President’s Message: Spring 2012

Spring is such a lovely time of the year! The beautiful blossoms, the pollen, and of course Georgia Archaeology! We hope that you will join us for our annual Spring Meeting as well as Archaeology Month events throughout the state. The SGA is committed annually to the recognition of May as Archaeology Month in Georgia and cordially invites you to attend this year’s meeting which features the theme Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. On Saturday, May 19, join your colleagues and friends at Georgia Gwinnett College for a morning session of papers (featuring an update on the Duckett site and the Veterans Project in Augusta) and the highlight of the day—an afternoon site visit to Fort Daniel and a visit by Abby—the ArchaeoBus. Please visit the website for details of the meeting and the preliminary presentation schedule.

The annual Archaeology Month coordination could not happen without the leadership of Chair Tammy Herron (Vice-President/President-Elect). What a tremendous effort undertaken to serve Georgia educators! A special shout-out to all who participate in all facets of its production and execution. Thank you to the professional talents of the staff at New South Associates for their assistance in the design of this year’s poster! The annual poster stuffing party will be hosted by TRC and we appreciate their support in organizing these resources to be delivered to the regional school districts. SGA is grateful for all the volunteer efforts of this initiative and issues its sincerest thanks to the sponsors who make this educational outreach possible through their financial contribution! The Archaeology Month schedule has been altered slightly to send these resources earlier in the school year so they may be used effectively in the classroom. The lesson plan will be coming during the summer and be aligned to curriculum standards.

The Board has been busy moving the organization forward. Pam Baughman has coordinated the events for Archaeology Month and kept members abreast of the latest SGA news. Sammy Smith continues to contribute to the website and its fresh and interesting posts. Lynn Pietak served on the Awards Committee and attended the annual State Social Studies Fair on behalf of the SGA and the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA), and presented two awards. The continued professionalism of the SGA’s Early Georgia journal and its coordination and delivery to SGA members is led by Jared Wood. Thank you to those who participate in this effort. Kelly Woodard (Editor of the SGA’s newsletter, The Profile) has been appointed to serve as the Endowment Chair and she has graciously accepted. We look forward to her suggestions for continuing to gain financial support for the Endowment. Our sincerest thanks to Rita Elliott for serving in this role and for the traction she has provided to the continued growth of the Endowment Fund—most recently the Audacious Archaeology Auction of this past fall. We invite you all to continue to support this initiative to preserve archaeological sites in Georgia.

The SGA has been aware of current events and are extremely discouraged at the recent television shows—“American Diggers” and “Diggers” as developed and aired by Spike TV and National Geographic (although it is noted that National Geographic media has currently pulled “Diggers”). Like other organizations and societies across the United States, letters were submitted to both organizations that addressed the message of archaeology and requested the removal of the shows. It is critically important that this message not be encouraged and promoted to the current and next generation of leadership in protecting America’s rich heritage. There is no value that can be assigned to our history—it is a resource that we all share and have the opportunity to leave this legacy for our children.

These are challenging times for archaeology and the SGA appreciates your support of making sure that the important message of preservation of archaeological sites and the continued public outreach initiatives are recognized by those leaders who not only determine budgets but also legislation that may affect these important cultural resources. We hope to continue to collaborate with stakeholders in Georgia to participate in these discussions.

We look forward to seeing you in May!
Send Endowment Fund contributions to: The Society for Georgia Archaeology, Treasurer, P.O. Box 693, Athens, GA 30603. Please put “Endowment Fund” on the subject line of your check. If the contribution is to honor someone, please include the honoree’s name and complete address with your contribution check. All recipients will be notified of the contribution made in their honor. To read all stories on this website about the SGA’s Endowment Fund, click here.

2012 SPRING • ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Meeting 2012 preliminary schedule

The Society for Georgia Archaeology is proud to present the preliminary program for our Spring Meeting, scheduled for Saturday, May 19, at Georgia Gwinnett College. This meeting is in conjunction with 2012 Archaeology Month. The Archaeology Month theme this year is Comemmorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. The meeting will be held in the Student Center (Level 1, LVIS Room), and registration begins at 8:00am. Click here for a campus map (the Student Center is yellow), or see below.

Click here to access a PDF of the preliminary program. For all 2012 Spring Meeting information online, click here.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS INFORMATION • FRONTIERS IN THE SOIL • SGA NOTICES ONLINE • SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR AWARDS

2012 Georgia Social Studies Fair SGA/GCPA award winners

Submitted by Lynn Pietak (lpietak@edwards-pitman.com)

It was my great pleasure to attend the Georgia Social Studies Fair 2012 and to give awards sponsored by the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) and the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists (GCPA). The event was held at Clayton State University, a beautiful campus in full early spring bloom from all the warm weather we have been having here in north Georgia. Students from all around the state compete each year for prizes awarded by the Georgia Leadership Association for the Social Studies and other organizations including the National Archives at Atlanta, Friends of the Georgia Archives and History, and the New Georgia Encyclopedia. The SGA and GCPA are pleased to give awards at this event because it supports our mission “to unite all persons interested in the archaeology of Georgia and to work actively to preserve, study and interpret Georgia’s historic and prehistoric remains.”
In order to get to the State Fair, these students have already won prizes at the local and regional levels. This type of effort requires the hard work and support of students, teachers, and parents alike and should be strongly applauded and encouraged by all. The prize winners this year utilized multiple lines of evidence in their approach to their research: archival, archaeological, historical and informant interviews. Of significance to me, and I’m sure to other members of SGA and GCFA and interested parties, was that a family visit to two of our important historic resources, Andersonville National Historic Site, and Fort Pulaski National Monument, both administered by the National Park Service, prompted these students to pursue their projects.

