

# Stones & Bones

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## Note from the (Assistant) Editor

By Jacqlyn Kirkland

As many of you know, Carey Geiger, our faithful newsletter editor, was recently hospitalized after complications from knee surgery. The entire AAS family would like to wish him a full and speedy recovery. I would like to thank everyone that contributed to this issue of "Stones and Bones," particularly, Mary Spanos, who helped me with the layout in Carey's absence.



## Project Archaeology: A Workshop for Teachers

By Teresa Paglione

June 28-30, Linda Derry (Old Cahaba State Park) and I will be conducting a 3-day archeology workshop called "Project Archaeology" for Alabama teachers. The workshop is hosted and sponsored by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service's Education Specialist, Doyle Keasel and the Alabama Wildlife Federation at Lanark (in Millbrook). Project Archaeology consists of a series of lectures on how to incorporate prepared lesson plans into students' school curriculum.

If you are a teacher and would like to learn how to use archaeology in the classroom, or participate in the Alabama Wildlife Federation's "Discovering Alabama Heritage," check the AWF website or contact Doyle Keasel at 334-844-6398. The coursework counts towards teacher certification hours.



Teresa Paglione

## AAS Summer Meeting and Volunteer Excavation

By Richard Kilborn

The Alabama Archaeological Society will hold its Summer Meeting in conjunction with a day of volunteer excavation work at the Brierfield Ironworks on Saturday, 19 June, 2010. AAS morning and afternoon excavation activities will be directed by Dr. Jack Bergstresser who has spent many years investigating and documenting Alabama's historic Ironworks. Members will assist in ongoing excavation work on the Gorgas House which was built on top of a rich pre-historic Indian site. The Alabama Museum of Natural History's Museum Expedition 32 team will be working on the excavation project from 13 to 26 June. The Society's Summer Meeting will be held following our lunch break. Other activities will include a guided tour of the grounds by Mr. Mike Mahan. Other details can be found on the AAS web site at <http://www.alabamaarchaeology.org>

The Brierfield Ironworks' first furnace was built in 1862 as a private venture and its high quality iron was used for making guns in support of the Confederate Troops in the Civil War. It was purchased by the Confederate government in 1863 and burned by the Federal Tenth Missouri Cavalry on 31 March, 1865. After the war, Josiah Gorgas organized a company to repair and operate the ironworks but this effort failed in 1873. In the early 1880s, Thomas Jefferson Peter rebuilt the Ironworks but the new life he brought to it started to decline within the decade when more modern and much more productive Furnaces and Mills were built in Birmingham. On Christmas Eve morning, 1894, the Brierfield furnace was shut down forever.

For more information and directions to the Brierfield Ironworks, see their web site at [www.brierfieldironworks.com](http://www.brierfieldironworks.com).



## Daphne's Old Methodist Church

By Jacqlyn Kirkland

Daphne United Methodist Church is the second-oldest church in Baldwin County. The 1858 structure, located at 405 Dryer Avenue in Daphne, is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. Since 2001, the building has served as the Old Methodist Church Museum and has been dedicated to educating the public about the history of the community. Church members now worship at a sanctuary on Main Street.

The museum site also includes a cemetery with burials dating back to 1847. The site may contain older graves as well. The cemetery holds many prominent Daphne citizens, as well as unnamed soldiers from the Civil War. Many of the graves in the cemetery were unmarked. In April, 2010, museum volunteers and Daphne Utility workers employed a ground-penetrating radar system to reveal the locations of 40 unmarked graves. The city decided to do this after reading about a similar radar survey in the Old Plateau Cemetery in Africatown. Along with research and the use of the radar, the museum volunteers were able to mark the graves of prominent Daphne citizens. These graves had been lost for over 150 years. About 10 graves were located in April. If the graves can be identified then names will be engraved on the markers. The project is ongoing.



# Fort Tombecbe Update

By Ashley Dumas

On April 20, thirty AAS members, volunteers, and guests traveled from nearly every corner of Alabama—including Aliceville, Huntsville, Auburn, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa, and Mobile—to the town of Epes, Sumter County, on the high bluffs above the Tombigbee River. They were there to visit the site of Forts Tombecbe/York/Confederation. The University of West Alabama's Archaeological Field Work students spent the spring semester mapping, conducting shovel tests, and excavating units. Their efforts paid off by locating the remains of the French fort's palisade wall (1736-1763).

This find makes it possible to construct a map showing the spatial relationships among the French period fort, the still-visible Spanish period earthworks that were part of Fort Confederation, as well as French and Spanish period structures located by Jim Parker's 1980 dig. The AAS field trip added to this endeavor by excavating units that followed the stain of the palisade wall until it sharply changed direction. This represents a bastion corner and allows us to pinpoint our location on a 1737 map of the fort.

With this new information, we immediately opened two units in an area where the historic map depicts the French bread oven. We did not locate any substantial structural remains to indicate clearly that we found the oven, but those units did contain a rich midden of French-period materials. This is important because the midden appears undisturbed by later British (Fort York) or Spanish (Fort Confederation) occupations, and it will provide a look at material culture from the frontier military post.

