



Stones & Bones

Alabama
Archaeological
Society

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A Tale of Two Artifacts—Or Maybe Just One

In March 2000, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Alabama processed an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) application from Jackson County for assistance in repairing several gullies along the Tennessee River that were created by three days of heavy rains in the area. The gullies were threatening the safe use of an adjacent county road and drainage ditch (undermining the road infrastructure). Under NRCS's EWP program, federal funds were to be provided to the county to partially fund the bank stabilization. By accepting the federal funds for the proposed project, the county was obligated to comply with NRCS project or conservation standards as well as the federal environmental laws—including compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). (Note: Jackson County would have had to comply with federal regulations even without federal funds since the gullies were on Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) land—but that is a different story...)

NRCS employees in Jackson County contacted me for a Cultural Resources Review of the proposed project as part of the EWP application. My research at Moundville's Alabama State Site File (ASSF) indicated that a site in this area, 1Ja643, had been described in a 1987 archaeological report. Based on information contained in the archaeological report, I decided that any Phase I (survey and limited testing) or II (limited testing to determine possible site significance) investigations should be bypassed and a Phase III (mitigation) initiated. (The State Historic Preservation Office/Alabama Historical Commission agreed.) Stratified (layered) shell middens were visible in the profile of eroded riverbank and the newly formed gullies. Before writing a scope of work to the contract for the Phase III excavation of those areas that would be disturbed or destroyed by the bank stabilization project, I photographed the profile of the riverbank and collected a representative sample of artifacts along the shoreline. That sample included half of an atlatl weight, or (winged) banner stone near the largest gully.

A few months later the archaeological excavations were complete and the county began the gully repair work. During the repair work, I monitored construction activities and checked the river shoreline daily for any unique artifacts that had eroded from the bank. I found nothing of substance to add to the artifact count or types at that time, but almost two years later, I was on that same county road and decided to check on the site. I was inspecting the shoreline and bank profile when I happened on another broken atlatl weight. What were the chances I had

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<http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org>

found the other half of that weight I had discovered years earlier? Well, apparently, very good! The pieces fit perfectly.

I write this story to let you know that other than the archaeologists that had recorded the site decades earlier, many people had been collecting artifacts on the surface of the shoreline—some had been illegally digging into the shell midden in the bank profile, too of course. But none of these casual (?) collectors had reported their finds to the ASSF or TVA. True, the majority of collectors probably had no idea who to report to, much less that they were possibly breaking a federal law by digging and pocketing pottery and other artifacts (including human remains!)...But some did. When the excavations were on-going, the archaeologists told me their excavation units had been disturbed a few times after they had left for the day. Other collectors may have felt some guilt – they actually returned artifacts and human remains—placing them in piles in the units for the archaeologists to find.

When the casual collector fails to contact Moundville (which maintains ASSF) to record site locations and/or artifacts, we have all lost a part of our local, state and national history—whether the artifacts were pocketed for personal aesthetic or monetary gain. As for the broken atlatl weight I found—at least both pieces are known to be from the same site and are together again. All of the artifacts I collected and all of the artifacts excavated during the Phase III excavation are the property of TVA—or rather all citizens of Alabama and the U.S. The artifacts are not in Tennessee or any of the TVA offices. Federal agencies are required to curate all artifacts and associated documents (e.g., inventory of artifacts, photographs, field notes, and the archaeological report in a federally approved facility. In Alabama, this facility is at Moundville, where the artifacts are available for further research and analysis and for loan. (Initially, Jackson County officials talked about possibly displaying some artifacts from 1Ja643 in their public buildings; however, to date they have not expressed any further interest in this matter.)

Today, both pieces of that atlatl weight, or winged banner stone, as some may call it, are at Moundville and are available for almost anyone researching this particular kind of artifact, or for use as part of a display or many other legitimate uses. The fate of this and other unique or mundane artifacts could just as easily gone unreported—possibly sold, traded or lost—again.

To read about the excavation of 1Ja643, the report is available online at:
http://www.al.nrcs.usda.gov/about/so_sect/ec_sc/cul_res/site643.html. *Submitted by Teresa Paglione.*

Cottonfield Meditations 14

Before this, the last thing I sent to Stones & Bones was Cottonfield Meditations 12. When one is my age, you don't take any chances! So I am not sending off any 13's. I also carry both a buckeye and a quartz crystal in my pocket at all times. Those who read this who are my age will understand, and those who read it who are not yet my age will someday understand.

