



NEWSLETTER OF THE LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Winter 2023 Vol. 51, No. 1



Mississippian ceramics (above) and projectile points (right)
from Site 16ST284 – See pages 15-16.



**L A S 2023
Annual Meeting!
See pages 32-35**

Photogrammetric model of the
Brookhill wreck – See pages 21-25.

FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

Mark A. Rees, Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Louisiana archaeology has been in the news again, receiving [national](#) and even [international](#) attention with the recent (re)discovery of the wreck of the S.S. *Brookhill* on the banks of the Mississippi River in Baton Rouge. Besides the big reveal of a 100-ft long, 120-year-old [ferry that sank in 1915](#), the news focused on [illegal removal](#) of pieces of the wreck and the historically-low river levels caused by a [mid-continental drought](#). The Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology, collaborated on a [photogrammetric model](#) and [online exhibit](#) of the S.S. *Brookhill*. In this issue of the LAS *Newsletter*, Conan Mills describes how he produced a [photogrammetric model](#) of the shipwreck (see pages 21-25).

The monumental, indigenous earthworks of Louisiana have also been in the [news](#) again, based on a recent [study](#) by Matthew Helmer, Elizabeth Chamberlain, and Jayur Mehta on the urgent need for research on these places in the rapidly deteriorating Mississippi River Delta. Chamberlain will deliver the keynote address at the *upcoming LAS Annual Meeting*, so plan to attend the meeting in Alexandria on February 23-26 if you want to learn more about the geoarchaeology of the Mississippi Delta. This issue of the *Newsletter* has information on registration, the silent auction, and conference hotel, along with a tentative agenda (see pages 32-35).

Although not eminently endangered by coastal erosion, the six-thousand year-old [LSU Campus Mounds](#) (16EBR6) continue to draw attention. First, there was widespread [media](#) coverage of a [study](#) that argued the ancient monuments on the LSU campus are nearly twice as old as previously known, dating from the end of the last Ice Age. Then came the more circumspect and subdued [news](#) that archaeologists who have [studied](#) the mounds are [unconvinced](#).

Long-time LAS member James Fogleman offers a candid commentary on the continuing controversy surrounding the [LSU Campus Mounds](#) in the Public Archaeology in Louisiana column of this *Newsletter*. If the disagreement draws attention to archaeology in Louisiana and the crucial need for additional studies of Middle Archaic earthworks, then perhaps it will ultimately have a net positive effect. Of course, there is also the possibility of misunderstanding. The editor spoke with one otherwise

well-informed person who saw the public dispute as evidence that radiocarbon dating is suspect. An abridged, two-word version of this archaeologist’s lengthy response is “context matters.” For an issue with such global significance for understanding social complexity and monumentality, the Middle Archaic mounds of Louisiana are regrettably understudied.

Readers will find equally entertaining and edifying material in this issue of the *LAS Newsletter*, from a brief report on ceramics found at the [Poverty Point World Heritage Site](#), to news and announcements of relevance to anyone interested in the archaeology of Louisiana, or archaeology in general. The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society is likewise shaping up to be an enlightening and memorable event. [Register](#) now on the [LAS website](#) and advance your interest in Louisiana archaeology through participation and support of the LAS!

IN THIS ISSUE

Public Archaeology in Louisiana

On the Excessive Antiquity of the LSU
Campus Mounds 3

Field Notes and Recent Research

A Brief Report on Ceramics from Poverty
Point 6

The Sites of Francis Broussard II: Golden
Glen 13

A Cistern Near Waterproof, Tensas Parish .. 18

Photogrammetry of the S.S. *Brookhill* 21

UL Lafayette Students Experience
Archaeology in Kisatchie 25

News and Announcements

Visiting a Conservancy Mound Site in
Louisiana 28

Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Regains
Ownership of Ancestral Lands 29

Archaeology Field School 31

LAS 2023 Annual Meeting

Meeting Information 32

Tentative Agenda 33

Other Meetings 36

LAS Chapters and Membership 37

PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN LOUISIANA

On the Excessive Antiquity of the LSU Campus Mounds: A Dissent by a Commoner from the Frontier

James Fogleman

At the LAS/MAA meeting in Natchez in 2020, I first heard Dr. Ellwood's claim of the great antiquity of the LSU Campus Mounds (16EBR6). Many of the participants had significant questions. I even offered to buy the first round for the extended informal discussions that follow our meetings. Unfortunately, Dr. Ellwood left immediately. His proclamation drew a tremendous stir of interest fitting such a fantastic departure from accepted archaeological dogma. Ellwood and colleagues (2022) recently published a paper presenting their contention on the extreme age of the mounds. Their paper is radical in its claims of extraordinarily early dates which predate other early mounds by thousands of years.

In the 1950s, Poverty Point had sparked a revolution in the chronology of mound construction. With its mountain of data and dirt, its early date for mound construction quickly received general acceptance. Then about 30 years ago, yet another revolution in mound construction chronology occurred. Until then, early mounds essentially meant Poverty Point. Within a few years attitudes about Middle Archaic mounds went from 'as if!' to 'of course.' Are we due for another chronological paradigm shift? Claims of the great antiquity of the mounds on the campus of LSU indicate that another monumental timeline change could be in order. However, several issues must be addressed concerning the recently reported Paleoindian and early Archaic age of the LSU Campus Mounds. A more technical rebuttal can be found in an article published in the *SAA Archaeological Record* (McGimsey et al. 2022). Among the issues brought up by McGimsey and colleagues were questions on the relationships between mound construction and the materials that were radiocarbon dated.

My objections, including a few of which McGimsey and colleagues mention, are as follows. To begin with, Robert Neuman (1992) and other archaeologists had previously done excavations there and got what appeared to be good radiocarbon dates for the Middle Archaic age of the mounds (Saunders 2010:67). That the new radiocarbon dates presented by Ellwood and colleagues (2022) were not from well-defined features should detract from our confidence in the dates. From a logical point of view, it seems unlikely that people constructed only one mound (Mound B) in southeastern North America during the late

Paleoindian period, then returned two thousand years later to add on to this same mound and initiate construction of another (Mound A). According to Ellwood and colleagues, mound construction continued sporadically for another 2,000 years before ending about 5,500 years ago (Figure 1). Even intermittent use of a site for 5,500 years should have left much more litter and perhaps a few diagnostic artifacts. This scenario also implies limited or no cultural changes occurred for 5,500 years, from 11,000 to 5,500 years before present (BP), which has not been noted elsewhere. *Five and a half thousand years are nearly a century longer than the time from the construction of Watson Brake (16OU175) and Stelly Mounds (16SL1) to today.*

While the lack of artifacts is curious, it might be explained by the lack of exposed surface area and location. The LSU mounds are in the center of a major university. Many Middle Archaic mound sites in Louisiana have produced artifacts, including the nearby Monte Sano Mounds site (16EBR17) and sites approximately 50 kilometers or more to the west: Courtableau Mounds (16SL11), Stelly Mounds, and Fogleman Mounds (16SL6). Neither the Courtableau nor Fogleman mounds have been radiometrically dated. The Courtableau Mounds have diagnostic Middle Archaic artifacts, while the Fogleman mounds has been visited by the author several times in near perfect conditions with little or no artifacts observed. The LSU, Monte Sano, Courtableau, and Fogleman mound groups all consist of two mounds. Except for the LSU Campus Mounds, which are nearly equal in size, three of the other mound groups consist of one large and one small mound. The Stelly site has five mounds, or four mounds and a midden rise.

While discovery of the Late Archaic age of Poverty Point occurred before my time, I was a participant in the debate over the timeline shift for Middle Archaic mounds. Joe Saunders excavated at several mound sites in north Louisiana, such as Watson Brake and Frenchmen's Bend (16OU259). He obtained some nicely consistent Middle Archaic radiocarbon dates from clearly defined cultural features (Saunders 2010; Saunders et al. 2005). Mike Russo and the author excavated at Stelly Mounds, with similar dates obtained from a clearly identifiable pit in one of the mounds and a post mold at the base of another (Russo and Fogleman 1996).

	LSU Campus Mds (16EBR6) ^a		Monte Sano (16EBR17) ^b		Watson Brake (16OU175)	Stelly (16SL1)	Poverty Point (16WC1)
	Md A	Md B	Md A	Md B			
							3500
Previously Reported Dates	4670 ^c			5080		4700 ^e	
	–					5300 ^d	
	5505 ^c				5500		
Completed	5500	5500	6985				
			7400				
Construction Resumes	7500	7500					
	8200	8200					
	9500						
Construction Begins		11000					

Figure 1. Comparative dates in years before present (BP) for early mounds in Louisiana.

^aDates from Elwood et al. (2022) in years cal. BP, except previously reported dates for Md A; ^bcal. median BP from Jones and Brookes 2019, Table 1; ^cConventional ages listed by McGimsey et al. 2022:24; ^d5270 +/-70 BP post mold below Md C; ^e4720 +/-190 BP hearth Md B.

