

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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RODGER L. SCHAEFER, SECRETARY  
1414 15TH AVENUE, S.E.,  
DECATUR, ALA. 35601

## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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AUG 15 1970

PLAN TO COME!

1970 SUMMER ANNUAL MEETING & WORKSHOP

PLAN TO COME!

This year, the looked-forward-to gathering of State Society members and families will be held at Selma, the lovely city near the summer dig site. Those who have attended these meetings during the past several years, already know what enjoyable occasions they are. Others should experiment this year, and become "regulars".

Arrangements have been made for dinner Saturday night, August 8th, at 6:30 PM at The Pancake House, 1910 Broad Street (which is also U.S. Highway 80) in Selma. Dinner will comprise roast beef, baked potato, beans almonidine, salad and strawberry shortcake, at \$2.50 per person including tax and tip. Ample parking space is available in the rear of the Pancake House. An interesting program will follow dinner, with full details of progress at the dig site and other information.

No headquarters has been selected to date, but the Plantation Inn, a motel located across the Alabama River on U.S. Highway 80 toward Montgomery, is suggested as a reasonably priced place, and is on the way from Selma to the dig. To reach the dig proceed on out Highway 80 some 8 miles toward Montgomery, turning to the left (north) 2 miles to Tyler. Or, coming from Montgomery, turn right to Tyler some 4 miles west of Benton. One of the dig crew members will be at the Tyler Postoffice to guide you to the dig, and Roger Nance, Archaeologist in Charge, will be at the dig to explain and instruct. The dig crew works from 6:00 AM until 2:30 PM each Wednesday through Sunday, and so will be on hand Saturday and Sunday of the meeting.

IT IS NECESSARY that our Selma folks know how many members & guests will be on hand for the Saturday night dinner, so, as soon as you have your plans made, PLEASE write Mr. Roger Nance, 114 Maxey Street, Selma, Ala. 36701 and let him know. Incidentally, there is now a phone at 114 Maxey, Selma 872-8324, and Mr. Nance can be reached there Wednesdays through Sundays after 3:00 PM. Dinner reservation information MUST reach him BY AUGUST 6TH AT THE LATEST. BE AMONG THOSE PRESENT!

### INITIAL 1970 DIG PROGRESS REPORT

After 2½ weeks at the Durante's Bend Site, only a preliminary attempt can be made to evaluate the site and to relate the kinds of information currently being accumulated.

At first inspection, the site seemed to have 3 areas of importance: A Mississippian occupational area, a large Woodland occupational area with at least 4 mussel shell concentrations, and a low but extensive sand mound. Excavations to date are as follows: The mound was test pitted to a depth of 5½ feet. Here, from 2 to 3½ feet below the surface, a midden was encountered with a Weeden Island component at its base. Above and below the single Weeden Island 6-inch level, appeared more local, late Woodland (?) potsherds. This is one of the very few Weeden Island components yet to be excavated in central Alabama. It is partially protected by the mound, and Woodland ceramics exist below and in a midden deposit above it; a situation that should yield valuable information.

AUGUST 1970

The Mississippian area, in places, has been churned up thoroughly by deep plowing. During the first 2 weeks, excavations in this area consisted of a deep test pit (an unsuccessful search for buried components) and a shallow, 6 feet wide test trench where the plowed midden was stripped to an underlying, mostly sterile yellow sand. Some post holes without overall pattern, and 2 complete, infant burials were encountered. The latter were extended in shallow pits dug beneath the midden. A small jar of a type known in the Montgomery-Selma area as "burial urn" ware, was found crushing the skull of one of the skeletons. Charcoal beneath the skeleton in the burial pit should provide a radiocarbon date for both burial and vessel. On July 15, the edge section of a well-defined clay house floor was found intact beneath the plow zone, and as much of this undisturbed feature will be exposed as possible. Great quantities of animal bone occur in this part of the site, as well as lithic tools and a great variety of shell-tempered pottery. Decorated pottery is appliqued, incised and/or punctated, and even, rarely, incised and painted. The relationships of the Mississippian culture or cultures represented at Durante's Bend, to the Moundville Phase (McKenzie, 1966), to the Fort Walton Phase (Willey, 1949) of the Florida Gulf Coast, or to other Mississippian Phases, are yet to be determined.

