

Alabama Archaeological Society

NADB DOC # - 4,056,758

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

THE ARMY'S LEGENDARY SGT. I-SEE-O

He was famed as a scout, but the respect in which he was held by two warring cultures helped preserve a fragile peace in the waning days of the American Frontier.

His legend first emerges when in 1866 he went on the warpath with others of his tribe against the Navajo in New Mexico. When he returned from an expedition on the Rio Grande, he found his tribe encamped at Medicine Lodge, Kan. With them were large numbers of Comanche, Kiowa, Cheyenne and Arapaho. The total number of Indians has been variously estimated, but there were several thousand. They had assembled for a conference with a commission from Washington headed by Brevet Maj. Gen. William B. Hazen.

Our next record of I-See-O occurs when he arrived in Fort Sill in 1889 to enlist in the Army's detachment of Indian Scouts. Col. Wilbur S. Nye in "Carbine and Lance" describes the incident:

"When he came to the table to be signed up as a soldier, the recruiting officer asked him his name. 'I-See-O' was the reply. As I-See-O was well known around Fort Sill under his former name of Tahbonemah (Morning Star), it is reasonable to suppose that the recruiting officer recognized him. But nothing more was said and Tahbonemah, aged about 42, was regularly enlisted as I-See-O, aged 29."

It was not uncommon for an Indian to adopt the name of a distinguished ancestor, and I-See-O had been the name of Tahbonemah's uncle.

Once enlisted, I-See-O served as messenger for an army whose communications facilities were still primitive. As time went on, he became a counselor on Indian affairs to Maj. Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who was charged with keeping order on the frontier. During this period, he came favorably to the attention of Lt. Hugh L. Scott, 7th Cavalry, and this ripened into a friendship that was to have deep influence on the careers of both.

May 1978

In 1890, a new pseudo-religion swept through the tribes of the Northwest. Wovoka, a Paiute chief in Nevada, set himself up as its leader and proclaimed himself the prophet of a new messiah. He predicted the disappearance of the white man, the resurrection of ancestors of the tribes and the return of the buffalo.

Late in the year, the unrest reached such a pitch that the Army was alerted to keep order, and the tragic Battle of Wounded Knee occurred (29 December 1890). Indians in the south were also in a state of high excitement. The fact that fighting did not erupt there was due almost entirely to the courage and diplomacy of Lt. Scott and Sgt. I-See-O. The two went together to wherever the excitement was highest: in the Wichita Mountains, in the Caddo country and as far as 150 miles up the Washita River. The Indians knew Lt. Scott's reputation for fairness and they trusted I-See-O's judgment and counsel. In the end, cooler heads prevailed and hostilities were averted.

Only a short time elapsed before I-See-O was again instrumental in preventing open conflict. On 9 January 1891, at the Anadarko Indian School, three Kiowa boys ran away after they had been whipped by their white teacher. A blizzard was raging and the three boys froze to death before they could reach the Kiowa camp. The tribe was seething and an armed outbreak seemed inevitable, but I-See-O and Col. Caleb H. Carlton, commanding Fort Sill, persuaded the Indians to disperse without bloodshed.

Again in the same year the killing of an Indian by a white man caused an uprising at the north fork of the Red River. Lt. Scott dispatched I-See-O to the scene and again open hostilities were avoided.

In 1892, Lt. Scott organized and took command of Troop L, 7th Cavalry, composed of Kiowa, Comanche and Apache. He already reposed great confidence in I-See-O and soon made him first sergeant of the troop. A mutual respect and devotion grew up between the two and Lt. Scott learned the Indian sign language so thoroughly from I-See-O that in later years the Bureau of Ethnology considered him the outstanding authority on this subject and he wrote a monograph about it.

Lt. Scott continued in command of Troop L for five years, during which time he was promoted to captain. When I-See-O's enlistment ended, he requested that he be enlisted as an Indian Scout for five years. He then resumed his duties as courier and adviser for Gen. Miles. On a trip to Keechie Hills he was injured by his pony and spent the next six months in the post hospital at Fort Sill. When he recovered, he left the service and went back to his tepee for peace and comfort; but a year later the United States declared war on Spain and he again enlisted as a scout.

His usefulness was limited because he spoke no English, but he was given charge of the horses remaining on the post. He continued in service until 1913 when the detachment was transferred to Arizona, at which time he left the service and moved with his family to the Big Bend of the Washita River. It seemed, however, that he had little aptitude for farming or for civil life and he was soon on the verge of destitution.

