

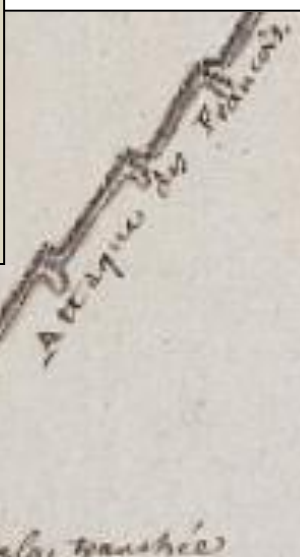
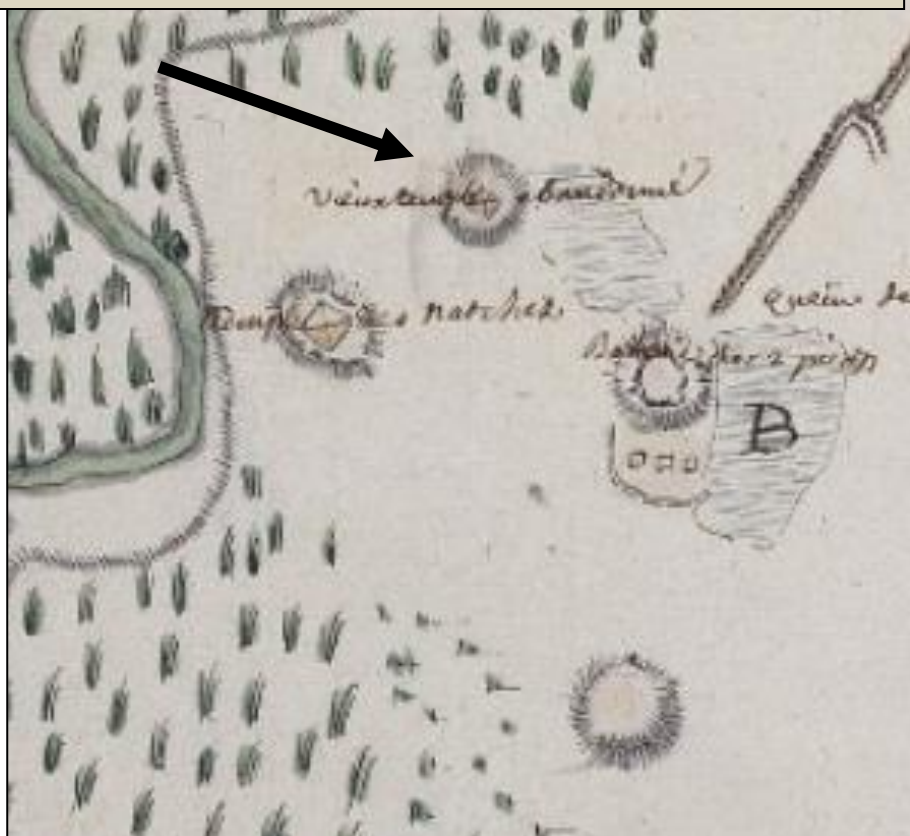


NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring 2020

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Detail of French map showing mounds at Grand Village of the Natchez site during French siege of 1730 to avenge the Natchez Massacre of 1729. Arrow points to 'lost' mound recently researched and discussed at LAS/MAA annual meeting Feb. 7-9, 2020. Below is Tony Boudreaux describing excavations he directed during site tour that was part of LAS/MAA meeting.



LAS Newsletter printed courtesy of R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.
New Orleans, Louisiana

For LAS members unable to attend the 2020 LAS/MAA annual meeting, presentations are listed below to let you see what you missed. It also reminds attendees what and who they heard!

Friday February 7, 2020

James E. Starnes and Jonathan Leard

A Newly Discovered Hattiesburg Quartzite Quarry in Amite County, Mississippi

James E. Starnes and Jonathan Leard

Orthoquartzite in Southeast Mississippi

James Fogleman

Whetting Your Appetite to See the Light: Novaculite and Quartz Crystals at Sites in Central Louisiana

J. Javi Vasquez

ESRI GIS Tools and their Applications, Fort Polk Cultural Resources Office, Louisiana

Sara A. Hahn, Rita D. McCarty, and Bryan S. Haley

In the Trenches: Recent Archaeological Investigations at the Camp Shelby 113th Engineers WWI Training Trenches (22FO1443), Camp Shelby, Mississippi

Julie Doucet, Valerie Feathers, Velicia Bergstrom, and Paul French

Return to Lac St. Agnes – Results of the 2017 Field Season and 2018 Public Workshops

Elizabeth Hunt, Sadie Schoeffler, Samuel Huey, and Mark A. Rees

The Willow Lake Site (16MA115) Revisited: A Report on a Late Woodland Village and Multicomponent Site in Madison Parish, Louisiana

Chip McGimsey

State of Louisiana Archaeology 2019/2020

Christine L. Halling and Ryan M. Seidemann

Recovery of Three (Presumed) Native American Skulls from a Curio Shop in New Orleans, Louisiana

Jeffrey M. Mitchem

Pottery Vessels from the Ground into the Netherworld

Jack Green

Introducing and Interpreting the 'Mississippi Frog' Flint Clay Figurine

Samuel O. Brookes

An Effigy Bannerstone from the Ferguson Mounds, Jefferson Co., Mississippi

Saturday February 8, 2020

Ian W. Brown

A Mosaic of Three “LMSers” as Celebrated in their 70th Year: Philip Phillips, Robert S. Neitzel, and Jeffrey P. Brain

Seth Grooms

Untangling the Poverty Point Phenomenon at the Jaketown Site

Grace M.V. Ward

The Food Forests of Mississippi: Investigating Poverty Point-era Land Use at Jaketown

Hunter B. Johnson and Keith J. Little

Recent Cultural Resource Management Investigations at Some Notable Sites in the Lower Mississippi Valley

Jessica Kowalski and Erin S. Nelson

Above and Below the Greenline: Variation in Mississippian Settlement Patterns in the Yazoo Basin of the Lower Mississippi Valley

LisaMarie Malischke, PhD

Spreading the Word: Fort St. Pierre and Public Archaeology as Classroom Curriculum

Vincas P. Steponaitis, Vernon J. Knight Jr., André Delpuech, Benoît Roux, and Geoffroy de Saulieu

Effigy Pipes from a Natchez Temple

Tony Boudreaux, Vin Steponaitis, and Stephen Harris

Finding a “Missing Mound” at the Fatherland Site: Recent Fieldwork at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

Megan C. Kassabaum and Anna F. Graham

Exploring 2,000 Years of Lower Mississippi Valley History at Smith Creek

Anna F. Graham and Megan C. Kassabaum

Middens and Mound Summits: 2019 Excavations at the Lessley Site

Christopher B. Rodning and Jayur M. Mehta

Crawfish, Snakes, Earth, Water: Archaeology, Resilience, Persistent Places, and Native American Cultural Landscapes in the Gulf South

Brooks B. Ellwood, Sophie Warny, Rebecca T. Hackworth, Samuel J. Bentley, Rebecca A. Saunders, Suzanne H. Ellwood, Dewitt H. Braud, Jonathan H. Tomkin, and Geoff Clayton

New Dates for the LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6) make them the Oldest Known Standing Man-Made Structures in the Americas

Rebecca Saunders

Excavations at the LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6), 2012 and 2018.

Dennis Jones, Samuel O. Brookes, and John M. Connaway

Gone but Surely Not Forgotten: Results and Implications of the 1967 Investigations at the Monte Sano Site (16EBR17)

Diana M. Greenlee, Rinita Dalan, Thurman Allen, Michael Hargrave, R. Berle Clay, and George R. Holley

Investigating the West Plaza Rise at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site

Jeffrey Lewis Jr.

