



# **Louisiana Archaeological Society NEWSLETTER**

RICHARD A. WEINSTEIN, Newsletter Editor  
COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC.,

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

Volume 16, No. 2

Summer 1989

## **FROM THE EDITOR**

The L. A. S. Newsletter is alive and well, although slightly late in going to press, and I believe you will find the information contained in the current issue to be of interest. Particularly important are the notes and forms concerning the 1990 annual meeting in Alexandria. Now is the time to submit your paper abstracts, send in your preregistration form, and make plans to attend.

Recently I have begun to publish a few papers previously presented at past L. A. S. meetings. I feel that this is a good way to disseminate important information that otherwise would be available only to those members who attended the meetings, and I would like to continue this trend. Thus, if any of the members have copies of past papers, and they would like to see them published, please send them in. Of course, I do not want only papers from past meetings, as it would be nice to have a few new articles, based on current research, for the next issue or two.

Richard Weinstein  
Newsletter Editor

**HAVE A FRIEND JOIN THE  
L.A.S.**

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Coastal Environments, Inc.  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana  
May 27, 1989

Reported by Nina Russell  
L. A. S. Secretary

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ray Fredlund. Those in attendance included: David R. Jeane (Treasurer), Nina Russell (Secretary), Robert W. Neuman (Bulletin Editor), Richard Weinstein (Newsletter Editor), John Guy (At-Large Representative), Bettie Pendley (Delta Chapter Representative), Jo Crosby, and David Babson.

A motion was passed to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last committee meeting.

After a discussion of the finances of the annual meeting in Lake Charles, a decision was made to send a letter to Harry Tanner and Joe Frank requesting the information on the total income and expenditures of the meeting.

David Jeane reported that the CD at the First National Bank of Commerce in New Orleans has been changed from Linda Jackson's name to his. Then he presented the

The **NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY** is published three times a year for the Society by Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge. Send all notes, news and other communications to: Richard A. Weinstein, Editor, Coastal Environments, Inc., 1260 Main Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. Unless otherwise indicated, opinions stated herein are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect Society policy.

treasurer's report, which was accepted, and is included in this Newsletter. He also noted that, as of this date, there are 272 L. A. S. members.

Bob Neuman gave a report on the next Bulletin (for 1985) which he expects to be printed in the summer. The normal cost of printing will be reduced by perhaps \$600 this year, thanks to short cuts made possible by computer technology.

A motion was passed that all authors of all future manuscripts submitted for publication in the L. A. S. Bulletin be required to be members of the L. A. S. at the time of their submittal.

The problem of obtaining manuscripts for publication was discussed. Ideas are invited from the membership. These should be submitted to Ray Fredlund, 2150 Elissalde #13, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808. Ray will present them at the next Executive Committee meeting.

David Babson, head of the LSU Summer Field School, invited L. A. S. members to participate in the excavations he will be conducting at Belle Helene Plantation, an 1840 sugar plantation, in June and July. Jo Crosby accepted the position of coordinator of the project.

The various L. A. S. chapters were encouraged to participate in the annual Archaeology Week programs, scheduled for the last week in September, by opening their chapter meetings to the public, putting on displays at local libraries, and anything else to help raise the public awareness of this special week.

A motion was passed to send renewal letters to people who were members of the Society in 1987 and 1988, but who have not yet renewed for 1989.

Because of the low profile of the L. A. S., a motion was passed to send a free copy of the current Newsletter to selected organizations. The cover letter would authorize the organizations to use anything in the Newsletter in their publications, as long as proper credit is given. This should hopefully make the organizations more aware of the L. A. S.,

promoting the subject of archaeology, perhaps gaining new members, and resulting in a greater exchange of ideas and information.

Rich Weinstein gave a financial report on the last Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 1: 350 copies printed at Sprint Print for \$263.05; 253 copies mailed for \$20.92.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Ray Fredlund.

## **NOTES ON THE UPCOMING 1990 L. A. S. ANNUAL MEETING**

**Reported by  
Nancy Affeltranger  
Central Chapter**

It is once again time to prepare for our annual get-together. This coming year will be a step into the past, as our meeting will be held at the historic Hotel Bentley in Alexandria. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the "Waldorf of the Red River" was built by wealthy lumberman Joseph A. Bentley in 1908.

The "Biltmore of the Bayou" presents a grand appearance with neoclassical architectural features on the banks of the Red. The original hotel contained 145 rooms and was constructed for the astonishing cost of \$750,000. Mr. Bentley refurbished the hotel in 1936 by adding 170 more rooms, to bring the total to 315. With its multi-story lobby and stained glass, the Bentley reaches out from the past and mixes the charm and elegance of yesteryear with the conveniences of today.

The Bentley has agreed to a flat room rate of \$48 (single, double, multi-occupancy), and will participate in our meeting by having a representative present a paper on the hotel. A copy of the hotel's reservation form is printed in this Newsletter, and may be cut out and mailed to the hotel. Other hotels and motels are also available within walking distance or are only a five-minute drive away, but the Bentley's conference rate is more than competitive. Please make your arrangements to join us at the Hotel Bentley today!

For those who wish other lodgings, however, the following hotels and motels are nearby:

Holiday Inn (5-minute drive), 2716  
MacArthur Drive; single - \$48, double -

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TREASURER'S REPORT  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING-BATON ROUGE, MAY 27, 1989

Period covered by this report - 01/20/89 thru 05/24/89

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Certificate of Deposit #000307847 Louisiana  
Archaeological Society- First National Bank of Commerce  
Amoco Branch, P.O.Box 60279, New Orleans, La.70150

Opened 10/03/88.....\$2000.00  
Interest thru 01/20/89..... 36.48

TOTAL SAVINGS \$2036.48

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Account #005-338-4 Louisiana Archaeological Society  
Citizens Bank & Trust Company, Springhill, La. 71075

INCOME:

Funds transferred from Linda Church.....\$4540.91  
Rich Weinstein publication sales..... 279.00  
1987 Membership dues received..... 30.00  
1988 Membership dues received..... 90.00  
1989 Membership dues received..... 1634.00  
Treasurer publication sales..... 10.00  
Checking account interest..... 78.00

TOTAL INCOME \$6661.91

EXPENSES:

Postage..... 95.71  
Telephone..... 29.97  
Office Supplies..... 24.98  
Printing (memb. cards, envel., station.).. 143.76  
Bank of St. John (research)..... 118.00  
Citizens Bank (checks)..... 45.22  
Anthony-Bryan Insurance (Treasurer's bond) 100.00  
Bounced check + \$2.00 Fee..... 20.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$577.64

BALANCE IN CHECKING ACCOUNT \$6084.27

TOTAL ASSETS \$8120.75

Respectfully submitted:



David R. Jeane Treasurer 05/27/89

\$53; (318) 487-4261.

