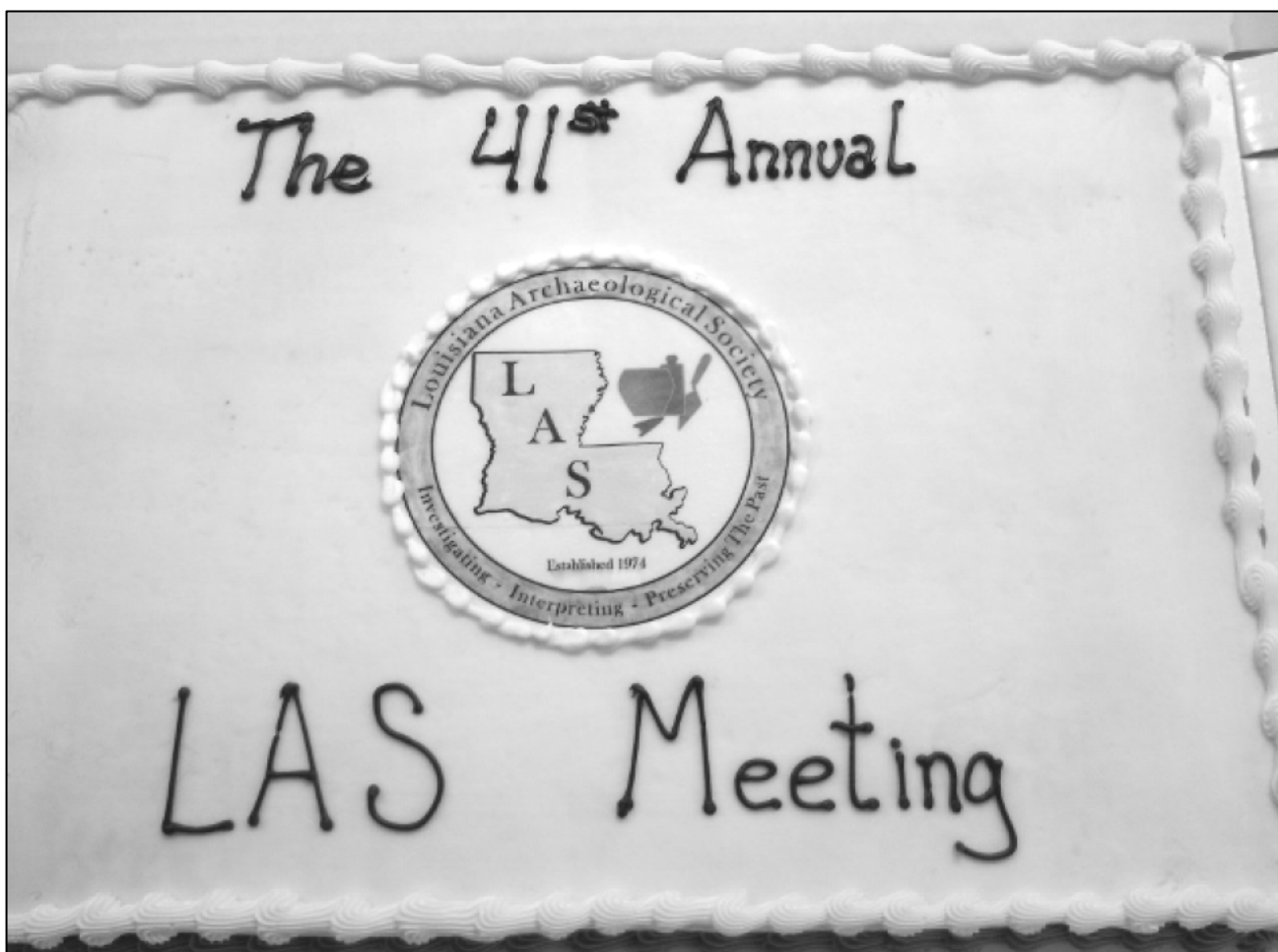




# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2015

Vol. 43, No.1



**We had our cake and ate it too in Leesville!**

If Regular Annual LAS Member,  
this will be the last newsletter you  
receive for 2015 unless you rejoin.

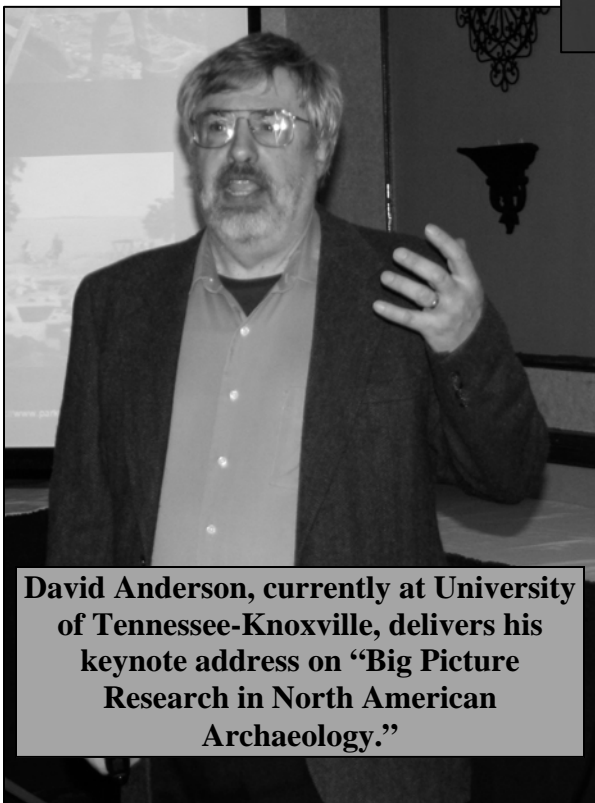
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New Orleans

**THE 2015 LAS ANNUAL MEETING  
LEESVILLE, LA. FEB 20-22, 2015**

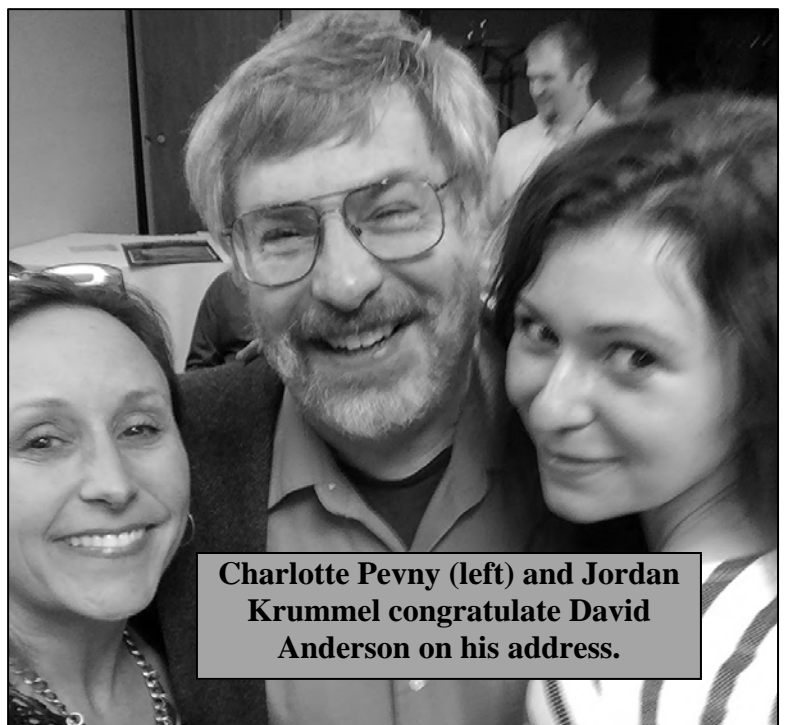


Newly installed LAS president Mark Richard (standing, left) marvels at the staying power of Duke Rivet, David Jeane and Rich Weinstein for having attended every LAS annual meeting ever held (that's 41 now!). Meanwhile, Sam Brookes (seated right), ambassador from Mississippi to the LAS, seeks tips on how they did it.

Brad Lafitte (right) presents the Saucier Award to Johnny Guy for all he has done for the LAS. His efforts organizing this year's annual meeting in Leesville are among the latest. His service to the Poverty Point site is an example to us all.



David Anderson, currently at University of Tennessee-Knoxville, delivers his keynote address on "Big Picture Research in North American Archaeology."



Charlotte Pevny (left) and Jordan Krummel congratulate David Anderson on his address.