Preliminary Investigations of Poverty Point’s North Three Lithics

Dana Hauffe

Prehistoric Agriculture of the Lower Mississippi Valley

Vin Steponaitis

Reflections on the Lower Mississippi Survey's Legacy in Natchez

Sunday February 9, 2020

Tour of Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

Tour of Fort Rosalie

Scenes from the LAS/MAA Joint meeting for 2020



From left to right: Valerie Feathers, Amanda Evans, and Julie Doucet prepare for the onslaught of LAS members to register at the 2020 annual meeting in Natchez, MS. This joint meeting with the Mississippi Archaeological Association (MAA) and LAS has become a tradition every leap year and is held in Natchez, MS.

Vin Steponaitis gestures toward a slide during his presentation "Reflections on the Lower Mississippi Survey's Legacy in Natchez" Saturday evening at the Historic Natchez Foundation.



Tony Boudreaux (second from left) makes a point during the tour of the Grand Village of the Natchez by attendees to the LAS/MAA meeting that took place Sunday morning, February 9, 2020. Boudreaux explains the results of his recent work at the site that focused on verifying the location of a "missing" mound at the Grand Village.

LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

IN MEMORIAM



***Rick Fuller in the field for a monitoring project in Biloxi, MS while working for Coastal Environmnets, Inc. in 2014.
Photo provided by Rich Weinstein.***

Richard (Rick) Stearns Fuller, Jr., native of Mobile, AL, passed away at his home on March 5, 2020. He is preceded in death by his father, Richard Stearns Fuller, Sr., mother, Hilda Stevens Fuller and sister, Kathleen Fuller. He is survived by his sister Susan Gail Fuller and cousin, Jeanette Fuller Bolling. Rick attended Murphy High School and the University of South Alabama. He was raised in the Episcopal faith. Richard (Rick) practiced archaeology on the north central Gulf Coast for over 40 years. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Rick worked for the Lower Mississippi Survey, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, at which time he excavated sites in Louisiana and Mississippi. In the late 1980s Rick worked as a staff archaeologist for Coastal Environments Inc. (CEI) of Baton Rouge. For most of the 1990s he was employed as a staff archaeologist for the Alabama Museum of Natural History at the University of Alabama. In the 2000s, up to the time of his retirement, Rick worked as a staff archaeologist for CEI. He had also worked in the USA lab with Read Stowe and was employed in Florida as well. He contributed to the archaeology of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. His expertise was Native American ceramics, with a particular interest in pottery created by the Mississippian, protohistoric and early historic period of Indians of the north-central Gulf coast. At the time of his death, he was working periodically at the University of South Alabama Archaeology lab. Condolences may be offered at www.radneyfuneralhome-mobile.com. Published in the Mobile Register and Baldwin County on Mar. 8, 2020

Norman L. Davis passed away on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 in Covington, LA. Native of New Orleans, LA and longtime Covington resident for over 55 years, age 77 years. Beloved husband for over 55 years of Gloria Stansell Davis. Loving brother of Carol Azzone and her husband Joey, Judith Stogner and her husband Mike, and Audrey Hughes. Devoted uncle to many nieces and nephews and devoted great uncle to many grandnieces and grandnephews. Norman proudly served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Conflict, then served the Greater New Orleans area in the NOFD, retiring as a Captain after 20 years. He then studied at University of New Orleans, achieving his Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a focus in Archeology, with which he then worked for Coastal Archeological Contractors, as well as the Archeology Department of Louisiana State University. Relatives and friends are invited to share their condolences and memories online at www.serenitycovington.com. Published in The Times-Picayune on Jan. 23, 2020.



As many LAS members may know, Norm Davis was a pioneer for the application of archaeoastronomy to Louisiana mound sites. See Nos. 34 and 38 of Louisiana Archaeology, the LAS bulletin, for examples of his contributions- Editor.

Robert W. Neuman
1930 - 2019

Born in Chicago, Illinois, Bob spent his early years there and several summers on a dairy farm in Wisconsin. Eventually, he moved with his mother and sister to St. Petersburg, Florida. There he hunted, fished, swam, and delivered newspapers to help support the family. In 1949, he enrolled at Tulane University as a pre-med student. It wasn't until his junior year that he was able to take an elective, a course in South American Indians. This resulted in him changing his major to anthropology. The summer between his junior and senior years he worked as an archaeological crew member at a series of rock-shelters in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri. This field season determined his career. After graduating from Tulane University in 1954, he enrolled in the master's program in anthropology at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. During the summers, he participated as a crew member on excavations in Nebraska and Wyoming where he developed a deep appreciation for the archaeology and peoples of the Great Plains.

In 1956, he was offered a position as staff archaeologist with the Smithsonian Institution's River Basin Survey and forwent his graduation ceremony to move his young family to Lincoln, Nebraska. For the next twelve years, he worked on archaeological projects in Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Alabama and Georgia. Although he participated in the investigation of a wide range of archaeological manifestations, he specialized in the Plains Woodland Tradition excavating camp and burial sites in South and North Dakota which he described and named the Sonota Complex. The result of this work was published as *The Sonota Complex and Associated Sites on the Northern Great Plains*. He completed his career at the Smithsonian as assistant chief of the Missouri Basin Project in 1967.

That same year, he accepted the position as Curator of Anthropology at Louisiana State University and moved his family back to Baton Rouge. As curator, he was responsible for the university's archaeological and ethnographic collections. These included not only the artifacts from several important sites excavated in the 1930s as part of the WPA but their associated field notes, maps, drawings, and photographs. He initiated a program to revisit the sites and update the information. Bob, working with Lanier Simmons, compiled *A Bibliography Relative to Indians of the State of Louisiana*, the first effort ever to bring together all the articles and reports published on the state's prehistoric and historic Native Americans. He went on to do extensive research into the early historic distribution of the various Caddo tribes for a Caddo land's claim case.

As always, Bob's primary interest laid in archaeology and during his time at LSU he conducted archaeological research in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas. These included large-scale, multi-year projects. The excavation of the Mt. Nebo Mound dating from the Troyville through Plaquemine periods in Madison parish resulted in the recovery of the remains of eighty-six individuals and a description of burial patterns and physical characteristics of the Troyville-Coles Creek people buried at the site. His investigation into the Morton Mound Site in Iberia Parish with deposits dating from the Tchefuncte through the Mississippian period provided data on human adaptation to Louisiana's coastal environments. Excavations at this site uncovered a deeply buried peat layer with well-preserved botanical remains. This allowed for the identification of some of the potential plant resources and surrounding environs during the time that the Tchefuncte people inhabited the site. At the Bayou Jasmine site, another shell midden with deposits dating from Poverty Point through the Mississippi times, Bob used a cofferdam and pumps in order to reach the submerged archaeological remains. At the time, this was a relatively new technique. These excavations formed the bases of numerous M.A. theses at LSU and other universities as well as conference papers, journal articles, and archaeological reports. Much of these data were incorporated into his book *An Introduction to Louisiana Archaeology* published in 1984. It was the first full-length book devoted to Louisiana archaeology. But Bob never lost his interest in the human adaptation to grasslands and while at LSU was able to expand his knowledge with field seasons on the pampas of Argentina and the steppes of northwest China. Through the years, he served on numerous boards, published in leading archaeological journals, and was a frequent presenter at regional, national, and international meetings.

Bob always encouraged students to expand their knowledge of archaeology and incorporated students into his fieldwork whenever possible. Many of his former students have fond memories and stories of climbing into the green travel-all and heading out into the field with Bob. The course he taught in Louisiana archaeology included overnight field trips to the coast and north Louisiana introducing the students to a range of archaeological manifestations from small coastal shell middens to extensive mound sites such as Poverty Point. He believed that field trips were critical in the development of the students understanding of Louisiana's past. Fieldtrips were also an important component for the course in museology which he team-taught.