In 1914, when an opportunity arose, he went to Washington with a group of Kiowa and called on his old friend, Maj. Gen. High L. Scott, now chief of staff of the Army. Gen. Scott brought I-See-O's history to the attention of the secretary of war, with an ardent plea that something be done for the old Indian in recognition of his earlier services. The secretary succeeded in having a private bill passed by Congress which made I-See-O a sergeant on the active list of the Army for the rest of his life.

On 29 January 1915, Capt. Peyton C. March, then in the office of the adjutant general, wrote to the commanding officer, Fort Sill, through channels:

"The Secretary of War has directed that Iseeo [sic] be enlisted at Washington Barracks, D. C., as an Indian Scout, and that he be sent on Government transportation to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for station, the Commanding Officer, Fort Sill, to utilize the services of Iseeo, after his arrival, if they are needed, but to permit him to go and come as he pleases."

The post commander fulfilled all these requests and for I-See-O's use built a cottage east of the Frisco station, near Cache Creek. The cottage was equipped with electric lights and a kitchen range, but these accommodations must have seemed too effete for the old Kiowa, for he soon erected a teepee nearby and did his cooking out of doors, although he occasionally dropped in at a mess hall for a meal. The kitchen range, incidentally, was the old-fashioned, coal-burning type, but I-See-O used it as a dresser for storing his belongings.

Early in 1925 the post quartermaster provided him with a standard Army pyramidal tent complete with board floor, and here he lived. Family and friends occupied the wooden structure.

He had fathered five children. His first wife died in 1923. A year later he married Otahty, aged 66, of Mount Scott, Okla., who lived with him for the rest of his life.

I-See-O was taken ill, and on 28 February 1927 his illness was diagnosed as pneumonia and he finally consented to be moved to the post hospital, where he died on the night of 10 March 1927.

On Sunday, 13 March, an Indian funeral service was held for him at Harper's Mission, near Fort Sill; the Rev. J. L. Read conducted the service. His words were translated into Kiowa by George Hunt, I-See-O's nephew, and into Commanche by White Parker.

On the following day, the traditional military funeral was held at the picturesque old post chapel. I-See-O was buried in uniform as he had requested. All the senior officers of the post attended and the vast number of Indians overflowed the beautiful old stone building. Chaplain Ralph C. Deibert conducted the service, George Hunt again translating into Kiowa. At its conclusion, the Kiowa sang in their own language a song which one of their tribe had composed. The casket, draped with the national color, was borne from the chapel to the Fort Sill cemetery on a caisson of the 1st Field Artillery. The bugler and the firing squad were from the 23rd Infantry. After the graveside ceremony had ended the Indians stayed on to mourn their loss in accordance with their custom.

Perhaps, however, the recognition that must have warmed the old Kiowa's heart more than any other was a letter written to him in May 1919 by his old friend, Hugh Scott. Gen. Scott had gone on from distinction to distinction and as late as 1915 had been instrumental in quieting Indian troubles. He was appointed chief of staff of the Army on 17 November 1914, and served in that capacity until he retired on 22 September 1917.

"My dear I-See-O: You did good work at that time, as you brought things about so that there was no one killed as there was in the North among the Sioux. You and I worked well together at that time, and the Indian people of Oklahoma owe you a great deal of thanks. If it had not been for you in those days there would have been great bloodshed among those people, as there was among the Sioux of the North, simply because they didn't have anyone who understood both sides of the Indian and white man, and who was interested enough in the Indian to lead them quietly out of the trouble that was going on there. That is where I have been most useful to my Indian friends." Always your friend, Hugh L. Scott, Maj. Gen., U. S. A., Commanding.

(From an article by Maj. Gen. Robert P. Hollis in ARMY, June 1977)

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: Mr. George Benson presented a slide program on "King Tut" on 17 April at the Cullman Museum.

Huntsville Chapter: Mr. Lakin Boyd, professor of Art Education at Alabama A&M, gave a very interesting slide presentation on "The Maya and Mayan Art" at the April Chapter meeting. Mr. Boyd, who is especially interested in Mayan pottery, has visited Mexico and Guatemala several times, most recently in 1977 under a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities. The next Chapter meeting will be on May 16 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the main Huntsville Library and will feature a speaker from Russell Cave.

