

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPOTLIGHT ON PARKER ISLAND

This island, across the Tallapoosa River from a bluff on which stood what was once believed to be Ft. Toulouse but now is thought to be the site of Ft. Jackson, instead, has archaeological finds even older than those uncovered at the ancient fort. The late Peter Brannon, former director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, took the Alabama Anthropological Association to the island many times from 1910-30 to interest them in its historic lore. Mack Brooms, archaeologist for the Alabama Historical Commission, thinks the eventual location of Ft. Toulouse may be found to be on the island itself.

Only four miles away from the fort on the bluff is "Old Hickory Ground", the capital of the Creek Nation before the Indians were driven west of the Mississippi. Last August Alabama's Creek Indians regained ownership of the 33 acres, where the entire Creek Nation was headquartered during the early 1800s. The Creek Nation East of the Mississippi now has its headquarters at Poarch, Alabama.

Ever since the Indians were driven off, the island's relics have been preserved because it has been owned privately by several individuals who banned trespassing.

Milo Howard, director of the state Department of Archives and History, calls the island "history in cold storage". To quote Howard, "It would be a shame for artifacts of the state's earliest days to be destroyed". Howard said the island was formed by an 1886 flood. Before that time it was part of a peninsula between the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers. The two rivers converge on the island's northeast side to form the Alabama River.

Archaeologist Brooms cites these little-known facts about Alabama's "Treasure Island" that will remain unknown unless money is found to preserve Parker Island:

Parker Island is thought to have been a major stop in DeSoto's visit in 1540 in what is now Alabama. Some historians believe the Indian town of Tallassee, where DeSoto made friends with the Indians, was on Parker Island.

Brooms found the remains of an Indian village, about 10 acres large, on the island.

April 1981

"On the south side of the Coosa River there are the remains of other villages extremely rich in archaeological finds. On the edge of the island are the remnants of some old dog-trot houses," said Brooms. "It would take many months to gauge what riches are there."

The villages are known to be the sites of towns of American Indians who came up the Alabama River from Mississippi in the early to mid-1500s and settled on the island, where they later traded with the French. These villages are the only remaining sites of towns of the Alabamas, an Indian group for which the state was named.

The island was used as a seasonal camp by the Indians as early as 6,000 B.C.

(From an article by Kate Harris in ENVIROSOUTH, Jan/Mar 1981)

The Editors

ANCIENT CUT MARKS REVEAL WORK OF PREHUMAN HANDS

Fossil bones on archaeological sites have long been regarded as important but frustratingly mute evidence of early human activity. But it turns out that petrified bones as old as two million years bear previously-unnoticed tell-tale signs of the use of stone tools.

Working with a selection of fossils from Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, Patricia Shipman of Johns Hopkins University and Richard Potts of Harvard have developed an electron microscopic technique that clearly reveals the shallow cut marks in the surface of fossil bone that were made by the edge of a stone flake wielded by pre-human hands.

Alan Walker, of Johns Hopkins University, reported the preliminary results from Shipman and Potts' work. He said, "Some of the marks on fossil bones were made by carnivores, and these appear as long smooth U-shaped valleys under the electron microscope." The marks made by stone flakes are distinctive, however, because "running along the bottom of the valleys are sets of "tram-lines" that were made by the many jagged facets on the edge of the flake".

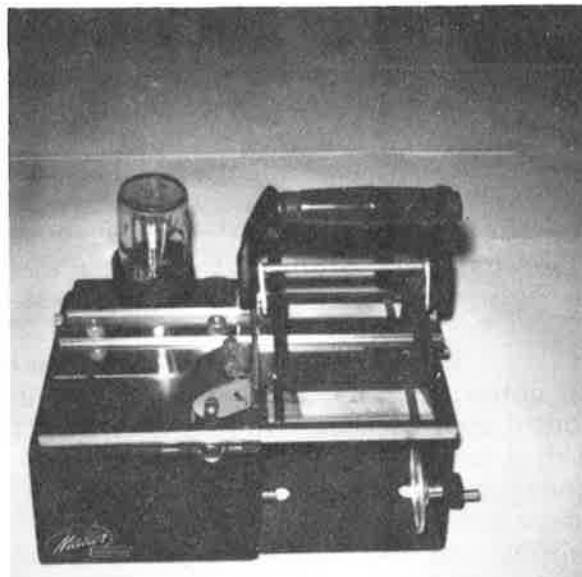
"Shipman and Potts have found, for instance, cut marks superimposed on marks made by carnivore teeth", Walker reported. This is the kind of incontrovertible evidence for prehuman scavenging that paleoanthropologists will welcome enthusiastically. "They've also found extensive cut marks on fossil horse limbs from Olduvai at a point where virtually no meat would be present, only tendons and skin", he added. "Either these creatures weren't smart enough to know where the meat was, which is unlikely; or they were interested in something other than meat. One can only speculate what they were after".

