

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

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Chapter News

On May 10th, Ned Jenkins (Archaeologist at Fort Toulouse/Jackson Park) gave a presentation to the East Alabama Chapter. He spoke on the "Origins of the Early Creeks". At approximately AD 1450 two chiefdoms existed in central Alabama. One was the Shine II Lamar Chiefdom centered on the lower Tallapoosa River. The other was the recently arrived Late Moundville III, Big Eddy Phase group from the Warrior Valley that had settled the adjacent area of the upper Alabama River. Hernando De Soto, in his 1541 account, described these two chiefdoms as the Provinces of Talise and Tuscaluca. During the mid 16th century, part of the Moundville III group moved to the Chattahoochee River where they became known as the Abercrombie Phase, centered on the towns of Kasita and Coweta. Submitted by the East Alabama Chapter.

What's Happening

University of Alabama

Several students from the University of Alabama are involved in projects relating to the

prehistory and history of southwest Alabama. A project to learn about the salt springs in southwest Alabama has been initiated by Dr. Ian Brown at the University of Alabama and is currently being carried out by Ashley Dumas for her dissertation research. Funded in part by the National Science Foundation, The Saline Project recently excavated two sites of salt production in Clarke County and analysis is underway. The Stimpson site (1Ck29) consists primarily of a large Pensacola culture occupation dating to the Middle and Late Mississippi periods. The Lower Salt Works site (1Ck28) has occupations ranging from the Late Woodland through the Late Mississippi periods. Like many sites in southwest Alabama that are located near salt water springs, both Stimpson and the Lower Salt Works also were occupied during the early nineteenth century and the Civil War. Throughout time, activities at these sites were centered around evaporating the briny spring water into salt. Associated with the prehistoric salt production are large numbers of ceramic vessels called salt pans, most of which have impressions of fabric or cane

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www.southalabama.edu/aas/

matting on their exteriors. Ashley and an M.A. student from UA, Mary Spanos, are studying the impressions to learn more about the salt production process. For her thesis, Mary will investigate the fabric impressions on salt pans from the Beckum Village site (1Ck24), which was excavated with WPA labor in the 1940's.

With the help of many volunteers, The Saline Project so far has yielded much information on the prehistoric and historic exploitation of Alabama's salt springs. The University of South Alabama's spring semester field school and volunteers, the University of Alabama Anthropology Club, members of the U.A. Blount Undergraduate Initiative's Salt of the Earth class, and several AAS members helped during excavations. U.S.A.'s Center for Archaeological Studies also has been integral to producing some fine maps of these important sites.

Also guided by Dr. Brown, UA student Matt Grunewald is studying prehistoric exploitation of Tallahatta sandstone quarries. Matt has excavated a portion of such a quarry in Clarke County and is now sorting through a small mountain of sandstone debris. By reconstructing how much of this rock was being reduced on site or taken away, Matt will be able to tell us something about the importance of the Tallahatta



quarries to prehistoric people over a wide area. Shown in previous column (from front to back): AAS members Steven Meredith, Matt Grunewald, Maurie Outlaw, and Walter Davis clean a profile wall at the Stimpson site. Submitted by Ashley Dumas.

Office of Archaeological Research

During March and April, Stephen Jones, Chris Wilkins, Daryll Berryman, John Lieb, and Donald Brown of the Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama Museums, took part in the removal of Lucas Hill Cemetery located near Waugh in Montgomery County. The cemetery represents a nineteenth century Anglo-American burial ground with dates ranging from 1816 to 1910. The cemetery has since been reestablished a few miles from the original cemetery location. A stone monument has been erected denoting the removal and subsequent re-establishment.

A total of 84 burials were removed from an area once thought to contain merely nine graves. Twenty-six of the burials are represented by metallic burial cases of various shapes and manufacture. Twelve of the burial cases are square, three are roughly oval, and one mirrors typical wood coffins affectionately known as "ankle-squeezers" or "toe-pinchers". The remaining ten cases vary in size and each resembles a human figure lying on its back with an outward expanding chest and a plate covering both the face and the feet.