The early date for Monte Sano was no longer such an anomaly (Haag and Kuttruff 2019). Mounds in the Florida parishes and Banana Bayou (16B24) in coastal Louisiana at Avery Island also yielded intriguing data that hinted at the existence of Middle Archaic mounds. The sites are all on old land surfaces. You can't have a Middle Archaic mound atop a recent land surface. The Courtableau Mounds are in the Mississippi River flood plain, atop a pre-Teche Mississippi meander scar.

Sites in central and northern Louisiana have consistently yielded artifacts readily identifiable as Middle Archaic. Middle Archaic mound groups are pre-ceramic except for clay balls or Poverty Point Objects. The lithic inventory is quite impressive, with lapidary work such as red jasper beads, some of which are zoomorphic. There are also

micro-tools, plummets, celts, and stone projectile points, such as Evans and Sinner, *variety Stelly* (Figure 2). Exotic raw materials are rare.

The case for Middle Archaic mounds was built on data from numerous sites, with lots of artifacts and radiocarbon dates from cultural features. Non-believers were quickly persuaded by the evidence. The early dates recently reported for the LSU Campus Mounds are unconvincing, while the previously reported Middle Archaic dates fit reasonably well with other Middle Archaic mound sites. Until and *if* more mound sites produce diagnostic artifacts and cultural features with radiocarbon dates from the late Paleoindian or early Archaic periods, I will remain extremely skeptical. But of course, the offer to buy the first round still stands.



Figure 2. Artifacts from the Middle Archaic Stelly Mounds site (16SL1).

References Cited

- Ellwood, Brooks B., S. Warny, R.A. Hackworth, S.H. Ellwood, J.H. Tomkin, S.J. Bentley, D.H. Braud, and G.C. Clayton
2022 The LSU Campus Mounds, with Construction Beginning at 11,000 BP, Are the Oldest Known Extant Man-Made Structures in the Americas. *American Journal of Science* 322:795-827.
- Haag, William G., and Carl Kuttruff
2019 The Monte Sano Mounds Site (16EBR17): Salvage Investigations of a Middle Archaic Mound Site in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeology* 44:9-54.
- Jones, Dennis, and Samuel O. Brookes
2019 Gone but Surely Not Forgotten: Implications of the Monte Sano Ste (16EBR17). *Louisiana Archaeology* 44:105-120.
- McGimsey, Chip, Rebecca Saunders, Jeffrey Homburg, Nancy Hawkins, Heather McKillop, and Robb Mann
2022 The Age and Construction of the LSU Campus Mounds: Consideration of Elwood and Colleagues. *SAA Archaeological Record* 22(5):18-27.
- Neuman, Robert W.
1992 Report on the Soil Core Borings Conducted at the LSU Campus Mounds Site (16EBR6), East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. *Louisiana Archaeology* 15:1-30.
- Russo, Mike, and James Fogleman
1996 Stelly Mounds [16SL1]: an Archaic Mound Complex. *Louisiana Archaeology* 21(1994):127-158.
- Saunders, Joe W.
2010 Middle Archaic and Watson Brake. In *Archaeology of Louisiana*, edited by Mark Rees, pp. 63-76. Louisiana State University press, Baton Rouge.
- Saunders, J.W., R.D. Mandel, C.G. Sampson, C.M. Allen, E.T. Allen, D.A. Bush, J.K. Feathers, K.J. Gremillion, C.T. Hallmark, H.E. Jackson, J.K. Johnson, R. Jones, R.T. Saucier, G.L. Stringer, and M.F. Vidrine
2005 Watson Brake, a Middle Archaic Mound Complex in Northeast Louisiana. *American Antiquity* 70(4):631-668.



FIELD NOTES AND RECENT RESEARCH

A Brief Report on Marksville through Mississippi Period Ceramics from the Poverty Point World Heritage Site: Better Late than Never

Richard A. Weinstein and Christopher T. Hays

Around 20 years ago we reported on a study of ours concerning early pottery at the Poverty Point World Heritage site (Hays and Weinstein 2004). At that time, we focused on pottery of the St. Johns (sponge-spicule tempered), Wheeler and Norwood (fiber tempered), Tchefuncte (no temper), and Alexander (sand tempered) series. The pottery collections examined included those obtained by Kuttruff (1975) in 1972-1973, Haag (1990) in 1972 through 1975, Greene (1990) in 1983, Goad (in Connolly 2001) in the early 1980s, and Gibson's and Connolly's work in the late 1990s (Connolly 1999). Our 2004 analysis also examined a portion of the Carl Alexander surface collection that had been obtained from various sections across the entire site (Webb 1982).

Haag's excavations consisted of several areas where contiguous sets of 5-by-5-ft squares were collectively identified as excavation units (XUs) 1 through 4, while Goad's investigations included six 5-by-5-m units excavated in the north sector of the site (Figure 1). Gibson and Connolly's investigations consisted of 14 1-by-1-m units excavated in various areas of the site where tree falls had disturbed the ground, Kuttruff's investigations consisted of three approximately 2-by-2-m units in the north sector of the site, and Greene's investigations included a 6-by-5-m unit (known as "deep six") excavated along the eroding bluff of Ridge 1 in the north sector (see Figure 1).

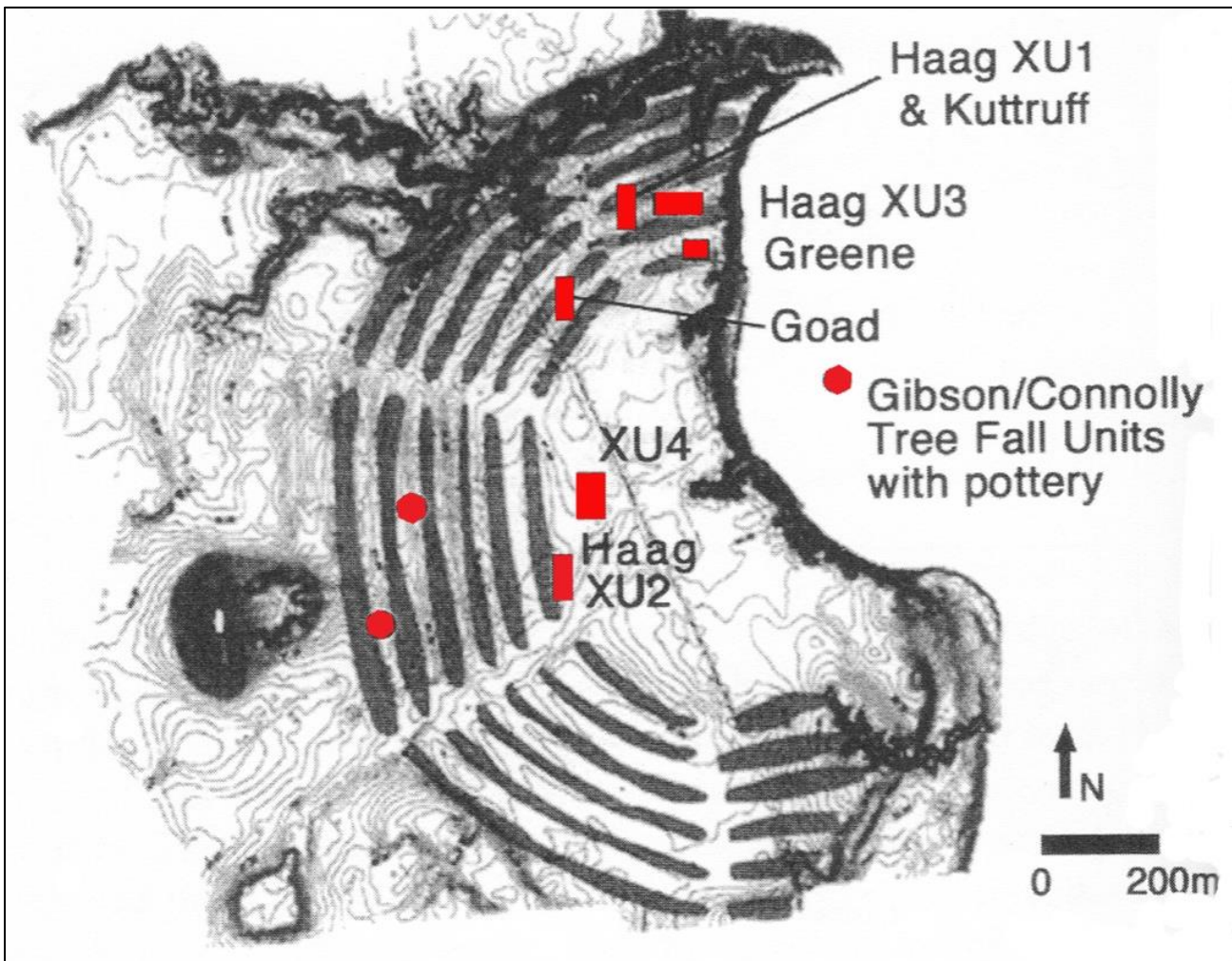


Figure 1. Excavations at Poverty Point from which pottery was analyzed by Weinstein ca. 20 years ago. (Modified from Hays and Weinstein 2004:Figure 7.2; originally from Connolly 1999.)

