items of domestic refuse have been found, and the structure seems to have functioned principally as a forge rather than a dwelling, a few fragments of pottery and animal bones suggest that someone, perhaps an Indian slave or an apprentice, may have lived at the shop. Among the more unusual artifacts discovered there is a broken calumet pipe. Pieces of unfinished calumets, made of a distinctive red stone called catlinite found only in the Minnesota area, were recovered from the Canadian voyageur's house last summer. But the blacksmith shop pipe had been a finished specimen before it broke. This bit of evidence suggests that the inhabitants of Old Mobile may have used these pipes in individual dealings with local Indians.

Since March, four team members have been systematically measuring off an archaeological grid over the site, every four meters placing a flag marked with north-south and east-west coordinates. This grid is the basis for a site map that is gradually taking shape. The end result of this long process will be a detailed archaeological map of Old Mobile, which can be used in conjunction with the 1702 and 1705 historic maps to plan all future excavations at this site.

Two important goals of the survey are to discover the locations of the town cemetery and of Fort Louis. The fort (which contained the settlement's church, living quarters of the colony's foremost political and military leaders, and the royal warehouse) served as the "capitol" of the Louisiana colony, a vast portion of interior North America claimed by France, from 1702 until 1711. One large cluster of artifacts found near the Mobile River bluff may be the remains of the fort. Test excavations at this possible fort location are now under way, with major exploration to follow this fall.

#### Become a Friend of Old Mobile

Current archaeological investigations at the site of Old Mobile depend on community support. The cost of this summer's survey and excavations will exceed \$30,000. Join The Friends of Old Mobile and help us learn more about colonial life along the northern Gulf coast. Contributors of \$25 or more will receive subsequent issues of the newsletter with reports on the latest discoveries. Contributions are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to "University of South Alabama Archaeology Fund", and send it to:

The Old Mobile Project  
c/o Dr. Stephen Thomas, Associate Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences  
University of South Alabama  
Mobile, AL 36688

#### AMERICAN INDIAN GROUPS AND "REPATRIATION"

There is little question at this time that Georgia has been targeted for action by American Indian groups, and that the "repatriation" issue (as they term it) will have to be dealt with in the near future. Some of the individuals and groups that are now active in the state are not reluctant to attack archaeology and archaeologists in public forums, and will be satisfied with nothing less than reburial of all human remains and artifacts and a complete cessation of archaeological research in the state. Perhaps their position is matched by some individuals in our own community who have attempted to ignore the issue altogether under the assumption that it really does not exist. The issue clearly does exist, and will have to be addressed in the near future. Hopefully it will be possible for archaeologists and Native Americans to establish a dialogue, and to work together to insure the long-term preservation of the state's archaeological resources.

### EIGHT ARRESTED FOR LOOTING

The Knoxville News-Sentinel recently reported that eight men had been arrested for unauthorized digging in a burial cave in the Cherokee National Forest in eastern Tennessee. The eight are charged with several crimes, including violation of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act and theft of government property.

The looted site contained burials that dated from A.D. 1600-1700, and human remains were disturbed by the looters. Three of the looters were charged with crimes that can result in 12 years in jail and a \$30,000 fine. The remaining five were charged with more serious crimes, and face up to 22 years in jail and \$40,000 in fines. A ninth man will be arrested and charged with lesser crimes, and faces two years in jail and a \$20,000 fine.

(The above two articles are from "The Profile", the Newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, June 1990)

### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

MAPS IN BRITISH PERIODICALS, PART I: MAJOR MONTHLIES BEFORE 1800. Describes all maps before 1800 in "Gentleman's Magazine", "London Magazine", "Political Magazine", "Scots Magazine" and "Universal Magazine". Almost 1100 maps are described, showing all areas of the world, including Africa, America, Asia, Australia, and Europe. Many of these maps are obscure and undescribed elsewhere. 256 pages, 1990. \$35.00.

MAPS OF AMERICA IN PERIODICALS BEFORE 1800. Identify those pesky "Gentleman's Magazine" and "London Magazine" maps with ease! This work describes 465 maps of America from these and many other periodicals. Includes maps showing any part of the Americas, including North America, South America, and the West Indies, as well as maps of the Arctic, Antarctic, Pacific Ocean, and world. 128 pages, 1989. \$18.00.

The above are available from David C. Jolly, Publishers; P.O. Box 931; Brookline, MA 02146.

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"North American Archaeologist", edited by Roger W. Moeller, Ph.D., Archaeological Services, Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Published quarterly, this is the only general journal dedicated solely to North America - with total coverage of archaeological activity in the United States, Canada, and Northern Mexico (excluding Mesoamerica).

The "North American Archaeologist" surveys all aspects of prehistoric and historic archaeology within an evolutionary perspective, from Paleo-Indian studies to industrial sites. It accents the results of Resource Management and Contract Archaeology, often neglected in other publications. Available from Baywood Publishing Company, Inc.; 26 Austin Ave.; P.O. Box 337; Amityville, NY 11701. \$36.00 plus \$4.50 for postage in the U.S. and Canada.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 20-29 each issue	(\$2.50 to Members) \$5.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> ( <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> ) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$6.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$10.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$7.50 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$7.00 pp

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SEND CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research**  
1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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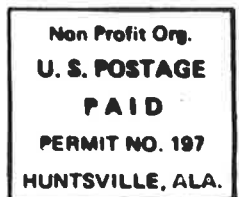
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