

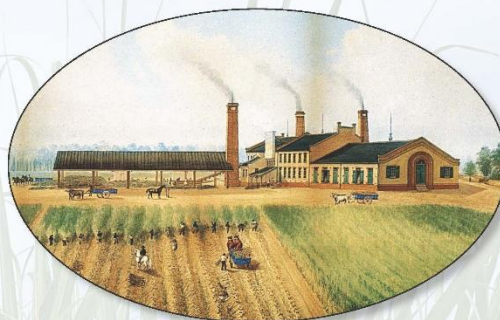
NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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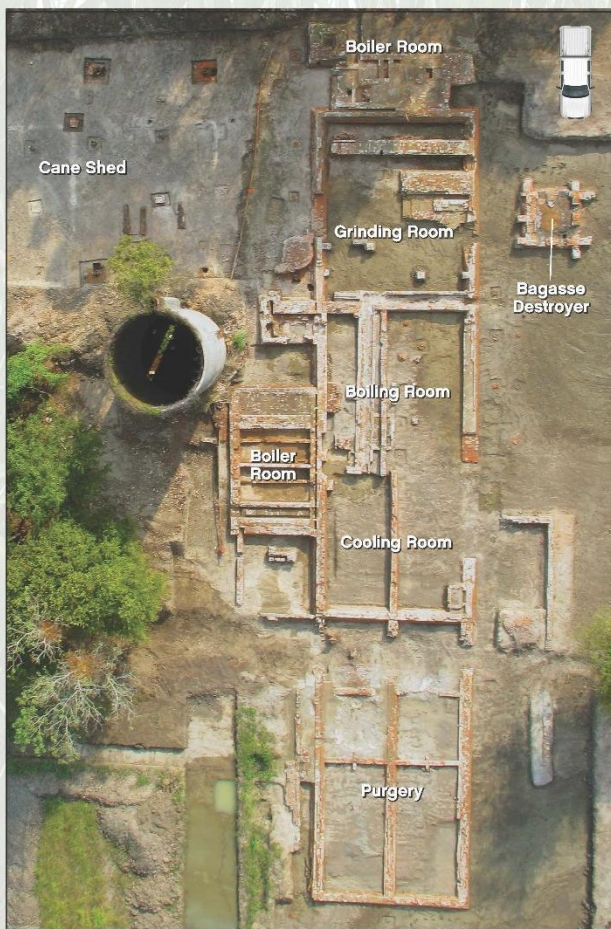
Uncovering the Foundations of the Louisiana Sugar Industry



Boiler end plate and setting at Plaisance Sugarhouse (1830-1890).

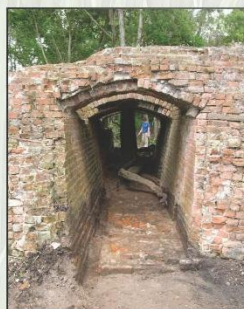


Filverlake Sugarhouse in the late 1850s.



Arcadia Sugarhouse (1851-1880) post excavation.

Sugar has been important to Louisiana for over 200 years. In 1850, south Louisiana had over 1,500 sugarhouses, which ground sugarcane, processed the juice, and produced raw sugar crystals. Antebellum sugarhouses were built piecemeal and regularly repaired, remodeled, and enlarged. Their archaeological remains reflect these changes and, in turn, the culture and history of the many people, free and enslaved, who erected and worked in these once common structures.



Grinder foundation at Greenfield - Allemania Sugarhouse (1840s-1914).



Cane shed post and cistern base at Arcadia Sugarhouse.



Boiling and Cooling Room in Antiqua, West Indies, in 1823.

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

J. Lynn Funkhouser, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

As the autumn leaves turn and the Halloween decorations appear, we find ourselves at the threshold of one of our most anticipated times of the year—Louisiana Archaeology Month. This year's Archaeology Month promises to be particularly special, with nearly thirty events scheduled throughout October and into early November, spanning every corner of our state.

From Shreveport to Nw Orleans, Monroe to Lake Charles, there are programs happening in communities throughout Louisiana. You'll find lectures, hands-on activities at museums and historic sites, demonstrations, and family-friendly events. Attend a lecture on sacred spaces and historic cemeteries, participate in hands-on activities at our state's premier museums and historic sites, witness a Revolutionary War reenactment, or join us for something completely different—archaeology trivia night at a local brewery! Highlights include the 9th Annual Intertribal Basketry Summit in Marksville, International Archaeology Day celebrations at Poverty Point World Heritage Site, and talks on topics ranging from historic cemeteries to Acadian settlements.

I encourage each of you to mark your calendars and participate in at least one Archaeology Month event. Bring your family, invite your neighbors, and share your enthusiasm for Louisiana's past. Whether you're a long-time member of our society or someone simply curious about Louisiana's remarkable history, you'll find something to enjoy.

This issue of the *LAS Newsletter* brings together field reports and research that demonstrate the breadth of archaeological work happening across Louisiana. Our contributors take us from LSU's first campus in Pineville to the earthworks of Poverty Point, from Union Parish excavations to a critical examination of Louisiana's sugar plantation heritage.

Several threads connect these diverse articles. Multiple authors emphasize balancing research goals with site preservation and community concerns. The Old LSU and Poverty Point teams both adapt their methods to site-specific challenges—one using heavy equipment for a cistern, the other re-opening previous excavations.

Student training appears across articles, from formal field schools to chapter-based education programs. Finally, there's a shared commitment to refining our methods, whether through new analytical techniques, systematic typological studies, or connecting archaeological findings to contemporary social issues. These articles remind us that Louisiana archaeology encompasses everything from Archaic projectile points to 19th-century industrial sites, and that our work serves scientific, public, and descendant community interests.

On the Cover: The 2025 Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology, Archaeology Month poster features images from the Arcadia Sugarhouse excavations, highlighting how archaeological work continues to uncover the buried history of Louisiana's plantation system. These investigations provide concrete evidence of both the technological innovation and human suffering that characterized sugar production, ensuring that the full story of Louisiana sugar's impact on America continues to be told through material culture and modified landscapes. The Arcadia Sugarhouse site contains the remains of sugar processing equipment, quarters for enslaved laborers, and the personal belongings of the people who lived and died there. Archaeological findings include tools, pottery, jewelry, and other artifacts that tell the story of resistance, community building, and cultural preservation among enslaved populations.

Thanks to all who are organizing and hosting archaeology month events this year.

See you out there!

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FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

Old LSU Field School 2025

Trevor Chapman, Michael Conger, Tyler Drake, Tamara Engels, Cristan Huckelba, Christian Nguyen, Nikki Normand, Mikalyn Shay, Morgan Wheeler

From May 27th to June 27th, 2025, the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University (LSU) hosted a field school for the Old LSU Site (16RA49). Nine LSU anthropology students participated in Conan Mills' thesis research. The field school took place on LSU's first campus, located in Pineville, Louisiana, on the outskirts of the Kisatchie National Forest and through a partnership with the Forest. Kisatchie National Forest Heritage Program Manager and LSU Department of Anthropology Adjunct Professor Matthew Helmer and LSU Department of Anthropology graduate student Conan Mills co-led and supervised the field school.

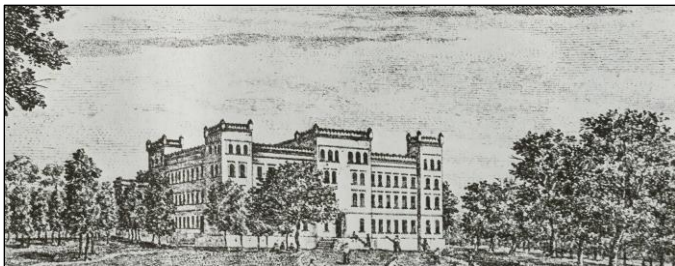


Figure 1. A drawing of Louisiana State Seminary of Learning & Military Academy before it burnt down.

The OLSU Site (16RA49) was occupied from 1859 to 1869, until it was subsequently burnt down. It was first utilized as Louisiana State University's original campus, originally named Louisiana State Seminary of Learning & Military Academy (Fig. 1). The school closed during the Civil War in 1861 but was later used by the Confederacy as a hospital between 1863 and 1864. The school reopened in 1865 after the war was over. The site consisted of a multi-story building and in its current state has limited surface architecture, but extensive subsurface ruins as seen in units such as TU1, TU2, TU5, and TU6B (Fig. 2).

