

THE BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS

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ISSUES 7 &amp; 8

THE BIRMINGHAM INQUIRER

Dr. James McCabe, our guest speaker for July, gave a most interesting and unusual talk on "Determining Age by Visual Examination of Teeth". Since our attendance was only a few over forty we are including in this issue a brief chart which Dr. McCabe made available during his lecture. Non-attenders can get further information and facts from those present.

In The ARCHEOLOGICAL BULLETIN of May 1910, in an article, "The Ten Cache Ruin," it says in part, "North of the Platte River, on the Nebraska side of the Missouri..... several large tracts of timber have not been disturbed by the lumberman and in these lie numerous circular depressions in the earth..... usually I find that these ruins have been dug into in the center over the fireplace, but otherwise they have been undisturbed. Investigation of some twenty five of these ruins covering a period of four years has enabled me to determine that they were not the residence of one people and I now have no difficulty in determining their variation before the operation of exploration is begun.....near the bottom of these caches I find a foot or two of wood ashes.....flint knives with four blades, various sorts of hammerstones, hematite of various colors and three colors ochre; rubbing stones, and a large quantity of sherds; small charred corn cobs showing but NINE rows of kernels; etc., etc."

While all the other parts of the finds are very interesting, the most interesting part is the fact that the corn cobs had an odd number of rows of kernels. As a result of many years of Nature study, and always being close to nature, we were always taught, and always thought that the rows of grain on an ear of corn was always an even number of rows and never an odd number. Too, we were taught that there was a silk for each grain of corn, or it would not be a fertile grain. Perhaps some other member of the Society can shed further light on this subject.

An amateur archeologist of some means was traveling in Palestine when he received news of the birth of a son. He at once got a bottle of water from the river Jordan and headed for home. On the morning of the christening he arrived at the church a little early to give the precious water to the minister. As he pulled the flask from his pocket the reverend held up a restraining hand, "Not now, Brother, not now, maybe after church."

Grosetto, Italy --- Scientists from America and Europe working in Italy report finding fossil bone fragments of what may be a 10,000,000 year old pre-man that did not descend from apes. These were found while digging in the slag heaps of the Tuscan

coal fields a few months ago. They admitted that the fragments were too incomplete for positive identification.

Dr. Johannes Hurzeler of The Basil Museum of Natural History said further evidence might show that man and ape might have descended from some common ancestor that resembled neither. (Take your choice).

It is rather interesting to note that hunters with bows and arrows will have a ten day jump on other hunters for deer in Alabama this year. Haven't heard if we have any such Nimrods in the Society, but if we do have any, we would like to know about it. Maybe we could get up a hunt for November first, when the season opens.

Of course there were plenty of deer here when the Indians were here, as the Indian only killed game for food, whereas the white man with plenty of other food, kills mostly for sport.

Deer has become more plentiful in recent years since the State Department of Conservation has taken a greater interest in such matters. All you Nimrods, William Tells, get together and "Off to the hunt we go."

We are sure that all members of the Society, as well as many others will watch with a great deal of interest, the bill by Congressman Albert Raines, to make a national military park at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, where Old Hickory, Andy Jackson, broke the back of the Creek Indian Nation. This bill has already passed the House and it is believed it will pass in the Senate. This battle had a great deal of bearing on the outcome of the Treaty of Ghent. As a result of this battle, Jackson was appointed a Major General in the U.S. Army. He went on from here to win the Battle of New Orleans, which was the last battle of the War of 1812, although it was fought after the treaty of peace was signed with Great Britain. All Alabamians, both native and adopted, may well rejoice that this location will soon come into its rightful recognition as a national monument.

#### POCAHONTAS, THE WELL KNOWN INDIAN PRINCESS

Pocahontas, born about 1595, was the daughter of the powerful Indian chief Powhatan of Virginia. Her real name was Matoaka, but this name like the real names of persons in many Indian tribes, was known only to a few intimate relatives or friends and like other Indians was given a nickname "Pocahontas". Both names imply playfulness.

At the age of twelve years she saved the life of Capt. John Smith, who was the leader of the Jamestown colony, and who had been captured and condemned to death by her father. She had also on several occasions made known to the English their danger when about to be attacked. This story of her saving the life of Capt. John Smith has been questioned by some writers because Capt. Smith did not mention it in his writings until several years later. \*

In 1613 the English, knowing the affection that Powhatan had for his daughter, captured her and held her as a hostage as a safe guard against attacks by her tribe. While held by the English, she met John Rolfe, who later married her. They had one son, from whom many wealthy families in Virginia claim descent.

