



# Louisiana Archaeological Society

## NEWSLETTER

CHERIE A. SCHWAB, NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
 COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS, INC. BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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### FROM THE EDITOR

The Central Louisiana Archaeology Club will host the 30th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society at the Alexandria Convention Center, next to the Hampton Inn, in Alexandria. The meeting will take place on February 6-8, 2004. The LAS is very proud to have Stanley South as our keynote speaker for this year's meetings. Dr. South will be presenting information about the Fort Santa Elena Site (1566-1587), South Carolina. There will be a reception on Friday night and a luncheon on Saturday. This year's meeting promises to be a memorable one that you won't want to miss. Register and make your reservations now!

A block of 50 rooms has been reserved at the Hampton Inn. The conference room rate is \$62.00 for singles and doubles. Mention that you are with the LAS conference when registering in order to get the conference rate. The deadline to secure the room rate is January 6th. The meeting pre-registration form and a "Call for Papers" is included in this issue.

Along with the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, this issue includes information on proposed changes to the LAS By-Laws to be voted on by the LAS members at the annual meeting in February. Please read these so that you can make an informed vote at the meetings.

We also have three articles in this issue: The first is provided by Mark Rees and concerns the UL of Lafayette fieldschool findings at the Amand Broussard house, as well as information on the Early Acadian Archaeological Project. Charles "Chip"

McGimsey has provided an article describing previous investigations and the methods used to date the Lac St. Agnes Mound in Avoyelles Parish. Finally, Ellen Ibert has provided us with an article summarizing the vast amount of archaeological survey work conducted at Ft. Polk.

I'm already looking for submissions for the next issue, so if you have a contribution, please send it along. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. Keep it up!

*Cherie Schwab*  
 Newsletter Editor

### Inside this issue. . .

<b>Minutes of the Louisiana Archaeological Society Executive Committee Meeting, May 31, 2003, Marksville, Louisiana</b> .....	2
<b>Minutes of the Louisiana Archaeological Society Executive Committee Meeting, September 20, 2003, Port Hudson State Historic Site, Jackson, Louisiana</b> .....	3
<b>Proposed Changes with the By-Laws</b> .....	6
<b>UL Lafayette Field School at the Amand Broussard Site and the Early Acadian Archaeological Project</b> .....	8
<b>Dating the Lac St. Agnes Mound (16AV26)</b> .....	12
<b>Fort Polk Archaeology</b> .....	14

MINUTES OF THE  
LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

May 31, 2003  
Marksville, Louisiana

Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, May 31, 2003, in Marksville, Louisiana. President Joe Saunders called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Members present were

Joe Saunders - LAS President

Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary

Josetta LeBoeuf - LAS Treasurer

Chip McGimsey - LAS Bulletin Editor

John Doughty, Jr. - LAS Web Master

Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Representative

Charles Parker - West LA Archaeology Club Representative

Reca Jones - Northeast Representative

Nancy Affeltranger - CLAC President

Ellen Ibert - WLAC

### Minutes

The minutes of the February 7, 2003 meeting of the LAS Executive Committee were read by Secretary Maureen Downey. There being no corrections or additions, Chip McGimsey motioned that the minutes be approved. Nancy Affeltranger seconded the motion and motion passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

### Treasurer

Joe Saunders proposed Josetta LeBoeuf be appointed the new treasurer to replace retiring David Jeane. He expressed the thanks of the LAS for all the excellent work that David has done in that position for so many years. Josetta was unanimously approved by the Executive Committee. Josetta and Joe Saunders will contact David Jeane to arrange matters regarding the change in the position of treasurer.

### Membership

Newsletter Editor Cherie Schwab commented that the latest membership information needed to be obtained from David Jeane. Joe Saunders will contact David regarding membership.

### Bulletin Report

Chip McGimsey has agreed to become the new Bulletin Editor. He reported on the status of Bulletin No. 25, 1998, *The 1980-82 Excavations on the Northwest Ridge 1 at the Poverty Point Site*, Robert P. Connolly. This Bulletin will be in the new 8.5" x 11" format. Chip expects the Bulletin to be mailed shortly. He has begun work on Bulletin No 26, 1999. Chip said that a couple more articles are needed for that volume. Bulletin No. 27, 2000, will likely contain Robert Connolly's current research on Poverty Point. Nancy Affeltranger stated that she has an article that she would like to submit either to the Bulletin or Newsletter if it is completed in time. Suggestions were made and discussed for future Bulletins.

### Newsletter Report

Newsletter Editor Cherie Schwab reported that the next Newsletter would be mailed as soon as the latest membership information was obtained. Joe Saunders furnished Cherie with information from the Louisiana Archaeological Conservancy to be included in the Newsletter. Cherie requested submissions for the next newsletter.

### Web Site

Junior Doughty reported that the web page was averaging 17 visits a day. He reminded everyone to purchase their books from Barnes & Nobles through their logo at the LAS web site. He reported a commission of 5 %, or \$14.68 this period. Junior had outlined the specifications for enabling credit card usage on the web site at the last Executive Committee meeting. He stated implementation of the process will begin as soon as Josetta has completed the treasury transfer. The Executive Committee approved reimbursement of web site expenses to Junior. Junior will develop guidelines for articles placed on the web site.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Updating LAS Brochures

Cherie Schwab reported that the new LAS brochure would be completed once new photos were

submitted to her for the updated version.

