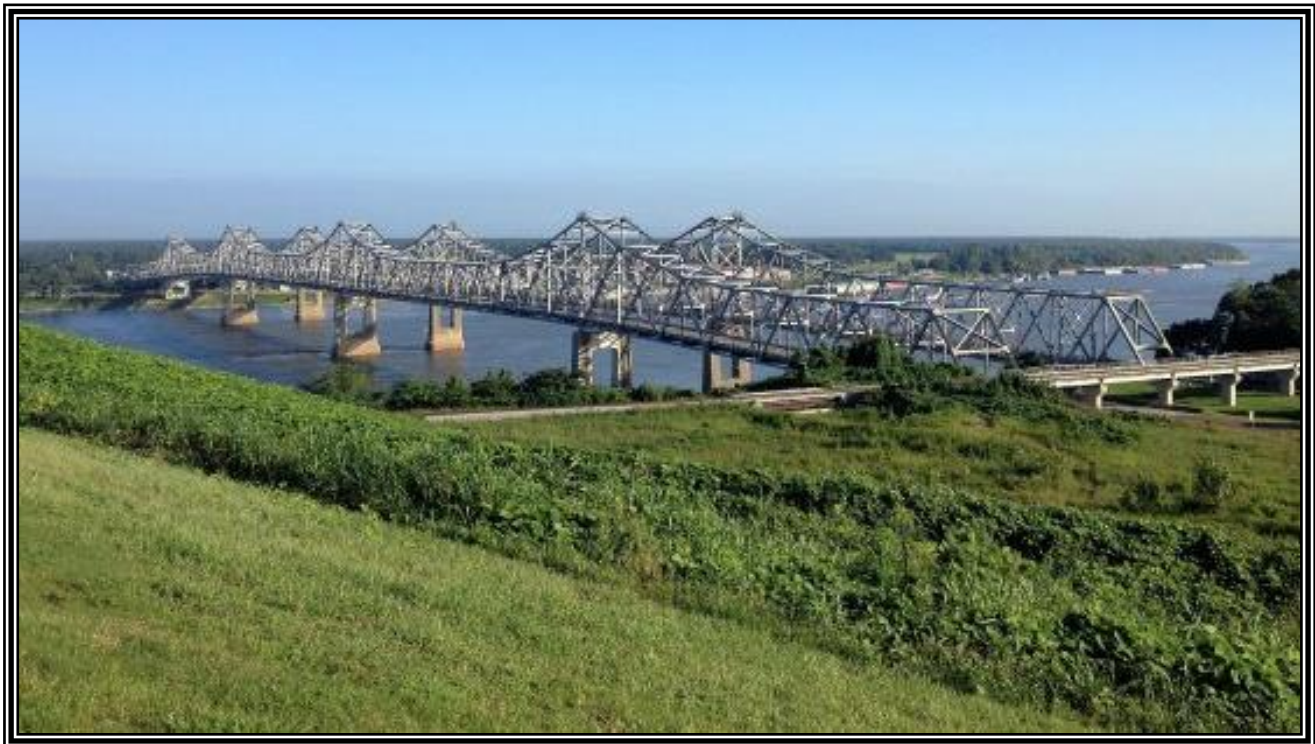




# NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2020

Vol. 47, No.3



**VIEW FROM HOTEL VUE  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE AT NATCHEZ, MS  
COME SEE FOR YOURSELF  
AT THE LAS/MAA JOINT ANNUAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7-9, 2020**

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

**Our sense of place is bigger than our walls and bolder than our architecture.**

For generations, the hotel upon the bluff has been the setting for Southern hospitality both small and big. Sunday lunches after church became a weekly routine for locals while visitors to Natchez enjoyed the conveniences that a purposefully built hotel provided. In a community where legacy is valued, the places that provide the backdrop for great memories reign supreme.

These are exciting times as new ownership tied into the community for generations remembers their own traditions here and understands that a renewed sense of service, renovated accommodations, and fresh food and beverage offerings resonate with a large family of travelers and locals alike. Ownership's ties to the community's long-standing industries are whimsically woven into the interior design features of the property.



Hotel Vue highlights its orientation to the mighty Mississippi and what this river has meant to this community. Its décor was been refreshed to intrigue all guests by looking back at Natchez's history throughout its artwork and forward with the comfort and interest of modern accessories. Details strike a balance between the amenities of a franchised hotel and the uniqueness of a local bed and breakfast.

*-From website [www.hotelvuenatchez.com](http://www.hotelvuenatchez.com)*

**HOTEL VUE**

130 John R Junkin Drive, Natchez, MS 39120

Reservations online at

<https://www.hotelvuenatchez.com/>

**ROOM TYPES AND RATES**

Single King Bed or 2 Double Beds: \$99

King Suite, Double Queen Suite, and King Whirlpool: \$109

**RESERVATIONS**

May be made by calling 1-888-946-4727

Or online at

<https://www.hotelvuenatchez.com/>

**MEETING REGISTRATION**

Pre-registration until 1/31/2020: \$30

May be purchased through the LAS website: <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/lasannualmeeting>



# Joint LAS and MAA Annual Meeting 2020



## Save the Date and Call for Papers

The joint annual meeting will be held in Natchez,  
February 7-9, 2020.

Venue: Hotel Vue - booking link

[https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/  
groups/XJ32A6](https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/XJ32A6) or (601) 442-9976.

Hotel Rate \$99

Registration (\$30 member; \$20 student)  
Reception and Keynote Address – Historic  
Natchez Foundation, Saturday, February 8, 2020. Free  
appetizers – cash bar

Sunday tour(s) TBA

Programs chairs: Rachel Watson & Lance Harris

Please submit abstracts to  
[info@natchezgrandvillage.com](mailto:info@natchezgrandvillage.com)

**Abstract Deadline January 27, 2020**

If you have questions, please contact Rachel Watson ([rwatson@crt.la.gov](mailto:rwatson@crt.la.gov)) or  
Lance Harris ([lharris@mdah.ms.gov](mailto:lharris@mdah.ms.gov)).

Don't forget to bring books or other items to donate to  
the LAS Silent Auction. Contact Chip McGimsey at  
[cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov](mailto:cmcgimsey@crt.la.gov) with any questions.

## LAS CHAPTER AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### **New Face at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology in Baton Rouge**

By Chip McGimsey, Louisiana State Archaeologist

Abigail Bleichner is joining the Division of Archaeology in mid-January. She received her BA and MA degrees from the University of Rhode Island with a focus on maritime archaeology. For nearly a year she worked for the US Navy's Naval History and Heritage Command on a variety of projects, including outreach activities, permit review, and research on sunken military craft. For the last three years Abigail has worked for SEARCH, an archaeological consulting firm, in their New Orleans office. She was involved in a variety of terrestrial and maritime projects, and has extensive experience with Geographic Information Systems.

At the Division, Abigail will have two areas of responsibility. One area will be reviewing Section 106 projects for their potential impact on cultural resources. As the Division transitions to a new online submission portal for 106 projects, we anticipate that her time can be spent actually reviewing projects rather than organizing the submissions and distributing them to the correct databases. As she takes on this role, it will also free up Rachel Watson's time for other projects. Abigail's other responsibility will be to work with the general public, collectors, and other interested people who contact our office for information. This effort will include making field visits to record sites and cemeteries, and help document collections. She will also assist with other outreach activities as the need arises.

We are delighted to have Abigail join us and look forward to her contributions. We are particularly pleased to now have staff available to meet with the general public and to serve, in a sense, as a state-wide Regional Archaeologist. We look forward to introducing her to everyone at the 2020 annual meeting of the LAS in Natchez, MS.



