

Alabama Archaeological Society

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Bart Henson
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Volume 26

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 4

UNUSUAL CERAMIC ARTIFACT



The artifact shown above was found in the spoil dirt of road work on Grizzard Road between Jordan Lane and Pulaski Pike in Huntsville by Joseph Tarleton in 1970. Thirteen years later his sister, Mrs. Pamela T. Loy, directed the Editors' attention to the artifact.

Archaeologists, Dr. Richard Krause of the University of Alabama and Mr. Mc Brooms of the Alabama Historical Commission, examined it and believe the artifact to be from a statuette and depicts the head of a coyote with its right paw over its eye. It is considered rare and not from the southeastern United States. The style, they believe, is similar to a style known to have originated in the northeastern Mexican Gulf Coastal Region. The tempering material is crushed quartz. The significance of the paw over the eye is unknown, and how it reached Huntsville is a matter of speculation.

The Editors are indebted to Mr. Tarleton, Mrs. Loy, and The Printer for the Story and the loan of the artifact; also, to Dr. Krause and Mr. Brooms for examining the artifact.

The Editors

April 1984

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*Journal Editor is a member of Publications Committee by virtue of his office.

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*Immediate past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society.

HIGHLIGHTS - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society met in Birmingham on March 21, 1984. Following are highlights of this meeting.

The Publications Committee is working on a slide presentation for use by schools and other organizations. A portion of this presentation will be shown at the next board meeting.

The 51st Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archeological Federation will be held November 2-4, 1984 at the Holiday Inn of Annapolis; 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401; Telephone 301/224-3150. The program will include trips to Annapolis and St. Mary's City. Topics of the meeting will be Colonial Maryland Archaeology, Aboriginal Coastal Communities, Late Woodland and Ethnoarchaeology. For more information contact Program Chairman Ronald Thomas; Box 676, Newark, DE 19711; Telephone 302/368-5777.

Dr. Richard Krause, A.A.S. Representative to the Alabama Historical Commission, reported that construction will begin shortly on Fort Toulouse. The Commission has funded several archaeological projects. Through the Sylacauga outreach program, the Society has obtained 25 to 30 new members. The reconstruction of the capital is proceeding; minute details are being recorded through drawings, photographs, etc. There had been some discussion of moving the legislature to another building and using the capital as a museum. The Historical Commission wants the capital to remain a capital, not to become a museum. The restoration project involves educating the people of Alabama as to their heritage. A \$50,000 archival study will begin this summer on Cahaba; Bob Gamble is the historian in charge of this project. He will use the same techniques on Cahaba as were used on the capital. A field school at Cahaba for high school students is in the planning stages.

Jim Parker, Program Chairman, reported that there will be a field activity this summer; preliminary information on this meeting will be in the next issue of STONES & BONES. The winter meeting is tentatively set for December 8 in the meeting rooms of the Archives and History Building in the capital complex in Montgomery.

The Archaeological Resources Committee, under Carey Oakley (Director, Office of Archaeological Resources, University of Alabama), has asked for Society support to combat vandalism of archaeological sites. (See following letter). Carey asked that Society members mount a letter-writing campaign, asking why TVA is not enforcing the laws on pothunting or doing enough about erosion of sites. Chapter presidents were asked to coordinate this letter-writing campaign.

Jim Lee, A.A.S. President, stated that he would like to see a return to archaeological research projects by the Society. This will be pursued through the Archaeological Resources Committee. Planning sessions are now being arranged to further discuss this topic and develop an approach. Principal focus will be to address important research that is not being carried out because of a lack of financial support. Currently, much of the funded research is directed to salvage projects. This is important and necessary where a site faces imminent destruction; however, there are other important sites that could add valuable information

to our archaeological record that are receiving no attention. Although these sites may not be faced with destruction from the bulldozer, in many cases they are just as surely be lost - but as a result of vandalism. In past years the Society has taken an active role in such research and as a result has contributed substantially to our knowledge of prehistoric Alabama. Such an undertaking is not without problems and pitfalls. Certainly, one of the major problems is developing the financial resources. Such problems will not be resolved overnight; a major effort will be needed from a large segment of our Society. As the planning progresses, the Archaeological Resources Committee (Carey Oakley, Chairman) would welcome any thoughts or suggestions you may have. Efforts are being made to develop a position by the summer, perhaps as the topic of the summer field activity.

The Dothan Chapter petition for affiliation was accepted by the Society. This new chapter is a welcome addition and will provide a more active representation of Southeast Alabama. Officers of the newly-formed chapter are: President, Dr. Leonard H. Roberts; Vice President, Mr. Greg Creel; and Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Clayton T. Bell. This brings our total chapter affiliation to eight. The Board would encourage other groups within the state that meet the Society requirements to also form affiliated chapters.

