

Stones & Bones

The Newsletter of the Alabama Archaeological Society • Volume 50, Issue 3 • May-June 2008

Volunteers Sought at Old St. Stephens

By George Shorter

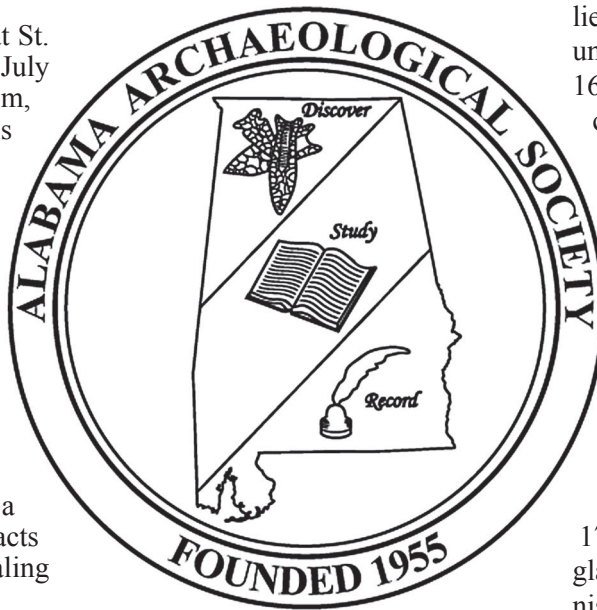
Archaeological research continues at the first major project in Old St. Stephens, first Territorial Capital of Alabama and a boom-town from 1815-1820. Under the direction of George Shorter, archaeologist at the University of South Alabama, excavations are underway at the old Globe Hotel and later residence and dry-goods store of the Chamberlain family. We meet at the site one Saturday a month to carry on this research. Volunteers are needed to excavate and to sort artifacts.

Our next Saturday work day at St. Stevens Historical Park will be July 12, from at 8:00 am until 4:00 pm, but come whenever you can. This month we will be working in our newly completed, air-conditioned field lab.

Volunteers will separate glass, ceramics, iron, copper-brass, bone, and other artifacts from materials recently excavated near the slave's quarters. Included are buttons, sewing thimbles, clay pipes, door keys, horse tack, spoons, glass beads, and bone-handle knives to name a few. It is great fun discovering artifacts not seen for almost 200 years revealing

the lives of some of Alabama's first settlers, pioneers on the western frontier of our new nation.

No experience is needed!!! Youth, under age 14, must be accompanied by an adult. Participants should bring lunch and soft drinks. No park admission charged. For more information and a map check our web site, www.oldst-stevens.com or email George Shorter at gshorter@jaguar1.usouthal.edu. You may also call the St. Stephens office (251) 460-6790 or Mike Breedlove Sr., site manager at (251) 246-9788 or 769-4634. Hope to see you at Old St. Stephens. We need and value your help. ■



Looking for the Lost Colony: 16th Century Artifacts Uncovered at Fort Raleigh NHS

From the NPS web at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm>

An archeological excavation undertaken to answer some of the many questions regarding the mystery of the Lost Colony underway at Fort Raleigh

National Historic Site, North Carolina, has turned up a number of important discoveries, including copper plates and 16th century English artifacts.

In 2006, the Southeast Archeological

Center conducted a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey in three areas of the park. NPS archeologists determined that two rectangular-shaped anomalies warranted additional field exploration. Archeologists used radar tomography technology (akin to ultrasound) to provide an accurate picture of what was buried beneath the surface.

A team of archeologists and geophysicists began work at the sites earlier this year. At one of the sites, they uncovered 14 copper plates and some 16th century English artifacts. The copper squares were pierced at opposite corners and were lying edge-to-edge in the ground, indicating that they had been strung together like a necklace. The other artifacts included an English tobacco pipe bowl, a gray flint (a probable gunspall), a small lead ball, Spanish olive jar sherds, one crucible sherd, and three delftware glazed ceramic sherds. The second small rectangular-cut pit contained 17 white and 1 blue glass Venetian glass beads of a type that English colonists brought to America to trade. Other finds included 16th-century type Native American and European potsherds, nails, part of an iron knife, and a Native American red clay tobacco pipe.

