

Stones & Bones

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society • Volume 50, Issue 4 • July-October 2008

Save the Date for the AAS Winter Meeting

By Steven Meredith

The 2008 Alabama Archaeological Society Winter Meeting will be held on December 6, 2008, on the University of Alabama campus, Shelby Hall (250 Hackberry Lane, building 150 on the map at www.tour.ua.edu/mapfull.html). We will have collections on exhibit that are curated at the Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository in Moundville on display, and speakers to discuss topics on Alabama Archaeology.

Speakers will include Dr. Jay Johnson of University of Mississippi who will present research on the Archaic of northwest Alabama and northeast Mississippi. Erin Phillips of the University of Alabama will speak about the Moundville Hemphill style of artwork found on Mississippian pottery in Alabama. Sam Brooks of the USDA Forest Service archaeologist will discuss Middle Archaic blade caches. Dr. Ashley Dumas of the University of South Alabama will speak about the Porter phase of southwest Alabama and excavations at Plash Island near Orange Beach, Alabama. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Ed Kurjack, will present new research that he and Oscar Brock are conducting on the Stanfield Worley site using collections from the AAS excavations in the early 1960s.

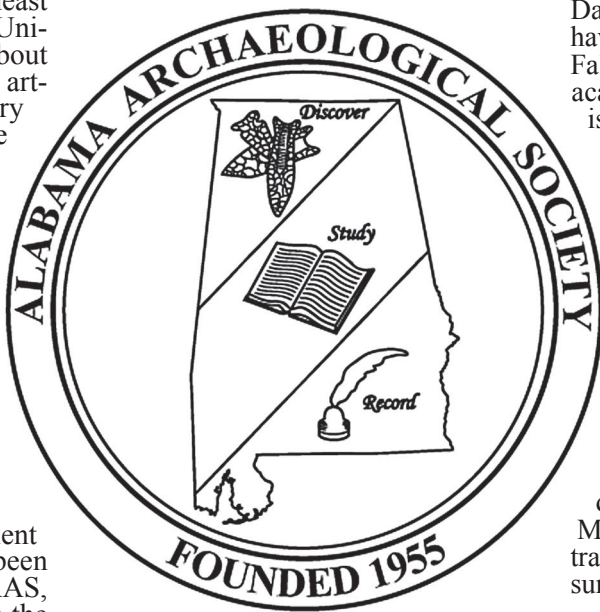
As usual, we will have our silent book auction. This auction has been an important fund raiser for the AAS, as well as a good opportunity for the membership to purchase hard-to-find publications. Please bring books you would like to donate to this cause, and a checkbook to take advantage of the bargains!

There is available time in the schedule for two more speakers. Please contact Steven Meredith, mered003@bama.ua.edu or (205) 566-5376, if you have a presentation you would like to make. ■



Alabama and Neighboring States

Stones & Bones is a forum for sharing news relating to on-going excavations and research, information about artifacts, the history of archaeology in the Southeast, and more. News from neighboring states is welcome, after all the current state boundaries are relatively new in the history of human occupation of this region! Please consider investing a little time in AAS by sharing your work with the readers of *Stones & Bones* (see page 7 for the newsletter editor's contact information). ■



The Garnet Michelle Garvin Internship in Historic Archaeology

By Jack Bergstressor

The Alabama Historic Ironworks Commission Archaeology Program (AHIC) is pleased to announce the creation of the Garnet Michelle Garvin Internship in Historic Archaeology beginning with the fall semester 2008-2009. The internship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students in anthropology or history. The internship honors Garnet Garvin, a rising young Alabama archaeologist who was killed in a car wreck while working for the Al-

abama Historical Commission in 2003.

The recipient of the Garvin Internship will work with Dr. Jack Bergstressor out of the Alabama Museum of Iron and Steel at Tannehill State Park. Tasks will vary from semester to semester depending on the needs of the Commission's historical landscape study of the Cahaba River watershed between Tannehill and Brierfield Ironworks Historical State Parks. The current focus of the study is the Slave Quarters site at Tannehill and worker housing at Brierfield. The stipend for the Internship is \$1500.00 per semester. The recipient will be required to work up to 14 days over the course of a semester. Scheduling is flexible and will take into consideration class schedules and exams.