*Editor's Note: The 2015 LAS Annual Meeting was a resounding success. It was especially well attended for a meeting in one of the state's smaller cities. Brad Lafitte, outgoing LAS president, and the indefatigable Johnny Guy helped organize the entire event without any problems that I'm aware of. There was a reception Friday night, Feb. 20; papers given on Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup>; a banquet and keynote address given that evening; and tours of the New Llano Colony Museum and the Smart Plantation House on Sunday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting program organized by Brad is below. - Dennis Jones*

### PRESENTATIONS AT THE 2015 LAS ANNUAL MEETING

Charles (Chip) McGimsey — **State of the State Presentation**

Paul Eubanks and Velicia Bergstrom — **A Summary of the 2014 Excavations at Drake's Salt Works**  
James Morehead — **Site Testing at 16VN3725, Fort Polk, LA**

James Fogelman — **Two Unusual Sets of Artifacts from St. Landry Parish**

Charlotte Pevny, Nathanael Heller, and Emily Meaden — **The Louisiana Paleoindian and Early Archaic Projectile Point Survey: A Call for Data**

Dennis Jones — **Presentation of video *Searching for the Sweet Life: Archaeology at the Chatsworth Plantation Site, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.***

Dennis Jones, Beverly Clement, and Donny Bourgeois — **The Not So Sweet Life: Non-Plantation Occupations at the Chatsworth Plantation Site (16EBR192)**

Mark Rees, Maegan Smith, and Christian Sheumaker — **The New Acadia Project: A Report on Recent Archaeological Research**

Sean Coughlin and Kelly Sellers Wittie — **Feeding New Orleans: Where's the Pork?**

Richard Weinstein, Jason Barrett, Roger Moore, and Charles Frederick — **Data-Recovery Investigations at the Diamond Knoll Site (41HR796), Harris County, Texas: Late Paleo-Indian through Late Prehistoric Occupation on Cypress Bayou**

Nathanael Heller — **A Fresh Look at the 1941 WPA Excavations at the Lafayette Mounds Site (16SM17), and the Date of Lafayette Mound 1**

Jeffrey Girard — **Alluvial Geoarchaeology in the Lower Red River Floodplain, Northwest Louisiana**

Diana Greenlee — **An "F" in Mound Construction at Poverty Point**

Samuel Huey and Mark Rees — **Assessment of the Effects of an Oil Spill on Coastal Archaeological Sites: A Report on Current Research**

John Guy and James Green — **Initial Investigations of the Smart Plantation Home (16VN3743)**

Elizabeth Williams — **Storyville and the Illusion of a Sanitized City: Archaeological Investigations of a Privy in the New Orleans Brothel District**

Lauren Zych - **Native American and African Influences in Colonial New Orleans**

Jordan Krummel — **Bury Me Above Ground: Bioarchaeological Investigations of the Indigent Burials of Holt Cemetery and the Changing Cultural Use of Human Remains in New Orleans**

Christine Halling and Ryan Seidemann — **Preservation Index: A Test on Fragmentary and Commingled Remains from the Smith Creek Site, MS**

Duke Rivet — **Recollections, Reminiscences, and Reflections: A Look Back at a Career in Archaeology**

## LAS MEMBERSHIP AND CHAPTER NEWS

### Spring Equinox at Poverty Point

By Johnny Guy

UPPA (Friends of Poverty Point) visited the Poverty Point site on March 20-22, 2015. This spring we had 39 volunteers that included students from ULL and members of the West Central Archaeology Club in Leesville, among others. It was the wettest year ever, but Friday night it cleared and participants were able to go up to the summit of Mound A and blow the sacred Conch Shell. All had a fantastic time.

Tim Philips gave a lecture on Saturday afternoon and Ann Wehner and Johnny Guy presented Poverty Point with the brass plate for the stained glass picture that was donated to the park by Scott and Ann Wehner for the World Heritage dedication ceremony last October. The UPPA activity will be in September for the fall equinox. Check out the UPPA Facebook page UPPA (Friends of Poverty Point) for updates.



Above: Most, but not all of those who attended the 2015 spring equinox meeting of UPPA-Friends of Poverty Point. Left: two very smart students from ULL choose to avoid the snoring in the dorm at Poverty Point.

### What is the status of the Marksville State Historic Site after the Latest Cuts in the Louisiana State Budget?

Ray Berthelot with the Louisiana Office of State Parks wrote in a recent email: "In spite of losing several key employees, State Parks has been able keep Marksville State Historic Site open for visitation five days a week. Recognizing the importance of this archaeological site to our understanding of the development of Native American culture in Louisiana, State Parks is in negotiations with interested parties to operate the site and maintain the Marksville site's accessibility to the public.

The State of Louisiana would maintain ownership of the property and associated exhibit displays and artifacts. Group tours can still be scheduled in advance by contacting (225) 342-8128."

### **Jeff Girard Receives the 2015 Archaeologist of the Year Award.**

Jeff Girard has been the Regional Archaeologist for Northwestern Louisiana since 1989. His hard work and dedication for these past 25 years were recognized when he was named Archaeologist of the Year at the 2015 Louisiana Culture Connection in Baton Rouge, April 14 and 15.

The Culture Connection is where Archaeology, Arts, CODOFIL, Historic Preservation, Main Streets and Cultural Districts stakeholders connected to the Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism move cultural development in Louisiana forward.

This year's Culture Connection included the 2015 Louisiana Culture Awards program, educational sessions and networking cocktails, featuring individuals, companies, organizations and agencies with products and services relevant to cultural development.

Culture Connection is sponsored by the Office of the Lt. Governor and the Office of Cultural Development, in partnership with the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation, the Louisiana State Arts Council, the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, the Louisiana Folklife Commission and the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana.

**Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne (left) giving the 2015 Archaeologist of the Year Award to longtime Northwest Louisiana Regional Archaeologist, Jeff Girard during the 2015 Culture Connection meeting in Baton Rouge, April 14 & 15. Jeff will be retiring in June.**



The American Advertising Federation-Tuscaloosa, Alabama, recently presented awards for the top local advertising in a variety of categories during its annual American Advertising Awards presentation.

**Easty Lambert-Brown**, owner of Borgo Publishing, received the Silver Medal, the highest honor bestowed by AAF Tuscaloosa. The winner must be known as a person of integrity within the community and have been active in organizations dedicated to some phase of human or social welfare. Lambert-Brown, is a book designer and publisher, served as AAF Tuscaloosa president in 2008, was named Ad Person of the Year in 2007 and is a member of the Tuscaloosa Planning and Zoning Commission.

## SEAC GIVES JON GIBSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

By Richard A. Weinstein, Coastal Environments, Inc.

The SEAC Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a senior scholar who has made significant and sustained contributions to Southeastern archaeology during his or her career. Jon L. Gibson certainly fulfills those requirements, and it was with pleasure and appreciation that he was presented the award this year.

Jon was born and raised in the piney woods around the towns of Urania and Tullos, La Salle Parish, Louisiana, and spent much of his early years exploring Indian sites in the nearby Catahoula Lake basin. He eventually decided to make the exploration of Indian sites and the understanding of Indian cultures his life's work. Beginning in the mid-1960s, Jon started to publish his archaeological research, primarily in the journal *Louisiana Studies*, while an undergraduate at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Following undergraduate school, Jon enrolled in the Master's program at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. There he studied under such notable professors as William G. Haag, Fred B. Kniffen, and Robert C. West. Jon's thesis, *Russell Landing: A North Louisiana Phase of the Tchefuncte Period*, was completed in 1968, and is still one of the key primary sources on Tchefuncte culture for northern Louisiana.

Soon after receiving his Master's degree, Jon entered the Ph.D. program at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. Studying under Fred Wendorf and Joel Shiner, Jon's interest shifted to the extreme northeastern corner of Louisiana where he began decades-long research related to the Poverty Point site and Poverty Point culture. His dissertation, entitled *Social Systems at Poverty Point, an Analysis of Intersite and Intrasite Variability*, was accepted in 1973.

By that time, Jon was back in Louisiana, having taken a position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL). Jon developed the anthropology program at the university and eventually succeeded in establishing a B.A. degree. He also created the Center for Archaeological Studies at the university, through which much of his research was published. Jon eventually became a full professor at the university and served for several years as Chairman of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

In 1974, Jon worked vigorously to reorganize the then-moribund Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) and he subsequently served as host to the reorganized society's first annual meeting in Lafayette in 1975. He served as the first editor of *Louisiana*

*Archaeology*, the bulletin of the LAS, from 1974 until 1983, and the first editor of the society's newsletter from 1974 until 1978.

During Jon's tenure at USL, he published widely in numerous archaeological journals, concentrating on work in Louisiana, with particular emphasis on research related to Poverty Point. Jon's articles appeared in *American Antiquity*, *Southeastern Archaeology*, *Archaeology*, *Louisiana Archaeology*, *Mississippi Archaeology*, *Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society*, and *Louisiana Heritage*, to name a few. As to be expected, Jon also presented numerous papers at scholarly meetings across the United States, and served as organizer and program chair for the 1978 Southeastern Archaeological Conference, hosted by USL and held in Lafayette, Louisiana. Jon also served as lead editor for the festschrift honoring his former professor at LSU, entitled "*An' Stuff Like That There*": *In Appreciation of William G. Haag*, published by the Louisiana Archaeological Society in 1995.

