

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 47, Issue 5

Editor:

McDonald Brooms

Associate Editors:

Clarissa Williams

Stephen Williams



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Editorial Office:

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy University

Troy, AL 36082

☎ 334-670-3638

Fax # 334-670-3706

Email: mcbrooms@troy.edu

Cottonfield Meditations 8



In 1956 two friends and I went camping during the Spring Break. We camped in a big bend of the Buttahatchie River in Marion County, Alabama. All the land inside the bend was cultivated. Searching the rows of last years corn crop, we found hundreds of stone artifacts lying on the surface, scattered over the entire bend. At the lower end of the bend, where the river curved back, it ran at the foot of a high bluff. Across the river the land was hilly, and the folds and pinnacles of the hills were covered were hardwoods. I remember a moment when I stood in the middle of the bend and looked toward the low ground at the foot of the bluff. The new leaves forming on the trees looked like a wavy, bright green mist over the hillsides. The thought that kept going round and around in my mind was, "Why did they pick this place?" That question was to become the most abiding archaeological inquiry of my lifetime.

Later I would narrow the focus of my interests, until the question became, "Where did PaleoIndian people live...and why did they live there?" It is not likely that anyone knows the full answer to the question...but I have some thoughts.

PaleoIndian people in this part of the world lived in relatively small groups. The groups consisted of families. There were probably three generations represented in a family group, and a few people from other groups who had married into the family. A group would have a total of about 40 to 60 people. They were familiar with a territory which they thought of as "home". During most of the year they moved around seasonally within their territory as foods became abundant in various locations. Their territory was large enough for them to get plenty of food and the materials they needed to live. The territories were probably a few miles long by a few miles wide. Anthropologists consider people who live like this to be living at the "band" level of human organization.

Visit the AAS Web Page:

<http://www.southalabama.edu/aas.html>

PaleoIndian people were aware they had neighbors not too far away. In fact, they were related to most of their neighbors. Once every year, likely in late summer, neighboring bands would camp at the same place. They would camp together so they could give thanks to the great Maker of Life, and could pray for plenty during the coming year. The sounds of the drums carried prayers up to the heavens, and the people all sang and danced prayers. They talked together, and told stories together, and traded together, and played games together, and chased pretty girls together...and as they all sang and danced together they came to feel that they were a "people".

Scattered across the landscapes of Alabama there must be a few places where these kinds of gatherings took place. If we were to look at those places today we would see clusters of chipped stone debris that are separated from one another, but fairly nearby. Many or most of them will contain the lost or broken remains of fluted spear points. Archaeology has not yet identified such a place, but we know they must be here. The Quad Site, on the Tennessee River, looked like that but it has now been washed away. We will never know if those clusters of stone debris and artifacts were all occupied at the same time...or if they were occupied year after year.

When thinking about PaleoIndian people, one thing is for sure and should always be remembered: that PaleoIndian people could live anywhere they decided to. It was not crowded in those days. Their world was an infinite and unrestricted number and variety of potential camp sites, and they could choose whichever ones they decided. I wonder if we can figure what was the basis for their decisions?

Submitted by Charles McConnell Hubbert.

The Clovis in the Southeast, Technology Time and Space

This conference will be held in Columbia, SC on October 26-29, 2005 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Up to 1,000 people may register for the conference, which will consist of programs, exhibits, traditional scientific presentations, and a tour bus trip to South Carolina's Big Pine Tree and Topper sites. For more information, visit: www.clovisinthesoutheast.net

Interesting Artifact



This unique axe was found in northeast Arkansas along the Mississippi River. It has an extremely high degree of polish and is most likely a ceremonial piece of the Mississippian culture. It is grooved from top to bottom on both sides and measures 7 1/4 inches long. At its widest point, it measures 2 5/8 inches across and towards the bit end its height measures about 3 1/2 inches. There are small fossil inclusions in the greenstone. Also the bit is very sharp. Submitted by Fred Barnes.

Serving and Learning Together: A Family's Continued Experiences as Archaeological Volunteers

Each winter, our family plans together summer volunteer archaeology work with the Passport in Time Program (PIT) of the U.S. Forest Service. PIT Program volunteers learn survey, excavation and laboratory skills under the supervision of federal and university archaeologists. In addition to our group of five, volunteers included seniors from other southeastern states, a few families, and undergraduate anthropology and sociology majors from Radford University and the University of South Carolina.



This year, we selected the Keyser Farm Site (44Pa1) in Page County, Virginia. Keyser Farm is the site of the 2005 Field School of the Archaeological Society of Virginia co-hosted by Passport in Time. Mountains frame the pastoral site, which is adjacent to the historic Shenandoah River north of Washington, D.C. Local ranchers use the property as grazing land under a lease agreement with the Forest Service.