### 2003 Annual Meeting

Josetta LeBoeuf stated that there were 93 registered attendees at the 2003 Annual Meeting. Eighty-three persons attended the banquet. Revenue generated in excess of costs incurred was \$86.00. The \$86.00 was awarded to Rick and Valerie Bordelon for partial compensation of hospitality expenditures made by them.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Revision of the LAS Logo

Nancy Affeltranger made a motion, seconded by Cherie Schwab, and passed by the Committee, to consider revision of the present LAS Logo. Nancy and Margerette Cheramie will present some options at the next Committee meeting.

### West Louisiana Archaeology Club

The West Louisiana Archaeology Club will be the newest chapter of the LAS. Joe Saunders will determine the procedure to follow and will supply the club with that information.

### Speaker's Bureau

The Committee discussed updating and placing information regarding the LAS Speaker's Bureau on the web site. Chapters are reminded that the LAS will provide \$100 per year for speaker expenses.

### LAS Volunteers List

Discussion was held on placing the Volunteers List on the LAS web site. Action on this was deferred to a future meeting.

### 2004 Annual Meeting

Nancy Affeltranger announced that the 2004 Annual Meeting would be held at the Louisiana Convention Center, Hampton Inn, Alexandria, Louisiana. Rooms will be \$62.00. Stanley South will speak on the Fort St. Helena site in South Carolina.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Josetta LeBoeuf announced that Louisiana Archaeology Week will be September 28 - October 4, 2003. The goal is to have 80 events this year. She asked for volunteers.

Joe Saunders will notify the Executive Committee of the next meeting date.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Cherie Schwab and seconded by Chip McGimsey, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and President Joe Saunders adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

After the meeting, Chip McGimsey illustrated the process of procuring core samples. He gave a tour of curated core samples from the Marksville site and explained the stratigraphy of the site.

## MINUTES OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 20, 2003

Port Hudson State Historic Site  
Jackson, Louisiana

Reported by  
Maureen Downey  
LAS Secretary

The Executive Committee of the Louisiana Archaeological Society met Saturday, September 20, 2003, at the Port Hudson State Historic Site. LAS members toured the museum and Fort Desperate and watched a demonstration of the firing of a black powder, muzzle-loading rifle.

President Joe Saunders called the meeting to order at 12:20 a.m. LAS members present were

Joe Saunders - LAS President  
John Polk - LAS Vice President, Delta Chapter Representative  
Maureen Downey - LAS Secretary  
Josetta LeBoeuf - LAS Treasurer  
Chip McGimsey - LAS Bulletin Editor  
Cherie Schwab - LAS Newsletter Editor  
Charles Parker - LAS At Large Representative  
Margarette Cheramie - CLAC Representative

Reca Jones - Northeast Chapter Representative  
Nancy Affeltranger - CLAC President  
Rick Bordelon - Baton Rouge Chapter President  
Ellen Ibert - WLAC

Vickie Bordelon - Baton Rouge Chapter  
Lena Polk - Delta Chapter

## MINUTES

The minutes of the May 31, 2003 meeting of the LAS Executive Committee were unanimously approved with one correction to members present. Although listed in the meetings as present, John Guy, Jr. was not present at the May 31, 2003 meeting. The motion to approve with correction was made by John Polk and seconded by Cherie Schwab.

## REPORTS

### Vice President

John Polk reported that he has contacted parish schools and libraries regarding membership in the LAS, but was waiting for the new brochures before proceeding further. He presented information on digital camcorders but recommended that purchase of one be deferred until they become less expensive. John plans to transfer the VHS tapes of past LAS Annual Meetings onto DVDs. To do so, he needs to retrieve the VHS tapes of past meetings from the person who now has them.

### Treasurer

With the approval of the Executive Committee, Josetta LeBoeuf has transferred the LAS account from the Springhill bank to the Hibernia Bank in Baton Rouge. At present the checking account balance is \$872.00. Josetta reported that there were insufficient funds in the checking account to cover all expenses for the last Bulletin. Nancy Affeltranger motioned that one of the Certificates of Deposit be cashed-in. John Polk seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### Membership

Josetta LeBoeuf is updating the membership list from information received from David Jeane. Erica Roberts was the winner of the Best Student Paper at the 2003 Annual Meeting and has been awarded a free year's membership. Chip McGimsey remarked that many long-time members were not renewing their memberships. John Polk commented that increasing membership would be one of his main goals next year. Joe Saunders suggested that increased opportunity for members to participate in fieldwork would help increase membership. Nancy

Affeltranger reported on the success of her high school archaeology club and remarked that these were the future members of LAS. Josetta said that members needed to be reminded that membership dues were increased at the 2003 Annual Meeting to \$20.00.