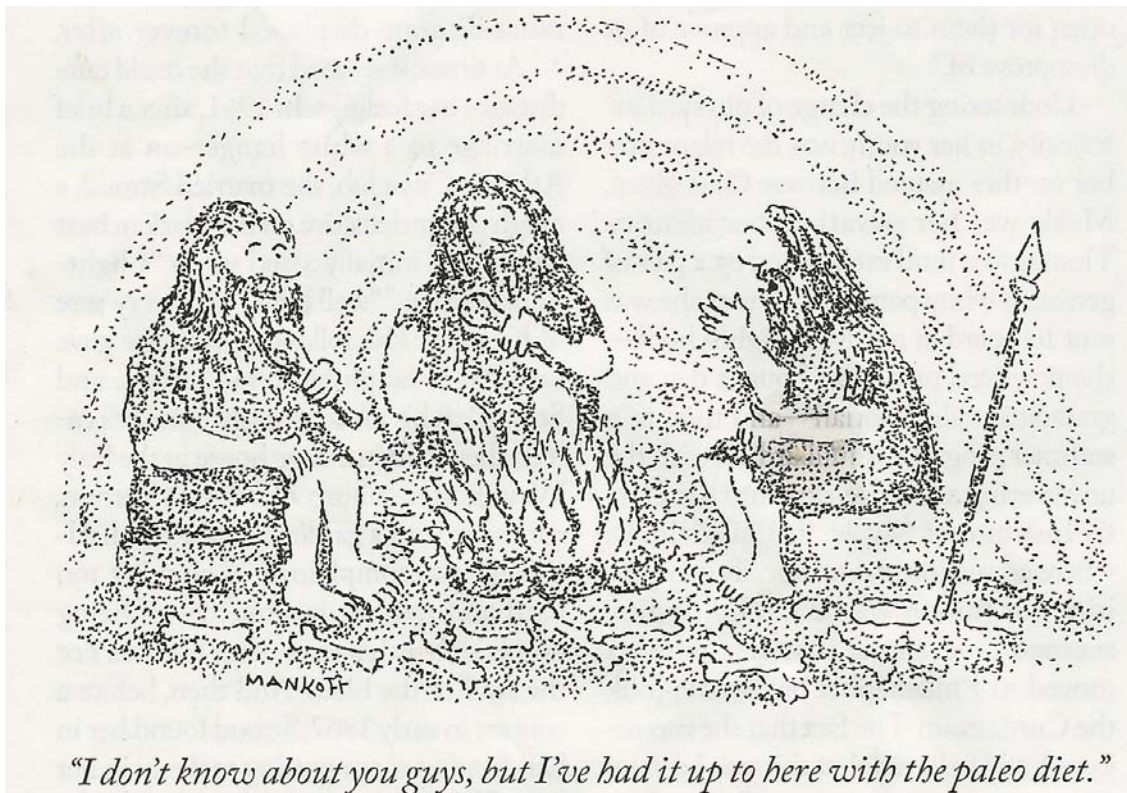
Jon conducted archaeological field schools at Poverty Point throughout much of the 1980s and 1990s. Importantly, Jon not only acquired a loyal cadre of students, who to this day still return to Poverty Point to celebrate their time there, but he published the findings of the field schools in scholarly reports published by the university year after year. His work at Poverty Point expanded upon the earlier research of James A. Ford, Clarence H. Webb, and William G. Haag and laid the foundation for the more recent investigations conducted by T. R. Kidder, Tony Ortmann, and others. Jon's work also provided much of the information utilized in the nomination (and recent acceptance) of Poverty Point to UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites.

Jon retired from ULL in 2001, and has since retreated to his lakeside home near Homer, Louisiana, where he continues to work on professional articles and papers, plus write several popular novels on prehistoric Indian culture. Jon's book, *The Ancient Mounds of Poverty Point: Place of Rings*, published in 2000 by the University Press of Florida, has become one of the press's all-time bestsellers. Recently, Jon wrote the chapter on Poverty Point culture in *Louisiana Archaeology*, a 2010 synthesis of the archaeology of the state edited by his successor at ULL, Mark Rees.

Without a doubt, Jon's impact on the archaeology of Louisiana, Poverty Point, and the entire Southeast has been immense. Jon's long career is a model that all should strive to emulate.



**Jon Gibson is joined by several colleagues at the 2014 SEAC meeting in Greenville, SC in recognition of his Lifetime Achievement Award. Left to right are: David Hurst Thomas, T.R. Kidder, Tony Ortmann, Rebecca Saunders, Jon, and Charles McNutt.**



*"I don't know about you guys, but I've had it up to here with the paleo diet."*

*-from the New Yorker*

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO LAS MEMBERS

### 2013 LAS Bulletin forthcoming

The 2013 issue of *Louisiana Archaeology* will be sent this summer to all who were members of the LAS that year. Continuing efforts by many people to make the publication current have brought it ever closer. This volume will be dedicated to recent archaeology done in New Orleans, Louisiana's premier city.

Co-edited by Dennis Jones and UNO professor D. Ryan Gray, this volume contains articles reporting on recent archaeological investigations at the St. Peter Street Cemetery site (16OR92), the Madame John's Legacy site (16OR51), as well as articles about the contributions of archaeology to studies of the Irish Channel neighborhood, Native American ceramics in colonial New Orleans, and the dearth of pork in the diet of New Orleans residents.

# LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY

No. 40

2013



**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
ARCHAEOLOGY OF NEW ORLEANS**

### Also coming in 2015

The Louisiana Archaeological Society and Borgo Publishing present *The Petit Anse Project: Archaeological Investigations along the West-central Coast of Louisiana, 1978-1979* by Ian W. Brown.

This handsome two volume set details the findings of a two year survey into a region then little known to archaeology. It firmly establishes this region's place in prehistoric culture history, and details the archaeological materials recovered.

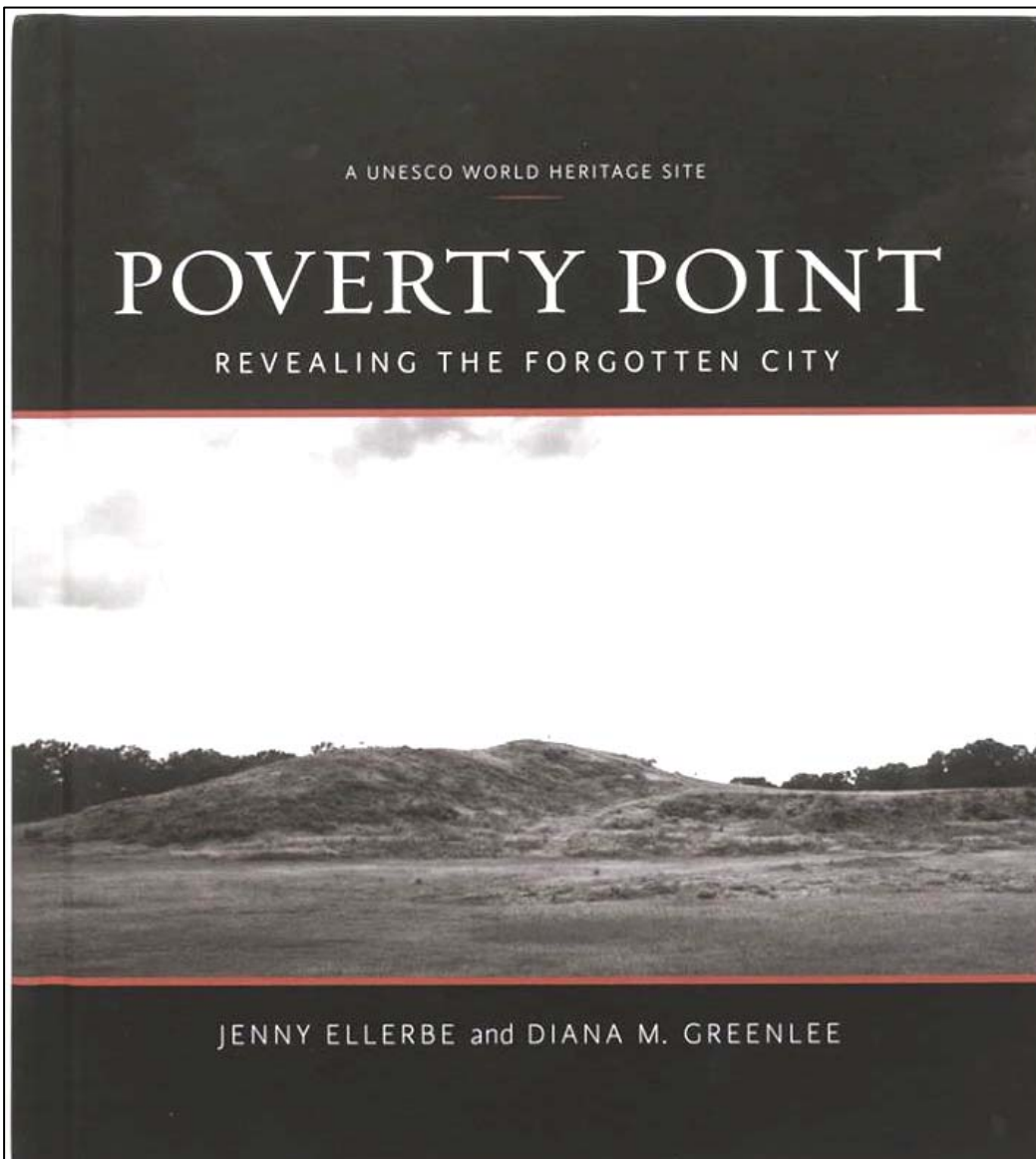
Special Publication No. 4 of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, *The Petit Anse Project* is available for \$40/copy plus postage. It will also be available in the future at archaeological conferences in the region.