Subsequent research revealed that the ten 'human sarcophagi' were Fish Burial Cases. They were produced by W.M. Raymond and Co. of New York, Davis and Co. Of Cincinnati, and, later, Crane, Breed, and Co. (CBC), also of Cincinnati, with manufacturing beginning in 1848 and lasting through the 1850s. A face plate protects a pane of glass allowing viewing of the deceased. A plate on the chest can include an engraving or left blank. The other metallic cases were subsequent models by various manufactures intending to break away from the human resemblance that some found repugnant in the Fisk case.

Generally, these caskets allowed partial to full viewing of the deceased as well. Like the Fisk model, iron plates were used to protect the viewing portals.

The Fisk Case, and succeeding metallic burial caskets, is said to arrest decomposition of the human remains from weeks to as long as years (CBC 1858:5). This abatement was useful in situations where the deceased was to be relocated prior to sepulture. It was also useful in situations where friends and relatives had to travel great distances before the burial could take place, or when weather conditions prohibited burial excavation (e.g. frozen winter ground in northern climates). The cases were built to withstand pressure (both from within and without), resist water, protect from rodents, and safeguard against contagion (CBC 185:5-8). Although marketed as the same quality, the other metallic caskets generally did not hold up as well as the Fisk burial cases.



Above is a Fisk Burial Case in a brick vault at Lucas Hill Cemetery.

Below is an infant metallic burial case of unknown manufacture recovered from Lucas Hill Cemetery.



One contemporaneous documented opinion with a negative slant on the metallic burial casket is included for the inquisitive reader.

Embalm, v.: To cheat vegetation by locking up the gases upon which it feeds. By embalming their dead and thereby deranging the natural balance between animal and vegetable life, the Egyptians made their once fertile and populous country barren and incapable of supporting more than a meagre crew. The modern metallic burial casket is a step in the same direction, and many a dead man who ought now to be ornamenting his neighbour's lawn as a tree, or enriching his table as a bunch of radishes, is doomed to a long inutility. We shall get him after awhile if we are spared, but in the meantime the violet and the rose are languishing for a nibble at his glutaeus maximus.

-Ambrose Bierce (1906)

References:

Bierce, Ambrose G.

1906 *The Cynics Word Book*. Doubleday. New York.

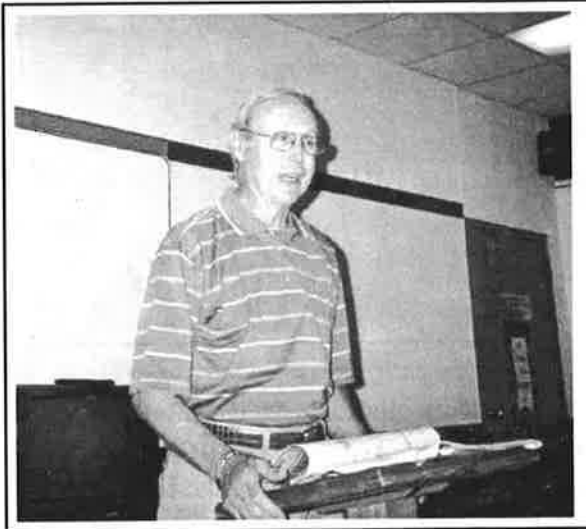
Crane, Breed, and Co.

1858 *Fisk's and Crane's Patent Metallic Burial Cases and Caskets*. Cincinnati.

Article and photos submitted by Steven V. Jones and Chris Wilkins.

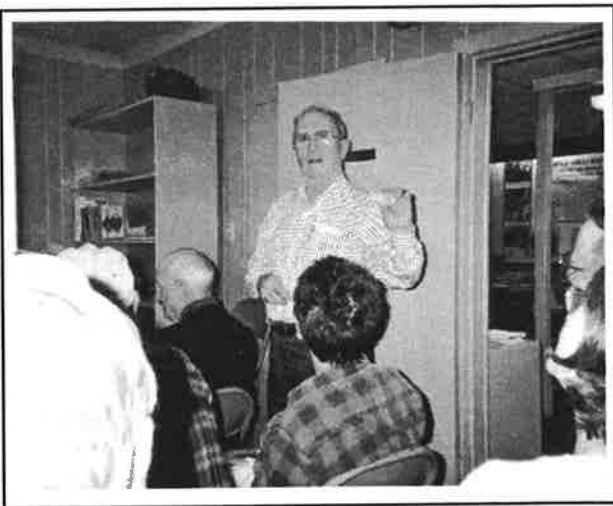
Snapshots

All photos submitted by Howard King.



