

Stones & Bones

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Letter from the President

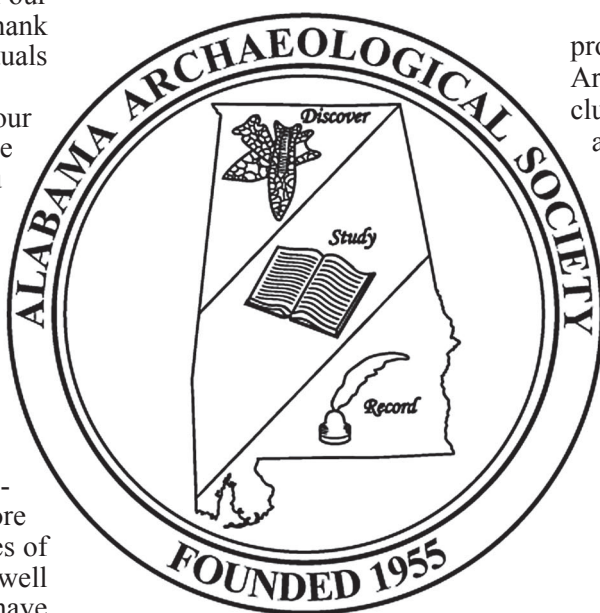
By ASHLEY DUMAS

A belated "Happy New Year" to all AAS members! Under the leadership of President Howard King, our accomplishments over the past two years have included the retirement of some long-standing AAS debt and the establishment of an archaeological field trip program. While all of the Board worked hard at these and other tasks, key figures were Charles Hubbert, Robbie Camp, Hoyt Price, Charles Moore, Richard Kilborn, Van King, Eugene Futato, Steven Meredith, and all of our field trip hosts. Please send a "Thank You!" to these deserving individuals when you get a chance.

In 2008 we will continue our field trip program and already have some plans in the works. If you have ideas for field trips, please contact our new Program Chair, Steven Meredith (see page 6 for contact information for all AAS officers and board members). He and our Publicity Chair, Richard Kilborn, will help to set up plans, recruit volunteers, and get the word out. Our webmaster, Sarah Matties, is continuing to help us develop the AAS web site into a more robust site. Check it out for pictures of 2007's field trips and meetings, as well as updates on future activities. We have a lot to learn from each other regarding Alabama's past inhabitants, and the web site can be an accessible, colorful, and, most importantly, an inexpensive way of sharing information. However, its development will depend on input from you, and we'll be happy to make adjustments in an effort to accommodate as many appropriate contributions as possible.

One of the primary goals for this year is to recruit new members. I've heard that membership in clubs is not as popular an activity for Americans as it once was, but I believe that the fascination with archaeology is as strong, or stronger, as it has ever been. In fact, although not exactly a typical or scientific archaeologist, Indiana Jones will be swashbuckling across movie screens again in May. As a means of capturing

this interest through the AAS, we may have to tailor ourselves to rely more on popular means of communication and to develop new formats for meetings and activities. Electronic newsletters, podcasts, partnerships with local museums and businesses, and a radio program are just some of the ideas that will be discussed or implemented this year. Don't worry! You won't see the sudden elimination of the newsletter, and our Journal hopefully will continue as a scholarly forum for sharing knowledge. But, by changing with the times we can better maintain our current membership



base and also expand it to reach the thousands of young people in our region who want to know more about their arrowhead collection or that earthen mound on their grandparent's property. Some of them may simply be delighted to know that the adventure of archaeology, while not exactly as portrayed by Hollywood, is alive and well right here in Alabama! It's my hope that this year will be another one to honor our long history as an organization, to nurture positive changes, and to bring more fulfillment to our motto—"Discover, Study, Record." As always, feel free to contact me or any of the other board members with your questions or suggestions. See you soon!

Stones & Bones in 2008

By MARY SPANOS

The AAS members were given a treat last year through Hoyt Price's full color newsletters. Color photographs are engaging and informative, but they are also quite expensive. In order to increase the number of newsletters that will be published this year, we are going back to the less expensive black and white format. The bad news is that the newsletter will be less glossy, but the good news is that it will arrive in your mail box more often.