Bob had other professional responsibilities while at LSU. In an effort to expand the public's knowledge of the state's prehistoric and historic past, he developed a traveling exhibit which for years toured libraries, schools, and banks throughout the state providing an opportunity for tens of thousands of people to learn about the state's past. He was also one of the original members of the Louisiana Archaeological Society and he usually gave a paper and rarely missed an annual meeting. For ten years, he was the editor for *Louisiana Archaeology*, the journal of this organization. Bob was the recipient of the James A. Ford Award, the highest honor that the LAS can bestow on one of its members. He also received an award from the Foundation for Historical Louisiana for "making the past known and useful to the present." Bob served on numerous boards and commissions as well.

When his wife, Kass Byrd, accepted a position at Northwestern State University, Bob retired from LSU (1995), and they moved to Natchitoches. Here the couple continued to raise Appaloosa horses and to travel. Even in retirement, Bob remained professionally active publishing papers and presenting at professional meetings. After suffering from several medical issues, Bob Neuman passed away on September 9, 2019. He will be greatly missed.

FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

Notes on Munitions : A Shotgun Shell from Louisiana

By Tom Nuckols.

Introduction

A recent archaeological survey in central Louisiana near the Red River has recovered four munitions artifacts: the remains of a shotgun shell, a .22 caliber rimfire Short cartridge case, a .30-06 caliber center-fire cartridge case and a .54 caliber lead Minié ball. This month's article will discuss the shotgun shell.

The Shot Gun Shell

All that remains of this shotgun shell is the headstamped brass cup base and firing pin imprinted primer from what was once a paper tubed shotgun shell (see Figure 1). The headstamp indicates that this was a 12 gauge, "NEW CLUB" brand shotgun shell manufactured by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company (UMC).

NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells, with an eight-pointed star decoration around the primer pocket (called the "star primer" by shotgun shell collectors) were sold commercially by UMC from c.1902 to 1910. Besides 12 gauge, the NEW CLUB brand was also available in 10, 14, 16 and 20 gauge.

The paper tube color of NEW CLUB shotgun shells, in all gauges, were brown, and they were equipped with a No. 2 copper primer. The No. 2 primer was designed for ammunition loaded with black gun powder, such as center-fire cartridges, paper tubed shot gun shells and all brass shot gun shells.

All gauges of NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells were loaded with black gun powder and sold with a wide variety of loads (ammunition) of lead shot sizes including lead dust. Shotgun shells loaded with lead dust were designed to be fired at close range for killing snakes, rats and similar-sized pests. NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells loaded with lead buckshot or a single lead ball were available in gauges 10, 12, 16 and 20.

There were two other NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells sold by UMC that predate the one mentioned above, however, they did not have an eight-pointed star decoration around the primer pocket. One had a circle around the primer pocket (see Figure 2), and it is referred to as the "circle primer" by shotgun shell collectors. The other lacked any headstamp decoration (see Figure 3). After 1942, the production of NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells was discontinued.

History of the Union Metallic Cartridge Company Prior to World War I

In 1866, the New York sporting goods firm of Schuyler, Hartley & Graham (SH&G), purchased the New England ammunition manufacturing companies of Crittenden & Tibbals and C.D. Leet. SH&G moved the machinery obtained in the purchase of these two companies to Bridgeport, Connecticut where the production of small arms cartridge ammunition began under the name of the Union Metallic Cartridge & Cap Company.

In 1867, the company was incorporated as the Union Metallic Cartridge Company (UMC). In the late 19th century and early 20th century, shotgun shell brands (approximately 30) manufactured by UMC were head stamped "U.M.C. CO."

In 1876 Schuyler retired from SH&G, and by 1880, the company name had changed to Hartley and Graham (H&G). In 1888, the firearms manufacturing firm of E. Remington and Sons of Ilion, New York was purchased by H&G, and it became the Remington Arms Company (Remington). Remington became the firearms manufacturing part of H&G's sporting goods business.

In 1912, Remington and UMC were merged into a single entity called Remington-UMC. Corporate headquarters for Remington-UMC was at Bridgeport, where the manufacture of small arms ammunition continued. The production of firearms remained in Ilion. Shortly after the merger, NEW CLUB brand shotgun shells manufactured by Remington-UMC, were headstamped either "REMINGTON UMC" (see Figure 4) or "REM-UMC" (see Figure 5).

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*Figure 1. All pictures courtesy of
Curtis Steinhauer*



Figure 2. circa 1892-1896



Figure 3. circa 1896-1900



Figure 4. Circa 1912-1914



Figure 5. Circa 1915-1942

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James M. Cox for President

By James A. Fogleman

The presidential election of 2020 is upon us. In past times election material was more personal and physical. At one time there were no radio, internet, or television and other electronic media to bombard us with political messages. It was a time of newspapers and personal mementos.

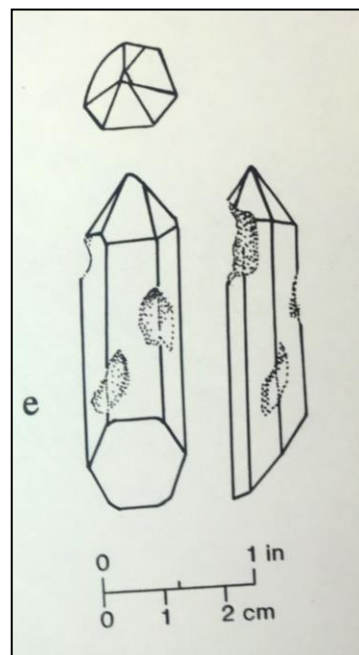
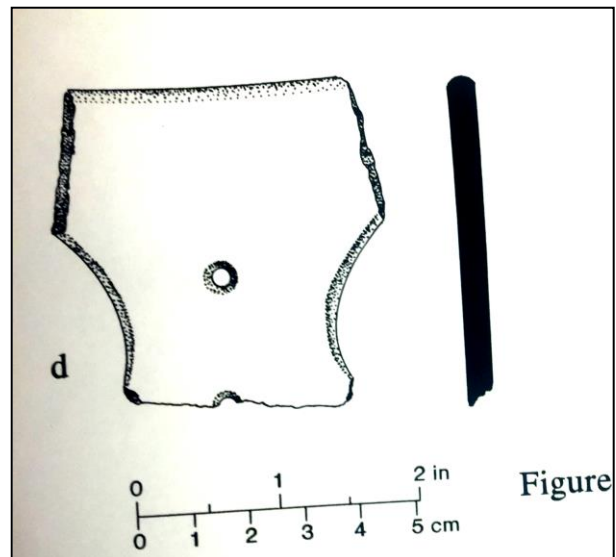
The Bayou Current Mound 16SL27 is a now destroyed burial mound that once sat near the confluence of Bayou Rouge and Bayou Current in St. Landry Parish. The mound contained such rare items as a copper bead, a reel gorget, quartz crystal, the remains of numerous humans, pottery, and projectile points suggesting an occupation from Marksville to Coles Creek (Figure 1 and 2). While visiting the site before land leveling, a collection was made of a historic component located just to the southeast of the mound. In addition to marbles and other twentieth century artifacts, a rolled-up fragment of metal was collected. Sometime later upon cleaning the materials, the metal piece was flattened out. On it was stamped the upper torso of a man. Above him was stamped 'FOR PRESIDENT JAMES M COX.' The numbers 19 20 appear on either side of his head (Figure 3).

Even though I had read and studied quite a bit of history, the name James M. Cox did not ring a bell. A quick Wikipedia scan revealed that he was the Democrat Presidential candidate in 1920 whose running mate was Franklin D. Roosevelt (Figure 4). Cox was thrice elected governor of Ohio. Cox's claims to fame includes losing the Presidential election by a record 26 percent. The winner was Republicans Warren G. Harding and his VP Calvin Coolidge. Of the four candidates (2 presidential and 2 vice presidential) in the election of 1920, Cox was the only one who never became President. His revenge was that he outlived them all: 1870-1957.