The winner of the Society for Georgia Archaeology’s award of $50 and a copy of Frontiers in the Soil is fifth-grader John Hendricks of Jasper Elementary in Pickens County for his project entitled Misery at Andersonville: What Was it Like to be a Prisoner of War at Andersonville Prison During the Civil War?.

The winner of the Georgia Council of Professional Archaeologists award of $50 and a copy of Frontiers in the Soil is eighth-grader Connor Hynek of Herschel Jones Middle School in Paulding County, for his project, Fort Pulaski: A Turning Point.

My daughter Natasha and I really enjoyed attending the fair for the second year in a row and realize how much effort it takes to put together an event of this size. Thanks to the organizers and congratulations to our winners!!

Order your own copy of Frontiers in the Soil using ordering information online here.

SGA NOTICES ONLINE • WEEKLY PONDER


Submitted by Sammy Smith (sammy@thesga.org)

How does thesga.org measure up?

Here are some basic statistics on the traffic the SGA’s website received from 2009 through 2011. The current version of the website “went live” in March of 2009, so we have only partial-year statistics for that year.
The top section shows raw totals for the year (with 2009 a partial year). The next section shows daily averages based on the annual figures. The lowest section shows monthly average breakdowns for the same annual figures. Of course the daily and monthly averages reflect the same patterns, but both are offered because one may make more sense to you than the other.

What’s notable here? One, the SGA’s website receives plenty of attention for the size of the organization. This attention is in part because the website offers real information about Georgia archaeology, not just information about the activities of the Society (e.g., meeting dates, President’s Messages). This means that many non-members visit our website and learn about archaeology in Georgia; this is good because one of the SGA’s missions is to educate people about our state’s archaeological heritage.

Two, while the website receives plenty of attention from new visitors, we also have a healthy 20% or so of our visitors who have viewed the website more than once in the annual reporting period.

Three, the number of page views per visit is only around 2, but that probably reflects that the one-time visitors have searched the web for a specific topic or combination of search-terms, which has turned up a webpage on our website that has those key terms. Thus, the new visitor doesn’t generally have an interest in materials other than the searched terms. This keeps the page views per visit low. Likewise, the time on site stays low at just under two minutes. That’s how long it takes the visitor who landed on our website while searching a particular topic to scan the webpage for the information he or she is interested in.

For kicks, here are some simple comparative statistics based on monthly averages for the three years under discussion.
And here are the same statistics presented as daily averages. Daily averages may be more useful because months have a different number of days.

Note that daily average pageviews of 260 (2011) and 293 (2010) indicate a strong interest in the SGA’s website. This means the Society would be wise to continue to publish topical stories that are informative to both our members and to non-members who are interested in archaeology, and in the archaeology of Georgia.

Do you have a story idea you think would be appropriate for this website and the vision and mission of the SGA? Please write the SGA’s website editor and Editor of the SGA’s quarterly newsletter, The Profile, with your idea.

**First two GARS newsletters available**

**UPDATED!** Volume 1, Issues 1 and 2 of the newsletter of the Gwinnett County Chapter of SGA, the Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (GARS), are now available. The name of the newsletter is *Gwinnett Archaeology Bulletin*. Access a PDF of the premier issue, for February, by clicking here. Access a PDF of the March newsletter by clicking here.

GARS members are planning to co-host—with the Fort Daniel Foundation—an afternoon expo at the Fort Daniel site on May 19th, as part of the 2012 Archaeology Month activities.

Find all stories about GARS on this website by clicking here. GARS has its own Internet domain; click here to go to the GARS website.
Rock carving expert to speak about Mayans in northern Georgia

Submitted by Jim Langford (jlangford@fc-solutions.com)

Northwest Georgia Archaeology Society member Jim Langford sent thesga.org this notice.... NWGAS is a Chapter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology.

Mayans in North Georgia?? This question raised some eyebrows and much heated discussion a few weeks ago when a Georgian posed this as a “substantiated” fact.

Come to the Museum at Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site on Thursday, March 15th at 7:00pm to hear the REAL story of rock structures on a mountainside in Union County, Georgia—structures that sparked this controversy. Our speaker for this meeting of the Northwest Georgia Archaeology Society will be Dr. Jannie Loubser, an archaeologist and world expert on rock carvings and rock structures.

Dr. Loubser has spent several years exploring and recording rock carvings and rock structures in Georgia. Many of these were built by native populations and these carvings and structures date back hundreds and even thousands of years. Recently, some enthusiasts reported that some of these investigations by Dr. Loubser prove that Mayans settled in Georgia several hundred years ago. Dr. Loubser and other Georgia archaeologists dispute this claim. Regardless of the lack of connection to Mayans, these rock structures and carvings are fascinating remnants of very early cultures in Georgia. And we can learn many things from these cultural treasures.

Dr. Loubser is a native of South Africa and received his doctorate degree from the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa, and a post-doctorate degree from the University of Canberra in Australia. He has more than 30 years of experience in researching and preserving rock art and rock structures in several countries around the world including South Africa, Australia and the United States.

We are very lucky to have Jannie come and speak to us on March 15th, at 7:00pm at the Etowah Indian Mounds Museum near Cartersville. The public is invited to the meeting and there is no charge for attendance. For more information, you may call Jim Langford at 404-285-2001, Jack Walker at 770-655-2595, or Etowah Indian Mounds Museum at 770-387-3747.

The museum is located just west of downtown Cartersville at 815 Indian Mounds Road. You can find it by taking exit 288 off of I-75 (north of Atlanta) and following the brown directional signs. Also, see map below.

GAAS March meeting presentation topic: Etowah

Submitted by Allen Vegotsky (vegotsky@earthlink.net)

GAAS member Allen Vegotsky keeps the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the SGA and all of us current on meeting information....