### Bulletin Report

Chip McGimsey reported that Bulletin No. 25, 1998, *The 1980-1982 Excavations on the Northwest Ridge 1 at the Poverty Point Site*, Robert P. Connolly, in the new 8.5" x 11" format, has been mailed to the membership. Cherie remarked that although the printing was faster, expenses for this Bulletin were slightly higher primarily because of the large number of tables and figures. Joe Saunders complimented Chip and Cherie Schwab on the excellent quality of the Bulletin. Cherie will investigate reduction of publishing expenses for future bulletins. Chip has begun work on Bulletin No 26, 1999. The Bulletin is already formatted and Chip hopes to have it out early next year. Suggestions were made and discussed for future Bulletins.

### Newsletter Report

Newsletter Editor Cherie Schwab reported that under 220 of the latest newsletter were mailed reflecting the decrease in membership. She said that some people had not received the newsletter because the membership list was not up-to-date at the time of the mailing. However, she is now sending the newsletters to those who did not receive it. Cherie requested any submissions for the next newsletter be sent to her right away because she expects to have that newsletter out within the next few weeks.

### Web Site

Junior Doughty is recovering from surgery. The Committee wishes him a speedy recovery.

## ONGOING/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### LAS Brochures

Cherie Schwab reported that the new LAS brochure is ready except for photos. She again asked that people send photos to include in the brochure.

### West Louisiana Archaeology Club

Ellen Ibert, Secretary of the WLAC, reported on the club and on its progress in becoming a chapter of the LAS.

### Revision of the LAS Logo

Nancy Affeltranger submitted drafts of revised logos. She will present further options at the next Committee meeting.

### 2004 Annual Meeting

Nancy Affeltranger reported that plans for the 2004 Annual Meeting to be held in Alexandria are well under way. She has applied for a grant and explained how she plans to fulfill the requirements. Speakers are still needed for the meeting. Anyone wishing to give a paper, please send an abstract to Nancy as soon as possible. The presentation by Stanley South on the Fort St. Helena site in South Carolina will be open to the public.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Amendment to LAS Bylaws

In order to make it easier to begin new chapters, Joe Saunders proposed an amendment to the LAS bylaws that would change the required number of chapter members belonging to the LAS from ten to five. John Polk made a motion to place this amendment for vote by the membership at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Maureen Downey seconded the motion which was passed unanimously. Announcement of the proposed change to the bylaws will be placed in the newsletter.

### Guidelines for Bulletin Submissions

Josetta LeBoeuf made a motion that the guidelines for submissions include the requirement that sites reported on in the Bulletin must be recorded sites. Charles Parker seconded the motion. Motion passed. Joe Saunders will investigate the steps necessary to include the requirement in the guidelines.

### Announcements

Louisiana Archaeology Week: September 28 - October 4, 2003.

Second Annual Tulane Maya Symposium and Workshop: October 31 - November 2, 2003. For further information go to <http://stonecenter.tulane.edu/html/Maya03>.

Proposed site of next Executive Committee meeting: Fort Polk, Louisiana. Members will be notified of time and date.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Josetta LeBoeuf and seconded by John Polk to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously and President Joe Saunders adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m



LAS Executive Committee Meeting, Port Hudson.

## LAS Delta Chapter Speakers

September 25th, 2003  
Thursday 7:30 pm  
Joe Saunders, PhD  
Archaic Mound Research and  
update on DC work conducted at  
Hornsby

October 30th, 2003  
Thursday 7:30 pm  
Rob Mann, S.E. Regional Ar-  
chaeologist  
French Colonial Site at Point  
Coupee

November 20th, 2003  
Thursday 7:30 pm  
Juana Ibanez, MS  
Prehistoric Agriculture in  
North Central New Mexico: The  
Gallina Culture

## **PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS TO BE VOTED ON AT THE 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**#1 Currently, ten members are required to form a Chapter. With the decrease in Society membership, it is suggested that only five members be required to form a Chapter.**

Article V - Local Chapters

Section 1

Ten or more members of the Society may organize for the purpose of furthering the interests and objects of the Society on a local level and may petition the Executive Committee for the authorization to become a Chapter of the Society.

### PROPOSED CHANGES

Section 1

*Five or more members of the Society may organize for the purpose of furthering the interests and objects of the Society on a local level and may petition the Executive Committee for the authorization to become a Chapter of the Society.*

**#2 Although not formally required (as in the By-Laws), Society checks currently require the co-signature of the Treasurer and President. This should be elevated to a formal requirement in the By-Laws.**

Article III - Officers, Executive Committee, Editor, and Duties

Section 4

The president shall be the presiding officer of the Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee. He/she shall appoint members of the Society to special committees as necessary. With the approval of the Executive/Committee, he/she is authorized to sign contracts and agreements in the name of the Society. He/she shall be responsible calling elections and with the Executive Committee, shall nominate a slate of officers to be voted on by the Society. He/she shall exercise all other duties and

responsibilities commonly associated with the office and as provided by the Articles of incorporation and By-Laws.

