

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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### REPORT ON FORT TOULOUSE

From June to September, 1980, an archaeological crew from Auburn University at Montgomery excavated portions of Fort Toulouse and Fort Jackson. The work was directed by Gregory A. Waselkov and was sponsored by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (now part of the National Park Service). A report, now nearly completed, summarizes previous archaeological work from 1972 to the present and includes the following major conclusions, essentially corroborating earlier findings of Bascom McDonald Brooms and James Parker.

The French fort (Fort Toulouse) found at the site was built from 1749 to 1751. An earlier structure, built in 1717, was abandoned because Coosa River bank erosion had undermined the stockade. The excavated fort was very small, measuring about 47 meters square, had four corner bastions and was made of quartered hardwood posts set upright in a stockade trench. The fort and settlement were abandoned in 1764 when the French surrendered the area to the British.

Tuskegee Indian village occupied the site from c. 1764-1800.

The American fort (Fort Jackson) was built in 1814 by Carolina militia under orders from General Andrew Jackson as part of his campaign to subdue the Upper Creeks and Alabama Indians and to secure his supply lines to Mobile and New Orleans which were threatened by British attack. Four corner bastions were made of pine stockade posts, but the walls were earthen embankments and the entire fort was surrounded by a moat. The 1980 excavations discovered a large "demilune" earthenwork which had been built to protect the main entrance. This fort was relatively large (about 100 X 110 meters) and partially overlay the excavated French fort.

The recent reconstruction is on the location of Fort Jackson and incorporates certain features of the American fort, such as the stockaded bastions and the encircling moat. However, the curtain walls were reconstructed of wood using a French building technique instead of the correct earthen embankments of the American period.

A considerable amount of archival research was also done regarding the French settlement, relations with the Creek and Alabama Indians, British-French rivalry in the region, the 1813-1814 Creek Civil War and American militia life at the fort.

July 1981

It is hoped that a report describing all historical, architectural and artifactual discoveries to date can be prepared and published in the near future.