Days Inn (5-minute drive), 2300 MacArthur Drive; single - \$31.50, double - \$36; (318) 443-7331.

Hilton (walking distance), Fourth and Jackson; single - \$58, double - \$68; (318) 442-9000.

This coming year's meeting will offer a slight change of pace from years past. We will cut off normal presentation of papers at 3:00 pm on Saturday, so we may present a panel symposium on one of the "hottest" current issues in the Southeast--De Soto's travels.

Dr. Charles Hudson of the University of Georgia will be our keynote speaker. After his presentation, he and a panel of other experts will discuss his interpretation (and those interpretations of others) of De Soto's historic route. You won't want to miss this special event!

For those of you who are interested in presenting a paper at the meeting, a "Call for Papers" form is attached to the end of this Newsletter. Similarly, a registration form can be found at the back of the Newsletter. If you preregister now, the cost will be only \$8, but if you wait until the meeting it will be \$10. Also note on the form if you need space for selling books, and if you wish to attend a luncheon banquet planned for Saturday.

For additional information, call Nancy Affeltranger, Meeting Coordinator, at (318) 640-9258.

## A RESOLUTION

**Passed at the L. A. S. Annual Meeting, January, 21, 1989, Lake Charles, Louisiana**

WHEREAS, William S. Baker, Jr., was a founding father of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and an advocate of Louisiana archaeology for two decades, and

WHEREAS, Bill was responsible for locating, collecting, and protecting sites during the extensive land-leveling activities of Louisiana Delta Plantation, and

WHEREAS, Bill brought in many archaeologists to the Catahoula-Larto swampland to assist in making the local prehistory better known, and

WHEREAS, Bill hosted the organizational meeting of L. A. S. in 1974, was a member of its first executive committee, and subsequently served as treasurer, president-elect, and president of the L. A. S., and

WHEREAS, Bill was a member of the Louisiana Archaeological Survey and Antiquities Commission, was given the prestigious Governor's Award for Archaeology, and was founder of the East Central Chapter, and

WHEREAS, Bill published several scholarly articles in the L. A. S. bulletin and newsletter and read papers at the Society's annual meetings,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the membership of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, assembled this day, 21 January, 1989, in the city of Lake Charles, Louisiana, collectively expresses its deep sorrow at the loss of one of its charter members, Bill Baker, and

FURTHER, be it resolved that a copy of this resolution acknowledging Bill's contributions to the L. A. S. and Louisiana archaeology be entered in the official records of the Society and a copy sent to his widow, Pat, along with the Society's condolences.



**PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS  
AT THE PETER HILL SITE,  
16 IV 2\***

By  
**Ray Fredlund  
Philip G. Rivet  
Richard A. Weinstein**

**Abstract**

*The Baton Rouge Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society conducted test excavations at the Peter Hill site (16 IV 2) from 1979 to 1981. The site consists of two earthen platform mounds located along Bayou Grosse Tete, approximately two and one-half miles north of the community of Rosedale, in northeastern Iberville Parish. The investigations included a total of five test pits located in and around the flanks of Mound A. Analysis of the material recovered indicates a Mississippian period occupation of the site, related to the Medora and Delta Natchezan phases of the Plaquemine culture.*

**Introduction**

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the L. A. S. became aware of the possibility of conducting an archaeological research project at the Peter Hill site (16 IV 2) in the winter of 1978-'79. A member of the chapter who lived in the general area of the site knew the landowner and obtained permission to assess the site and perform test excavations. Our first visit to the site was in March of 1979. We discovered at that time that our investigation would be limited to Mound A, the easternmost mound, since Mound B was located on another property. This was not a major disappointment, however, since Mound B was located in cow pasture and had apparently been a favored grazing area since it was shaded by trees growing on it. Excavation

activities and cows are somewhat incompatible.

Mound A is surrounded on three sides by soybean fields. Overhanging limbs from trees growing on the mound had discouraged cultivation close to the mound, so we had a considerable margin of unfarmed flat land in which to work, particularly to the south and southwest, where we planned our initial excavation.

Surface collections were made in the surrounding fields when conditions permitted. Our plans to do a controlled collection over an extensive area were thwarted by the farming techniques employed. The farmer did not plow up the winter weed cover during two of the past three seasons prior to planting, apparently in an effort to avoid soil erosion.

The management and coordination of the investigations has been a joint effort of professionals and amateurs. The initial plan for excavation was established by Wayne Glander, who also coordinated activities until his departure from Louisiana. Philip "Duke" Rivet took over when Wayne left. Fieldwork parties were organized jointly by amateurs and professionals, with actual fieldwork under the direction of a professional, or, as a minimum, an experienced amateur. Cataloging work sessions followed the same pattern. Analysis and interpretive work was done by the professionals who coauthored this paper.

**Setting**

The Peter Hill site is located on the east side of Bayou Grosse Tete, in northeastern Iberville Parish, approximately 2.5 mi north of the community of Rosedale. The site consists of two truncated pyramidal mounds separated by a plaza (Figure 1).

Mound A is approximately 10 ft in height and 100 ft in diameter, and is covered with a dense growth of trees, bamboo, vines, and brush. At present, a soybean field surrounds it on three sides. Mound B, located to the west of Mound A, is smaller in size, being approximately 7 ft in height and 60 ft in diameter. It stands in a pasture, and, like Mound A, has trees growing on it. Both mounds are visible from Louisiana Highway 411, and are in good condition.

\* This article is a slightly modified version of a paper originally presented at the 8th annual meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society, Thibodaux. It is offered here basically as it was written in 1982. Because of several important changes in interpretations that have taken place since then, however, an editor's note has been included at the conclusion of the article addressing these changes.