### CHANGES FOR THE LAS MEMBERSHIP AS OF 2020

After no raise in 20+ years, the dues for LAS membership will be going up to cover rising costs of everything! After much discussion, the LAS Executive Committee proposes these new rates:

- Regular Annual Membership.....\$25.00**
- Associate Membership for Family Member.....\$5.00**
- Student Membership (with copy of student ID)..... \$20.00**
- Individual Lifetime Membership.....\$300.00**
- Institutional Membership.....\$50.00**

**Due to rising postal costs, hardcopies of the LAS newsletter will no long be sent to Regular, Student, or Life LAS members by “snail mail.”**

**Only digital copies will be sent to the current email addresses of the membership.**

**If you have not given the LAS your email address, please do so.**

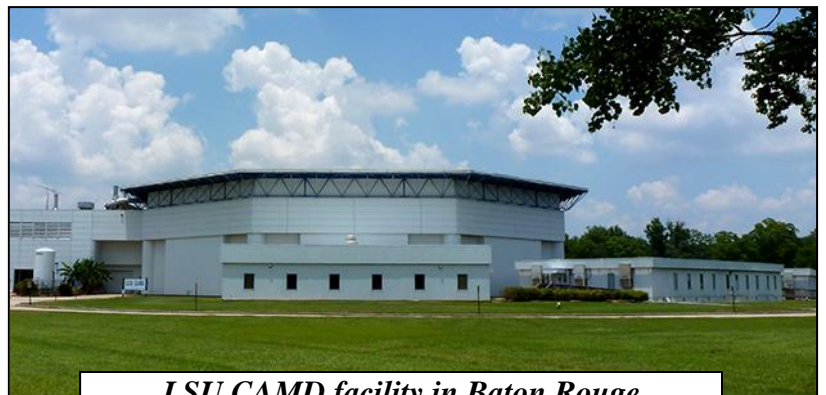
**Send email address to Valerie Feathers, LAS Treasurer, at: [vfeathers@crt.la.gov](mailto:vfeathers@crt.la.gov) or Dennis Jones, LAS Editor, at: [archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com)**



*The West-Central Louisiana Chapter of the Louisiana Archaeological Society had a holiday celebration and tour of the Smart House in Leesville, La. The Edmond Ellison Smart House, in Vernon Parish, is believed to have been built in about 1870 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. It was the longtime home of Dr. Edmond Ellison Smart (d.1908), founder of Leesville.*

The Baton Rouge Chapter of the LAS had its holiday party at the LSU Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices (CAMD) facility on December 6, 2019. CAMD staff members Josef Hormes and Lisa Bovenkamp-Langlois are LAS members and have provided assistance for archaeological research in Louisiana and elsewhere.

BRLAS members had home-cooked turkey, side dishes, and a variety of desserts. Beer and other drinks were available to wash it all down. Fun was had by all!!



*LSU CAMD facility in Baton Rouge*

## FIELD NOTES AND CURRENT RESEARCH

### World War II Gum Springs Bombing Range Accident Commemoration, Winn Ranger District, Louisiana

By Matt Helmer and Velicia Bergstrom, Kisatchie National Forest Heritage Programs

On October 16, 2019, the Kisatchie National Forest hosted a commemoration ceremony for 11 US airmen who lost their lives in a plane crash at Gum Springs, near the present-day Winn Ranger District office. During World War II, the Winn District area was used as a bombing range. Near the end of the war on March 3, 1945, a B-17 F Bomber Flying Fortress from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Air Force, III Bomber Command crashed during inclement weather, killing all on board. The men killed included: 2nd Lt. Russell L. Cobbs (pilot), 2nd Lt. Robert J. Keavy (co-pilot), 2nd Lt. Omar H. Lauridsen (navigator), 2nd Lt. Bruno J. Wieclaw (bombardier), Technical Sgt. Alexander G. Harwood III (radio operator), Sgt. Harold D. Bush (radio operator), Cpl. Lester J. Smejkal (gunner), Cpl. Jay "Joey" E. Crites (engineer), Cpl. Niels Anderson (gunner), Pfc. Bruce C. Rue (gunner), and Pfc. Millard B. Beard (gunner).

USFS Winn District employee Craig Robertson was instrumental in researching and promoting the story of this little-known tragedy, which was nearly lost to history. Mr. Robertson aided in the discovery of the approximate location of the crash site, and spearheaded efforts to erect a commemorative plaque honoring the airmen who were killed.

A commemoration service was held at the location of the newly minted plaque in front of the Winn District office. Colors were presented by the Barksdale Air Force Base (AFB) Honor Guard, followed by a welcome from Lisa Lewis, Kisatchie Forest Supervisor, a historical commentary from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bomb Wing Historian Christopher Allen-Shinn, a tribute by Winn District Ranger Bradley Cooper, and a reflection from the Barksdale AFB Chaplain. The Kisatchie National Forest hopes that the commemorative plaque can serve as a reminder of the many sacrifices that US servicemen and women endured on the home front, and to recognize the rich military history that exists throughout the forest.

*Photograph of memorial to crew of B-17 lost to a crashing during training mission in Kisatchie National Forest during World War II.*



*Photograph of B-17 F Bomber, Flying Fortress in flight.*

## Chisel Tips and Angel Wings

By James A. Fogleman

The following short piece consists of speculations unfettered by facts or relevant sources. While it will not definitively answer any questions, it hopefully will stimulate someone to investigate some rather bizarre artifacts attributes. The format of this article is along the lines of the famous [infamous?] late-night presentations that Mr. David Jeane used to inflict on participants at LAS Annual Meetings.

One of the Middle Archaic's best known artifacts is the *Evans* point. It is noted for having an extra set of notches. It appears related to the *Tangipahoa* point which also has an extra notch. The prime difference seems to be that the *Evans* point has an expanding stem as opposed to *Tangipahoa* point's contracting stem. *Evans* points can also include a down turn above the notch called an 'angel wing' (Figure 1).

The *Sinner* point has multiple extra notches. On many the multiple small notches occur only along the lower half of the points. A fine example appears on the cover of "Prehistoric Artifacts of Northeastern Louisiana" by David L. Griffing and is the back-ground for Figure 1. At one time, I had nearly completed an expanded more technical versions of this paper in which I referred to this type of point as *Sinner*, var. *Stelly* (Figure 2) after the Middle Archaic mound group in St. Landry Parish where several were found. The small notches may well have produced a serrated edge. Serrations have the longest live span of any of these attributes running from at least late Paleo in Dalton Points up to arrow points such as Alba and Colbert. It even occurs in modern steak knives and saws! I will dismiss serrations as it is a technological success story that has endured thousands of years and most likely reinvented numerous times.

Here this piece leaves the realm of science in an attempt to explain these artifacts. Unencumbered by the restraints of data, I shall proceed with rampant conjecture. For many years I have discussed these artifacts in back rooms, dimly lit bars, & late-night emails which is where most readers may wish it returns.

*Continued next page*



**Figure 1: Evans Point with Chisel Tip & "Angel Wing."**

**Figure 2: Sinner Point, var. Stelly**

**Figure 3: Close-up of Evans point "chisel tip."**

*Continued from previous page*

Now what about the extra notches on *Evans* and similar points? Were they perhaps used as spears in fishing where great force in pulling out the fish may have pulled the point off without the extra binding location the notches gave? The ‘angel wings’ are cutesy but even with my out-of-control imagination, I am unable to come up with any circumstance where this would be an advantage. Middle Archaic points in rare occasions can have a ‘chisel tip’ as in the close-up of the *Evans* point tip (Figure 3). The apiculate tip is flat like a chisel or flat head screwdriver. Unlike the ‘angel wings’ the problem with this feature is that it seems to generate a multitude of possible explanations including wood or bone work, engraving, and opening mussel shells. The later has been mentioned to me on numerous occasions & is one I like, as it reminds me of days spent shucking oysters. At one time I was pretty good at it. It got me invited to lots of ‘oyster’ parties until I realized that was probably the only reason I was invited.

