

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke



STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

STANFIELD-WORLEY BLUFF SHELTER EXCAVATIONS REPRINTED

Responding to continuous requests, the Alabama Archaeological Society's Board of Directors on December 9, 1978, directed that this out-of-print report of one of Alabama's most important archaeological sites be reprinted.

"The Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter is a stratified, multicomponent site in Colbert County, Alabama. The earliest occupation there can be considered a post-Fluted point and pre-Shell-Mound Archaic manifestation. Excavation of the site was financed by the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama.

"Four natural zones were distinguished at the shelter. The first layer contained Woodland and Mississippian materials, including the entire range of ceramic types known from the Tennessee Valley excavations. The top of the second zone was an occupational floor that seemed to be preceramic in age. Fits intruding this and the lower zones were easily discernible. Below the floor was a layer of sterile sand.

"The lowest occupational zone at the site was dark black in color, contrasting with the sterile zones above and below it. It was found at a mean depth of fifty-five inches from the surface and was from eight to eighteen inches thick. This zone contained numerous unifaced tools, side and end scrapers, gravers and spokeshaves, as well as projectile points of two major styles. Points of the Dalton-Meserve class were abundant; these were classified into three types. The square-based Colbert Dalton and the Greenbrier-Dalton were the most common, but the Nuckolls Dalton type was also found. The second major projectile point style was the side-notched, basally ground Big Sandy I point. Two radiocarbon dates were secured for this complex: $9,640 \pm 450$ and $8,920 \pm 400$ years B.P.

"Three burials at the site, in a preceramic level but above the lowest zone, contained projectile points similar to the Gypsum Cave variety. These points, termed Morrow Mountain, are characteristic of an early preceramic phase in North Carolina. The Morrow Mountain burials also contained several bone awls and a bone atlatl hook."

March 1979

The Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations Report was originally published as Volume VIII, June and December, 1962, Numbers 1 and 2 of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology. The original printing was exhausted soon after publication, and in 1973 it was again reprinted and included in the volume, The First Ten Years of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology. Printed in a quantity of 1000 copies, these were sold within a period of two years.

To meet the continuing demand by professional and avocational archaeologists, the current reprinting, from the original negatives, has been financed from the Society's Special Publication Fund. This double issue contains 124 pages and numerous tables, photographs and drawings, including 55 projectile point classifications and 20 pottery type classifications.

Copies may be ordered from the Journal Editor for five dollars (\$5.00) postpaid.

EARLY DOG: CRO-MAGNON'S BEST FRIEND

There are those who argue that the domestication of dogs is little more than a vehicle by which modern-day humans express their own neuroses. However, now comes evidence that the person-dog relationship - even if it does include foisting one's hangups upon Fido - began well before the concept of neurosis was even a twinkle in Freud's unconscious.

Indeed, the only thoughts of dog-lovers at that time probably centered on hunting for food and finding adequate shelter. There is reason to believe that as long as 12,000 years ago humans chose to domesticate, rather than hunt, the dog. Recent finds at two sites in Israel yield "concrete evidence for some kind of special relationship, perhaps domestication, between man and dog/wolf...around 12,000 B. P.", say researchers Simon J. M. Davis of the Hebrew University and Francois R. Valla of the Centre de Recherches Prehistoriques in Jerusalem.

The primary evidence, reported in the Dec. 7 NATURE, was uncovered in the remains of a stone dwelling at the Mallaha site in northern Israel, where the Epipalaeolithic culture of the Natufian lived 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Found there was a human skeleton, flexed on its right side, with its hand upon what the researchers have determined to be the remains of a three- to five-month-old puppy. Various analyses of these fossils, plus others found at the terrace of Hayonim in western Galilee, indicate - although not positively - that they are those of dogs, "rather than small wolves", say the researchers.