Importantly, in all those collections, save for the one by Alexander, we encountered and analyzed 229 sherds of the Baytown and Mississippi ceramic series that ranged in age from Marksville (ca. A.D. 1 to 400) to Mississippi times (ca. A.D. 1200 to 1700). We did not discuss those later sherds in our 2004 paper but noted that we would review them in a later study (Hays and Weinstein 2004:154). Although it is almost 20 years later, we now offer that information in a limited form. Thus, this paper’s subtitle, “Better Late than Never.”

In this brief review we report on those Marksville through Mississippi period sherds, primarily by tabulating them, offering a few photographs, and providing brief comments on their implications for the site. Most of the ceramics were body sherds, but there

also were a few rim and basal sherds. Most of these post-Tchefuncte sherds were in the upper strata and levels of the various excavations, but a few were in the lower levels.

Table 1 provides a summary of the post-Tchefuncte sherds from the site. Note that we have omitted all sherds of indeterminant type ($n=6$). Otherwise, the table presents the analysis as done ca. 20 years ago. Our original analysis sheets are curated at the Poverty Point site, but a large portion of that data also appears in an appendix in one of Hays’ (1999) regional archaeology reports when he was at the Louisiana Division of Archaeology. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate a few of those late sherds.

Table 1. Post-Tchefuncte Types and Varieties Obtained during Several Earlier Excavations at the Poverty Point site. Classifications by Weinstein.

Type	Variety	Goad	Haag	Gibson / Connolly	Greene	Kuttruff	Total
Baytown Plain	<i>Marksville</i>	23	2				25
Baytown Plain	<i>cf. Marksville</i>	35	8	7			50
Marksville Incised	<i>Marksville</i>	2					2
Marksville Incised	<i>Yokena</i>	1					1
Marksville Incised	<i>unspecified</i>	1			1		2
Mulberry Creek Cord Marked	<i>unspecified</i>					1	1
Baytown Plain	<i>cf. Thomas</i>	1					1
Churupa Punctated	<i>Hill Bayou</i>	1					1
Churupa Punctated	<i>Watson (?)</i>	1					1
Churupa Punctated	<i>unspecified</i>	1					1
Harrison Bayou Incised	<i>Harrison Bayou</i>				2		2
Coles Creek Incised	<i>unspecified</i>	1			1		2
Baytown Plain	<i>unspecified</i>	92	8	14	18	6	138
Plaquemine Brushed	<i>Plaquemine</i>			1			1
Mississippi Plain	<i>Yazoo</i>			1			1
Total		159	18	23	22	7	229

The sherds listed in Table 1 indicate that there was a small but important Marksville period occupation at Poverty Point, which has not been documented in previous discussions of the site. That occupation consists of both early (ca. A.D. 1-200) and late (ca. A.D. 200-400) components, with the earlier represented by the sherds of Marksville Incised, *var. Marksville*, Churupa Punctated, *var. Hill Bayou*, and Baytown Plain, *vars. Marksville* and *cf. Marksville* (Toth 1988). The later component can be identified by the sherds of Marksville Incised, *var. Yokena*, and possibly Churupa Punctated, *var. Watson* (although that variety generally occurs slightly later during the early Baytown period; see

Bitgood 1989; Fuller et al. 1995). The unspecified sherds of Marksville Incised and Churupa Punctated could date to either the early or late portions of the Marksville period, or possibly the early Baytown period. It also is possible that the *unspecified* sherd of Mulberry Creek Cord Marked and the lone example of Baytown Plain, *var. Thomas* are part of the Marksville occupation, although those types have been recognized elsewhere in the Lower Mississippi Valley as elements of Marksville through Baytown period occupations (Brookes 1980a, 1980b; Ford 1988; Phillips 1970; Phillips et al. 1951; Toth 1988, to name a few).

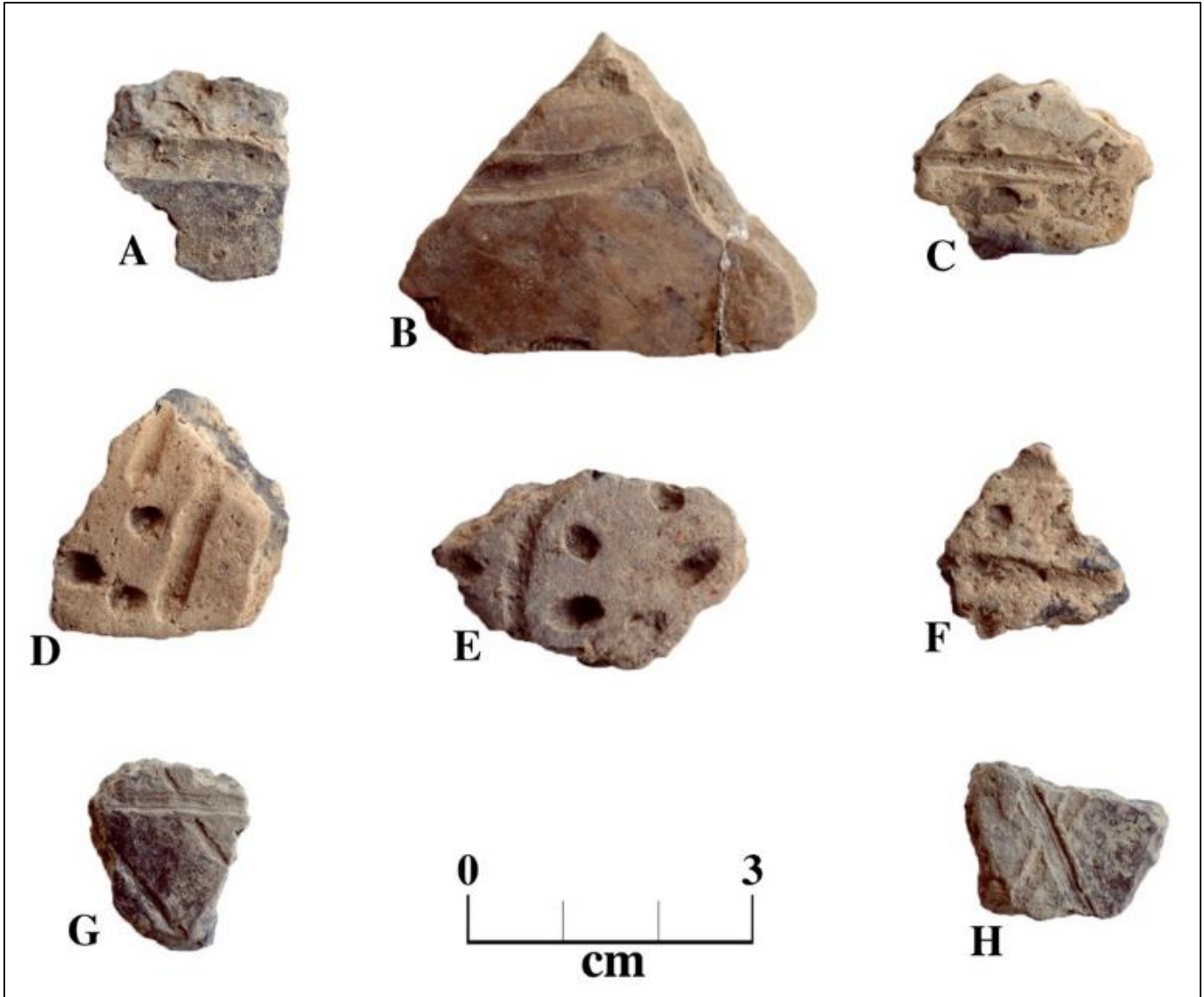


Figure 2. Some of the post-Tchefuncte decorated sherds found at Poverty Point. (A) Marksville Incised, *var. Marksville*; (B-C) Marksville Incised, *var. unspecified*; (D) Churupa Punctated, *var. Hill Bayou*; (E) Churupa Punctated, *var. Watson (?)*; (F) Churupa Punctated, *var. unspecified*; (G-H) Harrison Bayou Incised, *var. Harrison Bayou*.

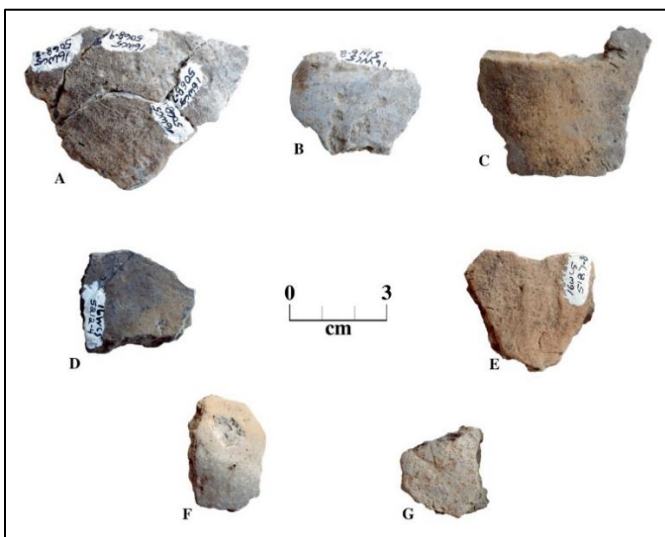


Figure 3 (left). A few of the post-Tchefuncte plain sherds found at Poverty Point. (A-C) Baytown Plain, *var. Marksville*; (D-F) Baytown Plain, *cf. var. Marksville*; (G) Baytown Plain, *var. unspecified*.