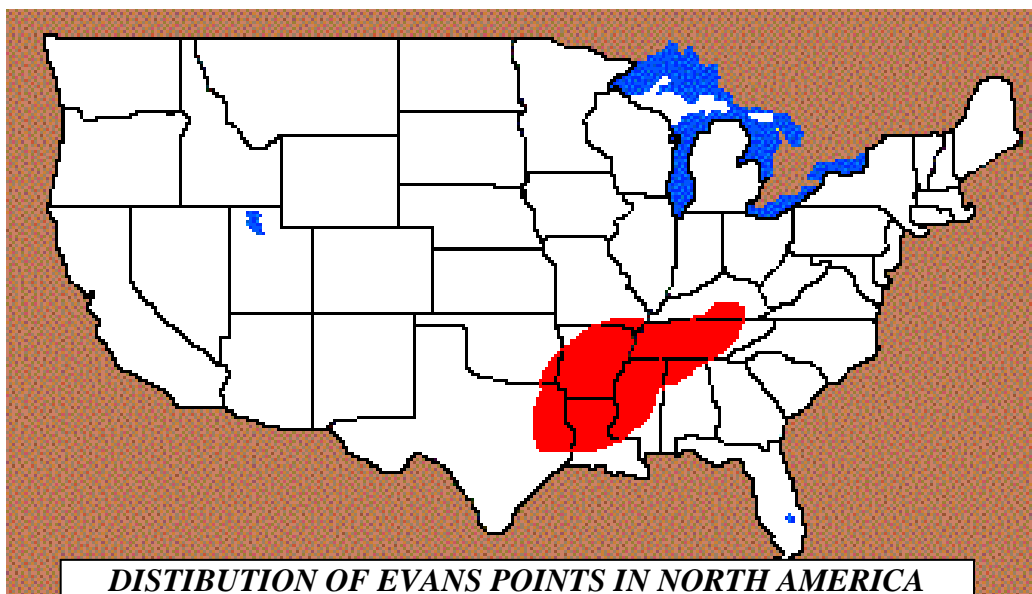
With the exception of serrations, all of the above explanations have one fatal flaw. If they accomplished their stated purpose, why did they disappear? If these items were really technological improvements, why were they so rarely produced and why didn’t they continue on throughout prehistory? Shell fish eating didn’t stop, wood or bone working didn’t cease, etc. One explanation while totally untestable works for me & it’s not the fallback position of “it’s ceremonial!” I prefer the even more untestable idea: It was just fashion. As George Bernard Shaw once wrote: “A fashion is nothing but an induced epidemic.” Current examples of today include saggy pants and over-sized hubcaps. But my favorite from the days of my childhood is fins on automobiles (Figure 4) as modeled by Marilyn Brookes. These fins added beauty and style, but certainly didn’t improve mileage or handling. So, without so much as a shovel full of midden or a 100-hour search on line, I propose that angel wings, extra notches, and chisel tips are just prehistoric Native American fashion statements. In the Middle Archaic when fantastic points and zoomorphic bead were in use, this was the Native Americans’ common man “pimping his point.” Perhaps as James A. Ford would have said: “Trendiness is part of the psychic unity of man.”



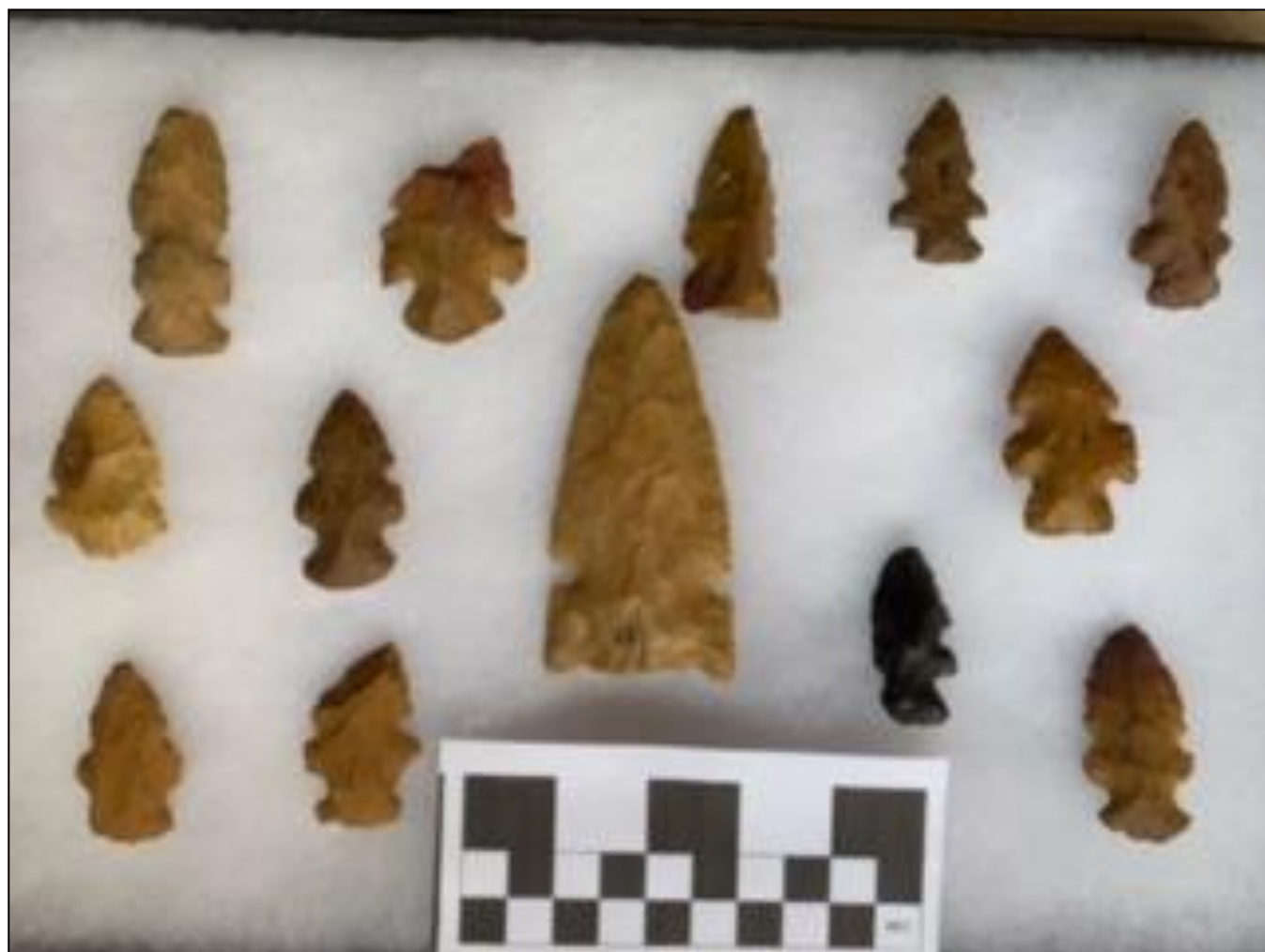




*Tangipahoa point*



**DISTRIBUTION OF EVANS POINTS IN NORTH AMERICA**  
*Source: <https://www.projectilepoints.net/Points/Evans.html>*



*David Jeane provided the above photo of Evans points he has collected from a number of sites in Northwest Louisiana emphasizing the distribution during the Middle Archaic period (6000-3000 BC).*