#### Section 6

The treasurer shall maintain the Central Office of the Society, shall dispense notices of dues, shall register all applications for membership in the Society, shall issue to the membership a yearly report on membership status, shall receive, and administer the finances of the Society at the regulation of the Executive Committee, shall keep adequate records and shall make these records available upon the request of the Executive Committee, shall make an annual report to the membership on the financial status of the Society, and shall maintain a current mailing list for publications. He/she shall be authorized to give bond. He/she shall sign all checks.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES

#### Section 4

*The president shall be the presiding officer of the Society and Chairman of the Executive Committee. He/she shall appoint members of the Society to special committees as necessary. With the approval of the Executive/Committee, he/she is authorized to sign contracts and agreements in the name of the Society. He/she shall be responsible calling elections and with the Executive Committee, shall nominate a slate of officers to be voted on by the Society. He/she shall exercise all other duties and responsibilities commonly associated with the office and as provided by the Articles of incorporation and By-Laws. He/she shall co-sign all checks.*

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**Visit [www.laarchaeology.org](http://www.laarchaeology.org)  
to find the latest news, volunteer opportunities,  
and more!**

# UL LAFAYETTE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL AT THE AMAND BROUSSARD SITE AND THE EARLY ACADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

Mark A. Rees

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette conducted fieldwork at the former location of the Amand Broussard house in Iberia Parish between December 10, 2002 and January 13, 2003. The excavations were part of the 2002 winter intersession archaeology field school and marked the beginning of the Early Acadian Archaeological Project (EAAP). The underlying objective of the field school was to train students in archaeological methods and techniques. The immediate goals of the investigation were to document the site through survey and topographic mapping, obtain representative samples of artifacts through systematic shovel testing, and investigate potentially intact cultural features. A brief summary of the fieldwork is presented here, followed by a description of the long-term goals of the EAAP.

## Background

The Amand Broussard house, also known as "Fausse Pointe," is thought to have been constructed sometime around 1790 and would have been considered large for its day (Haltom n.d.; Vermilionville n.d.). The house was originally located on the east bank of the Bayou Teche near the present-day village of Loreauville. It was moved to New Iberia for restoration in 1979 and donated to Vermilionville in 1989. The house is currently on display at Vermilionville Heritage Park in Lafayette as an excellent example of late eighteenth-century *poteaux sur sol*, *bousillage*, and hand-hewn cypress architecture.

Amand Broussard (also known as Armand and Amant) was the son of Joseph "Beausoleil" Broussard, noted Acadian leader and commandant of the Attakapas district. They were part of the Acadian exodus to Louisiana following their expulsion from Nova Scotia at the hands of the British. Amand was born in Chipoudy, Acadia around 1754 and arrived in Louisiana in 1765 at the age of 11 (Segura 1983). Along with other displaced Acadian families, the Broussards settled along the banks of the Bayou Teche between present-day New Iberia and St. Martinville. These communities dispersed following the epidemic of 1765 and settlements were established along the Teche Ridge to the north, and east of the prairie escarpment (Brasseaux 1987; Rees 1976).

Amand received a Spanish land grant in 1772 and expanded his holdings during the next two decades, apparently acquiring the land on which the house was built around 1788. The Broussard estate became a prosperous cattle and cotton plantation by the time of Amand's death in 1818. Anne Benoit, Amand's widow, received half of his estate, alone valued at more than \$65,000 (Segura 1983; Taylor 1980). The Broussard probate inventory provides a detailed list of table settings, farm implements, produce, and livestock (St. Martin Parish 1818). He owned 28 enslaved African Americans, a mark of social status among Acadian households by the early nineteenth century (Brasseaux 1987:196). Besides the main house, the buildings included a separate kitchen, two barns, a potato shed, school house, cotton mill and press, stone mill, and blacksmith shop. After Anne Benoit's death in 1830 the house passed out of the family from Anne Thibodaux, widow of Edward Broussard, the eldest son of Amand Broussard and Anne Benoit.

Despite the historical significance of the Broussard house there had been no previous attempt to examine the associated archaeological record. In fact, there have been few previous investigations in the area and none have focused specifically on Acadian sites (but see George et al. 2000; Smith 1983). The Amand Broussard home site (16IB75) was selected for investigation because it had been the residence of a second-generation Acadian family, was located in an area thought to have initially been settled during the 1760s, and much was already known about the house at Vermilionville. The former home site was identified through interviews with local residents



and research at the Iberia Parish and St. Martin Parish courthouses.

### Preliminary Results of the Field School

When the site was first visited in November of 2002 a few core samples confirmed the presence of brick fragments in the former location of the house. The building was *poteaux sur sol* or "posts on sill" construction, with brick and cypress block piers visible under the house in historic photographs. A series of aerial photographs were used to examine changes in the landscape and built environment over six decades, beginning in 1940. The relative positions of the house and several outbuildings were estimated by superimposing information from the aerial photographs onto a contour map of the site (Figure 1). However, it is still unclear whether the location of the house in the 1940 aerial photograph was its original location, which might have been closer to the bayou. Several shallow depressions were observed within the estimated location of the house despite attempts by a landowner to level the area.

