

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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1987 SUMMER MEET

The A.A.S. held its summer meeting at the Hightower Site and participated in the excavation on June 27. Work at the Hightower Site is one of several efforts by the Alabama DeSoto Commission, which is hot on the trail of 16th century Spanish explorer DeSoto.

John C. Hall, expedition leader and program coordinator at the Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama, said DeSoto, like many of the conquistadors, was the second son of a minor Spanish family. "Like other second sons (who stood to inherit little or nothing), he saw the New World as his sole opportunity for fame and fortune". It is thought that DeSoto explored the Coosa and other Alabama rivers extensively.

Directing the team at Hightower Village are Hall and Harry O. Holstein of Jacksonville State University. Helping with the expedition are high school and college students from across the state and graduate students from Florida and Colorado, as well as local history buffs and amateur archaeologists.

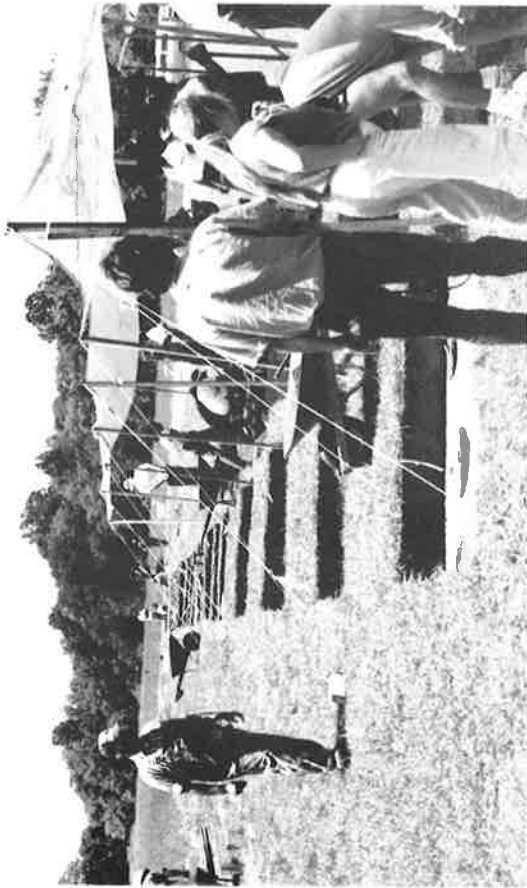
Excavations the first week uncovered Indian pottery shards, copper and pottery beads and 17th century European glass beads. But the excavators have found no direct evidence of DeSoto and his men. The University of Alabama and the DeSoto Commission are involved in three expeditions this summer: Hightower, old Cahaba and a possible DeSoto site in Clarke County in southwest Alabama. The excavation of the old Cahaba site, on the Cahaba River a few miles southwest of Selma, has created some excitement.

That is where last year the remains of an Indian village were found. Some archaeologists and historians believe it is the site of Mabila, an Indian village where the Spanish engaged in a bloody battle with Chief Tascaluza (Tuscaloosa) and thousands of his warriors. "Many believe that the discovery of the Mabila battlefield... would be the archaeological find of recent years in the Southeastern United States", Hall said.

The Alabama DeSoto Commission, in consultation with leading DeSoto scholars, has concluded that the Mabila battlefield is Alabama's most likely site for positive archaeological identification of DeSoto's presence. Much of Spanish history in the Southeast is still veiled in mystery. The DeSoto expedition was "the first major European expedition into the Southeast, and DeSoto penetrated deeper and stayed longer than any other explorer".

(From an article by Marie West Cromer in the "Birmingham Post-Herald" - Monday, July 6, 1987)

July 1987









**1987 EASTERN STATES  
ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION  
ANNUAL MEETING**

HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE  
**SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
CONFERENCE**

**OMNI HOTEL, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
12-15 November 1987**

Preliminary Program

THURSDAY AM: SEAC sessions  
THURSDAY PM: SEAC sessions, wine & cheese, film festival  
FRIDAY AM: ESAF session (amateur contributions to eastern  
archeology), SEAC session, joint ESAF/SEAC  
session (topic TBA)  
FRIDAY PM: ESAF session (historic sites archeology), SEAC  
session, joint ESAF/SEAC session (TBA), ESAF  
Business Meeting, ESAF Banquet, Distinguished  
Lecture by Richard I. Ford, music  
SATURDAY AM: joint ESAF/SEAC session (maritime adaptations),  
SEAC session  
SATURDAY PM: ESAF general session, Fort Moultrie tour  
SUNDAY AM: local tours (possible boat trip to Fort Sumter)

OTHER FEATURES: \*\*POSTER SESSIONS\*\*BOOK SALES\*\*DISPLAYS\*\*

Contacts

**ESAF Program Chair:** Dennis C. Curry, Maryland Geological  
Survey, Division of Archeology, 2300 St. Paul Street,  
Baltimore, MD 21218. Telephone (301) 554-5532.

