

# Alabama Archaeological Society

## Stones & Bones

Volume 38, Issue 9

September 1996

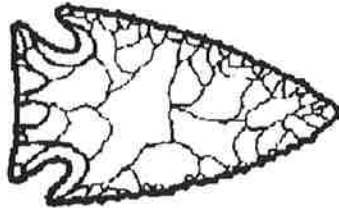
**Editor:**

McDonald Brooms

**Associate Editors:**

David Abbott

Brad Solomon



**Editorial Office:**

40 Eldridge Hall

Troy State University

Troy, Al 36082

☎ 334-670-3638

Fax # 334-670-3706

### What's Happening Around The State

**The Troy State University Archaeological Research Center** conducted Phase II testing this summer for the Alabama Historical Commission on selected sites discovered during the Phase I cultural resource reconnaissance of the Choc-tawhatchee, Pea, and Conecuh River Systems conducted by TSUARC last year. The following is a summery of this summer's excavations.

#### **1Cv 32**

This site consists of a Weeden Island mound and a Mississippian mound with associated vil-lage. Four excavation units were established, three in the village area and one at the base of the Weeden Island mound at the southern edge of 1Cv32. The test units indicated cultural affilia-tions ranging from possibly the Late Paleo-Indian to the Mississippian stage. The largest occupation at the site occurred during the Weeden Island phase. The unit at the edge of the mound was ex-tended to a depth of 140cm below surface and clearly indicated the initial phase of mound con-struction in the upper levels. Artifact return was

heavy in all four units and several Weeden Island features were discovered and excavated. The test-ing program here clearly indicates that 1Cv32 is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **1Da326**

This site is a multi-component site ranging from possibly the Late Paleo-Indian to the Missis-sippian stage. Four 2x1 meter test units were ex-cavated. The testing program indicated that the greatest occupation of the site occurred during the Swift Creek and Weeden Island phases but the site was also utilized from the Early Archaic through the Mississippian period. With undisturbed strata to a depth of 70cm below surface, this site is clearly eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **1Cr104**

This site consists of a single earthen mound with associate village. Methodology included ex-cavating four 2x1 units; three in the village area and one at the top of the mound. The mound unit indicated that the mound was constructed during one building phase. This unit was excavated to subsoil which was approximately 1.7 meters be-low surface of the mound. Artifact recovery was

sparse but indicated a single component site with a Mississippian cultural affiliation. The landowner has plowed up at least four burials on the site and a number of features. Unfortunately, deep cultivation and looting have taken its toll on 1Cr104. Additional testing will be necessary to determine what areas of 1Cr104 are eligible for nomination to the National Register.

#### **1Co84**

This site consists of a single Mississippian mound with associated village located on a bluff along the Pea River. By far, the majority of our field time was spent at this site. Field methods included excavating six 2x2 meter units adjacent to each other to form a trench 12 meters long and two meters wide within the mound. Two 1x1 meter units were also placed to the northwest and northeast of the mound and approximately 10 meters from the corners of the mound.

Initially, the first two days at 1Co84 were spent clearing the site of trees, low growing brush, and pot hunter trash. After this was completed, it became evident just how disturbed the mound was. No fewer than 12 large pot hunter holes were discovered, all being at least 2 meters in diameter and 1 meter deep. The pot hunter hole in the center of the mound was at least twice this big. Local collectors recalled that they had dug into the mound as long as 70 years ago retrieving artifacts such as pots, copper breastplates, and human skeletal remains. In addition, they also informed us that at least 50% of the mound had fallen into the river during the last big flood a few years ago. With little hopes of recovering much undisturbed archaeological data, the TSU crew established the excavation trench in the only undisturbed portion of the mound that still remains, a 12 meter long section on the northern edge of the mound. Although our excavations did not produce whole pots, copper breastplates, or human skeletal remains, we were able to reveal the mound construction phases that have taken place and a very good idea how the mound was constructed. At about two meters below the surface of the mound, we were able to distinguish the very first episode of mound construction on what was then the

original ground surface. Below this our excavations continued another meter providing excellent information on the pre-mound Mississippian village that existed here. There is strong evidence that this particular location was a sacred place well before the mound was constructed. Evidence of large pre-mound fires built in pits and then covered with white sand were found ( Creek Indians conducted a similar ritual during the Historic period). A red clay cap was then placed over this pit and the first stage of mound construction began.

Subsequent phases also included a large fire built in a pit and covered with white sand and then capped once more with red clay. Artifact recovery in the mound was not heavy but did provide enough data to culturally identify the site as purely Mississippian. However, a large number of carbon samples were recovered that will date several different phases of mound construction as well as pre-mound habitation of the site.