May 27th to June 20th was excavation work at the site, while the last week of June consisted of lab work at the Anthropology Lab at the LSU Museum of Natural Science in Foster Hall on LSU's main campus. This article is comprised of the nine LSU students' accounts of the field school from the shovel tests (STs), to excavations on site, and concluding with lab work. The shovel test and

excavation units were mainly excavated with shovels and trowels, except for Test Unit 1 (TU1), in which the excavation started with shovels but later required the use of an excavator to dig out a cistern which was discovered during the excavation (Fig. 3). Prior to beginning field work at Pineville, Conan conducted rounds of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), which was used to determine where we would open up TU2 and TU3.

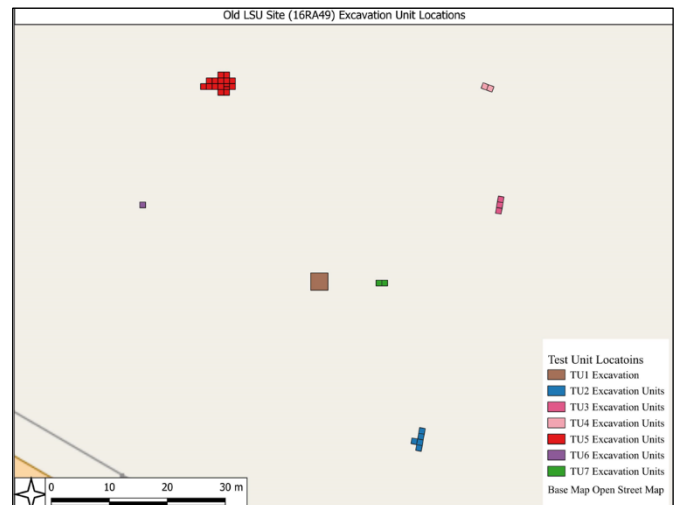


Figure 2. Location of each test unit, courtesy of Conan Mills.



Figure 3. Excavator pulling dirt out of the cistern.

TU1 was a test unit with the biggest yield of artifacts in quantity and historical significance, and was located in the middle of what was once the quadrangle of the main Old LSU campus building. It started as a search for a silver coin identified by a metal detector, but a hole was found while digging. At first, we speculated it to be a drainage system but, as we expanded, the "hole" became something a lot bigger. We now know that TU1 was used as a cistern while the Seminary was in operation but was later used to throw away debris after it burned down.

TU1 was not a traditional test unit due to the cave-like nature of the cistern, so the main goal was to clear out and sift through as much soil in the cistern as we could. We focused our sifting on the piles of dirt most relevant to the time period of interest, resulting in high yields of interesting artifacts. For instance, a heavy stone was found that had to be lifted by the excavator. It has a flat, teardrop-shaped surface with a cross etched on the tip (Fig. 4). One of our instructors, Conan, believes that it had engravings later removed by Confederates due to mentions of the Union.



Figure 4. Headstone from above front doors of Seminary, words chiseled out later by Confederates.

Another intriguing artifact was found early on, confirming that the refuse in the cistern was mixed with artifacts dating to both the school's initial occupation and later re-occupation after abandonment. It was a button from a military uniform, likely a Confederate soldier housed at the Seminary during the Civil War. Later in our digging, we found a large, hollow piece of an ornate column which we believe was from the interior of the building and pushed in when it burned down. This gives us another clue as to what the building looked like, as our only reference is two drawings of the exterior of the building, neither of which show the columns.

Additionally, TU1 (Fig. 5) provided a glimpse into how the land was used years after the school had burned down. Within the backfill near the top of the cistern, artifacts from, at the latest, 1952 were present, including several small car parts, late historic bottles, and ceramics. Preliminary analyses suggest the bulk of the reoccupation materials date to the early 20th century,

likely associated with Camp Stafford, a National Guard assembly once located in the area. A more modern, inactive pipe passed through the brick ring of the cistern and out the other side, one which we had to cut through to continue excavating. A gazebo was built on this site in the 1940s, so we believe the pipe was used for a surrounding water fountain. This, in turn, begs the question of how the cistern wasn't found until our excavation, given that many operations were done upon this plot of land following the destruction of the Seminary.



Figure 5. Drone photo of TU#1. Photo courtesy of Conan Mills.

TU2 was one of the other first units opened. Conan opened it on the pretense that we would be excavating the previously collapsed eastern wall of the southeast tower of the building. The georeference of the GPR data was off by a meter to the east of the corner's location, so we ended up actually excavating the northwest wall of the tower. Nonetheless, we made some interesting discoveries, the most notable being a relatively intact wall lying under a gravel deposit that had once been a road (Fig. 6). On either side of the wall we found clay-like layers which were presumably layers of brick that had been rendered clay again. At Conan's instruction, we went down around thirty additional centimeters in sections TU2A and TU2B to see if the clay was an actual wall or just a rubble deposit. When looking at the stratigraphic profile, we sadly did not find any signs of articulated bricks, therefore resigning ourselves to the possibility that it was likely just a layer of brick rubble.

While we didn't find any major artifacts in this unit, TU6A provided us with important information on the landscape of the site. The depth that we found the burn layer at lined up with the depth of the ground at the

bottom of the hill we were digging on top of. This discovery led Conan and Dr. Matthew Helmer to suggest that the landform the seminary building was on may have been artificially created by some of the rubble of the over one million fallen and burned bricks from the Seminary. This hypothesis was further backed by the fact that these modified landforms were only located around exactly where the building was once located.



Figure 6. Drone photo of TU#2. Courtesy of Conan Mills.

During Conan's GPR rounds, he discovered a few anomalies to be targeted for field work, one of which being a circular feature believed to be a small cistern in the northeastern corner of the site. We opened TU3 at the most accurate reading of the anomaly. According to the maps we had available from the time period and the gravel found in the stratigraphy, we determined that a gravel road ran through where the test unit was placed. Though the gravel was a strange, new change in strata, it wasn't the only unique feature of our 1x3 meter unit.

Throughout the early days of excavation, we had been informed to stop digging at red clay as that soil was assumed to be sterile—in other words, red clay retained no artifacts from the period of interest. Soil of the same type (red clay, silt, etc.) is typically level unless the ground is disturbed. As the team on TU3 dug deeper into unit TU3A, it became apparent that the western wall's red clay went deeper than the clay found throughout the unit (Fig. 7). We did not hit red clay on the western wall until about a meter deep from our datum line. The cause of this disturbance is unknown, but it was potentially caused by bioturbation or animals burrowing in the area found while digging. Though TU3 was originally believed to harbor a cistern, no such anomaly was found.

TU4 started out as a simple ST, but further digging indicated articulated brick, resulting in an expansion to a

1x1 meter TU. The first twenty centimeters were conclusive with the ST and the bottom floor showed articulated brick rubble in the northwest, northeast, and southeast corners. A large chunk of concrete in the southwest corner matched concrete found elsewhere on the site. We also found one large burn section which was collected for sampling. Flooding closed off work on 4A and 4B opened in hopes to find connected concrete. Once we arrived at the 20-30 cm level, we started gaining large bottle glass fragments, notably two complete Welch's Jr. bottles dating to the early 1900s. This unit was concluded to have been used as a trash area after the time of the Seminary, although the brick found in the 30-40 cm level was still conclusive with the time period of interest.



Figure 7. Western wall of TU3A, where the red clay was deeper than the rest of the unit.

TU5 was also placed due to the results of an ST. Morgan had mentioned that there may be the possible corner of a structure in ST 5 on transect 2. Conan performed a quick GPR survey next to the ST and the results confirmed the possibility of potential brick foundations.

TU6A was located near the northwestern end of the Seminary and was opened in tandem with TU6B. TU6A (Fig. 8) was opened on the outside of the existing ruins of the seminary building already present at the site, or the kitchen area, while TU6B was opened on the inside of it. Our hope with these units was to find artifacts of importance near the walls where the fire that burned the Seminary started. We reached the sterile level without

finding the burn layer that was expected and were instructed to dig further regardless. In only half of the unit underneath the sterile layer, we found a brick layer made up of old, charred, burned bricks used in the original construction of the building, giving us reason to continue digging. We finally located the burn layer, deeper than expected, where we found many charred brick fragments and other small, charred artifacts.