Results of the recent research question whether the newly discovered artifacts were deposited by the Indians or the English colonists. Between 1585 and 1587, English colonists established a settlement on Roanoke Island. The settlement was abandoned and the colony members disappeared after three years elapsed without supplies from England, leading to the continuing mystery of their subsequent history.



Artifacts from the Globe/Chamberlain site.

George Shorter



AAS Summer Meeting 2008

By Ashley Dumas

The annual Summer Meeting was held at Tannehill State Park on Saturday, June 21. Over 30 members were recorded as in attendance. Our summer meetings are usually rather laid back affairs, with plenty of time for socializing and catching up, and this year was no exception. Also keeping with tradition, our summer meeting often takes place at the site of the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Expedition. This year, the Expedition was involved in a second season of excavations at the site of probable 1860's slave cabins associated with the Tannehill iron furnaces. Dr. Jack Bergstressor, archaeologist for the park and director of the Iron and Steel Museum, was the lead archaeologist. Jack gave tours of the site and let AAS members excavate in a structure whose function is not yet known. The excavation squares that we worked on mostly turned up pieces of iron kettles and some coarse earthenware ceramics. Perhaps this was a common kitchen used by residents in nearby cabins. We were fortunate to take part in this fascinating look at an early Alabama industry.

Before lunch, AAS members and the Board of Directors gathered for a brief business meeting. President Ashley Dumas updated everyone on the state of the society and plans for future field trips were discussed. (Stay tuned for more information on those.) As advertised in the last Stone and Bones, a dues increase was introduced for vote by the membership, and it was approved. The new dues schedule will be posted on the website and on the following page of this newsletter.

While some participants continued to excavate after lunch, others preferred to keep cool under a tent and talk archaeology. Long-time member Heard Floyd, from Birmingham, brought some of his artifact collections. Dudley Hartley, from Perry County, enjoyed catching up with old friends Bart Henson and Van King. Attending from Tuscaloosa, Stuart McGregor shared a friend's collection of projectile points from northwest Alabama. He and Steven Meredith looked over hundreds of points and talked lithic materials and type classification for part of the afternoon.

Randy Mecredy, Museum Expedition leader, with the aid of a trusty assistant, graciously cooked a wonderful early supper for the AAS, including two large grilled hams, butter beans, turnip greens, squash, and scrumptious cornbread that was made with cornmeal

ground right there at Tannehill. AAS members lingered for some time under the Expedition tents, enjoying the cool evening air before finally being driven home by an approaching summer thunderstorm. It was a great meeting. ■



Steven Meredith

Margaret Clayton, Michael Oakley, and Stacye Hathorn catch up on archaeological activities while keeping cool under the tent.



Carey Geiger

Artifacts recovered by the Alabama Museum of Natural History's Expedition's excavations.



Steven Meredith

Van King, Matt Grunewald, Ashley Dumas, and Marianne Meredith excavate an as yet unidentified structure.



Carey Geiger

Michael Oakley and Van King dig into the wonderful supper prepared by Randy Mercredy and friends.

New AAS Membership Dues

The following dues were presented in the previous issue of *Stones & Bones* and were approved by vote at the Summer Meeting at Tannehill State Park:

Type	U.S.	Foreign
Annual Associate (under 18 years of age)	\$15.00	\$20.00
Annual Individual	\$25.00	\$30.00
Annual Family	\$30.00	\$35.00
Annual Institutional (unchanged)	\$50	\$55
Annual Sustaining Individual	\$35.00	\$40.00
Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual (unchanged)	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint (unchanged)	\$600.00	\$700.00

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Chapter News

News from Robbie Camp and the Cullman, Muscle Shoals, and Huntsville Chapters:

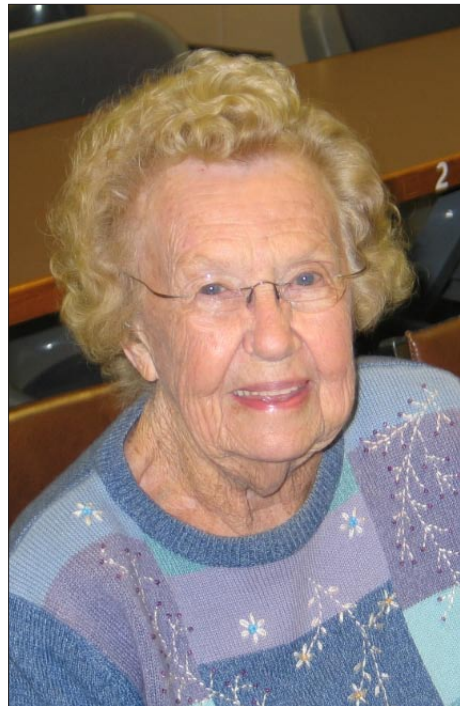
The Cullman, Muscle Shoals and Huntsville chapters met Saturday morning, June 14th at the Oakville Indian Mound Museum for a summer field trip. After viewing the great display of artifacts at the museum, a group of about 20 members were treated to a tour of North Alabama's finest rock art which was coordinated and led by Bart Henson. First, we visited Kinlock Bluff Shelter in the Bankhead Forest, next was the beautiful Trapptown Shelter natural bridge which features numerous Woodland and Mississippian petroglyphs and then broke for lunch at the Rocking Chair restaurant in Tusculumbia.

After lunch the group then proceeded to the Nelson James petroglyph site near Tusculumbia to see the two boulders that are absolutely covered with crosses, spirals and concentric circles. Dodging thunderstorms, this persistent group then finished a wonderful day at the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter. The Stanfield family still owns the property and told us that there is still a lot

of interest in the shelter as many visitors still come regularly. They are doing a wonderful job of protecting and preserving this important, magnificent place. Many thanks to Bart for his personal interest and arranging this tour for our chapters.

News from Gary Mullen and the East Alabama Chapter:

Caroline Dean, of Opelika, will be concluding 25 years of service as secretary-treasurer of the East Alabama Chapter of AAS in September 2008. Caroline has faithfully served the chapter in more ways than can be counted, not to mention her active role in AAS as a member of the board of directors



Caroline Dean of the East Alabama Chapter of AAS.

for many years, her service on numerous AAS committees, and participation in archaeological activities throughout the State. Her late husband, Baker Dean, served as AAS president in 1988. Caroline will celebrate her 90th birthday on July 7!

News from Bonnie Gums and the Southwest Chapter:

About 40 people attended our May meeting with guest speaker Dr. Della Scott-Ireton, Northwest Region Director for the Florida Public Archaeology Network in Pensacola. Her talk was entitled "Shipwrecks of Northwest



Southwest Chapter Saturday volunteer crew at Old St. Stephens (1WN1).

Florida: USS Massachusetts, SS Tarpon, and the Vamar" and it was a very enjoyable presentation. Dr. Scott-Ireton is a certified Scuba Instructor with the National Association of Underwater Instructors, and has worked with the Pensacola Shipwreck Survey, West Florida Historic Preservation, Inc., Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research, and the government of the Cayman Islands. Her research interests include public interpretation of maritime cultural resources, both on land and under water, and the training of avocationals in archaeological methods and practices.

Several members of the Southwest Chapter joined the volunteer Saturday dig on June 7 at historic Old St. Stephens (1WN1), Alabama's territorial capitol from 1817 to 1819. George Shorter led the excavations, assisted by SWC members Mike Breedlove, Traci Cunningham, Bonnie Gums, Jacquelyn Kirkland, Louis Scott, Greg Waselkov, and Joe Worley, among other volunteers. The Saturday excavations focused on slave quarters behind the Globe Hotel. Finds of the day include two blue glass beads, a brass key, a couple of buttons, along with lots of ceramics and glass.

SWC President Carey Geiger recently completed a draft report on his follow-up study to a National Geographic Society grant on lithic collections from north Alabama. Carey continues to work with landowners in southwest Mississippi, examining their collections, and recording prehistoric sites with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.



Carey Geiger, Southwest Chapter, looking over bifaces and points from North Alabama.

AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 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.

Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce 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 AAS, 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by 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 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 AAS.

Submit applications and questions to Linda Derry, cahawba@bellsouth.net, or Old Cahawba, 719 Tremont Street, Selma, Alabama 36701-5446.

Stones & Bones

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Stones & Bones is published bi-monthly at the end of February, April, June, August, October, and December. The deadline for submitting articles is the beginning of the month of publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

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or via the US mail to:

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