Archaeologist Mike Barber provided an overview of the Woodland Period in western Virginia. Carl Manson and Howard MacCord excavated Keyser Farm in 1940; James Griffith of

the University of Michigan analyzed artifacts. According to Dr. Barber, "nearly 100 refuse-filled pits were excavated along with 16 burials. Ceramics were shell tempered, limestone tempered, and sand tempered. Stone tools were made primarily of quartz and jasper with a small percentage of chert and quartzite. Bone tools included a large number of deer metatarsal beamers, awls, chipping tools, and box turtle carapace cups. Artifacts collected included ceramics, stone and bone tools, as well as copper beads, marine shell beads, a small quantity of charred corn, and antler headdresses."



Dr. Barber discussed the work plan, which included seeking evidence of horticulture as a planned part of the diet during Late Woodland times. We anticipated finding fired clay ceramics, points, animal bone, shell, fire-cracked rock, as well as features indicating presence of hearths and wigwam posts. Excavation tasks included bagging all feature soil gathered from the 1x1 meter units for flotation.

Two of our group elected to work on flotation. Single units were screened separately. The other three found partners to excavate new units. A field lab was set up nearby the units and supervised by an experienced volunteer from the state of Virginia.

Although the July heat seemed oppressive, we settled into a routine of early morning excavation, a break for lunch, and continued work before summer thunderstorms in the late afternoon. Hydration was a prime concern. Each day, we

looked for a pair of immature bald eagles sitting in the shade of wizened trees near the excavation.

Excavation within features was slow with the use of trowels, bone tools, and spoons. Most of the ceramics discovered were tempered with crushed mussel shell and cord marked known as the Keyser Series. A second type of ceramic discovered, the Patomac Creek Series, is tempered with crushed rock, decorated with cord impressions, and smoothed near the rim and inside surface. We followed intersecting features across several units and considered which was refuse pits and which may represent ancient hearths or post molds. All artifacts were bagged and labeled with the provenience.

Finding artifacts similar to those described by Manson, et al. sixty years ago excited our team of volunteers. Discoveries included small quartzite triangular points, lithic cores and flakes, ceramics, greenstone scrapers, and bone tools (awl and needle, metatarsal beamer, bifurcated sharpened hand tools). In addition, we found animal bone, shell and teeth (elk, deer, bear, turkey, beaver, raccoon, rodent, box turtle), acorn, mussel and round beads fashioned of shell. A fragile hollowed deer antler headdress was especially valued. We learned to protect this find on a pedestal until it could be removed intact.

The second author thoroughly enjoyed getting to know her grandfather and "showing him the ropes" as he was a new PIT Program volunteer. Close work quarters permitted friendly relations and exchange of personal life stories. Experienced volunteers encouraged novices to develop knowledge and skills and gain confidence in excavation, identification, washing and storing artifacts. Evenings featured lively discussion of daily progress, swimming in the Shenandoah River, and gazing into Luray Valley from the perch of our mountain cabin. Submitted by Brian F. Geiger, Ed.D., and Emily Geiger-Willis

References:

Barber, M.B. 2005 *Passport in Time/Archaeological Society of Virginia. Field School 2005. An Introduction to the Keyser Farm Site (44Pa1)*. Page County, Virginia.

Manson, C., MacCord, H.A., & Griffith, J.B. 1944. *The culture of the Keyser Farm Site. Papers of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters 1943, Vol. XXIX*, Ann Arbor.

For information about volunteering or general PIT info, visit their website at:

www.passportintime.com

Donations and Gifts

Our most stalwart donor, Howard King, contributed to the Wimberly scholarship fund each of the last two months. These were Howard's fifth and sixth donations this year. We say "Thank you" to Howard King on a regular basis, but we never get tired of doing so.

Our other donor this period is Christina Brown who sent a check in support of the Education Projects fund. This was Christina's first gift to the Society funds. We especially appreciate and need new supporters for our grant programs.

All three of our grants are fully funded for this year. Thanks to everyone who helped. I hesitate to say that, though, because I don't want that to defer contributions. Any surplus will carry over toward next year's grants. And what is postponed is easily forgotten.



FUND BALANCES:

Education Projects Fund: \$1,143.00

Mahan Research Fund: \$1,375.00

Wimberly Scholarship Fund: \$1,725.50

Membership

We have 31 new members so far this year!
Keep spreading the word!