Systematic shovel testing at 10-meter intervals produced evidence of the distributions of different classes of artifacts, site stratigraphy, and the position of cultural features. Square test units (TU) measuring 25-by-25-cm were excavated in order to cover a larger area at this interval within the allotted time. A total of forty-six 25-by-25-cm test units were excavated in the area around the main house and along two transects extending to the west and south. Despite the fact that the area had been graded, the distributions of different classes of artifacts from the test units corresponded to the estimated locations of buildings and what appear to have been activity areas. Glass shards, historic ceramic sherds, and brick fragments clustered around the 1940s location of the house. In comparison, the distribution of bone corresponded with a building described by a local informant as a barn or corncrib.

Site stratigraphy and cultural features were investigated through

the excavation of four 1-by-1-meter test units and one 1-meter-by-50-cm test unit. Two discrete cultural features were identified during the field investigations. Feature 1 was initially observed on the ground surface as a circular, periodically water-filled depression approximately 15 meters (49 ft) south or southeast of the former location of the house. Feature 2 was discovered within TU 48, a 1-by-1-meter unit excavated in the area of highest artifact density as determined by systematic shovel testing. In addition, a dark, organic-rich soil was encountered in TU 51, approximately 35 meters (115 ft) to the southwest (Rees et al. 2003).

Feature 1 was initially described by one informant as the former location of a large cedar tree. Historic fill was encountered at depths exceeding a 1-meter core in the center of the depression, surrounded by a relatively shallow B-horizon. Upon excavating a narrow test unit partially bisecting the depression (TU 47), numerous large glass-bottle shards were encountered within historic fill. A second, 1-by-1-meter unit was excavated in hopes of bisecting the southern quarter of the feature (TU 49). A trash pit with well-defined edges extended to a depth of 80 cm within these test units and appeared to continue descending to the north.

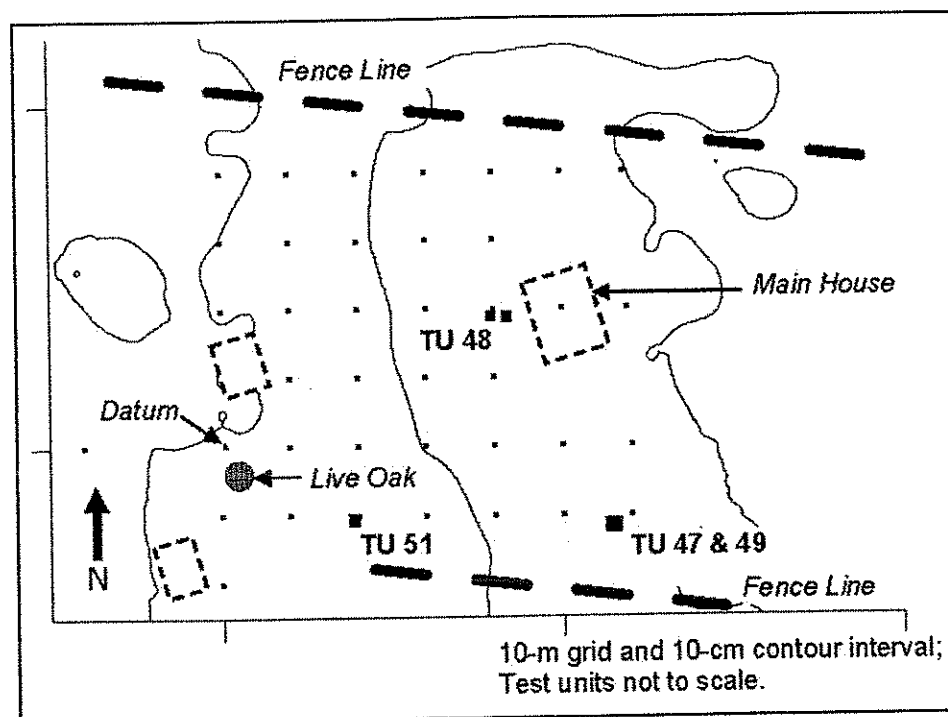


Figure 1. Map of the Amand Broussard site (161B75), showing the estimated locations of buildings based on the 1940 aerial photograph.

The wide range of artifacts from this feature suggest a mixed, secondary context spanning more than two centuries of site occupation and use, from the late eighteenth century until the 1990s. Unfortunately, time constraints prevented further investigation of this feature. It is presently unknown whether it merely represents a tree fall subsequently used as a trash dump, or perhaps an intentionally constructed feature into which a tree had grown.

Feature 2 was at first identified as a small pit in the southwest corner of TU 48. Upon further investigation it appeared to be a narrow, relatively shallow trench dug into the sterile B-horizon, visible in the west and south walls of the excavation unit. It may represent a portion of a presumably longer trench, although this must be confirmed through additional investigations. The trench-fill contained brick fragments, plaster, and a few sherds of pearlware. Considering its position on the site and relatively small size, it does not appear to have been associated with the main house.