Today, I'm wondering where on the North American continent is true flint available? My dad told me long ago that the Indian people made their arrowheads out of flint. I have always thought of chipped stone tools as being flint tools. We have a town named Flint City, we have a creek named Flint Creek, we have a small river that runs into Alabama from Tennessee named Flint River, we have a big river in Georgia named Flint River and everybody knows that the Flintstones were a prehistoric family who lived in the comic strips. It never fails, however,

when I am talking to one of my archaeologist friends and happen to use the expression “flint tools” that I get a lecture to the effect that, “It’s not flint! It’s chert!!” Okay! What should we do, change them to Chert City, Chert Creek and Chert River? If we do that how will anybody know where they are?

They made them out of chert! In my part of the country, in the northwest corner of the State, that means Ft. Payne Chert, which is a high quality stone that was used for making chipped artifacts. Prehistoric people who lived here traded the Ft. Payne Chert (and artifacts made of it) for hundreds of miles across the southeast. It has been known for many years that PaleoIndian people over a wide area had an preference for the Blue/Gray variety of Ft. Payne for making fluted projectile points.

During a recent internet conversation with a fellow archaeologist about artifacts made from Blue/Gray Ft. Payne, I happened to use the term, “flint-tool.” I had a three day barrage of email lectures, instructing me that “It ain’t flint, it’s chert!!” One of the main pieces of advice that got through to me is this: flint on steel will make a spark, chert will not. Remember that.

As I understand it, the geological Ft. Payne formation is about 80 feet thick, and extends as far south as Birmingham. Eugene Smith (1926), a former Alabama State geologist said, “In Lauderdale County also the formation at depth includes beds of black, glassy, thick-bedded flint, as revealed in the deeper cuttings at the north end of Wilson Dam and elsewhere. In this county also the upper 50 feet or more of the Ft. Payne is thin-bedded and weathers down readily to a mass of broken rock that can be readily excavated for road metal.” To this I want to add from my personal experience and the testimony of a friend who is an Eagle Scout, that the good grade of blue/gray Ft. Payne (which Smith described as “black, glass, thick-bedded flint”) will strike sparks against steel.

Where I come from, Ft. Payne Chert is the yellowish-tan gravel that is placed on the surface of unpaved country roads. The glassy, blue/gray Ft. Payne is the flint that PaleoIndians made artifacts from. I understand the need for specificity in word choice in scientific documents. However, people understand the meaning of common words in the context of their own experience. If we quibble about the meaning of common words like “flint”, don’t we diminish our message? *Submitted by Charles Hubbert.*

New Website!

A new website has been created to share information about Paleoindian sites and artifacts in the Tennessee Valley.

On this web page, I will be offering various reports I have written on sites and artifacts in the Tennessee Valley for free download. The purpose of creating this website is to increase the awareness of Paleoindian sites in the Tennessee River Valley of Northern Alabama. It is hoped that this will lead to the preservation, study and reporting of these valuable and rare cultural assets for future generations.

I believe that this site will also help increase the membership of the Alabama Archaeological Society, although there is no relationship between this site and our Society. I will not be allowing for public use any of the articles I have submitted to the Journal of Alabama Archaeology, but will make mention where these articles can be obtained.

New and interesting items will be added all the time, so visit this site at www.paleoindianalabama.com and let me know what you think! *Submitted by Mark Cole.*

Chapter News

East Alabama Chapter

On Tuesday, April 11th, Bart Henson gave a presentation entitled "Unique Petroglyphs of North Alabama" to the East Alabama Chapter.

Rock art, in the form of petroglyphs and pictographs in the Tennessee Valley region of Alabama, Tennessee and Georgia, represents an intriguing aspect of prehistory in the southeastern U.S. New discoveries in the past few years have significantly enhanced the knowledge of petroglyphs in Alabama, largely through the efforts of Bart Henson. His slide presentation highlighted the diversity of glyphs in Alabama, with a discussion of their distribution, style and perceived functions.

Bart Henson is a retired engineer, who worked on the Space Program for NASA in Huntsville for more than forty years. He has had a keen interest in archaeology for as long as he can remember, with a particular fascination for ancient rock art in North Alabama. He is a past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society and co-author of Alabama's Aboriginal Rock Art, published in 1979. As a member of AAS, he also served 12 years as associate editor of the AAS newsletter "Stones & Bones," 6 years as AAS Representative to the Alabama Historical Commission; and multiple terms as a member of the AAS Board of Directors over the past 30 years.