The presence of the Coles Creek period sherds (e.g., Harrison Bayou Incised, Coles Creek Incised) are not surprising given that Mound D apparently was built during the late Coles Creek period, ca. A.D. 1150 (Ortmann 2007:141). The sherd of Harrison Bayou Incised is a late Coles Creek type that would fit into that time frame. Many of the *unspecified* sherds of Baytown Plain may also date to this Late Woodland occupation. Finally, the Plaquemine Brushed and Mississippi Plain sherds indicate a very sparse, late prehistoric presence at Poverty Point, sometime after A.D. 1200 or so. It is worth noting that some Coles Creek and Mississippi period

arrow points have been found at the site. Webb et al. (ca. 1968) state that 101 fragmentary and complete arrow points were found in surface contexts, including the following types: Scallorn/Colbert, Madison, Clifton, and Catahoula.

One thing that stands out in Table 1 is the greater quantity of post-Tchefuncte sherds excavated during Goad's fieldwork vs. all other investigations. This is especially striking when comparing Goad to Haag (i.e., 159 sherds vs. 18 sherds), although Haag's combined XUs excavated a much larger area of the site. This discrepancy almost certainly can be attributed to the fact that Goad screened her excavated dirt, while Haag generally did not. Weinstein was a member of Haag's 1974 field season at Poverty Point, and he can attest to the fact that virtually none of the excavated soil was screened. (Debbie Woodiel did screen one of her 5-by-5-ft squares to determine if there was a recovery difference between her efforts and those of the other crewmembers, but she was the only person to use a ¼-inch screen and only in one square.) It is likely that no one on Haag's previous 1972 and 1973 field seasons at Poverty Point and hardly anyone on his later 1975 season screened their dirt (although Haag [1990:7] mentions that soil was screened when possible). It is also interesting to see that Gibson and Connally retrieved a greater number of later types and varieties in their two pottery-producing treefall locations than did Haag, Greene, or Kuttruff. Of course, this recognition that screening one's dirt allows for greater artifact recovery is not anything startling, but it does point to the dramatic collection differences between those researchers at Poverty Point who screened their soil vs. those who did not.

In addition to the late pottery that we analyzed, we also would like to report (very generally) on a tabulation of pottery recovered during Gibson's seven field seasons at Poverty Point during which he excavated (and screened) 115 1-by-1-m units in numerous locations across the site. Results of those investigations were published by the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (Gibson 1984, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1997). Weinstein tabulated Gibson's pottery classifications in each of those reports and provided a detailed breakdown that is currently on file at Coastal Environments, Inc., in Baton Rouge. However, that tabulation was not included in our 2004 paper. We thought it might be worth presenting a synopsis of that data at this point.

Accordingly, Table 2 summarizes the results of Gibson's pottery classifications and includes all sherds recovered, both early and late, along with his many unclassified/unidentified specimens. In general, the numbers and types of "late" ceramics (i.e., Marksville and later) are somewhat akin to what we identified above in Table 1, although there are no Marksville types, which is surprising. Gibson's "early" pottery (i.e., Tchefuncte and earlier) types are more similar to those discussed in our 2004 study (Hays and Weinstein 2004: Table 7.1), as they include many examples of Tchefuncte, Wheeler, and Alexander series pottery. One notable exception is the absence of St Johns pottery in any of Gibson's reports. This is in sharp contrast to the 64 St. Johns sherds that we reported in 2004, especially when one considers that Gibson's collections totaled 1,273 sherds, while our 2004 total was about half that number, at 641 sherds (Hays and Weinstein 2004:152-153, endnote 2). Although Gibson did not classify any of his sherds as St Johns, we suspect that at least some of the sherds that he listed as "unclassified" and "unidentified" are, in fact, St. Johns pottery, especially those with "loess paste." The same may apply to the sherd of Tammany Punctated with loess paste, as a few sherds of St. Johns Punctated were recovered in Greene's deep six excavations (see Hays and Weinstein 2004: Table 7-1).

In fairness to Gibson, it should be noted that pottery "much like or identical" to St. Johns had been recognized by Haag (1990:23-24) during his earlier work at the site, but it was considered "untempered," having simply been made from soil containing sponge spicules. More recent studies (Lollis et al. 2015; Roland and Bond 2003) suggest that St. Johns pottery was likely intentionally tempered with spicules by adding spiculate-rich mucky clays to non-spiculate clays. Although the spicules themselves would not have been seen by the potters, those individuals creating the pottery recognized that the addition of such mucky clays served as a tempering agent. In support of these assumptions, it should be noted that when we physically examined a sample of sherds from Gibson's collections ca. 20 years ago, including those that had been classified as "untempered," it became apparent that several of those sherds were really elements in the St. Johns series (Hays and Weinstein 2004:159, endnote 6). The sponge spicules in St Johns pottery are not visible at less than 40x magnification and they can contribute to the sherds silty, loess-like texture. If not examined under a microscope, those sherds could be mistaken as untempered.

Table 2. Types and Varieties Compiled from Reports Related to Gibson’s Seven Seasons of Fieldwork at Poverty Point. Classifications by Gibson.

Paste Series	Type	Variety	Total
Baytown Series	Baytown Plain		616
	Baytown Plain (grit/grog paste)		4
	Baytown Plain (?)		5
	Coles Creek Plain ¹		290
	Coles Creek Incised		5
	Coles Creek Incised	<i>Blakely</i>	2
	Mazique Incised	<i>Mazique</i>	2
	Mazique Incised	<i>Oxbow</i>	1
	Mazique Incised (?)		1
	Salomon Brushed		1
	Unclassified Incised (Baytown paste)		7
	Unclassified Incised (Coles Creek paste) ¹		2
	Unclassified Rocker Stamped (Baytown paste)		1
	Tchefuncte Series	Tchefuncte Plain	
Tchefuncte Plain (loess paste)			1
Tchefuncte Plain (?)			3
Tchefuncte Incised			2
Tchefuncte Stamped			1
Tchefuncte Stamped		<i>Vermilion</i>	6
Tammany Punctated			2
Tammany Punctated (loess paste)			2
Tammany Punctated		<i>Tammany</i>	2
Tammany Punctated		<i>Dutchtown</i>	2
Lake Borgne Incised			1
Lake Borgne Incised		<i>Lake Borgne</i>	1
Jaketown Simple Stamped			1
Alexander Series	Alexander Plain ¹		1
	Alexander Plain ¹ (?)		3
Wheeler Series	Wheeler Plain		100
	Wheeler Plain (?)		1
	Wheeler Punctated		8
	Wheeler Incised ¹		1
Unclassified/ Unidentified	Unclassified Plain		80
	Unclassified Plain (loess paste) ²		40
	Unclassified Plain (clay paste)		2
	Unclassified Plain (foliated)		1
	Untempered Plain (loess paste) ²		2
	Untempered Plain (hard paste)		1
	Unclassified Incised		3
	Unclassified Incised (loess paste) ²		1
	Unclassified Incised (line-filled triangles)		1
	Unclassified Punctated		2
	Unclassified Rocker Stamped		1
	Unclassified Rocker Stamped (sandy paste)		1
	Unclassified Fluted (loess paste) ²		1
	Wheeler Punctated (Tchefuncte paste) ³		1
Tchefuncte/Baytown Plain ⁴		1	
Total			1,273

Notes to Table 2:

¹These classifications by Gibson are not conventional types. We are unsure what is meant by Coles Creek Plain or Coles Creek paste, other than the likelihood that these sherds are probably late varieties of Baytown Plain (i.e., *Valley Park*, *Little Tiger*, or *Vicksburg*). The same can be said of Alexander Plain, which presumably should be O’Neal Plain. We also suspect that the Wheeler Incised sherd may really be Wheeler Simple Stamped.

²It is likely that at least some of these sherds have sponge spicules as temper, which would classify them as St. Johns Plain and St. Johns Incised.

³We are guessing that this sherd has a laminated paste like Tchefuncte ware, but also includes some fibers.

⁴We again are guessing that this sherd has a laminated and/or contorted appearance like Tchefuncte ware but includes some grog as temper. If so, it likely would be classified as Baytown Plain, *var. Marksville*.

Summary

The results of this brief study indicate that, in addition to early pottery at Poverty Point, the site contained a substantial number of Marksville and Coles Creek era sherds, as well as a few later Mississippi period sherds. This helps demonstrate, as indicated by many of the past researchers at Poverty Point, that the site was used at least sporadically for several thousand years after its principal occupation during the terminal Archaic. What sets this brief review apart from those previous investigators is the recognition of a modest Marksville period component at Poverty Point.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Dr. Diana Greenlee, Station Archaeologist at the Poverty Point World Heritage Site, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, for kindly locating the artifacts appearing in Figures 2 and 3 within the collections housed at Poverty Point, and Jenny Ellerbe, a photographer in northeast Louisiana, who photographed the sherds for us. We also want to thank Dr. Doug Wells, Archaeologist and Principal Investigator at Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge, for combining the photographs provided by Dr. Greenlee into the images used to create Figures 2 and 3.

