

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

## Editor

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2602 Green Mountain Rd.  
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Volume 30

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 10

### ANNUAL MEETING

Jacksonville State University is pleased to host the Annual Winter Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society on Saturday, November 12, at the University's new conference facility located on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m., with the reports beginning at 9:00 a.m. Society members will enjoy the panoramic view from the conference facility. The Archaeological Resource Laboratory will be open for tours between 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

Jacksonville State University lies approximately 10 miles north of Anniston, Alabama, on Alabama Highway 21, or it can be reached by traveling 10 miles east on Alabama Highway 204 from U.S. Highway 431. The Houston Cole Library is the tallest campus structure and looms over the campus at the junction of Alabama Highway 21 and Alabama Highway 204. The closest motel facility to campus is the Gamecock Inn in Jacksonville; however, there are several new and reasonable motels located near Fort McClellan on Alabama Highway 21 between Anniston and Jacksonville. The Anniston Museum of Natural History and Mt. Cheaha State Park are both within a half-hour drive of the campus. We are looking forward to seeing you on November 12.

Harry Holstein  
Acting Program Chairman  
Jacksonville State  
University.

Gamecock Motel		
Highway 21 - Jacksonville, AL	\$32.00	435-3300
Liberty Inn		
McClellan Blvd. - Anniston, AL	\$32.00	820-1000
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McClellan Blvd. - Anniston, AL	\$32.00	820-5154
Historic Victoria Inn		
Quintard Ave. - Anniston, AL	\$55.00	236-0503
Days Inn		
Highway 21 - Oxford, AL	\$34.00	1-800-325-2525
Lenlock Inn		
Highway 21 - Anniston, AL	\$28.00	820-1515

October 1988

TENTATIVE PROGRAM  
1988 Winter Meeting - November 12, 1988  
Jacksonville State University

- 9:00 a.m. - Opening Address
- 9:10 a.m. - Preclassic Salt Manufacturing on the South Coast of Guatemala - Dr. Roger C. Nance
- 9:40 a.m. - History of the Battle of Tallassehatchee - Dr. Phillip Koerper
- 10:10 a.m. - Archaeology of the Battle of Tallassehatchee - Dr. Harry O. Holstein
- 10:40 a.m. - Break
- 10:50 a.m. - Fushihatchee Archaeology - Dr. Greg Sheldon and Dr. John Cottier
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch/Board Meeting/Open House in Archaeological Research Laboratory
- 1:30 p.m. - Fort Toulouse Archaeology - Dr. Richard Krause and Mr. Ned Jenkins
- 2:00 p.m. - Alabama Historical Commission Annual Report
- 2:10 p.m. - Smith Bottom's Cave Excavation 1988 - Dr. Boyce Driskell
- 2:40 p.m. - Cathedral Caverns Excavation - Dr. Harry O. Holstein and Mr. Carey B. Oakley
- 3:10 p.m. - Where is Coosa? 1Ce309? - Mr. Keith Little
- 3:40 p.m. - Anniston Museum of Natural History - Ms. Deb Slaney and Mr. Pete Conroy
- 4:00-7:00 p.m. - Cocktail Party - Harry Holstein Residence

SEVERAL MAJOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS  
UNDERTAKEN BY THE JACKSONVILLE STATE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY

During the summer of 1988, Dr. Harry O. Holstein of Jacksonville State Archaeological Resource Laboratory conducted two archaeological field schools. The "Battle of Tallassehatchee Site", 1Ca162, in Alexandria,

Alabama, was excavated May 2 through May 31, followed by the "Cathedral Cavern" dig, 1Ms357, near Grant, Alabama, excavated June 14 through July 12.

The main objective of the "Battle of Tallassehatchee" excavation, 1Cal62, was to determine whether a 30-acre agricultural field was the actual location of the Battle of Tallassehatchee, which occurred during the Creek Indian Wars on November 13, 1813. This site was believed to be the location of a major military encounter of the War of 1812, in which 1,000 Tennessee militiamen under the command of General Andrew Jackson attacked a Red Stick Creek Indian village. In the course of the battle, 187 Creek Indians and five Tennessee militiamen were killed.