Two UAB Anthropology majors, David Gathings and Catherine Wright have been selected as recipients for the Fall and Spring semesters this coming academic year. The summer internship is still available.

David Gathings the recipient for the Fall 2008 semester, is a student of Dr. Sarah Parcak. A graduate student, he currently serves as an intern in the NASA DEVELOP program at the UAB Laboratory for Global Health Observation where he has been working with satellite imagery to create predictive models for mosquito habitats in Alabama. David has experience with archaeological site mapping, having created artifact distribution maps during the Graduate Field School at Moundville last summer. David will be traveling with Dr. Parcak to Egypt next summer.

Catherine Wright was named Most Outstanding Graduate Student in Anthropology at UAB this year. She is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society. A student of Dr. Sharyn Jones, she currently works as the director of a study of human bone break patterns at UAB's Human Osteology Lab. She has experience working with fifth graders on public archaeology programs.

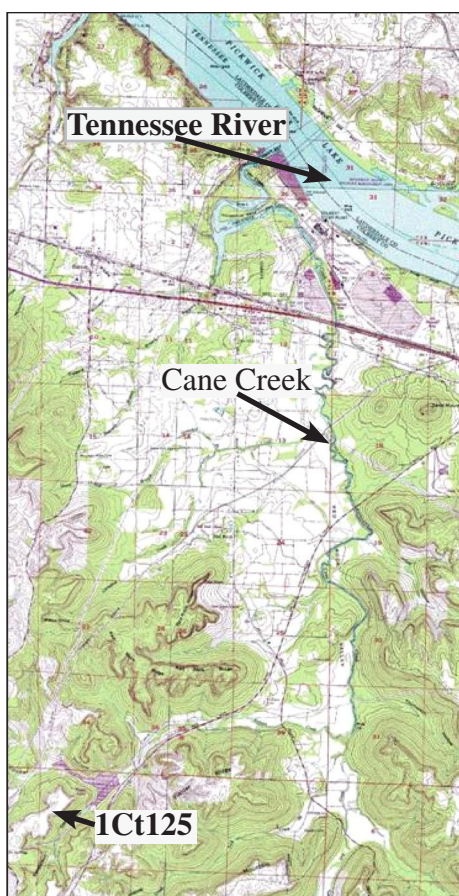
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Stanfield-Worley Revisited

By Oscar Brock

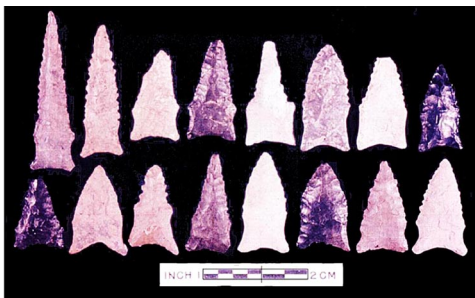
Nearly fifty years have passed since the 1960, '61, and '63 excavations at the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter (1Ct125) in Colbert County, Alabama. Studied Stones & Bones readers, some of whom participated in those digs, know that 1Ct125 is one of the most important early sites in the Eastern United States. This article briefly highlights the site's significance, summarizes the site's excavation history, makes known the considerable renewed interest in Stanfield-Worley and reports on a recent revisit to the shelter.



Topographic map of Cane Creek Valley. The site is 12 km from the mouth of Cane Creek.

Stanfield-Worley, a multi-component site, is best known for its deepest, relatively undisturbed "Zone D" stratum which represents what has been termed "Transitional Paleo-Indian," a cultural period or stage postulated between the classic Paleo-Indian/Clovis assemblage and Early Archaic and

dated circa 9,600 years ago. Stanfield-Worley's reputation largely rests upon its comfortably large sample of modified-lanceolate projectile points (Dalton) and uniface tools which form a recognized cultural complex in stratigraphic context. The mingling of presumably later Big Sandy and Hardaway points with Dalton in Zone D and their



Colbert and Greenbrier Dalton projectile points recovered at 1Ct125.

cultural, functional and chronological relationships remains a subject of ongoing archaeological research. 1Ct125 is also scrutinized for its (unrealized) potential to shed light upon the relationships of area bluff shelters to the Shell Mound Archaic sites along the Tennessee River a mere eight miles northward. Those wanting to further review such information, may order a reprint of the "Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations," *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*, 1962, from the DeJarnette Research Center at Moundville, Alabama: 205 371-2266 or email efutato@bama.ua.edu.

