

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Montgomery Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society will host the A.A.S. Winter Meeting on December 9. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn State Capital, 924 Madison Avenue, Montgomery.

The morning session of the Winter Meeting will be comprised of 1978 research and field season reports from individuals conducting archaeological investigations in Alabama. Anyone interested in presenting a paper at the Annual Meeting should submit his/her title by November 13, 1978 to Dr. Craig Sheldon; Sociology Department, Auburn University in Montgomery; Atlanta Highway; Montgomery, Alabama 36109. A projector will be available.

Although motel accommodations will not be arranged, you will receive a list of motels and hotels in the Montgomery area in your November issue of the STONES & BONES along with a city map. There are several good motels near the intersection of the Atlanta Highway and Eastern By-Pass.

Tables will be available in the lobby for any chapter or person to sell or hand out literature.

The following is a tentative program.

8:00-9:30	Registration
8:30-9:30	Board of Directors Meeting
9:30-10:00	Welcome to Montgomery
10:00-12:00	Morning Program Session
12:00-1:00	Lunch (at the Holiday Inn)
1:15-1:45	General Session Business Meeting (Installation of Officers)
1:45-3:00	"Creek and Pre-Creek" Symposium
3:00-3:30	Break
3:30-5:00	"Creek and Pre-Creek" Symposium
5:00	Adjourn
7:00	Party (at the Holiday Inn)

October 1978

December 10

9:00-11:30 - Tour of the new Archaeological Laboratory facilities at Fort  
Toulouse

Be looking for your November STONES & BONES, which will include preregistration form, city map, motel directory and program details. Lunch will be catered; therefore, the preregistration forms should be mailed as soon as you receive your next newsletter with this information in it.

#### MINUTES, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society met on Thursday, September 7, 1978, at the Roadway Inn, Birmingham.

Presiding: Mrs. Drusilla McGowen. President's Remarks: Mrs. McGowen, President, opened the meeting by discussing the need for a Society brochure which would provide pertinent information on the Society. Such a brochure could provide information for individuals interested in the Society as well as background information for television talk shows and for media publicity. Some of the topics and questions discussed by the President as needing to be in the brochure were outlined in a handout, and response by the Board members was requested.

Mr. Eugene Futato, Journal Editor, reviewed the progress of the preparation of the December 1978 Journal and noted that one manuscript he had planned on using would not be available. He will review others for inclusion in the next issue of the Journal. Mr. Futato also reported on the possibility of using a new word processing system to be acquired by his office, for typing the Journal. He discussed some of the possible advantages of the system over conventional typing - if its use can be arranged. Publication sales by the Editor totaled \$556.55 for the period July 1, 1978-August 31, 1978.

The Board discussed the recent dismissal of Mr. Warner Floyd, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Historical Commission. Mr. Steve Wimberly, Society representative to the Alabama Historical Commission, was not present to report on recent events and actions taken by the Alabama Historical Commission. Expressions of confidence in Mr. Floyd, as expressed in the previous Board Meeting, were reaffirmed. The Board observed that, according to reports, Mr. Wimberly had voted for Mr. Floyd's dismissal; although he was present at the preceding Board meeting when the Board had expressed appreciation of Mr. Floyd's work, and directed that expressions of support be forwarded to the Governor and the Alabama Historical Commission. There was no information available to the Board indicating that Mr. Wimberly had conveyed the Board's feelings to other members

of the Alabama Historical Commission, or what events or situations had caused Mr. Wimberly to vote on this matter contrary to the Board's expressed desires. The Board directed President McGowen to write a letter to Mr. Wimberly requesting a report on his position on the dismissal of Mr. Floyd. The Board further directed that the letter and minutes of the Board Meeting reflect the Board's disappointment at Mr. Wimberly's absence and displeasure with his failing to keep the Board informed about events with the Alabama Historical Commission.

Program Chairman, Miss Dorothy Luke, reported on the general status of the plans for the Winter Meeting. Mrs. Margaret Chase, representing the host, Montgomery Chapter, provided tentative details. (See Pages 1 and 2 of this issue of STONES & BONES.) The program theme will be "The Creeks and Their Antecedents", with recognized authorities on the subject presenting papers.

#### NEW MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Baranowski, Mrs. J. A. (I)	680 Sandhurst Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36109
Blizard, Mr. & Mrs. Roland L. (F)	317 West Glenwood Drive Homewood, Alabama 35209
Cooley, Mr. James D. (I)	900 Westfield Drive Fairfield, Alabama 35064
Davis, Mr. & Mrs. J. L., Jr. (F)	Route Four, Box 90-B Brewton, Alabama 36426
University of Kansas Library	Periodicals Department Lawrence, Kansas 66044
Phillips, Mr. John F. (I)	209 Magnolia Street Trussville, Alabama 35173
Sumners, Mr. L. L. (I)	Route Eight, Box 411 Bessemer, Alabama 35020

#### WELCOME BACK TO ALABAMA

We received some good news recently from one of our members who has lived for some time in New Jersey - John Gustafson has received a promotion with Monsanto and will be returning to live in Decatur in October. John was very active in our Society, serving on the Board of Directors and as First Vice President before being transferred to New Jersey. We are glad to have him back.