It is a real pleasure to announce the GAAS (Greater Atlanta Archaeological Society) presentation for March [2012]. The speaker will be Dr. Adam King a Research Associate Professor of Anthropology of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP). He has a MA in Anthropology from the University of Georgia (1991) and a PhD in Anthropology from Pennsylvania State University (1996). Dr. King’s major research focus is on “The emergence and evolution of complex societies, particularly Mississippian chiefdoms.”

He will be speaking at the March GAAS meeting (Tuesday, March 13th, presentation beginning about 7:30 PM). Our meetings are held at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History on Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon. The following is Dr. King’s abstract of his talk: “In this presentation I discuss ideas on the meaning of Mississippian imagery found at the Etowah site located near Cartersville, Georgia. I begin with a short discussion of how we try to find meaning in ancient symbolism. I will follow with a summary of current ideas generated by the Texas State Iconography Workshop on the meaning of common Mississippian symbols. Finally I discuss ideas on the meaning of four different sets of imagery recovered from Etowah’s Mound C. My ultimate conclusion is that the elaborate objects associated with the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex were not simply status markers or highly valued trade items. They were also ritual objects designed to bring their users power from other realms of the cosmos.”

Please let me know if you would like to join Dr. King for a pre-meeting dinner at Athen’s Pizza at 5:30 PM. The restaurant is located on Clairmont Road, less than a quarter mile north of Ponce de Leon.
War of 1812 bicentennial commemoration planned
Submitted by Catherine Long (diggergirl77@gmail.com)

What does the USA’s national anthem have in common with Georgia’s Archaeology Month 2012?

The War of 1812 is the focus of this year’s Archaeology Month theme in honor of the bicentennial celebration. According to Gerald Judson Smith Jr.’s article in the New Georgia Encyclopedia there were three main focus points for Georgia’s role in the War of 1812: the Creek War (1813–1814), the British blockade, and the British occupation of St. Mary’s and Cumberland Island (1814–1815). General John Floyd commanded the troops from Georgia. He was directed to build forts and destroy Creek villages. Fort Hawkins and Fort Mitchell are two examples. The battles also occurred in Alabama. Along the coast Georgians sought to defend themselves from attack by rebuilding Fort Morris and fortifying the battery at Point Peter.

While Georgia was having its own conflicts other states were defending their harbors as well. From September 12–14, 1814 the Battle of Baltimore was waged in Maryland at Fort McHenry. Following this battle, Francis Scott Key was inspired by the large flag still standing after battle. What started as a poem was later put to music and became the national anthem of the United States as it was proclaimed by Congress on March 3, 1931. These words continue to pay tribute to the battles that have occurred to continue to preserve American freedom. Who knew such an inspiring song would arise from this conflict? To see the words from the Star-Spangled Banner please click here.

We hope you will join us in commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 by attending the SGA’s Spring Meeting on May 19th at the Georgia Gwinnett College campus (map below). This will be a great opportunity to learn of the state of Georgia during that time. Presentations will focus on the research of the relationships between the Creek and the frontier people and feature research on fortifications from the period.

Special thanks to Jim D’Angelo for the inspiration of this Weekly Ponder from the January Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society (a Chapter of the SGA) meeting. Read all stories on this website about Georgia’s 2012 Archaeology Month by clicking here. Read all stories on this website about the SGA’s 2012 Spring Meeting by clicking here.

2012 ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH • 2012 SPRING • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Call for Papers for 2012 Spring SGA meeting
Submitted by Pamela Johnson Baughman (pajgriffin@comcast.net)

Join us on Saturday, May 19th, for the 2012 Spring Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. The theme for Archaeology Month is Commemorating the Bicentennial of the War of 1812.

Papers that focus on archaeological research in Georgia and within this timeframe will be considered for the program. Each presenter should plan for a presentation of 20 minutes or less including time for questions at the end. Please submit your title and abstract (100 words) to Catherine Long via email by clicking here by March 15 (in time to print presentation titles in The Profile). First come, first served—the number of slots is limited to 6-7 presentations. For questions, please call 770.722.7730.

The conference will take place in the Student Center on the campus of Georgia Gwinnett College, 1000 University Center Lane, Lawrenceville, Georgia 30043 (see map below). Coffee and refreshments will be provided. There will be a small registration fee for attendees, including presenters.

To celebrate this year’s theme conference participants are cordially invited to attend an educational presentation at the Fort Daniel archaeological site as sponsored by the Society for Georgia Archaeology, local SGA Chapter Gwinnett Archaeological Research Society and the Fort Daniel Foundation. The program will be in the early afternoon and a pre-paid box lunch will be available for purchase. Don’t forget to visit the website as details for this exciting and engaging meeting are further developed.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Read all stories on this website about Georgia’s 2012 Archaeology Month by clicking here. Read all stories on this website about the SGA’s 2012 Spring Meeting by clicking here. Download a one-page version of this story suitable for printing and posting by clicking here.
1875 Scull Shoals article leads researcher home

Submitted by Tom Gresham (searcheo@aol.com)

While browsing through microfilmed issues of the Oglethorpe County newspaper, the Oglethorpe Echo, looking for a death notice, my eye was caught by a startling sub-headline “Acres of Human Bones Unearthed.” Other sub-headlines (there are six in all) included “An Aboriginal Graveyard” and “Interesting Indian Mounds—Relics of a Past Race”.

The Oglethorpe Echo began publication in 1874 and the next year, on July 9, 1875, the editor and publisher T. Larry Gantt published the article that caught my eye, which describes his overnight fishing trip with friends on the nearby Oconee River. Fortunately, little of the article discusses fishing, and most describes his ten-mile buggy ride to and from the river and the archeological sites they found along the river, including the Scull Shoals mounds.