The goal of Stones & Bones is to provide the members of the Alabama Archaeological Society, which includes both professional and amateur archaeologists, with news and information about archaeological activities. Please join in this process by sending information about your research, local archaeological events, or any archaeology-related news, to me at:

mary.spanos@ua.edu

or through the US mail to:

Mary Spanos
University of Alabama
Department of Anthropology
Box 870210
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0210.

AAS Grants are Awarded

By TERESA PAGLIONE

At the annual AAS Winter meeting, two University of Alabama graduate students were recognized by the Board. Erin Phillips was awarded the Edward C. Mahan Research Grant (\$500). Erin received her BA from Tulane and MA from Alabama and is currently pursuing a PhD at Alabama. Erin's research at the graduate level has focused on Moundville. Her thesis, which was based on existing previously excavated and curated remains from Mound-



TERESA PAGLIONE

Linda Derry congratulates Erin Phillips, the winner of the AAS Edward C. Mahan Research Grant.

ville, focused on paint palettes, stone pendants, and copper gorgets as potential status markers. For her dissertation, she is recording all known instances of pottery decorated in the local Hemphill style, an important Mississippian art style. To accomplish this, her research will include documenting pottery vessels of this type at the Smithsonian and the Museum of the American Indian.

The Steven and Christine Wimberly Scholarship winner (\$500) is Cameron Lacquemont. Like Erin, Cameron received his MA at Alabama and is continuing his education in the PhD program. Cameron is interested in prehistoric architecture. Based on his thesis research, he organized a symposium which has resulted in the book, *Architectural Variability in the Southeast* (2007, UA Press). His doctoral research focuses on the study of prehistoric mounds (and mound-building) at Moundville. Cameron was instrumental in leading the fifth AAS Volunteer "DIG" opportunity in October. He welcomed AAS volunteers to aid in his research to determine if Moundville's prehistoric inhabitants added soil in specific portions of the site other than mounds to modify the landscape. The excavations were undertaken to determine where the original surface of the plaza was and how much soil was added. He believes there are at least four places where Moundvillians added large amounts of soil to level or flatten the other edges of the plaza.

AAS Grants are awarded to AAS members in good standing. The Mahan Research Grant is intended to assist in field, laboratory, museum or library research that will lead to the advancement of scientific knowledge of Alabama's past through publication and to create a public appreciation of Alabama archaeology through the public dissemination of results. (Erin will be expected to present a paper based on her research at a future AAS Winter meeting.) The Wimberly Scholarship recognizes exceptional students of archaeology in the state that exhibit the potential for making permanent, significant contributions to the field. The scholarship award is intended to cover expenses associated with either an undergraduate or graduate degree, and nominees must be enrolled full-time in a degree program at a university in Alabama.

For more information on AAS grants and a copy of the form to submit an entry in the AAS student paper competition, go to

www.alabamaarchaeology.org,
and click on the Grants and Student Paper Award links.



The new Delchamps Archaeological Building at U.S.A.

The 2007 Winter Meeting

by **STEVEN MEREDITH & MARY SPANOS**

The 2008 Winter Meeting was held at the facilities University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Studies in Mobile on December 19, 2007. The meeting was well attended with over 60 AAS members and guests present.

First Vice President Ashley Dumas, filling in for AAS president Howard King, called the Winter Meeting to order and Greg Waselkov welcomed the attendees to the beautiful new facilities of the Center for Archaeological Studies. Over the course of the meeting, nine presentations on Alabama archaeology were made. The following are a quick summary of each.

The first five presentations were reports on the five AAS field trips that were conducted during 2007. Steven Meredith described the trip to the Armory Site in Dallas County. The site is currently pasture and "coastal jungle." Artifacts were found in every shovel test and excavation unit. The group found a Middle Woodland village site, two mounds, and evidence of occupation dating back at least 6,000 years.

