

Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6135, UNIVERSITY, AL. 35486

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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LAST CHANCE TO BE A PART

The March Stones and Bones included a survey form, the purpose of which is to determine the interests and opinions of you---the members of AAS. The survey is the same as one made a few years ago and an important secondary purpose is to see if and how the attitudes of the membership have changed. As John Gustafson indicated in a request for response on the first survey, the officers of the society are busy people. They have their jobs and their families just like you, but still they can find the time to give to the service of the society. If you have ever felt that the society and its leadership didn't care about you, perhaps you were wrong. Maybe they just didn't know what you wanted or what you needed.

In the first survey, 18 per cent of the members finally participated, only one of these people has answered again. The rest of the forms returned are mostly from fairly young members of the society, a large number being out-of-state members. The groups which should care the most are the ones from which we are hearing the least.

Let's do at least as well as we did before. To be a success, the survey needs the help of everyone, large and small. Is it too long? Is it too hard? Don't you care?

(Eugene Futato, Tuscaloosa Chapter)

(Editor's Note: From the response Eugene has received it would appear that our out-of-state members care more about the society than our Alabama members. This seems a little strange since as a general rule they cannot actively participate in society functions...maybe they care more about the future of AAS.)

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS

Those of you who are reading this newsletter receive our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for saving us both time and money. By paying your 1975 dues, unlike 196 other 1974 members, you have enabled us to keep you on our mailing list, which makes us very happy indeed! Watch the mails for your copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alabama Archaeological Society which should be in the mails to you in a week or so. Tell your 1974 member friends who haven't paid their dues to do so immediately and you'll get our double thanks!

MAY 1975

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON CAMPUS

A team of students at the University of Alabama, headed by Professor Jerry C. Oldshoe and field chief Mack Brooms, has completed an archaeological survey on campus. The students, all enrolled in the three week 1974 Interim Course at the University, located and partially excavated the hitherto undiscovered ruins of Jefferson Hall. (Those attending the December Meeting in Tuscaloosa heard a fine talk on the Jefferson Dormitory Project and saw slides of the artifacts recovered during this work). This structure, the earliest building constructed at the University, was destroyed on April 5, 1865 by troops of the Second Michigan Cavalry when they burned the University of Alabama.

These excavations provided numerous artifacts of 19th century instructional life which are now being processed and preserved in the laboratory at the University. Professor Oldshoe intends to continue and hopefully complete the excavation during the 1975 Interim Term.

(Juanita Battles, Gadsden, Alabama)

FORT MEADE LCSES LAST ARMORED TANK

From the Birmingham News of March 13, 1975 we learned that...

In 1919 the first primitive armored tank rolled into Fort Meade, MD. The home of the 1st Army Tank Corps school, the fort for several years after World War I was the only place in the United States offering complete tank training. Two years ago, the 6th Armored Cavalry Regiment moved to Fort Bliss, Texas. Major Howard L. MacAllister, a public information officer is quoted as saying, "I guess it's the end of an era here."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

FROM THE VALLEY NEWS DIGEST...

High on the Russell County Recreation Board's priority list is the establishment of a park at the site of old Fort Mitchell. Other plans for the fort property are maintaining the cemeteries already there, establishment of a national cemetery, creating a network of roads and walking trails and the partial reconstruction of the fort. The Russell County Bicentennial Committee has also announced plans to move a log cabin near the fort site.

A spokesman for the Russell County Historical Society says that thieves are digging at Forts Mitchell and Apalachicola and removing valuable artifacts.

The Historic Chattahoochee Commission (Box 33, Eufaula 36027) is funding an audio-visual presentation on the Chattahoochee Trace of Alabama and Georgia. This film strip will be shown at travel shows, civic clubs and on TV. (Chapter Program Chairmen take note.)

SUPPORT YOUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION DIG FUND DRIVE

NEW DIRECTOR

In January of this year Gary E. Everhardt was named the new director of the National Park Service by the Secretary of the Interior, Roger C. B. Morton. Everhardt succeeds Ronald H. Walker, who has been director for a number of years. Everhardt, 40, has 17 years experience in the National Park Service, the most recent as Superintendent of Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. (Taken from Preservation News, February 1975, the monthly newspaper of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.)