References Cited

Bitgood, Mark J.

1989 *The Baytown Period in the Upper Tensas Basin*. Lower Mississippi Survey, Bulletin No. 12. Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge.

Brookes, Samuel O.

1980a The Peabody Phase in the Upper Sunflower Region. Master's thesis, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Mississippi, Oxford.

1980b The Prairie Phase: Late Marksville in the Upper Sunflower Region. *Mississippi Archaeology* 15(1):30-37.

Connolly, Robert P.

1999 *1999 Annual Report: Station Archaeology Program at the Poverty Point State Commemorative Area, Epps, Louisiana*. Poverty Point State Commemorative Area, Epps, Louisiana. Submitted to Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.

- 2001 *Final Report on the 1980-1982 Excavations, Northwest Ridge One, the Poverty Point Site (16WC5)*. Poverty Point State Commemorative Area, Epps, Louisiana. Submitted to Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.
- Ford, James A., Phillip Phillips, and Williams G. Haag
1955 *The Jaketown Site in West-Central Mississippi*. Anthropological Papers Vol. 45, Pt. 1. American Museum of Natural History, New York.
- Ford, Janet
1988 An Examination of the Twin Lakes Phase. In *Middle Woodland Settlement and Ceremonialism in the Mid-South and Lower Mississippi Valley: Proceedings of the 1984 Mid-South Archaeological Conference, Pinson Mounds, Tennessee – June 1984*, edited by Robert C. Mainfort, Jr., pp. 61-67. Archaeological Report No. 22. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
- Fuller, Richard S., Sylvia T. Duay, and Susan L. Scott
1995 Artifact Analysis. In *The Rock Levee Site: Late Marksville through Late Mississippi Period Settlement, Bolivar County, Mississippi*, by Richard A. Weinstein, Richard S. Fuller, Susan L. Scott, C. Margaret Scarry, and Sylvia T. Duay, pp. 77-155. The Lake Beulah Levee Project: Archaeology and History, Vol. III. Series edited by Richard A. Weinstein and Charles E. Pearson. Coastal Environments, Inc., Baton Rouge. Submitted to Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg.
- Gibson, Jon L.
1984 *The Earthen Face of Civilization: Mapping and Testing at Poverty Point, 1983*. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- 1987 *The Ground Truth about Poverty Point: The Second Season, 1985*. Report No. 7. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- 1989 *Digging on the Dock of the Bay(ou): The 1988 Excavations at Poverty Point, Louisiana*. Report No. 8. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- 1990 *Search for the Lost Sixth Ridge: The 1989 Excavations at Poverty Point*. Report No. 9. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.

- 1993 *In Helona's Shadow: Excavations in the Western Rings at Poverty Point, 1991*. Report No. 11. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- 1994 *Cool Dark Woods, Poison Ivy, and Maringoins: The 1993 Excavations at Poverty Point, Louisiana*. Report No. 12. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- 1997 *By the Shining Bayou Waters: The 1995 Excavations at Poverty Point, Louisiana*. Report No. 13. Center for Archaeological Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette.
- Greene, Glen S.
1990 *The Deep Six Paleosol: The Incipient Poverty Point Occupation, 1983 Excavations*. Northeast Louisiana State University, Monroe. Submitted to Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.
- Haag, William G.
1990 Excavations at the Poverty Point Site: 1972-1975. In *Recent Research at the Poverty Point Site*, edited by Kathleen M. Byrd, pp. 1-36. Louisiana Archaeology No. 13. Louisiana Archaeological Society, Lafayette.
- Hays, Christopher T.
1999 *Ceramics in Louisiana from 1300 B.C. to A.D. 1300: Regional Archaeology in Southeast Louisiana. 1999 Annual Report for Management Units IV and V*. Regional Archaeology Program, Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Submitted to Division of Archaeology, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Baton Rouge.
- Hays, Christopher T., and Richard A. Weinstein
2004 Early Pottery at Poverty Point: Origins and Functions. In *Early Pottery: Technology, Function, Style, and Interaction in the Lower Southeast*, edited by Rebecca Saunders and Christopher T. Hays, pp. 150-168. University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.
- Kuttruff, Carl
1975 The Poverty Point Culture: North Sector Test Excavations. *Louisiana Archaeology* 2:129-152.
- Lollis, Charly, Neil J. Wallis, Ann S. Cordell
2015 Was St. Johns Pottery Made with Swamp Muck as Temper? An Experimental Assessment. *The Florida Anthropologist* 68(3-4):97-112.
- Ortmann, Anthony L.
2007 The Poverty Point Mounds: Analysis of the Chronology, Construction History, and Function of North America's Largest Hunter-Gatherer Monuments. Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Anthropology, Tulane University, New Orleans.
- Phillips, Philip
1970 *Archaeological Survey in the Lower Yazoo Basin, Mississippi, 1949-1955*. Paper Vol. 60. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge.
- Phillips, Philip, James A. Ford, James B. Griffin
1951 *Archaeological Survey in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley, 1940-1947*. Paper Vol. 25. Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge
- Rolland, Vicki L., and Paulette Bond
2003 The Search for Spiculate Clays Near Aboriginal Sites in the Lower St. Johns River Region, Florida. *The Florida Anthropologist* 56(2):125-140.
- Toth, Edwin Alan
1988 *Early Marksville Phases in the Lower Mississippi Valley: A Study of Culture Contact Dynamics*. Anthropological Report No. 21. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.
- Webb, Clarence H.
1982 *The Poverty Point Culture*. 2nd rev. ed. Geoscience and Man Vol. 17. School of Geoscience, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.
- Webb, Clarence H., James A. Ford, and Sherwood M. Gagliano
ca. 1968 Poverty Point Culture and the American Formative. 4 vols. Manuscript on file, Williamson Museum, Northwestern State University of Louisiana, Natchitoches.



The Sites of Francis Broussard II: Golden Glen

Chip McGimsey, Christine Halling, and Francis Broussard

In the 1970s, the land that was to become the Golden Glen subdivision in Mandeville was being cleared. The tract lay on the south side of Bayou Chinchuba. Paula Johnson visited the tract and made a collection of pre-contact artifacts. She subsequently gave the collection to Louisiana State University (LSU) and filled out a site card. When the archaeological sites were compiled by the Division of Archaeology in the 1980s, her site was identified as 16ST70. Unfortunately, the location was only given to the first quarter-section, an area of 160 acres. Thus, in the Division's site files a circle was randomly placed in the area of the subdivision to mark the location.

At or about the same time, Francis Broussard of Abita Springs also visited the cleared subdivision. He noted that artifacts were scattered over much of the property and made a collection of points and bifaces from the tract. More importantly, he identified three discrete artifact scatters and collected them separately. In June of 2022, Broussard contacted McGimsey about donating the collections to the Division. McGimsey and Broussard visited Golden Glen, and Mr. Broussard pointed out the specific locations where the collections came from. A couple of these locations overlapped with the original placement of 16ST70. As discussed below, however, other locations are clearly different from the 16ST70 collection. The arbitrarily mapped location of 16ST70 was moved sufficiently to allow Mr. Broussard's sites to be given unique site numbers and locations that did not overlap with 16ST70. These four sites are discussed below. They provide a glimpse into the archaeological record that once existed before suburban sprawl erased much, if not all, of this record.

Projectile points were identified following McGahey (2000). The ceramics were categorized by McGimsey, following Fuller (1996) and Philips (1970). The 16ST70 collection was borrowed from LSU for this study. All sherd pastes were examined with a 10X hand lens on a freshly broken edge to determine the temper type. In addition to the usual wares (Baytown, Mississippi, Guillory), there are two distinctly different pastes in these collections. One is a sand tempered ware with fine to medium sand as the only inclusion. It is unclear if this reflects the intentional addition of sand to the paste or whether a very sandy clay was utilized. These sherds have the feel of medium sandpaper. The second paste appears to be untempered. Shell and grog are clearly

lacking, while organics are frequent. These sherds are not obviously fiber-tempered and lack the contorted paste of Tchefuncte wares. They also have a distinctive clay paste that still retains iron and manganese concretions. The age and cultural affiliation of these latter two wares are unknown.

16ST70

The ceramic assemblage obtained by Paula Johnson consists of plain ceramics with only one sand tempered, indeterminate incised decorated sherd (Table 1). The unknown sand tempered and untempered ceramics constitute a majority of the assemblage. Although the latter wares have an unknown temporal affiliation, the Baytown and Mississippi wares indicate occupation during the Woodland and Mississippi periods. The lithic assemblage includes one Gary point, one Delhi point, one Bakers Creek point, and one that could be a Hinds or Sykes point (McGahey 2000). These span an interval from the Early Archaic to the Marksville periods. There are also two bifaces in the collection. The temporal range of the artifacts suggests they were recovered from a variety of locations, although they could have come from one localized spot. As evident in Table 1, the ceramic assemblage is distinctly different from Mr. Broussard's three sites, indicating that the ceramics in Johnson's collection likely came from elsewhere in the Golden Glen subdivision.