Additionally, the Choctaw pottery in the French midden and from the palisade trench can be securely dated to the first half of the 18th century. Once the pottery is analyzed, the results will add much to a poorly understood assemblage of historic Indian material culture. Once again, AAS members have generously contributed their time and

energies toward significant findings in archaeology and history.

The following people participated in the dig or stopped by to say hello (with sincere apologies to anyone mistakenly omitted): Epes: George Watkins, Bud Williams; Greensboro: Steven Meredith; Huntsville Chapter: Richard Kilborn; UWA: Richard Brownlee, Carmen Giles, Dr. Chris Haveman; Pickens Academy: Mary Ann Copland, Mary Ellen Wheat; Blount County:

Germaine, Skip, and Megan Ackley; Gene Stephens; Southwest Chapter: Louis Scott; Auburn University: Hamilton H. Bryant, III, Brittany Cooper, Matt Greenemeier, Adam Gullatte, Dr. Kriste Shuler, Lauren Starr, Ronald Wise, Jr.; Auburn: Eric and Claire Sipes; Tuscaloosa: Rodney, Garren, and Michaela Granec, Michael Thompson, Ben Windham; Meridian, MS: Greg Hatcher; Starkville, MS: Marcus Hayes.



Ashley Dumas

The whole gang hard at work.



Ashley Dumas

Louis Scott and Ben Windham



## Events to Remember



A sample of historic and prehistoric artifacts from Fort Tombeche.

Ashley Dumas

### **Museum Expedition 32: Ecology and Archaeology Field Camp**

June 4-26, 2010, Brierfield, AL

This year's expedition by the Alabama Museum of Natural History focuses on the Cahaba River ecology and historic archaeology. June 4-6 is a Family Retreat, June 10-12 is a teacher workshop on Living Streams Ecology, and June 13-19 and 20-26 are Archaeology Field Camps. The Expedition is designed for high school students and teachers, but is open to anyone interested. Accommodations, food, and equipment are provided. See their website for costs and more information; [www.amnh.ua.edu](http://www.amnh.ua.edu)



Garren and Michaela Granec

Ashley Dumas

### **Summer Internships at Russell Cave**

Paid student internships (\$12 per hour, 40 hours a week) are available in May and June through the National Park Service at Russell Cave in northeast Alabama. Interns will work with archaeologist Dr. Sarah Sherwood assessing prehistoric climate change. Housing is provided, but participants are responsible for their own food and transportation. Some background experience and relevant classes are necessary. For more information, contact Paul Dion, Internship Director, [pdion@ncseonline.org](mailto:pdion@ncseonline.org)

### **University of West Florida Field School**

The 2010 Pensacola Colonial Frontiers field school will take place at the archaeological site of Mission San Jose de Escambe (1741-1761), which was discovered in Molino, Florida, in 2009. Fieldwork will include excavations and remote sensing designed to explore wall trench structures found last year and to locate evidence of the Apalachee Indian mission village, including a Spanish mission church and cavalry barracks. Field school students will also explore a prehistoric Woodland period occupation that partly overlaps the mission site. For further

information, visit UWF's Archaeology Institute website.

### **Monkey King: A Story from China**

Pensacola Museum of Art, May 27 through August 2, 2010

This interactive children's exhibition introduces visitors to Chinese history, culture, art, religion and geography. It allows adults and children to develop an understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture. Monkey King contains more than 15 different Interactive Stations where children can play and learn. This exhibition was organized by the Children's Museum of Manhattan (from PMA website).

### **An Extraordinary Man with a Mighty Vision: An Exhibit from the Field Museum on the Life and Work of George Washington Carver**

Museum of Mobile, March 22 through July 4, 2010

Best known for his work with the peanut plant, George Washington Carver became a legend in his own time. Discover the life and accomplishments of an extraordinary man, born into slavery, who used his gifts to become a groundbreaking scientist, educator, and humanitarian with a lifelong mission: to bring practical knowledge to those in need (from MOM website).

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

Lab Work: The Center for Archaeological Studies opens its lab from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Tuesdays for volunteers. We have artifacts from various projects, such as Old Mobile, Old St. Stephens, and other interesting sites that need to be washed and sorted. If you would like to help, contact Ginny Newberry at [gnewberry@jaguar1.usouthal.edu](mailto:gnewberry@jaguar1.usouthal.edu) or 251-460-7976.