Shown above is Mr. Charles Moore of Florence Alabama. Mr. Moore gave a presentation on the methods of building a birch bark canoe at the Cullman Chapter's May meeting. The chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday night of each month in the conference room of the Cullman County Library.

Shown below is Mr. Gerald Hester, president of the Muscle Shoals chapter holding an artifact found by a chapter member.



Shown above is Mr. Howard King of Cullman talking to the Muscle Shoals chapter at their May meeting concerning the tool assemblage of Clovis man during the Paleolithic period. Mr. King explained, showed and exhibited many of the tools and artifacts that he has found while searching these early Clovis sites throughout North America. The chapter meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Mound Museum in Florence, Alabama.



Shown above is Tammy Bean, discussing the methods she used in reproducing ancient American pottery to members of the Huntsville Archaeological Chapter. She explained all the steps involved and the material she used in the manufacturing of these exact reproductions. Recently, she has been involved in helping the Cherokees of North

Carolina in teaching them the ancient ways of pottery making and techniques.

Below are Huntsville Archaeological chapter members discussing at their April meeting the pottery bowls made and displayed by Tammy Bean. Shown from left to right, Thomas Badham, Richard Kilborn and Thomas Piff. The Huntsville chapter meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in the auditorium of the Huntsville Public Library.



Shown below are members of the Birmingham Chapter looking at the Tallahatta sandstone artifacts displayed by Steve Meredith and Bill Fowler at the chapter's May meeting. Left to right are: Mr. Herb Floyd, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wise. The chapter meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Emmet O'Neal Library in Mountainbrook, Alabama.



Cottonfield Meditations VII

I talk to a good many people who share one of my major interests, Paleoindian matters. It seems to me that pretty soon after a conversation starts, whether I'm talking to a collector/avocationalist or to a professional archaeologist, the term "migratory" is mentioned. Sometimes I can't be clear if they are talking about people migrating or animals migrating. It seems as if we can't talk about Paleoindians without thinking about migrations.

For instance, I have friends who explain the locations of sites as being at places where migrating animals crossed the river. I have friends who don't think about a resident population of Clovis people who lived here. They think, instead, about those very first ones, the ones who "migrated" in here. They think about a group of non-territorial hunters, unrelated to any nearby bands, who followed a herd of migrating animals down a game-trail that led through the Heavens Half Acre Site and eastward to the Quad site. Once I had a person explain to me that the first Clovis people skirted south of the Rocky Mountains, through Blackwater Draw, through Texas and Oklahoma on their way to North Alabama. I think we should move beyond that mode of thought. I think it deters us from the truth.

Think about this. If we ignore calibrated C14 dates and deal simply with conventional dates, what we think of as the Paleoindian Period lasted from about 11,400 until about 9,800 years ago. That is about 1,600 years. That is, in the neighborhood of 60 generations of Paleoindian people lived in Alabama. I have traced my direct ancestry back only 5 generations, and I recognize that his life was vastly different from my own, and that there is a whole body of American history that separates me from him. My mind cannot really grasp the concept of 60 generations. And yet, Paleoindian people lived lives in Alabama for that period of time.

Almost all of Gods' creatures are territorial. Rootless wandering is not a part of the nature of mankind. People will migrate into unknown areas when necessity requires it. But if there is a choice, they will tether themselves to a region where they are familiar and comfortable. As hunter-gatherers, Paleoindian people undoubtedly moved around seasonally within their territories. When populations increased new territories were established nearby, close to the friendship and support of nearby kinsmen.