16ST283

This is the most interesting site among the collections. It is reported to have been a small deposit of *Rangia* shell 1 to 2 meters in diameter. The top had been bladed off by road construction and a 20 to 30-cm wide utility trench excavated through it. Exposed in the disturbed feature were numerous human remains. Mr. Broussard collected the remains exposed on the surface but did not excavate to recover any *in situ* remains. Only seven sherds were collected from the feature. It is unknown whether the sherds were associated with the burial.

The human remains were assessed by Christine Halling and Ryan Seidemann (2022). The remains represent approximately 7% of a complete individual and most of the smaller elements are missing. Most elements exhibit recent breaks, gouges, or scrapes that likely reflect damage from excavation equipment. Although the low frequency of remains cannot rule out multiple individuals, all the evidence supports an interpretation that the remains represent a single individual. Using pelvic, cranial, and dental attributes, the individual is an

Table 1. Artifact Assemblages from the Golden Glen Sites.

	16ST70	16ST283	16ST284	16ST285
Ceramics, Undecorated				
Baytown Plain, <i>var. unspecified</i>	29	6	8	13
Mississippi Plain, <i>var. Pocahontas</i>	2		2	21
Guillory Plain, <i>var. St. Bernard</i>				18
Graveline Plain, <i>var. Proctor Point</i>			1	
Sand tempered plain	35			12
Untempered plain	14	1	1	6
Ceramics, Decorated				
Marksville Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>			1	
French Fork Incised, <i>var. Lafayette</i>			1	
Coleman Incised, <i>var. Coleman</i>				2
Mazique Incised, <i>var. Manchac</i>			1	1
Avoyelles Punctated, <i>var. Dupree</i>				1
Plaquemine Brushed, <i>var. Plaquemine</i>			6	
Coles Creek Incised, <i>var. Phillips</i>			1	
Coles Creek Incised, <i>var. Blakely</i>			6	
Coles Creek Incised, <i>var. Hardy</i>			4	
Harrison Bayou, <i>var. Harrison Bayou</i>			1	
Chevalier Stamped, <i>var. Lulu (?)</i>			1	
Maddox Engraved, <i>var. unspecified</i>			2	
Moundville Incised, <i>var. Douglas</i>				2
Moundville Incised, <i>var. Moundville</i>			1	
Moundville Incised, <i>var. Snows Bend</i>			1	
Pensacola Incised, <i>var. Castine</i>			1	5
Pensacola Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>				3
D'Olive Incised, <i>var. LaLoutre</i>				1
D'Olive Incised, <i>var. Dominic</i>			1	
Mound Place Incised, <i>var. Bon Secour</i>			2	
Mound Place Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>				1
Parkin Punctated, <i>var. Parkin</i>			7	
Port Dauphin Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>			3	
Leland Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>			1	3
Owens Punctated, <i>var. Muir</i>			1	
Winterville Incised, <i>var. Blum</i>				1
Barton Incised, <i>var. unspecified</i>				1
Indeterminate incised	1		5	4
Ceramic disc (reworked sherd)				1
Pinch pot fragment			1	
Lithics				
Flakes			3	1
Complete and fragmentary bifaces	2		28	1
Projectile points	4		6	
Edge retouched flake			1	
Worked hematite			1	

American Indian female who was 40 to 60 years old when she died. Her remains exhibit few pathological markers, indicating she was relatively healthy throughout most of her life.

It is unfortunate we do not know more about the context in which this individual was interred. The present

evidence suggests she was buried in a small pit filled with *Rangia* shell. It seems unlikely that this pocket of shell was simply a remnant of a larger shell midden that once existed at this location given the lack of shell in the surrounding area when Mr. Broussard visited the site. Interment of a single individual in a shell-filled pit is an uncommon, perhaps rare treatment. The senior author

is not aware of another similar burial facility at a site in southeast Louisiana. Many individuals were likely buried in shell-filled pits within shell middens, but this instance appears to represent a specific mortuary facility distinct from a surrounding shell midden. None of the sherds recovered from the area of the burial are decorated and only suggest it may date to sometime during the last 2,000 years. None of the sherds were recovered in association with the burial, so their association may be coincidental.

16ST284

This site was an earth midden with some *Rangia* shell present. It is situated on the edge of the high ground overlooking Bayou Chinchuba to the west. Although the shell midden and artifacts appeared to be concentrated at the south end of the site in an area now covered by a small undeveloped lot, Mr. Broussard found artifacts along the edge of the high ground for some distance to the north. It is presently not possible to determine if the different occupations identified in the artifact collection were spatially segregated along the high ground, or if everything overlapped.

The non-diagnostic lithic assemblage is dominated by bifacially retouched items (Table 1). One of the complete bifaces has distinct distal polish, indicating it was used as a wood-working tool. The diagnostic artifact collection reflects intermittent occupation from the Late Archaic through late pre-contact or early post-contact periods. The Late Archaic through early Late Woodland periods are represented by the projectile points (Figure 1). The assemblage includes two *Gary var. Gary*, four *Gary var. Maybon*, four Kent or Edwards Stemmed, one Bakers Creek, and one indeterminate type. These points were found in the part of the site north of the shell midden. Mr. Broussard retains a Late Archaic Pontchartrain point and an alligator tooth that were recovered from the shell midden portion of the site. Interestingly, only two sherds, the Marksville Incised and the Coles Creek Incised *var. Phillips* reflect these same periods. Conversely, there are no points indicative of the later occupations.

The Coles Creek period is represented by 14 sherds. The assemblage is dominated by Coles Creek Incised *var. Blakely* and *Hardy* (Figure 2 a, b), but also includes single examples of French Fork Incised, Harrison Bayou Incised, Chevalier Stamped, and Mazique Incised (Figure 2 d). A small Plaquemine occupation is suggested by the six Plaquemine Brushed sherds. But the remainder of the ceramic assemblage reflects a Mississippian component. The majority of these are types originally identified in the

Pensacola/Mobile Bay (PMB) region and represent early through late Mississippian types. These include Port Dauphin Incised (Figure 3 a), D'Olive Incised (Figure 3 b), Moundville Incised (Figure 4), Mound Place Incised (Figure 5 a), and Pensacola Incised. Even the more traditional lower Mississippi Valley types like Leland Incised (Figure 2 c), Parkin Punctated (Figure 6), Maddox Engraved (Figure 5 b), and Owens Punctated are made on the Guillory/Graveline paste typical of Pensacola/Mobile Bay assemblages.



Figure 1. Projectile points from 16ST284. (a-c) *Gary var. Maybon*; (d, e) *Gary var. Gary*; (f) Baker's Creek; (g-i) Kent.



Figure 2. Coles Creek period ceramics from 16ST184. (a, b) Coles Creek Incised *var. Blakely*; (c) Leland Incised *var. unspecified*; (d) Mazique Incised *var. Manchac*.

The majority (15 out of 19, or 79.0%) of the Mississippian component sherds are made on Guillory and Graveline pastes. The only grog tempered sherds are the Maddox Engraved (Figure 5 b) and the Plaquemine Brushed sherds. One unusual sherd appears to be a very small pinch pot. It is a crude shallow bowl approximately 10 cm in diameter with walls only 1-2 cm high. This may represent an effort by a child to emulate a potter.



Figure 3. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST284. (a) Port Dauphin Incised var. *unspecified*; (b) D'Olive Incised var. *Dominic*.



Figure 4. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST284. (a) Moundville Incised var. *Moundville*; (b) Moundville Incised var. *Snows Bend*.



Figure 5. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST184. (a) Mound Place Incised var. *Bon Secour*; (b) Maddox Engraved var. *unspecified*.



Figure 6. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST284. Parkin Punctated var. *Parkin*.

16ST285

This site lay on a slight rise on the edge of the high ground overlooking drainages into Bayou Chinchuba to the west and north. The site is described as a moderate-sized *Rangia* shell midden. The ceramic assemblage includes a few Coles Creek types (Mazique Incised, Avoyelles Punctated, Baytown Plain), but the majority of the assemblage reflects a Plaquemine/Mississippian occupation. Although smaller, the assemblage is very similar to that from 16ST284 with Guillory Plain, Mississippi Plain, Moundville Incised (Figure 7), Mound Place Incised, Pensacola Incised, and D'Olive Incised present. The Coleman Incised sherds represent carinated bowls on a Baytown paste (Figure 8).



Figure 7. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST285. Moundville Incised var. *Douglas*.



Figure 8. Mississippian ceramics from 16ST285. (a) Coleman Incised var. *Coleman*; (b) Barton Incised var. *unspecified*.