Figure 8. Final aerial view of TU6A.

TU6B was located on the inside wall of the commissary, opposite TU6A (Fig. 9). The unit walls matched up with the structure of a hollow brick protrusion that was filled in around the early 1900s. The first few layers yielded a cluster of artifacts ranging from different periods due to a fill on the site in the 1920s. This included a padlock, bottles (Fig.10), an oil can, and a flag holder. The first hypothesis was that the structure could have been a chimney leading into the kitchen just above the commissary, but we found no signs of this structure having charcoal or other burned material, concluding it was not a fireplace. Further down we ran into red clay and brick rubble, eventually uncovering brick foundations in a stair-like pattern. We concluded that the structure was a hollow buttress used as a support for the kitchen that was directly above the commissary. Ultimately, TU6B supported evidence of the site's poor construction methods, lack of proper planning for the building, and the multi-component nature of the site.



Figure 9. Inside wall of the kitchen area, presumably where a destructive fire started.



Figure 10. Intact bottle found in TU6B. The side reads "THREE IN ONE".

A year prior to the excavation at Pineville, Dr. Helmer found decorated metal railings in a rootball on site. TU7 was opened in the vicinity of his findings as Conan suspected a balcony would have fallen near the area. While there were no significant artifacts procured from this TU, the rootball presented us with further architectural details.

Lab work began in the last week of June, and it was predictably easier than field work. With one week to clean and classify all of the artifacts we gathered, we finished surprisingly early on our last day (Fig. 11). One of our main goals was to determine which artifacts were diagnostic, or distinctive. Some notable finds consisted of a ceramic plate with an almost complete maker's mark from TU5, many intact bottles, uniform buttons, and several locks.



Fig. 11. Artifacts cleaned during lab work.

This field school proved to be invaluable experience and an amazing opportunity to further our respective career paths. We all learned so much: how to excavate, how to identify artifacts, how to classify soil, and how to clean and classify the artifacts we found. While there were some bumps in the road, such as flooding and several sick cases, we can confidently say that this was an amazing journey. We extend our thanks to Conan and Dr. Helmer for making this possible for us.



Figure 12. Our crew!



are recovered on any given excavation often are attributed to lithic material or flintknapper preference. I imagine most archaeologists see the double notches, say “Evans point”, and that is as far as it goes. However, when viewed in sufficient numbers, the differences form discernible morphological clusters. Preliminarily, we have identified six distinct major variations of the Evans points, with serrated versions constituting four sub-variations (Figure 2).

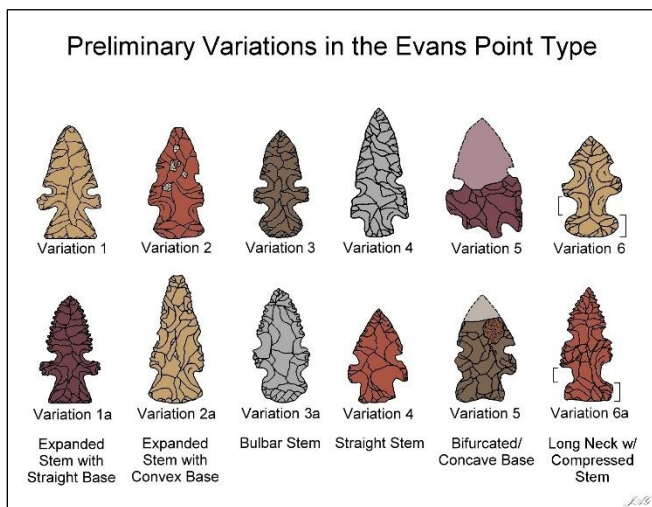


Figure 2. Preliminary observed variations in Evans morphology.

By doing a detailed study, we will investigate the possibility of splitting the Evans type into varieties based on morphological attributes. Additionally, by acquiring enough site provenience data we should be able to determine a rough distribution of each variety in Louisiana and eastern Texas and which varieties, if any, occur together. Another goal of the study will be to find enough documentation to link the different morphological traits to strata and depth, creating a temporal (early to late) sequence of the variations. At one site in Vernon Parish, Louisiana, two well-made, expanded stem variants with straight basal edges (Var. 1 & 1a) were recovered in a level considerably below a cruder Evans with irregular stem (Mills, personal communication; Mills and Johnson 2024). Evidence such as this will help build a picture of the vertical distribution of Evans’ variability, hopefully enhanced by radiocarbon dates in the future.

One surprising preliminary result of the attribute analysis, once calculations for the Evans’ extra notches were removed, was the clustering of Neches River and Evans types. Archaeologist James Morehead thought that the serrated Neches River point could be the west

Louisiana-east Texas equivalent of and somehow related to the Early Archaic Kirk point that occurs primarily east of the Mississippi River (James Morehead, personal communication 2016). The apparent morphological correlation between the Neches River and Evans point suggests the Kirk-like Neches River type is the precursor of the Evans. If so, the finely crafted early Evans could be the link between the two types. In fact, Morehead noted to me “I’m inclined to think that Evans is derivative and...’the last hurrah’ of the ‘Kirk’ concept (James Morehead, personal communication 2016).” We are excited to see if these observations pan out and what else these data can tell us.

Anyone wishing to assist in the recordation process or have their Evans points (10 or more) recorded can contact me for more information or to coordinate a time and place to meet. Stratigraphic information also welcomed.

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Modern Methods, Historic Units: Re-excavating Poverty Point

Olivia Baumgartel

Over the course of four weeks in May and June of 2025, Dr. T.R. Kidder and Dr. Maggie Spivey-Faulkner led re-excavations of seven units at Poverty Point. Yes, you read that correctly, re-excavations of units that have been previously dug by other archaeologists from the 1970's to 1990's. This may lead to the question of why would these people who are trained or are being trained to do archaeology, be digging up someone else's work? Because Poverty Point is a World Heritage site. Lots of excavations have already been conducted, and we want to avoid needlessly damaging the site while also respecting the wishes of Indigenous descendant communities. We are balancing protecting the site while developing data to understand how, when, and why this site was created (Figure 1). By re-opening these previous units, we can see what past archaeologists had seen many years ago and take samples from those units for new ground-breaking research (no pun intended) that has developed in the past decades (Figure 2). These four sampling types are explained in detail below.



Figure 1. Viewing Mound A and Poverty Point from a different point of view.

Micromorphology: One way to understand how a site was formed is to look at it on a microscopic level. Since we cannot bring a microscope directly into a unit, we must bring the unit back to the microscope. To do this, we take an intact chunk out of the profile, typically where there is a transition from one type of deposit or event to another (Figure 3). Once back at the lab, we let these dry, fill them with resin, cut them into very thin slivers, and grind them so thin that light can pass through them.

Using a high-powered microscope, we can detect information about how the site was created that we can't see with the naked eye.



Figure 2. Dr. Kidder and WashU student studying the stratigraphy of a unit.



Figure 3. Outer Coast student placing boxes for micromorphology samples.

pOSL (portable Optically Stimulated Luminescence): In archaeology, while we do have absolute dating through radiocarbon dating, relative dating is one way to tell how quickly the site was formed. We took the samples using pieces of 2-3" PVC pipe that were hammered into the unit walls in 10 cm increments (Figure 4). These will be sampled to see the last time the sediment saw daylight. If there are hundreds of years between each deposit, or no time at all, we will be able to see that clearly through the data we get from these samples.



Figure 4. WashU student placing pOSL samples.

Bulk sampling: To get high resolution data on the soil for tests that will be conducted in the lab, soil samples were taken at 2 cm increments from ground surface to sterile soil (Figure 5 and Figure 6). From these, we can look for the types of sediment used in making earthen ridges. For examples, did they use clay, or sand, do these types of sediment in the ridges match ones we find in nature or were they created by the Indigenous builders? We can also look for changes in magnetic properties. These changes can isolate human from natural processes and detect changes in use that might not be visible to the excavator.

Sedimentary DNA: Sedimentary DNA will tell us what kind of plants and/or animals were in the environment on a molecular level. This way we will see more than just the plants that leave behind macro remains like seeds and nuts or rely only on the bones that were preserved. This approach is experimental but we have had good results from limited testing so we hope we will get a better picture of the environment at the site (Figure 7).



Figure 5. Bulk samples taken in two cm increments.