## Poverty Point Station Archaeology Program Update

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

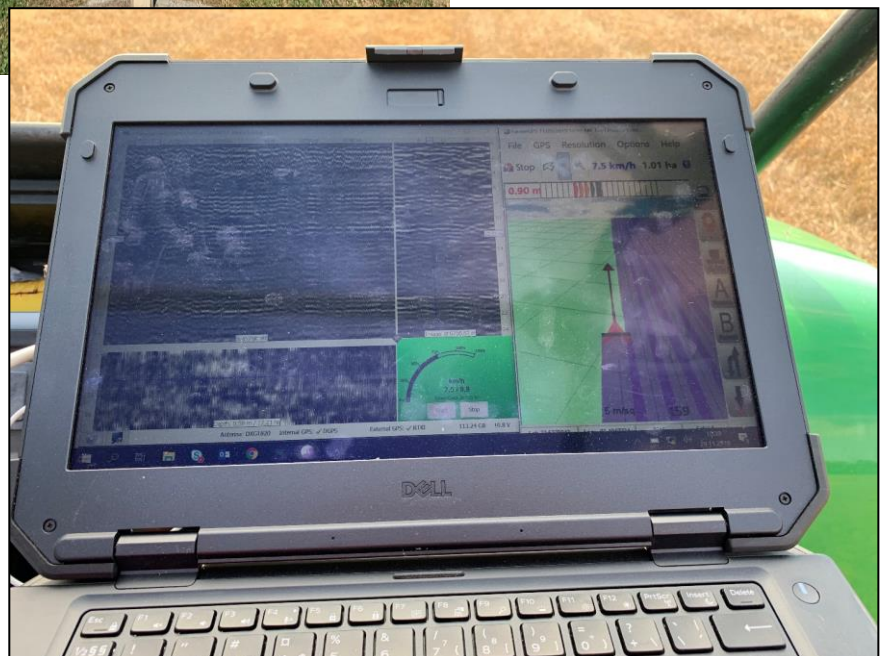
As noted in the previous LAS newsletter, the Station Archaeology Program has teamed with Dr. Rinita Dalan (Minnesota State University Moorhead) to study an intriguing rise within the plaza at Poverty Point WHS. Based on its location at the intersection of the western aisle to Mound A and the Mound E Ridge, and its proximity to deep post pits and several post circles, we think the West Plaza Rise could be a significant, yet under-appreciated, part of this amazing created landscape. Our project is a two-phase examination of the West Plaza Rise. First, we proposed to apply three-dimensional (multi-channel) ground penetrating radar (3D GPR) technology to that part of the plaza. The 3D GPR has the potential to create high resolution subsurface maps of earthworks and other cultural features over large areas without excavation. We will identify “targets” in the GPR data and, in the second phase, pull soil cores from the targets for various kinds of soil analysis. This will allow us to both test the accuracy of the 3D GPR and to better understand the formation and use of the West Plaza Rise.

The 3D GPR survey took place at Poverty Point WHS during the last week of November. Dr. Arne Anderson Stamnes, from the Terrestrial, Marine and Aerial Remote sensing for archaeology (TEMAR) research group at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology led the fieldwork. We used one of the Office of State Parks’ Gators to pull the antenna array (Figure 1). The Examiner software allowed us to track our progress and offered a preliminary glance at the data (Figure 2). In all, about 4.9 hectares (12.1 acres) of GPR data were collected during 3.5 days of fieldwork.



*Figure 1. Diana Greenlee and Arne Anderson Stamnes using a Gator to pull the 3D GPR antenna array around the plaza. Photo courtesy of Rinita Dalan.*

*Figure 2. “How’s my driving?” The Examiner software displays the survey progress (right), ensuring there are no gaps in data collection; monitors speed (center bottom) to ensure the GPR doesn’t outpace data collection; and allows observation of the data as they are recorded (center top and left). Photo courtesy of Rinita Dalan.*



Dr. Michael Hargrave (US Army Engineer Research & Development Center, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory), assisted by volunteers Marsha Holley (University of Alabama, Birmingham [UAB]) and Joe Perkins (member of the NELAS), conducted magnetic gradiometer survey to fill in some gaps in existing coverage in the plaza, the south sector of the ridge system, and north of Harlin Bayou (Figure 3).

On Saturday, 30 November 2019, we hosted an Open House for visitors to learn more about the project (Figure 4). Fortunately, the predicted storms held off for much of the day.

This research was made possible with support from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (#P19AP00139), the Advocates for Poverty Point, and the Spatial Archaeometry Research Collaborations (SPARC) Program. The SPARC Program is based at Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST) at the University of Arkansas and is funded by a generous grant from the National Science Foundation (Award #1822110 and #1822107). The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as representing the opinions or policies of the U.S. Government. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute their endorsement by the U.S. Government.



**Figure 3. UAB student Marsha Holley running the magnetic gradiometer in the plaza at Poverty Point WHS under the watchful eye of Mike Hargrave. Photo courtesy of Rinita Dalan.**

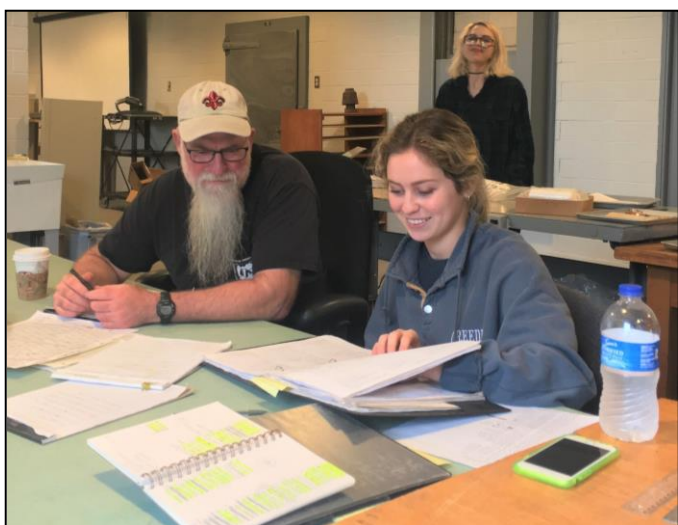


**Figure 4. Talking with visitors at the 3D GPR Open House. Photo courtesy of Rinita Dalan.**

## Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab and Recent Investigations at the Martin Duralde Site in St. Martin Parish

By Mark A. Rees, Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab

During the summer of 2019 the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette moved into a newly-renovated building at 2204 Johnston Street, next door to the Ira Nelson Horticulture Center (Figure 1). On September 6, 2019 the lab hosted an archaeology open house which was attended by university students, faculty and staff, local residents, and personnel from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (Figure 2). The mission of the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab is to promote and advance public archaeology through community outreach and partnerships for applied research, education, and stewardship involving the archaeological record and cultural resources of Louisiana, the Lower Mississippi Valley, and north-central Gulf Coast. Current studies include the New Acadia Project, Mississippi River Delta Archaeological Mitigation, Conservation Stewardship for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and a research partnership with the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana. Fieldwork was recently conducted at the Martin Duralde home site in St. Martin Parish. Some of the initial findings from the Duralde site will be briefly described here, preceded by a little background.



*Figure 1. Donny Bourgeois, Sadie Schoeffler, and Miranda Davis in the newly-renovated lab.*



*Figure 2. Anthropology instructor Lynn Funkhouser hosts students in the zooarchaeology lab during the Archaeology Open House event on September 6, 2019.*

### The Martin Duralde Site

The Martin Duralde site is located at Stephanie Plantation on the east (left descending) bank of Bayou Teche in northern St. Martin Parish. Stephanie Plantation, also known as Huron Plantation, is approximately 1.6 miles northwest of Cecilia and 4 miles southeast of Arnaudville. Martin Milony Duralde (ca. 1737-1822) built a two-and-one-half story, raised French Creole plantation house on the property (Figure 3). It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and is also referred to as the Stephanie Plantation House. Martin Duralde immigrated to Louisiana from Bayonne, France in 1769. He worked as a surveyor and merchant in St. Louis before moving to the Opelousas District sometime between 1779 and 1781. Duralde was appointed Commandant of the Opelousas Post in 1795 by Spanish colonial governor Baron de Carondelet (Vidrine 1988:273).

Martin Duralde lived in a cabin on the property near the Bayou Teche from 1781 until his house was completed. Although it is thought to have been built during the late eighteenth century, architectural historians suggest the house may date as late as 1820 (Cazayoux 2019; NRHP 2019). Duralde's landholdings along the Bayou Teche were recognized by a Spanish patent in 1802, including the property where the house is located (Conrad 1990:55; Taylor 1979). Duralde reported on paleontological and archaeological discoveries to the American Philosophical Society, including the bones of megafauna discovered near "Carancro" [sp] that were described as "the entire skeleton of an Elephant" (Duralde and Dunbar 1809:56; Neuman 1984:9). Duralde is also known to anthropologists as having provided source material for the Atakapa and Chitimacha languages (Gatschet and Swanton 1932:3; Vidrine 1988:273). Following Duralde's death in 1822, the house and property were acquired by Charles Henri Lastrapes. It was subsequently incorporated into a larger sugarcane plantation, purchased by the Huron Planting Company in 1889. Today the Duralde house sits on a privately-owned residential lot, with two adjacent lots to the north and south encompassing a total of 19.55 acres.