## THE PETITE ANSE PROJECT

Archaeological Investigations  
along the West-central  
Coast of Louisiana  
1978-1979

IAN W. BROWN

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



*One of the few perks to being the editor for LAS is receiving books for review from publishers. Recently, Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City, published by LSU Press found its way to my mail box and I'm glad it did. To me, this is the book that explains the singularity of Louisiana's premier archaeological site for the interested public. If anyone asks you "what is so special about this Poverty Point site I hear so much about?" Point them to this handsome publication by Jenny Ellerbe and Diana Greenlee. – Dennis Jones*

NEW FROM  
LSU PRESS

## Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City

By Jenny Ellerbe and Diana M. Greenlee

The settlement of Poverty Point, occupied from about 1700 to 1100 BC and once the largest city in North America, stretches across 345 acres in northeastern Louisiana. The structural remains of this ancient site—its earthen mounds, semicircular ridges, and vacant plaza—intrigue visitors as a place of inspiration as well as puzzlement. *Poverty Point: Revealing the Forgotten City* delves into this enduring piece of Louisiana's cultural heritage through personal introspection and scientific investigation.

With stunning black-and-white photography by Jenny Ellerbe and engrossing text by archaeologist Diana M. Greenlee, this imaginative and informative book explores in full Poverty Point's Late Archaic society and its monumental achievements. Ellerbe's landscapes and commentary reflect the questions and mysteries fostered by her many visits to the site, and Greenlee discusses the most recent archaeological findings, explaining what past excavations have revealed about the work involved in creating the mounds and about the lives of the people who built them. The conversation between artist and archaeologist also covers what is still unknown about this place, including the city's function in the ancient world and how its people acquired their stone materials, some of which originated over a thousand miles from Poverty Point.

The historical significance of Poverty Point, which was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2014, resonates regionally, nationally, and internationally.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Charles Robert (Bob) McGimsey III** died January 20, 2015, in Fayetteville, Arkansas at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife, Mary E., three sons: Chip, Brian, and Mark; six grandchildren: Michael Robert and Maegan Elizabeth McGimsey, Jack Alexander, Dennis Charles, Forrest Conner, and Neil Evan Wold-McGimsey; his sister, Ann Crone; his half-brother, Doug Bethurum; and his daughter-in-law, Joanne Grady. He was preceded in death by his grandson Patrick Thomas McGimsey.

Bob was born in Dallas, Texas, on June 18, 1925 and spent much of his younger years growing up in the New York area. He served in the Navy during World War II.

After the war he obtained a doctorate in Anthropology from Harvard University and joined the University of Arkansas in 1957. He was a driving force behind the establishment of the Department of Anthropology at the University and served as a professor from 1958 to 1990. Bob also served as Department Chairman from 1969 to 1972. He also served as Director of the University Museum from 1960 to 1983. During the 1960s he worked with interested individuals from around the state to organize the Arkansas Archaeological Society and to develop a state-wide program in archaeology. In 1967, the State Legislature created the Arkansas Archaeological Survey; Bob was named as the first Director, a position he retained for 23 years. The Survey placed archaeologists at most of the universities across the state to teach classes in archaeology and anthropology and to conduct research into the prehistory and history of Arkansas. At the time of its conception, it was a unique program for any state in the US, and it remains one of the very few state-wide archaeology institutions today.

Bob was also instrumental at the federal level in developing legislation to support archaeology and historic preservation in advance of federally funded construction and development projects. This legislation was passed during the early 1970s. During this time, he also served a two-year term as president of the Society for American Archaeology, the national society of American archaeologists. Throughout his career, he wrote dozens of articles and one book concerning American archaeology, historic preservation and the role of the public in protecting and preserving our history. Bob retired in 1990. He continued to write articles throughout his retirement, but he and his wife also traveled extensively around the world through the Elder Hostel program.

### **Hester A. Davis 1930-2014**

The Arkansas Archeological Survey mourns the passing of Hester A. Davis, who died on December 30, 2014. With Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III, Hester helped to create the Survey, established in 1967 by act of the Arkansas legislature, and she served as Arkansas's first State Archeologist from that year until her retirement in 1999. Hester played a leading role in the creation of the annual training program for members of the Arkansas Archeological Society, which continues in its 52nd year. Scores of archeologists working across the country also learned about modern archeological practice by taking the Public Archeology class that Hester taught from 1974 to 1991 at the University of Arkansas, where she served as Professor of Anthropology. A memorial gathering for Hester was held on February 21 from 1-3 pm in Giffels Auditorium on the University of Arkansas Fayetteville campus.





**Noel Read Stowe Sr** , Feb. 3, 1938 - Mar. 1, 2015. - often described as a larger than life character who never met a stranger, Read was born February 3, 1938 in Atlanta, Georgia. He died at the age of 77 on March 1, 2015 in Lucedale, MS. He received his B. A. in Anthropology from Nathaniel Hawthorne College in 1967 and a M. A. degree with an emphasis in Archaeology at the University of Alabama in 1970. He taught anthropology and conducted archaeological research at the University of Alabama from 1967 to 1970. He then moved to the University of South Alabama in 1970 where he founded the Archaeological Research Laboratory and taught for 27 years. He has served on the Council of Alabama Archaeologists, Senior Faculty Caucus at USA, President of the Mississippi Archaeological Association; Board of Directors, Alabama Archaeological Society; Chair, Mobile Archaeological Preservation Committee and Board of Directors for the Greene

County Historical Museum. During his career he produced more than 50 papers, monographs and publications and received the Mobile Scroll of Merit. His research included archaeological work at north Alabama bluff shelters, Fort Mims, Fort Conde, Port Dauphin, St. Stephens, Blakeley, and in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. He is preceded in death by his Father, Noel Stowe, Mother Emily Stowe (Lively) and sons James Ferguson and Andrew Stowe. He is survived by his wife, Becky Stowe (Lumpkin), sister Emily Carr (Bob), brother John Clow (Judy), sons Noel Stowe Jr. (Trashele) and Matthew Stowe (Angela), grandsons Andrew and Eric Stowe, ex-wife, Greta Stowe and many rescued animal companions. He will be sadly missed by countless students and friends whose lives he has touched through the years.

## TRANSITIONS



**Ms. Mary Manhein, retiring director of the LSU FACES Lab.**

**Mary H Manhein**, the famed Director of the LSU FACES Laboratory and Director of the Louisiana Repository for Unidentified and Missing Persons Information Program is retiring. She founded these programs and has worked with law enforcement officials in Louisiana and other states for over 27 years. Interim Director will be **Ginesse Listi**, who is currently a research associate and assistant professor at LSU. She had been associated with the FACES Lab for over 17 years. Ms. Listi has a Ph.D. from Tulane University and she is a member of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, the Paleopathology Association, and the Physical Anthropology Section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.



**Dr. Ginesse Listi, Interim Director of the LSU FACES Lab.**

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

**Louisiana archaeologists hunt for Acadian burial sites**

*New Acadia Project is looking for unmarked burial sites of at least 34 people*

CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) News. Posted: Jan 26, 2015 10:47 AM Atlantic Time

Archaeologists with the New Acadia Project are on the hunt for lost burial sites of the first Acadians who arrived in Louisiana in 1765. (New Acadia Project). The New Acadia Project is looking for unmarked burial sites of at least thirty-four people, including Joseph Broussard Beausoleil, the person credited with leading the Acadians to Louisiana.

Mark Rees, the principal investigator of the project, said the researchers are hoping to find the first Acadian camp. But Rees said the archaeologists have no intention to remove the bodies from their grave sites. “We’re not interested in exhuming bodies. We’re interested in finding these places,” Rees said. “We could use excavation techniques to confirm whether there is a burial and date the burial without exhuming the body, without exhuming the bones.”

Rees and his fellow researchers have located three possible locations for the 250-year-old graves, But he said it is a slow process to confirm the sites. Once the first Acadians’ final resting spot and their first camp are found, Rees said he would like to see the place marked. “Maybe people from New Brunswick would like to come down and drive along the Bayou Teche and visit places that have markers where people settled in 1765,” he said.