Of the three authors of the report, David L. DeJarnette, Edward B. Kurjack and James W. Cambron, only Ed Kurjack survives. Ed and I were young graduate students at the University of Alabama in the early sixties. Ed, Professor DeJarnette's only graduate assistant in 1960, took part that summer's initial test trench excavations at Stanfield-Worley. DeJarnette staked out two trenches: one through the center of the site perpendicular to the back wall and the other parallel to the back at the middle of the left side. Charcoal collected from the distinct carbon filled layer at the bottom of the trenches was sent out for analysis. Based on this testing, the site was deemed worthy of further investigation and teams of University of Alabama student field crews were dispatched to the site during two summers. Professor David DeJarnette directed these operations. Ed Kurjack served as field director during the summer of

1961. I was third down the line and did a variety of assigned tasks, later to find my niche in illustrating artifacts and in preparing maps, charts and graphs for the 1962 report.

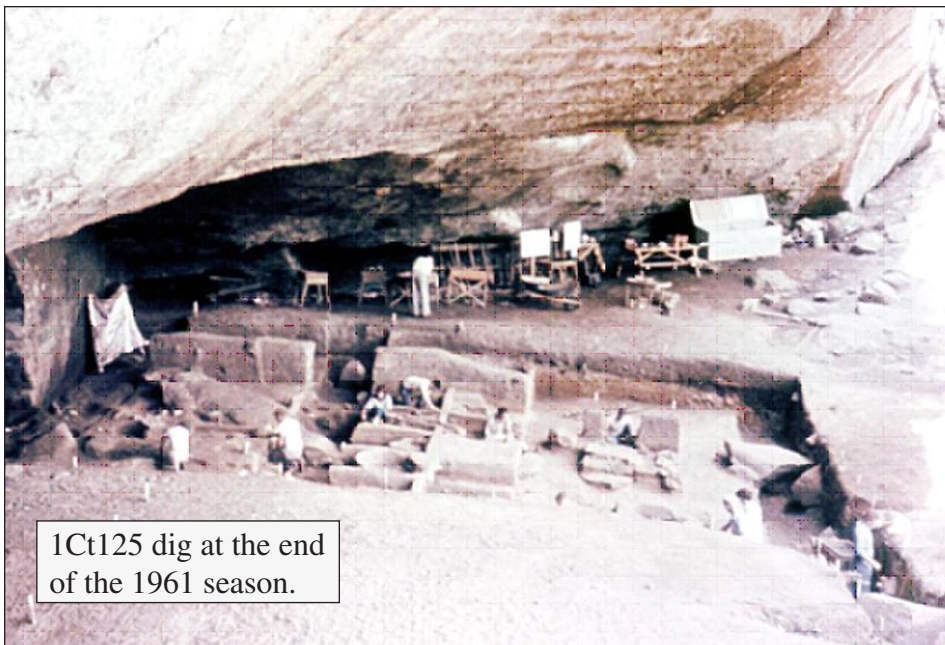
Living conditions for our crews were rather luxurious by comparison with other expeditions. Male student "diggers" lived at Tuscumbia's venerable Cardiff Hotel, now closed and vacant. Female students occupied rooms in a private residence across from the Helen Keller home while Girl Scout volunteers camped near the site. We ate alternately at Pete's and Fred's cafes in downtown Tuscumbia, our meals usually cost about 75 cents. Student expenses were offset by a small stipend.

By late August, 1961, our teams excavated all of the promising area of the right half (facing the shelter) of the site. During the summer of 1963, student field crews excavated the left half of the site. Alabama Archaeological Society members, the Deep South Girl Scout Council and other volunteers participated in both the 1961 and 1963 digs.