On May 16th, Teresa Paglione gave the program entitled "Riverview Plantation". Riverview Plantation is located near Montgomery and Teresa, along with several chapter members and volunteers, have been doing clean-up work and surface surveys in recent weeks. Teresa gave an overview of the activities at the site and showed the group several of the artifacts that had been collected. *Submitted by Caroline Dean.*

Southwest Chapter

At the March meeting, Greg Cook, nautical archaeologist with the University of West Florida Archaeology institute spoke about his search for sunken slave ships off the coast of west Africa. For nearly 400 years, Elmira Castle, a massive fortification built in 1482 by the Portuguese on the coast of Ghana, served as a major outpost where ships loaded with European-made goods traded for enslaved Africans. Since 2003 Cook and his underwater archaeology team have surveyed the waters of Ghana's coast in hopes of identifying sunken slave ships. One discovery of hundreds of brass bowls and stacks of brass bracelets called *manilas* may be a cargo of slave trade goods from a Dutch vessel dating to the late 1700s. Mr. Cook's research project is funded by the National Geographic Society, and is a joint venture between the University of West Florida, Syracuse University, and Ghana Museums and Monuments Board.

At the April meeting of the Southwest Chapter, Mark Martinkovic, a master's candidate in Historical Archaeology at the University of West Florida talked about his thesis research on naval stores (also known as the turpentine industry) in Florida's panhandle. The vast piney woods along the Gulf coast supplied pine gum to produce turpentine and rosin for the world market and provided employment for local residents from the late eighteenth through the middle twentieth century. Mr. Martinkovic's study involved the development of a predictive model for locating archaeological sites in Washington County, Florida. He discussed different types of archaeological sites, such as company camps and turpentine stills, and transportation routes created by the naval stores industry.

The Southwest Chapter volunteers activities over the past few months have included Saturday digs at Old Mobile (170-2-1711) with University of South Alabama's spring semester field school. Structure 32 at Old Mobile is almost completely uncovered. *Submitted by Louis Scott and Bonnie Gums.*

Cullman Chapter



Shown above, members of the Cullman chapter shown examining, identifying and recording artifacts belonging to Tim Hartwig. These artifacts were collected from a site in Cullman county.

Pictured below is Ashley Dumas, discussing her program with members of the Cullman chapter at their May meeting. Ashley talked to the group regarding her research into the salt works located in southwest Alabama. The Cullman chapter meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Thursday night in the conference room at the Cullman County Health Department. For more information, contact Robbie Camp, chapter president. *Submitted by Howard King.*



Birmingham Chapter

Shown below is Mrs. Margaret Thompson, wife of the late Brit Thompson. Brit served as the second president of the AAS and also as editor of the *Stones & Bones* during the 60's and 70's. The name of the newsletter was taken from the weekly local Birmingham TV show on archaeology that Brit hosted during the 50's and early 60's. Mrs. Thompson came to the May meeting of the Birmingham chapter to present the AAS with the originals of many of the AAS's early years of newsletters. The Birmingham chapter meets at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month in the Emmet O'Neal Library located in Mountain Brook. For more information, contact the chapter president, Stephen Meredith. *Submitted by Howard King.*



AAS Polls

The opinion poll from the March/April issue of *Stones & Bones* had the following responses.

A total of 22 responses were received. Of these, 12 stated they were active artifact collectors, 9 were not active collectors and 1 didn't give an answer. As to the question of who should own the artifacts, five feel the collector should own them, 13 feel that they belong to the overseeing Federal Agency, and 3 did not answer.

The poll concerning the AAS resolution regarding the collection of artifacts on federal land had the following response.

Of the 208 responses, 64 were opposed to the resolution, 72 were in favor of the resolution and 2 were undecided. Seventy of the responses were not signed and were not counted.

Publications

People of the Shoals Stallings Culture of the Savannah River Valley

Author: Kenneth E. Sassaman

Even for ancient hunter-gatherers, everyday life included adventure, personal relationships, and economic hardship. Interpreting and humanizing the experience of one group of pre-Columbian people, Kenneth Sassaman describes the mysterious rise and fall of the Stallings Culture and the research that brought its story to light.