Figure 6. Bulk samples and micromorphology samples in same unit.



Figure 7. Dr. Kidder taking sedDNA samples.



Figure 9. Pontchartrain Point in situ.

The thought that has surely made its way to the forefront of your mind is, okay so you took a lot of soil samples, but what did you find? Where are the artifacts? The whole point of this excavation was to not find any artifacts because that meant that we were looking in the right place for the old units. However, like with any science there was trial and error. We found several projectile points and because of the enormous amounts of Poverty Point Objects at the site, we found quite a few of those, even in the backfill of previous units (Figure 8, Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11).



Figure 10. Jaketown Perforators.



Figure 8. A cylindrical grooved PPO.



Figure 11. Macon Point from backfill.



Figure 12. The crew from Washington University in St. Louis were joined by students and professors from Outer Coast College in Sitka, Alaska, Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, University of Alberta, Canada, University of Louisville, Kentucky, Mississippi State University, and University of Wisconsin.



Figure 13. A team of geotechnical engineers from University of Wisconsin led by Dr. Bill Likos joined the crew to test the soil structure in a few of the units.



Figure 14. The crew visiting the Lower Jackson Mound with Jessica Crawford and Nikki Mattson from the Archaeological Conservancy.



From the Middle Archaic to the Late Woodland: D'arBonne Diggers Explore Two Union Parish Sites

Tom Fields

The D'arBonne Diggers completed two successful excavations in early summer 2025. The Diggers returned to 16UN153, on Middlefork Bayou at the upper end of Lake D'arBonne, and opened a second site on Bayou DeLuttre.

The Middlefork Site once again provided evidence of a significant midden, evidenced by large quantities of pottery sherds (over 3,000 pieces) (Figure 1). All artifacts were washed, identified, and the data entered into the Darbonne Chapter data base (Figure 2). The findings will be presented to the LAS Conference in 2026.

Middlefork is a Coles Creek site, with similar sites in the area. The site is approximately five acres in size in a heavily wooded, though protected, area on a timber plantation. One Dalton point was excavated, and the area of discovery will be excavated next season. Two other potential sites within the area have been also been identified.

The Diggers opened a second location at Wade, 16UN158 (Figure 3). Limited plain ceramic wares and numerous pieces of lithic debitage recovered. This site had previously been lightly explored, yielding artifacts such as Evans points, sinner points, and fish net weights. This mid-archaic site is approximately five acres in size; however, the actual layout is still being defined.

The Wade site is only accessible by side-by-side or four-wheeler vehicles (Figure 4). The location is along the beautiful DeLuttre Bayou. A foliage canopy is so dense that it was difficult to see artifact details at certain times of the day. The sandy soil differs from the Middlefork Site with Middlefork composed of a higher percentage of clay. Recovered materials have been washed and will be sorted and identified before the end of the year.

The Wade site has a sister site, 16UN159, located north of 16UN158, and has yet to be surveyed. This will take place in 2026. Two other sites have been identified and will be surveyed later this year.

Finally, the Diggers have developed a successful education and outreach program to promote archeological knowledge and heritage stewardship in

north Louisiana. Located at the Union Museum of History and Art in Farmerville, the Diggers have brought in several archeologists to speak to both the chapter and local community and we regularly travel to present information to local organizations including the Marion Garden Club, the Union Parish Library, and the Pioneer Day Celebration at the Lake D'arBonne State Park.



Figure 1. 16UN153 – Middlefork.



Figure 2. Wash day at the Union Museum of History and Art in Farmerville.



Figure 3. 16 UN 158 – De Lutre.



Figure 4. Wade staging area.



Figure 5. Visitors at Wade.



Sweet Brutality: Louisiana Sugar and the Making of America

J. Lynn Funkhouser and Parker Chouest

The story of Louisiana sugar cane is inseparable from the story of America itself - a narrative that brings together innovation and exploitation, economic prosperity and human suffering, technological advancement and social devastation. From plantations along the Mississippi River to the marble halls of Congress, Louisiana's sugar industry fundamentally shaped the economic, political, and social fabric of the United States. This sweet commodity became one of the most powerful forces in early American development.

Louisiana's sugar industry began with Jean Étienne de Boré's successful granulation of sugar cane juice at his plantation in what is now New Orleans' Audubon Park in 1795 (Figure 1). The first true commercial sugar house was established by de Boré in 1796 and marked the beginning of Louisiana's transformation into America's "sugar bowl." This pioneering facility modified techniques learned from refugees escaping the Saint-Domingue revolution in the West Indies who fled the violence with their technical knowledge intact. The industry expanded rapidly throughout the antebellum period, with hundreds of sugar houses dotting the Louisiana landscape by the 1850s. Among the most significant early operations were those established by the Boré family, the Tureaud plantation sugar house, and the influential operations run by families like the Bringiers and the Fortiers, who perfected the techniques that would dominate the industry for decades.

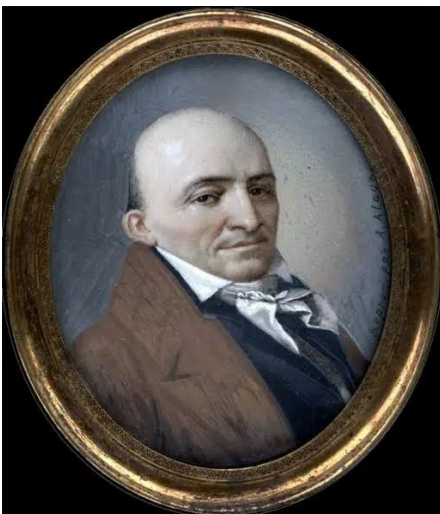


Figure 1. Jean Etienne de Bore, Portraiture, Louisiana State Museum.

An antebellum Louisiana sugar plantation was far more than an agricultural operation - it was a carefully orchestrated system of industrial-scale human exploitation. The physical layout reflected the harsh realities of sugar production, with each component designed to maximize efficiency while minimizing the humanity of the enslaved workforce. At the heart of every plantation stood the sugar house, a massive industrial complex containing the grinding mills, boiling kettles, and crystallization equipment necessary to transform raw cane into refined sugar. The mill typically featured a series of three vertical iron rollers powered by steam engines, mules, or oxen, designed to crush the cane stalks and extract their precious juice (Figure 2). Adjacent to the sugar house was the bagasse house, where the fibrous pulp left after juice extraction was stored and used as fuel for the boiling process. The quarters, arranged in neat rows, housed the enslaved workers whose labor made the entire operation possible.

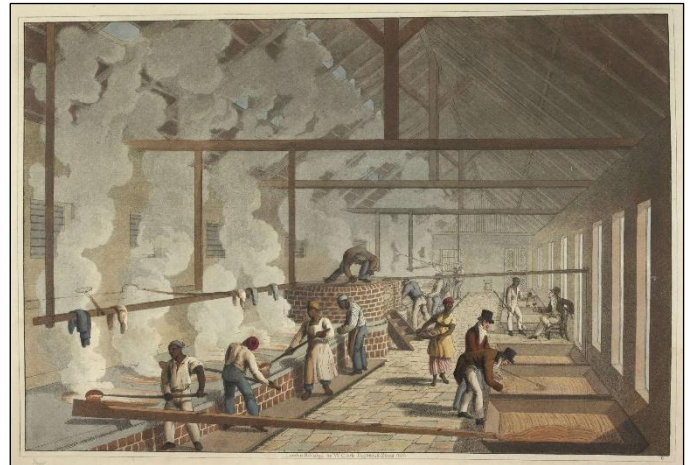


Figure 2. Interior of a Boiling House by William Clark, example of a Caribbean style sugar manufactory circa 1820s from Encyclopedia Virginia.

The conditions faced by enslaved workers on Louisiana sugar plantations were among the most brutal in all of American slavery. The combination of backbreaking labor, dangerous machinery, and the relentless pressure of sugar production created a death trap that consumed human lives at a horrifying rate. Life expectancy for enslaved people on Louisiana sugar plantations was significantly lower than on cotton plantations or in other forms of agricultural labor. The process of feeding cane stalks into the crushing mills resulted in frequent accidents - hands, arms, and even entire bodies were caught in the machinery and crushed or severed. The boiling house presented equally deadly hazards, with workers required to tend massive cauldrons of boiling

sugar juice at temperatures exceeding 200 degrees Fahrenheit. Burns from splashing syrup or contact with hot metal surfaces were common, and many workers died from scalding injuries. The heat and humidity of the Louisiana climate, combined with the additional heat from the boiling operations, created working conditions that regularly killed workers from heat exhaustion and dehydration.