The two 1x1 meter units away from the mound were also excavated to red clay subsoil. These units indicate that the area away from the mound has not been disturbed and that the site is clearly eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. With the evidence found during the testing as well as the site's location in the bend of the river on a high bluff, it appears that 1Co84 was indeed a sacred place to the Native Americans that lived in the area.

**Mississippi Choctaws: Traditional Life in the Modern World** opened September 18th at Moundville Archaeological Park. This exhibit celebrates Native American tradition in a changing society. It also depicts and describes contemporary life of the Mississippi Choctaws, descendants of one of the largest tribes to ever have inhabited the southeastern United States. Viewers will see the everyday life, traditional dances, stickball, and colorful festivals portrayed on a series of panels.

The exhibit will close October 31st. Moundville Archaeological Park hours are 8:00am to 8:00pm daily and the Jones Archaeological Museum is open 9:00am to 5:00pm. For further

information contact the Moundville Archaeological Park at (205) 371-2234.

**The 53rd annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference** will be held at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama on November 6-9, 1996. The following is a list of some of the meetings and events, symposia, and general sessions that may be of interest to AAS members.

### Meetings and Events

**A Celebration of C.B. Moore and Moundville.** Musical Guests: *Henri's Notions*. Friday, 8:00pm-Mid.

**Alabama Museum of Natural History Open House, "The Indians of Mound Island" Exhibit.** Saturday 1:00-3:00, The University of Alabama Campus.

**Moundville Archaeological Park**  
Saturday, 2:00-5:00 (Insider's Tour)  
5:00 - Dreamland Barbeque

### Symposia

**French Colonial Mobile, 1702-1711: An Archaeological Perspective.** Friday, 8:20-11:40am

**Rock Art 2-Cave Art.** Thursday, 3:00-5:00pm.

### General Sessions

**PaleoIndian and Archaic Studies.** Thursday, 10:20-12:00, 1:00-2:40.

**Archaeology and the Public.** Saturday, 8:20-11:20am.

**Southeastern Indians.** Thursday, 1:00-4:40pm.

## Chapter News

### *Cullman County*

The Cullman County Chapter met September 19th. Mr. Howard King presented a video on the Missing Link. This video tries to fill in missing gaps archaeology has had in the past about first man.

## Grey Feather

The following poem was submitted by AAS member Mr. Don Sivley.

### **Grey Feather**

When leaves of many colors danced in the  
Autumn breeze

Singing to the clear waters, "We are free, We  
are free."

Reflecting our way of life you see, asking only  
to be free.

Grey Feather was my tribal name  
A Chief of Peace led me to fame  
My heart is sad for you brave one  
For when War is over - No One has won.  
Do you fight to be free  
or for reasons, my son, that you can't see.

When leaves of many colors fall to the  
ground

Like brave warriors never again to make a  
sound

Soon forgotten for the drums will beat to a dif-  
ferent sound

Should you live to be an old man

Tears will fall on the tarnished metals you  
hold in your hand

As a young brave about your age

The rifle and arrow were the weapons, but not  
today

Your's is big fire like the sun

Yes my heart is sad Brave One

For when the War is over - No One has won.

When leaves of many colors sift to the ground  
Leaving only ashes never to be found  
Soon forgotten for the drums are silent  
Never again to make a sound.

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## New Members

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Jabe Fincher Jr  
Route 1 Box 362  
Greensboro, AL 36744

Phillip S. Lancaster  
1152 Gentry Drive  
Auburn, AL 36830

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## Calendar

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**October 5, 1996- The Fall Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology** will be held at the West Georgia College campus in Carrollton, Georgia in the Townsend Performing Arts Center and will begin at 9:00 AM (Eastern Standard Time).

**October 26, 1996- Southern Exposures: Chattahoochee Cruise.** Cruise the Chattahoochee with guides Billy Winn and Frank Schnell and discover the history and people of this area. The trip includes a visit to Rood's Landing and its Indian Mounds. Fee: \$65. For further information contact:

The Columbus Museum  
(706) 649-0713

**November 6-9, 1996-Southeastern Archaeological Conference** will hold its annual meeting at the Sheraton Civic Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Room rates are \$85.00 for singles, doubles,

triples, and quads; phone number is (205) 324-5000; fax (205)-307-3045. For further information contact:

Ian W. Brown, Program Chair  
Alabama Museum of Natural History  
University of Alabama, Box 870340  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0340.

**December 14, 1996- The Alabama Archaeological Society** will hold its Winter Meeting at the University of Alabama Birmingham Hall Center Auditorium.

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## Reminder!!