Mark Williams and his UGA field schools mapped, shovel tested and test excavated the Scull Shoals mound site in the mid-1980s. In his 1984 report he notes that the earliest known reference to the site is an 1877 article in an Augusta newspaper. Thus, the Oglethorpe Echo article is two years earlier and includes some intriguing new observations. Perhaps most notably, it describes the top of the large mound as having a 30-ft diameter basin and observes that the site remains undisturbed. While it is tantalizing to think that this basin was the remnant of mound-top structure, Mark believes that it was most likely an old looters pit, and that the mound was not “undisturbed” in 1875. The 1875 article notes that artifacts, ashes and human bone are all around the mounds.

Somewhere upriver from the mounds is the site with “acres of bones” exposed by a freshet. This site is near a small stream, which could be one of several on either side of the river. This portion of the Oconee River has a great deal of bottomland that could have supported intensive habitation.

The article also discusses the then popular “mound builder race” theory, which held that an extinct race of people built the Mississippian mounds in the eastern US, and this race was obliterated by the Indians encountered by the English in the eighteenth century. To his credit Gantt does not buy into this theory.

Most interesting to me was Gantt’s description of his buggy ride to the river, down the road I live on. Two of the magnificent houses he describes still stand. But the most arresting passage in the article is his description of utter desolation for nearly five miles, the result of officials burning down every house in an area that was affected earlier with a Small Pox plague.

Who knows what other interesting articles exist in the myriad of small town and large city newspapers of the past 150 or so years. Such newspapers are very difficult and time consuming to abstract thoroughly. It is impossible to include everything that might be of some interest to someone, and so in the rare cases when newspapers are abstracted, such as the first 30 years of the Oglethorpe Echo, many items must be left out. However, happily, this very interesting article, although quite long, was included in the first volume of the Oglethorpe Echo extracts compiled by Fred. McRee, Jr. Historians and others are constantly browsing though these rich archives of primary information, and every so often they will stumble upon an eye-catching article or advertisement and share it with others.

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OUR WANDERINGS

A Jaunt Through a Fine Section of Country

Jottings by the Way

Ye Editor’s Success as Fisherman

An Aboriginal Graveyard

Acres of Human Bones Unearthed

Interesting Indian Mounds—Relics of a Past Race

On the 25th ult, in company with the inimitable Red, ye Editor started for a two-days’ fishing excursion to the farm of Mr. Aycock on the Oconee.

Snugly ensconced in a buggy, propelled by a “cracking” steed (so called from the fact of it requiring a good deal of cracking to induce him to break a walk), we were soon gliding over what is justly termed the
of the county. On each hand we beheld handsome houses, well-tilled fields and fine crops. Our route, we believe, was along the regular road to Athens from this place.

The finest cotton we saw on the route was on the farm of Mr. F. Dillard. It appeared about waist high and was in a most flourishing condition. Mr. D., we believe, is one of the best cotton raisers in our county. He has a beautiful place, and everything about him bears the look of contentment and plenty.

Mr. Mordecai Edwards owns, we think, the best finished and handsomest country residence in our county. One to see the admirable style in which his buildings and grounds are kept could scarcely accredit the fact that he, like the rest of us poor unfortunates, has to utilize free labor.

Mr. O. H. Arnold owns a well-fixed, well-arranged home. Everything on this place seems to partake of the vim and energy of the thrifty proprietor. We learn that he owns some of the most valuable and fertile lands in our county.

The next place we approach is the home of those clever bachelor boys, the Martin brothers. One has but to glance at their clean, well-kept premises to see that they are not under bachelor rule, but have received that attention from fair hands that so quickly transforms a howling wilderness into a fair garden, and brings order out of chaos. Their sister, Mrs. J., resides with them.

Shortly after leaving behind this handsome residence we enter that section of our county which was ravaged last winter by that terrible scourge, the small pox. Here, on every hand, a

SCENE OF DESOLATION

meets our eye. All that is now left of small but comfortable homes is the solitary chimneys, which seems to stand as lone sentinels to guard the spot where such terrible visitation of Providence took place. As all our readers know, the houses were burnt as a measure of precaution by the Small Pox Committee. Even the fields and crops appear to partake of the general desolation. The former, as a general thing, are forsaken and bare, while the latter have a small and stunted appearance. In fact, this entire section is almost deserted, for in a ride of five miles through it we did not see a living thing – all life and activity having vanished with the plagues.

Our readers can readily imagine that it was no small feeling of relief that we left behind this scene of desolation and alighted to the

CHEERFUL FARM HOUSE

of Mr. Aycock, where we were welcomed in that cordial and hearty manner that only the old-style Southern farmer knows how to extend. After a few moments rest, our friend Dick announced himself ready to conduct us to the Oconee, where everything was in readiness for our intended onslaught on the “small fry” of that stream. A short ride brought us to the “river side” and it was not long ere we were vainly endeavoring to induce the finny tribe to partake of the “delicious morsel” so temptingly offered them at the point of the hook. But our success was not such as to class us rivals to the fishermen named in Holy writ, for after two hours steady work, two small cats were our only reward.