Known best for their innovations in making pottery, these prehistoric foragers occupied the middle Savannah River valley of Georgia and South Carolina some 4,000 years ago. Sassaman offers several controversial theories about the Stallings people, arguing that they arose from interactions between two distinctive ethnic groups, organized themselves around clusters of related women, not men, established permanent villages like their counterparts on the coast, and abandoned the middle Savannah River valley when the social costs of traditional living became intolerable. Basing this work on 12 years of field research, he presents fascinating new findings about the Stallings way of life, including details about ritual, marriage alliances, community organization, and food economy.

Without violating the strictures of scientific practice, Sassaman tells this story in a style that engages the imagination and pushes the limits of archaeological interpretation in novel directions. Written for the general reader as well as the professional, the book relates lessons from the past to present-day issues and shows how knowledge about the ancient past is constructed within the context of modern experiences.

Cloth \$39.95

ISBN: 0-8130-2945-7

284 pages

53 black & white illustrations

Suggested readings & index

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The Cahokia Chiefdom The Archaeology of a Mississippian Society

Author: George R. Milner

First published in 1998 by Smithsonian Institution Press, The Cahokia Chiefdom surveys one of North America's great archaeological sites that includes more than one hundred earthen mounds constructed between the 11th and 14th centuries. Milner paints a vivid picture of the site and its environs while arguing that the regional system was not as powerful and all encompassing as commonly thought, but was instead a collection of semi-autonomous districts with far fewer people than previously assumed.

This detailed study of Cahokia research history documents environmental conditions

that affected prehistoric peoples, such as river channels, flooding, and plant and animal life. In addition, he summarizes evidence of the region's food, the remains of houses and other buildings, stone tools, ceramics, crafts, population figures, the distribution of power, and labor and economics, including exchange with other societies. The author attributes the region's growth to a complex interplay of cultural, demographic, and environmental factors, including the advantages of its location and rich resources, and its decline to a reorganization of social relations across the region that involved the emergence of competing centers. This reprint edition features a new preface by the author updating archaeological evidence through 2005.

Paper \$24.95

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216 pages

69 black & white illustrations

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Lascaux: Masterpiece in Peril

The 17,000 year old paintings inside the cave of Lascaux are in grave danger. Since 1998, when the first incursions of lichens was found growing inside the cave, Lascaux has been attacked by a series of molds, fungi and bacteria. The installation of a new air-conditioning system in 2000 complicated the situation and compromised the stability of the atmosphere inside Lascaux. One of the fungi found growing inside the cave, *fusarium solani*, is a common mold found in the agricultural areas around Lascaux. It has been charged that workers installing the new air-conditioning system did not take care to sterilize their shoes on entering the cave thus bringing the mold inside with them each day.

By 2001, the molds colonized forming a white mass over the floors and ledges of the painted chambers. Authorities began spraying massive doses of antibiotics and fungicides in an effort to stop the rapidly spreading organisms. Within weeks the molds reappeared quickly developing a resistance to the antibiotic sprays. Realizing that the air-conditioning system was ill fitted for the cave and was indeed part of the problem, authorities shut down a major portion of the newly installed system.

To date, the French government has been ineffective in its handling of the crisis inside Lascaux. Four different departments are charged with the care of the cave with no *one* authority held accountable. There is overlap and a real failure by the authorities charged with the cave's well-being to judge the situation and its severity. There is no international oversight. Unless change is undertaken quickly, the world stands to lose Lascaux's irreplaceable masterpiece and its rich story of mankind's place in time.

The International Committee to Save Lascaux is dedicated to preserving the original, prehistoric paintings in the cave of Lascaux. The ICSL works to raise public awareness of the rapid deterioration of the cave and its irreplaceable art; to initiate public action in efforts to safeguard Lascaux for future generations and to actively engage professionals from all fields of conservation in the preservation of the cave and its paintings.

It is our belief that the art of Lascaux is a legacy belonging to all mankind. The cave's discovery in 1940 redefined what was previously known about our creative development as hu-

man beings and our ability to construct image from abstract thought. This critical leap, and its resulting tangible evidence, is invaluable to understanding our global human heritage. *Submitted by Jean Allen.*

Here is how you can help:

- *Join our committee
- *Make a financial donation
- *Raise public awareness in your own community
- *Make press contacts
- *Make personal contacts with high profile people and professionals who could be interested in joining our committee
- *Join our letter writing campaign.