Gregory A. Waselkov  
Auburn University

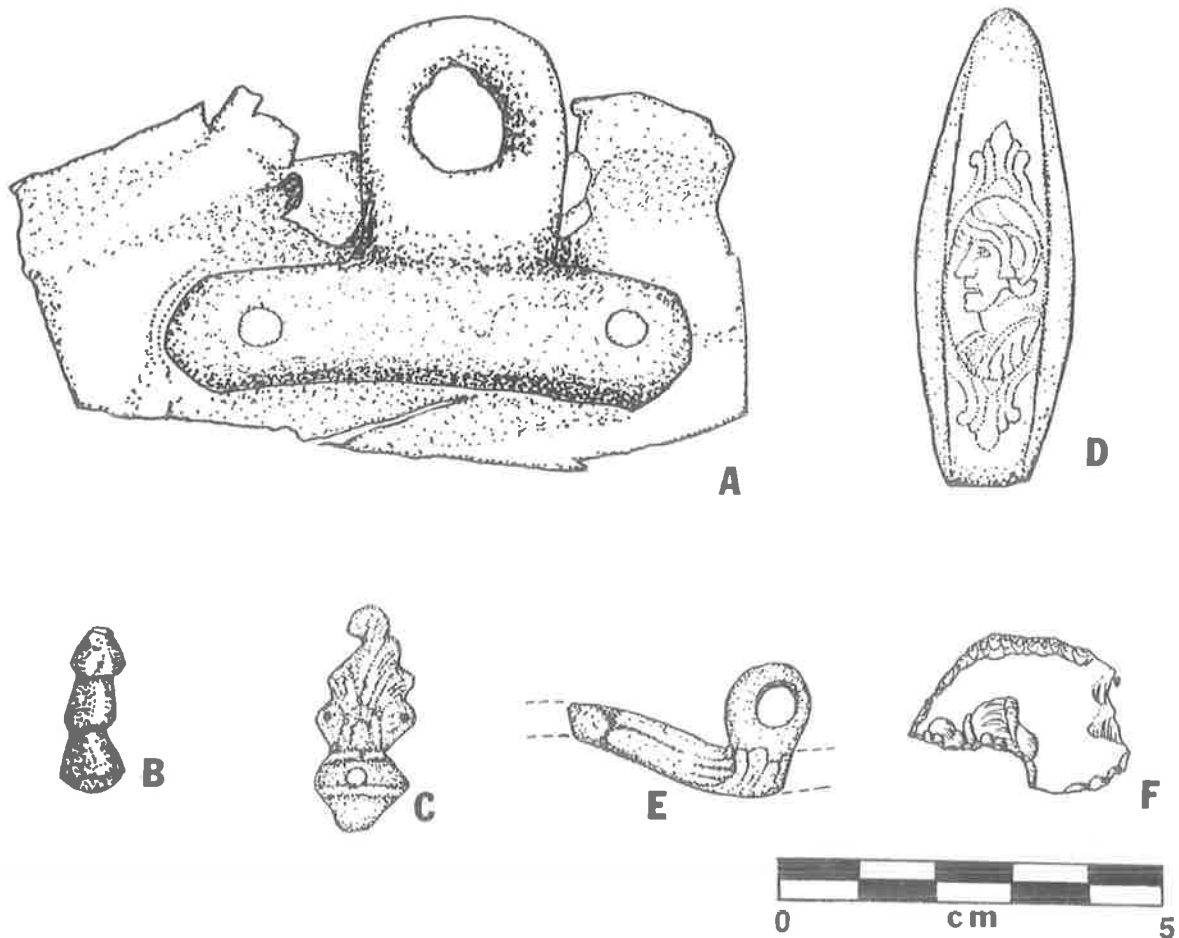


Figure 1. French Period Artifacts: A) brass kettle rim with cast brass loop lug; B) silver earring bob; C) brass triggerguard finial pendant; D) brass triggerguard; E) brass serpent sideplate midsection; F) fire flint.