The idea of Paleoindians as essential migrants is an idea that was born early in archaeological study of them, and it was the result of a lack of information about them. If we continue to see them in that way, we will not be able to perceive their human-ness. And it is their human-ness that makes them subject to anthropological study. Submitted by Charles Hubbert.

Fall 2004 Publication Pricelist

The Alabama Archaeological Society publications can be found at the web address shown below.

www.usouthal.edu/aas/pdfs/aas-2004-booklist.pdf

Donations & Gifts

Howard King is continuing his outstanding record of support for AAS' programs, making his third and fourth contributions to the Mahan research fund for just this year. Howard, we really appreciate your efforts on behalf of AAS.

We also received a contribution from Dr. Roger Nance. While at UAB, Dr. Nance was actively involved with the AAS, conducting excavations at Durants Bend and other work in cooperation with the AAS and the former Archaeological Research Association of Alabama. Roger is now retired (from UAB, not archaeology) and living in California. He just renewed his AAS membership and included a contribution to the

Steve and Christine Wimberly scholarship fund. This was Roger's third contribution in three years.

Margaret Russell sent a generous contribution toward the ultimate printing of the pottery volume, her fifth donation toward the ultimate printing of the pottery volume, her fifth donation to AAS in three years. Margaret has also given a gift membership to Ann Corcoran.

Finally, Brian Geiger has contributed to the Wimberly fund. This is Brian's second consecutive year of support for the Wimberly fund.

We thank all of you for your support. Our grant programs are self sustaining and without contributions from the membership we would not be able to fund these important education and outreach programs.

FUND BALANCES:

Mahan Research Fund: \$1,143.00

Wimberly Scholarship Fund: \$1,675.50

Education Projects Fund: \$1,355.00

Renewals

Angela Fabrizi & Frank Atkins, Huntsville AL
Jim Berryman, Tuscumbia AL
Center for Maya Research, Barnardsville NC
Jessica Crawford, Lambert MS
Matthew Gage, Knoxville TN
Brian Geiger, Birmingham AL
Charles Gremillion, Warner Robbins GA
Jean Hartfield, Carriere MS
Ned Jenkins, Wetumpka AL
Margie Klein, Watkinsville GA
Sarah Mattics, Semmes AL
Jeff McCool, Daphne AL
Roger Nance, Topanga CA
Michael Poe, Mobile AL
Barbara Reid, Mobile AL

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Fred Barnes, Bald Knob AR
Ann Corcoran, Eufaula AL

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Alabama Archaeological Society Student Paper Award

Any person currently enrolled in a BA or MA granting program and a member of the AAS may submit a paper for the student paper award. Only single-authored papers are eligible and the paper must be presented at the annual winter meeting. The paper should be written for presentation to a general audience consisting of amateurs, professionals, and students. The length of the paper should be such that it can be presented in a 15-minute time slot and additionally should include references cited to aid in judging. Papers must be submitted in advance of the meeting for judging by a committee appointed by the AAS Board of Directors and a completed registration form should accompany the submission.

Submit three double-spaced copies of the paper to the AAS Student Paper Award Committee by November 15th. The author will insure that the same version of the paper reviewed for the competition is offered for presentation at the annual meeting. Only one paper submitted per applicant may be considered for the award. Mail the entry to: Dr. Philip Carr, AAS Student Paper Award, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, HUMB 34, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL 36688-0002.

The winner of the Student Paper Award will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society associated with the Winter Meeting. The winner must pick up the book prize at the meeting. The committee reserves the prerogative to defer the award in the event of a shortage of competitive entries.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Enrolled at: _____

Major Professor: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Title of Paper: _____

AAS Scholarships

The Alabama Archaeological Society will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250.00 each. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair by a deadline of 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 of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society.

Public Education

The Alabama Archaeological Society will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500.00. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500.00. Proposals for the grants must be submitted to the Public Education Committee Chairman by October 1st. The Public Education Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on proposals and make an announcement of 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 Alabama Archaeological Society, 2) the public education project must be located in the State of Alabama.

Contact the Public Education Committee Chair for grant application requirements.