Another claim to fame is that James M. Cox memorabilia is some of the most valuable of this genre. Prices of a Cox/FDR jugate [2 portraits side by side] in excellent condition can be worth 6 figures [Sullivan, 2016]. This particular piece has only Cox. It is a portion of a watch fob whose cloth upper part has long since disappeared. In its present poor condition, it would certainly be worth a sack of crawfish, maybe two. The story of how it got to the vicinity of 16SL27 would have been an interesting story indeed.

At present, the Cox fob resides with Dale Lupus in Elk Rapids, Michigan. Decades ago, I worked with Dale at Flowerdew Hundred on the James River in Virginia. It was NEH grant under Dr. James Deetz. Dale and I have remained friends through all this time. He has been an active collector of political materials of many years. This past summer, my wife, the fob, and I visited him and his wife Judy.

While on lay over in Detroit, I purchased a National Geographic which had an article by Kelley Deetz [most likely kin to James Deetz] which mentioned Flowerdew Hundred. Serendipity indeed. Leaving the fob with a person deeply interested and knowledgeable in the field of political campaign material is much better than resting with unrelated prehistoric materials.



Top. Figure 1: illustration of the polished sandstone reel gorget fragment. **Left, Figure 2:** illustrations of the shaped crystal fragment. Both recovered from the surface of the Bayou Current site (16SL27). Source: Jones and Shuman 1991.



Left: Figure 3. Medallion promoting James M. Cox, candidate for the presidency of the United States for the Democratic party in 1920. Recovered from the surface at the Bayou Current site (16SL27). Cox lost the election to

Below: Figure 4. 1920 campaign poster for James M. Cox and Franklin D. Roosevelt for President and Vice President



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Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

By Diana M. Greenlee, Station Archaeologist,
Poverty Point World Heritage Site

"Study dates Poverty Point floor back to 1411 B.C." Thus read the headline in the *Monroe News Star* on 30 November 1991. The article, by staff writer Mindy Wilson, described a 1991 field project at Poverty Point led by Glen Greene of Northeast Louisiana University (now University of Louisiana at Monroe) and Roger Nance (University of Alabama at Birmingham).

They were investigating an unusual deposit discovered by Greene in 1989 in a soil core taken from Ridge 2 in the Northwest Sector (Figure 1). The deposit was described as two silty-clay-loam surfaces separated by a thin burned layer. Greene suggested the surfaces may be prepared house floors and the burned layer could be the remains of a burned structure. This was quite exciting because, although the concentric earthen ridge system at Poverty Point had long been assumed to be the habitation area of the site, no strong evidence of house structures had been recovered previously.

Sixteen 2 x 2 m units were excavated by twelve students for six weeks in June and July 1991 (Figure 2). There is an M.A. thesis focused on the artifacts recovered (Miller 1997), however no publications or final report were produced. The excavated materials were transferred to the Poverty Point Archaeological Curatorial Facility several years ago, but the only associated records were student notebooks.

In the absence of systematic field records, little could be done with this legacy collection beyond repackaging the artifacts in more stable archival bags. After various unsuccessful attempts to locate the records, I was able to contact Jill Miller; she still had the field records for the project, which she sent immediately. Additional materials were provided by Lorraine Heartfield.

With support from the Marshall Fellowship Fund, the Noah Buffett-Kennedy Foundation, and the Advocates for Poverty Point, we are beginning a curatorial rehabilitation project. We will work with students and volunteers to 1) organize and digitally scan the hard-copy records, 2) bring the artifact assemblage up to current curatorial standards, and 3) catalog the artifacts and incorporate them into the

existing referential database of Poverty Point artifacts. With the collection thus organized, the artifacts, along with flotation samples and bags of apparently unprocessed midden, can be analyzed and a final report on the excavation will be produced.

One important aspect of the fieldwork is unfortunately missing. We do not have any project photographs. I am reaching out to archaeologists and the general public who visited Poverty Point during the summer of 1991, in hopes they may have photographs of the excavation. As a memory prod, Jon Gibson also led a field school in the West Ridges that summer.

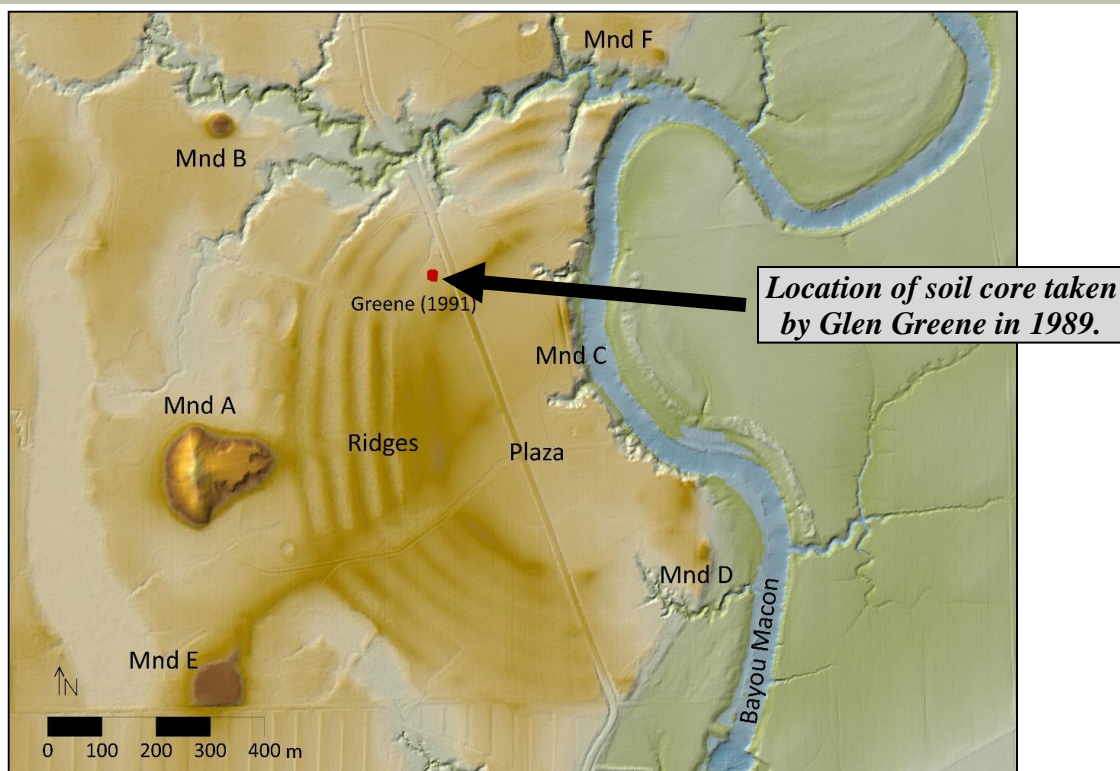
Thus far, the photo archive of Joe Saunders has produced several slides, including the layout of excavation units (Figure 2), and Lisa Coleman, one of Gibson's students, has shared a photo of a profile/feature excavation (Figure 3). Please contact me at 318-557-7745 (mobile) or greenlee@ulm.edu if you have images or other information about this project to share!

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**Figure 2. Layout of 1991
Excavation Units.
Photo: Joe Saunders.**



**Figure 3. Feature excavation.
Photo: Lisa Coleman.**

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

LSU mounds could be oldest man-made structure, but peer review necessary, professor says

BY YOUSSEF RDDAD | Staff writer, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, January 19, 2020

A new look at some very old microscopic bone fragments may have led to a new determination on the age of the earthen mounds on LSU's campus that Gov. Huey Long once took steps to preserve.

LSU geology professor Brooks Ellwood, in an extraordinary but unsubstantiated claim, is theorizing that the bone fragments, which were scarred in a super-heated fire, suggest the mounds are perhaps the oldest man-made structures in the Western Hemisphere, and possibly the world.