(From an article in SCIENCE, 23 January 1981)

The Editors

FOR SALE

The Alabama Archaeological Society has the following equipment for sale:



Mimeograph machine (A. B. Dick Model 418, Serial No. 181368). Machine is in good condition; the drum needs cleaning.

Addressing machine (Master Addresser Model 40, Serial No. 44164). Like new.

Mimeograph: \$135; addresser: \$25; \$150 for the lot. A table is also available for \$45 if needed. Contact Bart Henson: 7608 Teal Drive, S. W.; Huntsville, Alabama 35802; Telephone (205) 881-9389.

The Editors

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT OF 1979

PROPOSED UNIFORM RULEMAKING

Pertinent extracts for the surface collector are quoted below:

Background Comments - As used in this part: "Archaeological resource" means any material remains of past human life or activities which are of archaeological interest and are at least 100 years of age and the physical site, location or context in which they are found. An object, site, or other material remain is of archaeological interest if, through its scientific study and analysis, information or knowledge can be obtained concerning human life or activities.

Material remains are of "archeological interest" under the proposed rulemaking if, through their scientific study and analysis, information or knowledge can be obtained concerning past human life or activities. This definition is intended to incorporate the varied archeological techniques applicable to the study of material remains without resorting to a highly technical listing or description of such techniques. Whether or not an item is of archeological interest should, despite the intricacies of archeological scientific methods, be a matter of common understanding. Thus, for example, most objects of prehistoric periods are clearly of archeological interest since the application of archeological techniques to these remains may provide information pertaining to methods of manufacture, levels of technological sophistication or levels of subsistence. Moreover, the location and context of such items may be of great value to an archeologist in determining whether or not a scientific item is intrusive in the site.

Conversely, historic non-native products of industrial manufacture such as coins, bullets and bottles have little intrinsic archeological value and, if found in isolation, would generally not be of archeological interest under the definition. However, if found in the context of other material remains of archeological interest, such items may be of great value for establishing the minimum age of associated materials, for demonstrating cultural contact, for determining the function of a site now in ruin, for providing new data about historic cultures and people, or for other purposes of archeological inquiry. It is thus incumbent upon the potential collector of such items to determine whether or not a given item might be considered of archeological interest; if so, it should be left in place and, in the spirit of cooperation, reported to the Federal land manager.

With regard to arrowheads located on the surface of the ground, the Act and the legislative history (e.g., 125 CRS 14722 Oct 17, 1979) make it clear that criminal and civil penalties under the Act are not to be imposed for their removal. However, arrowheads are archeological resources. Their removal without a permit is in violation of prohibitions in the Act and the proposed regulations; and they remain the property of the United States or the Indian individual or Indian tribe when found on public lands or Indian lands, respectively.

Criminal Penalties - Any person who knowingly violates, or counsels, procures, solicits, or employs any other person to violate, any prohibition contained in this part shall upon conviction be subject to:

(1) Fine of not more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, provided that the archeological resources involved and the cost of restoration and repair of such resources does not exceed the sum of \$5,000, as determined under Section 1215.17 of this part;

(2) Fine of not more than \$20,000, or imprisonment of not more than two years, or both, provided that the archeological or commercial value of the resources involved and the cost of restoration and repair exceed the sum of \$5,000, as determined under Section 1215.17 of this part;

(3) Fine of not more than \$100,000, or imprisonment of not more than five years, or both, in the case of conviction for a second or subsequent violation.

Violations limited to the removal of arrowheads located on the surface of the ground shall not be subject to the penalties prescribed in this section.

Editor's Note: But see background comments by Interior above, which really reflect their intent on enforcement.

The Editors

MEETINGS

The Sixth Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Anthropological Association will be held on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University, Saturday, April 11, 1981. A symposium entitled "Research by Tennessee Anthropologists" will be chaired by Charles H. Faulkner. This symposium will include papers on historic archaeology, prehistoric archaeology, mortuary customs, and folk medicine. Election of officers will also be held. Marilyn Wells and the MTSU Department of Sociology and Anthropology will host the meeting.

The 34th annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association will be held in Tuscaloosa on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25. Twenty-one papers will be presented; Mrs. Kathryn Tucker Windham of Selma will be the Saturday morning breakfast speaker. There will be a tour of homes on Friday afternoon. For more information contact Dr. William D. Barnard, Chairman, Registration Committee; c/o History Department, University of Alabama; University, Alabama 35486.