*Figure 3. The Martin Duralde house at Stephanie Plantation, viewed facing south.*



*Figure 4. Regina Lowe conducting gradiometer survey at the Martin Duralde site, view to the northeast*

The UL Lafayette crew investigated a small portion of the property near the Duralde house at the request of the landowner, who is restoring the house and developing the property as a heritage destination. Despite frequent artifact collecting at the site, little is actually known about the archaeological deposits or land use history. Fieldwork was conducted over a period of six days, on November 30 and between December 14 and 20, focusing on approximately 1 acre immediately southwest of the house (Figure 4). This is the modern backyard of the residence and was probably the rear of the house when it was originally constructed (personal communication with Edward Cazayoux, December 10, 2019). The bayou is located approximately 2,100 feet (640 meters) to the southwest of the house and Bushville Highway (Route 347) is only 200 feet (61 meters) to the northeast. This does not diminish the importance of its location on the bayou, as a loggia or covered corridor on the ground floor faced the bayou and served as an entryway. A tunnel is said to have been used to transport goods between the bayou and the house, although a subterranean passage would have presumably flooded and been unusable due to the ridge and swale topography of the natural levee.

Fieldwork at the Martin Duralde site consisted of remote sensing with a Bartington fluxgate gradiometer on November 30, followed by shovel testing at 20-meter intervals and the excavation of 50-by-50 cm test units. The project director and two student assistants were aided in this endeavor by ten volunteers from UL Lafayette (Figure 5). Remote sensing was conducted in three areas, consisting of two 20-by-20 meter and five 10-by-10 meter blocks. The crew excavated a total of thirteen 30-by-30 cm shovel tests and seven 50-by-50 cm test units. The larger units were excavated in three areas where remote sensing indicated the presence of subsurface anomalies.

The first area consisted of a single test unit that produced historic artifacts, such as whiteware ceramic sherds, but no evidence of a cultural feature (Figure 6). The second excavation block revealed a buried concentration of brick rubble that was exposed in four contiguous 50-by-50 cm test units (1-by-1 meter; Figure 7). This feature may represent the location of an outbuilding such as a kitchen. The third and final excavation block consisted of two 50-by-50 cm test units (Figure 8). A large anomaly in this area, extending at least 10 meters east to west, was identified in the test units as a deep pit that had been filled with pieces of brick, glass, and modern trash. The bottom of the pit feature could not be reached due to the small size of the excavation block and large amount of debris obstructing excavation. A push core placed at the bottom of the northernmost unit also encountered obstructions, but indicated the pit fill extends more than 1 meter below surface.

Larger excavation units would undoubtedly provide additional information on the size and function of these cultural features. Remote sensing identified the locations of several smaller anomalies that have yet to be investigated. Other areas worthy of investigation include the location of Martin Duralde's cabin and the purported location of a cemetery with unmarked graves. As fieldwork at the Duralde site concluded just before the university's holiday break, the artifacts have yet to be cleaned, analyzed and cataloged. The analysis of artifact distributions from shovel testing at 20 meter intervals may provide information on activity areas or associated structures. Shovel testing could also be extended across a larger area of the site. A site record and technical report on this brief investigation are forthcoming. Information on the history of the property and land use has the potential to enhance its development as a heritage destination in St. Martin Parish.



*Figure 5. Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab crew at the Martin Duralde site.*



*Figure 6. Luke Orfila and Sadie Schoeffler excavating a unit south of the Duralde house.*



*Figure 7. Landowner Kenneth Douet observes as Regina Lowe works on a test unit.*



*Figure 8. Hunter Touchet and Devon Gay prepare a floor plan placed over a pit feature.*

### Acknowledgements

Investigation of the Martin Duralde site was made possible by a generous donation of the landowners, Kenneth Douet and Richard F. Howes, to the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab Fund at the UL Lafayette Foundation. The author also thanks Ravi Daggula and Robert Autin for support. Donny Bourgeois served as project director, assisted by Regina Lowe and Christopher Alfonso. Volunteers included Devon Gay, Madeline Hammer, Zoe Huval, Amber Knezek, Andrew Landry, Hunter Metzler, Luke Orfila, Haley Rebaridi, Sadie Schoeffler, and Hunter Touchet.

For updates on this research and other Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab projects, check out the Facebook page at: [facebook.com/LAPublicArchaeologyLab/](https://facebook.com/LAPublicArchaeologyLab/). The author can be emailed at [rees@louisiana.edu](mailto:rees@louisiana.edu). Although Louisiana public archaeology has been enhanced with a new lab, support is needed for essential items such as lab equipment, shelves, and curtains. Donations can be made to the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab Fund, care of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Foundation at 705 East St. Mary Blvd, Lafayette, LA 70504. Call 337-482-0700, email [ulfoundation@louisiana.edu](mailto:ulfoundation@louisiana.edu), or go online to [give.louisiana.edu/](http://give.louisiana.edu/)

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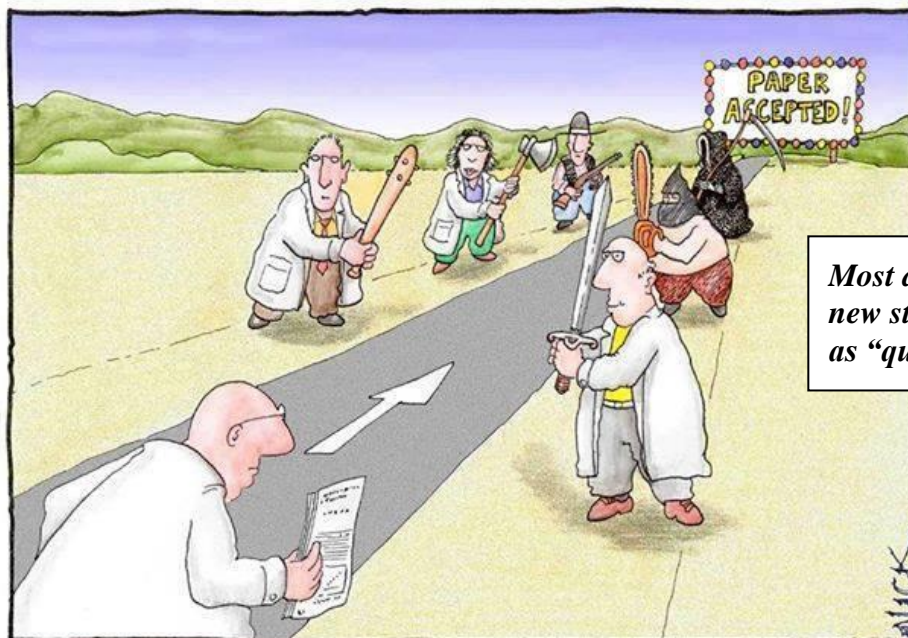
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*Most archaeologists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite and improvement."*

## LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE MEDIA

### Activists want \$9.4B Formosa project stopped due to slave cemetery at St. James site

By Terry L. Jones, Staff writer,  
Baton Rouge Morning Advocate, Dec. 18, 2019

Activists are calling for the halt of plans for a \$9.4 billion petrochemical plant in St. James Parish after the discovery of a cemetery where it is believed slaves were buried.

It's unknown at this time how many unmarked graves are buried beneath one edge of the 2,300 acre-site of undeveloped land Formosa purchased in the community of Welcome to build its plastics complex, but the find adds another twist in the battles surrounding the project.

Sharon Lavigne, founder of RISE St. James, is joining forces with the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Rev. William Barber II, a national political activist, in a press conference Wednesday. They are expected to discuss efforts to prevent construction of the facility following the cemetery's discovery.

Janile Parks, spokeswoman for FG LLC, an affiliate of Formosa, said in a prepared statement Tuesday the company is committed to cooperating with all state historic preservation agencies to protect the cemetery, but made no indication they intend to forfeit their plans for the new facility.

"As the project progresses, FG will follow all applicable state and federal laws in regards to the burial ground and public notification," Parks wrote. The company has already fenced off the area, on the east side of the site, where the cemetery was discovered in June by independent archaeologists the company hired. Officials said it's located on the edge of the site where they've proposed building 14 production and utility plants.