A dark-stained, organic-rich soil was encountered in TU 51, at a depth of approximately 15 to 30 cm below surface. It contained large amounts of brick, bone, and ceramic sherds. Unlike Feature 1, it appears to represent a transposed, primary context or midden, potentially dating from the earliest period of historic habitation. The midden yielded two kaolin pipe stems, a large number of edge-decorated, annular, and hand-painted pearlware sherds, mocha ware, and creamware sherds. While the artifact assemblage from the entire site spans the late-eighteenth through the late-twentieth century, the midden and Feature 2 appear to represent undisturbed, relatively intact deposits. This is especially noteworthy considering nearly continuous occupation and the reported leveling of the site.

### **Summary and Future Research**

The results of the 2002 field school demonstrate that cultural features dating from the first decades of Acadian settlement can be identified in the region. Field school participants produced a topographic map of the site and obtained information on the locations of buildings from aerial photographs and local informants. Two cultural features were identified and tested, including what appeared to be a narrow builder's trench and a deep trash pit.

A dark-stained midden was identified dating from the late eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century. Additional investigation of the site and surrounding area is warranted in the event of future development or landscape modifications.

Much remains to be learned about the Amand Broussard site, including the purpose of the features, the locations of other outbuildings such as slave cabins, and potential earlier location(s) of the main house. The wide range of artifacts collected by a landowner throughout the area suggests an even more extensive occupation dating from the late eighteenth century. The Amand Broussard site may itself contain evidence of settlement pre-dating construction of the house now on display at Vermilionville.

The broader implications of this study underscore the potential for the archaeology of Acadian settlement in the region. An unknown number of historic sites represent an understudied and as yet, virtually untapped source of information on the cultural landscape of the Teche Ridge and Fausse Pointe area. The long-term goals of the Early Acadian Archaeological Project include investigating methods for locating as-yet-unidentified campsites of the first generation of Acadian settlers. Through systematic survey and testing of historic sites it may eventually be possible to examine local Acadian culture and social history through the archaeological record.

The difficulties in identifying early Acadian sites are likely to be compounded by the transient qualities of temporary shelters, potentially short duration of occupancy, and subsequent land modifications, not the least of which is deep plowing associated with sugarcane cultivation. The earliest Acadian houses are thought to have been impermanent shelters utilizing local materials such as palmetto (Ancelet et al. 1991:117-118). Despite these challenges, the archaeological visibility of early historic sites is more than likely adequate for a regional survey.

Combining archival research with oral history interviews and reconnaissance will allow for the identification of high-priority areas for archaeological survey. In addition, the EAAP will provide an opportunity for combining historical archaeology, historic preservation, and public education. Accelerated suburban development in the region during the past

few decades underscores the critical need for research on Acadian settlement—before the last vestiges of the archaeological record are obliterated or paved over.

### Acknowledgements

The hard work of students and volunteers was essential to the success of the UL Lafayette 2002 archaeology field school. Lance Blanchard, Thomas Jones, Rene "Chip" Lorio, Daniel Palmer, Christi Rouly, Lanelle Urias, and Lisa Woodward are to be commended for their efforts. Kaitlin Deslatte assisted as a volunteer. Justin Theriot served as assistant field supervisor and lab assistant with Polly Taunton. The field school benefited immeasurably from the owners of the Amand Broussard site. It could not have been accomplished without their hospitality, goodwill and generosity. Cindy Trahan and the staff at Vermilionville Heritage Park contributed historical and architectural information on the Broussard house. John Anderson, Director of the Cartographic Information Center at Louisiana State University, provided aerial photographs. The author would like to thank all those who contributed to the project.

For additional information on the EAAP or UL Lafayette archaeology field schools, contact Mark Rees in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, or via email at markrees@louisiana.edu.

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## DATING THE LAC ST. AGNES MOUND (16AV26)

*Chip McGimsey*

*Southwest Regional Archaeologist*

The Lac St. Agnes Mound is located on the southeastern shore of Lake St. Agnes just south of the Red River in Avoyelles Parish. It is 16.5 m in diameter and up to 3 m high. In 1971, the landowners, the Dupuy family of Marksville, contacted Robert Neuman at Louisiana State University about the possibility of undertaking an investigation of the site. Site visits and discussions with Mark Dupuy, Jr. and other family members led to a decision to excavate the site in 1972. Directed by Alan Toth, several test pits were placed into the midden area around the mound, and one-fourth of the mound was excavated. The results of this project are reported in a publication by the Louisiana State University Museum of Geoscience (Toth 1979).

Collections from the village midden indicate the site was occupied, at least occasionally, for more than 1,000 years, with components dating to the Marksville, Baytown, Coles Creek and Mississippian periods. The village tests indicated the latter two occupations were the best represented. The excavation of the mound employed a backhoe and a bulldozer to remove its southwestern quarter, exposing a profile nearly 4 m high. Close inspection of the deposits did not identify any burials or features in the mound fill, until the bottom meter of the mound was reached. A series of hand-excavated units removed the basal portion of the mound fill. They encountered seven burial pits containing an unknown number of individuals.

Alan Toth interpreted the mound as having been built in a series of stages over nearly 1,000 years. The first stage was a low platform containing several burials erected during the late Marksville period (AD 200 - 400). This platform was covered by up to three stages added during the Baytown period (AD 400 - 700). Additional stages were added during the Coles Creek period (AD 700 - 1100) and Plaquemine period (AD 1100 - 1400). During this final stage, another burial pit was placed on the crest of the mound.