For all Stanfield-Worley's importance, the 1963 excavations along with recovered cultural material and data have been little studied and remain unreported. By 1963, Ed had left The University of Alabama to carry out a settlement pattern survey at Dzibilchaltun—the subject of his doctoral dissertation at Ohio State. I was assigned to duties at Mound State Monument. And yet, after all these years, grass roots interest in Stanfield-Worley remains high as we discovered on our revisit to this notable site.

Ed and I frequently talked about returning to the Stanfield-Worley site. My initial expectation was that of two septuagenarians trudging alone, up steep rocky trails to once more behold the shelter in its lush late summer setting—then driving the sleepy streets of nostalgic Tuscumbia and viewing the Cardiff Hotel. The trip turned out to be so much more than this idle fantasy: we found the forests and hills of Colbert county to be just as spectacular as they were fifty years ago, but Tuscumbia was even brighter and more beautiful!

Our telephone inquiries about lodging and directions to the remote shelter site resulted in welcoming replies from local historians, officers of the Colbert County Heritage Landmark Foundation, the Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau and local



The sandstone shelter of the 1Ct125 dig site 47 years later (Lanny Perry, left, and Jimmy Ponders, right).



The group of visitors to the site this August included: kneeling: Richard Parker; first row standing, from left to right: Charles Hubbert, Oscar Brock, Ed Kurjack, and Lanny Perry. Back row: Jimmy Ponders, Bobby Stanfield, Annie Cooper, and Richard Sheridan.

newspapers. Ed and I loaded his truck and we drove from our Central Florida homes to Tuscumbia's ColdWater Inn, our luxurious headquarters for the weekend of August 15, 2008.

Saturday morning, August 16, Ninon Parker, Chairperson for the Landmark Foundation, and her husband, Richard, drove Ed and me as near the shelter as road vehicles dare go. There we were greeted by other Foundation officers, AAS members, and the landowner, Bobby Stanfield, who led us, some on all terrain ve-

hicles, up the final path to the shelter. Atop the hill our entourage had reached our intended destination—the sandstone shelter was impressive as ever. Regardless of its scientific importance, the immense chamber—50 feet deep, 150 feet wide, and 80 feet high at the drip line—is something of a rock cathedral. I do not exaggerate in saying it was an emotional moment for Ed and me.

On Sunday, August 17, Ed and I were again treated to lunch in Tuscumbia's beautiful Spring Park by Richard and Ninon Parker. They had fed us the day before, following the trip to the shelter. After lunch the Parkers escorted us about town, pointing out a plethora of fine old homes, the Helen Keller home and other local sights. Next we visited the Tennessee Valley Art Center where the director, Mary Settle Cooney, pointed out the highlights of their collection including the magnificent rock art exhibit. Later that afternoon, Ed and I gave a talk before the Colbert County Heritage Landmark Foundation. A lengthy question and answer period followed. One-hundred-thirty-five people were in attendance, among which were the site's property owner, Bobby Stanfield, a youthful participant in the 1961 dig; Paul Worley, whose father originally reported the site to Professor DeJarnette; AAS members, Charles Hubbert and Jimmy Ponders, also 1961 dig veterans; archaeologist B. Gail King, Director of the Southeastern Anthropological Institute; officers and members of the Landmark Foundation; along with interested area citizens and representatives of the media. There are many others who deserve our thanks.

There can be no doubt that there is a high level of local interest in Colbert County's prehistory. Ed and I were extended every courtesy and were offered well organized support by many good people. We give our heartfelt thanks to all who made our trip to Stanfield-Worley and Tuscumbia memorable. Future researchers traveling to the area certainly will be well received.

Oscar Brock would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following people: Ninon Parker, Richard Parker, Lanny Perry, Mary Perry, Richard Sheridan, Buddy Whitlock, Susann Hamlin, Estelle Whitehead, B. Gail King, Annie Cooper, Mary Settle Cooney, Paul Worley and Family, Robert (Bobby) Stanfield and Family, Charles Hubbert, and Jimmy Ponders.