International Committee to Save Lascaux

322 Lewis Street, Oakland, CA 94607

Telephone: 510-465-5528 Fax: 510-763-4431

Email: Savelascaux@gmail.com

Letters expressing your personal concerns about the cave should be sent to:

Monsieur Renaud DONNEDIEU DE VABRES

Ministre de la Culture

3 Rue de Valois

75001 Paris

and/or:

His Excellency Jean-David LEVITTE

Ambassade de France

4101 Reservoir Road, NW

Washington, DC 20007

Donations

Donations to the Cambron and Hulse fund are now approaching a total of \$2,500.00. That is a substantial figure, but still a little less than one-fourth of what is needed. Our donors this time include Bruce Bizzoco, Robbie Camp, Marjorie Gay, Dr. William Hallmon, Howard King, and Katrina Williams. Bruce and Katrina are first-time donors. Thanks to both of you. Our donation-supported efforts always need new donors just as every organization needs new members to survive. Robbie, Marjorie, and Dr. Hallmon are regular contributors; all have contributed multiple times in the past few years. Howard, of course, is our number one supporter; making his third gift to the Cambron and Hulse fund this year. Thanks to all these folks for getting us a little close to our goal.

We have a long way to go though. Please consider a gift, or another gift, to this fund. Our operating budget is on a razor edge between dues and expenses. Any amount the AAS has to take from its operating budget will have to come from publications and other services to members. And remember, it's tax deductible! The more you give to AAS, the less you have to give to the IRS!!!

We need to recognize a few other donors as well. Roger Nance included a donation to

the Wimberly Scholarship fund along with his dues. Roger contributes annually to the Wimberly fund. Julie Lyons likewise included a donation with her dues, for the Wimberly fund and the Education Projects fund. Jay Grantland, another first-time donor included a check for the Mahan and Education funds and the fund for publication of the pottery volume. Thanks to all of you. Ashley Dumas has given a family membership to David Dumas and Debbie Larkin. I have renewed the institutional membership for the University of Alabama Anthropology Club through 2007. Thanks to everyone for your support for AAS' grants and other special projects.
Submitted by Eugene Futato.

FUND BALANCES:

Cambron and Hulse fund: \$2,320.00
Education Projects fund: \$1,455.00
Mahan Research fund: \$1,248.00
Wimberly Scholarship fund: \$2,135.50

New Members

Matt Gruenwald, Tuscaloosa AL
William Rozier, Ohatchee AL
Connie Tibbits, Ashland AL
Gene Burrance, Pittsview AL

Renewals

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Marla Spry & family, Tuscaloosa AL
M/M William Stewart, Huntsville AL
Robert Terry, Hoover AL
Troy Public Library, Troy AL
John Van Valkenburg, Prattville AL
Leanne Waller, Montgomery AL

Pelham Range, Home of an Historic Iron Industry

The purpose here is to offer a brief description of historic iron production and mining sites located on the Fort McClellan Army National Guard's military training property known as Pelham Range. Pelham Range is located in Calhoun County near Anniston, Alabama.

Calhoun County's first iron furnace, and the second ever to be constructed in Alabama, was built in the early 1840's by Jacob Strop who built the first iron works in Georgia and the Carolinas. Strop's Calhoun County furnace became known as the Cane Creek Iron Works. The furnace site is located on what is now Pelham Range. (Cane Creek is the largest stream on Pelham Range; it flows west toward the Coosa River.)

The entire iron complex consists not only of a furnace, but two forges, one for producing blooms or semi finished pieces of iron, and another that housed a 600 pound forage hammer for shaping the iron. A settlement developed around the furnace and became known as Polkville. The townspeople, who were devoted democrats, chose the name as a tribute to James K. Polk. Polkville became a fairly large community for its time. There was a machine shop, saw and grist mills, a post office, a commissary store, a general store, a doctor's office, a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop and several homes.

The Cane Creek Iron Works, also known as the Old Polkville Furnace, provided iron to United States military in 1847 during its war with Mexico and later to the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Iron from the furnace was used to construct Confederate cannons, portions of a Confederate Battleship known as the Merrimack, and large kettles for use in the Clark County salt mines. Much of the iron produced at the Cane Creek Furnace prior to the Civil War was used to make shovels, wagon wheels, pots, skillets, and plows. The furnace was operated by slave labor as was the case with Alabama's other pre-Civil War Iron Works.

