

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

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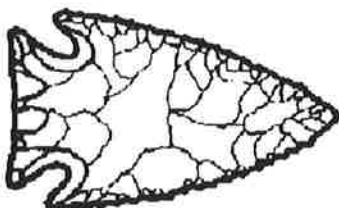
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New Members



The total number of members in the AAS is currently 460. The following is a list of the newest members:

John W. Graham
1108 Rocky Bayou Drive
Niceville, Fl 35278

University of North Carolina
Serials Dept.
Davis Library
CB# 3938
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890

Eufala Carnegie Library
217 North Eufala Avenue
Eufala, Al 36027

Mark J. McDougal
178 Bordon Rd.
Laceys Spring, Al 35754

Meg Graham
6007 Prestige Valley
Morrow, GA 30260

Mark A. Rees
PO Box 2522
Norman, OK 73070

Mashantucket Pequot
Research Library
111 Pequot Trail
PO Box 3180
Mashantucket, CT 06339

Houston-Love Memorial Library
PO Box 1369
Dothan, Al 36302

Troy and Monique Jordan
Route 3 Box 197-P
Brewton, AL 36426

A Reminder



A reminder to all members of the Alabama Archaeological Society that dues for 1996 are due in January. Send your annual dues by using the MEMBERSHIP page at the end of the newsletter. Mail dues and membership form to Alabama Archaeological Society; 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park; Moundville, Alabama 35474.

What's Happening Around the State

The Council on Alabama Archaeology held its winter meeting at the AUM laboratory on January 12, 1996. Highlights of the meeting included a discussion of the qualifications of the State Archaeologist (a position soon to be filled by the Alabama Historical Commission), curation standards for cultural material recovered from federal archaeological projects, and the election of officers. Officers for 1996 are: Bill Turner (archaeologist for the Alabama Department of Transportation)-President; Jack Bergstresser (UAB)-Vice President; and Kathy Manning (archaeologist for the Federal Forest Service)-Secretary.



The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services mitigated a portion of Site 1Bt15, the Blackburn Fork site, in Blount County, Alabama, which is being funded by the Alabama Department of Transportation. The site primarily dates to the Alexander culture, with a significant Colbert culture being present as well. The ceramic assemblage includes a total of 13,272 sherds. The Gulf Formational and Middle Woodland ceramics will be discussed here.

The Wheeler (ca. 1200 to 900 B.C.) occupation of the site is represented by 303 sherds. This includes 2.28 percent of the total ceramic assemblage. Pottery is primarily divided between Wheeler Plain (n=175) and Wheeler Dentate (n=188). Wheeler Simple Stamped (n=3) and Wheeler Punctated (n=6) are minority wares. Most of the specimens have a sandy paste with moderate to minute amounts of fiber. Fewer specimens have dense quantities of fiber tempering and a chalkier texture. The majority of sherds have smoothed interior and exterior surfaces, although several specimens have been burnished on the interior surface.

The primary occupation of the site is manifested in 9,102 Alexander sherds, dating ca. 900 to 400 B.C. This encompasses 68.58 percent of the total ceramic assemblage. Alexander pottery is divided into four major types: O'Neal Plain (n=8,005), Alexander Incised (n=695), Alexander Punctated (n=275), and Alexander Pinched (n=74). The incised, punctated, and pinched ceramics are further subdivided into varieties. Two new varieties were defined for the site: Alexander Incised, *var. Blackburn Fork* (n=208), consisting of incised sloppy, parallel lines; and Alexander Punctated, *var. Chert Mountain* (n=79), consisting of squarish half-moon or square-lettered "C" punctations (probably executed using a bone awl). The Alexander pottery assemblage, in general, is tempered with moderate to large amounts of subangular to rounded sand. Interior surfaces are more commonly burnished than not. Certain type-varieties also have burnished exterior surfaces. Rim nodes, lip ticking, and lip notching are common, and are particular to certain type-varieties.