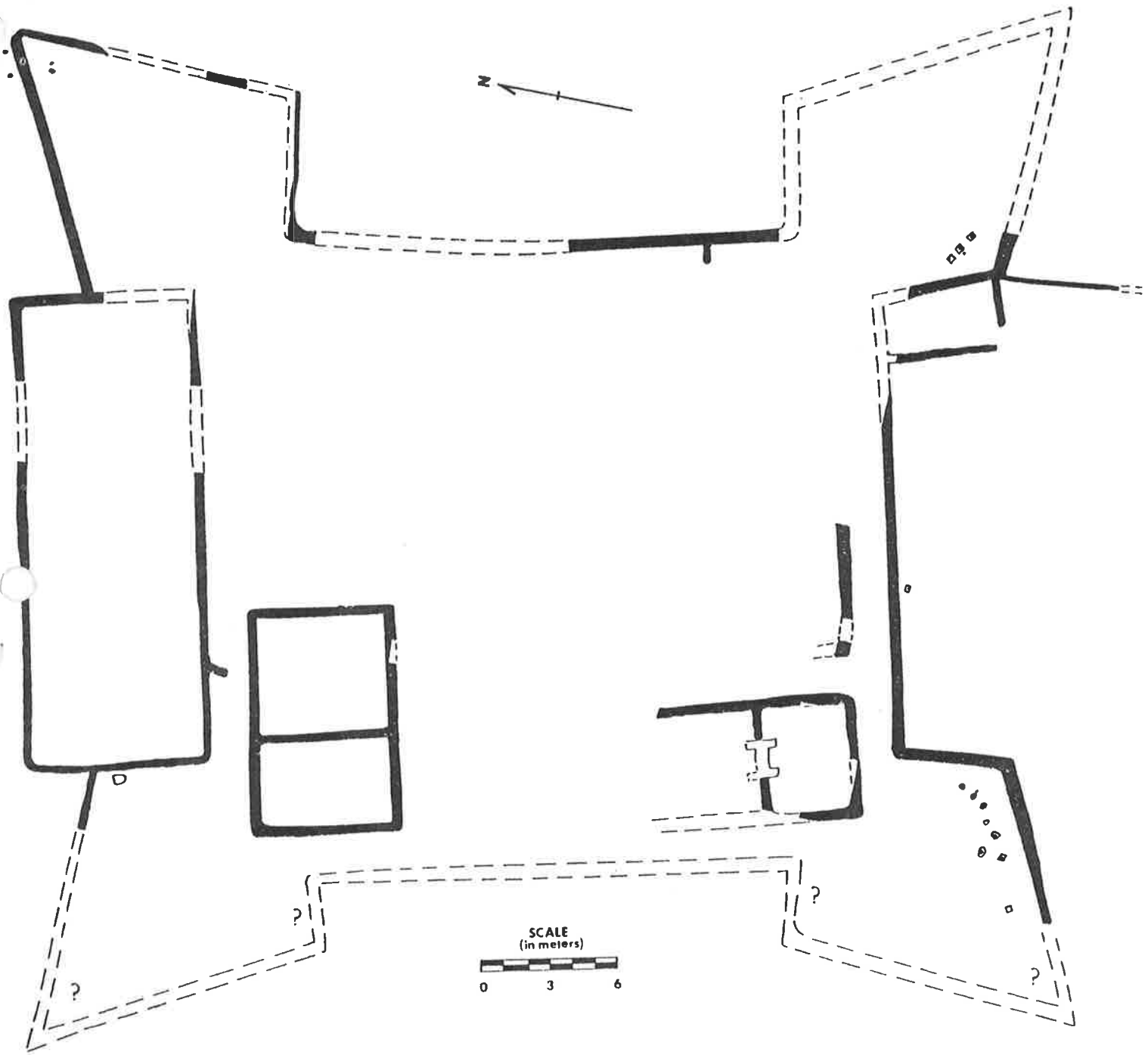


Figure 2. Fort Toulouse (1751-1764) --excavated remains and conjectural extrapolations.

(Drawings provided by Gregory A. Waselkov.)

## IMPORTANT NEWS FROM THE JOURNAL EDITOR

The new look you may have noticed in the 1980 issues of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology is a result of the journal's being typed on the IBM System 6 Word Processor at the University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research. The word processor not only produces more attractive copy with aligned margins and no corrections, but greatly reduces the time necessary to produce each issue. There is no charge to the Alabama Archaeological Society for the use of the System 6, but it must be used on a time-available basis. However, since February of this year, the OAR has produced seven major reports totaling almost 3,000 single-spaced pages. As a result, the System 6 has been in use literally day and night. This has caused a delay in getting the June 1981 issue of the Journal typed. The time demands on the System 6 will be somewhat relieved by the OAR's receipt of a second input unit on May 26, 1981. I hope that the Journal can be typed in June and July—perhaps mailed in the latter part of July.

That's the bad news, now for the good news. The Society has on hand approximately two dozen damaged copies of the Handbook of Alabama Archaeology; Part 1, Point Types. These copies became damp while in storage. Damage to these books is limited to the covers only. The text material is complete. Some copies are only slightly stained. Some copies were stuck together in places and the covers and the covers were marred when the issues were separated. No copies with severely damaged or missing covers will be sold. The usual selling price of the handbook is \$7.35, but these damaged copies are now available for only \$3.00, well below half price. These copies would make excellent work or second copies; or first copies if you just want to save a few dollars. Orders will be filled as received beginning with the best copy and proceeding to the more damaged ones. And, remember, there are only about two dozen copies available at this price, so order now.

Eugene Futato  
Journal Editor

NOTE: The members of the Society owe Eugene a lot of thanks for the outstanding job he has done as Editor of the Journal and, also, thanks to Carey Oakley, Director of the Office of Archaeological Research, for permitting this Society the use of the word processor at no cost—and while we are at it, Bart Henson deserves a great deal of appreciation for his diligence and perseverance in getting the Journal printed at about half the cost paid in years past.