Some New Brunswickers say they would like to see the site once it is found. Claude Boudreau, the director at the Monument-Lefebvre National Historic in Memramcook, said those camps and burial sites are important places in the history of Acadia. “It’s almost like a place of pilgrimage for local people, but also for Acadians from around the world, like for Acadians from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, when we go down to Louisiana we want to see these sites,” he said.



**Archaeology students from University of Louisiana-Lafayette working in the field last winter as part of the effort to find Acadian burial sites dating to the late 1700s.**

**Modern-day mourners show respect at reinterment for some of New Orleans' earliest inhabitants**

By Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune, April 18, 2015

In a ceremony that bridged four centuries and two of the city's oldest burial grounds, some of New Orleans' earliest inhabitants were laid to rest Saturday (April 18) under gray skies threatening rain. In true Crescent City fashion, it was an event both joyous and solemn, as history buffs and the faithful gathered at St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 to mark the interment of 15 unknown colonial-era New Orleanians in a crypt donated by the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Back in the 18th century, the remains were originally buried in a cemetery on St. Peter Street, one of the city's oldest known burial grounds. That cemetery stopped being used in the late 1780s. Over the centuries since, the land -- bounded by St. Peter, Burgundy, Toulouse, and North Rampart streets -- had been redeveloped.

In 2011, the bodies were discovered in the backyard of French Quarter resident Vincent Marcello's home as he was getting ready to install a swimming pool.

After the discovery, the skeletons were sent to the LSU's Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services Laboratory, according to a 2011 NOLA.com|The Times-Picayune story. The remains were likely those of slaves, as the St. Peter Street cemetery was the primary resting place for free and enslaved alike in early New Orleans. On Saturday, a Mass in honor of the dead was held at St. Augustine Church. Afterward, a second-line made its way to St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. About 200 people fell in line behind the Treme Brass Band and the Black Men of Labor as they marched toward the North Rampart Street cemetery.



**The Treme Brass Band walks out of St. Augustine Church on their way to St. Louis Cemetery #1 during a reinterment ceremony. All photos by Chris Granger.**

**Reggie Diop Green puffs from a cigar and blows smoke across a vault as he leads a prayer for remains of 15 individuals at a reinterment ceremony at St. Louis Cemetery #1.**



**Avoiding standing water and road construction on N. Rampart St. as the Treme Brass Band leads a second line from St. Augustine Church to St. Louis Cemetery #1.**

"After we started to realize what we had at the forensics lab," said Dr. Ryan Gray, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of New Orleans, "we began to think about to think about ways to reinter them and bring attention to the cemetery at the same time."

The Mass and ceremony acknowledged the nameless dead for their contributions to the city. "These people interred at the St. Peter Street Cemetery played a crucial role in the creation of the city of New Orleans," a pamphlet distributed at the Mass said.

## Duty, devotion, love, loss: Discovery of World War II era dog tags forges unbreakable bond

By Kimberly Reischling, Fort Polk Public Affairs March 12, 2015

**Leesville, La.** -- Throughout our lives we all make connections, many of them fleeting and often forgettable. Others remain with us a lifetime, weaving our experiences into a colorful tapestry of lives well lived.

And when fortune smiles upon us, an unforgettable connection is formed, often by happenstance, one that transcends time and distance, one that is forged by love and loss.

Fortune has smiled upon me. It has come in the guise of some unforgettable Fort Polk personnel, a rusted set of World War II dog tags and the hero who once wore them, and a woman in south-central New York State still grieving for the father she lost.

Several months ago I received an e-mail from Brad Lafitte, Fort Polk Cultural Resources Manager, Conservation Branch (headed by Wayne Farris) of the Directorate of Public Works' Environmental Resources Management Division. During archeological surveys of newly purchased Fort Polk land, Brad and his team (Prentice Thomas and Associates, Inc.) found a rusted set of World War II era dog tags buried in the earth. The dog tags were unearthed miles from anywhere in the midst of the piney woods, an event as likely, says Brad, as finding the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Not really considered an archeological artifact, the dog tags bore a legible name: Arthur Barry, New York. That might have been the end of the story. The dog tags could have been placed in the Fort Polk Museum, or another static display detailing some of the installation's 74 year history, but that's not what the Conservation Branch chose to do.

The team went to work with little to work with. They found Arthur Barry's enlistment record and, sadly, his obituary. Mr. Barry passed away on March 1, 2012. Brad and team wanted to do the right thing and go the extra mile for this World War II veteran. They wanted to return the dog tags to Arthur Barry's surviving family members, if any remained. Thus I became involved.

Reading Mr. Barry's obituary gave me a factual outline. Born in 1921, Arthur Barry grew up on the family farm in Marlboro, N.Y. He graduated from high school in 1939. Three short years later, in 1942, he was a U.S. soldier, serving with the Medical Detachment of the 124th Infantry, 31st Infantry Division, also known as the Dixie Division. I imagine he must have trained here at Camp Polk along with the thousands of other young soldiers preparing to face combat in World War II. He lost his dog tags in the midst of the grueling, realistic training that has been a hallmark of this Army installation.

What struck me most about the information in the obituary, was reading that Arthur Barry was not only a member of what we call "our Greatest Generation," but also a war hero- receiving both a Purple Heart and a Silver Star while serving his country in the Pacific. He received his Silver Star as a result of his participation in the rescue of several wounded fellow soldiers during the Battle of Colgan Woods in the Philippines.

I cannot imagine what those men suffered during the Philippine Island campaigns of World War II: The heat and humidity of the jungle, monsoon weather and proliferous fields of "abaca" - a word that one chronicler considered a synonym with hell. He writes: "Countless acres are covered with these thick-stemmed plants, 15 to 20 feet high; the plants grew as closely together as sugar cane, and their long, lush green leaves are in a welter of green so dense that a strong man must fight with the whole weight of his body for each foot of progress ... No breeze ever reached through the gloomy expanse of green, and more men, American and Japanese, fell prostrate from the overpowering heat than bullets."

On May 6, Arthur Barry's regiment, the Dixie Division, moved into its toughest fight of what was known as the Mindanao campaign. The battle area was later renamed Colgan Woods by the troops in remembrance of Capt. Thomas A. Colgan, an Army chaplain who was killed during one of his repeated efforts to aid wounded Soldiers in the line of fire. This battle was one of the many brutal struggles in the Pacific theater that never made any headlines.



**The Battle of Colgan Woods by Jackson Walker.  
This painting depicts Chaplain Colgan braving  
Japanese gunfire to come to the aid of wounded  
medic Robert Lee Evans.**

It was there that Arthur Barry saved the lives of wounded soldiers. It was there that defending Japanese, firing from dugout positions, chose to die in place rather than retreat. According to accounts, Japanese Banzai charges struck the 124<sup>th</sup>, who were fighting without supporting artillery, on May 7 and on May 14. American automatic weapons stopped the attackers, marking the end of the battle. In the fighting for Colgan Woods, the 124th Infantry lost 60 men with 120 wounded.

It was then that Arthur Barry became real for me. It was then that I felt awestruck by the finding of a random set of dog tags, a random set of dirt-encrusted and rusted dog tags more than 73 years old.

It wasn't really hard to find a survivor of Arthur Barry's. A name given in his obituary, a Google search, and I had a phone number belonging to Susan Barry, a woman I believed to be Arthur's daughter, and later I found out, Arthur's only surviving immediate family member.

It was an unusual phone call and I think it is safe to say I will probably never make another like it. Susan was hesitant and I knew she needed time to process the information I gave her. After a few days, and the exchange of several emails, I learned just how gracious is Arthur Barry's daughter.

She writes, "If I sounded hesitant on the phone, it was because I was truly stunned by the information you provided. My immediate family, which included

my parents and one sister who are all deceased, have been much in my thoughts lately, so your call was the best gift one could ever imagine."

Arthur Barry's dog tags will be returned to his daughter, where she will place them with his Purple Heart and Silver Star as concrete reminders of his heroism, cherished mementos that will be passed to his grandchildren. So, in a sense, those dog tags are going home.

After the war, Arthur returned to his home in New York. He owned his own small business, raised a family, was a member of the Gardiner Fire Department and an avid outdoorsman. He loved Margaret, his wife of 49 years, who predeceased him. Susan writes that her father's heroism "extended beyond his military service into how he lived his entire life. He was a wonderful, caring, compassionate human being."

I'll never forget the staff at Fort Polk's Environmental Resources Management Division for their devotion and caring, and their desire to go above and beyond to do the right thing for a Soldier. They make me proud to be a member of the Fort Polk team.

I'll always remember Arthur Barry, a man I will never have the privilege of meeting. This hero trained here at Fort Polk, my home. He served his country bravely, with honor. He returned home, raised a family and lived his life. But for the accidental discovery of a long-forgotten set of dog tags, I would not know his name nor would I know of his existence.

**Photograph of Arthur Barry and his bride soon after World War II. Barry's dog tags lost during training at Camp Polk were recovered during a recent archaeological survey at Fort Polk.**



## RESEARCH NOTES

**Paradigms and Paradoxes: The Historic vs. Modern Conundrum**

By James A. Green, Jr.