Other areas of this large site are of potential importance, also. Four 6 x 6 foot squares have been excavated into a large shell midden on the north edge of the site about 400 feet north of the mound. In this area, cultural material extends 2 feet down into the sand. Excavated and surface pottery here consists almost entirely of checked-stamped and plainware, and the area seems to contain an almost pure component of the late Woodland Henderson Phase described by Dickens (1966) in his Master's thesis. However, checked-stamped vessel feet and a few cord-marked sherds which tend to increase in relative frequency with depth, cloud this designation.

On the far west edge of the site, an intact midden has been found beneath a sterile river sand deposit in an area not cultivated. Large pits, some containing very large potsherds and post holes, extend beneath the midden into sterile sand. This area seems to contain an undisturbed component of the Bear Creek Phase and merits extensive excavation. This phase, also defined by Dickens (ibid, 67) is dated by radiocarbon to ca. 920 A.D.; the earlier Henderson Phase to ca. 550 A.D. (ibid, 59).

As excavations proceed, a surface survey in the area surrounding the site is being conducted along the Alabama River, its tributaries and abandoned river channels. To date, 26 sites have been recorded; several are preceramic and one contains Dalton points.

Finally, mention should be made of the lithic industry at Durante's Bend. Very little flint was imported to the site, and practically all stone artifacts were flaked from small river pebbles. Many of these are very simple tools, produced by one, 2 or 3 flake removals. These pebble tools are common in Woodland components in the area (David Chase, pers. comm.) and should be of some interest to those who have collected similar artifacts or have studied with Dan Josselyn.

The rest of the season probably will be spent excavating the undisturbed Mississippian area, part of the mound, and possibly a portion of the undisturbed late Woodland midden on the site's western edge.

#### Cited References:

Dickens, Roy S. Jr. 1966 Archaeology in the Jones Bluff Reservoir, Central Alabama, and Some Implications on Late Prehistoric Subsistence and Settlement Patterns. University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, unpubl. M.A. Thesis.

McKenzie, Douglas H. 1966 A Summary of the Moundville Phase, Part I: Description of the Phase. JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 1-59.

C. Roger Nance

OUR ELEVENTH ANNUAL DIG FUND

With the arrival of dig fund donations from some of our much-appreciated business contributors, we are delighted to finally admit that we at last see our goal for 1970 in sight! You will forgive us for seeming a bit pessimistic previously, and will now rejoice with us when we can seem optimistic. There is still some way to go, but we have every confidence that during the next several months, especially after those who attend our summer workshop meeting at the dig site on August 8th, get to view the results of our dig crew's labors, our fund will go "over the top".

In the order of their arrival, here are this month's "joiners":

ANONYMOUS BUSINESS DONOR #1: For the SEVENTH consecutive year, this generous Alabama organization expresses in dollars its appreciation of our archaeological efforts.

LIBERTY NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, in making its TENTH consecutive and unusually liberal contribution, increases our determination to show worthwhile results.

Edward C. Mahan, Grant, Ala., a CHARTER DONOR, maintains his record of consecutive payments at TWELVE, and designates this one for the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund.

Jack Coggins, Birmingham, also wishes his remittance to be credited as a Dan Josselyn Memorial, which we are happy to do upon receiving his THIRD donation over the years.

ANONYMOUS BUSINESS DONOR #2: Also for the SEVENTH consecutive year, we acknowledge this fine addition to our fund from a fine Alabama organization interested in science.

SOUTHERN LIFE & HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY: Another "regular" business donor increases to TEN the number of consecutive years it has generously assisted our cause.

Mrs. J. H. McCary, Birmingham, whose beloved husband was a CHARTER DONOR, continues the tradition in making her personal donation for the SIXTH time.

MONTGOMERY CHAPTER displays by their check an appreciation for the central Alabama dig being held this year in their bailiwick; this being their SECOND contribution.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Stonecypher, Huntsville, for the THIRD time, join our lengthening list of contributors, theirs this year to increase the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund.

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER, also a CHARTER DONOR, increases to EIGHT the number of subscriptions they have made to our annual digs over the years, a fine record.