At the time of the 1972 project, the excavators were concerned they did not reach the base of the mound (due to the water table). Mark Dupuy, Jr., has encouraged the author for many years to revisit the site, in large part to determine the base of the mound. With the recent acquisition of a Giddings soil coring machine by the Regional Program, such an investigation became possible. In June of this year, the author and Mark Dupuy, Jr., returned to the site with the coring rig. A single 5 cm diameter core was placed in the approximate center of the mound.

The core extended to approximately 5.4 m below the mound summit, nearly two meters below the base of the mound. The mound sits upon at least two fining upward sequences of sand and sandy loam sediments that grade into a silty clay, indicating this location is an aggrading surface, perhaps a natural levee. These deposits probably represent events in the Lac St. Agnes channel of the Mississippi River lying immediately north of the site; this channel is a Stage 2 or 3 channel active between 4,000 and 1,000 BC (Saucier 1994). The pre-mound surface below the mound had been stripped down to the top of the Bt horizon at the onset of construction.

The mound stratigraphy revealed by this core is nearly identical to that mapped by Toth (1979:Figure 6). It consists of beautifully basket-loaded sediments from the summit to 3.45 m below surface. The matrix is predominantly a sandy loam fill with occasional loads of silty clay. No evidence of weathered surfaces or soil development was noted at any point within this core. Some bone was encountered 30 cm below the surface and may represent another Mississippian burial pit near the surface; the bone was reburied in the core.

This core indicates the 1972 excavation did reach the base of the mound. But the absence of surfaces and soil development within the mound does not support the model of staged construction hypothesized by Toth. In an effort to resolve this question, the 1972 collections curated at the LSU Museum of Natural Science were inspected in hopes that materials useful for dating were present. With the help of Rebecca Saunders and Steven Fullen of

the Museum, a sample of charred wood and cane from Feature 5, one of the burials at the base of the mound, was located and permission given to submit a portion of it for dating. The sample returned a calibrated median age of 1175 BP (AD 775; 13C/12C ratio = -26.4) with a 2-sigma range of 1270 - 1065 BP (AD 680 - 885) (Beta-181354). This result clearly establishes the initial mound stage as a Coles Creek period event. Together with the absence of surfaces noted in the core, it suggests the mound was built in a single stage sometime between AD 700 and 900. The Mississippian burials noted near the surface represent a late re-use of an existing mound.

Confirmation of this revised interpretation of the mound's age and construction history will require further investigation at the site. But this core and date indicate the mound has a different history than originally thought. As noted above, Toth interpreted the stratigraphy as indicating initial construction during the late Marksville period (AD 200 - 400). Subsequent researchers have followed this interpretation and identified the site as a late Marksville and Troyville (AD 400 - 700) period earthwork (Jeter et al. 1989; Neuman 1984). Ford (Ford and Willey 1941; Ford 1951) had suggested flat-topped pyramidal mounds first appeared in Troyville times, although later researchers (Williams and Brain 1983; Belmont 1982) argue they are rare in these contexts. Two of the sites often used to argue for Troyville pyramidal mounds are Lac St. Agnes and Baptiste (16AV25); both of which can now be demonstrated to date after this period (see McGimsey and Cossey 2000 for Baptiste). Kidder (2002) notes that Troyville-age mounds are rare south of Lac St. Agnes; they are even rarer with the removal of Lac St. Agnes from this group. Perhaps the relative absence of Troyville mounds south of the Red River is an early manifestation of the 'Harrisonburg line' inferred for the subsequent Coles Creek period (Gibson and Belmont 1988).

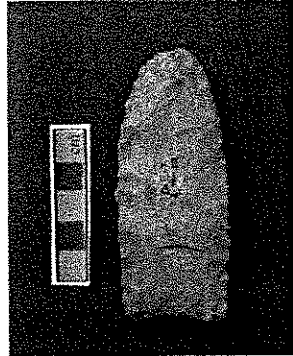
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# FORT POLK ARCHAEOLOGY

Ellen Ibert  
Fort Polk

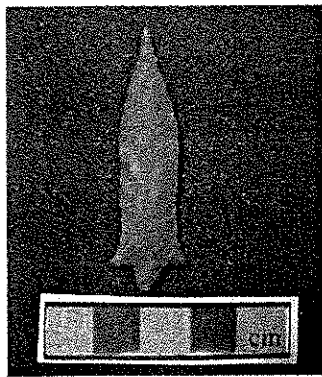
Fort Polk has been conducting archaeological survey work for thirty years in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106. As a result, the installation is the most extensively surveyed area in the state of Louisiana with approximately 2892 sites, excluding isolated finds, located within the installation's boundaries. Now, this survey work is nearing its completion.