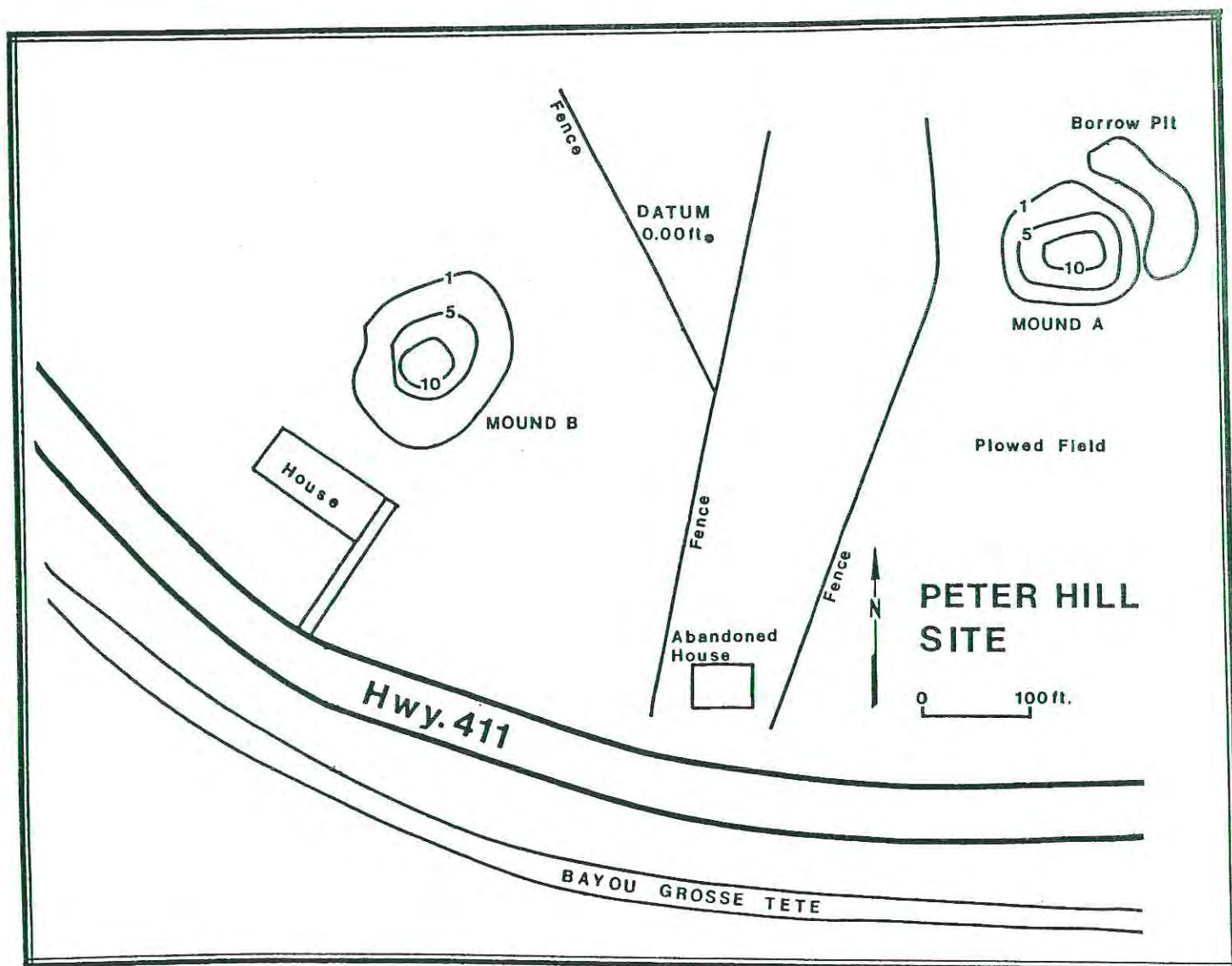


Figure 1. Map of the Peter Hill site (16 IV 2), showing the location of the two mounds. The house in front of Mound B was not present during the investigations. (After Jones and Shuman 1987:Fig. 45.)

The site rests on the natural levee of Bayou Grosse Tete, at an elevation of approximately 15 ft above mean sea level. Bayou Grosse Tete is a crevasse channel, part of a complex of crevasse channels which originated from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Morganza, Louisiana. Near Livonia, in Pointe Coupée Parish, Bayou Grosse Tete joins Bayou Fordoche, an older, well-developed crevasse channel. From this junction, the bends of Bayou Grosse Tete become progressively smaller, and its natural levees less pronounced, as it meanders southward. It merges with Bayou Plaquemine at its southern end. A few miles farther south, Bayou Plaquemine terminates in Upper Grand River, an important segment of the Atchafalaya River system (Howe et al. 1938).

### Previous Investigations

The earliest published reference to archaeological sites in the area under consideration is found in Clarence B. Moore's 1913 account of his explorations in Louisiana and Arkansas. In this publication, Moore describes two mounds located along Bayou Grosse Tete below the present-day community of Grosse Tete. This evidently is the Reed site (16 IV 5). Although Moore obtained permission to conduct excavations at this site, high water prevented him from doing so (Moore 1913).

In 1938, Fred Kniffen of Louisiana State University published an account of Indian mounds in Iberville Parish in the Department of Conservation's Geological Bulletin No. 13.

The report concentrated on known Indian mounds and midden sites from which surface collections were made. Based on the material collected, Kniffen attempted to place the various sites within a chronological framework, something new and highly important at the time. Because the collection from Peter Hill contained marker sherds of what Kniffen termed the "Natchez" and "Tunica" complexes, the site was classified as an historic site, although no European trade items were found (Kniffen 1938).

The next important investigations in the area took place at the Medora site (16 WBR 1) in nearby West Baton Rouge Parish. Excavations conducted at the site by the Work Projects Administration in 1939-'40 led to the formulation of the Plaquemine period, named for the nearby town of that name. The Medora site report, published in 1951 (Quimby 1951), along with subsequent reports on the Greenhouse site in Avoyelles Parish (Ford 1951), the Anna and Gordon sites near Natchez, Mississippi (Cotter 1951, 1952), and the Bayou Goula site in Iberville Parish (Quimby 1957), provided the basic documentation for the Plaquemine culture period.