Ben Hoksbergen discussed the trip to the Redstone Arsenal, 1Ma1180. Thirty AAS volunteers ventured out on that rainy day. The site, which appears to have never been plowed, is located on a hummock in the Byrd Spring wetland karst. They dug eight 1-by-1 test units at the site. In addition to Late Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic projectile points, they unearthed evidence of an

important Late Woodland Flint River component. Hoksberger interprets the archaeological evidence gathered from this site as an indication that it was used for seasonal aggregation, a winter and spring meeting site.

Jack Bergstresser presented a paper on the current archaeological work at Tannehill State Park, which the AAS visited during the summer. The University of Alabama Museum of Natural History's Summer Expedition Program worked at that site over the summer and the AAS members had the opportunity to tour the student's work. Bergstresser was interested in nails and the morphology of nail patterns. He also discussed aspects of the Civil War that might provide insight into the archaeological artifacts found at this site, such as turkey and deer bones, folk made and English pottery, beads, and what appears to be a child's marble.

Teresa Paglione described the work done by AAS volunteers at sites 1Ja1104 and 1Ja205, in the Paint Rock Valley in Jackson County. The AAS volunteers worked on test excavations on a site at which she had earlier discovered a Clovis point. They excavated ten shovel tests and used a transect to map the site. No intact cultural strata were found, so the group went to the Holly Tree site (1Ja205), and made a large surface collection. They found projectile points and knives, a hammerstone, and an egg shaped stoned object. In two hours they collected three buckets of artifacts.

Following a lunch break and Business meeting, members of the University of South Alabama Center for Archaeological Research presented papers on their recent and ongoing Projects. Harriet Seacat, who works at the USA Center for Archaeological Studies presented her anthropological research on the people of Bayou La Batre in coastal Mobile County.

Sarah Price discussed archaeological work at the Corps site (1Ck56), a Late Woodland village site on the Tombigbee River in Clarke County. This site was brought to the attention of archaeologists by Walter Davis, who also regularly helped the archaeologists at the site.

George Shorter described the old St. Stephens site in Washington County, which had been the territorial capital before the capital moved to Huntsville. St. Stevens was occupied by the Spanish during the colonial period, was a Choctaw trading post in 1803, experienced a town boom from 1816 to 1819. Then as Mobile grew, St. Stephens declined. He described many of the colonial artifacts and reported that their goal is to involve local people in the ongoing excavations and he encourages groups to come in to help with the excavations.

Greg Waselkov provided an overview of the origin and development of the Center for Archaeological studies along with their new building and plans for museum exhibits.

At the business meeting, the Univer-



First Vice President Ashley Dumas opened the 2007 Winter Meeting.



Greg Waselkov welcomed the attendees to the university.



The Southwest Chapter of the AAS prepared a poster presentation of their recent archaeological activities.

sity of South Alabama staff and members of the Southwest Alabama chapter who helped organize the Winter Meeting were warmly applauded. Possibilities for 2008 fieldtrips were discussed; possible sites included Fort Payne and Old Cahaba. The AAS web site has been upgraded, thanks to Sarah Mad-dicks. The treasurer's report showed that 51 members did not renew their membership last year and with only 42 new members, the AAS experienced a net loss of 9 members. Ashley Dumas

discussed that an increase in the AAS membership dues had been voted on at the Summer Meeting; and will come into effect at the beginning of next year. It was noted that the 2007 Stones & Bones newsletter editor, Hoyt Price, had personally subsidized the 2007 glossy full-color newsletters and that this unfortunately could not be continued, but it will return to a bi-monthly publishing schedule. Elections were held, and Nominations Committee chair, Phil Carr, asked for nominations

from the floor for the AAS officer positions for 2008. The nominations were approved, voted on, and the results can be seen on page 6.

Following the presentations, members were invited to tour the facilities of the Center for Archaeological Studies, including laboratories, offices, curation facilities, and museum exhibit space. At the end of the meeting, the silent book auction, which had been going on all day, was concluded. Many books were auctioned and hundreds of dollars were raised for the AAS general fund.

Overall, the 2007 Winter Meeting was a great success. From the presentations and the tour of the new facilities of the Delchamps Archaeological Building on the campus of the University of South Alabama, there seems much to be encouraged about for the state of archaeology in Alabama.



The state meetings provide a time to reconnect with friends and fellow archaeologists. Above, Mark Cole and Carey Geiger. Below, George Shorter, Ashley Dumas, and Rich Weinstein.