Learning that we were near an old

INDIAN BURIAL GROUND,

we expressed a desire to spend the rest of the afternoon examining the same, to which proposition the party readily consented. We landed at a point on the river near where a small stream enters, and after leaving the banks some fifty yards, we reached a spot where a freshet, some years since, had unearthed a cemetery, which until then was unknown to any one. The river, in overflowing, washed several large openings in a field, each of which were found filled with

HUMAN BONES

and Indian relics. To this day a space of some ten acres is thickly scattered with pieces of their pottery, arrow heads, numerous strangely shaped stones cut by them, and a quantity of human bones, with which many spots are whitened. They are generally broken into small fragments, but you occasionally find entire sculls and other prominent parts of the human frame. And what is more remarkable, we are told that one often finds the

SKELETON OF A GIANT

the bones being much larger than those of an ordinary man. Mr. Aycock now has in his possession a peculiarly shaped rock that he found in one of the graves when they were first washed open. It is of oval shape not quite so large as a breakfast plate, has an indenture on each side like a saucer, is as white as marble, smooth as glass, as regular as if cut by a sculptor, and of pure flint. Two of these rocks were found in a grave, one being red and the other white flint. How the Indians, without any tools managed to cut this hardest of stone, and for what purpose they were intended we cannot surmise.

A BRISK RAIN
brought to an end our further sport and wanderings for that day, and so we wended our way homeward, where a
delightful dinner of fish and other etceteras soon caused us to forget our poor luck and “soaking”.

Saturday morning we awoke at the break of day and on going out found our party preparing for a sein on Big Creek. On
this we will not dwell. Suffice it to say that after three hour’s wade through mud, water and snakes up to our waist, we
returned home with a string of fine fish, some four feet long.

After a short rest we again excorted some five miles down the river to a pair of

INDIAN MOUNDS.

After a pleasant ride in pleasant company, interspersed with an occasional halt in some shady nook to “try our luck,”
where we reached the county line, where Scull Shoals creek separates us from Greene. Just below this point we
launched our canoe and went ashore, as the objects our visit—the mounds—were but a few yards distant. Their towering
forms, like huge green balls, were the first object that arrested our sight. They are two in number—a larger and a smaller
—and are in a flat formed by a bend in the river, near the banks of the stream. Having no instrument of measurement,
we cannot say what was the height or dimensions of either. Of one thing we can feel assured—it was no slight
undertaking for our party to clamber to the summit of the larger, which could only be accomplished by the aid of the
thick bushes on its sides. Of this mound there is only one place at which you can ascend, the other sides being almost
perpendicular. Arrived at the summit, we found it covered with a rank growth of tall weeds and bushes. Some years
since an enterprising darkey conceived the idea of planting him a water-melon patch on its top, and cleared if off
accordingly. We noticed a basin of some thirty feet across in the center, which we suppose was used as a fortification.

Descending, one sees on every hand remnants of Indian pottery, the shells from the muscles they cooked, and even the
ashes and charred coals from their fires. All appear just as the owner left it nearly a hundred years ago. This valley is
seldom visited, and hence all remains undisturbed. And what is stranger still, human bones cover the earth equally as
thick as their pots and arrow heads. In a freshly washed gully we found the

ENTIRE SKELETON

of a youth, every bone being in its proper place, while by its side lay several arrow heads, all that were left of the bow
and quiver that were laid to rest with the young warrior.

WHY

they made their burial ground beneath their place of abode we cannot conjecture. That they also lived on this spot as
well as buried their dead, the pottery, ashes and shells alluded to above clearly affirm.

The smaller mound is not a matter of as much interest as the larger. It stands some 500 yards distant and not being very
steep, is easily ascended.

For what purpose these mounds were formed none can tell. Some historians go so far as to contend that they were not
built by the Indians, but by some race that occupied this land prior to them. And this seems plausible, from the fact that
the tribes our fathers found here could not tell by whom they were built. But we believe them to be the work of the
Indian, from the fact that their interiors, when opened, are found to contain the arrow heads and potteries used only by
the red man. It certainly required much time and labor to rear these mighty piles of earth. We can see, near by, the holes
from whence the earth was taken to make them, now huge ponds of water.

Having feasted our curiosity to its utmost extent on the works of poor Lo, we began to feel an innate warning that the
inner man was unsatisfied—it being about 3 o’clock, and we not as yet having had our dinner. After a couple of hours
hard rowing we again found ourselves on terra firma, near home, where we knew awaited us one those delicious meals
that Mrs. A. knows so well how to prepare. Well, after eating enough for some half dozen men of our caliber, we retired
to rest.

DEPARTED.

The next day being “Sabbath, day of peaceful rest,” we hitched up and started homeward. It was with more than regret
that we left behind the scene of so much real pleasure, and such kind, obliging friends. But part we did, and were soon
en route for home.

We stopped at Big Creek Church, where we heard a most excellent sermon from Uncle Davey, after which we dined with
the Martin boys, where we partook of a dinner that made us cease to wonder why they lead a life of celibacy, and always
were such a look of contentment.

As “Old Sol was sinking behind the western hills,” we arrived at Crawford, having spent two of as pleasant days as we
care to see.

By T. Larry Gantt
Publisher of the Oglethorpe Echo
Abandonment/reuse of the Etowah mounds

Submitted by Sammy Smith (sammy@thesga.org)

Adam King's slim and informative volume, *Etowah: The Political History of a Chiefdom Capital* (2003), is now available in paperback and ebook versions. Notes the publisher, the University of Alabama Press, on its website:

Adam King has analyzed the architecture and artifacts of Etowah and deduced its vital role in the prehistory of the area. He advances a plausible historical sequence and a model for the ancient town's complex political structure. The chiefdom society relied upon institutional social ranking, permanent political offices, religious ideology, a redistribution of goods and services, and the willing support of the constituent population. King reveals strategies used by the paramount chiefs to maintain their sources of power and to control changes in the social organization. Elite alliances did not necessarily involve the extreme asymmetry of political domination and tribute extraction. King's use of ceramic assemblages recovered from Etowah to determine the occupation history and the construction sequence of public facilities (mounds and plazas) at the center is significant.