**SEAC Program Chair:** Glen T. Hanson, South Carolina Institute  
of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1321 Pendleton Street,  
Columbia, SC 29208. Telephone (803) 725-3724.

**Arrangements Chair:** Albert C. Goodyear, South Carolina  
Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 1321 Pendleton  
Street, Columbia, SC 29208. Telephone (803) 799-1963.



### THANKS FROM A.A.S.!

Congratulations to Dr. John Hall, Dr. Harry Holstein and all those involved in planning the A.A.S. summer meeting. Society members and Hightower Field School personnel spent an interesting and productive day at the Hightower Site near Sylacauga Saturday, June 27. The combination of a beautiful day and an exceptionally well-managed "dig" made for a very pleasant experience.

Several archaeologists were on hand to supervise the day's activities; detailed instructions were given before every phase of the dig. Artifacts found at the site were on display in a lab tent and served to pique the workers' interest and spur them on to greater efforts. And obvious thought went into providing for the physical comfort of those attending the meeting: tarps over the squares and plenty of drinking water.

Again, our thanks for a well-organized meeting.

The Editors

### CHAPTER NEWS

#### Coosa Valley-Jacksonville State University

The Coosa Valley - Jacksonville State University Chapter had a very active 1986-1987 year of meetings and activities. The chapter members participated in the ICA42 return excavation conducted by Dr. Harry Holstein at Choccolocco Valley. In September, the chapter heard a presentation on the archaeology of the U.S. Civil War by Steven Schmit of Fort McClellan. In October, Larry Beane, Ranger at Russell Cave, presented a program on the technology associated with Russell Cave. The November program on the archaeology of the Moundville Complex was presented by Phil Krebs, archaeologist at Moundville. The January meeting was a discussion by Dr. Harry Holstein on the stone mound and field excavations at Morgan Mountain in the Choccolocco Valley during the spring and summer of 1987. Mr. David Muncher of the Florida State Museum presented a solid lecture program on sunken ships in the Gulf of Mexico at the February meeting. At the March meeting, Mr. Charles Hubbert, archaeologist at Redstone Arsenal, narrated a slide presentation on the Paleo-Indian sites along the Tennessee River. Fifteen members of the Coosa Valley - JSU Club visited the Russell Cave Second Annual Indian Culture Day on April 18. Patsy Hanvey and Tamara Hanvey Beane, American Indian potters from our chapter, presented an exhibition consisting of southeastern pottery and pottery-making techniques. Some members of the chapter participated in some field surveys in the Paint Rock Green area on the way home.

Chapter officers are: Dr. Phillip E. Koerper, President; Dr. Leon Willman, Vice President; Mary Johnson, Secretary; and Jane Cato, Treasurer. The chapter normally meets on the last Thursday night of each month (September-April) at Brewer Hall on the Jacksonville State University campus. A schedule of speakers for 1987-1988 will be available in September.

Phillip E. Koerper

### Cullman County Archaeological Society

The chapter announced the 20th year anniversary meeting of the Cullman County Archaeological Society. The meeting was held on June 14 at the Cullman High School.

Howard King

### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter of the A.A.S. meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the United Way office on Traylor Island. For more information on chapter meetings and other activities, call Program Chairman Bart Henson at 881-9389.

Speaker at the June 16 meeting was Dr. Greg Waselkov of Notasulga. Dr. Waselkov presented a slide-illustrated program on the proto-historic Creek Indian site of Fusahatchee. Dr. Waselkov also discussed recent archaeological investigations at Fort Toulouse and on sinkholes in northwest Alabama.

The next chapter meeting will be Tuesday, July 21. Mrs. Ruth Spence from Birmingham will speak on old maps.

Dorothy Luke

### Muscle Shoals

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its June meeting on the 15th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. A hamburger cookout began at 6:30 p.m., with members bringing covered dishes, salads, desserts, etc. There were 34 members and guests attending.

The Chapter was especially pleased to have the Society President, Carey Oakley, attending, along with Eugene Futato - both of Mound State Monument. Charles Hubbert of Huntsville presented a very interesting program on Paleo Man. Charles discussed the possibilities of Paleo man using sites such as the Quad Site as base camps and then using other sites during certain seasons of the year for hunting and gathering purposes.

Don Holt, a local attorney, made comments about his defense of a relic collector who was apprehended for collecting relics under water near the Natchez Trace bridge.

Carey Oakley discussed the plans for the summer excavation and other projects in which the Office of Archaeological Research is involved.

The chapter will suspend meetings for the next three months and have its next meeting on October 12.

Charles Moore

## 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> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) 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

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
 SEND CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research**  
 1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

## 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.

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