Beyond the accidental deaths, deliberate violence was a constant presence. Overseers and owners used whips, branding irons, and other instruments of torture to maintain discipline and extract maximum productivity. The combination of industrial machinery and plantation brutality created a uniquely deadly environment where human life was expendable in pursuit of sugar profits. Among the most notorious figures in Louisiana's sugar empire was Meredith Calhoun, whose brutal treatment of enslaved workers on his Cane River plantations provided inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's seminal work, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The novel enshrined Louisiana sugar plantations as symbols of slavery's most extreme brutalities and transformed an abstract political debate into a visceral emotional response, creating the moral urgency that would eventually lead the United States to civil war.

Among the most powerful tools of resistance and resilience on Louisiana sugar plantations was the Louisiana Creole language itself - a linguistic bridge that connected African, French, Spanish, and Turtle Island cultures into a unique communication system that plantation owners could neither fully understand nor completely suppress. Enslaved workers used Kouri-Vini (Louisiana Creole) to coordinate work slowdowns, plan escapes, and share information about brutal overseers or impending sales. The linguistic complexity of Louisiana Creole, with its African grammatical structures underlying a European vocabulary, created a form of code-switching that allowed enslaved people to communicate resistance strategies in the presence of French-speaking owners and overseers who might catch individual words but miss the deeper meanings embedded in African linguistic patterns. Creole also served as the language of cultural preservation, maintaining African religious practices, folktales, and worldviews that sustained psychological resistance to dehumanization. The famous Br'er Rabbit stories, for example, preserved and transmitted through Kouri-Vini oral tradition, carried messages about surviving through

cleverness and community solidarity that directly challenged plantation hierarchies and in consequential ways (Figure 3).



Figure 3. *Compair Lapin Br'er Rabbit & The Tar Baby and other Louisiana Créole Folk Tales* by Norman Marmillion, published work of Br'er rabbit oral stories collected by Alcee Fortier from Louisiana Creole community.

The last of the traditional plantation sugar houses ceased operation in the early 20th century, as consolidation and mechanization transformed the industry. The Cinclore Plantation sugar house, established when the Laws family purchased Marengo Plantation in 1878 and renamed it, represents the transitional period between antebellum plantation agriculture and modern industrial sugar production. By the 1920s, centralized factories had replaced the individual plantation sugar houses, marking the end of an era built on small-scale, labor-intensive production. The health consequences of Louisiana's sugar legacy, however, have extended far beyond the plantation era, creating a modern public health crisis in Louisiana that disproportionately affects the very communities once enslaved in its sugar fields.

Historically, the sugar consumed by enslaved workers on Louisiana plantations came primarily from the less refined byproducts of sugar production—molasses and raw sugar that contained more nutrients than modern refined sugar (Figure 4). Ironically, today's descendants of enslaved sugar workers are consuming far more processed sugar than their ancestors ever did, but in forms stripped of any nutritional value and combined

with other processed ingredients that compound health risks. Louisiana today has some of the highest rates of diabetes, obesity, and related chronic diseases in the United States, with Black communities bearing the heaviest burden of sugar-related health problems, experiencing higher rates of chronic health conditions across the board including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and obesity (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Photograph of Laborers on Sugar Plantation circa 1880s from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

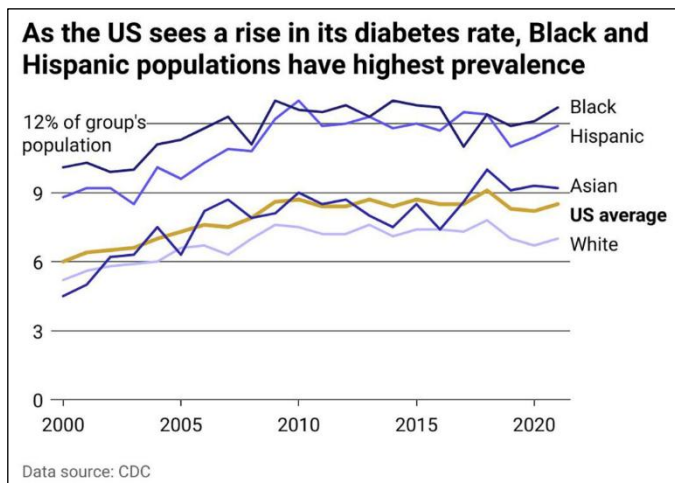


Figure 5. Diabetes rates among US adults from Northwell Health, 2023.

Louisiana sugar cane shaped America by demonstrating both the nation's capacity for innovation and its tolerance for brutality. Archaeological research on Louisiana sugar plantations continues to reveal new aspects of this history, ensuring that the full impact of Louisiana sugar on American development will continue to be researched and better understood. From the first successful granulation in 1795 to the last traditional plantation sugar houses of the early 20th century, Louisiana sugar created a legacy that shaped not only the

American South but the entire nation's economic, political, and cultural development. Understanding this history is essential for addressing the contemporary challenges of health disparities and social inequality that remain rooted in Louisiana's, and America's, sugar-sweetened foundations.

Suggested Reading

Abbott, Elizabeth

2010 *Sugar: A Bittersweet History*. New York: Overlook Press.

Follett, Richard J.

2005 *The Sugar Masters: Planters and Slaves in Louisiana's Cane World, 1820–1860*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

Hall, Gwendolyn Midlo

1992 *Africans in Colonial Louisiana: The Development of Afro-Creole Culture in the Eighteenth Century*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

Hunt, Alfred W.

1988 *Haiti's Influence on Antebellum America: Slumbering Volcano in the Caribbean*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press.

Jones-Rogers, Stephanie E.

2019 *They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Tadman, Michael

2000 "The Demographic Cost of Sugar: Debates on Slave Societies and Natural Increase in the Americas." *American Historical Review* 105 (Dec.): 1534–75.

Usner, Daniel H.

1992 *Indians, Settlers & Slaves in a Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley before 1783*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

October is Archaeology Month!

Josetta LeBoeuf

October is Louisiana Archaeology Month! Each year the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development promotes a month-long celebration of our state’s cultural heritage and history by highlighting Louisiana Archaeology. The 2025 programs range from special presentations and exhibits to children’s activities, artifact identification workshops and more.

In addition to programming, the Division of Archaeology releases an annual poster that features a special topic in Louisiana Archaeology. This year’s poster “Uncovering the Foundations of the Louisiana Sugar Industry”, highlights investigations at three sugarhouses in Iberville Parish. Sugar has been central to Louisiana’s economy for over 200 years, and sugarhouses were at the heart of that industry. Archaeology can provide an understanding of the changes in technology through time and reveal the culture and history of the many people, free and enslaved, who built and operated these structures. Special thanks to Kisatchie National Forest and Coastal Environments, Inc. for their generous contributions to this year’s poster.

This year’s celebration kicks off on October 1 at the Iberville Parish Library in Plaquemines with a presentation on the 2025 poster theme. Other noteworthy events include hands-on activities for children at the West Baton Rouge Museum’s annual Sugar Fest, and the NOLA Jazz Museum during International Archaeology Day, October 18. Visit the 2025 Archaeology Month page, located under the Discover Archaeology tab on the Division of Archaeology’s website (www.crt.state.la.us/cultural-development/archaeology/), to find programs in your area.

Follow the Division of Archaeology on social media:
 @LouisianaArchaeology and
 @LouisianaOfficeofCulturalDevelopment for
 #LouisianaArchaeology and
 #LouisianaArchaeologyMonth updates during the month of October and through the rest of the year.