The Plaquemine concept remained basically unchanged until the appearance of Philip Phillips' monumental assessment of the archaeology of the Lower Yazoo Basin, Mississippi, in 1970 (Phillips 1970). In that publication, Plaquemine is described as one of two distinct cultures that coexisted in the Lower Mississippi Valley during the Mississippian period. It is defined as the culture which succeeded the Coles Creek culture in the Lower Mississippi Valley. The second culture existing during this period, the Mississippian, originated in the northern part of the Lower Mississippi Valley, and, unlike the Plaquemine culture, is characterized by shell-tempered ceramics. Thus, according to Phillips' scheme, the Peter Hill site is a Plaquemine culture site of the Mississippian period.

Phillips went one step further, however, and defined phases of the Plaquemine culture. Sites in the general area under consideration were grouped into two phases, Medora and Delta Natchezan, the Medora phase being the earlier of the two. As will be discussed later, components representing

both of these phases are present at Peter Hill.

Later, work by David Hally in the Tensas Basin of northeastern Louisiana, and by Jeffrey Brain, Ian Brown, and Vincas Steponaitis in the vicinity of Natchez and the Yazoo Bluff region of Mississippi, resulted in the refinement of Plaquemine culture chronology and ceramic typology (Brown 1973, 1977, 1979; Hally 1972; Steponaitis 1974, 1981)

More recently, salvage excavations conducted by the State Archaeologist's Office in 1977 at the St. Gabriel site (16 IV 128), located on the east side of the Mississippi River in Iberville Parish, revealed the presence of a Plaquemine culture component (Woodiel 1980).

As a result of the work of the various investigators cited above, along with numerous others not cited in this paper, a picture of Plaquemine culture has emerged which has been characterized by Steponaitis (1974) as follows:

...a hierarchical socio-political organization archaeologically manifested in the presence of "large ceremonial centers"; a demographic pattern of dispersed settlement; rectangular wattle and daub houses built with wooden posts set in wall trenches; a subsistence base of maize agriculture supplemented by hunting and fishing; a ceramic complex characterized by the ware Addis Plain, along with a decorative repertoire consisting of both rectilinear and curvilinear elements; ground stone artifacts; a low level of chipped stone workmanship; and a pattern of lithic economy, whereby chipped stone was replaced by bone and cane tools whenever possible.

### Current Excavations

The original investigation plan called for three 2-by-2-m test pits to be dug immediately adjacent to Mound A (Figure 2). Test Pits 1 and 2 were located southwest of the mound, while Test Pit 3 was placed south of the mound. All excavation was by means of

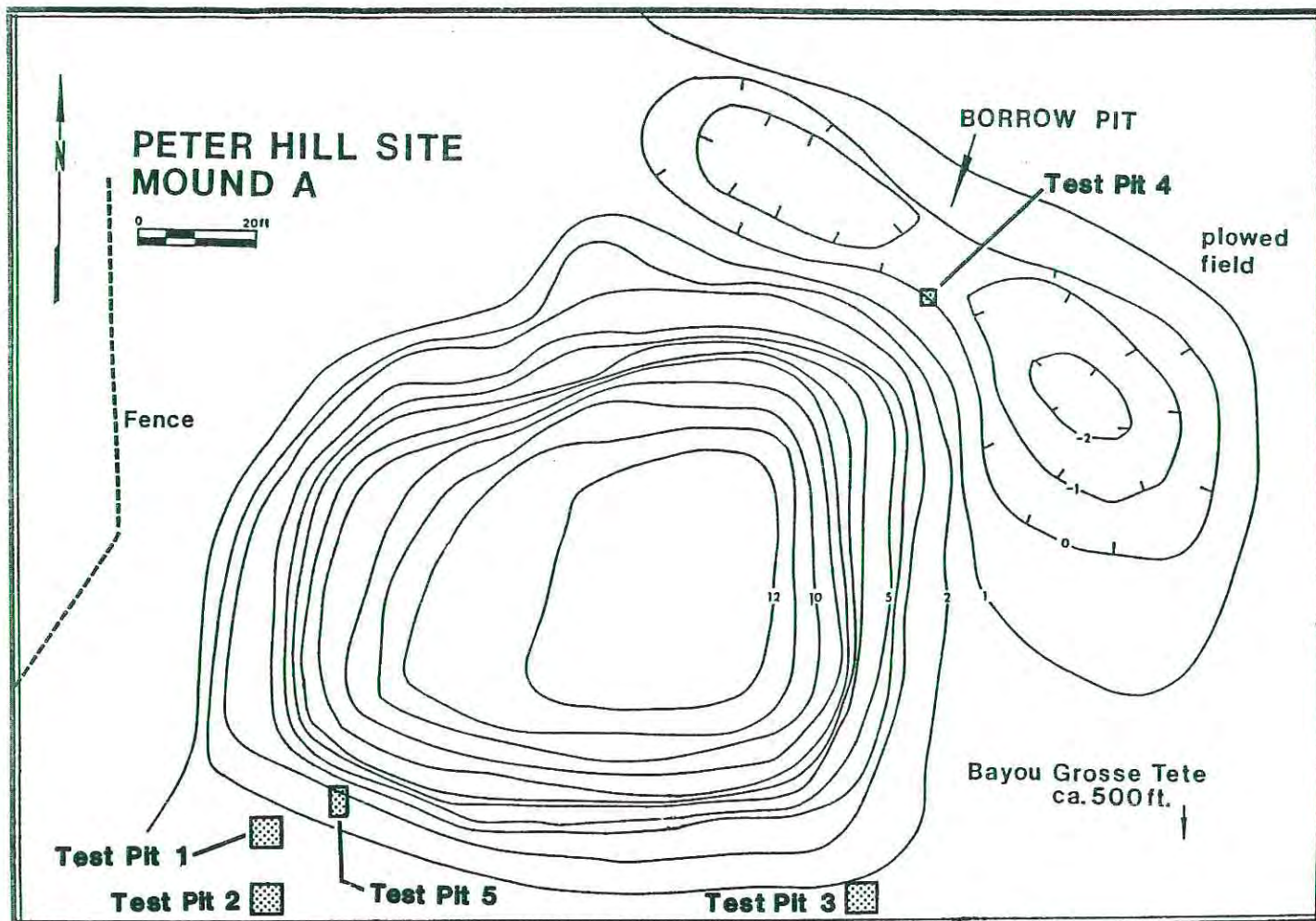


Figure 2. Contour map of Mound A at the Peter Hill site. Test pit locations are indicated. (Modified from Jones and Shuman 1987:Fig. 46.)