Ellwood says the mounds could be twice as old as previously thought. Earlier research had concluded they were built 5,500 to 6,000 years ago. Ellwood now estimates they're about 11,300 years old, based on the material he found inside them. Scientists who had explored the mounds previously had found an ashy material, a revelation that eventually struck a chord with Ellwood.

He said he came up with an idea to test some of the mound's deep material after a bad dream woke him in the middle of the night and he recalled ashy material he had found during an excavation in Albania in 1990. He pulled out his slides with pictures of that trip and noted similarities between that site and the one just steps from his campus office.

Ellwood said researchers may have overlooked the ashy layer, thinking it unimportant. Should it have been tested thoroughly along with other material unearthed in the dig?

With recent samples under a microscope, Ellwood said, researchers found what appeared to be tiny remnants of bones that could only come from mammals. The bits were surrounded by high concentrations of reed and cane material.

Ellwood said because reed and cane burn too hot for cooking, the material may have been used by people for incineration — possibly in ceremonial rites that included cremation.

"They weren't burning cooking fires," Ellwood said. "The only logical thing that it could have been is for human beings."

Ellwood's suggestion would be a potentially huge finding. Other researchers say they'd need to evaluate what he found and put it through the rigor of a review from other experts.

"Given the extraordinary claims, I would need to see the evidence before stating whether I agreed with the findings or not," said David Anderson, an archaeologist at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, who has studied ancient mounds.

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism declined to comment, echoing other researchers reached by The Advocate who say the findings need to withstand a peer review before they can be accepted.

If Ellwood's calculations are correct, the age of the mounds would be three times that of the Egyptian pyramids and could lend important clues about human inhabitants throughout the Americas, not just in Louisiana.

"These are really important native American antiquities that are on our campus just by accident," Ellwood said. "This is unique to LSU almost beyond anything."

Little is known about the people who built the ancient edifices. Ellwood speculated they were descendants of Clovis people, the Paleo-American culture known to have used spear-like projectiles and hunted mastodon and other giant beasts of long ago.

To have withstood changes in climate and the test of time shows that whoever built the mounds understood engineering. "They knew what they were doing," Ellwood said.

Humans are believed to have journeyed across the now-underwater land bridge connecting Asia to North America, with estimates of that exodus dating back around 15,000 years.

Testing the DNA on bones and remains is difficult because researchers need permission from native tribal leaders to do so. Such tests often conflict with religious beliefs, and there's an added aversion tied to grave looting by European settlers. There have been disagreements among scientists and native communities in some states, as well as calls for stronger protections of ancestral remains.

Native American mounds have increasingly attracted the interest of researchers, Anderson said, but it wasn't until the past 30 or 40 years that archaeologists realized how old they were.

Many of them are scattered along or near the Mississippi River, with several in Louisiana. They include those found at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site in the northeastern part of the state and the Watson Brake site, south of Monroe, which is about 5,400 years old.

Tristram Kidder, an archaeologist and professor at Washington University in St. Louis, said mounds may have been used as religious pilgrimage sites, similar to Vatican City and Mecca, or sites for political centers, or potentially both.

That thought shows people likely gathered at these places under a shared identity and forged their understanding of the world around them.

What Kidder and other researchers find remarkable about sites like the LSU campus mounds and Poverty Point is that people at the time didn't have the benefit of agriculture, livestock or metal tools.

"It's an extraordinary accomplishment for native peoples who've historically been denied this kind of status of having religious sites," Kidder said.

Researchers at LSU have long tried to preserve the mounds from further deterioration, not only from the elements but from people. LSU

moved from a site north of downtown Baton Rouge to its current campus in the 1920s.

Long circled the mounds on a map while helping plan a portion of LSU's campus, labeling the area as an "Indian Reservation," which Ellwood said likely protected them from being flattened.

The tradition of sliding down the mounds on cardboard slabs to celebrate a sporting win became so common, the university began to restrict access to the area on game days.

The university is exploring options to further protect the mounds, such as planting grasses and wildflowers to shield them from the elements, as well as posting signs telling people to keep off them.

Planting greenery would eliminate the added damage of mowing the grass but would require someone to pull out trees before their roots damage the mound. Another suggestion includes building a giant greenhouse over them.

The latest findings may lead to more support for a plan to protect them. "There have been groups who've tried to get LSU to do something for over 20 years," Ellwood said. "LSU now understands the antiquity of it."



Brooks B. Ellwood, the Robey Clark Distinguished Professor in Geology in LSU's Dept of Geology and Geophysics, in front of LSU Campus Mound 'A' Thursday Jan. 9 2020. Mound B is at left, background. Recent analysis of cores samples taken in 2009 from both mounds shows they are much older-more than 11,000 years old-than previously thought. The analysis also helps explain how and why the mounds are being hurt by wear and tear. Mound A exhibits serious deformation due to many processes, including grass mowing and large numbers of people walking, running, sliding, biking, and digging into the mounds. Staff photo by Travis Spaulding.

IF LSU'S MOUNDS REALLY ARE THE WORLD'S OLDEST THEN WE NEED MORE EVIDENCE, ARCHAEOLOGISTS SAY

As archaeologists and university professors, we note with interest the Jan. 19 article in this newspaper by Youssef Rddad about the LSU Campus Mounds, which are important Native American earthworks and among the earliest monumental architecture in North America.

According to the article, Professor Brooks Ellwood suggests he has evidence the LSU Campus Mounds may have been built 11,300 years ago, making them "perhaps the oldest man-made structures in the Western Hemisphere, and possibly the world." Archaeologists have presented evidence that Native Americans constructed these mounds, as well as others in Louisiana and Mississippi, between 4,800 and 6,000 years ago.

Perhaps Ellwood is correct in claiming an earlier date, but any new evidence needs to be carefully evaluated before reaching a conclusion. As the article also mentions, this is usually done through scholarly peer review. Along with the archaeological evidence for the construction of earthen monuments, geological evidence of changes in the landscape where these and other mound sites are located is also relevant and important.

Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. Nearly doubling the age of the LSU Campus Mounds, and potentially other contemporaneous earthworks, is an extraordinary claim. Archaeologists eagerly anticipate the formal presentation of the evidence and Ellwood's interpretation of that evidence.

We strongly agree that Louisiana should devote resources toward the careful stewardship of these ancient monuments and the many other indigenous mound sites in Louisiana. Whether the mounds are 6,000 years or 11,000 years old, or any other age, these are profoundly important places, of "monumental" significance to Native Americans, world archaeology and our understanding of the human past. In addition to stewardship and conservation, we should also recognize the need for adequate resources and relevant expertise for additional scientific, archaeological investigation.

The LSU Campus Mounds, and others like them, are invaluable and irreplaceable cultural resources. They deserve appreciation, preservation, protection and study.

Chris Rodning,
Archaeologist, Tulane University

Mark Rees
Archaeologist, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

This is a letter to the editor run by the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate in response to the article featuring Brooks Elwood's claims of antiquity for the LSU Campus Mounds. As of this writing, Elwood is preparing a submission concerning the LSU mounds to the journal *Geoarchaeology*-LAS Editor

Image from a campaign several years ago to keep crowds off of LSU Campus Mounds during home football games.



GRAVES ON FORMOSA SITE BELONGED TO SLAVES? ARCHAEOLOGIST SAYS HE ISN'T SO SURE NOW

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | Staff writer Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, January 28, 2020

A private archaeologist who concluded in June that a suspected slave cemetery was found on the site of the proposed Formosa Plastics chemical plant in St. James Parish now says he isn't sure who is buried in the graves.

Paul D. Jackson, the lead author of a 58-page report about the investigation that found the cemetery, said a historical archaeologist his company had recently hired helped open his mind to other possibilities about who could be buried on the old grounds of the Buena Vista Plantation in western St. James.

Jackson, co-owner of TerraXplorations Inc., hasn't ruled out that the graves could belong to former slaves. But he said that without more information or the exhumation of the remains and the telltale artifacts associated with them, he can't rule out other possibilities, including that white field hands and overseers could be buried there.