#### CAN THIS HAPPEN TO A. A. S. ?

Yes, I think it can if we don't pick up more interest and participation from our members! What am I talking about? Recently (July 1978) the Newsletter of the Archaeological Society of Virginia ran some statistics

on membership, and I think the reasons for declining membership given may apply to A.A.S. and many other societies:

Jan. 1976.	Jul. 1976	Jan. 1977	Jan. 1978	Jul. 1978	Change
1430	1163	1278	1113	836	-594

Reasons for the declining memberships are numerous and include, (1) a generally tight money supply for hobbies; (2) inflation; (3) reduction in fieldwork done by the Society and its chapters; (4) reduction in State-sponsored excavation projects to which the members are invited to help; (5) reduction in publicity on the Society's work and publications; and (6) inactivation of several chapters.

#### CHAPTER NEWS

**Cullman Chapter:** The September Chapter meeting was held on the 18th; the speaker was Mrs. Georgia Dunn of Huntsville. Mrs. Dunn's topic was "Artifacts of the Tennessee Valley". Mrs. Dunn's collection of artifacts is outstanding.

**East Alabama Chapter:** On August 13 the Chapter visited the excavations on Ivy Creek, Jones Bluff Dam, which are being conducted by John Cottier and his Summer Field School. The Woodland Mound, on a natural levee silt deposit, so far has yielded 24 burials, all in poor preservation. The Corps is planning to alter the peninsula where they are working, with boat ramps, a new road and a camping area. John pressed Harold Huscher into giving an Historical background for Anthropology/Archaeology before his Field School class after the day's work. A report on this 1978 work at Ivy Creek will be given at the October meeting on Wednesday, October 11, in Thach Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Watch the local news media for the announcement.

**Huntsville Chapter:** The September meeting was presented by Mr. Basil Saffer, Public Relations for General Shale Products Corporation, Junction City, Tennessee.

It was approximately 10,000 years ago when man first discovered that by shaping clay with his hands and drying it in the sun he could produce a unit - a brick - which could be used for building shelter. The ancient Egyptians used sun-dried brick in many ways - sometimes even for lining the walls of rock tombs. Brick was used by ancient people of the American continent too. Sun-dried mud bricks 5,000 years old have been unearthed in Peru. General Shale has a museum housing a most comprehensive collection of ancient brick, with examples of the brick-makers' art from many ancient cultures, dating back to the oldest brick ever discovered - 10,000 years old - up through colonial times to modern days. (The museum is open

five days a week, during company hours; a booklet is available by writing the company.) Mr. Saffer showed slides of these bricks and presented one example for the membership to examine, which came from a strata beneath a dated strata of 10,000 years ago in the ancient biblical city of Jericho.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter held its August meeting on the 14th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Mr. Tom Cornell of Huntsville made a fine talk and slide presentation on two sites in Madison which he has been studying for a number of years, as well as an informative talk on amateur archaeology in general. Mrs. E. A. Marshall, also of Huntsville, was the speaker at the September 11 Chapter meeting.

#### ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Perhaps as many as 25 members of the Alabama Archaeological Society were among the 300 persons attending the 11th Annual Preservation Conference of the Alabama Historical Commission on August 11 and 12 in Selma. The two days were full, with speakers in the preservation field; workshops on preservation, archaeology and oral history. On the program were many special activities which included a visit to Old Cahaba, walking tours of Historic Selma, a picnic at Kenan's Grist Mill with a special tour of this turbine-operated mill which has a tunnel dug through a soapstone ledge to carry the water back into the creek, a visit to a charcoal kiln and receptions, barbeque, and the Awards Banquet. It was an exceptionally interesting and well-organized Conference, with the rain stopping just long enough to cause only a few changes in the schedule. The 12th Conference will be held in Tuscaloosa, probably about the middle of August of next year.

Marjorie Gay  
Standing Rock

#### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

INVESTIGATIONS IN RUSSELL CAVE, by John W. Griffin - Available from: Miss Cynthia Sims; Secretary-Treasurer, Huntsville Chapter, Alabama Archaeological Society; Route Two, Box 750 (Meryal Layne); New Market, Alabama 35761 - \$5 per copy, postpaid.

Some 9,000 years ago - following the Ice Age, and at least 4,000 years before the great pyramids of Egypt - early men sought shelter in an obscure cavern in northeastern Alabama. This site, which has become a part of the National Park Service, contains one of the longest sequences of evidence of man in the New World.

Thousands of persons have seen these archaeological deposits, the tools and weapons of the early Indians, the shells and bones of the animals they ate, the evidence of their hearths, and the debris of their camps, appearing layer upon layer. The story that is there told is one of hunters and gatherers who for 6,500 years used the cave primarily during the colder seasons of the year. This period, from about 7000 to 500 B. C., known to scientists and historians as the Archaic Period, was followed by the Woodland Period, a time roughly from 500 B. C. to A. D. 1000, also represented in the cave by pottery and projectile points that were likely to have been used with the bow and arrow.