Clovis

Approximately ninety percent of the collection is prehistoric. The collection has excellent research potential for historical upland settlements patterns, prehistoric hunting and gathering patterns, prehistoric mining and extraction, historic and prehistoric migrations, neutral territories

between social groups, western frontier, and military history. Prehistoric time periods covered at Fort Polk date from the Clovis and San Patrice Cultures (ca. 12,000 to 7,000 B.P.) through the Plaquemine and Caddoan Cultures (ca. 1,200 to 300 B.P.). Some evidence of a Plano



Hayes

Culture and even protohistoric sites have also been recovered on the installation. No grand ceremonial grounds have been discovered at Fort Polk.

The area's history includes the western expansion frontier days, including wagon-train migrations, refuge of outlaws



Coffee Pot



Clay Turpentine Cups

and Native American Indians, upland settlement patterns, land prospectors, logging, and the turpentine industry, Civilian

Conservation Corps, and the development of the Kisatchie National Forest.

The military history at Fort Polk primarily consists of WWII, the Louisiana Maneuvers, continuing on through today. The surrounding area is related to cavalry units tracking outlaws, Santa Ana's battle against the Texas Revolution, Texas independence, disputes on United States and Mexican borders, and the Civil War.

An expansion of knowledge about the past lifeways in West-Central Louisiana has resulted from the thirty years of archaeological work at Fort Polk. Numerous academic and contract agencies have participated in answering many questions about this area's past. However, there are still many questions left to answer and even more questions yet to be asked.



WWII Canteen

The Fort Polk Environmental and Natural Resources Management Division, Cultural Resources Management Office, is dedicated to the preservation of the area's history and the expansion of knowledge in the field of archaeology. For more information about Fort Polk Cultural Resources contact Ellen Ibert at 337-531-0916.

# Archaeology Field School

## Department of Sociology and Anthropology University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The Plaquemine Mounds Archaeological Project (PMAP) at UL Lafayette will hold its second archaeology field school during the winter intersession of 2003-2004. The PMAP is investigating poorly known Native American mound sites dating from the Mississippi period (ca. A.D. 1100-1700) on the western edge of the Atchafalaya Basin in south-central Louisiana. It is a three-year project intended to generate previously unavailable information on Plaquemine culture in the region, support professional development and collaboration, and increase participation in archaeological research. Objectives for the first year include the identification and assessment of mound sites with potential for yielding Plaquemine components. Field school participants will learn mapping techniques, conduct systematic coring, and perform test excavations at local mound sites.

The field school will meet Monday through Friday between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm, from December 8, 2003 to January 10, 2004. Transportation will be provided from the UL Lafayette campus. Participants must apply for admission and be enrolled at UL Lafayette for the winter intersession in order to receive six hours of college credit (Anth 490G). Archaeological Records (Anth 499G), a co-requisite course, will be offered during the spring semester, 2004. Descriptions of the 2001 field school and PMAP appeared in the last *LAS Newsletter* (30[1]:16-21) and can be found online at <http://www.ucs.louisiana.edu/~mar8527/pmap.html>. For additional information contact Dr. Mark A. Rees, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, P.O. Box 40198, University of Louisiana Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504-0198; 337-482-6045; email: [markrees@louisiana.edu](mailto:markrees@louisiana.edu).

**30th Annual Meeting  
of the  
Louisiana Archaeological Society  
February 6-8, 2004  
Alexandria Conference Center  
Alexandria, Louisiana**

The Central Louisiana Archaeological Society is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the 2004 annual meeting of the LAS. The meetings be held at the Alexandria Conference Center next to the Hampton Inn on February 6,7, and 8:

A block of 50 rooms have been held for conference participants at a rate of \$62 for both singles and doubles. Reservations can be made by phone, toll-free at 1-800-426-7866 and must be made by January 6 to receive the conference discount (remember to indicate that you are with the LAS). You are advised to make reservations as soon as possible.

The meeting will officially begin with a welcoming reception on Friday at 8pm. Papers will be given on Saturday with a luncheon.

We are honored to have Dr. Stanley South as our the keynote speaker this year. He will give a presentation on Santa Elena (1566-1587) on Saturday.

Please contact Nancy Affeltranger 318-640-9258 (affeltrangern@rapides.k12.la.us) with any questions or concerns about the upcoming conference.



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Send all notes, news, and other communications to: Cherie A. Schwab, Newsletter Editor, 7325 Meadowbrook, Ave., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810. If possible, articles should be submitted on computer disk or via email, preferably in Microsoft Word or Word Perfect, although most other word processing programs can be translated. Digital figures can be submitted on disk or via email in a TIFF or PICT format or in hard-copy format, if necessary. Questions regarding format should be directed to the editor (225) 767-2090, email: chereeba@cox.net. Style should conform to the guidelines published in *American Antiquity*, Vol. 57, No. 4 (Oct. 1992).

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### OFFICERS

- President:** Joe Saunders, Department of Geosciences, ULM, Monroe, Louisiana 71209. Tel. (318) 342-1899. email: president@laarchaeology.org
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- Bulletin Editor:** Charles McGimsey, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Louisiana Lafayette, P.O. Box 40198, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504. Tel. (337) 482-5198. email: bulletin@laarchaeology.org
- Newsletter Editor:** Cherie A. Schwab, 7325 Meadowbrook Ave., Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70810. Tel. (225) 767-2090. email: newsletter@laarchaeology.org
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