Thus we can now brag a total of FIFTY-FOUR contributions this year to date, and with the year just more than half over, it would still be possible to reach that hundred mark and guarantee our Research Association will have on hand a sufficient amount to defray the dig expense they've agreed to underwrite. That blank at the bottom of the inside back cover of this Newsletter is there for YOU to use, and unless you've already attended to that intended chore, THIS MONTH is THE time. Thanks!

U.S. AND WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

"Resurrecting the Oldest Known Greek Ship", by Michael L. Katzev, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, June 1970. An article on undersea archaeology which will provide interesting reading



for amateur and professional alike. At 15 fathoms (90 feet) the author located a complete, lead sheathed merchant vessel with over 400 wine flasks, unusual millstones and a variety of other artifacts. The vessel was recovered in such a condition to be able to determine the construction method. Undersea archaeological techniques are discussed in fair detail. (J. H. Gustafson, Decatur Chapter)

MORE INFORMATION ON ST. ALBANS SITE - WEST VIRGINIA: A new C-14 date for the site is reported in the May 1970 Newsletter of the West Virginia Archaeological Society. Charcoal from Zone 16 was dated at 6850 B.C. This zone contained Kirk projectile points and is between 8 & 9 feet below the present surface which is 14 to 15 feet below the original surface, since about 6 feet of soil was removed during highway construction. Some previous dates for this site are:

Zone 4 - 6210 B.C. with Kanawha points

Zone 6 - 6300 B.C. with LeCroy points

Zone 11 - 6870 B.C. with St. Albans points

Zone 12 - 6880 B.C. with St. Albans points

Zone 18 - 6900 B.C. with Kirk points

Zone 20 - 6980 B.C. with Kirk points about half the size of those in Zones 16 & 18

Zone 36 - 7900 B.C. with one point, a side-notched concave based, tentatively named a Kessell point, and 2 corner-notched points which resemble the Kirk. These were found in a hearth at a depth between 15 & 16 feet below the present surface.

This site, which is located between U.S. Highway 60 and the Kanawha River, 15 miles west of Charleston, W. Va., is being destroyed by the erosion of the river. Bettye Broyles, Archaeologist with the W. Va. Geological Survey, who is excavating the site, published a preliminary report in the WEST VIRGINIA ARCHAEOLOGIST, No. 19, 1966. She has named 2 new point types and 2 tentative types. St. Albans Side Notched is a small triangular blade with a notched base, found between the Kirk and LeCroy zones. Kanawha is a stemmed point with a small triangular blade and a short rounded and shallow notched base found above the LeCroy. Coe feels this type is probably ancestral to his larger Stanly type. Kessell side notched is a tentative name for a thin, side notched point with a concave base. Only one was found. See Zone 36 under the listing of C-14 dates above. MacCorkle Stemmed is another tentative type which has a long, narrow triangular blade with a concave base. This appears to be a transitional type between Kirk and St. Albans.

In her summary, Miss Broyles lists the reasons for this site's importance:

1. It is one of the deepest stratified sites thus far discovered in North America.
2. It is one of the oldest.
3. Each occupation zone is separated from the one above and below by a sterile zone.
4. Only one type of projectile point has been found in each occupation zone.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

ENVIRONMENT & ARCHAEOLOGY: An Introduction to Pleistocene Geography by Karl W. Butzer, Aldine Publishing Co., Chicago, \$10.00. The author is Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin and has produced a scholarly textbook. It deals almost exclusively with European, African and Asian Pleistocene with only rare reference to the New World. The first two-thirds of the book is dedicated to a technical study of glacial and interglacial periods of the Pleistocene. The title is somewhat misleading as it infers environment during man's development but actually less than a third of the book is devoted to this period. Also, the omission of the New World was somewhat disappointing. An excellent book on Old World Pleistocene.

(A. J. Wright, Huntsville Chapter)

"SCIENCE AND THE SECRET OF MAN'S PAST, 1966, by Franklin Folsom, and copiously illustrated by Ursula Koering. 192 pages, including a short reading list and a complete index. The author, a former Vice President of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey, through the means of human stories, catalogs in chronological order, some 16 methods of finding a "clock of the universe" and presents a storehouse of information,

in very readable prose with a fresh approach, on dating methods that resulted from scientific research. This book is a broad, authoritatively written but deceptively simple to read, study of dating methods which proves that dating methods are not just interesting in themselves, but are indispensable for reconstructing the past. \$5.00 pp."