When you visit the Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site, the civic-ceremonial part of a much larger residential community that extended beyond the acreage that is within the boundaries of the park, the mounds are formidable and imposing. It is difficult to imagine that the people who used them would have lived in their shadows, built and maintained them, and also abandoned them, only to return after several generations. But that is the sequence that Dr. King reconstructs from the archaeological remains recovered from the Etowah community.

Why do you think Mississippian-period people abandoned the mounds which took so much effort to build and maintain? Why do you think they returned? Why might this have happened more than once?

The Etowah Indian Mounds Historic Site is currently open Wednesday through Saturday. Admission includes entrance to an on-site museum. Read Scott Jones’s summary of Georgia’s past on this website. Read more about the Mississippian period on this website.

Tammy Herron to speak at the February GAAS meeting

Submitted by Allen Vegostsky (vegotsky@earthlink.net)

I am very pleased to invite you to the February 14th GAAS meeting at which Tammy Herron of the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) will be the guest speaker. Tammy will discuss her research on colonial sites in Aiken County, South Carolina and also some of the programs of the Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA).

Ms. Herron was raised in the small Georgia town of Hiltonia and emphasized anthropology, archaeology, and psychology in her undergraduate work at Georgia Southern University. Most of her professional career has consisted of laboratory and field work with the SRARP where she is currently the Curator. In addition to her work as Curator, she has been active in several excavations in the area of Beech Island, South Carolina. On February 14th, she will touch on some of this work and also on recent events of the SGA and preview things to come. It will be an exciting illustrated program!

Tammy Herron is Vice President-President Elect of the SGA. She is also active in the Archaeological Society of South Carolina, the Augusta Archaeological Society, the Society for Historical Archaeology, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and much more. She is married, has two daughters, and they live in North Augusta, South Carolina.

Logistics: The presentation will begin about 7:30 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 14th, at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History (Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon). If you would like to join the speaker for dinner before the meeting, we will be gathering about 5:30 PM at Athen’s Pizza on Clairmont Road, about 1/4 mile north of N. Decatur Road.
Look at a topographic map of Georgia. First of all, you may realize that carving Georgia out of the terrain of southeastern North America creates artificial boundaries if you’re looking at topography. Look at the terrain again, ignoring state boundaries.

That’s what SGA member Scot Keith has done as part of his studies of the Leake Site, a large and important civic-ceremonial community in the Middle Woodland period, which dates from about 350 BC to AD 650. The Leake Site is in what is now Bartow County, just west of Cartersville.

Note how the Leake Site is in a naturally flat area between two zones of rugged terrain that lie to the northwest and northeast. The flatter area that extends north and northeast is called the Great Valley by geographers. The Great Valley extends northeast into what is now Canada.

Therefore, the location of the Leake Site, at the mouth or end of the Great Valley—depending on which direction you’re traveling, is in
a strategic area with respect to long distance trading networks that may have radiated away from (and to) the Leake Site.

Scot notes that a piece of pottery from the Leake Site, a particular example of the decorative Swift Creek pottery common to Middle Woodland sites, was like examples from the Mann Site, way up in what is now southern Indiana. A petrographic study confirmed that the clays used to make the special sherd found on the Leake Site were consistent with those from the Mann Site!

Examples of decorated pottery archaeologists have named Swift Creek and Cartersville stamped from the Leake Site. Image cropped from “The Mann Site & the Leake Site: Linking the Midwest and the Southeast during the Middle Woodland Period,” a paper by Scot Keith presented at the Midwest Archaeological Conference, Bloomington, Indiana, October 2010, and available online here.

Most recently, Scot discusses this in a recent article, “The Leake Complex: A Middle Woodland Hopewellian ceremonial center and gateway community,” published in the Fall 2011 issue of Early Georgia (vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 173–200), the journal of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. (Early Georgia is a benefit of membership in the SGA. Click here to read more about joining the SGA.)

This map (also a labeled National Map screen grab) shows some of the obvious routes leaving the Leake Site headed for the Mann Site, if you want to stay in valleys and avoid the most rugged terrain.

Read Scot’s Early Georgia article to understand more about long-distance trading networks in eastern North America in Middle Woodland times. Scot notes in his conclusion (p. 192):
Located at the edge of the Cartersville and Swift Creek cultural areas, and as a gateway through which both northward and southward bound travelers passed, [the Leake Site] remains provide evidence of increasing interregional interaction over time.

Are you surprised that people living in what is now Georgia had connections with people living hundreds of miles away in a settlement on the north side of the Ohio River? What do you think was in the pot that someone carried from what is now Indiana to the Leake Site community—or was it empty?

Scot Keith has described the Leake Site in a story on this website and in “The Leake Complex: A Middle Woodland Hopewellian ceremonial center and gateway community,” an article in the Fall 2011 issue of Early Georgia (vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 173–200), the journal of the Society for Georgia Archaeology. You can read more about the Leake Site elsewhere on this website and at bartowdig.com.

EVENTS INFORMATION • GOLDEN ISLES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February GIAS meeting: The life and times of the sixteenth century Guale

The Golden Isles Archaeological Society will hold their February meeting Tuesday the 7th at St. Simons Elementary School (805 Ocean Blvd.) in the Cafeteria at 7:00pm. The meeting will feature Ryan Sipe of Georgia Southern University and is titled Georgia’s Mission Frontier: The Life and Times of the Sixteenth Century Guale.

When the Spanish established their La Florida colony, it put the American Southeast on the world stage. Spain’s first colonial capital at Santa Elena failed 21 years after it was established and the only thing separating St. Augustine from the other encroaching European powers was the Georgia Coast. This was not uninhabited land; however, it was the land of the Guale. The Guale lived among the coastal hammocks and relic dunes of northern coastal Georgia in a chiefdom level society which was, at times, organized into a form of confederacy under a paramount leader.