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Please mail your contributions to the Research Fund, Scholarship Fund, and Public Education Fund today! Our goal is \$500 per fund by December 31st. This first year will be the hardest to reach our goal since we did not begin the fund drive until July. Everyone's contribution will be essential if we are to be successful. Tear off the donation page on the back of this newsletter and mail it with your check to Eugene Futato at Moundville State Park.

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

- Vol. 20-31, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$3.50pp
- Vol. 32 & up, each issue (two issues per volume).....\$6.00pp
- Stanfield- Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations* (Journal of Alabama Archaeology)  
Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint.....\$7.50pp
- Special Publication 2 - *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama*.....\$6.00pp
- Special Publication 3 - *Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend* .. \$8.00pp
- Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types*.....\$15.00pp
- Lively, Long; Josselyn - *Pebble Tool Paper*..... \$3.00pp
- Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology* (Juvenile).....\$9.00pp

## 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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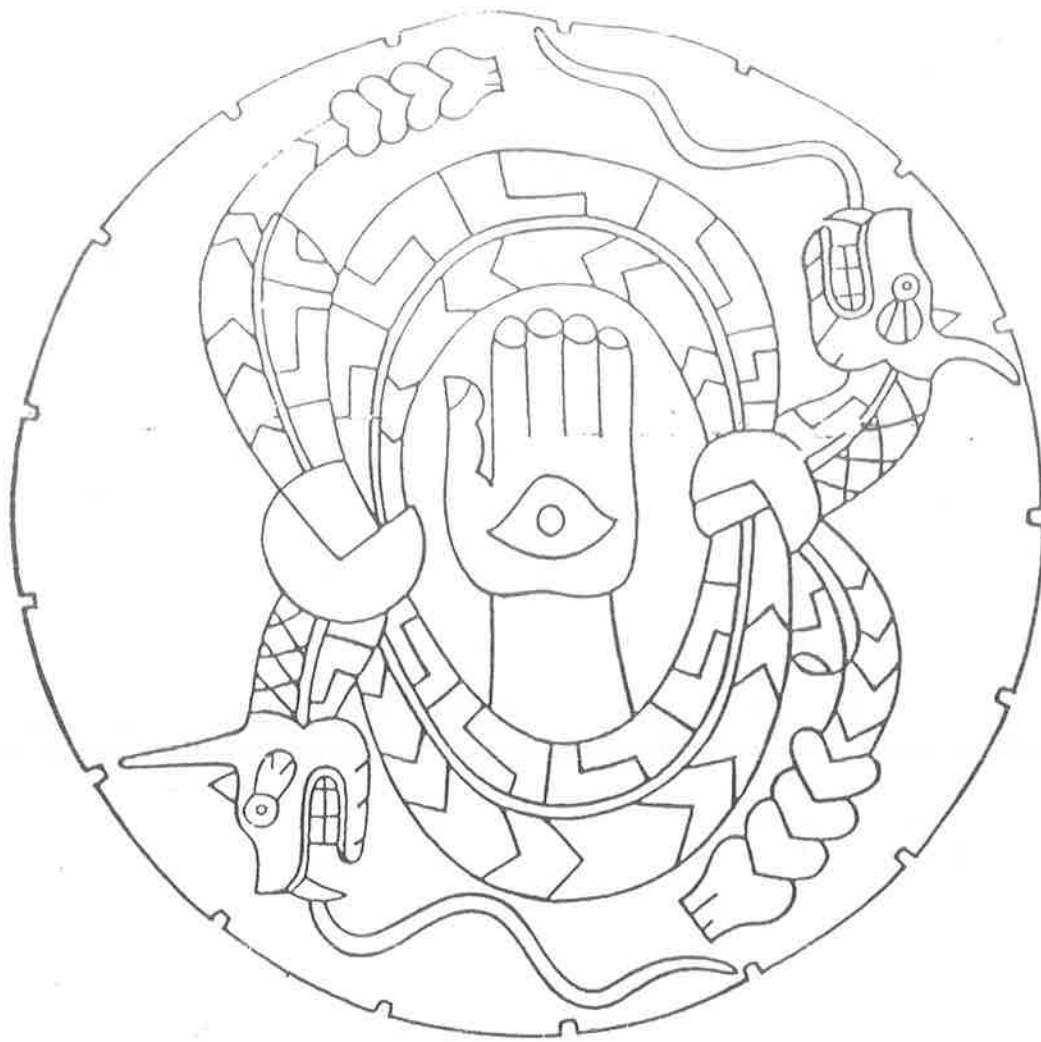
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Memberships and  
Publications to:  
Alabama Archaeological Society  
Archaeological Services  
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Moundville, AL 35474



## Alabama Archaeological Society

304 Wallace Hall  
Troy State University  
Troy, AL 36082-0001

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