10-cm-thick levels, and all soil was screened through 1/8-inch wire mesh. After pits 1 and 3 had been excavated down to sterile soil, and shovel trenched to confirm sterility, it was decided to open Test Pits 4 and 5. Test Pit 4, a 1-by-1-m square pit, was staked out east of the mound in what appeared to be the borrow area from which soil for mound construction had been removed. Test Pit 5 was placed on the southwestern slope of the mound. It was a 1-by-2-m pit with its shortest side placed at the toe of the mound.

At this point (January 1982), in an effort to finish the project this spring, we have abandoned Test Pit 4. Of the remaining uncompleted pits, Test Pit 2 is at the 50-60 cm level, and Test Pit 5 is at the 90-100 cm level.

### Artifacts

Artifacts other than aboriginal pottery sherds were scarce at the site. Although over

3600 sherds have been recovered to date, the total number of lithics recovered totals only 45, most of which are unworked items. In fact, only one stone projectile was recovered from a surface collection made in the field south of the mound. The dearth of lithics is common in Lower Mississippi Valley sites, and, as noted above, especially characteristic of Plaquemine culture locales. Consequently, the emphasis in this section will be placed on the ceramics.

To date, slightly more than 2000 sherds have been analyzed from the site. Of this total, 568 are from the surface collection and 1657 are from Test Pits 1 and 3.

As can be seen in Table 1, showing the ceramic surface collection, the vast majority of sherds (79.9%) are Addis Plain, *var. Addis*. Of the decorated ceramics, Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Plaquemine* is the most common, comprising 10% of the total surface collection. The next most common decorated ceramics are

Table 1. Aboriginal ceramics collected from the surface of the Peter Hill site.

	SURFACE														SITE TOTALS		
	FIELD NORTH OF MOUND A					FIELDS S. AND W. OF MD. A					GENERAL SURFACE						
	BODY	RIM	BASE	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	BASE	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	BASE	TOTAL	% TOTAL	TOTAL	% TOTAL
Addis Plain var. <i>Addis</i>	319	40		359	82.91	47	3		50	84.75	27	18		45	59.21	454	79.93
Anna Incised var. <i>Australia</i>											1			1	1.32	1	0.18
Carter Engraved var. <i>Carter</i>			1	1	0.23						1			1	1.32	2	0.35
Coleman Incised var. <i>unspecified</i>								1	1	1.69	1			1	1.32	2	0.35
Coles Creek Incised var. <i>Hardy</i>	2	2		4	0.92						2	1		3	3.95	7	1.23
Evansville Punctated var. <i>Wilkinson</i>	1			1	0.23						1			1	1.32	2	0.35
Harrison Bayou Incised var. <i>Harrison Bayou</i>	1	1		2	0.46						1			1	1.32	1	0.18
Leland Incised var. <i>unspecified</i>																1	0.18
Maddox Engraved var. <i>Emerald</i>		1		1	0.23												
Mazique Incised var. <i>Manchac</i>	9	4		13	3.00						3	3		6	7.89	19	3.35
var. <i>Mazique</i>											1			1	1.32	1	0.18
var. <i>unspecified</i>						1			1	1.69						1	0.18
Plaquemine Brushed var. <i>Plaquemine</i>	31	11		42	9.70		2		2	3.39	7	5		12	15.79	56	9.86
Pontchartrain Check Stamped var. <i>Pontchartrain</i>	1			1	0.23											1	0.18
Unclassified Incised straight-line incisions	7			7	1.62	3	1		4	6.78	4			4	5.26	15	2.64
curvilinear incisions	2			2	0.46											2	0.35
Unclassified Decorated possibly <i>Manchac</i>						1			1	1.69						1	0.18
TOTAL	373	59	1	433	100.00	52	7	0	59	100.00	49	27	0	76	100.00	568	100.00

Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac* and Coles Creek Incised, *var. Hardy*. Other decorated sherds include minor amounts of Anna Incised, *var. Australia*, Carter Engraved, *vars. Carter* and *unspecified*, Evansville Punctated, *var. Wilkinson*, Harrison Bayou Incised, *var. Harrison Bayou*, Leland Incised, *var. unspecified*, Maddox Engraved, *var. Emerald*, Mazique Incised, *vars. Mazique* and *unspecified*, and Pontchartrain Check Stamped, *var. Pontchartrain*.

#### Ceramics from the midden level of Test

Pit 1 show a similar frequency (Table 2). Once again, Addis Plain, *var. Addis* is by far the most common, making up 85.7% of the ceramics recovered. Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Plaquemine* is the most common decorated ceramic, followed by Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac* and Coles Creek Incised, *var. Hardy*. New types and varieties not found in the surface collection include Fatherland Incised, *var. Fatherland*, L'Eau Noire Incised, *var. Bayou Bourbe*, and Medora Incised, *var. Medora*.

**Table 2. Aboriginal ceramics recovered from the midden levels of Test Pit 1 at the Peter Hill site.**

	TEST PIT 1				TEST PIT 1				TEST PIT 1				TEST PIT TOTALS	
	30-40 cm				40-50 cm				50-60 cm					
	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	TOTAL	% TOTAL
Addis Plain <i>var. Addis</i>	142	8	150	81.97	259	23	282	84.94	342	13	355	88.09	787	85.73
Anna Incised <i>var. unspecified</i>					2		2	0.60					2	0.22
Carter Engraved <i>var. Carter</i>					1		1	0.30					1	0.11
Coles Creek Incised <i>var. Hardy</i>	1	2	3	1.64		1	1	0.30		2	2	0.50	6	0.65
Evansville Punctated <i>var. Wilkinson</i>					1		1	0.30					1	0.11
Fatherland Incised <i>var. Fatherland</i> <i>var. unspecified</i>	2		2	1.09	1		1	0.30					1	0.11
					1		1	0.30					3	0.33
Harrison Bayou Incised <i>var. Harrison Bayou</i>									4		4	0.99	4	0.44
L'Eau Noire Incised <i>var. Bayou Bourbe</i>					4		4	1.20	2		2	0.50	6	0.65
Leland Incised <i>var. Blanchard</i> <i>var. unspecified</i>										1	1	0.25	1	0.11
									3	2	5	1.24	5	0.54
Maddox Engraved <i>var. Emerald</i>	2		2	1.09	2		2	0.60					4	0.44
Mazique Incised <i>var. Manchac</i>	6	2	8	4.37	4	1	5	1.51	1		1	0.25	14	1.53
Medora Incised <i>var. Medora</i>									1		1	0.25	1	0.11
Plaquemine Brushed <i>var. Plaquemine</i> <i>var. unspecified</i>	14	1	15	8.20	26	2	28	8.43	19	4	23	5.71	66	7.19
									1		1	0.25	1	0.11
Unclassified Incised straight-line incisions	3		3	1.64	4		4	1.20	6		6	1.49	13	1.42
Unclassified Punctated										2	2	0.50	2	0.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Table 3 presents the ceramics recovered from the four levels of Test Pit 3. Once again, the most common are Addis Plain, *var. Addis*, Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Plaquemine*, and Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*.