The steady march of time must influence our perspective on artifacts as the ever-changing cutoff date of 50 years shifts what is merely old to what is historic. As archaeologists and analysts, we are used to allowing for temporal inexactitude. Unless we are very lucky, cultural deposits and artifacts normally do not give us a precise start or stop date. Instead, we deal with occupations that occur and artifacts that were produced from circa this to circa that. However, it seems that the closer we get to the historic cutoff date, the more ambiguous artifacts become as production dates transition from historic to modern. This leaves us with an unsolvable paradox.

Once, we assessed artifact scatters using items such as stoneware, whiteware, solarized glass, cork top bottles, and machine-cut nails to answer the question "Is it historic or modern?" Unfortunately, now historic scatters potentially could look like someone's household garbage from 30 years ago. How do we rectify this conundrum of something that could be either historic or modern, or both? Must we err on the side of caution when a 1970s rural roadside dump yields only artifacts that span the historic cutoff, giving no clear evidence as to which side of the cutoff, if any, the site's time falls on? Is it enough to say, "They could be historic," or are we bound by a code to only include those artifacts and their corresponding sites that we can definitively state are historic? This question is not one for fieldwork and analysis only, but also has ramifications in collections management and curation. With smaller budgets, fewer staff, and curation facilities near capacity, is it ethically enough to include only provable neo-historic sites? Or, should we take the high road and say that those "possibly historic" sites will be historic in the not-to-distant future?

The following give example to the ambiguity that potentially could be found on neo-historic and modern sites. As with this paper, these are items to provoke thought, not offer solutions.

**Anchor Hocking Glass Corp.**

Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation, later Anchor Hocking Corporation, first used the superimposed anchor and H in 1938 (Toulouse 1971:46-49). According to Whitten (2015a), this mark supposedly was dropped from use around 1977 and the company's new mark, an anchor enclosed by a square with rounded corners, is now used on their wares.

However, he notes two important facts concerning these marks. First, the "new mark" was introduced circa 1968. Thus from about 1968 to circa 1977 both marks were used by the company. Second, the old mark continued to be used on some glass products for an unspecified period of time after 1977. Interestingly, I own a glass measuring cup that was purchased new in the late 1990s that has the pre-1977 anchor and H on the base. So much for the span of 1938 to circa 1977!

**Brockway Glass Co.**

Toulouse (1971:59-62) gives a starting date of 1925 for Brockway Glass Company's trademark B inside a circle. The mark was suspended in 1988 when Owens-Illinois, Inc. purchased Brockway's assets (Whitten 2015b). The company is now Owens-Brockway, Inc., a holding of Owens-Illinois, Inc.

**Owens-Illinois Glass Co. (now Owens-Illinois, Inc.)**

According to Toulouse (1971:403-406), the Owens-Illinois Glass Co. changed their mark from the superimposed diamond, O, and I mark initiated in 1929 to an I inside an O in 1954. However, Whitten (2015c) says that there was an approximate five year transition period beginning in 1954 while the new mark was being phased in. Additionally, he further states that there is one confirmed example of a bottle manufactured in 1966 that still had the supposedly pre-1954 trademark on it.



The Anchor Hocking and Brockway Glass examples illustrate identifiable manufacturing marks whose production ranges span our 50-year historic cutoff, thus muddying the waters of the historic versus modern question. On the other hand, the Owens-Illinois example shows a registered mark date range that is considered historic, with an exception. However, it is that exception, the 1966 bottle, about which we must be wary. Just how many more bottles exist that exhibit a bygone maker's mark even though they were actually produced in 1966, 1967, 1968, or later?

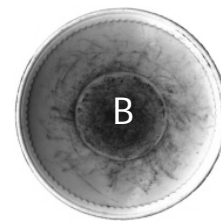
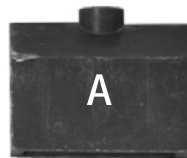
As noted in a recent presentation (Green 2015), artifacts made out of polymer plastics also pose unique challenges in distinguishing historic from modern. While polyvinyl chloride (PVC) was accidentally invented in the 19th century, it wasn't until 1926 that a stable and commercially viable formula was found (Bellis 2006).

This first, true polymer plastic gave rise to a rapidly expanding list of polymers that changed manufacturing worldwide. However, from an archaeological perspective, several problems reside with plastic. It is virtually impossible to differentiate plastic from, say, the 1940s and the 1980s. This is compounded by the fact that most plastics exhibit an extremely slow rate of degradation when buried in the ground.

Out of a total of 182 plastic artifacts so far recovered from the Smart Plantation House property (16VN3743), only 46 (25.3 %) could be positively dated after 1965. In fact, 111 (61 %) of these synthetic artifacts, a large portion of which were small fragments, could be assigned only a post-1926 date. Another 24 (13.2 %), such as a recovered Monopoly<sup>®</sup> game plastic hotel (A) (1957-present; personal communication, Hasbro Consumer Care), spanned the historic to modern period. Only one plastic artifact (.55 %), an Ideal Novelty and Toy Co. child's plastic teacup saucer (B) (1942-ca. 1961; U.S. Patent Office 2015a-b), could be dated entirely within the neo-historic period. By adding together the ambiguous post-1926 plastic artifacts and those spanning the historic/-modern cutoff date, 135 of these plastic artifacts, or an astonishing 74.2 %, potentially could span the range between historic and modern.

The problem of artifacts with manufacturing ranges dating from historic into modern times is by no means restricted to glass and polymer plastic. Three excellent examples in the metal category were recovered from the Smart Plantation House Site (16VN3743). The first was a rusty 3/4-inch iron pipe cap with "WARD" embossed on it. Ward Manufacturing started producing iron pipe products in Pennsylvania in 1924 and still makes pipe end caps (Ward Manufacturing 2014). Second was an aluminum electrical power line crimp splice with "KEARNEY" in raised letters. The Kearney Co. was founded in 1926 to make "connectors, hardware, and tools" for the power line industry (Cooper Industries 2014). Kearney is still in business, though now a subsidiary of Cooper Industries. Last was a rusty drywall screw. The drywall screw was invented for use in the aviation industry in 1957 (Vara 2011). A short few years later they were being used in building construction and are still used today.

On sites such as the Smart Plantation House (16VN3743), the uncertainties of plastic artifacts, compounded by shards of glass from bottles and jars that span the historic/modern cutoff date of 1965, mixed in with clearly historic artifacts, make site interpretation interesting at best. However, eliminate the unmistakably historic artifacts, throw in a few random bits and pieces of metal, and stir in a location with no discernable structural tie, and determining whether the site is historic or modern becomes a quandary. Let us hope archaeologists of the future can make sense of the debris we leave behind today and properly date the sites we are making.



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## Evidence of the Atlatl in East Central Louisiana

By Jim Fogleman

The atlatl came into use thousands of years ago in North America. While it was used at different times and places throughout the world, only in the Americas was it accompanied by weights attached to the dart thrower. Their exact function has long been debated. Some researchers believe the added weight increased thrust, but their absence elsewhere suggests that they are not essential to the weapon's function. Others suggest that they were charms or decorations (Neuman 1984).

In Avoyelles and St. Landry Parishes, they are widespread, both spatially and temporally. While the introduction of the bow and arrow resulted in a dramatic change over to the much smaller projectile points, the atlatl did not disappear. The very name is from *Nahuatl*, the language of the Aztecs, who used the weapon against the Spanish conquistadors. Near the mouth of the Mississippi River, a soldier from the remnants of Hernando De Soto's *entrada* was also hit with a projectile hurled by an atlatl. The wound was severe and the attempts to cut the projectile out also did much damage to the victim (de la Vega 1980). The surgery must have been similar to the quality of work done just up the river four centuries later that helped insure the death of Huey Long.

Stone attachments to the atlatl take various forms: bannerstones, gorgets, boatstones, and bar weights. Let us consider each of these for my "stomping grounds" in Avoyelles and St. Landry Parishes.

**Bannerstones** come in many shapes and can be beautiful works of art in some cases. They often have a large drill hole running through the center. In the study area, winged banner stones are known only from fragments found at the Marble site (site number pending). It consists of three fragments of the same artifact, which is made of exotic metamorphic rock. The artifact is broken along the central drilled shaft and reveals that the hole was made by rotational drilling. The Marble site is multi-component, but mainly seems to be Mid to Late Archaic and Historic.

I have seen three other drilled bannerstone fragments in private collections. One is from near Catahoula Lake, east of Alexandria, another from near Church Point in Acadia Parish, and the third one from Opelousas in St. Landry Parish. All were broken in half along the central drill hole. Besides this provenience information, I know of no other artifacts associated with these finds that might tell us something about the sites' occupations.

Another fairly well made object that resembles an undrilled bannerstone was found at the Spring Bluff site (16SL134) (Figure 1a). It is made of a poor grade of hematite that has suffered some "tractor trauma." This site has a light scatter of Mid to Late Archaic points, along with a few pot sherds and a historic component.