The Middle Woodland Colbert culture (ca. 300 B.C. to A.D. 100) is represented by 3,249 sherds, encompassing 24.48 percent of the total ceramic assemblage. The Colbert assemblage includes Mulberry Creek Plain (n=2,679) and Long Branch Fabric Marked (n=569). One sherd of residual decoration is also included within this group. In general, the limestone -tempered pottery is in poor condition. Few rim sherds were identified due to their eroded state.

Unclassified sand/grit-tempered ceramics total 559, representing 4.21 percent of the ceramic assemblage. A number of these probably are associated with the Alexander occupation, especially the residual incised (n=240) and residual punctated (n=201) specimens. Other specimens, especially the fabric-marked (n=49), may be associated with the Early Woodland Watts Bar tradition of the upper Tennessee Valley or the Early Woodland Kellogg culture of north Georgia. Their relationship is tenuous, however.

Following the sherd analysis, distinct and unique rim sherds were pulled to determine a minimum vessel count for the assemblage. Colbert sherds were excluded from this analysis due to their poor condition, as were grog and shell-tempered wares. Two-hundred vessels were identified, including 79 Alexander, 10 Wheeler, and 11 Unclassified Sand/Grit-tempered vessels. The Alexander vessels consist primarily of beaker forms. Seven Alexander bowls were identified. Beaker forms are suspected for the Wheeler and Unclassified vessels.

The results of the analysis are currently being written up for the final report. Analysis of the ceramic assemblage has provided valuable information pertaining to the Alexander culture in this region. This analysis, ultimately, may help to define a new Alexander phase for this region of Alabama.

*submitted by Catherine C. Meyer
Cultural Resource Analyst
Office of Archaeological Services
University of Alabama*



Troy State University Archaeological Research Center will begin Phase III mitigation in Ashford, Al on February 1st . Three out of five sites that were investigated by TSUARC in December; 1Ho151, 1Ho152, and 1Ho155 were determined eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. One site to be mitigated is a coastal plain chert quarry site and the other two are lithic workshop sites associated with the quarry site. Both were also used as hunting camps during their prehistoric occupation.

Chapter News

Cullman County

The Cullman County Chapter held their meeting on January 15th. The members watched a video of "The People of the Bog," which focuses on burials in England and Indian burials in Florida.

Member News

The following is a list of contributors to the Wimberly and Mahan funds:

Mahan Fund:

M/M Everett Hatcher
Birmingham, Al

Wimberly Fund:

Steven and Jennifer Meredith
Alabaster, Al

Wimberly and Mahan Funds:

Leonard H. Roberts
Dothan, Al

We would like to thank the above members for their contributions and want to encourage the remaining members to follow their lead.

In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past

Nineteen years ago in January, 1977, Mr. Howard King was elected president of the AAS.

The Huntsville Chapter listened to Mr. Tom Cornell who gave a stratigraphic outline of the fossil record in Madison County, including the geological location of flints and cherts preferred by the aboriginals.

The Birmingham Chapter was presented a program on Mexican archaeology by Mr. Tom Hutto.

(Taken from January 1977 issue of Stones and Bones)

Calendar

March 8, 1996- The Alabama Academy of Science will be held at Tuskegee University. A number of interesting papers in archaeology and anthropology will be presented by both students and professionals around the state. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Contact Dr. Harry Holstein at Jacksonville State University for more details.

November 7-10, 1996- The annual meeting for the American Society for Ethnohistory will be held at The Portland Hilton in Portland, Oregon. Papers, organized sessions, special events, and speakers that treat any world area are encouraged. Abstracts of 50-100 words on appropriate submission forms and preregistration fees of \$45 (non-members), \$35 (members), \$15 (students/retired) are due by **May 31, 1996.**

Write for submission forms and return to :

Jacqueline Peterson
ASE 1996 Meeting Chair
Department of History
Washington State University
1812 E. McLoughlin Blvd.
Vancouver, WA 98663
(360) 737-2179

Limited travel funds will be available on a competitive basis for students presenting papers. More detailed abstracts will be required. Write to the Meeting Chair for application forms and further details.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$6.00pp
<i>Stanfield- Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....	\$7.50pp
Special Publication 2 - <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$6.00pp
Special Publication 3 - <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend ..</i>	\$8.00pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$15.00pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile).....	\$9.00pp

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The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that appropriate boxes are checked.