AAS Grants in Action

By Erin Phillips

My eleven week research trip to the Smithsonian was funded in part by the Alabama Archaeological Society's Edward C. Mahan Research Grant*. In addition to collecting data on the 53 Moundville Engraved, variety Hemphill vessels in the Smithsonian's collection I will ultimately be collecting data on the 68 vessels in the collections of the Alabama Museum of Natural History. The data include photographs of the vessels, notes about the vessels, and line drawings of the engraved designs. Ultimately, this data will be used to examine the social contexts of the production and use of pottery engraved in the Hemphill style at Moundville.

Fifty-two of the vessels in the Smithsonian's collections were excavated by C. B. Moore in his 1905 and 1906 expeditions to Moundville. These vessels are in the collections of the National Museum of the American Indian. The other vessels are curated at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. It was a gift from the Alabama Museum of Natural History in the 1930s.

One of the most difficult aspects of this project has been coming up with a way to record the images on the pottery vessels as accurately as possible. It is the old problem of converting an image on a round surface to an image on a flat surface with minimal distortion. While the original plan was to make rubbings of the engraved designs and then trace them, this was abandoned as being bad for the vessels and not producing sufficiently accurate images. I finally de-

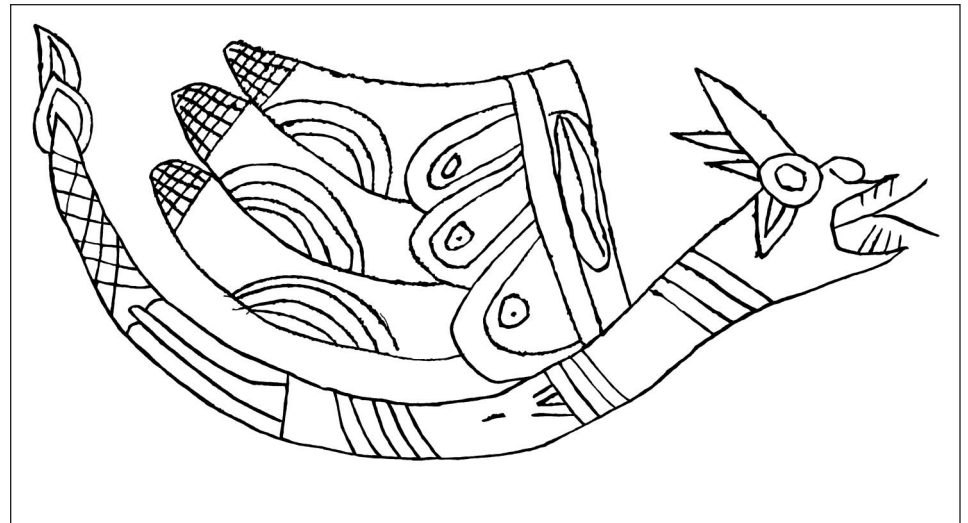
cided to piece together numerous photographs and create cut points, much like making a world map, using Photoshop, computer software for working with photographs and graphic images. Instead of using a mouse, I used an electronic pen tablet to increase my drawing coordination so I could trace the relevant parts of each photograph and create the final representation of a vessel's design.

I took over 3,000 photographs of vessels in the Smithsonian's collections. These photographs included pictures shot on all sides of each vessel: standing on its base, tipped forward, and tipped backwards. I also took photos of the base and top of each vessel as sometimes the design continues on to the base. Occasionally the design presents a 'unified' image that appears the same when view from any side as well