**Gorgets** are generally fairly flat objects with drill holes. Some are thick and sturdy enough to have served as weights, but others were likely ornamental or ceremonial as they appear too delicate to survive as part of a hunter's tool kit. Gorget fragments have been found at the following sites in Avoyelles and St. Landry Parishes: Norman Mounds (16AV12), the Boudreaux site (16SL165), Bayou Current Mound (16SL27) and the Savage site (16AV68).

The Norman Mounds are a multi component site with a rich Middle Archaic component, while the Boudreaux site is a light artifact scatter from multiple time periods, but also with a Middle Archaic component.

The Savage site is a very large (10+ hectares) Tchefuncte Culture site with fragments of thin gorgets, including a fragment of what appears to have been a circular object with a central hole in it.

The Bayou Current mound produced a two holed ferruginous sandstone gorget that is very thin. It is broken through one of the drill holes so that about 1/3 is missing (Fig. 1b). It was found as I witnessed the destruction of the site. I recovered a celt, a piece of pumice, a rolled bead of native copper, and a Pontchartrain point in the same general vicinity as the gorget. All these artifacts were in a large pile that the bulldozer had deposited after a pass through the mound, so this "association" could represent a cache or just a chance combination. Due to its thinness, it is unlikely that the gorget saw time as an atlatl accompaniment. Numerous undecorated ceramics and human bones were also encountered at the site as I watched the bulldozer do its work. The ceramics at the site suggested a Troyville/ Coles Creek period occupation, while the conical burial mound, worked quartz crystal, and a reel shaped gorget hint at a Marksville component. (Jones and Shuman 1991).

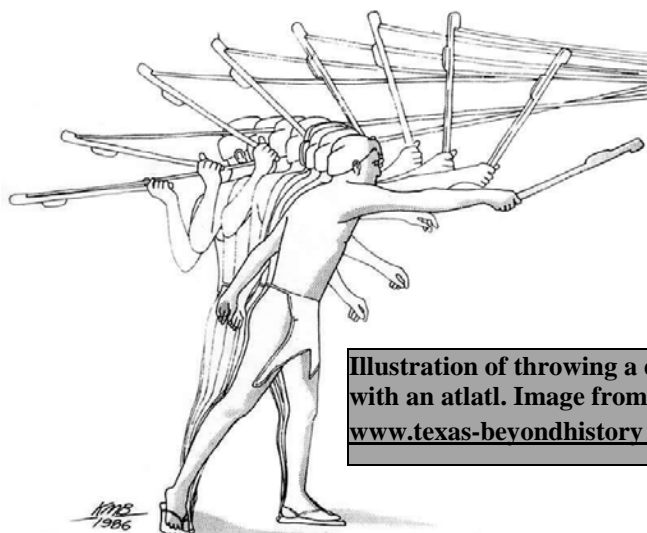


Illustration of throwing a dart with an atlatl. Image from [www.texas-beyondhistory.net](http://www.texas-beyondhistory.net)

Figure 1

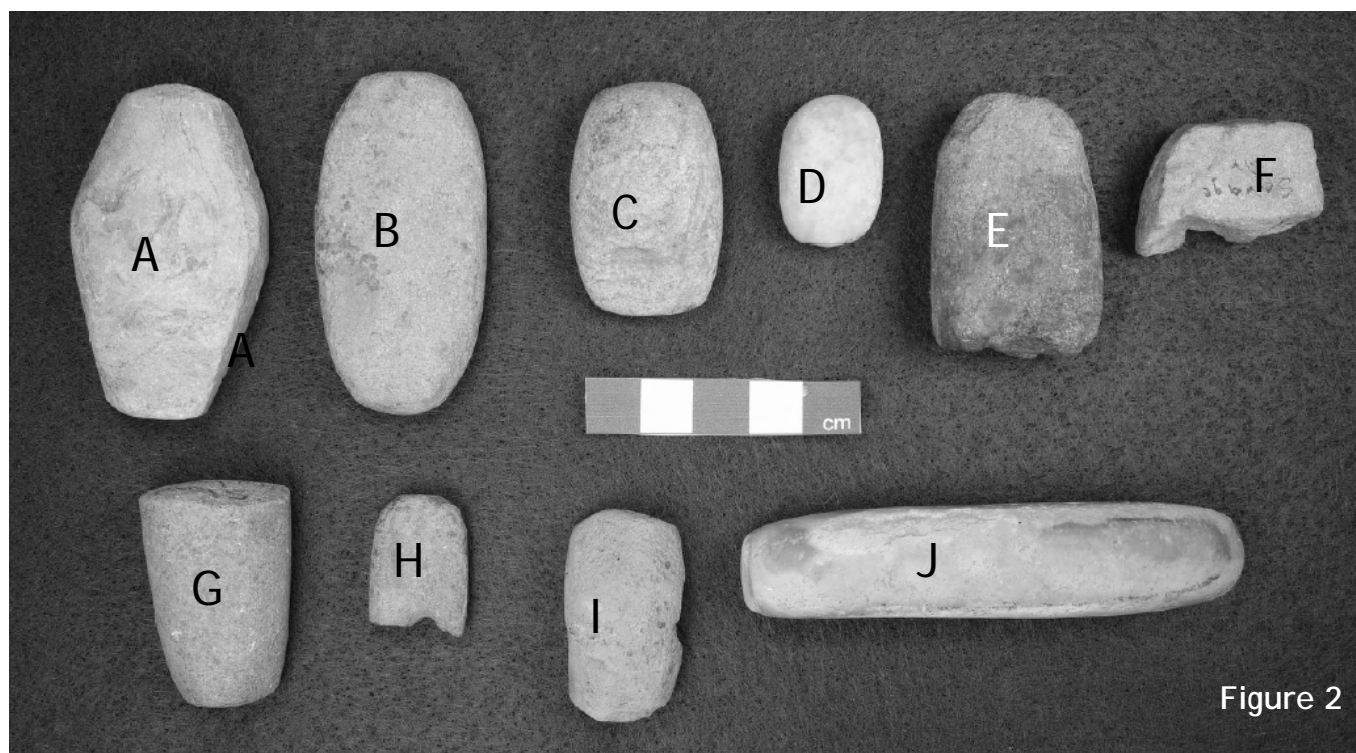
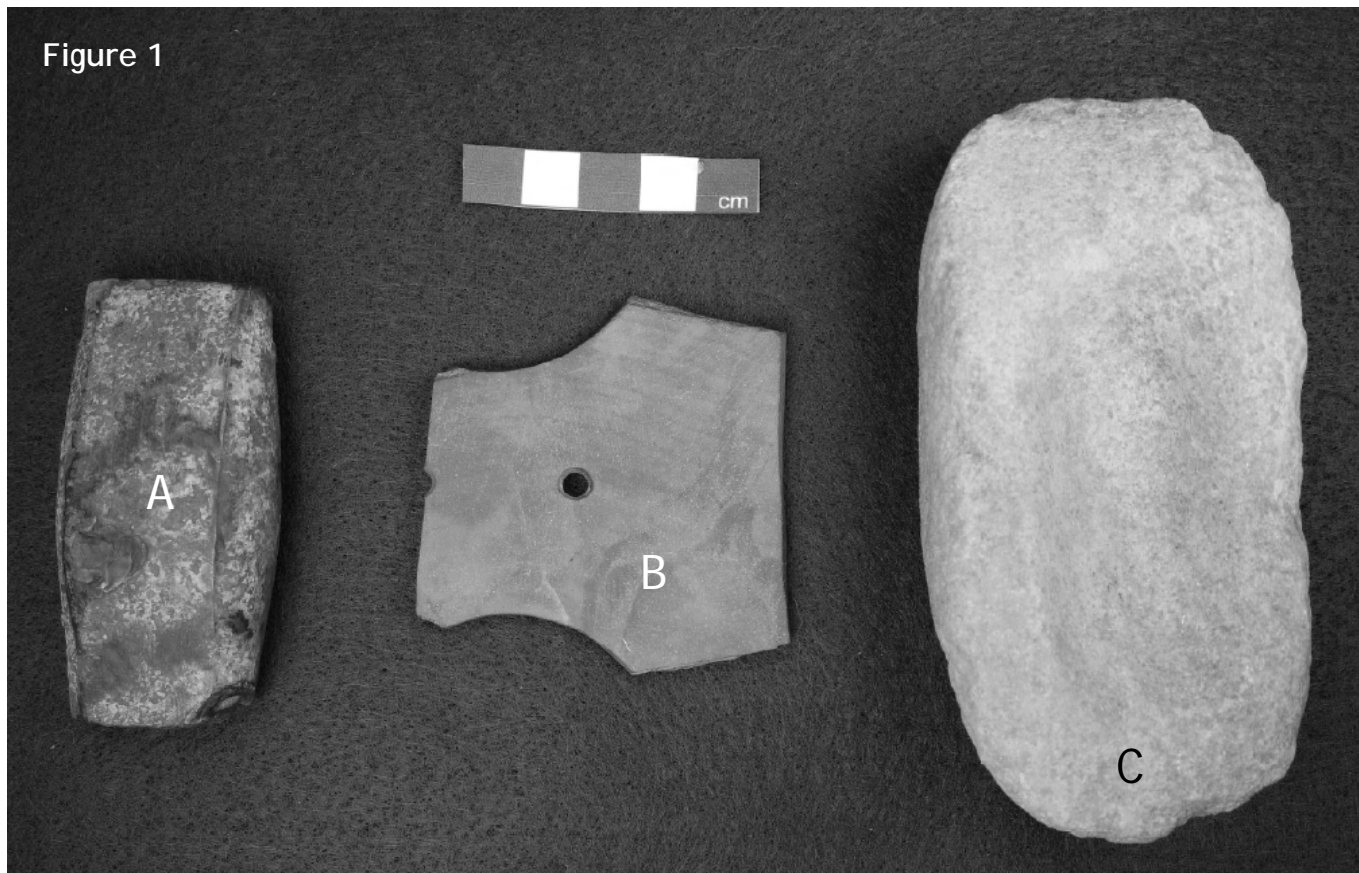