After the failure of Santa Elena, it was more vital than ever for the Spanish to create loyal subjects among the aboriginal groups that made up the “buffer” zone between St. Augustine and their European competition. This was largely undertaken through the process of Missionization. First the Jesuits, then the Franciscans set up tenuous outposts among the Guale. This; however, would prove to be a daunting task and one that would change both cultures forever.

ARCHAEOBUS • ARCHAEOLOGY 101 • ARTIFACT INFORMATION • WEEKLY PONDER

Combating damage and deterioration of artifacts

Submitted by Sammy Smith (sammy@thesga.org)

Decay and deterioration are an ongoing problem with stored artifacts.

Therefore, curators—the professionals who care for artifact collections in museums and other institutions that preserve artifacts—are very careful about how they store the items they are responsible for.

So what do curators have to guard against that can accelerate the deterioration of artifacts? Perhaps you have some ideas if you have carefully studied display cases and other places where you have seen artifacts on exhibit. Here is a list of agents of deterioration.

**People.** People can intentionally or unintentionally damage artifacts—or misplace them.

**Pests.** Insects, rodents, birds, and other creatures can damage artifacts. Mold and microbes can degrade specimens, too.

**Light.** Exposure to light can fade or darken some objects, especially organic items like textiles and cordage.

**Temperature.** Storage at temperatures that are too high or too low can damage some kinds of artifacts.

**Humidity.** The relative humidity of the storage area can cause some kinds of artifacts to dry out and become brittle, or to become damp and susceptible to degradation.

**Fire.** A fire in the storage area can obviously destroy or damage artifacts, along with removing information about where the artifact came from (its provenience).

**Water.** Water damage from leaks or a flood can destroy or damage artifacts, dissolving or corroding some types of artifacts, and
causing others to swell and distort.

**Pollution.** Gases, smoke, grease, and dust can disintegrate, corrode, and otherwise damage some kinds of artifacts.

**Physical forces.** The physical effects of gravity or the pressure from storage materials can distort and damage some kinds of artifacts. Physical forces also include the potential for deterioration that could result from tornadoes or earthquakes.

Can you think of something that can damage stored artifacts that is not on this list?

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**2011 Fort Daniel Faire conclusions**

Submitted by James D’Angelo (4drdee@bellsouth.net)

Prior to the 2011 Fort Daniel Frontier Faire in Gwinnett County, GA., several geophysical surveys had been conducted at the site by Dr. Sheldon Skaggs of Georgia Southern University, the combined results of which suggested the presence of features within the footprint of the fort. We have also previously reported that the footprint of the fort’s palisade walls and corner blockhouses, as determined by archaeological investigations, corresponds precisely to the plan for frontier forts sent by President Washington’s Secretary of War, Henry Knox, to the Governor of Georgia in 1794.

The plan was presumably made available by the Governor to the militia and those on the frontier. Indeed, our research has revealed many contemporary sketches and written descriptions of Georgia frontier forts constructed after 1794, including Fort Mitchell built by a Georgia General in what would be Alabama, exhibit Knox’s plan. In his article, Skaggs presents a tracing of Knox’s plan to illustrate how Fort Daniel corresponds to it. We have since located and arranged for a copy of the original plan from the State Archives, which are happy to share with our readers.

While the stockade and blockhouse footprint of Fort Daniel correspond to Knox’s plan, contemporary sketches of the similar Georgia forts (i.e., Mitchell, Hawkins, Lawrence, and Manning) as well as Allen Daniel’s construction orders, suggested that the interior buildings might not. Because the whole site had been cultivated and because, unlike the palisade walls which were sunk 3 feet into the ground well below the plow zone, the blockhouses and other interior structures would have been built on the surface, expectations for buried features within the fort ran low. Until the 2011 Faire, that is.

As mentioned in previous articles about the Faire (see article 1 and article 2) several schools participated in the public archaeology portion of the event. It was one of these groups, Georgia State University archaeology students, led by Jeff Glover, which found our first “interior” feature while ground-truthing the results of Skaggs’ Gradiometer survey.
As Jeff’s group approached the bottom of their Unit (23), the reward for their digging and screening was one sherd of crockery and small fragments of charcoal and brick. As the plow scars at the bottom of the plow zone began to appear—it is amazing how intriguing these are to most people—I suggested that excavating the scars as features (which they are!) would be good practice for the students. It was during this exercise that a brick feature appeared in the northwest corner of the unit. Although it had been damaged by the plow, most of it clearly extended below the plow zone.
After recording the feature and covering it, Jeff and I decided that no more should be done with it until we could see if it was connected with anything to the north, which would give us a better idea of how to approach it. And, delicate as the feature was, that should be done sooner rather than later. So Jeff came back with his students on November 11, and we opened a new unit (27) that overlapped Unit 23.

What we found was that the brick feature (23-1) was on the south edge of another feature (27-1) that itself extended out of the unit to the north and to the west and, based on the surrounding soil profiles, extend at least 2 inches (5 cm) below the bottom of the plow zone.

Is this a robbed out hearth with discarded brickbats? Is this a back-filled, brick-lined well? Perhaps it was a privy? Maybe it is the bottom of a truncated trash pit like we found in the northeast blockhouse where the wonderful bone-handled knife was found a couple of years ago. And, although it is located within a structure according to the Knox overlay, it is far too early to know if the actual layout of the interior of Fort Daniel correlates with Knox’s plan. But, whatever it turns out to be, it is an interior feature of Fort Daniel, and that is very exciting!

These features have been covered with plastic and soil to preserve them for another go-around when we will try to determine the horizontal extent and shape of the feature before attempting to dissect it.