"Knowing they are sacred grounds, no industry should be building there," Lavigne said Tuesday. "This should bring attention to everyone and the Parish Council. I'm hoping they'll go back and review their (land use) application and then rescind their approval. We already have 12 (industrial) plants here. We don't want them here."

Chip McGimsey, director of the state's Division of Archaeology, said state laws are in place that protect cemeteries from being disturbed by development but pointed out they won't necessarily block Formosa's project from going forward

"They don't apply to all of the property where there is no cemetery," he said. "That's a big area out there. But the law does require there needs to be a certain amount of green space around a cemetery in addition to prohibiting a road or anything being built on top of one."



*A car zips southward down River Road toward the Welcome water tower, background, as nearby cane fields continue to be harvested on Dec. 7, 2019, in St. James Parish. A \$9.4 billion Formosa Chemical facility known as FG LA LLC is planned just to the north of this area but has engendered opposition in Welcome and in other communities along the Mississippi River in the parish. Photo by David J. Mitchell.*



McGimsey said the unmarked graves were discovered in a little more than an acre of land when independent archaeologists peeled back a top layer of the ground in the identified area and spotted the grave shafts.

"There was no point in exposing the entire cemetery, but we were able to confirm roughly what the boundaries are," he said. "We have no idea at this point how many (graves) are there."

Formosa is still awaiting approval from the state's Department of Environmental Quality for air permits to move the project to the next phase. It was previously reported the planned operation could emit enough chemicals to nearly double what is already being released in St. James Parish under the state's new air permit regulations.

Called Project Sunshine, the huge complex has been welcomed by state and many local leaders with the promise of 1,200 permanent, high-paying jobs, 8,000 temporary construction jobs, and \$500 million in local spending and \$362 million in state and local tax revenue.

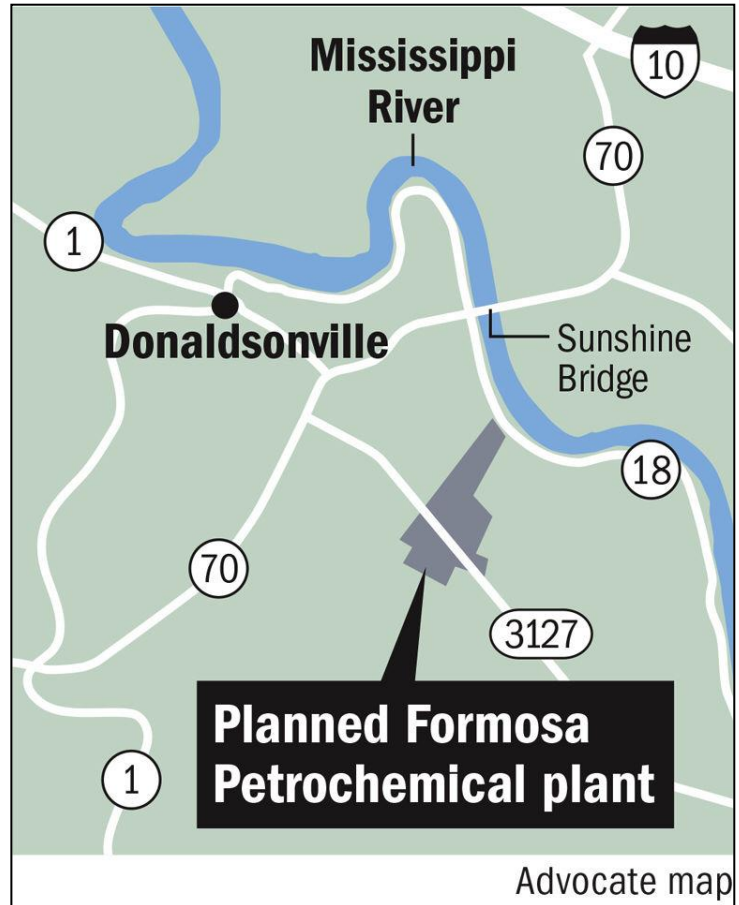
The cemetery is believed to be part of the Buena Vista Plantation, which was located between Highway 18 and Highway 3127 in Welcome.

Pam Spees, senior attorney with the Center for Constitutional Rights, said it was initially believed there were two slave cemeteries on the undeveloped land thanks to a map officials with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology came across shortly after the project was announced.

That second cemetery is believed to have been part of the Acadia Plantation, which had been located near Buena Vista.

Several rounds of land surveys were conducted by Formosa's independent archaeologists, who didn't discover the Buena Vista cemetery until they combed the property a third time. It is now believed the unmarked graves of the Acadia cemetery were destroyed by a prior owner, who created several borrow pits on the property before it was sold to Formosa.

Spees said the discovery of the unmarked slave graves reignites the public conversation about the ways the chemical industry continues to impact adjacent communities, which often are crippled by generational poverty and are majority black.



"The past and present are interwoven here," she said. "It's all part of the same kind of harm replicated. Stopping these dangerous facilities in the backyards of these communities. And we're talking about these burial sites being given the respect, preservation and protection they've been due," Spees added.

Shell Oil Company made a similar discovery six years ago amidst plans to expand its refinery in Ascension Parish. The company ended up building a historical marker after as many as 1,000 unmarked graves were found on its property.

It's presently unclear whether Formosa will do something similar. Lavigne would like to see some sort of memorial or historical markers installed there, but remains adamant in trying to stop the facility from being built.

She and others will hold their press conference at noon Wednesday on Highway 44 in St. James between the Welcome water tower and American Styrenics. It can also be viewed on the RISE St. James [Facebook page](#).

## Officials investigating origin of Frogmore fire

By Joey Martin / Concordia Sentinel Writer

July 31, 2019

*Concordia Parish community lost a piece of history Friday when fire destroyed the historic centuries old Frogmore Plantation House. The house of Buddy and Lynette Tanner was more than 200 years old.*

Concordia Fire District 2 Chief Nolen Cothren said the origin of the fire has yet to be determined. He said his department was notified of the blaze at 7:51 p.m. on Friday.

"The first unit on the scene arrived at 8:02 p.m., Cothren said. "Upon arrival we found fire above the carport on the east end," he said. "The kitchen was located above and was fully engulfed. An interior attack was made and visible flames were knocked down."

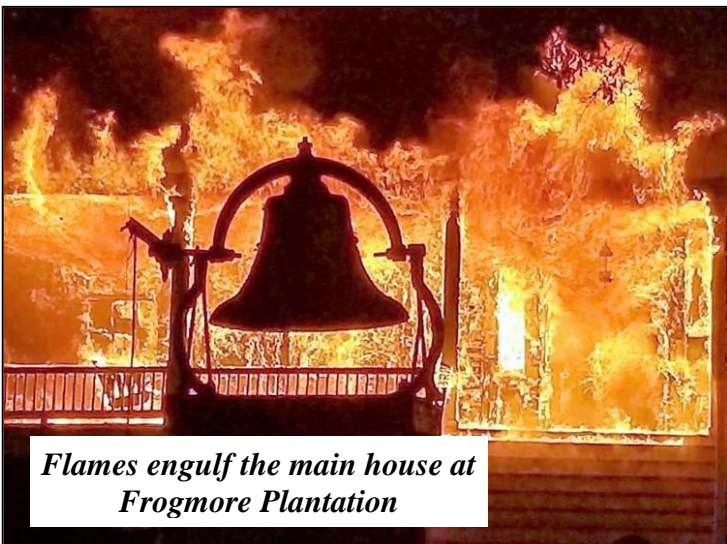
Lynette Tanner said her "deepest regret" was that she "thought they could confine the fire away from the main house. If I had known it would have taken the whole house, I would have gone in full force while it was safe and gotten some family heirlooms belonging to my grandmother and great grandmother and other family heirlooms like our Bible. But I want to praise all the fire departments personnel who responded and worked so hard despite the limitations they had."

Cothren said Concordia Fire District 2, as well as fire departments from Monterey, Jonesville, Sandy Lake, Tensas and Vidalia responded with water. "Within minutes we had 25,000 gallons of water on wheels on scene," Cothren said. "Entry was made into the structure several times but had to retreat due to the heat. This structure was 200 years old and the materials used had long since dried out. We managed to save some portraits hanging on the bottom room walls. This was a great loss to our parish as well as to the families involved."