(NWAAS The Arkansas AMATEUR, June 1970)

NEW TEMPLE MOUND MUSEUM: The new facility for the museum at Fort Walton, Fla. is under construction on the east side of the Mound. Four times the size of the present museum building, it will have 3 times the present exhibit area. New exhibits are being designed in anticipation of using the additional materials presently in storage. Dr. Hale Smith, Florida State University, is Consultant.

Exploratory test digging of the area was conducted prior to letting of the contract to assure recovery of any aboriginal materials before ground-breaking. Several circumstances indicated a spring and creek had flowed through the area. A testing laboratory took several soil cores for foundation stability. Four trenches were put in, only 2 feet by 10 feet, but at random and oriented in conjunction with the lab tests. Evidence from all tests supported the presence of the creek. Trenches were dug in arbitrary levels and produced 1 spearpoint and 32 sherds of 4 Culture periods. A wealth of historic junk was encountered - glass & china, bricks, roofing material, metals, etc. Fill dirt strata was rather clear - gray sand, black humus, isolated clay layers, and heavy concretions of hardpan overlying white sand, almost without exception always full of the historic material. Final depth of most trenches went to 3 to 5 feet or the water table in white sand. Foundation trenches repeated evidence of historic fill and in appropriate areas an erosion slump from the mound - a restoration project for the future.

Open from 11:00 to 4:00 Daily, 1:00 to 4:00 Sunday, Memorial Day to Labor Day; and winter weekends, Saturday 11:00 to 4:00, Sunday 3:00 to 5:00. U.S. Highway 98.

(From THE MUSELETTER, #12-7/70)

#### CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at Cullman City Hall. The July program was a film concerning Dr. Leakey and the Dawn of Man in Olduvai Gorge. Members will exhibit artifact collections at the meeting.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in Room 100, Science Hall, Florence State University. At the June meeting, a color film entitled "New Mexico Highway Salvage Archaeology" was shown.

Noccalula Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at Etowah County Courthouse, Gadsden. "Working with Indians in Oklahoma" was Dr. Lucian Newman's subject at the July meeting. He treated Indian patients for 2 years in Oklahoma, working primarily with the Cherokee (Gall bladder ailment was most common among adults, probably due to diet; lung ailments were most prevalent among children). Richard and Juanita Battles will speak to the August meeting on "Archaeology in Germany", where they recently visited their son and his wife.

The Pastfinders, Birmingham Chapter Ladies' Auxiliary, last met in May at the home of Mrs. George Seibels, and the program was given by Dr. Milo Howard of Montgomery.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBER DURING JULY: (A lonesome one, for a reason.)

Margie Helm Library, Western Ky. Univ., G.W.Hall Study Center, Bowling Green, Ky. <sup>42101</sup>  
(Due to absence on vacation of our otherwise always on the job State Secretary, Rodger Schaefer, other new members will be listed next month, but in the meantime, will

receive a copy of this Newsletter, as soon as we learn who they are and where they live. Please forgive us - it doesn't happen often!

1970 SUMMER DIG CREW: So that you may know in advance the names and home towns of the members of the crew working down at Durante's Bend, the following are the full-term supervisors and students who will be on the job:

C. Roger Nance, Birmingham, Archaeologist in Charge  
Ernest B. Chandonet, Los Angeles, Calif., Assistant (or "straw-boss")  
Miss Jane E. Egeberg, Palo Alto, Calif.    Charles M. Hubbert, Florence  
Miss Vicki Lilley, Birmingham            Miss Cenda Lindsey, Gadsden  
R. Craig Ray, Birmingham                Robert Reynolds, Birmingham  
   William H. Wesley, Huntsville.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH under the auspices of the Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, is presently being conducted at Pinson Cave under the field direction of Carey B. Oakley. The cave was used for mortuary purposes about 1000 A.D. Everyone is cordially invited to attend an open house at the cave on Saturday, August 22nd. At this time exhibits and information about the cave will be presented. Directions to the cave can be obtained on August 22 at Pinson Junior High School, located on the right upon entering Pinson on Highway 75 North. The admission fee of \$1.00 will go to the Pinson High School Band.