These findings - particularly at Mallaha - "support evidence...for interaction between man and canids in the Epipalaeolithic", the researchers conclude. "The puppy, unique among Natufian burials, offers proof that an

affectionate rather than gastronomic relationship existed between it and the buried person." They add that it also appears that members of the ancient culture may even have selectively bred their dogs.

(From SCIENCE NEWS, Vol. 114, December 23 & 30 issue, 1978)

ESAF

SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE!

The Archaeology of Eastern North America, Volume 7 (1979) may be ordered before September 1979 at a special price of \$6.00 (members) or \$7.00 (non-members).

Archaeological Bibliography for Eastern North America (3000 listings from 1959-1976) - \$7.00.

Also Volumes 1-36 of the ESAF Bulletin are still available at \$.50 each or \$15.00 for the whole set. After #36, the Bulletin appears in AENA as the Proceedings. Send your order to ESAF Business Office; F. C. Box 676; Newark, Delaware 19711.

Be among those who really care and join ESAF as an Individual Member. You will receive several publications with this membership. First, the new issue, Volume 7 (1979) of Archaeology of Eastern North America will be sent direct to you as soon as it is released in the fall. The second publication will be the ESAF News. The third publication will be a copy of the 1979 Directory - all mailed direct to you. Send your membership fee of \$10.00 to ESAF Business Office; F. C. Box 676; Newark, Delaware 19711.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

BISON

Floyd Painter reports that three upper premolar teeth of a young bison were found by Prof. Allan D. Cwen (Old Dominion U.), a non-professional volunteer, at the Currituck Site in northeastern North Carolina. The teeth were 12 inches below plowline in a shell midden pit containing flat-bottomed pottery and other occupational debris. Charcoal from this pit yielded a date of 2610 B.P. (U. of Ga.). A search of published archaeological reports and communication with authorities failed to find any report of bison remains found in archaeological sites east of the Mississippi River. This report appears in The Chesopiean, Volume 16, No. 1-3 (Feb.-June 1978). In the next issue (No. 4-6, Aug.-Dec. 1978), Fainter publishes

several letters he received about "Bison", all agreeing that there are not reports of bison remains in archaeological sites along the Atlantic seaboard. These letters do mention historic reports of bison as well as theories as to why remains are not found. Painter hopes he will receive other communications on the subject and plans to publish them in future issues of the Chesopiean. The subscription is \$10.00 (calendar year basis). Send your check payable to "The Chesopiean", to Deborah Painter, Treasurer; 7507 Pennington Road; Norfolk, Virginia 23505.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter: The Chapter's featured guest for February was Ned Jenkins, who presented his slides from the Gainesville work on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

Huntsville Chapter: The speaker at the February Chapter meeting was Mrs. Jean Greenwood, a guest lecturer at Alabama A&M University. Mrs. Greenwood's topic was "Archaeology in a Cultural Context". The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room at the north end of the Von Braun Civic Center. The speaker at the March Chapter meeting will be Dr. West Clabaugh.

Montgomery Chapter: This year the Montgomery Chapter will continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Liberal Arts Building, A. U. M. Campus. For February, the Chapter enjoyed the program "Hickory Nuts and Corn Cobs: Archaeological Botany", given by Elisabeth S. Sheldon, Research Associate, Auburn University. At this meeting the members also elected new officers for 1979. They are David Chase, Chapter President; Nancy Brock, Vice President and Program Chairman; and Teresa Faglione, Secretary-Treasurer. The March meeting will be Tuesday, March 6, at 7:30 and will feature David Chase, who will give a program on the archaeology of Devil's Mound, Iran. For April, the Chapter plans to hear Greg Wasselkopf, Ph.D. candidate from University of North Carolina, present a program relating to historical archaeology.