Rolfe took Pocahontas with him when he returned to England, and while there, many social events were held in her honor. In 1616 she was presented at Court and one year later, while she was preparing to return to America, she died.

\* During this time, the story of Ortiz's capture by the chief Ucita, who twice ordered him put to death, and each time Ortiz was saved from death by the daughter of the chief, was published in Europe. (See the first of this series on Noted Indian Women.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	-----	Brittain Thompson	3609 Montrose Road	TR 1-0698
Vice President	-----	Floyd F. Taylor	1123 No. 16th St.	AL 1-9984
Secretary & Treasurer	-----	Martin F. Hullender	202 18th Way SW	58-8900

Meetings: First Friday Every Month, 7:30 P.M., Birmingham Public Library, 3rd Floor, Art Room, unless otherwise announced.

August 18th      "Picnic"      Will be held at Moundville, Saturday. Try to be there by 11:00 A.M. Any persons needing a ride should contact Brittain Thompson, TR 1-0698, and arrangements will be made for your accommodation. If you would like to go as a caravan group, several persons plan to meet on Route 31 at Hills' parking lot, corner of Oxmoor Road and 20th Street, in Homewood, across from Shades Cahaba School at 9:00 A.M. You can bring your own fixings, or get delicious Moundville hamburgers and sandwiches at the snack restaurant on the grounds.

Sept. 7th      Guest Speaker      Dr. Frank Soday

Subject:      "Archaic Alabama Man"

Dr. Soday is Vice President and Director of Research at Chemstrand Corporation, Decatur, Alabama. His avocation has for many years been in the field of lithic materials. He is one of the few people in the United States who has discovered and worked micro-lithic sites and, in addition, done considerable paleo and archaic digging in the Tennessee Valley area. He has spoken before our Society on other occasions and it has always been an especial treat to have him with us. We hope to have a large turnout.

"A true critic is one who can appreciate something he doesn't like and honestly depreciate something which has common approval."



## DETERMINATION OF AGE BY VISUAL EXAMINATION OF THE TEETH

The approximate age of a person can be determined by a close examination of the teeth up to about 25 years of age. This requires a knowledge of the teeth, their anatomy and their relationships within the dental arch.

The average person has 52 teeth during a lifetime. These are divided into the baby dentition and permanent dentition. The former has 20 teeth and the latter has the remaining 32. The upper and lower arches can be divided into right and left halves, one is the mirror image of the other. Thus the total dental structure can be divided into four quadrants. This is done for simplicity, since each quadrant contains a similar dental formulae, which is written as follows:

Permanent  $I\frac{2}{2}$   $C\frac{1}{1}$   $Bi\frac{2}{2}$   $M\frac{3}{3}$  Baby (deciduous)  $I\frac{2}{2}$   $C\frac{1}{1}$   $M\frac{2}{2}$

I --- Incisors  
C --- Cuspids  
Bi --- Bicuspid  
M --- Molars

There are two ways in which the teeth reveal the age of the person, (1) by the eruption sequence of the individual teeth and (2) the wear of the teeth after they erupt. The eruption sequence is as follows:

1. The first deciduous teeth, one in each quadrant, should erupt by 8 months, then allow four months for each tooth in each quadrant. Thus by 24 months all of the baby teeth should be erupted and by 30 months they should all be in occlusion. The eruption begins with the front teeth and proceeds backward toward each end of the arch.
2. Spaces should appear at the age of four between each of the front teeth and remain until the baby teeth are lost.
3. The first permanent teeth erupt at six years of age. These are the first molars, 6\*, and erupt just behind the last deciduous molars.
4. The central incisors, 1\*, and the lateral incisors, 2\*, erupt during the sixth and seventh years of life.
5. The lower cuspids, 3\*, and all first bicuspid, 4\*, erupt during the eighth and ninth years.
6. The second bicuspid, 5\*, erupt during the ninth and tenth years.
7. The upper cuspids, 3\*, erupt during the eleventh and twelfth years.
8. The second molars, 7\*, erupt during the twelfth and thirteenth years.
9. The third molars, 8\*, erupt from 18 to 20 years.

### Method for Numbering Teeth

One-half of each dental arch can be written as follows:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	II	III	IV	V			
I	II	III	IV	V			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

Roman numerals represent the deciduous dentition and Arabic numerals represent the permanent dentition.