New Members

Stanley Gillespie, Hillsboro AL
Don Hudson, Auburn AL
Bobby Braly, Knoxville TN
Robert McGough, Troy AL

Renewals

Lawrence Alexander, Wildwood GA
Jerry Brown, Huntsville AL
Penelope Drooker, Albany NY
Patty Crow, Birmingham AL
Phylis Floyd, Opelika AL
Paul Jones, Tampa FL
Richard & Roberta Marlin, Mt. Olive AL
Bettye Lessley, Sylacauga AL
Mary Spanos, Alabaster AL
Christina Brown, Fairhope AL
Michael Quinn, Montrose AL
William Devore, Memphis TN
Frank Schnell, Bradenton FL

NEH Supported Website Goes Online

The Office of Archaeological Research has completed its major collection rehabilitation project funded by NEH Grant PA-50138-03. The project has been described in some earlier articles in *Stones & Bones*. To summarize the work, the grant was a matching grant to fund the rehabilitation of the archaeological collections from projects done in Alabama under the direction of Walter B. Jones and David L. DeJarnette. The projects

ranged in date from 1930-1978. The grant did not cover the Moundville collections, which were complete, or any collections which are property of a Federal agency.

During the two-year grant period, OAR Staff processed 80 collections including over 65,000 bags of specimens and totaling 1,689 cubic feet. Approximately 12 feet of associated documents were also processed. Photographs were not covered by the grant. The 80 collections were organized into seven broad groups: 1) Warrior River, 2) Mobile Bay/Gulf Coast, 3) Chhattahoochee Survey, 4) Coosa River Drainage, 5) Jefferson County, 6) Protohistoric, and, 7) Other, Early CRM.

As part of the grant, OAR produced a collection report for each collection. Each collection report includes a brief summary of the project which produced the collection and information on the collection contents and organization. Summary statistics on the collection size are also included, along with a bibliography of reports and papers. The reports are accompanied by over 500 photographs of the field work and selected artifacts along with copies of some of the field forms and other documents. The website provides a wealth of information on the collections, their contents, and the history of Alabama archaeology.

Visit the site at:

<http://museums/ua/edu/oar/NEH/index.html>

What's Happening

Troy University Archaeological Research Center

During the summer, the Archaeological Research Center at Troy University completed several large scale surveys.

In May, the ARC completed a proposed hurricane evacuation route in Baldwin County which consisted of 3 corridors approximately 4.25 miles in length between the Foley Expressway and Highway 182.



Jonathan Dobbs and Paul Brooms make a new friend in Baldwin county.

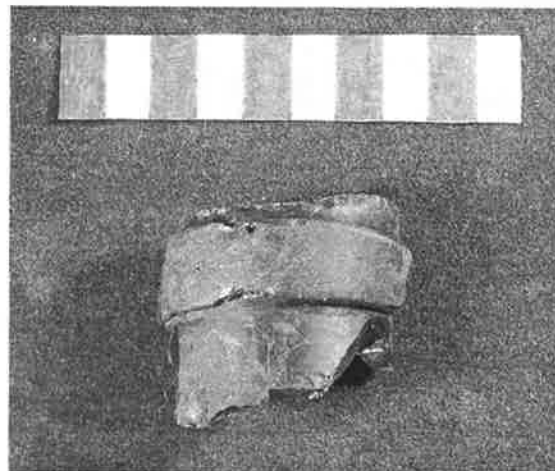
In June, they surveyed a four mile section of the Ross Clark Circle in Dothan, Alabama. Two prehistoric sites were discovered and recorded as Site 1Ho228 and Site 1Ho229.



Stephen Williams & Brooke Lowery look through the screen for artifacts.

In July, the ARC traveled to Escambia County to try to determine the exact location of "missing" Fort Crawford. This fort was constructed on a bluff overlooking Burnt Corn Creek in 1816 on the order of General Andrew Jackson to be a stronghold against the Seminoles. No records give the

exact location of the fort, and locals seem to have different ideas as to where the fort actually stood. Several properties were tested, but the only period artifact recovered was a green glass bottle fragment. The ARC may return at a later date to test other properties in the vicinity.



Bottle fragment recovered from East Brewton.

August took the ARC crew to Gantt, Alabama, where they began testing 400+ acres owned by the Alabama Electric Cooperative. This project is still ongoing and five sites have been discovered so far.



Terri Lowery & Clarissa Williams shovel testing in Gantt.

AAS Chapter Presidents

Bill Fowler - Birmingham Chapter
1308 Sumar Road
Birmingham, AL 35213
wk.at.fowler@att.net

Robbie Camp - Cullman Chapter
3175 Co. Rd. 702
Hanceville, AL 35077
racamp2@aol.com
256-737-9390

Allison Chamblee - Troy Chapter
Troy University Box 820622
Troy, AL 36082
334-670-4941 (Home)
334-670-3638 (Archaeology Department)

Dr. Phillip E. Koerper - Coosa Valley Chapter
JSU Box 3093
700 Pelham Rd. N
Jackson State University
Jacksonville, AL 36265
256-782-5604

Gary Mullen - East Alabama Chapter
2102 Longwood Drive
Auburn, AL 36830-7108
334-887-2554

