Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors Bart Henson **Dorothy Luke**



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

Volume 23

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 9

A SYMPOSIUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ON "ALABAMA AND THE BORDERLANDS: FROM PREHISTORY TO STATEHOOD"

The overall objective of this project is to focus the attention of both the general public and the scholarly community upon the transition of Alabama and the borderlands region from prehistory to statehood. Although this roughly six-hundred-year period (from 1200 to 1800 A.D.) is widely recognized as a crucial period in the cultural transformation of the region, embodying those patterns of European discovery, exploration and settlement which permanently altered and recast both Native American and European cultures, it has received surprisingly less scholarly attention than more recent periods in the state's and region's history. More importantly, perhaps, the knowledge which has been developed has not been extended to the public in any generally-accessible fashion. The purpose of this project, therefore, is to provide the general public with an understandable, yet comprehensive, review of the state of contemporary knowledge concerning these critical years of Alabama's early history, to suggest and explore new problems of investigation and interpretation, to consider new issues and their human and cultural implications, and to identify new directions for increasing understanding and stimulating general interest in this fascinating and formative period.

In order to address the broad subject of the project, the central historical topic will be divided into three roughly chronological sections: the Prehistory Background, the Age of Exploration, and the Age of Conflict and Revolution. Each section will be treated in overview with emphasis upon the major issues and cultural patterns of the period and a specific event, theme, or issue of interest to Alabamians will be highlighted for more detailed examination. the Prehistoric Background section, for example, the current knowledge of Alabama's prehistoric past will be summarized and special attention will be given to Mississippian Indian culture. The Mississippian Indians were the last major pre-European Indian culture to develop in the borderlands region, and Alabama's Mound State Monument contains one of the finest Mississippian sites in the United States. A secondary goal of the project will be to develop an increased awareness among the general public of the existence and importance of this valuable cultural resource. Similarly, in the second section - the Age of Exploration -Hernando De Soto's expedition through southern Alabama will receive in-depth The record left by the great Spaniard not only provides major clues to the state of human and natural culture in the region during the age of

European expansion in the New World, but also offers significant insights into the mind (the attitudes and assumptions) of the age itself. The final section of the project will carry the story of Alabama's early history up through the period of European colonial rivalry in the region, including its effect upon the Native Indian population, to the birth of the United States and the beginning of serious American settlement in the region.

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Each of the 12 humanities scholars whose name appears on the agenda is an eminent authority on the period of Alabama prehistory and history which is the subject of the project. Each of these scholars has been invited to address the public on the particular area of his expertise during the two-day symposium, and to provide the project committee with the finished text of his paperin a form suitable for publication.

In order to stimulate and enhance public participation in the program, a traveling exhibit, consisting of six modular display units, will be developed and made available to local and regional museums, libraries, clubs and associations. The exhibit will consist of two modules on each of the three subtopics of the symposium (The Prehistoric Background, The Age of Exploration, and Conflict and Revolution) and will include a summary of the significant results of the symposium along with visuals and artifacts which will serve to illustrate and reinforce the substantive information.

Preparation of the traveling exhibit will require two months following the symposium. Mrs. Donna Peters, Preparator of Exhibits, Alabama Museum of Natural History, will have the primary responsibility, with the advice and assistance of the Advisory Committee, for preparing the traveling display and the mobile trailer. The traveling exhibit will be finished by December 1, 1981, and an initial preview showing will be held at the Alabama Museum of Natural History from December 1 through December 4, to which program directors of museums and libraries in Alabama, as well as the general public, will be invited. Coordination and scheduling of the exhibit for showings across the state will be handled by Dr. Joseph Vogel, Director of the Alabama Museum of Natural History.

In addition, the major addresses and papers presented at the symposium will be collected, edited, and published as a permanent public record by The University of Alabama Press. It is expected that the volume of essays, which will be published within a year of the symposium, will be of such permanent significance that they will be available at most public libraries and many local bookstores for years to come and will, in fact, become a lasting public resource for insight into early Alabama history.

AGENDA

- 1. Registration, Welcome, Opening Address: Thursday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. (Student Union Building (Ferguson Center)
 - (a) Dr. Joab L. Thomas, President; The University of Alabama
 - (b) Dr. Douglas E. Jones, Dean; College of Arts and Sciences; The University of Alabama
 - (c) Dr. Wilton S. Dillon, Director; Office of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars, Smithsonian Institution

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- 2. Session Number I: Thursday, September 24, 2:00 p.m. The Prehistoric Background. Mississippian Indian Culture: origins and spread, elements of organization, archaeological evidence.
 - (a) Overview: Dr. James B. Griffin, University of Michigan
 - (b) Contributing:
 - (1) Dr. Christopher Peebles, The University of Alabama and University of Michigan
 - Dr. Bruce Smith, Smithsonian Institution
 - (3) Dr. James Brown, Northwestern University
- 3. Session Number II: Friday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. The Age of Exploration. The De Soto Expedition in historical and ethnohistorical perspective.
 - (a) Overview: Dr. J. H. Parry, Harvard University
 - (b) Contributing:
 - Dr. Jeffrey Brain, Harvard University
 - (2) Dr. Charles Fairbanks, University of Florida(3) Dr. Charles Hudson, University of Georgia
- 4. Session Number III: Friday, September 25, 2:00 p.m. Conflict and Revolution in the Borderlands. The age of conquest, imperial rivalries and the American advance.
 - (a) Overview: Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn, Smithsonian Institution
 - (b) Contributing:
 - Dr. Eugene Lyon, St. Augustine Preservation Board
 - Dr. Michael Scardaville, Southeastern Borderlands Association
 - (3) Dr. William Coker, University of West Florida
- 5. Mound State Monument Tour: Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. In addition to the formal presentations, those attending the symposium will be invited to join members of the Alabama Museum of Natural History for a guided tour of Mound State Monument, one of the most important prehistoric Mississippian Indian ceremonial sites in North America and one of the most significant archaeological resources of the entire Alabama region.