### Summary and Conclusions

The material recovered to date from the Peter Hill site consists primarily of ceramics. Consequently, conclusions concerning the cultural affiliation of the site are based, almost entirely, on the ceramics.

As stated previously, the vast majority of sherds are plainware, specifically Addis Plain, *var. Addis*. The most common decorated ceramics, in order of frequency, are: Plaquemine Brushed, *var. Plaquemine*, Mazique Incised, *var. Manchac*, and Coles Creek Incised, *var. Hardy*.

The predominance of these types and varieties points to a solid Plaquemine culture component, the main occupation occurring during the early Mississippi period, specifically the Medora phase. The presence of the types and varieties described above, as well as others, such as Anna Incised, *var. Australia*, Carter Engraved, *var. Carter*, and L'Eau Noire Incised, *var. Bayou Bourbe*, places the main occupation of the site in the A.D. 1000-1300 time range. The occupation was evidently not

confined to these dates, however, as the presence of other marker types, such as Fatherland Incised, *var. Fatherland* and Maddox Engraved, *var. Emerald*, and Leland Incised, *var. Blanchard*, indicates a later, late prehistoric or possibly protohistoric occupation, corresponding to the Delta Natchezan phase. Significantly absent from the site are European trade goods, indicating that occupation of the site had ceased prior to main European contact.

In summary, Peter Hill represents a Mississippi period occupation of peoples belonging to the Plaquemine culture. The main occupation occurred during early Mississippi times (ca. A.D. 1000-1300), known locally as the Medora phase, although a later occupation evidently took place during the Delta Natchezan phase (ca. A.D. 1300-1700).

### Editor's Note

Since this paper was presented over seven years ago, there have been several important contributions to the archaeology of the Lower Mississippi Valley. These provide new data that necessitate the following changes and comments.

By far, the most striking change is the recognition that the major component at the Peter Hill site now would appear to be late in the Coles Creek period, during the area's St. Gabriel phase (Brown 1985b; Weinstein 1987a; Woodiel 1980). This phase is based on data supplied by Williams and Brain (1983) suggesting that components containing Coles Creek Incised, *var. Hardy*,

Table 3. Aboriginal ceramics recovered from Test Pit 3 at the Peter Hill site.

	TEST PIT 3				TEST PIT 3				TEST PIT 3				TEST PIT 3				TEST PIT TOTALS	
	0-10 cm				10-20 cm				20-30 cm				30-40 cm				TOTAL	% TOTAL
	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL	BODY	RIM	TOTAL	% TOTAL		
Addis Plain <i>var. Addis</i>	145	6	151	90.96	265	7	272	94.44	37	1	38	79.17	15	1	16	84.21	461	91.83
Coles Creek Incised <i>var. Hardy</i>		1	1	0.80		1	1	0.35									2	0.40
Fatherland Incised <i>var. unspecified</i>					1		1	0.35									1	0.20
Harrison Bayou Incised <i>var. Harrison Bayou</i>					1		1	0.35									1	0.20
Mazique Incised <i>var. Manchac</i>	5		5	3.01			0	0.00					1		1	5.26	5	1.00
Plaquemine Brushed <i>var. Plaquemine</i>	7		7	4.22	7	2	9	3.13	9	1	10	20.83		1	1	5.26	26	5.18
Unclassified Incised straight-line incisions	2		2	1.20	4		4	1.39									6	1.20
Unclassified Punctated													1		1	5.26	0	0.00
TOTAL	159	7	166	100.00	278	10	288	100.00	46	2	48	100.00	17	2	19	100.00	502	100.00

Mazique Incised, var. *Manchac*, and Plaquemine Brushed, var. *Plaquemine* are more in line with a Coles Creek occupation than with a Plaquemine one. Although the time period remains basically the same (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1200), the St Gabriel phase, based on Woodiel's (1980) excavations at the type site, is now considered a Coles Creek cultural manifestation. This does not affect the few Medora or Delta Natchezan phase diagnostics that were present at Peter Hill. These allowed the authors to correctly identify a total site occupation span at between A.D. 1000 and 1700. Only now, the emphasis would be on the Coles Creek cultural component, rather than the subsequent and less-intense Plaquemine components.

Other studies that have a bearing on the above issue include works by Brain (1988) Brown (1983, 1985a), and Weinstein (1987b). These should be consulted for more detail on the chronological position of the various types and varieties recorded above.

Lastly, it should be noted that the Baton Rouge Chapter never made it back to the Peter Hill site to complete the remaining test pits, as was planned. Unfortunately, enthusiasm waned and people moved away. The site has not been forgotten, however, and recent research at the site, such as that by Jones and Shuman (1987), will continue to supply data important to unraveling the archaeological history of the locale.

## References

Brain, Jeffrey P.

- 1988 *Tunica Archaeology*. Paper No. 78. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Brown, Ian W.

- 1973 *Settlement Patterns in the Bluff Area of the Lower Mississippi Valley*. Unpublished Senior Honors thesis, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

- 1977 Historic Aboriginal Pottery from the Yazoo Bluffs Region, Mississippi. Paper presented at the 34th Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Lafayette, Louisiana.