The major portion of this work, written by John W. Griffin, an archaeologist with many years of experience in the National Park Service, is intended both as a scientific report, and as a reference for the layman who wishes to acquire a fuller understanding of the long period of time and many peoples who found shelter in Russell Cave. It contains a most important contribution which deals with the cave in relation to the entire archaeology of the Southeastern United States, and is enhanced by sections on geology, skeletal analysis, and early animals.

(Taken from the foreword, INVESTIGATIONS IN RUSSELL CAVE)

The Tennessee Anthropological Association wishes to offer members of the Alabama Archaeological Society a discount price on the TAA Miscellaneous Paper No. 1 entitled "A Bibliography of Tennessee Anthropology, Including Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Melungeon Studies", by Donald B. Ball. This is a virtually complete bibliography (through 1976) of Tennessee archaeology and physical anthropology, containing over 500 entries pertaining to these subjects alone, plus an extensive listing of Native American and Melungeon publications in the Middle South. Normally priced at \$2.50, this highly useful publication can be purchased for \$1.75 plus \$.50 for postage and handling through December 1978. Send order to: Secretary-Treasurer, Tennessee Anthropological Association; Department of Anthropology; University of Tennessee; Knoxville, Tennessee 37916.

Charles H. Faulkner  
Editor, TAA Newsletter  
Knoxville, Tennessee

## MEETING

The fifth annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society will be held in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The 1979 meeting will be organized around gulf south anthropological studies. For more information, contact Joe Toups; 920 11th Street; Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601. The program will be held at the Sheraton Chateau Charles, from January 27 through 28, 1979.

## ANCIENT CANOE

An Indian canoe more than 600 years old, believed by a University of South Alabama archaeologist to be the oldest yet discovered in Alabama, has been acquired by the city of Mobile Museum Department.

It appears to have been hollowed with fire from a cypress log, archaeologists reported, since there are charred spots on the interior.

The old boat is 1 1/2 feet wide and has short "platforms" at both ends. In the bow platform is a two-inch hole which probably was used for mooring purposes, USA archaeologists reported.

To determine its age, archaeologists sent a wood sample to the University of Georgia's Center for Applied Isotope Studies, which used the Carbon 14 dating method to determine it was made in the year 1320, plus or minus 60 years.

(From the Mobile Press Register; Sunday, September 3, 1978 - Article by Royce Harrison, Press Register Reporter)

## JAMES B. ALLEN MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Fort Morgan Museum has been renamed the James B. Allen Memorial Museum in honor of the late U. S. Senator from Alabama. Fort Morgan, located on Mobile Bay in Baldwin County, is a National Historic Landmark and is now undergoing restoration. An improvement program has begun at the museum, several Spanish-American War era buildings are being restored; the installation of a boat-launching ramp and the repair of the fishing piers on the bay are under way.

## FORT TOULOUSE PARK

Fort Toulouse Park is to open soon as Alabama's newest recreational area. The outline of the 1717 French fort should be completed by fall. The bastions and log walls are up with the exception of the section planned for the entrance gate. Besides the campgrounds, boat ramp, picnic areas and a pavillion, there is the William Bartram Arboretum and nature trails and footpaths, one passing by the Indian Mound. A forest boardwalk is under construction from near the fort to the planned visitor center and museum.

(From the PRESERVATION REPORT of the Alabama Historical Commission, July-August 1978).

Marjorie Gay  
Standing Rock

## BOOK REVIEW

THE PLUNDERED PAST, by Karl E. Meyer - Atheneum, New York, 1973. 353 pages, photos.

Tomb robbing, says Mr. Karl Meyer, journalist and amateur archaeologist, is "assuredly the second-oldest profession, practiced as widely, if not always as profitably, as the first".

This fascinating book gives details of art and artifact thefts old (the Eglin Marbles) and new (Hindu temples plundered under cover of the war in Bangladesh). Mr. Meyer says that "more than any other single element, the increase in art prices has been responsible for the wholesale theft, mutilation and destruction of art everywhere in the world". In chapters entitled "After Cortes", "Sailing from Byzantium", "See Italy Quickly", "The Sherd Trade" and "Whose Past?" (which contains the section "The Devouring Bulldozer"), Mr. Meyer gives countless examples of unscrupulous collectors' greed leading to increased illegal trafficking in art and artifacts, and resulting loss and destruction.

Appendices list looted sites, major art thefts, several resolutions by U. S. museums on guidelines for collecting art and antiquities, a treaty between the U. S. and Mexico which deals with "recovery and return of stolen archaeological, historical and cultural properties", a law controlling importation of pre-Columbian objects, and so on.

A "partial list" of those who "contributed information to this book" includes Hester A. Davis, Charles R. McGimsey and our own David L. DeJarnette.



# 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.

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The Society is a non-profit corporation. Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Society to help finance archaeological research and projects conducted throughout Alabama. The membership blank below may be used for this purpose.

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## Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

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## Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to.

**Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright**  
2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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## MEMBERSHIP

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.

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*Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools* ..... 2.25 pp  
*Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers* ..... 3.00 pp

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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