Participating in the excavation were 20 JSU students, members of the Coosa Valley Archaeology Club, as well as several volunteers from the community. The excavation drew wide public attention, and the site was visited by several area school groups.

In conjunction with this excavation, Dr. Phillip Koerper of the JSU History Department conducted extensive historical research into the battle. As a result of his research, it was discovered several famous historical figures were involved in the fighting, such as Davy Crockett, General John Coffee, and the famous Cherokee Indian Sequoyah. Koerper's research also provided helpful clues from which the archaeological researchers could validate the occurrence of the battle. Excavators recovered 16 gun flints, 6 musket balls, Indian trade artifacts, arrowheads, and over 800 pieces of Indian pottery. Archaeological, historical, and topographical data gained through this investigation confirm 1Cal62 as the location of the historic battle. Dr. Holstein and Dr. Koerper are presently collaborating on a final "Battle of Tallassehatchee" monograph, and efforts are being made through the Archaeological Research Laboratory to nominate 1Cal62 to the National Register of Historic Places.

The second excavation of the summer was conducted at Cathedral Caverns, 1Ms357. This excavation was co-directed by Dr. Harry O. Holstein, Archaeological Resource Laboratory; and Mr. Carey B. Oakley, Office of Archaeological Research, The University of Alabama. Participating in this cooperative effort were several groups, including Jacksonville State University, The University of Alabama, Northeast State Junior College, the Department of Conservation, and the Anniston Attention Group.

Twelve two-meter-square excavation units revealed a substantial Archaic and Woodland aboriginal presence near the mouth of the Cavern. Archaeological deposits extended to a depth of 96.1 inches below the present ground surface. Artifact assemblages and ecofact remains indicated a continual use of the Caverns as a short-term hunting/gathering camp from Archaic times.

Over 20 students participated in the excavation, while several hundred people volunteered during the dig. News coverage was widespread and favorable. This entire project was part of the Alabama State Department of

Conservation preliminary effort at developing Cathedral Caverns into a future state park. As part of this effort, this summer's excavation units have been left in place, and they will become a permanent part of a future interpretive center at the park.

One other cooperative archaeological project is presently being undertaken by Dr. Harry O. Holstein of the Archaeological Resource Laboratory and Dr. Danny Vaughn of the JSU Department of Geography. Archaeological sites throughout the Tennessee and Coosa Valley region have yielded artifacts made out of a lithic material commonly referred to as "greenstone". Greenstone is an old field term that does not adequately identify the specific rock type from which these artifacts were made.

Dr. Holstein has recently collected extensive samples of greenstone from regional archaeological sites. These samples have been turned over to Dr. Vaughn, who is presently examining them under a petrographic microscope in order to determine their mineralogical composition and texture. The researchers hope to develop a more precise rock type which in turn may reflect multiple aboriginal locations and aboriginal trade routes.

Curtis E. Hill  
Assistant Director  
Jacksonville State University  
Archaeological Resource Laboratory

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Birmingham Archaeological Society

Monthly meetings for the 1988-1989 season will begin September 8 at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Red Mountain Museum Auditorium.

Jack Bergstresser will be our speaker. He will talk and have a slide show on Industrial Archaeology. This will be something different for us and should be very interesting. Eloise Clark will have pastries and refreshments for our members and guests. She is a wonderful cook and a great asset to our society.

Bobby Hawkins - President

### Cullman Chapter

The chapter meeting is held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Room 210 of the County Courthouse.

Howard King

### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue.

Charles Hubbert was the speaker for the September 27 meeting. Charles is a professional archaeologist who works in the Huntsville area. His topic for this meeting was the Quad Site, a famous multi-component site near Decatur now under Government protection. He also discussed Paleo settlement patterns.

Dorothy Scott Johnson will be the guest speaker for the October 24 chapter meeting. Mrs. Johnson is a noted local genealogist, best known for her work on cemetery preservation. She will talk about the importance of maintaining old cemeteries and the laws which are now being enacted to protect these resources. Mrs. Johnson has published several books on her subject and is a most engaging speaker.