Editors

## GRIST MILL, A FADING SIGHT IN CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

The participants of the Calhoun County C.E.T.A./J.S.U. archaeological survey project have located many prehistoric/historic sites of interest to the residents of this northeastern Alabama area. One type of historic site recorded thus far has been grist mills. Grist mills stand as industrial memorials to the way man uses the water power of nature to turn his machinery, and then returns that power without disturbing nature's delicate balance.

The archaeological condition of grist mill sites within the county ranges greatly from the existence of standing functional mill sites, such as Aderholdt's Mill near Jacksonville, to sites where the only evidence of the past mill existence is a surface scatter of metal cogs, broken glass, iron square nails, wood hand hewn beams, solitary standing brick chimneys, stone foundations and/or remnants of spillways/dams. Presently within the county there are no operating mills. Yet, project research has uncovered approximately forty grist mill sites. One project source, County Commissioner Jack Boozer, stated that in the late 1800's and early 1900's, there was a grist mill at least every five miles along the major waterways of the county.

By harnessing nature's waterpower, grist mills were free of the problems of modern energy woes. The actual works of the mills are quite interesting. Water is directed through a millrace or spillway, striking the wooden or iron mill wheel. The vertical power of the turning wheel is transferred to horizontal power by face gears, and a shaft connected to heavy grinding stones inside the mill. Grain, poured through a hopper above the stones, is ground between the stationary bed stone and the revolving runner stone. The grist falls down a spout into a meal trough, ready to be sacked.

In addition to grinding corn, many of the mills functioned as wheat mills, crushers, thrashers, corn shellers, turning lays, saw mills, cotton gins, and sorghum mills. The owners of the mills frequently operated blacksmith shops near the mill sites. In days gone by, millers simply kept an agreed-upon portion of the customer's supply of grain as pay for their services. Electricity was not a problem for the millers. Electrical power generated by the mill supplied enough electricity to light the nearby mill house and various out buildings and/or shops.

The majority of the old mill sites have vanished with hardly a trace left to tell their stories. The data contained herein was generated from personal interviews with local Calhoun County residents and limited pedestrian archaeological surveys.

Apparently three major cultural and natural factors wrecked havoc on Calhoun County grist mills—war, floods, and time. Grist mills often became military targets during the Civil War because they provided a main food source for each area. Mother nature added to the demise of mills in two ways. Periods of heavy and/or prolonged rainfall caused local waterways to change from gentle flowing streams to raging torrents. Covered bridges and grist mill complexes both fell victims to flooding.

Time destroyed many of the mills that escaped the Civil War and floods. The efficient water powered mill constructed during the 19th century became the obsolete mill of the 20th century. As many of these mills fell into disuse; vandals, antique hunters, scrap dealers, land speculators, and even wild plants and animals contributed to the mill destruction.

In 1980, only one mill was functioning within the county, the Aderholdt's Mill. Located approximately 3 miles south of Jacksonville, this mill was built by Colonel Thomas R. Williams in 1835. Colonel Williams, himself a wealthy slave owner, utilized slave labor in the construction of the mill. After a succession of many owners, it was acquired by James Emanuel Aderholdt, and his son, Jim Aderholdt, in 1921. The Aderholdt family name was found to be connected with almost every mill in the county at one time or another during its history.

Aderholdt's Mill is also of interest to local spectral buffs for it is rumored to be haunted. Two children were killed while playing around the mill, and a young bride met her death when her dress became entangled in the machinery as her husband operated the mill. Aderholdt's Mill is now owned by Mrs. Jim Aderholdt, wife of the late miller. It is being rented by Dr. Larry Martin, who is in the process of restoring and protecting the mill for future generations.

Leyden's Mill, built by John Abraham Aderholdt in 1852, remains standing on the Tallassee hatchee Creek in the Cedar Springs community. Many families have operated the mill, a number of which were descendents of Abraham Aderholdt. In 1917, the property was known as Edmondson's Mill, but in the 1920's became known as Leyden's Mill. The Reverend and Mrs. Lowery W. Hughes purchased the mill in 1963, and began remodeling the inside of the structure in order to provide an activity center for the Roy Webb community. Almost all of the mill machinery is now gone, except for the turbine wheel which remains below the building. The old flat mill stones are now at the home of a great-grandson of Abraham Aderholdt. The mill building is in relatively good shape due to the hard work of the Reverend and Mrs. Hughes. Leyden's Mill no longer functions as a community center, but remains a local landmark and a source of pride for the residents of the area.