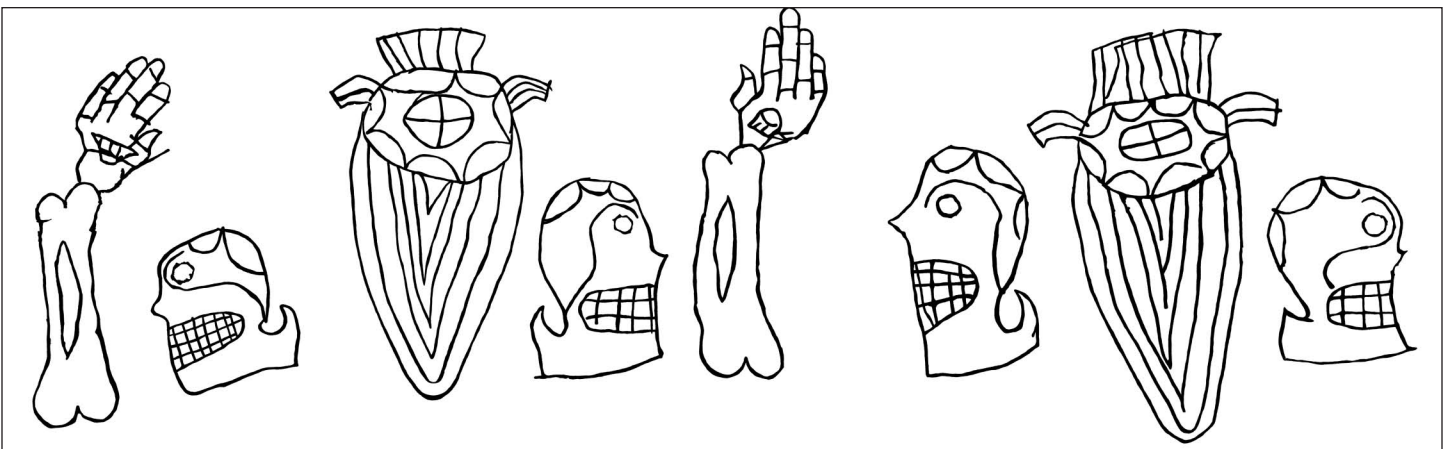
as from the top and the bottom. My notes included comments on use-wear and observations about the engraved designs. I also noted unusual characteristics of the vessels. Unfortunately, data collection took longer than expected, so I will make arrangements for additional research visits to finish my line drawings of the vessels in the Smithsonian's collections.

Spending time looking closely at these Moundville Engraved, variety Hemphill vessels has been an invaluable experience. There is no substitute for examining first hand how the motifs interact with each other and how they are laid out on the typically globular surface of the vessels.

**For information regarding Alabama Archaeological Society grants, see page 7.*



The Winged Serpent is a typical Moundville image. This one...



Phillips' drawings of images on Moundville, var. Hemphill, pottery curated at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Phillips' research has been assisted by a grant from the AAS.

Second Field Season at Tannehill Slave Quarters Site Reveals Bachelor's Housing

By Jack Bergerstressor

A diverse community of family homes and bachelor quarters is the story of the Civil War Slave Quarters at Tannehill State Park that has begun to unfold after two seasons of field work by Tannehill archaeologists and the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Summer Field Expedition. Last year's dig demonstrated that a family lived in one of sixteen houses, divided into two rows of eight houses, that comprised this rare surviving example of mid 19th century industrial slave housing. Exploration this year revealed that bachelors lived at the other end of the quarters during its brief period of occupation between 1859 and 1864. Since no other such community has been reported in the southern United States, any information coming from the Tannehill investigation adds to a newly unveiling chapter in African American labor history.

The Birmingham Industrial District was a key battleground for black industrial workers in the epic struggle from slavery to emancipation to eventual equality with the civil rights victories of the 1960s. Court challenges launched in the early 1960s by black workers at Sloss Furnaces, now a National Historic Landmark, contributed to the fight that led the federal court to finally break down the barriers for black men, women, and minorities that had prevailed in the American iron and steel industry.

If Sloss was the venue for the last chapter in this struggle, the Slave Quarters at Tannehill was a venue for the first. There are no written records of the Tannehill chapter of this fascinating story. It can only be told through the archaeology of the quarters.

This summer a spent shell casing was discovered from a Union Army Spencer repeating rifle, that awesome symbol of a new era of military firepower that devastated Nathan Bedford Forest's defensive forces and exposed Selma to eventual defeat. Union cavalry raiders swept through the Confederate ironworks at Tannehill on March 31, 1865, burning the

quarters. The Yankee raid freed slaves who, in a labor of infinite irony, had for the previous few years been forced to produce the iron used at Selma and elsewhere to make the weapons used by the Confederate military in its effort to insure their continued enslavement. It would be difficult for the pages of a history text to convey the poignancy of this moment, but the brass shell casing, lost at the quarters for over a century, has that power.