Cothren said the Louisiana State Fire Marshal sent four deputies Friday night to begin trying to piece together what had happened. "The scene was too hot to work so they came back Sunday morning and again on Monday," Cothren said. "They are looking over evidence to try and determine a cause. I want to thank all that came and assisted and prayed for our guys as we had two transported to Riverland. They are both ok."

The Tanners bought the property back in 1960 and were living in the house. "We already knew we had amazing children who are hard-working and dedicated," Lynette said. "They have worked tirelessly helping us through this."

Tanner said the house, with the exception of the kitchen that had been added in 1997, was built in 1815. The chimney still stands and if we decide to rebuild we still have some of the original foundation that goes back to the three previous families," Tanner said. "It just crushes me we couldn't save the oldest part of the house." The fire did not affect the cabins and plantation store that draws tourists. The Tanners are currently staying at their lake house, Tanner said.

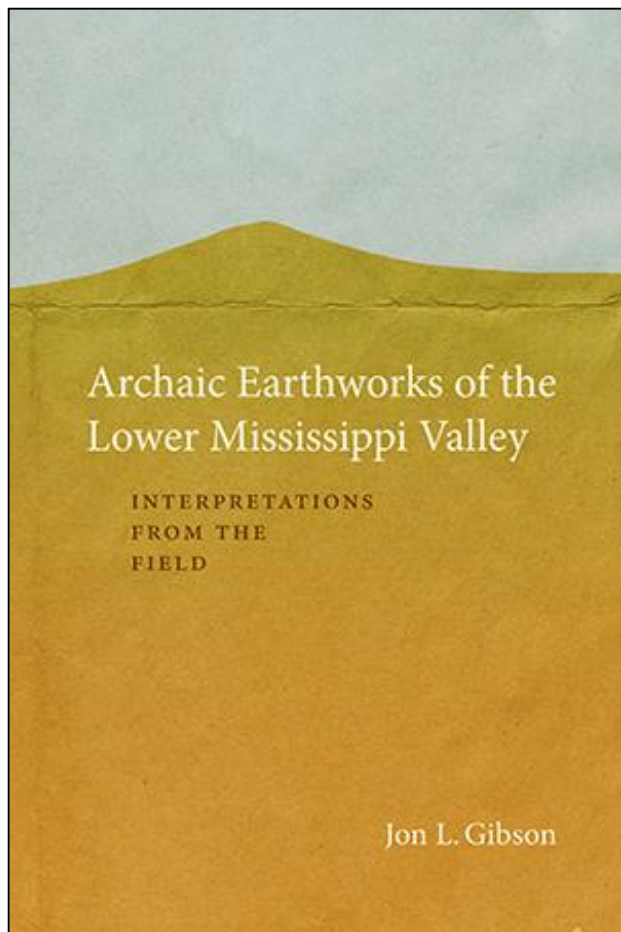


**Flames engulf the main house at Frogmore Plantation**



**Mounds Trail Marker for of Plaquemine period Frogmore Mound in front of plantation house.**

## BOOKS OF INTEREST FOR LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGY



# Archaic Earthworks of the Lower Mississippi Valley

## Interpretations from the Field

by Jon L. Gibson

200 pages / 7.00 x 10.00 inches / 10 tables, 15 halftones, 24 hand-drawn maps, 19 hand-drawn illustrations

Social Studies / Archaeology | Social Studies / Rural Studies

Hardcover / 9780807172032 / November 2019

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**Louisiana State University Press**

In the decades since the recognition of Archaic mounds in the Lower Mississippi Valley, archaeologists have proposed many different, and often opposing, interpretations of their meaning: physical, social, residential, and sacred uses are among the field's top explanations, but these are far from the only proposed answers to the question of why the mounds were built. The culmination of over fifty years of research and study, *Archaic Earthworks of the Lower Mississippi Valley* is Jon L. Gibson's attempt to unpack the best explanations for these earthworks and the peoples who made them.

Drawing on new insights from radiometric chronology, as well as the tried-and-true techniques of contextual association and persuasive comparison, Gibson comes to well-founded, yet bold, conclusions. Early earthworks, he argues, often are successional and composited monuments, not one-time constructions. Further, he demonstrates that societies incorporated celestial elements and creation myths into architectural layouts. He also posits that mound building was initially conducted within a corporate-communal—not hierarchic—cultural milieu; but ultimately political aggrandizing brought an end to the practice.

According to Gibson, the beginnings of the mound-building era date from around 5500 BC. By 3600 BC, theocratic leaders had developed a general cosmic knowledge and creation parable related to the construction of earthworks. A dark age of sorts descended between 2915 and 1680 BC, before giving way to the rise and fall of the remarkable town of Poverty Point between 1680 and 1170 BC. Examining topics ranging from the architectural incorporation of cosmic cycles and standard measures to traditional native myths and magical beliefs, *Archaic Earthworks of the Lower Mississippi Valley* is the definitive study of the history and ethos of that much-debated era.

**Jon L. Gibson** is the author of *The Ancient Mounds of Poverty Point: Place of Rings* and coeditor of *Signs of Power: The Rise of Cultural Complexity in the Southeast*, among other works. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Southeastern Archaeological Conference in 2014.

## **Baking, Bourbon, and Black Drink:**

Foodways Archaeology in the  
American Southeast  
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Aaron Deter-Wolf

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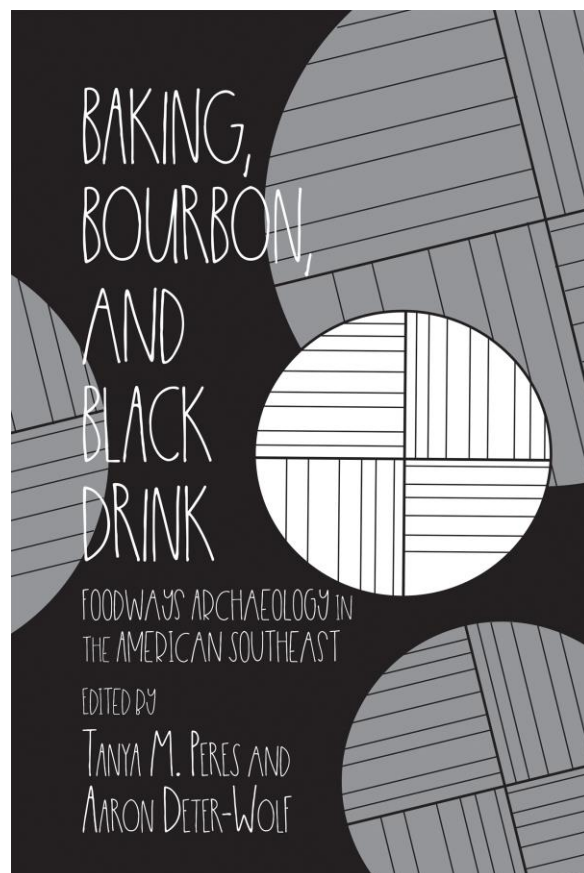
2018. 248 pp.

33 B&W figures / 4 maps / 6 tables

978-0-8173-1992-2

**Price: \$64.95<sup>s</sup>**

**University of Alabama Press**



### **Archaeological case studies that explore the rituals and cultural significance of foods in the southeastern United States**

Understanding and explaining societal rules surrounding food and foodways have been the foci of anthropological studies since the early days of the discipline. *Baking, Bourbon, and Black Drink: Foodways Archaeology in the American Southeast*, however, is the first collection devoted exclusively to southeastern foodways analyzed through archaeological perspectives. These essays examine which foods were eaten and move the discussion of foodstuffs into the sociocultural realm of why, how, and when they were eaten.