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

IKWA OF THE TEMPLE MOUNDS BY MARGARET SEARCY

If you have procrastinated about ordering this delightful story, do not wait another day! Ikwa, an Indian maid of 12 years, will hold your attention whether you are her age or belong to another generation. Margaret Searcy, well known and loved by all society members is an active anthropologist and a past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society. She skillfully weaves a story around this young girl who is just on the threshold of womanhood. You travel beside the girl, learn her innermost dreams and fears, as she follows the instructions of the high priest and of her parents. By living these experiences with the Indian girl, you learn many facts of her Indian culture.

We speak of teaching archaeology to the public, to attempt at least, to slow down the destruction of Indian sites by stressing the cultural heritage of these great people who inhabited our land before the white man. If every child, through reading this book, could live with Ikwa and her brother, Situ, we would have a future generation much more appreciative of that which is now too often plundered for just an addition to a personal collection or as exchange for other curiosities. Worse yet, they are often sold as objects of beauty or art, but shorn of all possible significant relationship with the people who made and used the items.

Order the book for your library and do your part to see that all your young friends read it. You will be giving them a priceless gift as well as hidden lessons, such as, growing up may be a difficult and complicated period; and some do not handle the problems very well; true for those living in primitive cultures or our advanced atomic age.

Send \$5.50 (Alabama residents add 22¢ tax) to The University of Alabama Press, Drawer 2877, University, Alabama 35486. Specify that you wish the Alabama Archaeological Society to receive the discount for a cash sale to a society member.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

FROM THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS

Dr. Jon L. Gibson of the University of Southwestern Louisiana, has received a grant, through funding provided in provisions of the Moss-Bennett Act, now a Public Law, for an archaeological survey along the Mermentau River and Bayous Nezipique and des Cannes in Louisiana.

SITE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

In my capacity as Chairman of the Site Preservation Committee, I feel that some of my views on the subject should be expressed to the membership. First, I consider my role to be one of importance and in view of what I have seen going on in many parts of the state, a job of demanding proportions dictating the need for cooperation.

There are several very capable members on this committee and each is as concerned with getting some sort of program launched which will contribute toward the cause of site salvage or preservation as I. I know that due to the magnitude of site destruction in all parts of the state, that even our dedicated committeemen cannot oversee all of it. Thus, I enjoin all members of the society to be watchful for construction areas which might conceivably threaten archaeological or historical sites. These are in lock and dam basins, highways and suburban developments on the fringes of large cities. These are the most common situations, add to these strip mining and the construction of large industrial plants whose operation requires large amounts of water -- such as papermills. These are invariably built at the junction of two streams or the confluence of creeks and rivers -- exactly where large sites are found.

In recent weeks, I have travelled through most parts of the state to visit known sites, construction sites and even sites on the National Register -- to see just how well their registration status is protecting them.

Many sites are not protected as indicated by recent pothunting, trashdumping and uncontrolled erosion. In the Montgomery area, I have investigated three instances of site destruction by industry and one proposed project wherein many sites may be damaged and one definitely destroyed. In the latter situation, I have been unable to locate an environmental impact statement concerning this area, although I have it on good authority that the contract for the work has been signed.

There is a real need for the public to be made aware of these things and be advised of existing laws governing the issue. Industries and public utilities must be instructed as to the provision of these laws and know that penalties await violators. The news media can be brought into play here through the publication of examples of law violations or instances where there is a need to spell out the legal facets. This is one area where the committee and members work can come into play. I would like members of my committee as well as members of the society to send me any instance of site destruction -- especially where federal funds are involved or a federal permit issued. This would certainly include construction of industrial parks, public utilities, state dock facilities, highways, airports, major dam reservoirs, marinas in dam reservoirs, urban development including shopping plazas, stream channelization and the like.

In advising me as to the threatened sites or site areas, be sure to give me as much location data as possible -- range, township and 1/4 section if you can determine this from local maps. Each county has a highway map with most of this information on it. Indicate what type of project, name of the contractor and to

what extent the known site will be damaged.

At my end (Montgomery) I can check to see if impact statements have been issued and what type of follow-up salvage action is indicated.