Excavations in the Plaza at Moundville

By CAMERON LACQUEMENT

Beginning in September of 2007 and continuing until the first of the year, small-scale excavations were undertaken at the outer edges of the plaza at Moundville Archaeological Park in Moundville, Alabama. The purpose of these excavations was to test the ideas about landscape modification at the site. Specifically, were there large amounts of soil strategically placed around the outer edges of the plaza in order to level the plaza's surface. Jim Knight at the University of Alabama found limited evidence of additional soil leading out into the plaza in his mound excavations of Mound F and G in early 1990s. The purpose of these more recent excavations were to directly address the idea of plaza modification.

Six 1 x 1 meter units were placed around the outer edges of the plaza. One unit was placed in front of Mound F, Mound G, Mound N, Mound O, Mound P, and Mound Q. Initially, artifact recovery was not the primary goal of these excavations, as it was believed

there would very few artifacts. Instead these units were placed in areas where good soil stratigraphy was expected. Auger tests of the area were used to determine the location of each unit.

Based on the depth of the units, it appears that the assumption of plaza modification was correct. Four of the six units exceeded a meter in depth before the original subsoil was reached. Those units placed near Mound P and Mound Q did not. Other units excavated in the center of the plaza by Boyce Driskall in the late 1980s, were roughly 50-60 cm deep at best, far more shallow than those located on the other edges of the plaza. The stratigraphy of these outer units consisted of an upper layer of fill consisting of mostly pottery and daub. Then, for the next 75 centimeters, the artifacts would become sparse or in some cases, non-existent. However, at roughly around one meter, artifacts became abundant again and various features were exposed. This evidence suggests that there were two living surfaces on the outer edges of the plaza, an earlier, lower pre-mound surface and a upper surface separated by a large layer of fill, supporting the idea that soil was strategically placed in selected areas to flatten or level the plaza.

On a separate note, the artifacts recovered began to indicate a different idea about Moundville's plaza. In past excavations, little evidence of domestic activities were found in the plaza, leading to the idea that the plaza may have been uninhabited or unutilized. However, based on the large amount of artifacts and evidence of architecture from these excavations, I would argue that the plaza, at least the outer edges, was heavily utilized, especially at the pre-mound level. The plaza area, prior to the additional of the fill revealed both abundant artifacts of pottery, daub, some lithic debris, and evidence of architecture. Above the plaza fill, artifacts and features were exposed, far more than expected, but not to the same degree as the pre-mound surface.

Fort Mims in the News

By TERESA PAGLIONE

The FALL 2007 issue of *American Archaeology*, the quarterly magazine of The Archaeological Conservancy, features an article about Alabama archaeology: "Clarifying an Historic Event: Archaeologists are Working to Uncover Details of the Massacre at Fort Mims." Fort Mims has been tested by archaeologists and students from the University of South Alabama, members of the Southwest Chapter of the AAS, and other AAS member volunteers.

The Archaeological Conservancy generously gave AAS permission to post this article on our website (www.alabamaarchaeology.org).

The Archaeological Conservancy (www.americanarchaeology.com) was established in 1980 and is the only national non-profit organization dedicated to acquiring and preserving our nation's remaining archaeological sites. Every day, prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the United States are lost forever to development and illegal looting. The Conservancy protects these sites by acquiring the land and preserving the sites for posterity. Since 1980, the Conservancy has acquired more than 325 endangered sites in 39 states across America. These preserves range in size from a few acres to more than 1,000 acres. Some Conservancy sites have been incorporated into the Petrified Forest, Chaco Canyon, Parkin Archeological State Park, and Hopewell Culture National Historical Park. Here in Alabama, the Conservancy has purchased land at Fort Toulouse and Old Cahawba. Major funding for the Conservancy comes from the "dues" (\$25.00 and up) of more than 23,000 members, as well as from special individual contributions, corporations, and foundations.