Gerald R. Jerry Hester - Muscle Shoals Chapter
900 Spring Cove Road
Florence, AL 35634
256-757-3852

Richard Kilborn - Huntsville Chapter
1502 Rice Road SW
Hartselle, AL 35640
rlkilborn@aol.com

Louis Scott- South West Chapter
8813 Dawes Lake Road
Mobile, AL 36619
251-633-4689
louis_tanya@yahoo.com

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Alabama Archaeological Society Student Paper Award

Any person currently enrolled in a BA or MA granting program and a member of the AAS may submit a paper for the student paper award. Only single-authored papers are eligible and the paper must be presented at the annual winter meeting. The paper should be written for presentation to a general audience consisting of amateurs, professionals, and students. The length of the paper should be such that it can be presented in a 15-minute time slot and additionally should include references cited to aid in judging. Papers must be submitted in advance of the meeting for judging by a committee appointed by the AAS Board of Directors and a completed registration form should accompany the submission.

Submit three double-spaced copies of the paper to the AAS Student Paper Award Committee by November 15th. The author will insure that the same version of the paper reviewed for the competition is offered for presentation at the annual meeting. Only one paper submitted per applicant may be considered for the award. Mail the entry to: Dr. Philip Carr, AAS Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, HUMB 34, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688-0002.

The winner of the Student Paper Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society associated with the Winter Meeting. The winner must pick up the book prize at the meeting. The committee reserves the prerogative to defer the award in the event of a shortage of competitive entries.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Enrolled at: _____

Major Professor: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Title of Paper: _____

AAS Scholarships

The Alabama Archaeological Society will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250.00 each. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair by a deadline of 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 of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society.

Public Education

The Alabama Archaeological Society will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Public Education Committee Chairman by October 1st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals and make an announcement of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the public education project must be located in the State of Alabama.

Contact the Public Education Committee Chair for grant application requirements.

Research Grant

The Alabama Archaeological Society will grant an award of \$500.00 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and an announcement of the recipient shall be made at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 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.

Contact the Archaeological Resources Chairman for grant application requirements.

Scholarship Grant

Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

Public Education Grant

Linda Derry
Old Cahawba
719 Tremont Street
Selma, Alabama 36701-5446

Research Grant

Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

Available Publications

Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 21-31, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$6.00pp
Vol. 40 (Dust Cave), special issue.....	\$18.00pp
Vol. 44 (Alabama Ceramics), special issue.....	\$18.00pp

Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)

Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 -reprint.....	\$7.50pp
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The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama

Special Publication 2.....	\$6.00pp
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Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend

Special Publication 3.....	\$8.00nn
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Membership

The form below may be used for any or all of the following: applying for membership, payment of annual membership dues, change of address, or donations. Please be sure to print your name and address clearly, and check the appropriate boxes. All checks should be made payable to: **Alabama Archaeological Society**. Send the membership form and/or publication orders to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
Archaeological Services
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

The Alabama Archaeological Society Membership Form

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DONATIONS

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ E-mail _____

Life (individual).....\$500.00

Sustaining (individual).....\$30.00

Joint Life (husband & wife).....\$600.00

Sustaining (couple).....\$35.00

Annual (individual).....\$20.00

Annual (institutional).....\$30.00

Annual Family (husband, wife,
children under 18).....\$25.00

Associate (students under age 18).....\$14.00

First Class Postage (per year).....\$5.00

Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Edward C. Mahan Research Fund \$ _____

Public Education Special Projects Fund \$ _____

*All donations are tax deductible.

**Residents of foreign countries, including Canada and Mexico, please add: \$5.00 for Annual Individual, Institutional, or Associate; \$100.00 for Life; and \$100.00 for Joint Life

ARTIFACTS!

Do you have any interesting artifacts that you would like to share with the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society? If you do, please send a description of the artifact and a color photo (black and white is fine if that's all you have) to the editorial staff here at *Stones & Bones* and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Are you a reader? Do you read interesting books about archaeology and related topics? Do you think others might be interested in reading the same books? If so, *Stones & Bones* would like to hear from you. If you have read an interesting book, write a review and send it to us. Book reviews are a good way of letting others know about archaeological publications which may be of interest.

TELL US ABOUT IT!

The editorial staff at *Stones & Bones* is looking for articles to publish and we would like those articles to come from you the members. If you have visited a site recently that you found to be of interest (it doesn't have to be in Alabama) tell us about it. If you have been doing research on a particular topic, tell us about it. If you have been involved in anything else archaeological, tell us about it. These do not have to be professional papers, so please feel free to contribute. If you have color pictures (if you only have black and white photos that's fine) which accompany your article, please send those as well and we will include them with your article.



**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER ISSUE OF STONES & BONES IS
OCTOBER 15TH.**



Alabama Archaeological Society
40 Eldridge Hall
Troy University
Troy, AL 36082-0001

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