The dig last summer uncovered a handmade iron pintle, part of an early form of hinge, probably made by a slave blacksmith and hammered into place by a slave carpenter. It may well have served as a hinge on the door of the slave family house that our dig investigated. This hinge would have creaked for the last time when family members walked out on the morning of the Yankee raid. By the end of the day they were free.

Other artifacts recovered during these first two seasons provide additional perspective on important subjects ranging from the role of family life under slavery to the adversities suffered by both black and whites southerners as a result of the naval blockade and the pressures exerted on the South by an invading army. The quarters have the potential for years to come to provide data not only for serious scholarly study but also for public education which is the keystone of the Alabama Museum of Iron and Steel's programming. The site itself will become a monument to the role played by African Americans in the history of upland Alabama during the 19th century.

The last two field seasons were made possible by crews from the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Summer Field Expedition 29 and 30. Their hard work came at a time when the Alabama Historic Ironworks Commission's Archaeology Program (AHIC Archaeology) was just getting its start. AHIC will always be indebted. ■

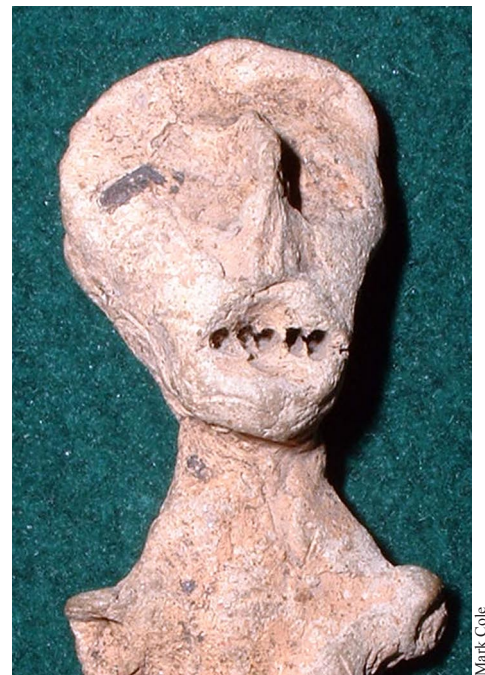
Membership Dues

For detailed information on the various types of AAS membership go to the **Join Us** link on our web site:

www.alabamaarchaeology.org

The dues for the basic annual individual U.S. membership is \$25. Mail check to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474



Mark Cole

A Freaky Little Dude from Limestone County, Alabama

By Mark Cole

Some of the most rewarding elements of performing surveys with other collectors are the interesting stories and artifacts they share. This is one example.

A little known Northern Alabama collector had taken his family on a picnic to Arrowhead Landing in the mid 1960s. Along the Tennessee River in the vicinity of this confluence with Limestone Creek, a number of shell mounds or refuse areas are present, some of which are very dense in mussel shells, animal bones and stone.

It was quite a shock when this little man poked his head out of the rubble. He was quickly cleaned and wrapped until he could be looked at more closely.

Once back in a warm home, this little bone man was found to have some interesting artistic detail. He has an "alien" appearance, oversized head and eyes, small torso and limbs and some nasty little teeth.



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Chapter News

News from Jessica Brown and the Troy Chapter:

The Troy Chapter meets on the first Wednesday of every month in the Anthropology room on the 3rd floor of Wallace hall.

News from Robbie Camp and the Cullman Chapter:

The Cullman Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month except June, July and August at 7:00 pm at the Cullman County Health Department Community Meeting Room located at 601 Logan Avenue SW, Cullman, Alabama.

The Cullman chapter met Thursday, September 18th after a 3 month summer break and the members were treated to a very informative presentation by Bill Bomar, Director of Moundville Archaeological Park and Kelli Harris, Director of Development University of Alabama Museums. They enlightened the chapter of their aggressive plans to spread the word of the importance of the Moundville site during it's peak about 800 years ago and our need to preserve and enhance it for generations to come. The plans for the ongoing extensive remodeling and expansion of the museum and their tire-

less efforts to raise 5 million dollars for this project are to be commended.