The Cane Cree Furnace kept the Confederate Army supplied with iron until it was destroyed in 1864 by Union Major General Lovell H. Rousseau. Rousseau had been commissioned by General William T. Sherman to lead a raid into Opelika, Alabama for the purpose of demolishing the railroad links between Alabama and Georgia. Rousseau had in his command approximately 2,000 troops. The destruction of these railway links would cut the supply line for Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston's army of 60,000 in Dalton, Georgia. Cutting these supply lines would help Sherman to effectively advance with 100,000 troops from his headquarters in Chattanooga on the Confederate troops in Dalton, and then south to Atlanta. Rousseau's raid was to also include the destruction of iron works and cotton gins that he encountered.

Recent archaeological research, combined with sufficient study of the historical record, has enabled the Fort McClellan Site Archaeologist, Chuck Burns, to locate the remains of the Cane Creek Iron Furnace (Site 1Ca663). The Furnace site consists of a mound of historic bricks and sandstone. Strewn along the top of this mound of furnace remains is a material called slag. During iron production, limestone was used as a fluxing agent that would draw impurities from the raw iron while it was being smelted. The liquefied limestone and various impurities became slag, and once it cooled, it took on an obsidian-like appearance being either green or black in color. Large slag deposits are located throughout the area where the mound of historic brick and sandstone is situated. (A much more thorough explanation of how the furnace site was found is given in a report titled, *Locating the Cane Creek Iron Works: A Project in Historical Archaeology*. This report is on file at the State Historic Preservation Office.)

Previous archaeological research conducted by the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) and Jacksonville State University (JSU) has added to the study of the Cane Creek Iron Complex as a whole. It is possible that the sites recorded by UAB and JSU are the remains of forges associated with the furnace site.

In 1976 UAB recorded a large pile of slag, 30 meters by 50 meters, near 1Ca663. The portion of this training area where the slag was located carries the site number 1Ca57 and is encompassed by Section 14, Township 15 South, and Range 6 East of the Eulaton Alabama Quadrangle, the same township, range, and section where 1Ca663 sits.

UAB also recorded a site in Section 11, Township 15 South and Range 6 East of the Eulaton Alabama Quadrangle. This particular site, 1Ca73, consisted of the remains of a historic building that according to UAB archaeologists, was "thought to have been a foundry..." The structure was made of uncut stone, red brick, and mortar. Both burned and unburned coal along with historic ceramics were scattered around the building's remains.

In 1991, JSU recorded site 1Ca500 about 600 feet northeast of 1Ca73. This site, according to JSU archaeologists, consisted of a stone structure that "could very well be part of the Cane Creek Iron Works complex..." Artifacts recovered from this site consisted of iron ore, slag, bricks and coal. (the site dimensions for 1Ca500, reflect recent modifications made by AMEC Earth and Environmental Inc. to include a prehistoric lithic scatter. AMEC did not relocate the stone structure described by JSU.)

In addition to the four sites mentioned, two iron-ore mining sites have been recorded by the Fort McClellan Site Archaeologist. These two sites, 1Ca679 and 1Ca680, were recently located by the Army Corp of Engineers while marking trees for a timber sale. Associated with these two mining sites are a couple of historic, three walled, structures made of mortar and rock. Scattered along the base of these structures and within the walls of these structures are fire proof brick carrying the name "EXCELSIOR."

One of the structures measures approximately six feet tall, ten feet long, and four feet wide. The other is approximately two feet tall, ten feet long, and six feet wide. There was some coal observed at these locations suggesting that these structures could possibly be coal bins.

The "EXCELSIOR" brick found at these two mining sites was manufactured by William Gregg's Westmont, Illinois brick company. Gregg's brick company was short lived; he established it in 1872 and it dissipated around 1900. These mining sites are located north of the iron furnace in the same mountain (Brook Mountain) mined for iron-ore prior to the Civil War. These two mining sites may have been originally mined for the Cane Creek Iron Works and then revisited after the war for use in other Alabama iron complexes. Prior to the Civil War slave labor would have been the primary method used for digging iron. After the war, in the late 1800's heavy machinery such as a steam shovel could have been used for mining iron ore, explaining the presence of coal at the sites. (If the reader is interested in a more detailed account of the research conducted on this topic, please feel free to contact the site archaeologist at: chuck.r.burns@al.ngb.army.mil) *Submitted by Chuck Burns.*

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