- 1979 *Early 18th Century French-Indian Culture Contact in the Lower Mississippi Valley, as Revealed in the Study of Historic Archaeological Trade Materials*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island.

- 1983 Historic Aboriginal Pottery from the Yazoo Bluffs Region, Mississippi. In *Proceedings of the Thirty-fourth Southeastern Archaeological Conference*, edited by William H. Marquardt, pp. 1-17. Bulletin No. 21. Southeastern Archaeological Conference, Gainesville, Florida.

- 1985a *Natchez Indian Archaeology: Culture Change and Stability in the Lower Mississippi Valley*. Archaeological Report No. 15. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

- 1985b Plaquemine Architectural Patterns in the Natchez Bluffs and Surrounding Regions of the Lower Mississippi Valley. *Midcontinental Journal of Archaeology* 10(2):251-305.

Cotter, John L.

- 1951 Stratigraphic and Area Tests at the Emerald and Anna Mound Sites. *American Antiquity* 17(1):18-32.

- 1952 The Gordon Site in Southern Mississippi. *American Antiquity* 18(2):110-126.

Ford, James A.

- 1951 *Greenhouse: A Troyville-Coles Creek Period Site in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana*. Anthropological Paper No. 44, Pt 1. American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Hally, David J.

- 1972 *The Plaquemine and Mississippian Occupations of the Upper Tensas Basin, Louisiana*. Unpublished Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Howe, Henry V., Richard J. Russell, Fred B. Kniffen, James H. McGuirt, and Stanley M. McDonald.

- 1938 *Reports on the Geology of Iberville and Ascension Parishes*. Bulletin No. 13. Geological Survey, Lou-

isiana Department of Conservation,  
New Orleans.

Jones, Dennis and Malcolm Shuman

- 1987 *Atlas and Report on Prehistoric Aboriginal Mound Sites in Ascension, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, St. James, and West Baton Rouge Parishes*. Museum of Geoscience, Louisiana State University. Submitted to the Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.

Kniffen, Fred B.

- 1938 The Indian Mounds of Iberville Parish. In *Reports on the Geology of Iberville and Ascension Parishes*, by Henry V. Howe, Richard J. Russell, Fred B. Kniffen, James H. McGuirt, and Stanley M. McDonald, pp. 189-207. Bulletin No. 13. Geological Survey, Louisiana Department of Conservation, New Orleans.

Moore, Clarence B.

- 1913 Some Aboriginal Sites in Louisiana and Arkansas: Atchafalaya River, Larto Lake, Tensas River, Bayou Maçon, Bayou D'Arbonne, in Louisiana; Saline River, in Arkansas. *Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 16(1):6-93.

Phillips, Philip

- 1970 *Archaeological Survey in the Lower Yazoo Basin, Mississippi, 1949-1955*. Paper No. 60. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Quimby, George I.

- 1951 *The Medora Site, West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana*. Anthropological Series Vol. 24, No. 2. Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

- 
- 1957 *The Bayou Goula Site, Iberville Parish, Louisiana*. Vol. 47, No. 2. Fieldiana: Anthropology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

Steponaitis, Vincas P.

- 1974 *The Late Prehistory of the Natchez Region: Excavations at the Emerald and Foster Sites, Adams County, Mississippi*. Unpublished Senior Honors thesis, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

- 
- 1981 Plaquemine Ceramic Chronology in the Natchez Region. *Mississippi Archaeology* 16(2):6-19.

Weinstein, Richard A.

- 1987a Development and Regional Variation of Plaquemine Culture in South Louisiana. In *The Emergent Mississippian: Proceedings of the Sixth Mid-South Archaeological Conference*, edited by Richard A. Marshall, pp. 85-106. Occasional Paper No. 87-01. Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi.

- 
- 1987b The Rosedale and Shellhill Discs: "Southern Cult" Evidence from Southeastern Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeology* 11:65-88.

Williams, Stephen and Jeffrey P. Brain

- 1983 *Excavations at the Lake George Site, Yazoo County, Mississippi, 1958-1960*. Paper No. 74. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Woodiel, Deborah K.

- 1980 *St. Gabriel: Prehistoric Life on the Mississippi*. Unpublished Master's thesis, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.



## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### **Northwest Chapter Reported by Donald P. Duncan, Jr.**

David Jeane wrote an excellent report for our chapter for the winter 1988 L. A. S. Newsletter. In the report he gave an explanation for the work we do in Arkansas as well as Louisiana. We are most fortunate to be able to participate in the activities of both states.

David, Louis Baker, and I had the pleasure of participating in a Paleo-site dig in Arkansas this spring. The work was done under the supervision of Dr. Frank Schambach, with additional help from other members of the Arkansas Archeological Society. We have continued our work in the lab, sorting, numbering, and identifying the lithic artifacts recovered from the site.

Claude McCrocklin, Ruth Rainey, Jim Hardey, Craig Kennedy, and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Gibson have worked on historical sites, both in Arkansas and north Louisiana. Claude has been in contact with David Journey, Assistant Director of Archaeological Research at SMU, who has been doing considerable work concerning historical Indian settlements.

Jean Abney recently attended an Elderhostel at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. The courses and trips were primarily concerned with the Anasazi Indians. Restored pueblos, kivas, pottery, and history were observed and/or discussed. She was most enthusiastic about the entire course and discussions.

Several of our members, Jean Abney, Jack Norman, Harold Bruce, and myself, drove down to Dr. Pete Gregory's bailiwick in Natchitoches and visited the museum. Dr. Gregory was kind enough to give us a very nice tour. He took the time to go into the details concerning some of the exhibits that one normally does not have the privilege of hearing. Anyone who has not taken the time to visit the Northwestern museum should certainly do so.

Jack Norman took advantage of the lithic class that was taught in Natchez, Mississippi, in the spring. He gave a brief report and showed some of the results of his labor. He enjoyed it immensely, and hopes to improve his skill and knowledge of lithic technology.

This year we have had some excellent programs. They were as follows:

Tuesday, January 24, 1989 -- David Jeane -- "Fish Lake, a Site in South Hempstead County, Arkansas".

Tuesday, March 21, 1989 -- Dr. George Sabo -- "Thule Eskimos Adapt on South Baffin Island".

Tuesday, June 27, 1989 -- Robert Neuman -- "Coastal Archaeology of Louisiana".