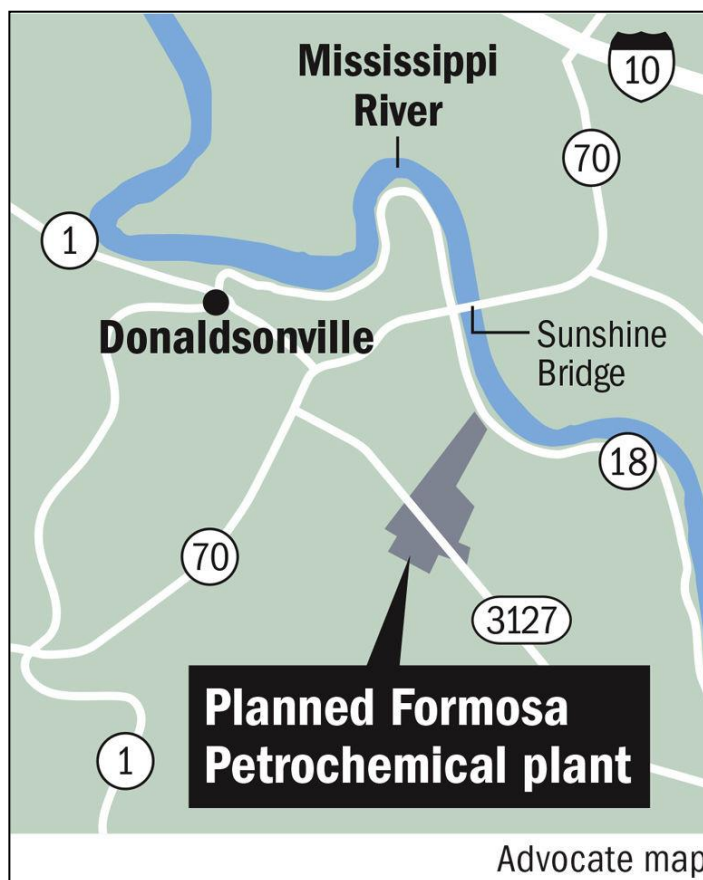
"It could be an enslaved cemetery. It could be a European cemetery. Right now, we really just don't know and to say one way or the other right now would be risky," he said.

The 271-foot-by-229.5-foot cemetery has four confirmed burials and many other potential grave shafts. It has been fenced off and sits inside Formosa's planned buffer, according to Formosa and Jackson.

Environmental and community groups opposed to Formosa's plant last fall uncovered that company officials had learned about two suspected cemetery sites from the state and were prompted to investigate while they were seeking a land use permit in the last half of 2018 and early 2019 from parish government. An unnamed researcher had notified the state about an 1878 map showing two possible cemeteries.

The groups disclosed Jackson's June report and other documents and emails late last year, arguing the parish should rescind the land use permit in light of the new information about the graves. They also raised the possibility that other graves could be on portions of Formosa's site that haven't been investigated.

Jackson's original conclusion that graves may have belonged to enslaved black people presented a potentially potent argument for critics, many of whom are black residents from the area and



are opposed to Formosa's plans for the nearly 2,400 acres of agricultural fields and swamp in the Welcome community.

The plant, these critics said, would be going in near the graves of enslaved people who once worked the fields along the Mississippi River during the brutal era of American slavery. Now, people who could be their descendants in nearby communities may face the brunt of pollution from the new complex proposed by Formosa affiliate FG LA LLC on those same grounds.

The shift in Jackson's view of what may be buried on Formosa's property came to light Jan. 21, the same day the Parish Council formally heard from residents and environmental groups about rescinding a previously issued land use permit, in part, over the cemetery discovery.

The council hasn't acted on the request, but, at FG LA's request, Jackson wrote a Jan. 21 letter to FG spokeswoman Janile Parks. She then forwarded it to the council members the same day, summarizing the archaeological investigation and the latest conclusions about who may be in the ground.

Archival research of the cemetery was unable to establish the origin of the location or its interments," Jackson wrote. "Any conjecture on the origin without physical proof would be only speculative and possibly inaccurate."

He added that evidence of another suspected cemetery on the adjacent Acadia Plantation — a cemetery that would have been more centrally located in Formosa's plant site — may have been destroyed years before by a prior landowner. Jackson's first report from June also notes this.

When asked directly about the Jan. 21 letter and its timing, Jackson said he was under no pressure from FG LA, which is indirectly his client through another company, to shift his point of view on the graves on the Buena Vista property.

"No. I wouldn't do that," said Jackson, a registered professional archaeologist with bachelor's and master's degrees in anthropology.

He said he wouldn't make such a clarification without appropriate reason and emphasized that under state law, no matter who is in the ground, the remains must be protected.

Since the council meeting, one of the groups that have raised the cemetery issue said they view Jackson's shift skeptically and see FG LA's hand in that change. They also added that whatever Jackson says now doesn't change that FG LA didn't tell parish officials about the graves at the time the project was up for approval.

"Nothing that they have said questions the idea that these could be the burial sites of enslaved people. They can come up with, again, all sorts of different stories, but the fact is their archaeologist's first conclusion was these were the bodies of enslaved people," said Anne Rolfes, founding director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade.

Pamela Spees, the senior staff attorney of Center for Constitutional Rights who petitioned the Parish Council about the graves earlier this month, said her group is working with an independent archaeologist to see whether other graves may exist. "The story's still playing out, and we'll see where it leads," Spees said.

Jackson's report from June reaches its original conclusion from field and archival research and from the process of elimination. Jackson found that the plantation's owners, the Winchester family, were buried elsewhere.

Citing census data, the report says the plantation had dozens of slaves in 1850, but no clear record existed of who might be in the ground. Jackson pointed to those facts and others, including the cemetery's use in the 19th and early 20th centuries, to support the conclusion that the graves could belong to enslaved people.

"The absence of verifiable indications (headstones or through archival research) of who was buried in the cemetery leads us to believe it could have been a slave cemetery associated with the Buena Vista Plantation," Jackson's June report says.