Research Grant

The Alabama Archaeological Society will grant an award of \$500.00 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Archaeological Resources Committee will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Winter BOD meeting. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and an announcement of the recipient shall be made at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the Alabama Archaeological Society, 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.

Contact the Archaeological Resources Chairman for grant application requirements.

Scholarship Grant

Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

Public Education Grant

Linda Derry
Old Cahawba
719 Tremont Street
Selma, Alabama 36701-5446

Research Grant

Teresa Paglione
PO Box 311
Auburn, AL 36830

Available Publications

Available Issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 21-31, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$3.50pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue (<i>two issues per volume</i>).....	\$6.00pp
Vol. 40 (Dust Cave), special issue.....	\$18.00pp
Vol. 44 (Alabama Ceramics), special issue.....	\$18.00pp

Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)

Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 -reprint.....	\$7.50pp
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The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama

Special Publication 2.....	\$6.00pp
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Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend

Special Publication 3.....	\$8.00pp
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Membership

The form below may be used for any or all of the following: applying for membership, payment of annual membership dues, change of address, or donations. Please be sure to print your name and address clearly, and check the appropriate boxes. All checks should be made payable to: **Alabama Archaeological Society**. Send the membership form and/or publication orders to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
Archaeological Services
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, AL 35474

The Alabama Archaeological Society Membership Form

NEW MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL DUES PAYMENT

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ E-mail _____

Life (individual).....\$500.00

Sustaining (individual).....\$30.00

Joint Life (husband & wife).....\$600.00

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Annual (individual).....\$20.00

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First Class Postage (per year).....\$5.00

Steven B. Wimberly Scholarship Fund \$ _____

Edward C. Mahan Research Fund \$ _____

Public Education Special Projects Fund \$ _____

* All donations are tax deductible.

** Residents of foreign countries, including Canada and Mexico, please add: \$5.00 for Annual Individual, Institutional, or Associate; \$100.00 for Life; and \$100.00 for Joint Life

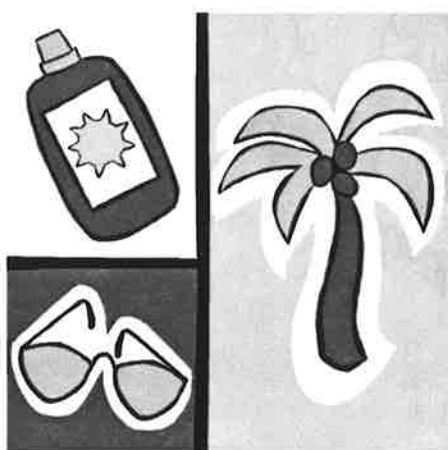
ARTIFACTS!

Do you have any interesting artifacts that you would like to share with the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society? If you do, please send a description of the artifact and a color photo (black and white is fine if that's all you have) to the editorial staff here at *Stones & Bones* and we'll include it in an upcoming issue.



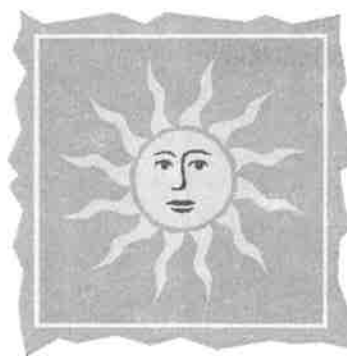
TELL US ABOUT IT!

The editorial staff at *Stones & Bones* is looking for articles to publish and we would like those articles to come from you the members. If you have visited a site recently that you found to be of interest (it doesn't have to be in Alabama) tell us about it. If you have been doing research on a particular topic, tell us about it. If you have been involved in anything else archaeological, tell us about it. These do not have to be professional papers, so please feel free to contribute. If you have color pictures (if you only have black and white photos that's fine) which accompany your article, please send those as well and we will include them with your article.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Are you a reader? Do you read interesting books about archaeology and related topics? Do you think others might be interested in reading the same books? If so, *Stones & Bones* would like to hear from you. If you have read an interesting book, write a review and send it to us. Book reviews are a good way of letting others know about archaeological publications which may be of interest.



**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER ISSUE OF STONES & BONES IS
AUGUST 15TH.**



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