I believe that every society member can play a valuable role in this day of growing threats to archaeological resources. I invite you to help and assure you that I will follow up on every instance of site destruction brought to my attention.
(David Chase, Montgomery Chapter)

A RESTUDY OF THE WRIGHT VILLAGE (1LuV65)

This article about a Middle Woodland habitation site in Lauderdale County, Alabama by Dr. John A. Walthall, is to be found in the Tennessee Archaeologist Vol. XXIX, No. 2, Autumn 1973. This report of 39 pages is illustrated and contains tables and bibliography. Walthall, who is on the staff of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama and a member of our state society, recently received his PhD. from the University of North Carolina. While working on his dissertation, Copena: A Re-evaluation of a Tennessee Valley Woodland Culture, he re-examined the material which had been excavated by a WPA crew in 1938 under the direction of Dr. William G. Haag. The Wright Village was a small site located about 600 feet from two Copena mounds and for over 30 years has been the only generally recognized Copena habitation site. These sites are now under water, backed up by the TVA Pickwick Landing Dam. A complete report of the archaeological excavations in the Pickwick Basin, by William S. Webb and David L. DeJarnette, is available from Tribute Press, P.O. Box 4461, Red Bank, Tennessee 37415 for \$5.00 in reprint. The recent archaeological research conducted by Walthall, the new classification for projectile points and the use of Carbon-14 dates have allowed for a better understanding of the temporal, cultural and functional aspects of this site. Drawing upon this information, Walthall suggests that the Wright Village was a multiple activity base camp, contemporaneous with the Copena Mounds, extensively occupied during the Middle Woodland Period and "...indicative of a new and perhaps more complex economic subsistence base."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

THE IDEAL AMATEUR

Herb C. Morrow's article "The Amateur Archaeologist" reprinted in the January 1975 issue of the Stones & Bones Newsletter deserves comment; I would like to think that most of what Morrow said was true, "...Amateur archaeological societies are no longer the bailiwick of pothunters and weekend dilettantes..." but I have a few doubts on that score. I know for a fact that there are pothunters in our society and many of them admit to joining because it might help them to be more efficient in locating sites to rip off. Many refuse to reveal the source of important finds for fear that an archaeologist might wish to dig there. Not a few add to the destruction being wrought by bulldozers in public projects, a fact that makes their activities a moral crime if not a factual one.

Does being a member of an archaeological society cure pothunting fever? Ned Jenkins recently described a pothunting incident on his dig of last summer wherein a one-time member (of the Alabama Society) was caught in the act.

Recently I took a trip into Dale, Coffee and Geneva counties where I saw what must have been a fine flat-topped temple mound. Today, it is a tunneled shambles with ragged craters in so many parts of the structure that it was almost impossible to estimate the original height, size and outline. I cite this find because it is practically in the backyard of one of our state chapters. Similar mounds, shell dumps, shelter caves and open terrace sites have been torn apart from one end of the state to the other -- within the precincts of other state chapters. We cannot blame members for these acts of vandalism but the nagging suspicion is always there that in at least some cases, members are involved.

What are the answers? Some say educate them. How can you educate a determined treasurer digger? He cares little or nothing for the story behind archaeology or the historical importance of preservation -- either because he does not have the mental capacity to appreciate it, or simply because that aspect of the issue does not interest him. True, some people have been known to innocently dig sites only to learn that they were destroying data and therefore stopped digging. These are educable individuals who, in most cases, want to participate and are willing to do the right thing. Thus, we seem to have the curables and the incurables. One of the society's objectives, therefore, ought to be to gather in the curables as potentially valuable members. As for the others, I think, most of us have learned that pothunting for the anti-archaeologist is addictive and there is no hope for them. What should be done with those who pothunt must be left up to the individual chapters. But there are inherent risks even in this approach. One chapter which had a promising future a few years ago, was literally torn apart due to conflict between the pro and anti pothunting factions.

Morrow's words represent the ideal solution and condition. It should be a model for societies to emulate. But, no society's reputation for maintaining high standards can long last without each member making his own contribution and, in some cases, mending his ways.

(David Chase, Montgomery Chapter)

NOTES FROM THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

This month's newsletter just about clears up the backlog of articles which have been submitted to the newsletter in recent months. So it is time for interested parties to take pen in hand and send in articles for the coming month's. This, of course, includes out of state members. Our society is interested in the occurrences of other state societies and any new developments and plans they may have. Take a few minutes and let us know what is going on in your society.