American Archaeology includes large color photos and articles tailored for a layperson audience. The newest issue (Winter 2007-2008) contains eight feature articles, including recent news about DNA evidence of a new North American lineage. The 5000 year old

remains were discovered in British Columbia. Another article explains how Mayan manioc was efficiently cultivated to feed dense populations. Manioc is a root crop sometimes called cassava, but you may be more familiar with it as tapioca pudding! Still another article features seven full color pages of aerial photography at Cahokia, Chaco Canyon, the great kiva at Aztec Ruins, Mesa Verde, Hawaiian petroglyphs carved into lava beds and a few others. The article promoted on the newest issue's cover photo discusses the excavations at the Mud Bay Site in Puget Sound, Washington. Due to the wet conditions, numerous organic artifacts that would normally decompose have been found: ropes, baskets, gillnets made of cedar bark and root, and a toy war club made from cedar and strips of cherry bark. The research archaeologists believe a large family processed seafood at this site. Although most of the artifacts resemble many others found in the Pacific Northwest, the basketry has distinctive weave and decoration patterns that are ethnographic evidence of a tribal identity. (For more information about Mud Bay, go to www.library.sp-scc.ctc.edu/crm/crm.htm and click on the "Qwu?gwes Articles.")

The magazine also includes news about recent site acquisitions, book reviews and Conservancy expeditions. The only advertising is on the back of the front and back cover pages – for archeological tours and books. The magazine itself is well worth 25 bucks – but the membership fee is also used proceeds to buy archeology sites before they are destroyed.

American Archaeology is devoted to the excitement and mystery of archaeology in the United States, with additional coverage of Canada and Latin America. In four issues per year, *American Archaeology's* colorful features and departments present the research

Membership Dues

For detailed information on AAS membership, go to the **Join Us** link on our web site: www.alabamaarchaeology.org.

The dues for the basic annual individual U.S. membership is \$20. Mail dues to:
Office of Archaeological Research,
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park,
Moundville, AL 35474

breakthroughs, persistent puzzles, and unique personalities making news in this fascinating field. Published by The Archaeological Conservancy, *American Archaeology* is tailored for a lay-person audience. Readers explore the prehistoric world of North America's earliest inhabitants, the historic past of modern-day cities, and everything in between. *American Archaeology* also reports on the Conservancy's activities and the preservation cause nationwide.



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Try www.bookfinder.com. It is a search engine that looks through many online new and used book sellers. It is surprising to see how many old journals and out-of-print books are available. There are an amazing number of booksellers with old copies of various issues of the *Geological Survey of Alabama* or volumes of the *Handbook of North American Indians*.



NPS Travel Itineraries

By **TERESA PAGLIONE**

Since 1995, the National Park Service has published a series of travel itineraries to National Register sites for those interested in learning more about American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. Each itinerary provides: 1) Descriptions of each historic place and its importance in American history; 2) Tourist information for historic places open to the public; 3) Interactive maps; 4) Color and vintage photographs; and, 5) Links to related preservation and tourism web sites.

Five of the 45 travel itineraries specifically contain archeological destinations: "American Southwest," "Florida Shipwrecks," "James River Plantations," "Lewis and Clark Expedition," and "Indian Mounds of Mississippi." Learn more about The Travel Itinerary Series on the National Register of Historic Places website by going to <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/index.htm>.

Stones & Bones

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Stones & Bones is published bi-monthly at the end of February, April, June, August, October, December. The deadline for submitting articles is the middle of the month of publication. Articles, questions, and comments can be sent via email to:

mary.spanos@ua.edu

or via the US mail to:

Mary Spanos

University of Alabama

Department of Anthropology

Box 870210

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0210

Alabama Archaeological Society

President: Ashley Dumas, ashleydumas@usa.net

1st Vice President: Steven Meredith, mered003@bama.ua.edu

2nd Vice President: Richard Kilborn, rlkilborn@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Teresa Paglione, Teresa.Paglione@al.usda.gov

Journal Editor and Treasurer: Eugene Futato, efutato@bama.ua.edu

Assistant Treasurer: Lance Richardson, richa004@bama.ua.edu

Journal Editorial Assistant: Ned Jenkins, toulous1@bellsouth.net

Journal Editorial Assistant: Phil Carr, pcarr@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Stones and Bones Editor: Mary Spanos, mary.spanos@ua.edu