Megan Ackley and Claire Sipes

Ashley Dumas

# AAS Chapters

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## Chapter News

### News from East Alabama (Auburn) Chapter News by Teresa Paglione:

The chapter has taken the summer months off (June-August) but there are plans for a field trip or two to nearby sites, plus many of us plan to attend the AAS Summer meeting at Brierfield. In February, Ned Jenkins (Fort Toulouse-Jackson Park archaeologist) presented an overview of "The Search for Mabila" - why and how we have come to conclusions about its possible location. (We haven't found it yet, though....!) In April three students from Auburn presented papers that they had presented at the Alabama Academy of Science meeting. Adam Gullatte and Hamilton Bryant prepared a paper and PowerPoint slideshow on "The Ceramic Assemblage of a Mississippian Domestic Structure from 1Mc25" and Kelly Irvin presented her paper and PowerPoint slideshow about "A Case of Cranial Deformation from the Liddell Site, 1Wx1." In May we watched three short videos: "Georgia Time Capsule: The Mary Musgrove Trading Post, Savannah, GA"; "Visit with Respect: Cultural Heritage of the Great Sage Plains (Hopi and Pueblo landscapes) and "Mims Island: Protecting Prehistoric Graves Along the Perdido River."

**News from the Muscle Shoals Chapter by Gerald Hester:** The Muscle Shoals Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society met on Monday, April 12, 2010 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence, Alabama. After a time of fellowship and show and tell, there was a discussion that concerned searching for artifacts, especially on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) property. It was noted that Alabama Marine police co-operate with the TVA police. If either organization finds anyone digging, they will more than likely be prosecuted. Those who are searching but not digging may be required to toss their findings in the river. This action depends on the preference of the organization.

Program Chairman Charles Moore was also present. Charles has had two major surgeries since our last meeting and he is healing nicely. Howard King introduced our program speaker, Mark Newton, who is part of the Tennessee State Division of Archaeology. While presenting a PowerPoint, Mark spoke of the early big game in California and Tennessee. During the talk, Mark spoke about his visit to the La Brea tar pits in Los Angeles, California and the nearby George Page museum. He also mentioned his visits to numerous Pliastocene sites in Tennessee. Mark's advice to the group attending the meeting was that the Tennessee Valley Authority should yield many such sites. He also had a display of mammoth bones and recommended searching around springs for such bones. If the search proves successful, please call Mark or another archaeologist.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter also met on May 10, 2010. Six people were present for a period of fellowship and a presentation by Charles Moore who shared his research for his new book entitled, *Come Tell Me How You Lived: Native American History of the Tennessee Valley*.

After the Clovis era (13500-12800 BP) began to fade, such points as the Quad, Wheeler, Dalton, and Beaver

Lake became more prevalent. These were non-fluted points that were too flat to be fluted. One of the best Clovis point sites is near Decatur, Alabama. However, many such points are now at a level that is underwater. Then comes the Archaic period (9000-7000 BP). Stone tools seem to have been developed in the post Archaic period. There is also evidence of vegetable foods and the increase of migration during this period. Russell Cave near Bridgeport, Alabama and the Stanley-Worley bluff shelter near Tusculumbia are examples of Archaic sites. Much could be gained with more studies at these sites.



## Join or Renew Today!

You can pay AAS membership dues or make a donation to ASS online. **Go to**  
**www.alabamaarchaeology.org**  
to find out how.

Or, send a check to

Alabama Archaeological Society  
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park  
Moundville, AL 35474

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Annual Sustaining Joint	\$40.00	\$45.00
Life Individual	\$500.00	\$600.00
Life Joint	\$600.00	\$700.00



## AAS Research Grant

The AAS will grant an award of \$500 this year to a deserving archaeological research project. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Chairman by October 1st. The Board of Directors will vote on the proposals and announce the winner at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grant are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS; 2) the project must be located in Alabama; 3) the project director or his or her representative will be required to present a paper on the archaeological project at the Winter Meeting; and, 4) the project director or other personnel working on the project must submit a written report for publication in the Journal of Alabama Archaeology within twelve months of receiving the grant.

## Public Education Grant

The AAS will award public education grants this year in the amount of \$500. Single grant awards shall not exceed \$500. Proposals for grants must be submitted to the Chair of the Public Education Committee (see below) by October 1st. The Board will announce the grant recipient(s) at the Winter Meeting. Minimum criteria for the grants are: 1) the project director/grant administrator must be a member of the AAS, 2) the public education project must be located in the state of Alabama.

## AAS Scholarships

The AAS will award up to two scholarships this year in the amount of \$250 each to undergraduate and/or graduate students attending an Alabama college or university. Scholarship nominations are to be submitted to the Archaeological Resources Committee Chair (see below) by October 1. Each eligible student nominee must have an academic sponsor who must submit the nomination on the student's behalf. The nomination must take the form of a letter addressed to the Chair of the Archaeological Resources Committee. The letter must clearly identify both the nominee and the academic sponsor and must include pertinent contact information for both. The nomination letter must indicate the academic degree being sought and progress made to date toward that degree. The letter should include and discuss all the information necessary for the committee to evaluate the nominee. The sponsor should summarize the academic credentials and achievements of the nominee in the body of the nomination letter. The student must also be a member of the AAS.

Submit applications and questions to Erin Phillips, [phill018@bama.ua.edu](mailto:phill018@bama.ua.edu), or Erin Phillips, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama, PO Box 870210, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

# Stones & Bones

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