Tuesday, July 20, 1989 -- An open discussion of future programs. Various members told of their travel and/or work regarding archaeology.

Tuesday, August 22, 1989 -- David Journey, Assistant Director of the Archaeology Research Program of SMU -- "Archaeological Visibility of Historic Indians".

Tuesday, September 26, 1989 -- Dr. George Shannon, Jr., will present a program to be named later. This program will be held at the State Museum auditorium.

As a final note, Dr. Shannon has moved to Shreveport and is the curator of the State Museum at the Fairgrounds. We are looking forward to meeting with him.

At present, our meetings are at 7:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of each month in Room 114 of Mickle Science Building, Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana.

### **Northeast Chapter Reported by David Jones and Claire Davis**

This report begins on a sad note. Shortly after the planned meeting in May, Paul Hodges, a founding father of this chapter and the L. A. S., passed away. He will be remembered with great fondness, and we wish to offer our condolences to his family.

The June meeting included a fine documentary film, entitled "The Search for the Lost Red Paint People".

We had a very fine party for Wayne and Ellen Abercrombie at the July meeting. Wayne and Ellen were transferred to Kentucky. Wayne has been a valuable asset to our chapter, and he will be missed. We also had a "show and tell" discussion concerning artifacts, pictures, and experiences from the

chapter dig at the Caldwell site.

Here is a calendar of the planned meetings for the next six months:

September 24-30 -- This is the Louisiana Archaeology Week. Chapter members will participate in a number of activities, both in Monroe and around the state.

September 29 -- Dennis Jones, of the Museum of Geoscience, LSU, Baton Rouge, will present a talk entitled "Prehistoric Investigations and Mound Explorations in Louisiana".

September 30 -- We will have our annual picnic at the Poverty Point State Commemorative Area. Picnic will begin around 10:00 am.

October 12 -- Our regular meeting will feature Mr. Carey Geiger, Gautier, Mississippi, an active member of the Mississippi Archaeological Association. Carey will present a paper, entitled "The Beaumont Gravel Pit Site, Perry County, Mississippi". The site has produced evidence of Transitional Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic cultures, on through the early Mississippi period.

October 28 -- This is a tentative date for a field trip. Mr. Sam Brookes of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and President of the Mississippi Archaeological Association, has invited us to join him in Natchez, Mississippi, where we will tour the Fatherland site, and other nearby locales.

November 17 -- Our regular meeting will once again feature Sam Brookes, archaeologist with the National Forest Service, and Dr. Jay Johnson, of the University of Mississippi, who will discuss "Benton Points, Turkey Tails, and Cache Blades: Middle Archaic Exchange in the Southeast. This program is a must for everyone!

December 8 -- We will have our annual Christmas party at the beautiful Bayou Desiard home of Ron and Nina Davis.

January 18, 1990 -- Our regular meeting will offer a slide presentation of our spring 1989 dig. We will also discuss plans for attending the State meeting in Alexandria.

February 15 -- Our regular meeting will feature John Belmont, an indepen-

dent archaeologist working in the Tensas Basin. His talk will focus on ceramic typology of northeast Louisiana, and cultural affiliations associated with pottery styles and designs.

Lastly, we would like to welcome John Belmont to northeast Louisiana. His guidance and expertise are welcomed with open arms.

If anyone has any questions concerning the schedule offered above, or has any comments, please contact Claire Davis at (318) 325-0782 or David Jones at (318) 396-7817.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Southeastern Archaeological Conference

The forty-sixth Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held November 8 through 11, 1989, at the Harbour Island Hotel in Tampa, Florida. The conference is sponsored by the Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida. Nancy White is Local Arrangements chair and Program Organizer.

A gala reception is planned on Thursday evening, November 9, at the Henry Plant Museum in conjunction with the ever-popular "Great Wines of SEAC". The hotel verandah, overlooking the gardens and the Hillsboro River, should be an ideal location for these events. A traveling exhibit on the De Soto entrada will be on view at the museum at that time, in celebration of the 450th anniversary of De Soto's landing at Tampa Bay in 1539.

For more information, contact Nancy White, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, 4202 Fowler Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33620, (813) 974-2150 or (813) 974-2209.

## PUBLICATIONS

The Archeological Society of Virginia (ASV) is pleased to announce two new publications -- *A Guide to the Identification of Virginia Projectile Points*, by W. Jack Hranicky and Floyd Painter, and *Using Geological Survey Topographic Maps*, by W. Jack Hranicky.

The first publication contains over 80 point types, most of which are found in the

Middle Atlantic area of the U. S. Each point type is well illustrated with high quality photographs and has documented type descriptions, distributions, and dates. The authors present an overview of how to identify the points and explain numerous factors that pertain to the Indian's choice of lithic materials, manufacture, and use of points. (100 pages, photos, maps, drawings, references, and index.)

The second book contains an overview of maps and map reading as it applies to archaeology; however, it can be used by anyone who wants to learn how to read USGS topographic maps. Every aspect of topo maps is explained and illustrated with actual examples. The book also covers satellite image maps, photomaps, and pictomaps. (65 pages, photos, drawings, tables, maps, references, chapter quizzes, appendices, and index.)

The publications may be purchased by sending \$11.00 (plus \$1.50 postage and handling) for the projectile point guide and/or \$6.50 (plus \$1.50 for postage and handling) for the map guide, to:

ASV Treasurer  
P.O. Box 41  
Courtland, Virginia 23837

Popular Archaeology is America's artifact and amateur archaeology magazine. It offers a world of archaeology that specializes in amateur archaeology and public involvement in preservation.

Its readers find out about archaeology's latest discoveries, where they can help out in excavations, how to learn and practice amateur archaeology, and who's who in American archaeology. Each issue contains high-quality photographs of artifacts, articles written by archaeological experts, cartoons, calendar of events, notices of new publications, an artifact or archaeology quiz, who's excavating sites that need help, and short articles about American prehistoric and historic archaeology, as well as some topics from worldwide archaeology.

The editor/publisher is W. Jack Hranicky, past president of the Archeological Society of Virginia and charter member of the Society of Professional Archaeologists.

Subscription rates are \$15.95 for one year (six issues) or \$24.95 for two years. Send subscription orders to:

Popular Archaeology  
P.O. Box 4190  
Arlington, Virginia 22204