Stones and Bones Assistant Editor: Ian W. Brown, ibrown@tenhoor.as.ua.edu

Stones and Bones Assistant Editor: Erin Phillips, phill018@bama.ua.edu

AHC Representative: Craig Sheldon, csheldon@mail.aum.edu

Photographer: Robbie Camp, rcamp@co.cullman.al.us

Board of Directors:

Terms expire 2008:

Phil Carr, pcarr@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Hoyt Price, hbprice@bellsouth.net

Mark Cole, mjtcole@cableone.net

Terms expire 2009:

Margaret Russell, mcrussell@compuserve.com

Carey Geiger, careygeiger@bellsouth.net

Bart Henson, barth@hiwaay.net

Mac Brooms, m.brooms@wildblue.net

Terms expire 2010:

Charles Moore, cemoore@comcast.net

Gary Mullen, gmullen@acesag.auburn.edu

Louis Scott, louis_tanya@yahoo.com

AAS Chapters

Chapter Presidents for 2008

Troy: Jessica Brown

jbrown45479@troy.edu

Cullman: Robbie Camp

rcamp@co.cullman.al.us

East Alabama: Gary Mullen

gmullen@acesag.auburn.edu

Muscle Shoals: Gerald Hester

GeraldRH@aol.com

Huntsville: Van King

melvanmd@hopper.net

Birmingham: Steven Meredith

mered003@bama.ua.edu

Southwest Chapter: Carey Geiger

careygeiger@bellsouth.net

Coosa Valley: Phillip Koerper

pkoerper@jsu.edu

Chapter News

News from Jessica Brown and the Troy Chapter:

The Troy Chapter had their elections for 2008 and the new officer list is as follows: President: Jessica Brown, jbrown45479@troy.edu, Vice President: Jeanne Laurent, jlaurent@troy.edu, Secretary: Hilary Wickle, hwikle@troy.edu, Treasurer: Matt Trammell, Mtrammell45962@troy.edu, Historian: Heather-Kate Cox, hcox34604@troy.edu. They will be taking a trip to Mobile on March 22 to visit the Explorium. The exhibit during that time is "Our Body: the Universe Within," and anyone who wants to come with the Troy Chapter is more than welcome. Tickets are currently \$20, but Jessica Brown is working on getting a cheaper group rate. Also, gas will be free because they had such a great return on their T-shirts from last semester.

The Troy Chapter has made it mandatory that all chapter officers must join the AAS state organization.

News from Robbie Camp and the Cullman Chapter:

The Cullman chapter met on January

17th at the Cullman County Health Department Community Meeting Room at 7:00 p.m. After conducting chapter business, the group was treated to a very informative presentation on paleo-tools by Richard Kilborn. Richard has collected and studied paleo artifacts for many years and brought some excellent examples for the group to see. The point of the month for discussion was the Greenville. Next month the featured point will be the Greenbrier Dalton. Some discussion was held on potential destinations for the annual summer field trip and will be finalized by the next couple of meetings. The Cullman chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month except during the months of June, July and August.

The Cullman chapter met Thursday, February 21st for it's monthly meeting and program. A good crowd turned out to enjoy an interesting program on the history of Big Bone Lick presented by Howard King. Officer elections for 2008 were held and Van King will serve as program chairman, this being the only change in officers for this year. Charles Grove won the recent find award with a beautiful Benton. The point of the month was the Dalton Greenbrier and Howard King discussed the numerous other variants of the Dalton explaining the differences. The point of the month for March will be the Kays. It was decided that the summer field trip will be a trip to Stanfield-Worley bluff shelter and some local rock art sites. Plans to coordinate this trip with other chapters and setting a date are underway.