Montgomery Chapter: For its April meeting, the Montgomery Chapter was pleased to have David Chase present a program on the Harrington Site (1Mt231). The program for the May meeting was National Geographic's "The Dawn of Man" - a film about Leakey and human origins. The meeting was held in the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Liberal Arts Bld., AUM.

SIXTH ANNUAL FIELD SCHOOL IN CARIBBEAN ARCHAEOLOGY

St. Kitts, West Indies - June 16-July 13, 1978 (first session),
July 21-August 17, 1978 (second session).

The Behavioral Sciences Foundation, in conjunction with the Instituto Interamericano and with the Expedition Training Institute, is pleased to announce the Sixth Annual Summer Field School in Caribbean Archaeology, to be held on St. Kitts, West Indies, in two sessions (as above), each four weeks long. Cost, including a \$50.00 non refundable deposit (to be remitted upon notification of acceptance) is \$550.00. This includes tuition, fees, and room and board (three meals/day of native cuisine). Housing is dormitory-like, in an eighteenth century sugar estate house on St. Kitts. Students can arrange to either (1) travel with the group from Washington's Dulles Airport, or (2) meet the group in San Juan for the charter leg of the trip to St. Kitts. Travel costs are not included in the fees. Cost of the round trip charter from San Juan to St. Kitts is an additional \$120.00. For further information and application materials, write: R. Christopher Goodwin; Department of Anthropology; Arizona State University; Tempe, AZ 85281 (Phone 602-967-5590).

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 44th annual meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation will be held at the Monticello Motor Lodge, Bellmawr, New Jersey 08030, Telephone 609-931-0700 (on the Black Horse Pike at Exit #3 of the New Jersey Turnpike - limousine service to Philadelphia airport - 20 minutes). Special ESAF rates of \$20 and \$24 per room, per night. The date is November 2-5, 1978.

Concurrent sessions are scheduled which will include Prehistoric Archaeology plus sessions in The Archaeology of Ontario, Canada; Historic and Industrial Archaeology; Fund Raising for Archaeological Projects; and Workshop in Primitive Ceramics.

If you desire to give a paper, contact the program chairman, Herbert C. Kraft; Archaeological Research Center; Seton Hall University; South Orange, New Jersey 07079. Give your name and address, profession or area of interest and the topic you wish to present.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

MEETINGS

November 9-11, 1978 - 35th meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference at the Ramada Inn, Knoxville, Tennessee. Abstract and Symposium deadline is September 1, 1978. Jefferson Chapman; Department of Anthropology; University of Tennessee; Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.

The 77th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association will be held in Los Angeles at the Hilton and Hyatt Regency Hotels on November 14 to 19, 1978. Write to AAA, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20009.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

PUBLICATION

New AAA Special Publication - PERSPECTIVES ON ANTHROPOLOGY 1976 - Edited by Anthony F. C. Wallace, J. Lawrence Angel, Richard Fox, Sally McLendon, Rachel Sady, and Robert Sharer. This is a collection of plenary sessions from the 75th annual meeting of the AAA held in Washington, D. C., last year. Price is \$3.00 (AAA members) or \$4.00 (non-members and institutions). Enclose payment with orders to AAA, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20009.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

BOOK REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGY OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA, Volume 6, 1978, will be another not only interesting but also important publication. Quoting the editor, Louis A. Brennan, in the ESAF Newsletter (November 1977), "The

lead-off piece is Gary Wilkins dissertation on the famous 'bear wallow' sites of West Virginia. These are multi-component, long-time-span sites, from the fluted point to the Late Woodland horizon, on mountain tops from 2,000 to 3,400 ft. high, usually clustered about the ponds, called 'bear wallows', found in natural catch basins.... They add an exciting new environmental dimension to the prehistory of Eastern United States." Send your check for \$6.00 to ESAF, c/o Island Field Museum; R. D. #2, Box 126; Milford, Delaware 19963.

BEADS AND THEIR USE BY UPPER GREAT LAKES INDIANS, Publication No. 3, Grand Rapids Public Museum; Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502. This is a catalog of an exhibition produced by the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum. The catalog is profusely illustrated with photos, many in color, and includes an extensive discussion of beads and their use. The catalog is \$7.45 postpaid from the Grand Rapids Museum; 54 Jefferson, S. E.; Grand Rapids, Michigan 49502.