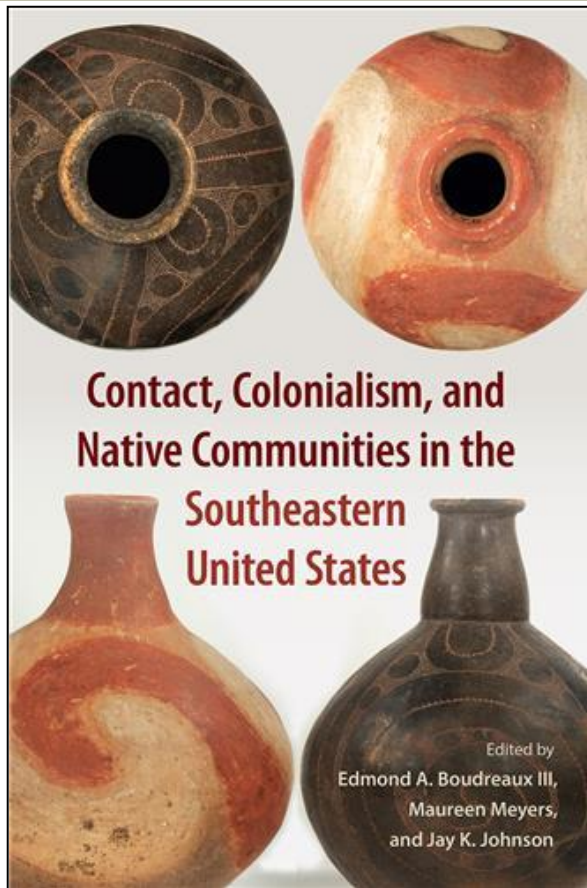
Editors Tanya M. Peres and Aaron Deter-Wolf present a volume that moves beyond basic understandings, applying new methods or focusing on subjects not widely discussed in the Southeast to date. Chapters are arranged using the dominant research themes of feasting, social and political status, food security and persistent places, and foodways histories. Contributors provide in-depth examination of specific food topics such as bone marrow, turkey, Black Drink, bourbon, earth ovens, and hominy.

Contributors bring a broad range of expertise to the collection, resulting in an expansive look at all of the steps taken from field to table, including procurement, production, cooking, and consumption, all of which have embedded cultural meanings and traditions. The scope of the volume includes the diversity of research specialties brought to bear on the topic of foodways as well as the temporal and regional breadth and depth, the integration of multiple lines of evidence, and, in some cases, the reinvestigation of well-known sites with new questions and new data.

#### **EDITORS**

**Tanya M. Peres** is an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at Florida State University. She is the coeditor of *Trends and Traditions in Southeastern Zooarchaeology* and *Integrating Zooarchaeology and Paleoethnobotany: A Consideration of Issues, Methods, and Cases*.

**Aaron Deter-Wolf** is a prehistoric archaeologist for the Tennessee Division of Archaeology and coeditor of *Drawing with Great Needles: Ancient Tattoo Traditions of North America* and *Ancient Ink: The Archaeology of Tattooing*.



## Contact, Colonialism, and Native Communities in the Southeastern United States

EDITED BY EDMOND A. BOUDREAUX III, MAUREEN MEYERS, AND JAY K. JOHNSON

**Hardcover: \$90.00**

**Hardcover ISBN 13:** 9781683401179 –

**Pub Date:** 2/25/2020

**Details:** 322 pages, 6.125x9.25

**Subject(s):** Archaeology | Southeast Archaeology

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA PRESS**

**[www.upf.com](http://www.upf.com)**

“An important volume that will become an indispensable resource, providing a much-needed update on early contact in the North American Southeast with a rich emphasis on the agency and social lives of past indigenous communities.”—David H. Dye, editor of *New Deal Archaeology in Tennessee: Intellectual, Methodological, and Theoretical Contributions*

The years AD 1500–1700 were a time of dramatic change for the indigenous inhabitants of southeastern North America, yet Native histories during this era have been difficult to reconstruct due to a scarcity of written records before the eighteenth century. Using archaeology to enhance our knowledge of the period, *Contact, Colonialism, and Native Communities in the Southeastern United States* presents new research on the ways Native societies responded to early contact with Europeans.

Featuring sites from Kentucky to Mississippi to Florida, these case studies investigate how indigenous groups were affected by the expeditions of explorers such as Hernando de Soto, Pánfilo de Narváez, and Juan Pardo. Contributors recreate the social geography of the Southeast during this time, trace the ways Native institutions changed as a result of colonial encounters, and emphasize the agency of indigenous populations in situations of contact. They demonstrate the importance of understanding the economic, political, and social variability that existed between Native and European groups.

Bridging the gap between historical records and material artifacts, this volume answers many questions and opens up further avenues for exploring these transformative centuries, pushing the field of early contact studies in new theoretical and methodological directions.

**Edmond A. Boudreaux III** is director of the Center for Archaeological Research and associate professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of *The Archaeology of Town Creek*. **Maureen Meyers**, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Mississippi, is coeditor of *Archaeological Perspectives on the Southern Appalachians: A Multiscalar Approach*. **Jay K. Johnson**, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Mississippi, is the editor of *Remote Sensing in Archaeology: An Explicitly North American Perspective*.

A volume in the Florida Museum of Natural History: Ripley P. Bullen Series

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**Joint East Texas Archeological  
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**February 28 and 29, 2020,**  
**University of Texas at Tyler.**

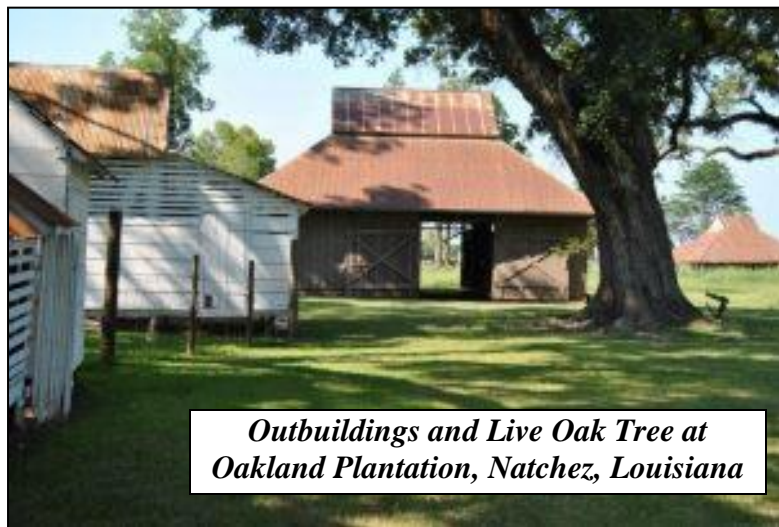


We invite you to join us for the joint 62nd Caddo Conference and 27th East Texas Archeological Conference on February 28 and 29, 2020 in Tyler, Texas, on the University of Texas at Tyler campus. The Caddo Conference rotates annually among Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana to promote and to stimulate interest in the archeology, history, and ethnology of the Caddo archeological region. The East Texas Archeological Conference is hosted annually at the University of Texas at Tyler to bring together people interested in the archeology and cultural heritage of east Texas. About every 4 years, they are hosted jointly in Tyler.

This year's conference will be in support of the Caddo Nation and rebuilding of facilities at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site. The organizers will be announcing keynote speakers, public speakers and associated gatherings over the next several months.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:**

Papers and symposia are invited on area related to the conference themes. Send paper titles and abstracts by November 15 to Dr. Thomas Guderjan (tguderjan@uttyler.edu).



*Outbuildings and Live Oak Tree at  
 Oakland Plantation, Natchez, Louisiana*

**Alliance for Historic Landscape  
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**Natchitoches in the Red River Valley: A  
 Confluence of Cultures**

**NCPTT will host the 42nd Annual  
 meeting of the Alliance for Historic  
 Landscape Preservation, April 2-4, 2020  
 in Natchitoches, Louisiana.**

**Questions a should be sent to  
 Kimball Erdman at kerdman@uark.edu**

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For Year \_\_\_\_\_

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**Information for Contributors**

Send all notes, news, graphics and other communication to:

Dennis Jones, LAS Editor

1801 Ormandy Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70808

[archaeoman.jones@gmail.com](mailto:archaeoman.jones@gmail.com)

Articles should be submitted by email, preferably in Microsoft Word. Digital images are encouraged. Please send in TIF, JPG, or Word format. Contact editor via email with all questions.

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