Discussion

The Golden Glen sites provide a small snapshot of the pre-contact occupations along Bayou Chinchuba. The various collections reflect occupations from at least the Late Archaic period through the Mississippi or even post-contact period. Although most of the points are Late Archaic or Woodland, there are surprisingly few ceramics from these same periods. Nearly all of the ceramics reflect Plaquemine and/or Mississippian occupations.

Bushnell (1909) and Joe Manual, an LAS member in the Mandeville area (cited in Jones and Shuman 1988 and in a note appended to the 16ST25 site form), report numerous 'shell sites' and a few low mounds along both banks of Bayou Chinchuba in the Mandeville area. Most of these, like the sites in Golden Glen, have been destroyed by development, and there is very little information about most of them. Site 16ST25, however, was explored by David Bushnell in 1907 during his work documenting the Choctaw Indians along Bayou Lacombe. The site was described as a low mound 30 m in diameter and 1.5 m high (Bushnell 1909:3-4). A trench excavated through one-half of the mound identified two hearths within the mound fill and a deposit of *Rangia* shells that apparently lay below the mound. Artifacts recovered from the mound include a number of shell-tempered sherds representing Lower Mississippi Valley and PMB ceramic types (McGimsey and Shannon n.d.)

Bushnell notes (1909:6) that a shell midden extends southeast of the mound along the bayou bank for a

distance of 60 m or more with a similar deposit observed on the opposite side of the bayou. This area on the east bank would have been in the vicinity of the Golden Glen sites and is also adjacent to the location of Père Rouquette's mission to the Choctaw. The mission, Chapel Kildara, was used from ca. 1860 to 1905. Bushnell notes that pottery found at the mission site is similar to that recovered from the mound.

The presence of ceramics with design motifs originally identified in the Pensacola – Mobile Bay area of the Gulf Coast is further evidence that individuals or communities with ties to the PMB area were settling in southeast Louisiana sometime after 1000 CE. A preliminary survey of Mississippi period sites in the parishes bordering Lake Pontchartrain identified 10 sites where PMB ceramic types are present (McGimsey et al. n.d., Figure 32). Half of these sites occur in an apparent cluster on the north shore of the lake in St. Tammany parish. The Golden Glen sites add two sites to this group. Whether this concentration of sites with PMB ceramics reflects the actual distribution of people making and using these ceramics requires further survey to better understand Mississippi period settlement patterns in this region.

The PMB ceramic types are generally dated to the middle and late Mississippi period but some varieties may continue into the post-contact period (Fuller 1996). It is interesting to note that the cluster of sites in St. Tammany Parish with PMB ceramics is also the area where Choctaw and Acolapissa communities were present in the 1700s and 1800s (Bushnell 1909; McWilliams 1953). Perhaps some of the PMB ceramics found at these St. Tammany parish sites represent the early post-contact assemblage of communities later identified as Acolapissa and/or Choctaw.

References Cited

- Bushnell, David I., Jr.
1909 *The Choctaw of Bayou Lacombe, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana*. Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 48. Washington D.C.
- Fuller, Richard S.
1996 *Mississippi Through Early Historic Period Shell Tempered Pottery in the Pensacola Culture Area*. Gulf Coast Survey, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Tuscaloosa.
- Halling, Christine L., and Ryan M. Seidemann
2022 *Descriptive Bioarchaeological Analysis of Human Remains Recovered in the 1970s from*

Mandeville, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.
Report submitted to the Louisiana Division of
Archaeology.

Jones, Dennis, and Malcolm Shuman
1988 Archaeological Atlas and Report of Prehistoric
Indian Mounds in Louisiana: Vol III – Livingston,
St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and
Washington Parishes. Report submitted to the
Louisiana Division of Archaeology, Baton Rouge.

McGahey, Samuel O.
2000 *Mississippi Projectile Point Guide*.
Archaeological Report No. 31, Mississippi
Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

McGimsey, Chip, George W. Shannon, Jr., and James
Delahoussaye
n.d. The Johnson Site (16ST68): a Mississippi Period
Occupation on the North Shore of Lake

Pontchartrain. Submitted to the Louisiana
Archaeological Society Bulletin.

McWilliams, Richebourg G., editor and translator
1953 *Fleur de Lys and Calumet: Being the Pénicaut
Narrative of French Adventure in Louisiana*.
Baton Rouge, La.

Phillips, Philip
1970 *Archaeological Survey in the Lower Yazoo Basin,
Mississippi, 1949-1955*. Papers of the Peabody
Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Vol. 60.
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Swanton, John R.
1946 *The Indians of the Southeastern United States*.
Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American
Ethnology, Bulletin 137. Washington, D.D.



A Cistern Near Waterproof, Tensas Parish

C. Andrew Buchner

Cisterns were vital to life in the Lower Mississippi River Valley before the advent of public waterworks and water distribution systems made them obsolete. The importance of cisterns is emphasized by the numerous late nineteenth and early twentieth century accounts in the *Tensas Gazette* and the *North Louisiana Journal* of cisterns being dry and locals needing heavy rain to refill them. Local reports of empty cisterns continued to be published into the 1920s, especially in rural districts. Cisterns were built in both urban and rural settings and came in above-ground or below-ground (i.e., subterranean) variants. In New Orleans, Starr and Stewart (2018) suggest that historically, cisterns were the most characteristic feature of the city's architecture.

In early 2022 a buried cistern was discovered by an earthmoving contractor within U.S. Army Corps of Engineers borrow pit 380-R near Waterproof (Figure 1). It was concealed in dense vegetation along an old overgrown fence row and manifested as a 31-inch (78.7 cm) diameter open brick feature. Corps archaeologists from the New Orleans and Vicksburg Districts then investigated the feature and discovered a cultural deposit buried about 30 m deep around the cistern mouth. A 20 m diameter buffer zone was established around the cistern to protect it from the heavy equipment.

Commonwealth Heritage Group, LLC (formerly Pan-american) was subsequently contracted to conduct test excavations at the cistern (16TE230). This project resulted in the recovery of significant archival information regarding the occupation of the tract containing the cistern, as well as details of its architecture and archaeology. Overall, the research suggests that James and Catherine S.A. Miller established “Waterproof” Plantation at the site during the 1830s, and it remained in their descendants’ hands until well into the twentieth century. Importantly, CSA Miller’s daughter Emma L. married Dr. James Moore in 1861 in Tensas Parish. His name is associated with Sunny Bank Plantation at Waterproof Landing on 1878-1880 and 1884 Mississippi River Commission maps, where several structures are shown nearby. The cistern is interpreted as being abandoned in 1884 because Dr. James Moore’s house at the plantation (which had been renamed Sunny Bank Plantation by 1873) burned down that year. Furthermore, the Mississippi River shifted dramatically away from Waterproof, leaving it landlocked.

Dr. Moore and Emma’s daughter, later known as Mrs. Katie Gorton, was born ca. 1866 on the “the Moore home-place just below Waterproof” and her name is found at Sunny Bank Plantation on a 1916 MRC map. No structures are shown on the riverside of the levee at the cistern location on the 1916 map, but Corps Benchmark 122/3 is located there. A reference to BM 122/3 was

found in *Spirit Leveling in Louisiana, 1903 to 1915*, and intriguingly, the surveyors described three cisterns around this Benchmark (Marshall 1916).

Work conducted during the August 2022 testing included mechanically stripping a 173 m² area around the cistern opening to expose the upper portion of the buried deposit. This was followed by the excavation of a 1-by-1 m unit in the exposed area and shovel skimming and troweling a brick scatter that was found to cover an intact brick chimney base (Feature 1). The second phase of fieldwork consisted of completely exposing and bisecting the cistern using a mini-excavator to document its construction details and contents, which was mostly water with a little mucky silt in the bottom.

The 380-R cistern was found to be 12-ft (3.65 m) in diameter and 10.58-ft tall, with the upper 2-ft being a domed vault. It was extremely robust and stoutly built

using one course of bricks. It is clearly the work of a professional cistern maker; it took considerable force from the mini-excavator to bisect it. It did not exhibit any other perforations or inlets for intake pipes or water supply lines, thus both the supply line and the outtake lines must have come through the cistern mouth. The water supply for the cistern must have come from the roof of the building represented by the F-1 chimney base, and the close proximity of these two features is notable.

During September 2022 Corps archaeologist Brian E. Ostahowski conducted a GPR survey outside the buffer zone at 16TE230 near the predicted locations of the other two cisterns reported by Marshall (1916). The GPR survey resulted in the detection of anomalies at the depth of the buried surface. However, they were interpreted as dispersed brick rubble and not the two missing cisterns.



Figure 1. Cistern and brick chimney base at 16TE230 near Waterproof, view to the west.

When was the 380-R Cistern Constructed?

The resulting small artifact assemblage (n=245) contains no clear-cut antebellum diagnostics, and the limited ceramics, bottle glass, and other items that were recovered do not significantly help in dating the feature. The most diagnostic aspect of the recovered artifact assemblage is the cut to wire nail ratio (63 to 5) that suggests an occupation between 1855-1880. The absence of late nineteenth to early twentieth century diagnostics, such as amethyst glass and Albany/Bristol slipped stoneware, is also notable in the project assemblage.