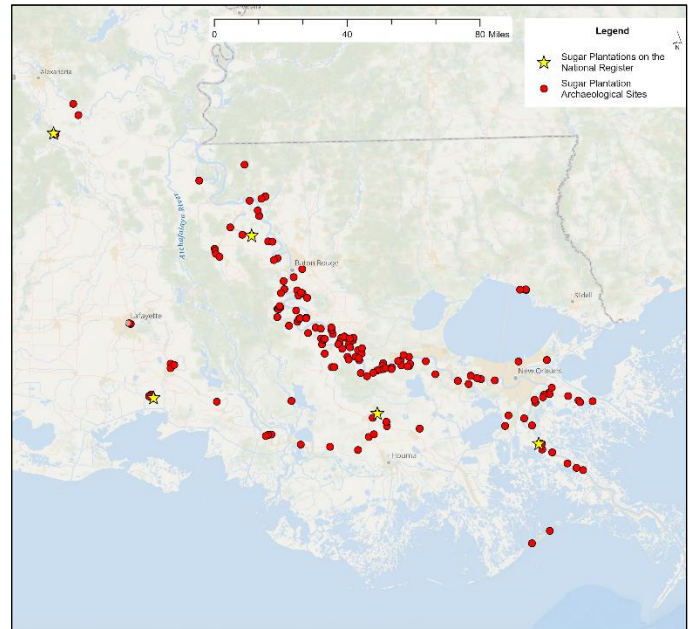


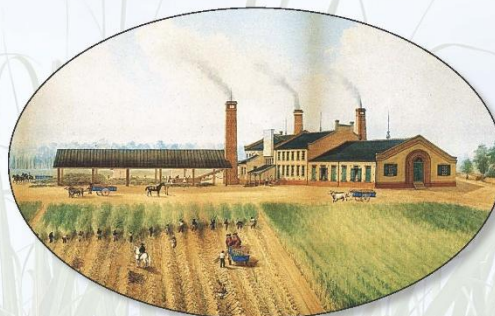
Figure 1. Sugar Plantation Map: Nearly 100 archaeological sites related to sugar production have been documented along major waterways. Image courtesy of the Louisiana Division of Archaeology.



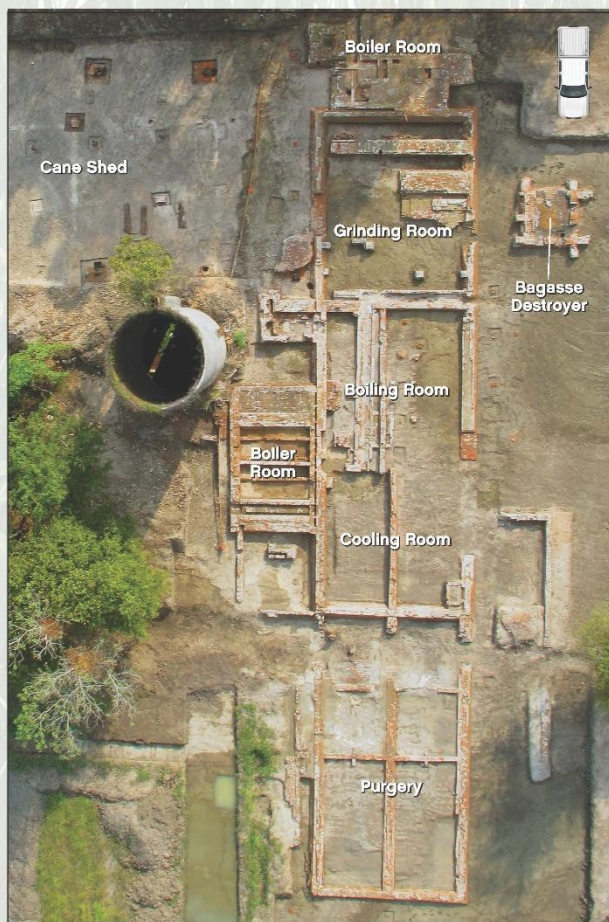
Uncovering the Foundations of the Louisiana Sugar Industry



Boiler end plate and setting at Plaisance Sugarhouse (1830-1890).

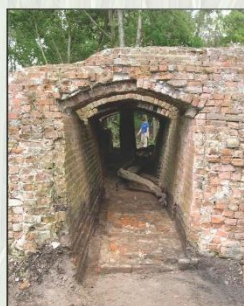


Riverlake Sugarhouse in the late 1850s.



Arcadia Sugarhouse (1851-1880) post excavation.

Sugar has been important to Louisiana for over 200 years. In 1850, south Louisiana had over 1,500 sugarhouses, which ground sugarcane, processed the juice, and produced raw sugar crystals. Antebellum sugarhouses were built piecemeal and regularly repaired, remodeled, and enlarged. Their archaeological remains reflect these changes and, in turn, the culture and history of the many people, free and enslaved, who erected and worked in these once common structures.



Grinder foundation at Greenfield - Allemania Sugarhouse (1840s-1914).



Cane shed post and cistern base at Arcadia Sugarhouse.



Boiling and Cooling Room in Antiqua, West Indies, in 1823.



LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH OCTOBER 2025



LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

October 2025 • Statewide Events

Join us in celebrating Louisiana's rich archaeological heritage with events across the state!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

10am – 12pm
EBRPL - Zachary Branch Library, 1900 Church St, Zachary

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

10am – 12pm
Red River Archaeology and YOU!
Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site, 135 Riverfront St, Pineville

11am – 12:30pm
Poverty Point Adventure
Carver-McDonald Branch Library, 2941 Renwick St, Monroe

6 – 7pm
Ascension Parish Library, 500 Mississippi St, Donaldsonville

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

All Day
Gulf South History and Humanities Conference
739 Canal St, New Orleans

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

10am – 3pm
Pioneer Day at the LSUS Pioneer Heritage Center
Pioneer Heritage Center, 1 University Pl, Shreveport

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

9am – 12pm
Lambda Alpha @ LSU
Howe Russell Geosciences Complex, S Campus Dr., Baton Rouge

7 – 9pm
Archaeology Month Trivia
Oak St Brewery, 8201 Oak St, New Orleans

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16

9am – 4pm
The Last Acadian Coast II
Talbot Hall, 106 Ellendale Dr, Thibodaux

6 – 7pm
Troyville: The Site That Progress Could Not Erase
ULM Museum of Natural History, First Floor, Hanna Hall, Monroe

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

1 – 3pm
Imperial Calcasieu Museum
204 W Sallier St, Lake Charles

4:30 – 5:30pm
Imperial Calcasieu Museum - Children's Activity
204 W Sallier St, Lake Charles

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

10am – 2pm
Oakland Plantation
4386 LA-494, Natchez

10am – 2pm
Poverty Point WHS: International Archaeology Day
6859 LA-577, Pioneer

12 – 2:30pm
International Archaeology Day at the NOLA Jazz Museum
400 Esplanade Ave, New Orleans

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

6 – 8pm
New Acadia Project
Vermilion Parish Library - Abbeville Branch, 405 E St Victor St, Abbeville

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

5:30 – 7pm
Geo Archaeology
Union Museum of History and Art, 211 N Main St, Farmerville

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

9am – 3pm
9th Annual Intertribal Basketry Summit
171 Melacon Rd, Marksville

9:30am
BREC's Boo at the Zoo (Day 1/2)
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, 3000 Zoo Circle, Baton Rouge

10am – 3pm
Audubon State Historic Site: Revolutionary War Reenactment
11788 LA-965, St Francisville

11am – 12pm
Poverty Point Earth Oven Cooking Demo
6859 LA-577, Pioneer

1 – 2pm
Rosedown State Historic Site
12501 LA-10, St Francisville

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Until 5pm
BREC's Boo at the Zoo (Day 2/2)
BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo, 3000 Zoo Circle, Baton Rouge

10am – 3pm
Audubon State Historic Site: Revolutionary War Reenactment
11788 LA-965, St Francisville

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27

6 – 7pm
Grand Houmas Village
Ascension Parish Library, 708 S Irma Blvd, Gonzales

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29

3 – 5pm
Division of Archaeology Takes Over Crafternoons!
Terrebonne Parish Library - Main Library, 151 Library Dr, Houma

5:30 – 6:30pm
Sacred Spaces: The Role of Archaeology in Preserving Historic Cemeteries

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30

6 – 7pm
Sacred Spaces: The Role of Archaeology in Preserving Historic Cemeteries

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

All Day
Archaeology Fair at Capitol Park Museum

Obituary for Ms. Marilyn Brookes

James Fogleman

Ms. Marillyn Brookes passed away on March 22, 2025 in Jackson, Mississippi at the age of 80. She was born just east of her beloved Delta in Winona, Mississippi on July 7, 1994. She graduated from Clarksdale High School in 1962 and received her Master's in education from Delta State in Cleveland, Ms. She is survived by 2 children, 4 grandchildren, a brother, and her husband, Sam Brookes.