Read about the Fort Daniel Foundation here. Read all stories on this website about Fort Daniel here.
GREATER ATLANTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

GAAS January meeting scheduled
Submitted by Allen Vegotsky (vegotsky@earthlink.net)

GAAS member Allen Vegotsky keeps the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the SGA and all of us current on meeting information.

Happy New Year! Have you ever thought about all the ways that people are researching and contributing to historic preservation? How about GIS? Our next meeting will relate to GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and how this technology involving factors like urban expansion and population growth is impacting archaeological sites and enable scholars to project into the future.

Our presenters are Jack Tyler and Terry Jackson who are using GIS to track the loss of archaeological sites and to develop plans for conservation of remaining sites. Their combined academic and research backgrounds include anthropology, archaeology, geology, historic preservation, educational policy, and more. The title of their illustrated power point presentation is Community Planning, GIS, and Conservation Archaeology. Come to the GAAS meeting next Tuesday, Jan 10th, and find out how research done by Jack and Terry is helping to drive planning for the Atlanta environment of years to come.

The talk will begin at approximately 7:30 PM next Tuesday, January 10th, 2012. It will be held at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History on Clifton Road, just north of Ponce de Leon. There will be a pre-meeting dinner at 5:30 PM with one or both speakers at Los Loros restaurant (Clairmont Rd., just south of N. Decatur Road). If you would like to join the group, please let me know by email or phone (678) 684-3622.

May I also remind members, former members, and prospective members that dues to support our newsletter and activities would be appreciated. Questions may be directed to our Treasurer, Carol Reed, via email here or phone (770) 439-1502.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES TO VISIT • ARCHAEOLOGY 101 • SGA NOTICES ONLINE

Ocmulgee 75th Anniversary celebrated
Submitted by Tammy Herron (tfherron@gmail.com)

I received an invitation from the Superintendent of Ocmulgee National Monument inviting me to attend the 75th Anniversary Reception on Thursday, December 1, 2011. Two of my co-workers and fellow Society for Georgia Archaeology (SGA) members at the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program, George Wingard and Keith Stephenson, joined me in the trek half-way across the state. George had never visited the remnants of this former town of the ancients. Keith, on the other hand, has visited the site numerous times and attended the 50th anniversary of the monument.
On December 23, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a proclamation designating that 678.48 acres be set aside as a national monument known as Ocmulgee National Monument to be supervised by the Director of the National Park Service. Today, the park comprises 702 acres and boasts a newly renovated visitor center. This center beautifully displays numerous artifacts representing 17,000 years of the history at the site.

At the reception, guests enjoyed a smorgasbord of mouth-watering appetizers and slices of a beautiful cake in the shape of a bird effigy with the motto “All Things Are Connected.” Superintendent Jim David addressed those in attendance and spoke about the history of this unique archaeological site. A PowerPoint presentation containing many interesting photographs documenting the history of the site looped on a screen throughout the evening.
I was also invited to attend the Open House Reception on Saturday, December 3, 2011; however, I was unable to do so due to a prior commitment. George and Keith ventured back to Macon to visit with archaeologist Jack Walker, meet some of the men who worked at Ocmulgee during the 1930s, and enjoy the commemorative presentation followed by the cutting of a cake decorated in the shape of the National Park Service logo.
Archaeological work at the site began in December 1933. Dr. Arthur Randolph Kelly supervised the archaeological excavations with the assistance of James Alfred Ford. George and Keith enjoyed meeting A.R. Kelly's daughter, Cora, who attended the December 3rd event. Workers in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) conducted archaeological work at the site and constructed a number of the buildings at the park, including the visitor center and the reconstruction of the Earth Lodge in the 1930s. Workers also processed artifacts that were excavated at the site. Two surviving members of CCC Company 1426 Camp Ga., NM-4, Macon, Ga. who worked at Ocmulgee attended the anniversary celebration—Clovis Wood and William C. Wilson. Thomas Winchester, Jr., son of CCC member Thomas Winchester, Sr., was also in attendance. SGA member and Robins Air Force Base Archaeologist Stephen Hammack interviewed Jack Walker, who was employed as an archaeologist at the site in the late 1950s, 1960s, and early 1970s. The video camera was graciously provided and taping performed by SGA member Alan Marsh, Cultural Resources Chief at Andersonville National Historic Site. Keith enjoyed sitting in on this interview, while George discussed curation issues with Lonnie Davis, a Cultural Resources Specialist at Ocmulgee. Descendants of local residents who worked so hard to make this monument become a reality attended the event as well.
Certificates of appreciation were presented to those individuals and entities that assisted with the preservation and establishment of Ocmulgee National Monument, including the Society for Georgia Archaeology and the local SGA Chapter, the Ocmulgee Archaeological Society (OAS) (also online here). The certificate presented to the SGA was accepted by one of the Society’s newest members, George Wingard, in my absence. The OAS’s certificate was accepted by President Alan Marsh. Another SGA/OAS member, Carolyn Coleman, accepted a certificate on behalf of her father, Herman G. Weeks, who also worked at Ocmulgee as a member of CCC Company 1426 Camp Ga., NM-4, Macon, Georgia.

View the 2012 schedule of events on the park’s website to plan your visit to Ocmulgee. Also, if you are in the Macon area during the beginning of the month, remember that the Ocmulgee Archaeological Society meets on the first Monday. Meetings are typically held at 6:30 p.m. in Room 143 of the Science & Engineering Building at Mercer University. Contact OAS Secretary Stephen Hammack for meeting confirmation via email here.
You may be interested in several other articles about this event. On Macon.com, you can read a general story about the open house, and Becky Purser’s article about two of the CCC members. GPB News also published a story by Josephine Bennett about Ocmulgee’s anniversary. The NPS’s own website also details the festivities. For more about the Ocmulgee mounds, read this article by Mark Williams online in the New Georgia Encyclopedia.