Dorothy Luke

#### Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter's guest speaker for August was Dr. Jim Knight of The University of Alabama. Dr. Knight spoke on pottery types within the west-central Alabama area from the Mississippian time period.

John Wm. (Bill) Adkison

#### SPEAR POINTS IN THE APPLE ORCHARD

A large cache of Clovis points, including the largest known to date, has turned up in an apple orchard near Wenatchee, Washington. Altogether some 30 pieces were found, of which 14 are the characteristic points used by Clovis period hunters between 11,500 and 11,000 years ago. Other finds included bone and antler fragments and volcanic ash (possibly from an eruption of Glacier Peak 11,250 years ago).

A week of excavation last April came nearly a year after the chance discovery of the site by orchard workers. Mack Richey, the orchard owner, had sealed the site with concrete slabs to prevent looting or vandalism.

The chief goal of April's test excavation was to determine if the site was simply a tool cache or a stratified campsite. Paleo-Indian specialists were called in from around the country to assist Peter Mehringer (Project Director) and his Washington State University colleagues.

Today, detailed studies - carbon dating, soil analysis and use-wear and residue analyses on the stone tools - are in progress. "Analyses are just beginning and it's really too early to make any judgments on the function of the site", says Mehringer.

After removing samples, the archaeologists once again sealed the site with a protective concrete layer. Support from the National Geographic Society is allowing current studies to continue.

Archaeologists may return to the site once new research goals are established. Mehringer is cautious about further excavation. "There's no point", he says, "in going back with the same questions".

(From "Archaeology", September/October 1988)

### DESOTO ROUTE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL?

The National Park Service (NPS) will hold a series of public meetings in seven southern states during September and October to solicit public opinion on the possible designation of the Hernando de Soto expedition route as a national historic trail.

The meetings are part of a feasibility study currently under way to determine if the trail should be added to the National Trails System. A preliminary determination is scheduled to be submitted to the NPS Advisory Board in late October. A draft study report will be prepared for public review and comment in late summer 1989.

De Soto, who is credited with discovering the Mississippi River in 1541, started an overland trek with about 600 men from the vicinity of Tampa Bay in Florida during the summer of 1539 in search of gold. He journeyed through Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas. After his death in 1542, the remaining members of the expedition sailed down the Mississippi River and along the Gulf Coast to Spanish settlements in Mexico.

Additional information on the trail study is available from the National Park Service's Southeast Regional Office at 75 Spring Street, S.W.; Atlanta, Georgia 30303 (404/331-5838).

(News Release from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior)

### EXPLORING ALABAMA

Educational and entertaining outings for adults, families and older children (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult). Visit beautiful natural localities and fascinating attractions as you and your guide "Explore Alabama".

Canoe North River - September 17

Fossils of the Coal Measures - October 1

Paul W. Bryant Museum - October 25

Cheaha Leaf Hike - October 29

An Evening of Astronomy - November 4

Call The University of Alabama, State Museum of Natural History,  
Box 5897, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487; 205/348-7550.

"Exploring Alabama" programs are a major component of The University of Alabama State Museum of Natural History's public outreach program. The Museum has identified public participation in natural history experiences as an important part of its mission to interpret state history, humanities and natural history. The "Exploring Alabama" series has expanded into a variety of year-round programs designed to encourage participation by all members of the family. Trips will take participants to unusual, remote or especially interesting Alabama natural history localities. Programs are led by qualified professionals who are experienced and knowledgeable about the route and objective. Groups are small for personalized attention and safety. Overnight programs feature a pre-trip orientation session that explains the details of the trip and includes an informative scientific and historical background briefing.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 20-29 each issue	(\$2.50 to Members) \$5.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> ( <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> ) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$6.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$10.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$7.50 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$7.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: **ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

SEND CHECKS TO: **MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Office of Archaeological Research**

1 Mound State Monument, Moundville, Alabama 35474

## 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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## *Alabama Archaeological Society*

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