Broadwell's Mill was over one hundred years old when it was destroyed by a storm in 1957. The mill's namesake, Mr. Broadwell, purchased the mill from Jim Aderholdt in 1919, and he and his family farmed the land surrounding the mill during the 1920's. His daughter, Mrs. Doran Broadwell Hogan recalls how she helped her father with every type of work in the mill except grinding wheat and sharpening plow points. The mill furnished enough power to provide electric lights for the millhouse.

Today, the only remains to be seen of Broadwell's Mill are a few rusted bits of machinery, an old sawmill chimney, some scattered pieces of the dam, some bank reinforcements, and a few bricks. The blacksmith shop still stands across the road from the mill site.

Downing's Mill, located on the Choccolocco Creek, is still standing but has been transformed into a home by Captain and Mrs. Perry Doerr. The original owner of the mill, Mr. Louis Downing, journeyed down the Coosa with the intentions of building a mill. A group of Indians who traveled with him helped negotiate the purchase of the land. The mill was built in 1884.

John Downing, Louis Downing's grandson, was the last operator of the mill. There has been a controversy as to whether the mill standing today is the original building. There is another mill site located northwest of the present one. Legend says that the original mill was burned during the Civil War by federal troops. Others say that the mill was moved and lifted because of the heavy flooding that frequently occurred.

When Downing's Mill was rediscovered in 1950, records showed that it had been out of operation for at least ten years. The building was in a dilapidated state, having been the target of vandalism. Remains of the mill operation can still be found in the cotton gins, grinding stones, and circular saw. Today the mill-house still has the original posts and beams, pine steps, and window frames. A fireplace, having some 14,000 bricks was brought down from General Forester's home to grace the Doerr's living room.

Although at one time grist mills were a familiar sight to residents of Calhoun County, today they are quickly becoming a memory of older residents. Grist mills are an important part of the industrial heritage of Alabama. One goal of this project is to heighten the awareness of the grist mill structures historical importance and to promote preservation programs for the few remaining mill sites.

If the trend of neglect and destruction continues in northeast Alabama, fifty years from now when the question, "Mommy, what is a grist mill?" is asked, there may be a verbal reply but no visible examples.

Harry O. Holstein, Ph. D.  
Jacksonville State University

CONTRIBUTORS: Ellen Clay  
Site Supervisor

and

Jamie Cannon Grace  
Lab/Survey Secretary

(Photographs on page 8 were provided by Dr. Holstein.)



FIGURE 1. Aderholdt's Mill



FIGURE 2. Leyden's Mill



FIGURE 3. Remains of Broadwell mill



## NEW MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
Brecht, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas C. (F)		4232 Montevallo Road Birmingham, Alabama 35213
Hardzog, Mr. James R.	(I)	6227 Paisley Lane Houston, Texas 77096
Majerik, Mr. and Mrs. James E. (F)		80 Fair Harbor Road Birmingham, Alabama 35209
Moore, Jr., Mr. Charles R.	(I)	475 Whispering Hills Drive Lexington, Kentucky 40503
Wells, Mrs. Valeria G.	(I)	409 Flavia Circle Troy, Alabama 36081

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Chapter will begin its programs in August under the leadership of its president, Dr. Charles Ochs. Dr. Cross and Gordon Bell of the Red Mountain Museum will talk on "Geology and Paleo" at this meeting. Regular meetings of the Chapter are on the second Thursday of the month at the Red Mountain Museum at 7:30 p.m. Call Tom Hutto at 956-1895 for further information. There will not be a July meeting.