NEW MEMBERS

Eastern States Archeological Federation -
Business Office

Harding, Mr. R. W. (I)

P. O. Box 676 (705 Chapel
Street 302); Newark, Delaware 19711

3202 19th Avenue; Shawmut,
Alabama 36876

Hesse, Mr. and Mrs. Brian (F)

Apt. 92-F; 4141 North Henderson Road; Arlington, Virginia 22203

Paglione, Ms. Teresa (I)

3200 Walton Drive; Montgomery, Alabama 36111

Sheeks, Mr. Arthur Jr. (I)

1113 10th Avenue, S. E.; Decatur, Alabama 35601

Whiting, Mr. Marvin Y. (I)

606 Woodland Village; Birmingham, Alabama 35216

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society met on February 27, 1979 in Cullman.

President Mike Wells, with Board approval, established most of the membership composition of operating committees. Dru McGowen, immediate past President, was appointed to the newly-created position of Press Secretary to coordinate matters of **Society publicity**. Steve Wimberly was designated to continue as chairman of the ad hoc Research Committee; his duties include the studying of methods of raising funds for research and the making of recommendations to the Board on the disbursement of funds for archaeological research projects. The current research fund contains \$150, with an additional \$1,000 expected from a Research Association contribution within the next few days.

Carey Oakley and Steve Wimberly briefly outlined a proposed certification program for avocational archaeologists, to be conducted by the University of Alabama. The certification program as tentatively outlined would include options in different areas of interest; for example, lab techniques, field techniques, survey techniques and research techniques; and will possibly be offered for weekend work and summer field school work. When planning is finalized, full details will appear in the newsletter.

Bart Henson, Publications Committee, reported that the reprint of the Stanfield-Worley excavation is at the bindery and will be in the hands of the Journal Editor for sale in approximately one week. The Board authorized the Publications Committee to: 1) develop with Dr. Roy Dickens a special publication on Horseshoe Bend, based upon his field work there; and 2) develop a descriptive leaflet on the Alabama Archaeological Society, its activities, publications and chapters, to be used as a "hand-out" by the Society and chapters. The Board also authorized Journal Editor Eugene Futato to: 1) purchase 100 copies of Dave DeJarnette's report on the Weiss Reservoir from the University Press at a very favorable price, to be made available to the membership at a special rate; and 2) to establish immediately a reduced cost schedule on A.A.S. Journal back issues

for members; that is, \$2.50 rather than \$4.

Joe Watkins, Second Vice President and Program Chairman, outlined some of the program options being investigated for the Summer Meeting, including the possibility of a visit to some portion of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to view the archaeological work in progress.

NEWS FROM THE VIRGINIA RESEARCH CENTER FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

At Yorktown, nautical archeologists under John Broadwater identified eight wrecks from Cornwallis' fleet and removed an 18th century frigate cannon on the 197th anniversary of the day it was sunk, October 31, 1781. Excavation plans proposed for 1979 include (1) feasibility studies of excavation methods, and (2) extensive testing of two wrecks threatened by erosion.

(From Archaeological Society of Virginia Newsletter, January 1979)

THEY'LL LEAVE THE DIGS

The archaeological dig at the Koster site will end next summer. A decade of digging has unearthed more than 8,000 years of human history. Stuart Streuver, who headed the project since its beginning in 1969, says the hole will be refilled.

The site is being closed down because the objectives have been reached. The purpose, to get information from every level of prehistoric occupation, has been accomplished. The dig is now 44 feet down and on top of Pleistocene glacial gravels.

The different layers of "artifact-rich soil" on the 25-acre site will be protected by the refilling of the hole. The 13 different layers known to the archaeologists as "Horizons" denote the different levels of human habitation.

The discovery that layers of occupation on the 25-acre site were separated by layers of sterile soil "that washed down from the limestone bluffs of the Illinois River Valley brought fame to the Koster site." This separation of artifact-rich layers by sterile soil "gave a good perspective of time as they reached back through hundreds of generations". Studies of the material recovered from Koster are being made by Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Arizona State University and a research center at Kampsville.