Footnote: Our Society is one of the sponsors of this symposium, and we encourage all members to plan to attend.

The Editors

OAR OPEN HOUSE

The Office of Archaeological Research (OAR), The University of Alabama, held an open house on Saturday, August 22 at their new installation at Mound State Park (Moundville, Alabama). The morning was devoted to individual tours of the park and museum; after a picnic lunch, members of our Society and others interested in archaeology were given a tour of the OAR's David L. DeJarnette Archaeological Research Facility.

The OAR is justifiably proud of its modern office complex, laboratory and curatorial facilities. After the tour, conducted by Director Carey Oakley and Eugene Futato, members of the OAR staff were on hand to answer questions on the many artifacts being studied. Staff member Van King gave a demonstration of his flint-knapping expertise, and visitors were invited to try their hand at shaping a point. An open dig near the facility afforded Carey Oakley the opportunity to discuss field work and the importance of methodology and meticulous record keeping in archaeology.

We would like to thank the Office of Archaeological Research for its patience and gracious hospitality. This was indeed a "learning experience" for our members.

The Editors

WINTER MEETING - NOVEMBER 7 AND 8, 1981

The Birmingham Chapter will host the Winter Meeting in the Department of Anthropology Auditorium, UAB, on November 7 and 8, 1981. More information will be forthcoming in the newsletter.

The Editors

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter

Birmingham Chapter meets the second Thursday (September 10) at the Red Mountain Museum Auditorium, 1425 22nd Street South, at 7:30 p.m. September's speaker will be author Christine A. Wimberly. Her newest publication is Exploring Prehistoric Alabama Through Archaeology. This program will be directed toward students and persons who may become interested and would like to know more about archaeology.

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter met on Tuesday, August 18. Huntsville's Janet Graham, a senior at Duke University, was the speaker. Ms. Graham had just returned from a month-long dig (sponsored by Duke) in Upper Gallilee - the dig which was distinguished by the discovery of part of an ancient carved stone ark of the covenant. Ms. Graham displayed photographs of the dig and of this, their most exciting find (see the color photograph in the August 17 edition of "Newsweek"); she gave a most entertaining and interesting talk on what it was like to participate in such an undertaking.

The Huntsville Chapter meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center, at 7 p.m. Plans are now being made for a chapter field trip to Cathedral Caverns in Grant, Alabama, on Saturday, September 19. For more information, call Dorothy Luke at 539-8688.

NEW MEMBERS

Clay, Ms. Ellen (A)

Bernardi, Mr. Patrick (I)

Bodnar, Ms. Geraldine (I)

Cates, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley W. (F)

Pratt, Mr. Robert W. (I)

Suter, Mr. & Mrs. John R. (F)

Talbot, Dr. J. R. Jr. (I)

Walling, Mr. Richard (I)

Williams, Mr. & Mrs. James (F)

58 Campus Inn Apartments Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

One Meadow Lake Drive Oxford, Alabama 36203

826 East 22nd Street Anniston, Alabama 36201

P. O. Box 633 Weaver, Alabama 36277

708 Harrogate Springs Road Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

129 Shannon Lane Anniston, Alabama 36201

3800 Caffey Woods Road Anniston, Alabama 36201

No. One Mound State Monument Moundville, Alabama 35474

Route Three, Skyline Subdivision Jacksonville, Alabama 36265

NEW CHAPTER FORMING

Society members in the Jacksonville State University area have expressed a desire to form a chapter and affiliate with the A. A. S. Dr. Harry Holstein, archaeologist at J. S. U. and well-known member to the Society through his presentations at annual meetings and newsletter contributions, has been elected president.

Requirements for chapter affiliation include the expressed desire of 15 adult Society members to form a chapter, the election of officers, and the submission of a constitution which must be approved by the Society Board of Directors. Dr. Holstein has already forwarded to the Secretary the membership list and officer names, and is presently preparing the chapter constitution.

It is anticipated that the Board will act on this petition at the next regular Board meeting - November 7, 1981 - or earlier through special Board action.

The Editors

SCENES DURING THE OAR'S OPEN HOUSE ON AUGUST 22, 1981











- OAR Staff Member, Van King, discussing flint knapping.
- Van King explaining the flint knapping tool kit.
- OAR staff member, Eugene Futato, displays artifacts from Cedar Creek.
- 4. Society Members examine artifacts in the OAR Laboratory.
- 5. OAR Director, Carey Oakley, (hand raised) starting a group on the tour of the laboratory.

(Photos by A. J. Wright)

(MORE SCENES FROM THE OPEN HOUSE)











- 6. Fried chicken and good conversation during the noon picnic.
- Lunch on the picnic grounds at Mound State Monument at Moundville.
- 8. Members having an "after lunch discussion" on the grounds.
- 9. Another view of members during lunch.
- Society President, Joe Watkins (left), and other members during lunch.

(Photos by A. J. Wright)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE	
Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 13- Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)	18\$1.00 pp \$4.00 pp
Stantield-Worley Bluft Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alaba	ama Archaeology)
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at	
Special Publication 3 — Archaeological Livestinations at b	\$4.50 pp dorseshoe Bend
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types	
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Parks Service	
CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO: ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	
MAIL 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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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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