The Editors

1984 A.A.S. Chapter Presidents

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
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Cullman	Ronald Morrow	Rt. 6, Box 34-C Cullman, AL 35055	734-2603
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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
PHONE: (205) 371-2266

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

March 21, 1984

1 MOUND STATE MONUMENT
MOUNDVILLE, ALABAMA 35474

MEMORANDUM

TO: Archaeological Resources Committee and Other Interested
Individuals

FROM: Carey B. Oakley, Chairman

SUBJECT: Continuing Vandalism of Archaeological Sites on TVA Properties

I am sorry to say that most of the important archaeological sites located on TVA property are being actively vandalized by unauthorized individuals. In many instances this digging is done by non-collectors who have only an economic interest in the archaeological specimens.

Supposedly Federal law protects these resources from this vandalism but to date TVA has not taken steps to enforce the laws. As chairman of the Archaeological Resources Committee I am calling upon members of the Alabama Archaeological Society to take a firm stand on this issue by contacting TVA officials with carbon copies of letters sent to respective congressmen. It is apparent that only by this method of communication will TVA become aware of the seriousness of the destruction of archaeological sites on their property and hopefully, will begin taking steps to curtail this problem. I should also state that if we, the professional and amateur archaeologist alike, do not take the time or the effort to express our concerns to TVA about this problem then why should TVA be concerned about the problem? In this respect the responsibility of taking action now rests on our shoulders.

One final point I should mention is that the TVA resources protection laws are not designed to prevent amateur archaeologists from surface collecting on TVA property. This is a misinterpretation of the law and is definitely not its intent.

Please help.


Carey B. Oakley

DBO:kw
CB006/G

Enclosures

RICHARD NEELY
MISSIONARY TO THE CHEROKEES

1984 is the 200th birthday of the Methodist Church. This is a short story of one of the early Methodist missionaries to the Cherokee Indians in Northeast Alabama.

Up until about 1838, Northeast Alabama was Indian territory - Cherokee territory which included the land east of the Tennessee River and north from about Gadsden. Methodism came to the Cherokee Indians in Northeast Alabama in the spring of 1822. Richard Neely had been recently assigned to the Flint Circuit, which was out of the Huntsville District of the Tennessee Conference. His circuit was on the north side of the Tennessee River and did not include the Cherokee Territory just over the river. He was soon invited by the Cherokee Chief Richard Riley to cross the river and preach to the Cherokees, promising to pay his ferry fee.

Neely agreed and continued to preach once a month. Methodism came to the Alabama Cherokees not by missionary zeal but from a quiet invitation from the Cherokees. However, quickly following the next year, the Tennessee Conference established a Cherokee mission. Neely did not get this appointment, but one Andrew J. Crawford was appointed missionary. Crawford arrived at Gunter's Landing (now Guntersville) on December 7, 1822.

A council of the Chiefs was quickly convened, and a school was approved for Crawford which opened December 30, with 12 Cherokee students. The first camp meeting was held at Chief Richard Riley's home near Gunter's Landing on July 31, 1823. A camp meeting would last for several days, and some of the Cherokee came from as far away as 60 miles.

The next year, in 1824, Richard Neely was appointed missionary to the Lower Cherokees by the Tennessee Conference. Neely's circuit included a straight line from Chickasaw Island (Hobbs Island) to the mouth of Wills Creek near Gadsden, and from there to the forks of the Coosa, which is Rome, Georgia today, and on to Lookout Mountain of Chattanooga and then back down the Tennessee to Chickasaw Island. This included what is today three counties and parts of six others in Alabama and Georgia. His circuit was over 3,000 square miles of roadless mountains and rivers.

These men received very little monetary reward and were on horseback eight to nine months of the year in all kinds of weather - rain, sleet and even snow in the winter; and hot, humid heat in the summers. Neely would ride all day and preach each night at a gathering at some Cherokee's log cabin, arising early the next morning and riding on. He always had an audience, as the Cherokee loved to hear a traveling preacher.

Although a young man, Neely's health began to break, and his mission work ended at the close of 1826. He had met and married a Cherokee woman. Wanting to stay close to Cherokee Territory, he was appointed Superannuated Preacher, which allowed him, as his health permitted, to continue some mission work and occasionally preach to the Cherokees. However, he soon died - in February 1828 - of consumption, or tuberculosis. These early circuit riders were dedicated and committed to God's work. They sacrificed and suffered unbelievable hardships on the frontier of America. Frequently their only reward was that inner satisfaction of carrying the word of God to the heathen.

CHAPTER NEWS

Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Chapter met on January 26 at Brewer Hall on the JSU campus. Nineteen members were present. Eugene Futato of Moundville presented a program entitled "The Archaeology of Little Bear Creek". Dr. Harry O. Holstein judged the Artifact-of-the-Month Contest. The month's winners were Dr. Phillip E. Koerper of Jacksonville and Mr. Tom Mullendore of Anniston.

The Chapter met on Thursday, February 23 at Brewer Hall to hear Colonel Worden Weaver and Mrs. Lenore Martin give a talk on "The History of the Arbacoochee Gold Fields of Alabama". Twenty-three members and guests were present. Winners of the Artifact-of-the-Month Contest were Wyatt Amos and Tom Mullendore of Anniston. Dr. Phil Koerper, the Chapter President, presented a certificate of appreciation to John Edwards for his services to the club. Plans for both a site survey and a field trip to Etowah Mounds were discussed. The next meeting will be on March 29 in Room 328, Brewer Hall. Dr. Leon Willman will present a program on "Quarry Sites for Aboriginal Materials".