During the month of May each 1975 member will be receiving a separate mailing from us containing the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society. It was decided that this should be done at the last Board of Director's Meeting and among the many reasons for this was that members should know what are and are not goals of the society and society members who adhere to our Constitution.

UAB 1975 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

We have received notification from the Alabama Historical Commission that our proposed 1975 field school has been funded. This project will be supported by UAB, the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., and the U.S. Department of the Interior through the Alabama Historical Commission. The field research will take place in an area east of Selma.

The first UAB field school in 1970 concentrated on the site of Durant Bend, a large multi-occupation site on the upper Alabama River. During the summers of 1971-1973, surveys were conducted in the vicinity of Durant Bend, primarily in eight Townships aligned north and south across the Alabama River. Ninety archaeological sites were recorded. The general problem investigated in this research concerns the area prehistoric cultural ecology: how Indian populations of different periods adapted to different environments (Fall Line Hills, Black Belt, Red Hills). Settlement patterns, food resources and reconstructed economies are all subjects of inquiry.

During the summer of 1975, ten of the archaeological sites recorded will be test-excavated, and the survey will be extended southward into the Red Hills. Students participating in the project will receive six hours of credit. Room and board and all supplies and equipment will be provided, so students will pay only tuition (\$138.00 in-state) and \$10.00 for student health insurance.

Any interested members of the Alabama Archaeological Society are urged to apply as students (either for college credit or on a non-credit basis). All applicants should be in good health and at least 18 years of age. For those who cannot attend the entire eight weeks, an alternative plan is available. Alabama Archaeological Society members can join the crew by signing up for one to two week periods. Participants under this plan will receive the same training and experience as full-session students, working on both field and laboratory crews, although under this plan, people will provide their own room and board (at a probable cost of \$6.25/day). The field school will last from 7 June to 1 August, and we anticipate three people per week in addition to the full-term crew. Specific one or two week periods can be reserved in advance on a first-come, first served basis.

The staff this summer will include Dr. Roger Nance, Director and Associate Professor at UAB, Mark Raab, Instructor in Anthropology at Auburn University, and Marvin Jeter, currently a graduate student at Arizona State University. Mr. Raab will be joined by several Auburn students, making the field school a joint Auburn-UAB effort. If the field school is to be a complete educational success, though, many members of the Alabama Archaeological Society will also participate. For further information contact Dr. Roger Nance, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Alabama in Birmingham, University Station, Birmingham, Alabama 35294. Write or telephone 934-3307 or 934-4690.

(Roger Nance, UAB)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING APRIL

Tony A. Malone, 320 Hillcrest Circle, Florence, Alabama 35630
Claude B. Layfield, P.O. Box 95, Auburn, Alabama 36830
ISEM Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas 75275 (Institutional)
Arnold Henry Hurd, III, c/o 785 Weatherly Lane NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30328
Gary C. Smith, 1301 S. 19th Street, Apt 202, Birmingham, Alabama 35205
Ms. Betty Koestner, 3501 Mae Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35801

MEMBERS LOST: (Help us find them if you can, please!)

James Woods NeSmith, Dept. of Cult. Res., Arch. Section, Raleigh, N.C. 27611
Frank Kent Reilly, III, Drake Student Health Center, 345 W. Magnolia Ave., Auburn
Joseph R. Beicher, Jr., 30 E. Montgomery Street, Milledgeville, Ga. 31061

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Anthropological Society will have its May meeting in its new home at 1324 - 22nd Street South, Apartment A, Birmingham, Alabama. This building is a part of the Red Mountain Museum complex and will be available for meetings, displays and ultimately a permanent Museum of archaeological items. All members are urged to attend at 7:30 May 1st and bring your friends.

Choccolocco Chapter met April 17th at the Regar Museum where they were treated to a fine program, complete with color slides, on Ocmulgee National Monument.

Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in the 2nd floor auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library. The April 15 meeting featured Mrs. Marjorie Gay, State Society President, who gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on the West Point Dam Archaeological Work.

Noccalula Archaeology Society reports that its February meeting featured Jim Kilgore and Ben Roland who spoke on Ponape Island in Micronesia and the March meeting featured Mrs. Bill Ashley on "Guess What Country". The chapter reports that many of their members have been to foreign countries and that the programs for this year will center on their travels.