STONEHENGE by Sir Fred Hoyle, California Institute of Technology, W. H. Freeman & Co., 660 Market St., San Francisco, California. Paper \$6.50, 1977, 157 pp., illustrated with maps and charts. This is the book to end books on Stonehenge. It places the argument over Stonehenge on a firm, scientific basis. Sir Fred is known as one of the world's foremost cosmologists. It is a most readable and fascinating book.

Beginning with Volume 25, No. 1, 1978, the INTERAMERICAN will be a quarterly. There is no subscription price. The newsletter is supported by voluntary contributions. To get on the mailing list, send to the Director, Carl B. Compton; 5133 NT; Denton, Texas 76203. Remember, a contribution is welcome!

ARCHAEOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES - a guide for those planning to use, affect, or alter the land's surface. The booklet was prepared by the Committee on the Public Understanding of Archeology of the Society for American Archaeology. Charles R. McGimsey III is the principal author. The price is \$.40 per copy; in increments of 50 copies the price is \$9.00 for 50 copies. Twenty-four pages, illustrated. Order from Society for American Archaeology, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20009.

GUIDE TO DEPARTMENTS OF ANTHROPOLOGY 1977-1978. Available from Publications Department, American Anthropological Association, 1703 New Hampshire Ave., N. W.; Washington, D. C. 20009. Enclose payment with your order, \$3.00 per copy to AAA members, \$5.00 to non-members and institutions. This 16th edition lists 386 departments and 4,802 positions.

A heritage guidebook, Past Horizons, Volume I, to be released during Heritage Week, includes history highlights, photos, architectural data, and/or listings of more than 200 landmarks in Tuscaloosa, Northport and University of Alabama. This book is being printed in limited edition and is available at \$8.50 plus \$.50 handling. Send check to Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society; Post Office Box 1665; Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

The following are reports of the Laboratory of Archaeology Series, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens. Price \$3.00 per copy - order from: Department of Anthropology; Baldwin Hall; University of Georgia; Athens, Georgia 30602.

Fish, Paul R., and Suzanne K. Fish, 1977. Prehistoric Settlement in the Dry Creek Watershed. Report #14.

Fish, Paul R., Suzanne K. Fish, and Richard W. Jefferies, 1978. An Examination of Interfluvial Settlement in the Southern Georgia Piedmont: The Georgia Power Company Plant Scherer Archaeological Survey. Report #15.

Hally, David J., 1969 Season. Archaeological Investigation of the Little Egypt Site (9M102), Murray County, Georgia. Report #18.

Jefferies, Richard W. and Paul R. Fish, in press. Stone Mound Investigations in the Southern Piedmont. Report #17.

Smith, Marvin T., 1978. A Report on Excavations at Several Woodland and Archaic Camp and Workshop Sites in Laurens County, Georgia. Report #16.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.

The Society is a non-profit corporation. Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Society to help finance archaeological research and projects conducted throughout Alabama. The membership blank below may be used for this purpose.

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to.

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803

— CUT HERE —

MEMBERSHIP

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.

TO: THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for

☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES ☐ REPORTING OF NEW ADDRESS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

MAIL TO:

MRS. BETTYE T. HENSON
SECRETARY AND TREASURER
7608 Teal Drive, S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

(Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico: \$1.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional Membership, \$10.00 additional for Individual Life and \$15.00 additional for Joint Life Membership)

<input type="checkbox"/> Life (Individual)	\$120.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (Students under age 22)	\$ 4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Joint Life (husband & wife)	150.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (individual)	10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual (Individual)	7.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (husband & wife)	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Annual, Family (husband, wife and children under age 18)	8.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual (institutional)	10.00
		<input type="checkbox"/> Contribution (tax deductible)	

UNIVERSITY, ALABAMA 35486

DRAWER BA

MR. EUGENE FUTATO

MAIL CHECK TO:
JOURNAL EDITOR

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* (each) \$4.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell 2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — *The archaeological Sequence
at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama* 4.50 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types \$7.35 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools 2.25 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers 3.00 pp

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Alabama Archaeological Society

Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

Non Profit Org.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 197

HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

MR/MRS. VERNON T. KNIGHT-F
COLUMBUS MUSEUM OF ARTS/CHAPTER
1251 WYNNTON ROAD
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31906

EXT
2260

km 311
for

inter

+ per week

James Watson