Mary Johnson
Jacksonville

Huntsville Chapter

Bart Henson gave the Chapter an update on some of his work on "Rock Art: Petroglyphs and Pictographs". He included the mud drawings in a cave in Tennessee (this was a project partially sponsored by the National Geographic Society; it has been written up in several national publications, including Science News and Newsweek). Bart also showed some areas that he had been referred to which turned out not to be archaeological sites, but natural formations.

Bart was president of the A.A.S. when it achieved tax-exempt status. He was instrumental in initiating the Special Publication series. Bart is co-author, with fellow Huntsvillian John Martz, of ALABAMA's ABORIGINAL ROCK ART, a publication of the Alabama Historical Commission. He has also been very active at the local chapter level; he is a former chapter president, has given numerous presentations to the Huntsville Chapter and others, and has organized many interesting field trips.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center, at 7 p.m. For more information call Program Chairman Ken Helms at 539-0939.

Dorothy Luke
Huntsville

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter met on March 12 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Twenty-two members and guests attended. Mary-Eliza and Charles Moore gave a slide narrative on southwestern sites, including Bandolier National Monument, San Ildefonso Pueblo and Monument Valley. Al Beinlich will bring the chapter program in April.

Charles Moore
Florence

Tuscaloosa Chapter

Tuscaloosa's March meeting marked the Chapter's first year anniversary since reorganization by Bill Adkison and Tony Ferrel. We also held elections: President, Jeanie Allan; First Vice President, Tony Ferrel; Second Vice President, Jack Wilson; and Secretary Treasurer, Bill Adkison. The guest speaker was Dr. Earle Smith of the University of Alabama. Dr. Smith spoke and showed slides on archaeological botany.

The guest speaker for April will be Dr. Kenneth Turner, archaeological osteologist from the University of Alabama. The meeting will take place on the first Monday in April at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Adkison
Tuscaloosa

QUEST FOR THE MISSING LINK

For all their painstaking efforts to trace the origins of man, paleo-anthropologists have collected only a few thousand bones, representing 30 million years of hominoid evolution. With such scant evidence, even a single new fossil can lead to revisions of man's family tree. Some scientists now say that a recent find in northern Kenya may fill a much-debated gap: the "missing link" between apes and humans. At the very least, says Richard Leakey, one of the fossils' discoverers, "the find has opened a Pandora's box".

Anthropologists have long assumed that the predecessors of great apes and humans evolved in Africa during the early Miocene Epoch, about 18 million years ago. But until this new find was unearthed, only one related hominoid fossil had been found there; the others - much younger - came from Asia.

The new find consists of 17-million-year-old jaws and teeth, as well as a finger bone, leg bone and other fragments. They were pulled out of a dry riverbed near the Ethiopian border by an expedition led by Leakey, who is director of the National Museums of Kenya. The bits and pieces of bone belong to some nine individuals, male and female, weighing 120 to 150 pounds - about the size of an adult male chimpanzee. The creatures have an orangutan's short face, says anatomist Alan Walker of the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and their teeth are similar to those of a modern ape. In fact, he

adds, they look very much like a 14-million-year-old Asian creature called *Silvapihceus*, which had been thought to be an ancestor solely of the orangutan, Asia's only living great ape. But Walker now prefers a different interpretation: that the new find represents a common ancestor of all great apes - African and Asian - and of man.

Leakey is less certain. "I think we haven't got a common ancestor yet", he says. "We're going to have to go back even further. It's difficult to say more than that, but the new find does suggest there was a lot of diversity in the early Miocene, more so at a fairly high level than we had previously suspected."

(From an article by Andrea Dorfman in Science Digest, March 1984)

The Editors

NEW MEMBERS

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Cheatwood, Mr. Glenn R.	I	P. O. Box #17, Delta, Alabama	36258
Connell, Mr. Danny L.	I	Route Four, Box 106, Tallahassee, Alabama	36078
King, Ms. Joan M.	I	2904 Seventh Street, Northport, Alabama	35476
Lessley, Mrs. Bettye R.	I	206 Hillbrook Drive, Sylacauga, Alabama	35150
Mullins, Ms. Patricia R.	I	Box 64, Newton, Alabama	36352
Pursell, Mr. Taylor	I	P. O. Box 540, Sylacauga, Alabama	35150
Rowe, Mr. Bobby	I	Route Two, Box 434, Brockton, Alabama	36351
Setterland, Mr. Chuck	I	Route One, Ardmore, Tennessee	38449
Watts, Mr. R. Preston	I	2208 Matthews Drive SE, Huntsville, Alabama	35801
Whitt, Dr. Blanca	I	Suite 5, 2310 Whitesburg Drive Huntsville, Alabama	35801

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Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
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<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$7.00 pp

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1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

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