(From The Arkansas Amateur, Vol. XVII, No. 12, December 1976)

SOCIETY FOR GEORGIA ARCHAEOLOGY

The Society publishes a biannual journal of Georgia archaeology and a quarterly Newsletter which are mailed to each member. Regular membership is \$6.00. Send check to Dr. Betty Smith; Social Science Division; Kennesaw College; Marietta, Georgia 30061.

JOURNAL REVIEW

"Of Land Bridges, Ice Free Corridors, and Early Man in the Americas", article by Glen Cole, in the January issue of the Field Museum of Natural History Bulletin.

The article deals with the subject of the arrival of Early Man in the New World. It is said to be pretty well agreed that he came from Asia by way of a more or less "land bridge" across Bering Straits. Geologically, such a passage of man is quite feasible. A lowering of the sea level by 300 feet would produce a land bridge a thousand miles wide; a much less amount would probably leave a dry strip hundreds of miles wide, which would have been possible by the size and depth of the ice caps during the last, or Wisconsin, glacial period.

A possible route of such immigrants could have been via an ice free corridor believed to have then existed along the eastern slope of the continental divide between the Cordilleran Ice and the Laurentide Ice. (The Cordilleran Ice probably extended down to the State of Washington. I have seen the grooves of glacial action in outcropping bedrock in the city of Victoria, B. C.). As the Late Wisconsin period, or period of recession, could have lasted say 10,000 years, and as it was finished say 10,000 years B. P., sufficient time existed for such a migration. However, this article discusses the possibility of such a migration from an ecological standpoint. Could the land support such a migration; was there sufficient food all along the food chain from plankton to man? Receding glaciers would have made raging torrents of river valleys. Early man could not have known that there was a land of plenty at the end of the thousands of miles of such a trek, even though it could have taken hundreds or even thousands of years. The article points out that a great deal more scientific study is necessary to answer or even approach answers to these questions.

J. Birney Work
Palm Harbor, Florida

MEETINGS

March 29-31 - The Alabama Academy of Science at the University of North Alabama, Florence, Alabama. The Section Chairman for Anthropology is Dr. Robert Fornaro; Sociology/Anthropology; University of South Alabama; Mobile, Alabama 36688.

April 20-21 - The Georgia Academy of Science at Augusta College, Augusta, Georgia. Dr. Robert Fishman; Department of Anthropology; Georgia State University; Atlanta, Georgia 30303; Tel. (404) 655-2256.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

DUGOUT CANOE FOUND IN NORTH CAROLINA

On March 1, 1978, Mona Bartz notified the Archeology Branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources that her family had seen a hollowed-out log while canoeing down the Neuse River. Plans were made for Branch archaeologists Mark A. Mathis and Thomas E. Scheitlin to visit the site of the "possible dugout canoe" on Saturday, March 4th. It was positively identified as a dugout canoe. The canoe had probably been dislodged from a bank further upstream and had been washed downstream by high water currents to its present location.

On March 6, Leslie S. Bright, an underwater archaeologist for the Underwater Archeology Branch at Ft. Fisher, and Mark A. Mathis returned to the canoe site and began collecting information necessary for planning its retrieval and preservation. Entering the chilly water, Leslie was able to determine that the canoe was nearly whole, that it was over 20 feet long, and that it had a flat bottom.

Ropes and flotation devices, which consisted of three air mattresses, were attached, and the canoe was secured alongside two boats. It was floated downstream for about two miles to a highway bridge.

Once placed on a truck, the canoe was taken to the Archeology Branch Laboratory, where it was soaked with water and wrapped in plastic. It was then transported to the Preservation Lab at the Underwater Archeology Branch at Ft. Fisher, Kure Beach, where it was placed in wet storage.

The dugout canoe is an important archaeological find because it is the first one to have been found in the Neuse River; only a few dugouts have been found in the entire state. This one, which is probably the largest, is also unique in construction - low sides and flat bottom.

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.

The Society is a non-profit corporation. Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Society to help finance archaeological research and projects conducted throughout Alabama. The membership blank below may be used for this purpose.

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to.

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright

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Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road SE
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