SUMMER DIG OBSERVATIONS: At Durante's Bend on the Alabama River near Selma there's a cloud of dust with shovels sticking out of it. The sun bears down, the temperature reaches above 100 degrees, and the canvas water bags get light; but when the dust settles each afternoon, the grimy members of the summer dig crew talk excitedly about the day's work. Why was the infant burial fully extended when the adult burials have been under inverted burial urns? Why was the miniature burial urn placed upright over the face instead of inverted? Have any of those white pottery sherds with red paint been found in the new test pit at the far edge of the site? The talk continues through the evening meal, and when the 2 long dining tables are cleared, the field notes are brought out and pondered over and added to, and sketches are touched up. Sometimes, we "Johnnie come lately greenhorns" are entertained with awesome tales of digs in South America or Egypt. There is a lot of literature written by the experts lying around and constantly in use. Much is being found in the books as well as in the pits. Some time is being allotted to the task of locating more sites around the countryside, and the evidence shows that site 1Dsl is located in an area rich with prehistoric cultural remains. We here at 114 Maxey Street feel confident that the report on the 1970 summer dig will contain a lot of interesting new information about Alabama prehistory, especially information relating to the prehistoric activities on a tranquil spot on the Alabama River, Township 16 North, Range 12 East, Section 27, Benton Quadrangle.  
(William H. Wesley, Huntsville Chapter)

RANDOM THOUGHTS: If you have not been able to visit the summer dig, you might like to know a little about it. The site is quite large, and most of it is in direct sunlight. This is one of the hardest working crews that I have ever watched. With the Nance's, it's a family affair - Mrs. Nance (Vally) supervises the house, food and cataloguing, while Roger works the crew.

When you go to the site, don't miss the "Throne Room". I don't know who designed it or if a patent is pending, but if you have begun to feel fenced in, take a trip to Selma, go out to the excavation site and visit the Throne Room. You can pay nature's call out under the trees - just you and God and everybody. One of the girls on the crew said that the boys were all nice: "They don't look". Of course, it's a half mile away, so you can't see much. At that distance, you have to make up your mind ahead of time whether or not you want to go.

I notice that quite a bit is being said about lack of morals in the preservation of archaeological materials. We do not seem to have this problem in Etowah County.

Most of us are not buying, selling, trading or stealing materials, nor do we vandalize sites. Perhaps some of you who complain would like to know that sharing your knowledge person to person as to why we should preserve and how to do it, will help.

I don't know if anybody else is saddened when they hear or read of college and university buildings being destroyed and classes disrupted, but I am. I keep remembering how hard a college education was to come by and what a grand opportunity it was to learn and read and to listen to well-trained professors. A semester's tuition was often paid for by selling a cow - a calf wouldn't do it. Sometimes a yearling would bring enough - this meant the cow carried the calf 9 months and you raised it for a year. Special education might require a cow and a calf. When you planned ahead that much, I suppose you appreciated it more. (Gennie Lindsey, Noccalula Chapter)

MARK YOUR ARTIFACTS CORRECTLY: Especially for the benefit of the many new members who have joined the State Society since the listing was last published, we are again giving below the prefix symbols for Alabama counties recommended by the University of Alabama Archaeological Survey in their system of archaeological identification. After recording your site number and location on a topo map which will remain available to others indefinitely, your artifacts should be marked in indelible ink covered with lacquer or colorless nail polish, showing the county prefix and your site number, then your initials. The first letter of the county prefix symbol is upper case, and the second letter lower case. This procedure fixes the source of your artifacts for all time, and adds immeasurably to their scientific worth:

Autauga - - - Au	Conecuh - - - Cc	Houston - - - Ho	Morgan - - - - Mg
Baldwin - - - Ba	Coosa - - - - Cs	Jackson - - - Ja	Perry - - - - Pe
Barbour - - - Br	Covington - - Cv	Jefferson - - Je	Pickens - - - Pi
Bibb - - - - Bb	Crenshaw - - - Cr	Lamar - - - - Lr	Pike - - - - - Pk
Blount - - - - Bt	Cullman - - - Cu	Lauderdale - - Lu	Randolph - - - Ra
Bullock - - - Bk	Dale - - - - - Da	Lawrence - - - La	Russell - - - - Ru
Butler - - - - Bu	Dallas - - - - Ds	Lee - - - - - Le	St. Clair - - - Sc
Calhoun - - - Ca	DeKalb - - - - Dk	Limestone - - Li	Shelby - - - - Sh
Chambers - - - Ch	Elmore - - - - Ee	Lowndes - - - Lo	Sumter - - - - Su
Cherokee - - - Ce	Escambia - - - Es	Macon - - - - Mc	Talladega - - Ta
Chilton - - - Cn	Etowah - - - - Et	Madison - - - Ma	Tallapoosa - - Tp
Choctaw - - - Cw	Fayette - - - Fa	Marengo - - - Mo	Tuscaloosa - - Tu
Clarke - - - - Ck	Franklin - - - Fr	Marion - - - - Mr	Walker - - - - Wa
Clay - - - - - Cy	Geneva - - - - Ge	Marshall - - - Ms	Washington - - Wn
Cleburne - - - Cb	Greene - - - - Gr	Mobile - - - - Mo	Wilcox - - - - Wx
Coffee - - - - Co	Hale - - - - - Ha	Monroe - - - - Mn	Winston - - - Wi
Colbert - - - Ct	Henry - - - - He	Montgomery - - My	

MORE RE THE BARTRAM TRAIL: The following is taken from "Environmental Newsletter of the Alabama Conservancy", June 1970: It is 195 years since William Bartram made his historic journey through the southeast, naming and describing plants and animals, studying the Indians, and writing of Alabama and Georgia in their original and unspoiled state. Following in his footsteps, the first links of a Bartram Trail were walked by Georgia members of the Bartram Trail Society on March 21 near the marker of Old Fort Perry. Six miles of trail were marked in April. In May, 13.9 miles were identified near the site of old Fort Barrington on the Altamaha River in McIntosh County. Here Bartram first saw the "lost" Franklinia, which has not been found in the wild since 1790. On Saturday, June 20th, Society members will meet at the site of Fort Perry, and on July 4, at Buffalo Lick. (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

Calvin McGee, Chief of the Creek Indians east of the Mississippi, died in Atmore, Ala. in June at the age of 66. He had been in the news of late because of his efforts to obtain more money for the Creek land taken by the government after the battle of Horseshoe Bend. (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)



## EDUCATIONAL PAGE

### GEOMORPHOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Geomorphology, the science concerned with the origin and evolution of landforms, can be a vital tool in interpretive field archaeology. Landforms are a primary governing factor in the patterns of human activity including patterns of habitation, farming and foraging, territorial endeavors, transportation, etc. Geomorphology in itself is an interesting and complex science, yielding the enthusiast an always present case for study, wherever his travels may take him. Included within the scope of geomorphology are the primary land divisions of continental platforms and ocean basins, and secondary features of mountains, plains, plateaus, lakes, rivers and caverns.

Herodotus and Aristotle are the earliest known students of geomorphology, having actually measured certain land forming phenomena, and used the observations to speculate on origins of river basins, springs, caves, mountains and other earth features.

How can geomorphology help the archaeologist? In the search for ancient habitations and the interpretation of the history of those habitations, one must seek out historic or prehistoric patterns influencing the selection of specific habitations. These patterns include such interrelated specifics as climate, availability of water for consumption and transportation, and harshness of terrain and the protection afforded by it.

Man seldom congregates in any numbers on vast, monotonous terrain; rather, habitations tend to concentrate in distinctly definable geographic areas, areas with characteristic, normally beneficial earth features.

The archaeologist who can interpret terrain to seek out definitively desirable areas will have much improved probability in his search for ancient, obscure habitation.

How does one become competent in geomorphology? The answer is study and observation. Texts on the subject are available at local universities and libraries. The greatest text available, however, is constant observation which will soon permit one to make competent analyses of the potential of an area for man's past presence.

T. R. Gray, Birmingham Chapter

(Author's note: This is an introduction to a series of short articles on the subject, the remainder being specific concerning Alabama terrain in relation to archaeology. T.R.G.)



## 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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To THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for

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(Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico: \$1.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional membership, \$10.00 additional for Individual Life and \$15.00 additional for Joint Life Membership)

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## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your check should be made payable to the association as shown above.

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