Pastfinders met April 10th and Mrs. Neal Williams spoke on American Quilting. Each member brought their own quilt collections for use during the talk. The May meeting is to be a picnic. The chapter reports that they have recently made field trips to the Bankhead Forest and to the pilgrimage of Lowndsboro Homes.

ANOTHER REQUEST

It has been quite some time since we have received any letters to the Editor. We are interested in your opinions, thoughts and wishes for information to be included in the newsletter. We would certainly be interested in knowing what you like and don't like concerning newsletter articles. We want the newsletter to be informative, a voice of the society and we will try to please whenever possible. If we don't hear from our readers we can only assume that everyone is satisfied... but we know you can't please all of the members all of the time (apologies to Abe.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE IN THE WALTER F. GEORGE BASIN
OF THE CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER IN ALABAMA

by David L. DeJarnette

with contributions by Wesley R. Hurt, Edward B. Kurjack, and
Fred Lamar Pearson, Jr. Drawings by Oscar W. Brock, Jr.

This volume, a veritable model of cooperative enterprise in archaeological investigation, reports the findings of three related endeavors: a preliminary survey of the Chattahoochee Valley area in Alabama, archaeological investigation of a number of sites in the Walter F. George Basin of the Chattahoochee River, and a special investigation of the Spanish Fort Site.

The preliminary survey, made in 1947, located 124 village sites whose surfaces yielded sufficient material for analysis and, in addition, 20 mounds and mound groups and a large flint quarry. Additional related research in the Chattahoochee area included studies of several private collections. During 1960, 1961, and 1962, nine of the sites located during the preliminary survey were excavated systematically in depth.

The overall findings served to verify and extend knowledge of the various phases of Paleo-Indian, archaic, and historic Indian culture; knowledge of the artifacts early acquired by Indians from trade with the whites; and knowledge of historical movements and events previously dependent entirely on documentary testimony--testimony often vague and even contradictory.

David L. DeJarnette is Professor of Anthropology at The University of Alabama and Curator of the Mound State Monument.

256 pages

Illustrated

\$8.75

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Please send the following books:

☐ Archaeological Salvage in the Walter F. George Basin, \$8.75 (4350-4)
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THE LIFE OF ANDREW JACKSON:
THE ORIGINAL 1817 EDITION

by John Reid and John Henry Eaton

edited with Introduction, Critical Apparatus, and Index by Frank L. Owsley, Jr.

The first edition of The Life of Andrew Jackson by Reid and Eaton is so rare that book dealers have no prices for it, having never had a copy (1817) to sell. Not even the Library of Congress has an undamaged copy. Professor Owsley, however, has found and examined not one but several undamaged copies of the 1817 edition in libraries at Nashville, Tennessee.

Significant changes were made in the 1824 and subsequent editions--the only ones that most scholars have seen. The 1817 is a history of Jackson's military career, the first four chapters having been written by Major John Reid, Jackson's military aide through out the War of 1812, including the Creek War. The book was completed by Eaton from Reid's notes and outline. The widely circulated 1824 and 1828 editions were revisions made for use in Jackson's political campaigns. The 1824 and all subsequent editions, because of their omissions as well as their additions, are of much poorer historical quality than the original. For example, the useful maps contained in the 1817 edition were dropped in the subsequent editions.

Professor Owsley has made an exhaustive examination of the discrepancies between these main editions. Working from Reid's original manuscript, Owsley has been able to verify the extent to which the original edition in fact constitutes the primary historical source for information on Jackson's military career. A memoir of John Reid, by Mrs. Helen Roberts, included by Professor Owsley as an appendix, contains interesting biographical detail regarding Reid and his Revolutionary forebears.

It goes without saying that Professor Owsley's restoration of the Reid-Eaton Life is a major contribution to Jackson studies, as it enforces a reconsideration of all historical interpretation based on the 1824 and subsequent editions of the Life.

Frank L. Owsley, Jr. is Professor of History at Auburn University.

528 pages

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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 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 checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

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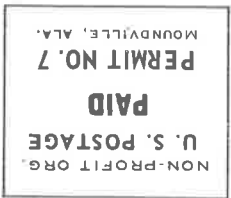


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