TO: THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

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☐ REPORTING OF NEW ADDRESS

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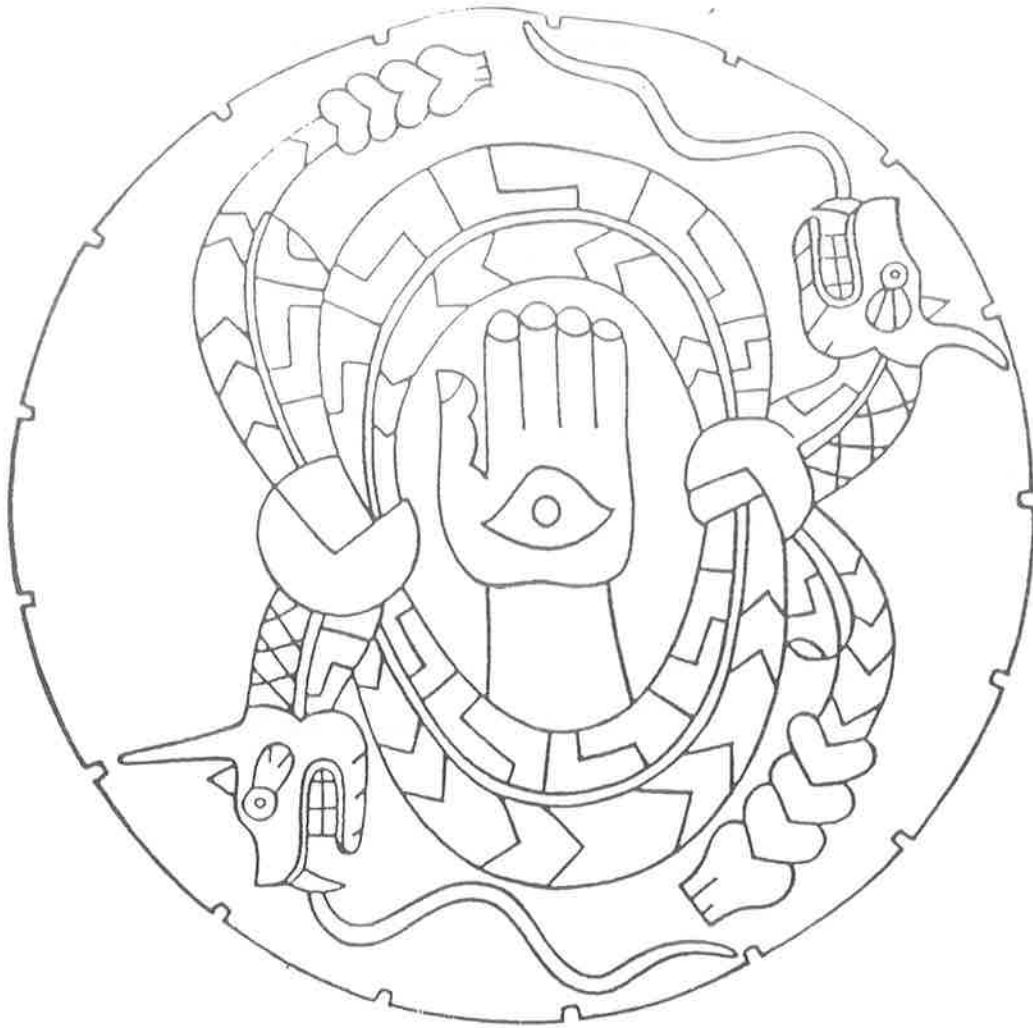
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