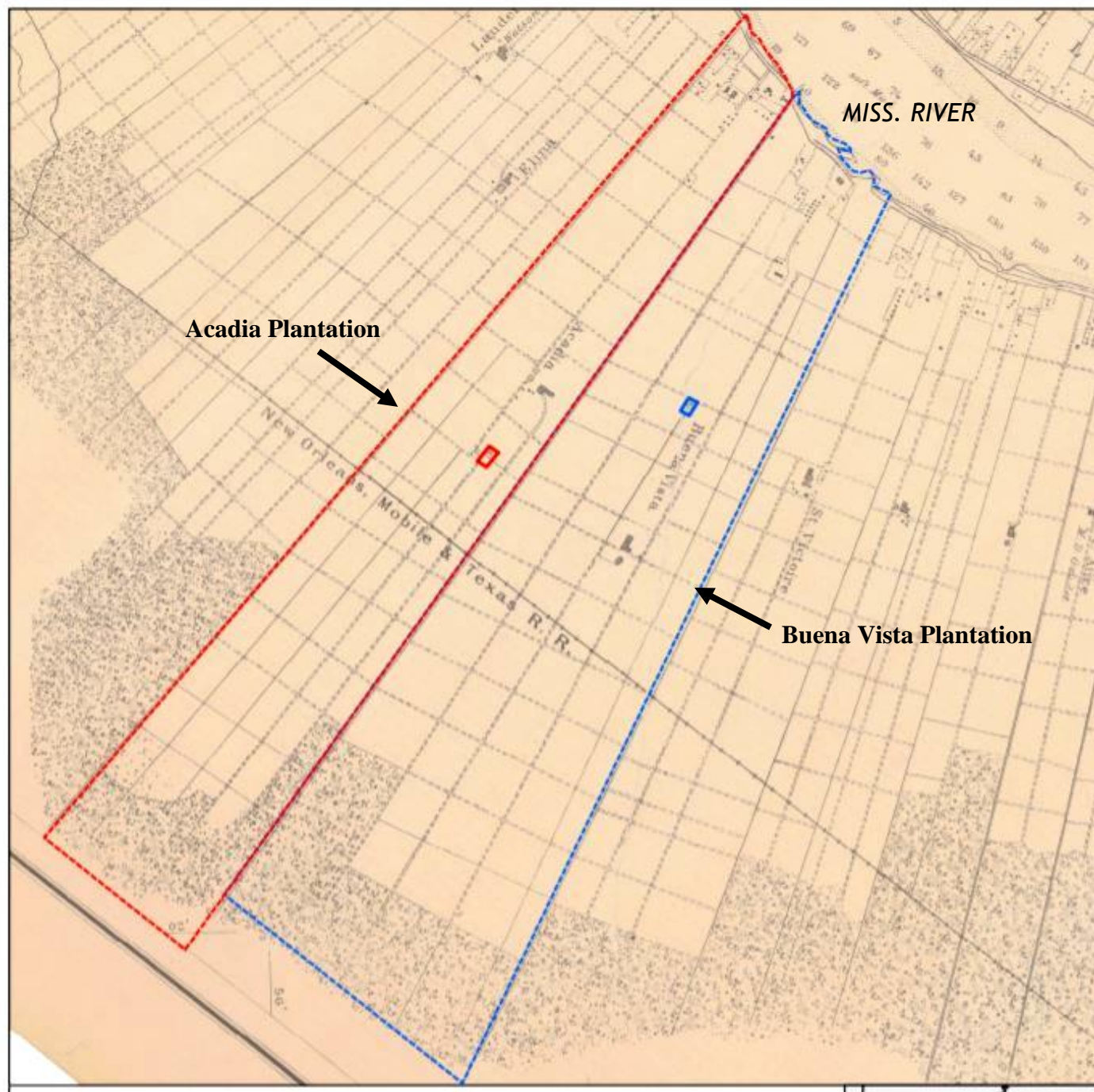
Jackson said his current position reflects a fuller appreciation of the possibilities, including that poor white field hands might be equally as likely as black slaves to have been buried without much record for posterity. "The people that have the records are the wealthy," he said.

Jackson added that, in the absence of available public records, better context could be culled from community history, old family documents and even oral histories of those who lived and worked in the area. He said old diaries also are ways to find that information.

"My gut feeling is that's how more data would come us, is someone might remember, 'Well, this is where it used to be,' and then that would lead us to make sure that it is there or isn't there," he said.



Undated photograph taken during field excavations of a suspected slave cemetery done May 13 - 23, 2019, shows one of the trenches researchers dug. The cemetery was associated with the old Buena Vista Plantation in western St. James Parish. The cemetery is located in land set aside for buffer for the proposed \$9.4 billion Formosa Chemical complex according to a report from TerraXplorations Inc.



*An 1878 Mississippi River map showing the locations of the Acadia and Buena Vista plantations.
The rectangles within each plantation are locations of possible cemeteries.*

Photograph: TerraXplorations, Inc

ARCHAEOLOGISTS MISSED CEMETERY INSIDE SITE FOR FORMOSA COMPLEX IN ST. JAMES, REPORT CLAIMS

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | Staff writer, Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, March 11, 2020

An archaeological investigation conducted for Formosa Plastics over the past two years on the site of its proposed chemical complex in St. James Parish missed what's believed to be a cemetery, according to an analysis conducted for a group that opposes Formosa's expansion.

A review of a nearly 2,400-acre former plantation site along the Mississippi also revealed four other potential "anomalies" that could also indicate the presence of additional cemeteries, and one burial site previously identified could be larger than previously understood, the study paid for by a group opposed to the \$9.4 billion project says. Coastal Environments Inc., a Baton Rouge firm hired by the Center for Constitutional Rights of New York, says it reviewed aerial photographs and historic land surveys – some dating to the 1800s. CEI did not do a site investigation for its 146-page report.

Formosa said it conducted thorough surveys, disclosed what it found and that it would continue to be respectful of historic burial grounds. Environmental groups opposed to the proposed chemical plant said they have asserted to the St. James Parish Council that there could be up to seven cemeteries containing the remains of enslaved people at the site.

The CEI report does not identify who might be buried in the area, but notes plantations had many slaves and other field workers. It suggests, among other things, that dogs trained at detecting corpses be used to further investigate the site.

Rise St. James and other groups have been fighting the Formosa complex for nearly two years and want the Parish Council to rescind the complex's land use permit. They claimed council members were not sufficiently informed about the project's potential impact.

Last year, an archaeological firm hired by FG LA LLC, a Formosa joint venture behind the chemical project, concluded that a cemetery shown as being on the Acadia Plantation in an 1878 U.S. Coast Survey map, if it existed, must have been destroyed by prior land excavation.

CEI's new analysis, known as cartographic regression analysis, found that the series of trenches

dug by TerraXplorations Inc. in 2018 and 2019 in an attempt to find the suspected Acadia Plantation cemetery just missed the location.

Paul Jackson, co-founder of TerraXplorations, said the discovery of new information from the surrounding community would help protect valuable cultural resources.

Jackson said his firm dug in one of the only areas in that part of the field that hadn't been disturbed by land alterations that farmers had made after the 1960s. The clump of trees suspected of being the site and shown in an aerial image from the mid-1900s was no longer there, he said. Thousands of "shovel tests" were also done in the area. "This is just archaeology, unfortunately," Jackson said.

Unlike the cemetery that TerraXplorations did find, which was part of the old Buena Vista Plantation and will be in the future plant's buffer zone, the Acadia Plantation cemetery would be located more centrally inside the chemical plant.

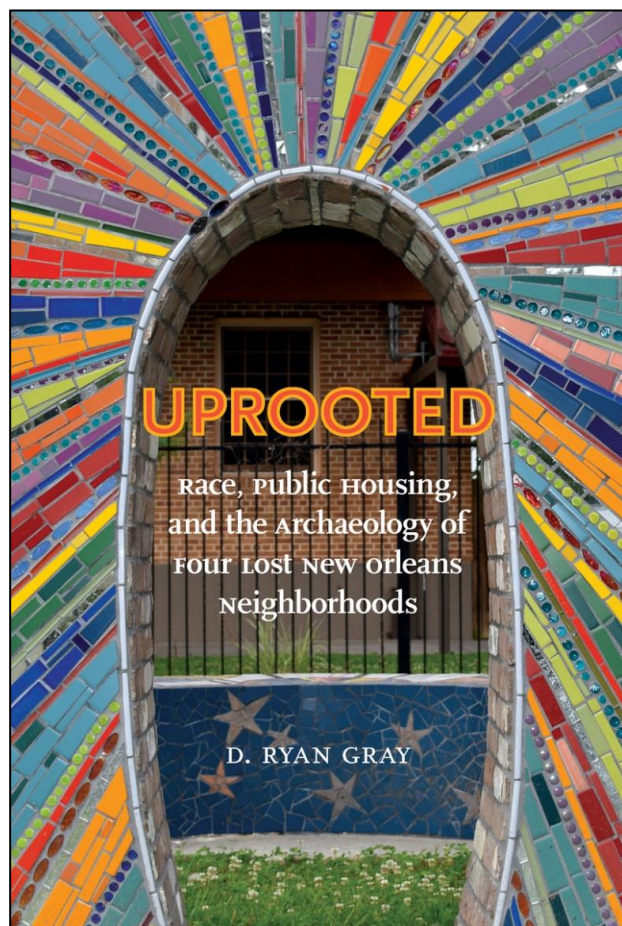
CEI says the Acadia Plantation cemetery site had shown up on old maps as an area marked with a cross and, later, in aerial maps from the mid-1900s, as an unplowed clump of trees measuring 136 feet by 115 feet.