The Editors

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: This chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: The speaker at the March 16 meeting was Eugene Futato, who spoke on the Cedar Creek Project which was done with the University of Alabama. There is a possibility of a chapter field trip to Moundville on a Sunday afternoon in April. Also in April chapter member Ron Morrow will present a program to the Daughters of the American Revolution. We consider this to be quite an honor.

Huntsville Chapter: The March 17 program at the Huntsville Chapter meeting was a slide presentation by Howard King of Cullman. Howard's topic was the archaeology of the Ryan Creek Watershed. The next chapter meeting will be April 21; the speaker will be Mr. Lawson Corley of Birmingham. Mr. Corley was instrumental in classifying the artifacts in the Red Mountain Museum and will bring photographs and artifacts from his personal collection to display at the chapter meeting. The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The chapter met on February 9 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. John Adams led the discussion and study of Jack Reef points, which were the "points of the month". Al Beinlich presented an interesting program on Cahokia. He displayed and discussed several artifacts from that area. The speaker at the March 9 meeting was Charles Hubbert, who brought the chapter an interesting lecture on petroglyphs and bluff shelters. Charles Moore led the chapter in a study of the Smithsonian point, which was the March "point of the month". Fifteen members and guests were present.

East Alabama Chapter: This chapter meets on the first Thursday of each month in Room 2169, Haley Center, Auburn University, at 7:30 p.m. For information call Mrs. Baker Dean, Jr. at 745-2494.

TWO NEW LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

The Alabama Archaeological Society is happy to announce two new life memberships - one joint and one individual - received in January and February, respectively:

Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Moore

887 Riverview Drive
Florence, Alabama 35630
Commonwealth Associates, Inc.
209 East Washington Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201

Mr. David G. Anderson

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dougherty (F)

Route 15, Box 390
Birmingham, Alabama 35223
210 Queensbury Drive, S. W.
Apartment A-3
Huntsville, Alabama 35802
West Virginia Archaeological Soc.
2124 11th Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25703
10208 Plantation Drive, S. E.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803
534 East 34th Street
Hialeah, Florida 33013
3416 Rosedale Drive, N. W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35810
Route Two, Box 350
Mt. Olive, Alabama 35117

Mr. Edward Hall (I)

Mr. Thomas Kuhn (I)

Mr. Joe D. Parrott (I)

Mr. Ernest G. Pate (I)

Mr. Howard M. Titsworth(S)

Mr. Charles V. Willingham (I)

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY WORKSHOPS

The eighth annual Adult Continuing Education Workshops in historical archaeology will be held July 13-17 and July 20-24 in Clarion, Pennsylvania.

Program Director is Dr. Gustav A. Konitzky; the program features excavation at the site, lectures, laboratory experience (optional), library, field trip, reception, banquet. The cost for the program is \$150 for each one-week workshop. This cost includes the instructional program, transportation to and from the excavation site, meals and campus housing Sunday evening through Friday, use of laboratory and field equipment, and special events. For those choosing to stay at a local motel or campsite, the cost is \$100.

Please enclose a deposit of \$35 to be applied to the registration fee. This deposit is non-refundable after July 1, 1981. You will be billed for the balance. For further information phone (814) 226-2227. Make checks payable to Clarion State College Foundation. Send to: School of Continuing Education; Clarion State College; Clarion, Pennsylvania 16214.

The Editors

ALABAMA IRON, STEEL MUSEUM OPENS

The newest addition to the Tannehill Historical State Park, located between Birmingham and Tuscaloosa off Interstate 59-20, was opened March 29.

The Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama will display a history of the iron- and steel-making process in the state.

Housed in the museum will be the Walter B. Jones Center for Industrial Archaeology, which will include an archives.

Tannehill, which occupies more than 1,000 acres, was one of Alabama's first iron-producing plantations. It was here that much of the cast-iron objects were forged for the Confederacy.

Three blast iron furnaces remain; they sit among rustic pioneer building sites, including a grist mill which operates daily.

The making of iron began here in 1829 and came to a halt during the waning days of the Civil War when Wilson's Raiders wrecked the place.

The admission of \$1 for adults and \$.50 for children allows one to visit the museum as well as the historical park. It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day except Monday.

(From The Birmingham News - Sunday, March 22, 1981)

The Editors

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18	\$1.00 pp
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)	\$4.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)	
Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint)	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at</i>	
<i>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 I, Point Types</i>	\$7.35 pp
<i>Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Parks Service	\$5.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

MAIL 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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