Figure 2

**Boatstones** are objects shaped much like a canoe (hence the name) and usually have a hollowed out interior. A complete boatstone was found at the X site (16SL155), which got its name because we were so excited when Larry Aymond and I found it. This site is almost exclusively Tchefuncte with Tchefuncte plain sherds comprising the overwhelming majority of the ceramics recovered. These included one 'teat' podal base usually regarded as a diagnostic feature of Tchefuncte pottery. The numerous projectile points collected fit well with other sites in the area with Tchefuncte occupations. The boatstone is large and very crude (Fig. 1c). The exterior is poorly executed, with the interior more refined and well-polished. Its incorporation in the overall atlatl use would have significantly changed energy requirements. The X site artifact is over three times more massive than the next largest atlatl artifact considered here. If tightly affixed to the atlatl handle it would have made a significant weapon in itself.

A complete and well-made boatstone was reportedly found at the Hicks site (16SL4) over a half century ago and was given to a doctor from Shreveport [James Jackson personal communication, 1980]. Years ago I asked Dr. Clarence Webb if he was said doctor, but he said no. Hicks is an almost a pure Tchefuncte site and may have been visited by James Ford before he and George Quimby wrote their defining article about the Tchefuncte culture (Ford and Quimby 1945).

I have often wondered if Ford stopped at the Hicks site before visiting the Stelly Mounds whose Tchefuncte component is very small at best, and then possibly the Stelly Bar. Beers, bars, & confusion have affected more than one archaeologist. The Hicks site is important to me, because I found my first two projectile points there on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, April 1962.

I found a half boatstone of friable white Catahoula Sedimentary Quartzite on the bluff edge NE of Mound 2 at the Marksville Site (16AV1). It, and a small brick shaped baked clay object found on the bluff edge east of Mound 6, were turned into the Marksville site museum years ago. A fragment of a very well made boatstone also was recovered from the Straw Lake West site (16SL164). This is another large primarily Tchefuncte culture site relatively near the Savage and Hicks sites.

Boatstones have been reported from nearby excavations. During excavations at the Crooks Mound site in LaSalle Parish, for example, Ford reported finding several boat stones, including one made of pumice (Ford 1940). Also, two boatstones were reported from the Greenhouse site (16AV2) (Ford 1951). Archaeologically, boatstones apparently lingered on among Native Americans in the Lower Mississippi Valley with well-made specimens recovered from the late prehistoric portion of Bayou Goula site (16IV12) in Iberville Parish (Quimby 1957).

**Bar Weights** are the last group to be discussed. These are small objects of worked stone of various shapes and almost all have polished bases. They are the most common of the atlatl weights and occur at several sites. The Savage site has a total of 6 (Fig. 2 A-F). While the one shaped like a sarcophagus is of greenstone, the others appear to be of local material. The nearby Straw Lake site (16SL164) has produced three bar weights (Fig 2 G-I). Two are of sandstone, but one is of pumice or clinker. The pumice/clinker is very light weight and with a specific gravity of less than 1, as it floats. It would have added little to the energy budget for casting a projectile. The only other worked piece of the material that the author has encountered was one made into the shape of a plummet from the Middle Archaic Courtableau Mounds (16SL11) (Fogleman, 1982) which was suggested to possibly have been an early 'gag gift.'

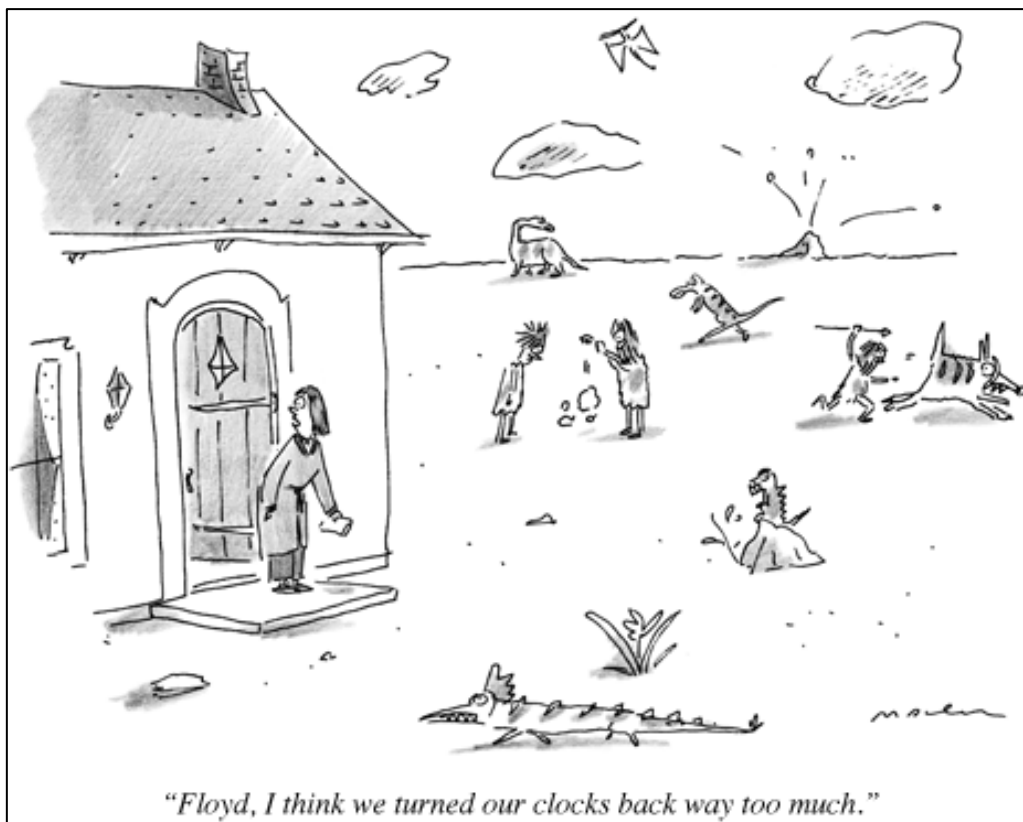
The Holly Mounds (16SL112) is a multi-component site with Poverty Point, Tchefuncte, Coles Creek components and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> historic materials. The two mounds are located on a crevasse off Big Darbonne Bayou. The smaller, eastern most mound yielded a cobble of local chert shaped much like the handle of a knife or screwdriver (Fig. 2 J). Polishing is apparent in several places, especially the ends. As is the case with most bar weights, the base is very flat. O.G. Track Mound (16SL114) is about 1 km upstream from Holly and has a similar cultural history. It yielded what appeared to be a good sized bar weight, but is more likely an old historic whet rock.

From the data available, the initial entrance of weights for the atlatl in the study area took place in the Middle Archaic with thick holed gorgets and winged bannerstones on terrace escarpments. This is not surprising in that most land surfaces in the modern flood plain at this time (as well as archaeological sites) are buried by more recent alluvium. During Tchefuncte times, boatstones and bar weights make their appearance and reach their maximum frequency. After this time, the only evidence of atlatl weights is a reel gorget from a burial mound that can best be described as post Tchefuncte. A cautionary note on boatstones and bar weights is that site sizes in the area do not increase over time. The drop off in bar weights is, at least partially, a function of the population sizes at certain times.

Tchefuncte and Coles Creek are by far the largest and most numerous sites in the area with correspondingly more artifacts. Marksville and Troyville sites are much less common and smaller. Plaquemine/Mississippian sites are practically nonexistent. The atlatl accompaniments persist in the area for millennia, but after the Archaic their small masses and in some cases fragility, along with their frequent occurrence at mound sites elsewhere give credence to Neuman's suggestion of a non-utilitarian function in many, if not most, cases for atlatl weights.

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- Special Thanks to Joel Stelly of Stelly's Supermarket for technical help and Dennis Jones for his editing skills that made this article comprehensible (I hope).



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