I first met Marilyn and Sam at LAS on the west side of New Orleans on a Friday night years ago. My wife Agnes and I had registered and decided to go to the bar and perhaps meet some other attendees. The bar was spacious with a great view of Lake Pontchartrain and the world's most boring bridge. Unfortunately, we were the only patrons. We decided to have a drink and go to our room. About that time Marilyn and Sam showed up. We introduced ourselves. We talked for a long time.

Marilyn's deep delta drawl captivated me. Her speech was thicker than the Sharkey Clay Sam's boots would often bring home. She could have read the directions on a Kitty Litter Box, and I would have listened in rapture. Her accent made Bobbie Gentry's 'Ode to Billie Jo' sound like it was sung by someone from Michigan. While Sam & I delved into the Middle Archaic, the ladies discussed education, the tribulations of having archeo husbands. From time to time, we circled back to a common interest: good food. Eventually more people arrived but our friendships were set.

Marilyn considered herself and Ness to be Archeo Groupies (Figure 1). The pair would attend some of the talks, but they didn't let that interfere with their enjoyment of New Orleans, Natchez, etc. She & Ness would critique the papers. Marilyn was always kind to me, but having Ness sitting beside her reduced her options. The same was true of Ness when Sam gave a talk. They would pass notes back and forth trying to stifle their laughter apparently reliving Jr. High. They had a scale for papers. Top was: speaker should have talked longer, nice and enough, nap time [for talks after lunch], check if bar is open [afternoon]. Her worst lament was I can read better and faster than the presenter.

She was a great host, putting us up for one of Sam's Mound tours in their home in Jackson. We last saw her and Sam in Vidalia at LAS in February of this year. She was a real sport, but you could see she was having serious issues.

It is hard to imagine LAS without her. While neither an archaeologist nor a Louisiana resident, she was in the top ten for LAS meetings (Figure 2). From Banana Pudding ladies in Shreveport to meeting Opelousas Sostan: lots of memories to be cherished.



Figure 1. Marilyn Brookes and Agnes Fogleman LAS Alexandria, Feb. 2023



Figure 2. Two Classics LAS LAS Newsletter Winter 2020 Vol. 47, #3

Research Announcement**Research on “7”s or L-shaped objects from Poverty Point/Archaic sites in Louisiana and adjacent states**

John Connaway

I am researching L-shaped objects that are in private, institutional, or tribal collections from Louisiana and adjacent states in an attempt to figure out (1) what they were used for, (2) areas where they have been found, (3) how they relate to Poverty Point or Archaic cultures, (4) metric data (length x width x thickness), (5) whether or not they have been drilled and where the hole(s) are located on the object, (6) if they are ground and polished, and (7) from what type of stone they are made. I would appreciate any data, references, and photographs anyone can send me who have these in their collections. I have some data and pictures retrieved from Facebook posts, but not enough so far to draw any conclusions. I understand that most come from Louisiana, a few from Arkansas and Mississippi, but have been informed that there are a number from Texas as well, for which I have no data. I will not publish site locations, but request at least county or parish names and perhaps what part of the county/parish (NE, NW, central, etc) for context. This will give me distributional data (2 above). And I will not publish owner names unless given permission or requested – they can be labeled “private collection”. Attached is an example of what I am talking about. I believe most are not drilled. I plan to publish an article in Louisiana Archaeology on this research. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

John M. Connaway, retired archaeologist
johnmconnaway@gmail.com
P. O. Box 36, Clarksdale, MS 38614-0036



Figure 1. L-shaped objects.

NEW MANUSCRIPT ALERT



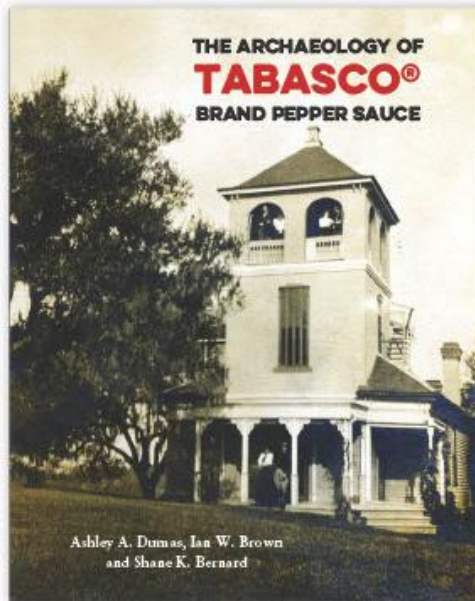
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ASHLEY A. DUMAS is Professor of Anthropology at the University of West Alabama. She specializes in the archaeology of Southeastern Indians, particularly of the late pre-contact and contact periods. She is co-editor of *Salt in Eastern North America and the Caribbean: History and Archaeology* and two other books on the role of salt in global society. Dr. Dumas also conducts research at the colonial 18th-century site of Fort Tombeckbé in Alabama.

IAN W. BROWN is Professor Emeritus at the University of Alabama and Emeritus Curator of Gulf Coast Archaeology at the Alabama Museum of Natural History. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. Dr. Brown specializes in the archaeology and history of Southeastern U.S. Indians and has spent over five decades excavating sites in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. He is the author of *The Petite Anse Project, Investigations along the West-central Coast of Louisiana, 1978–1979* (Borgo, 2015), which deals with prehistoric sites on Avery Island and in the surrounding coastal region. He has written much on the subject of salt, gravestones and cemeteries, and has published several books relating to his global travel experiences.

SHANE K. BERNARD holds a Ph.D. in History from Texas A&M University, as well as degrees in History and English from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. For over 30 years he has served as historian and curator to McIlhenny Company, maker of Tabasco Brand Products. He is the author of *TABASCO: An Illustrated History* and several books about south Louisiana history and culture.



ISBN: 9798991048477
88 pp, full color
8 x 10 inches
List Price: \$19.95 (PB)
Pub date: August 1, 2025

This book is available to order on borgopublishing.com

From the Foreword by Charles E. Orser, Jr. — I value having played a tiny role in the archaeological history of the Island, but I am especially pleased to see this present study. The authors have done a masterful job of pursuing the research and their efforts deserve accolades. Their study exemplifies the best that historical archaeology has to offer by comingling information from diverse sources. In isolation, the archaeological finds, the written records, and the historical images would each be interesting by themselves. But in their skilled combination, they offer a profound understanding of the creation and development of TABASCO® Brand Pepper Sauce within the revered Laboratory. This study, because it focuses on one relatively small building, is essentially a case study in microarchaeology. But unlike many such close examinations, this one has a twist because its implications are truly global. Archaeologists of the modern era are likely to excavate Tabasco Sauce bottles in households across the globe, wherever dedicated hot sauce enthusiasts have trod. (A lucky Egyptologist may even find one.) Thus, this present study is destined to become a required reference work for this influential (many would say mandatory) hot sauce. The authors are so successful that readers may swear they smell pepper mash as they hold the book.



*Authors (from left):
Shane K. Bernard,
Ashley A. Dumas, and
Ian W. Brown.*

UPCOMING MEETINGS**2025 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in New Orleans**

The 2025 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) will take place in New Orleans, from November 19 through November 23, with conference venues concentrated within the New Orleans Marriott (555 Canal Street) and the Sheraton New Orleans (500 Canal Street). Details about AAA 2025 and about AAA more generally can be found here: <https://annualmeeting.americananthro.org/>.

GHOSTS

American Anthropological Association
2025 ANNUAL MEETING
Nov. 19-23, 2025 • New Orleans, LA

The conference theme for AAA 2025, selected and articulated by AAA 2025 conference program chair, Dr. Ryan Gray (University of New Orleans), is “Ghosts.” New Orleans is sometimes characterized as “the most haunted city in America,” and Professor Gray takes inspiration from and draws upon this popular reputation to encourage participants in the conference this year to reflect on “the ways that the past haunts the present, and that the immaterial becomes tangible to inflect the everyday,” both here as well as elsewhere. Ghosts, apparitions, specters, and spirits reside in and around New Orleans in many forms, and the conference in this particular setting encourages us to consider both these local manifestations of them, and the ways these intangible dimensions of a cultural landscape are present in other places and spaces. Read more about the AAA 2025 conference theme here: <https://annualmeeting.americananthro.org/theme/>.