Reports were given by members who attended the AAS summer meeting, the Cullman chapter joint summer field trip with Muscle Shoals and Huntsville chapter members and the Cullman chapter summer cookout hosted by member Max Carter.

The Greenbrier was the featured point of the month for group discussion. Several nice examples were brought in for examination. The Hamilton was drawn for the featured point for the October 16th meeting. Chase Key won the recent find award with a beautiful heavily patinated Lost Lake projectile.

The Cullman chapter met Thursday, October 16th and enjoyed a discussion and video presentation on early man presented by Eugene Stewart. Prior to the presentation, reports were given on the recent artifact show held at the civic center, potential chapter contribution to the Moundville renovation fund and the upcoming AAS winter meeting. In lieu of a December meeting, the chapter voted to enjoy an evening on December 5th at the All Steak Restaurant for some fine food (Orange Rolls) and fellowship for the holiday season.

Howard King led the discussion on the Hamilton projectile point and it's association with other points found in our area. The White Springs point will be the featured point for discussion at the November meeting. Member Chase Key won the recent find award with a beautiful Cotaco Creek he found last week in Cullman County.

News from Gary Mullen and the East Alabama Chapter:

The East Alabama Chapter held its first meeting of the fall on September 9 with 26 people attending. Gary Mullen, chapter president, welcomed back both the chapter members and several first-time guests following the summer break. The program was preceded by a short business meeting, with announcements of upcoming events, brief reports on archaeological activities by Dr. John Cottier and his students during the past several months, and the announcement that election of chapter president and secretary-treasurer will take place at the October meeting.

The speaker was Cameron Gill, a graduate student in archaeology at Auburn University, who presented a program titled "Ceramic Analysis of Proto-historic Domestic Structures at

Hickory Ground." Cameron reported on evidence of an extensive proto-historic occupation at the Creek town of Hickory Ground (1Ee89) near Wetumpka, Elmore County, AL. The excavations were conducted by AU archaeologists on behalf of the Poarch Creek Indians. Material culture from this occupation was primarily associated with domestic structures and included both ceramic and lithic artifacts. The presentation focused on an analysis of two domestic structures: Feature 500, with a flat hearth, and Feature 509, with a rimmed hearth. Ceramic materials from each of the features were compared to determine the variance in the ceramic types and distributions between the two structures, providing an interesting glimpse of pottery styles and a woodpecker-effigy pipe.

The East Alabama Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of the month in Room 112 of the Rouse Life Sciences Building on the Auburn University Campus (7:00 p.m.).

News from Bonnie Gums and the Southwest Chapter's newsletter:

The September newsletter included a call for volunteers to work at the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama. Its lab is open from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesdays for volunteers. They have artifacts from various projects, such as Old St. Stephens and a Clarke County shell midden, that need to be washed and sorted. Contact Ginny Newberry at gnewberry@jaguar1.usouthal.edu or 251-460-7976.

**Have you been to the
Alabama
Archaeology Society
web site lately?**

www.alabamaarchaeology.com

Our website is still under construction with new and interesting content constantly being added. Thanks to Sarah Mattics, our webmaster, and to the members who have sent photographs and articles!

AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the project must be located in Alabama; 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to present a paper on the archaeological project at the Winter Meeting; and, 4) the project director or other personnel working on the project must submit a written report for publication in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology within twelve months of receiving the grant.

Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce the grant recipient(s) at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS, 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1. Each eligible student nominee must have an academic sponsor who must submit the nomination on the student's behalf. The nomination must take the form of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee. The letter must clearly identify both the nominee and the academic sponsor and must include pertinent contact information for both. The nomination letter must indicate the academic degree being sought and progress made to date toward that degree. The letter should include and discuss all the information necessary for the committee to evaluate the nominee. The sponsor should summarize the academic credentials and achievements of the nominee in the body of the nomination letter. The student must also be a member of the AAS.

Submit applications and questions to Linda Derry, cahawba@bellsouth.net, or Old Cahawba, 719 Tremont Street, Selma, Alabama 36701-5446.

Stones & Bones

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Stones & Bones is published bi-monthly at the end of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The deadline for submitting articles is the beginning of the month of publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

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