News from Gary Mullen and the East Alabama Chapter:

The February 2008 program of the East Alabama Chapter was "Blacksmithing on the Early Alabama Frontier" presented by Will Lowe, a graduate student in archaeology at Auburn University. Will is a blacksmith and has a particular interest in early blacksmithing tools and techniques. His graduate work has focused on archaeological evidence recovered at the site of Fort Mitchell, located on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River in Russell County, just south of present-day Phenix City, AL. The first fort, known as Floyd's Fort, was built on the site in 1813 to deal with unrest between the Creek Indians and early settlers. Abandoned in 1817, the fort fell into disrepair and was replaced by a second, smaller fort,

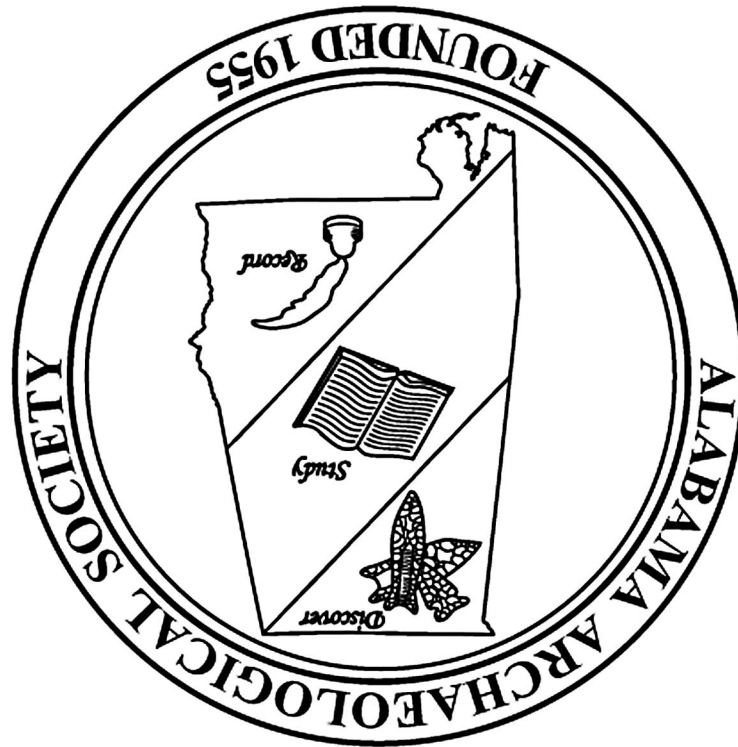
called Donahoe's Fort, in 1825. The latter was garrisoned up to the time of the Creek Indian removal.

Will provided an overview of the history of Fort Mitchell and the early history of blacksmithing as a trade. He followed this with an illustrated account of the excavations conducted at Fort Mitchell and the thousands of iron artifacts that have been recovered at the site. These include nails, both cinched and uncinched, chair repair links, hinges, wall hooks, Whiffletree hooks (iron hook at each end of a wooden crossbar pivoted in the middle and to which the traces are attached for a horse-drawn cart or plow), and a modified file. Based on the evidence found, Will has concluded that a blacksmith either resided at Fort Mitchell or at least provided regular service to the fort. Remains of a blacksmith shop, however, have not yet been located.

The East Alabama Chapter meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month (except during the summer) in Room 112 of the Rouse Life Sciences Building on the Auburn University Campus, Auburn, AL.

News from the Southwest Chapter Newsletter:

At their February 19th meeting, the Southwest Chapter hosted a lecture titled "Geology Meets Archaeology on the Alabama Gulf Coast" by Dr. Doug Haywick, an associate professor in the University of South Alabama's Department of Earth Sciences. Dr. Haywick discussed the geology of southern Alabama and the north-central Gulf Coast, with an emphasis on the archaeologically significant aspects of that region. Also announced were several interesting meetings and lectures including: the meeting of the Alabama Museums Association Meeting, a talk titled "The Search for Judge Harry Toulmin" by Dr. Lew Toulmin at the Giddens Conference Center at the Fairhope Public Library, "Archaeology Talk in Pensacola: Sapelo Island Archaeology" by Norma Harris at the Florida Public Archaeology Network Center, "The Image of Orpheus on the Mosaics of Roman Britain" by Kara Burns at the USA Humanities Building, and the Bottle Creek Tour sponsored by Blakeley Park and led by Bonnie Gums and Debi Lawrence from the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama.



Alabama Archaeological Society
University of Alabama
Department of Anthropology
Box 870210
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0210