Annual AAA Keynote Lecture

Dr. Jason De León, keynote speaker at AAA 2025.

The annual AAA keynote lecture will take place on Thursday, November 20, from 6:00-7:30PM. The keynote speaker is Dr. Jason De León, professor at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), and

director of the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, and his talk is entitled, "On the Nature of Anthropological Empathy: Some Reflections on Why We Do What We Do." Professor De León is a MacArthur Foundation Fellow (2017) and author of the highly acclaimed and award-winning books, *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail* (2015), and *Soldiers and Kings: Survival and Hope in the World of Human Smuggling* (2024), the more recent of which received the 2024 National Book Award for Nonfiction. His not-for-profit organization, the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), and his participatory art project, *Hostile Terrain 94*, promotes awareness about migration and migrants in the modern world, and the violence and suffering that many migrants experience. Details about his keynote lecture at AAA 2025 can be found here: <https://annualmeeting.americananthro.org/keynote/>

Archaeology Division of the AAA

One “section” within the AAA is the Archaeology Division (AD), which hosts and sponsors archaeology-related events at AAA conferences; learn more about the AD here: <https://ad.americananthro.org/>. The current president-elect of the AD, who will become AD president at AAA 2025, is Dr. Chris Rodning (Tulane University). The AD annual business meeting features food and cash bar, and announcements about AD business and annual awards, including the Gordon Willey Prize for an outstanding article published in *American Anthropologist*, the Alfred Vincent Kidder Award for outstanding career contributions to the archaeology of Mesoamerica and southwestern North America (presented in 2024, and to be presented in 2026, but not in 2025), as well as student awards. Immediately following such announcements and presentations is the Patty Jo Watson Distinguished Lecture, given annually by a scholar invited on the basis of scholarly stature and connections to conference themes and current circumstances and trends in the field of anthropological archaeology.



Watson Lecture

The Watson Lecture this year will be presented by Dr. Shannon Dawdy, professor at the University of Chicago and a MacArthur Foundation Fellow (2010), and a scholar with interests and expertise in the historical archaeology of New Orleans. The title of her lecture is, “Recruiting Ghosts for the Revolution.” LAS members and others connected to archaeology in Louisiana will recognize Professor Dawdy for her insightful and innovative thinking about topics such as death, disaster, sensuality, histories of colonialism and capitalism, and relationships that connect past and present in places with deep histories like those grounded here in New Orleans.



Dr. Shannon Dawdy, Watson Lecturer at AAA 2025.

Annual Presidential Lecture

On the Saturday evening (November 22) of the AAA conference is the annual lecture by the AAA president; the current AAA president is Dr. Whitney Battle-Baptiste, professor in the Department of Anthropology and director of the W. E. B. DuBois Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Battle-Baptiste is an activist-scholar with interests and involvements in historical archaeology, Black feminist archaeology, and issues related to race, gender, class, and sexuality.

<https://americananthro.org/people/whitney-battle-baptiste/>



Conference Program and Schedule: Coming Soon

The conference program and schedule for AAA 2025 are not yet finalized, but there will be sessions and individual presentations focused on archaeology, including archaeology in many different world areas, and including several related sessions focused on the archaeology of Mesoamerica. Please check the AAA conference website for final conference scheduling details when the dates of the conference itself get closer, because there may be revisions and additions between now and then.



The AAA

The AAA was founded in 1902, and it is the largest professional organization of anthropologists in the world. The organization publishes *American Anthropologist* and many other scholarly journals in the field. Its annual meetings bring together anthropologists and archaeologists to share findings and discoveries, to discuss and debate ideas, and to take advantage of mentoring and networking opportunities. The AAA has met in New Orleans four times previously, in 2010, 2002, 1990, and 1969.



AMERICAN
ANTHROPOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING 2026 ———
CADDO CONFERENCE
&
LOUISIANA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

MARCH 28-29, 2026

NATCHITOCHEs,
LOUISIANA

SAVE THE DATE

**More information
coming soon!**

Scan the QR Code to be taken to the Caddo
Conference Annual Meeting page.



Scan the QR Code to be taken to the
LAS Annual Meeting page.



31st East Texas Archaeological Conference

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday, February 28, 2026

We invite you to join us for the 31st East Texas Archaeological Conference on February 28, 2026 in Tyler, Texas, on the University of Texas at Tyler campus. The East Texas Archaeological Conference is hosted annually to bring together people interested in the archeology and cultural heritage of east Texas.

LOCATION: Main Lobby and other rooms in the Soules College of Business at UT Tyler.

HOURS: 9 AM until 4 PM. Registration begins at 8:30 AM.

FEE: \$20 which includes lunch.

HOTEL: *Homewood Suites*, 3104 Golden Road, Tyler, TX. 903-593-7880 and mention East Texas Archeology for conference rates of \$116. Breakfast is included.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are now accepting submissions for research-based paper presentations for the 2026 ETAC. Topics should be related to the prehistoric and historic archeology of east Texas. Presentations will be 20 minutes long and should present original research. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2025. We ask for a title and a 100 word abstract. Abstracts and queries can be emailed to tguderjan@uttyler.edu or call 817-831-9011.

ORGANIZERS

Keith Eppich (TJC-The College of East Texas), Thomas Guderjan (UT Tyler), Colleen Hanratty (UT Tyler), Tim Seiter (UT Tyler), E. Cory Sills (UT Tyler), and Mark Walters.

SPONSORS

The Center for Social Science Research & Department of Social Sciences,
University of Texas at Tyler.

LAS CHAPTERS

Acadiana Chapter

The Acadiana Chapter of the LAS meets regularly and hosts a speaker series in partnership with the Anthropology Society at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Check our [Facebook](#) page at <https://www.facebook.com/AcadianaLAS/> or email acadianalas@gmail.com for future dates and locations.

Acadiana Chapter Officers are:

Ian Robicheaux, President
 Parker Chouest, Vice President
 Sarah St. Germain, Secretary
 Sam Huey, Treasurer
 Gloria Church, Social Media/UL Lafayette Liaison

Baton Rouge Chapter

Contact: Brandy Kerr or Margeaux Murray, Co-Presidents

Email: batonrougelas1975@gmail.com

To receive information about our meetings, please email batonrougelas1975@gmail.com.

D'Arbonne Chapter

Contact: Tom Fields

Email: nlaarcheology@yahoo.com

Delta Chapter

The Delta Chapter hosts a monthly speaker series from August through April. The Delta Chapter meets the 4th Thursday of each month at Tulane University, Department of Anthropology, Dinwiddie Hall, at 7 pm in Room 201. For more information, email Brian Ostahowski at brian.ostahowski@gmail.com.

The Delta Chapter has a Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS

Northwest Chapter

Primary Contact: Tad Britt

Email: tad.britt@gmail.com

Secondary Contact: Jeffrey Girard

Email: jeffreygirard@att.net

West Louisiana Archaeology Club

Contact: John Guy, President

Email: johnnyhguy53@gmail.com

Rockey Rockholt, Vice President

Email: richardrockhold@yahoo.com



LAS Newsletter Information

The *Newsletter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society* is published digitally three times a year for the society. Louisiana Archaeological Society (LAS) members receive email invitations for *Newsletter* content and regular notifications with links to the online *Newsletter*. Past issues of the *Newsletter* are available on the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>

Information for Contributors

Email all news, notes, announcements, reports, and *Newsletter* correspondence to the editor at: louisianaarchaeologicalsociety@gmail.com. Submissions should be in MS Word.

J. Lynn Funkhouser
Louisiana Public Archaeology and Osteology Lab
P.O. Box 43543, Anthropology Program
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504

Membership Information

LAS members receive the digital *Newsletter*, one print copy of the annual LAS Bulletin, *Louisiana Archaeology*, and are invited to attend the annual LAS meetings. Annual membership dues are: \$30 for individuals; \$5 for associated family members; \$15 for students (with a valid student ID); \$45 for institutions such as libraries and universities. Life memberships for individuals or institutions are \$300. Members can also choose among the following chapter affiliations: Acadiana; Baton Rouge; Delta; Northwest; West Louisiana.

Visit the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/> to join or renew. Membership requests, dues, and changes of address can also be directed to the LAS Treasurer:

Rachel Watson, LAS Treasurer
Louisiana Division of Archaeology
P.O. Box 44247 Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Make checks payable to the *Louisiana Archaeological Society*.

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