

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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### DAVID DEJARNETTE

David DeJarnette, the dean of Alabama archaeology, passed away recently at Orange Beach, where he had been living since he retired from The University of Alabama. David started in Alabama archaeology in the early 1930's. For several years he worked on the TVA salvage projects in Wheeler and Pickwick basins and led the way in establishing an archaeological base in the Archaic culture. During the ensuing years he worked on many projects throughout Alabama. He is the author of books and many articles on archaeology in Alabama. The archaeological laboratory at Moundville is named for David, and he spend many years using Moundville as his base. He has been the single largest contributor and influence on Alabama archaeology. We will all miss David, but his contribution will be everlasting.

### SACRED GROUND?

The Poarch Creek Indians of South Alabama obtained the site of Hickory Ground in Elmore County several years ago under the guise of its being holy or sacred to the Creek Indians. Hickory Ground appears in the earliest accounts of Colonial traders and government officials. It was the home of the famous Creek chief Alexander McGillivray in the 1780's and 1790's. It remained a viable Creek town until removal west in 1838 and was re-established in Oklahoma.

Now we read from newspaper accounts that the Poarch Band is planning to build a bingo palace on the site of Hickory Ground. Sacred? Holy?

### CHAPTER NEWS

#### Birmingham Chapter

Our speaker for January was Dr. Boyce Driskell from The University of Alabama (Moundville). Dr. Driskell gave a talk and slide presentation on Dust Cave, located in north

February 1991

Alabama. We met at the Red Mountain Museum, located at 1425 22nd St. South.

It's time to pay our 1991 dues. If you are not a member of the Birmingham Archaeological Society, please send in your dues and support our efforts. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Bobby Hawkins

#### Cullman Chapter

The first meeting of 1991 was Monday, January 21st, at the Cullman County Courthouse. Ron Morrow gave the program, which was on "The Red Paint People".

At our last meeting of 1990 we elected officers for 1991. Van King was elected President, Ron Morrow Vice President and Program Chairman, Eulis King Secretary-Treasurer, and Dee Coleman Newsletter Composer.

Dewitt T. Coleman

#### East Alabama Chapter

On Sunday afternoon, December 9, members of our local chapter traveled to Russell County to visit the site of Fort Mitchell. Built originally in 1813 by General John Floyd and the Georgia Militia, Fort Mitchell was located on the Old Federal Road which brought increasing numbers of settlers into the frontier of present-day Alabama. The resulting encroachment on Creek lands led to the Indian War of 1812-14, in which Fort Mitchell served as a base for launching attacks against the Creeks in the Upper Towns along the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers. In 1819, an Indian Agency was established at Fort Mitchell, with David Mitchell, after whom the fort was named, serving as the agent for the next couple of years (1819-21). His successor was the well known Indian Agent John Crowell, who operated the agency at Fort Mitchell until 1832. Following the fraudulent land treaty signed at Indian Springs, Georgia, in 1825, further violence broke out over disputed Creek land in Alabama and Georgia. During the summer of 1825, Major Donahoe and a detachment of the 4th U.S. Infantry Regiment were sent to Fort Mitchell. In the interim, however, the original fort had apparently been torn down. A new fort was subsequently constructed on a nearby hill. The second Fort Mitchell served as one of the sites where Indians were assembled prior to their Removal to Oklahoma in 1836-37. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers mustered at Fort Mitchell prior to going off to battle.

In addition to seeing the Fort Mitchell site, we had an opportunity to visit the nearby military cemetery dating back to this period and the Cantey Plantation, built by Brigadier General James Cantey, C.S.A., just north of the fort.

For our January meeting Dr. John Cottier presented a slide program on the archaeological work which has been conducted at the Fusihatchee site in Elmore County. This is an historic Creek Village which has been under excavation by Dr. Cottier and his students for the past several years. Evidence was presented documenting early Spanish, French and British contact with the Creek Indians in this area. Thirty-four people attended this meeting.

The East Alabama Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 745-2494.

Caroline Dean

### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter met on January 22 to hear Lawrence Alexander give a most interesting program on a late Mississippian site in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Elections were held at the January chapter meetings for 1991 officers. Elected were:

President: Dee Hubbert  
1st V.P./Programs: Van King  
2nd V.P./Membership: George Thurlow  
Secretary/Treasurer: Beth Justice  
Librarian: Georgia Dunn

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

Dorothy Luke

### COLLECTIONS THREATENED

Stanford University voluntarily surrendered its archaeological collections for destruction. The artifacts were claimed by Indian political activists who have no known ancestral ties to the materials. The California legislature voted to force museums and universities to give up their collections for destruction, but it was vetoed by the governor.