The slate of officers for 1981 are as follows:

President:	Dr. Charles Ochs 3413 East Briarcliff Road Birmingham, Alabama 35223
First Vice President:	Tom Hutto Route 18, Box 352 Birmingham, Alabama 35210
Second Vice President:	Kenneth DeRamus 2209 - Second Place NE Birmingham, Alabama 35215
Secretary-Treasurer:	Margaret Thompson 3609 Montrose Road Birmingham, Alabama 35213

### Cullman Chapter

The Cullman Chapter has discontinued its regular monthly meetings for the summer months.

### East Alabama Chapter

John Cottier showed slides of North American Indians at our June chapter meeting. It was decided to discontinue our regular monthly meetings for the summer. Instead, plans for one or more field trips are being considered.

Our next regular scheduled meeting will be October 1, 1981. Jack Mitchell will present a program on the Chickasaw Indians and will show many artifacts he collected in northern Mississippi.

### Huntsville Chapter

Joe Watkins of Birmingham, President of the Alabama Archaeological Society, was the speaker at the June meeting. Joe's topic was the "Archaeology of Yucatan" illustrated with colored slides. The regular monthly meetings for the Huntsville Chapter are the third Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room at the Von Braun Civic Center.

### Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter met Monday, June 8, at the Indian Mound in Florence for a hamburger picnic supper. Twenty-two members and guests attended. The Chapter then held its meeting in the adjoining museum. For the "Point of the Month", the members brought "hard to identify" artifacts. The members had an interesting time attempting to identify these unusual pieces. For the program John Adams presented a film that was about 50 years old which had been used for promoting real estate in the Muscle Shoals area at that time. Along with being interesting and humorous, the film was also significant from a historic point of view.

Due to vacations, hot weather, lawn care, and other conflicts; the chapter decided not to meet during the summer months, but plans to resume its regular meetings in October.

Regular monthly meeting is the second Monday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. For more information, contact Charles Moore at 766-1940.

### TENNESSEE ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MISCELLANEOUS PAPER #6 AVAILABLE

Miscellaneous Paper No. 6 entitled "The History of the Duck River Cache" by H. C. "Buddy" Brehm of Nashville has just been published.

This fascinating archaeological and historical study traces the history of one of the most outstanding collections of prehistoric artifacts ever found in eastern North America. Highlights of this study include the identification of the real discoverer of the flint cache and the details of its discovery; a description of the 46 ceremonial flint artifacts and the story of their eventual return to Tennessee; the saga of the two stone figures, "Adam" and "Eve" and other tales of archaeological discoveries on the famous Link site. There is also a description of other caches of artifacts that were found on this site during excavations by the University of Tennessee in the 1930's complete with field photographs never before published.

This study is also provided with numerous photographs of the cache, historic personages associated with the discovery of the cache, and scenes of the Link site.

Miscellaneous Paper No. 6 can be ordered for \$4.80 postpaid from:

Secretary-Treasurer  
Tennessee Anthropological Association  
Department of Anthropology  
South Stadium Hall  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

(From the Tennessee Anthropological Association's May-June 1981 newsletter.)

The Editors

Archeology Under Water, edited by the Late Keith Muckelroy. McGraw-Hill, 1980. \$24.95.

This is not just another compilation of sunken ships, but a very judicious survey of all manner of archeological sites that are today submerged. Of particular interest is the section dealing with submerged coastal sites in North America, especially the wealth of such sites in Florida. Harbors, port cities, ships, even Scottish crannogs—man-made islands built in lakes—are included. The New World is very well represented in Spanish shipwrecks and other finds, but the attempt here is plainly to provide a balance of concise but broad-ranging information, including many of the unspectacular but nonetheless important finds in recent decades. The book is rich in maps, diagrams and illustrations, and includes a detailed index.

(From the magazine, "Early Man", Spring 1981, Volume 3, Number 1.)

The Editors

For an interesting brochure and catalog of archaeological educational programs, write to:

Director of Admissions  
Adult Archeological Field Schools  
P. O. Box 1499  
Evanston, Illinois 60204

One week courses on field schools, work shops in native American technology (ceramic, textile, basketry), cultural ecology, and lithic technology are scheduled now through the end of the year.

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
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> .....	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Parks Service .....	\$5.00 pp

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1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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