Formosa said in a statement that it had complied with rules put in place by various agencies, including the State Historic Preservation Office, and that it would continue to do so. It said it installed fencing around the potential Buena Vista site, but that no remains were found at the Acadia site.

"Because the Acadia site is in the area of borrow pits excavated by previous owners of the property, it is believed that the Acadia site, if ever present, was previously disturbed during the prior excavations by previous owners," said Janile Parks, the director of community and government relations for FG LA.

Client's wishes prevented TerraXplorations from providing comment on issues raised by media coverage when contacted by the LAS Editor.

BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



Uprooted: Race, Public Housing, and the Archaeology of Four Lost New Orleans Neighborhoods

by D. Ryan Gray

University of Alabama Press, 2020

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Uprooted: Race, Public Housing, and the Archaeology of Four Lost New Orleans Neighborhoods uses archaeological research on four neighborhoods that were razed during the construction of public housing in World War II-era New Orleans. Although each of these neighborhoods was identified as a “slum” historically, the material record challenges the simplicity of this designation. D. Ryan Gray provides evidence of the inventiveness of former residents who were marginalized by class, color, or gender and whose everyday strategies of survival, subsistence, and spirituality challenged the city’s developing racial and social hierarchies.

These neighborhoods initially appear to have been quite distinct, ranging from the working-class Irish Channel, to the relatively affluent Creole of Color-dominated Lafitte area, to the former location of Storyville, the city’s experiment in semi-legal prostitution. Archaeological and historical investigations suggest that race was the crucial factor in the areas’ selection for clearance. Each neighborhood manifested a particular perceived racial disorder, where race intersected with ethnicity, class, or gender in ways that defied the norms of Jim Crow segregation.

Gray’s research makes use of both primary documents—including census records, city directories, and even the brothel advertising guides called “Blue Books”—and archaeological data to examine what this entailed at a variety of scales, reconstructing narratives of the households and communities affected by clearance. Public housing, both in New Orleans and elsewhere, imposed a new kind of control on urban life that had the effect of making cities both more segregated and less equal. The story of the neighborhoods that were destroyed provides a reminder that their erasure was not an inevitable outcome, and that a more equitable and just city is still possible today. A critical examination of the rise of public housing helps inform the ongoing debates over its demise, especially in light of the changing face of post-Katrina New Orleans.

D. Ryan Gray is associate professor of anthropology at the University of New Orleans (UNO)

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Researching the Past with Two Projects in Arkansas. By Mary Beth Trubitt, 2019, 108pp.

This general audience book presents recent research in the Ouachita Mountains region while explaining new archeological techniques. Trubitt uses examples from two Arkansas Archeological Survey excavation projects to show how archeologists ask and answer questions about past ways of life, providing a concise summary of 10,000 years of local American Indian history

Dogs: Archaeology beyond Domestication

Edited by Brandi Bethke and Amanda Burt

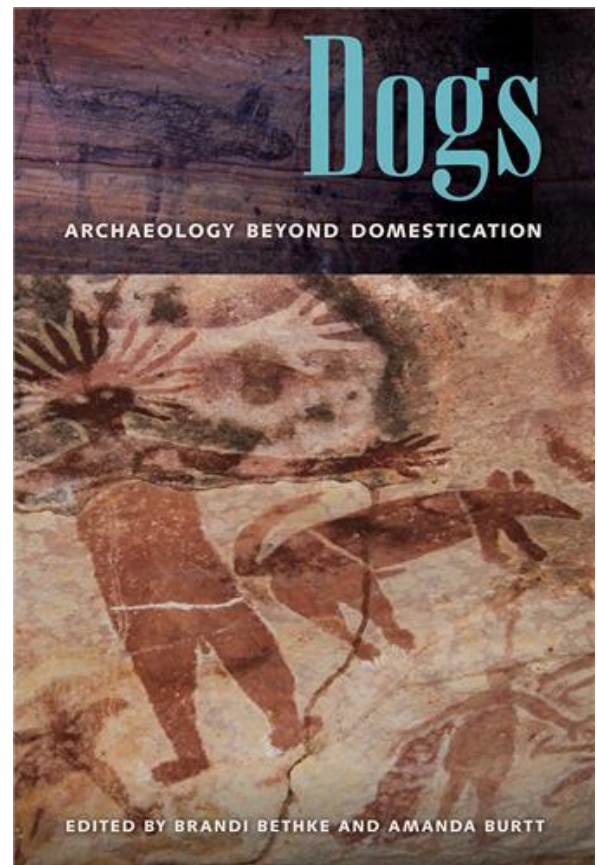
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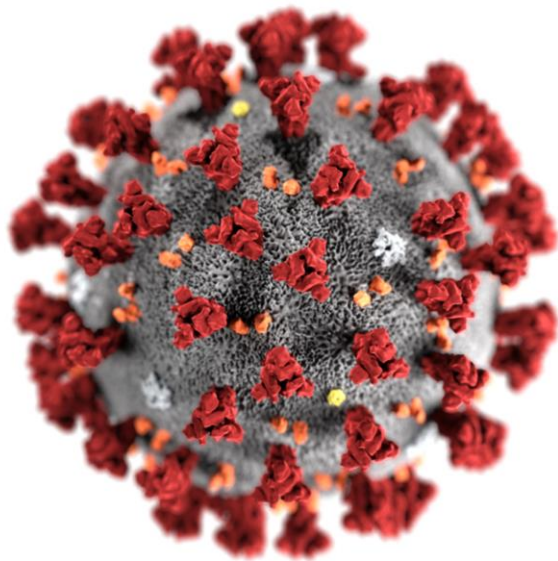
This volume offers a rich archaeological portrait of the human-canine connection. Contributors investigate the ways people have viewed and valued dogs in different cultures around the world and across the ages.

Case studies from North and South America, the Arctic, Australia, and Eurasia present evidence for dogs in roles including pets, guards, hunters, and herders. In these chapters, faunal analysis from the Ancient Near East suggests that dogs contributed to public health by scavenging garbage, and remains from a Roman temple indicate that dogs were offered as sacrifices in purification rites. Essays also chronicle the complex partnership between Aboriginal peoples and the dingo and describe how the hunting abilities of dogs made them valuable assets for Indigenous groups in the Amazon rainforest. The volume draws on multidisciplinary methods that include zooarchaeological analysis; scientific techniques such as dental microwear, isotopic, and DNA analyses; and the integration of history, ethnography, multispecies scholarship, and traditional cultural knowledge to provide an in-depth account of dogs' lives.

Showing that dogs have been a critical ally for humankind through cooperation and companionship over thousands of years, this volume broadens discussions about how relationships between people and animals have shaped our world.



MEETINGS, FIELDWORK, EXHIBITS, WEBSITES, ETC.



As LAS members probably already know, plans for archaeological conferences, exhibits, workshops, chapter meetings, and other events have been cancelled this spring. Many sites in Louisiana and surrounding states that are preserved as parks are likewise shut down.

We all hope for an end to this plague in the near future. Meanwhile, a few conferences planned for 2021 are listed below. Going forward, please check the websites for these organizations to learn updates and changes.

The 2020 SAA meetings scheduled for Austin, TX were cancelled due to the COVID19 pandemic.

April 14-18, 2021 are the dates for the next meeting. The conference will be in San Francisco, CA. Check the SAA website for details. WWW.saa.org



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY



**Southeastern Archaeological Conference
77TH ANNUAL MEETING
October 28 to 31, 2020
Durham, NC at the Durham Convention Center**

As of this writing, all chapter meetings of the Louisiana Archaeological Society are on hiatus. The libraries, museums, and other facilities where these meetings are generally held are also closed. Members are advised to check with the presidents or other officers of each chapter in order to learn when meeting will resume.



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SP#1 – Stone Points and Tools of Northwestern Louisiana \$4.00 ()

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