Two professional archaeologists are being prosecuted by a district attorney in California and are scheduled to be tried on a felony charge because they placed some burned bone fragments in a bag and sent them to the archaeology lab for identification. Nebraska institutions are being forced to give up

many artifacts and skeletal remains. The artifacts include medallions given to the Indians by early European colonists.

(From an article in the Florida Anthropological Society Newsletter, No. 121, November 1990)

#### EXCAVATIONS AND SURVEY CONTINUE AT OLD MOBILE

The University of South Alabama research team has just completed excavations of the blacksmith's forge site located this spring, a discovery reported in the last newsletter. The building measured only about 16 by 20 feet and was situated on the far western edge of Old Mobile, the capital of the French Louisiana colony from 1702 until 1711. Judging from the small sizes and quantity of brick fragments that remained from the forge, the building's structural materials (bricks, roof tiles, and perhaps the wooden framework) probably were salvaged for reuse elsewhere - maybe when the town moved to its present location in 1711. On the other hand, considerable amounts of scrap iron and iron slag, along with an abundance of charcoal and coal, still remained at the site. Metallurgical analysis of the slag should reveal whether the French colonists produced iron from local ores or simply recycled broken tools.

Because this site apparently lies beyond the limits of the town depicted on the 1702 and 1705 maps, we do not know who worked here. But it was not too far from the Seminary, where missionaries from Quebec worked at converting Indian refugees who had fled to the French colony to escape English-led slave raids. So this blacksmith's shop may have been part of the mission complex.

Every new excavation at Old Mobile leads to some new discovery, something that we did not anticipate from this historical record. For instance, the maze of footing trenches for palisade-type fences surrounding the blacksmith's shop was quite unexpected. Last year's excavation at the Canadian voyageur's house revealed a single fenced enclosure, presumably a garden or animal pen, similar to enclosures seen in early 18th century drawings of New Orleans and Port Dauphin, but nothing as complex as the intricate network of fences around the blacksmith's shop. Special analysis of the soil and pollen from these areas should yield some clues about what was being enclosed - animals or crops.

The systematic survey of the Old Mobile site continues, with about 20% of the site mapped and 4,508 shovel tests dug so far. At each point on our archaeological site grid (denoted on the ground by flags set at four-meter intervals and marked

with north-south and east-west coordinates), a small hole is dug and the soil sifted to obtain an artifact sample. Artifact distributions across the surveyed portion of the site are then studied to determine the locations of French buildings. We have tentatively identified the sites of 19 structures (further scrutiny of the artifact maps is under way, so the final total may differ).

(From an article in The Old Mobile Project Newsletter, Issue 4, Winter 1991)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society has been scheduled tentatively for Wednesday, March 6 in the Birmingham area. A separate mailing will inform Board members of the time and location of this meeting.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS: AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ETHNOHISTORY

The American Society for Ethnohistory will hold its 1991 Annual Meeting at the Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma on November 7-10, 1991. Papers, organized sessions, special events and speakers that treat any world area are encouraged. Abstracts of 100-200 words. Send to Dr. Garrick A. Bailey; Department of Anthropology, University of Tulsa; Tulsa, OK 74104.

#### CALL FOR PAPERS: OHIO VALLEY URBAN AND HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

The 9th Annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology will convene Saturday-Sunday, March 16-17, 1991 at the Bingham Humanities Building, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky. This year's meeting is being hosted by the Program of Archaeology at the University of Louisville. Papers are sought concerning all aspects of regional historic archaeological investigations (excavations in progress, artifact studies, method and theory, etc.). A limited amount of display and publication sales space will be available. For more information contact: Philip J. DiBlasi; ARCHAEOLOGY; University of Louisville; Louisville, KY 40292; Telephone: 502/588-6724.

#### 1991 DUES

Please remember to pay your 1991 dues if you have not already done so. See back page of this issue for membership categories and amount due.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue .....	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue .....	\$6.00 pp
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<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i> .....	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i> .....	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service .....	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile) .....	\$9.00 pp

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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