The 380-R cistern morphology—it is a Bell type cistern, 12 ft in diameter with a capacity of 5,134 gal—provides the best evidence for its construction date. This led me to interpret it as an 1870s-1880s construction. Related cistern features that are similarly dated include two at Angola Plantation site (16WF121) (Perrault et al. 2001), and a subterranean brick cistern with a “corbelled top” at the Boetle Barns (16CO42) (Ryan 2004). In Texas, Denton (2011:7) notes that by the 1880s most Bell Cisterns were at least 12 ft in diameter and 15 ft deep.

Who built the Cistern?

If the interpretation of the 380-R cistern being built during the 1870s or 1880s is correct, then it is associated with the post-bellum occupation of Sunny Bank Plantation by Dr. James Moore and his wife Emma (nee Miller). Since it was very robustly and professionally constructed, it is thought that Dr. Moore, who was quite wealthy, hired a cistern builder.

In 1879 O'Brien & Co. advertised for brick and brick-work in the *Natchez Democrat*, stating that they built “Cisterns, Chimneys &c.” from their brickyard on St. Catherine St. at “very moderate prices.” During the same era, Western Cement Association advertised for “Hydraulic Cement used for the construction of Cisterns, Sewers and Foundations” in the *North Louisiana Journal*. The 380-R cistern could well have been constructed by O'Brien & Co. using Louisville Hydraulic Cement, as the wealthy Dr. Moore had the ways and means to procure their services, and likely read these or similar ads in the local newspapers.

When was the Cistern Abandoned?

The cistern is interpreted as being abandoned in 1884 based on the *North Louisiana Journal* account of Dr. Moore's house burning down then, and the Mississippi River shifting away from Waterproof the same year in a

dramatic cut-off that resulted in the relocation of Waterproof Landing from east of the cistern site to a new location two miles farther downstream. The limited artifact assemblage from the site generally supports this dating. By 1916 there were no structures left on the riverside of the levee at Sunny Bank Plantation, and most of the site and surrounding area appear to have reverted to farmland. The 380-R cistern owes its preservation to the fact that it was located within a heavily overgrown old fence row between two fields.

Because the 380-R cistern was in a rural location, once it was abandoned it was not used for refuse disposal, and thus it remained empty, save for water. The Bell cistern at the Boetle Barns (16CO42) site was also water filled and is another local example of a rural cistern simply being abandoned, although it was partly capped with a concrete slab. In urban areas the earth or midden fill(s) found inside most underground cisterns dates to the period when public water systems came online and the use of cisterns waned.

References Cited

- Denton, Mark H.
2011 Cisterns in Texas. *Current Archeology in Texas* 13(1):3-7. Texas Historical Commission.
- Marshall, Robert Bradford
1916 *Spirit Leveling in Louisiana 1903 to 1915*. U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 634. U.S. Government Printing Office.
- Perrault, S.L., R.T. Saucier, T.H.G. Han, III, D. Lee, J. Ryan, and C.S. Perling
2001 *Cultural Resources, Survey, Testing, and Exploratory Trenching for the Louisiana State Penitentiary Levee Enlargement Project, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana*. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to the New Orleans District, USACE. On file the Louisiana Division of Archaeology as Report No. 22-2229.
- Ryan, Joanne
2004 *Cultural Resources Investigation of West Bank Mississippi River Levees, Items 365, 3612, and 357-R, Vidalia-Moreville, Concordia Parish, Louisiana*. Coastal Environments, Inc. Submitted to the Vicksburg District, USACE. On file the Louisiana Division of Archaeology as Report No. 22-2660.
- Starr, S. Frederick, and Jack Stewart
2018 *The Rise & Fall of the New Orleans Cistern*. Preservation in Print, March 2018. Published by the Preservation Resources Center of New Orleans.



Photogrammetry of the S.S. Brookhill Steam Ferry (16EBR99)

Conan Mills

In early October 2022, mudlarkers walking the Mississippi River banks stumbled across the wreckage of the late 19th to early 20th century steam ferry, the S.S. *Brookhill*. Because of the low water levels of the river, the *Brookhill* quickly drew interest across the country and garnered massive amounts of media attention. I had been learning photogrammetry and taking a 3D Imaging class at Louisiana State University under the tutelage of Dr. Heather McKillop, so I figured this would be an excellent opportunity to challenge myself and the skills I have been developing over the previous months. One Sunday morning, before most of the country knew of the site, I went and gathered some images to make a 3D model of the *Brookhill*. The following are some of the considerations, processes, and tools used, and what I learned while making the model.

Photogrammetry is the process of making a 3D model from 2D photographs of an object, person, or place by matching features in each photo (Biggs 2018). Photogrammetry is not just limited to artifacts; it can record unit levels during excavations and record features. No expensive hardware is needed, just a camera equipped cell phone that most people have in their pocket, and a computer to process the model. This makes photogrammetry an accessible option to share heritage digitally. While this technology is a great option to share artifacts that people may never get to see in person, there are some people who feel that the technology takes the “soul” out of the object or art (Matthes 2017).

There are a few things that need to be considered when making a model of something this big. The first consideration is safety. There is no need to take risks while gathering the data for the model. What equipment you use to gather the imagery plays a role in this too. Walking around the site, while the underlying soil was mostly firm, there are areas of soft silty soil that could affect stability. Because of this, the best data collection option for this would have been a drone. A drone would not only provide high-quality images, it also provides vantage points above the vegetation that could produce a higher quality model.

The next consideration is site size. Because the *Brookhill's* remaining hull is around 100 feet long, selecting the right data collection tool for the job not only

saves time, but can affect the quality of the overall model (Figure 1). Again, drone imagery would produce a high-quality model at a fraction of the time required for ground-based data collection. Not only do they provide high-quality images, the geo-coding of the images would allow you to geo-reference the model in geographical information systems (GIS) (Kahar et al. 2021). Most cell phones and modern digital single-lens reflex cameras (DSLRs) have location coding built in as well, so these are still viable options for geo-referencing if this is the goal. Because my drone was down for repairs, my only option for data collection was ground-based collection.

To acquire the images, I brought my cell phone, Samsung Galaxy S8, and a GoPro Hero 9 Black. The Samsung has a 12 megapixel (MP) rear sensor and can shoot video at a resolution of 2160 x 1440 pixels. The GoPro Hero 9 Black has a 20 MP sensor and can shoot video up to 5120 x 2880 pixels. Newer GoPro cameras have a time lapse function and geo-coding of each image, making it a good option for geo-referencing a model in GIS later. Both are lightweight, easy to use, and do not take up a lot of space. I wanted to have some options to collect data if I had time. A DSLR would also make a great option for data acquisition, even under the auto preset on the camera. Once the equipment have been selected, it is time to develop a plan to safely acquire the data.

The Louisiana Archaeological Society made a Facebook post about the wreck that included two pictures. This gave me a very basic overview of what the site looked like. The port (right) side of the boat is nestled against the east bank of the river, with high ground and vegetation, while the starboard (left) side of the boat faces the river, with lower ground and some residual puddles of water. This gave me enough information to formulate a basic plan before I arrived on site. Once I arrived on site, I had to finalize the collection plan.

Initially, I was going to start at the port side and collect images around the stern (back) of the boat to the starboard side, then to the bow (front) and back to the port side. This would give me close to the full 360 degrees of coverage I would need to make the model. Additional passes of the starboard side of the boat would need to be made to get additional coverage on the exposed planks. Before pulling out any equipment, I walked around the boat to get a feel for the surrounding soil. Most of the surrounding soil was stable enough to support my weight, while other areas gave way easily. This walk around allowed me to complete the collection plan and safely start acquiring data.



Figure 1. Photo of the *Brookhill* used during creation of the 3D model.

To collect the data, I used a technique I developed by taking video of the subject, then extracting still images from the video. This technique works well with limited collection time and has produced excellent models for me and others in the past. However, those have been on much smaller and much less complex subjects. I collected the video around 9:00 am, as this was the only time I had that day because of school and family obligations. The position of the sun provided some strong shadows in the images, which can be seen in the final model. Ideally, this should have been done mid-day, when shadows are less of an issue. Using the Samsung Galaxy S8 in a hand-held mount, I walked around the boat gathering the required video, while trying to get as many angles as possible. This took around 20 minutes and resulted in 2 minutes and 50 seconds of usable video. I then extracted individual frames from the video to be processed by the photogrammetry software.

There are many options out on the market for photogrammetry software. Djuric and colleagues (2021) go into great detail about many of the readily available options. I am going to give a quick overview of some mentioned in the article, and commonly used options. One piece of software that is used by many people is Agisoft Metashape, which is a pay to use software that

works really well. Another good option is 3DF Zephyr. There is a free to use version of this software that limits the user to a maximum of 50 photos, as well as a paid version that increases the photo limit to 500. Most open source software is free, or relatively inexpensive, but it can come at the cost of the user experience. Most of the time, using open source software is a function over form proposition. For photogrammetry, I use an open source option called Meshroom (Figure 2). The user interface can be a little shocking to a new user, but in its out of the box configuration, it can produce some accurate models.

To extract the images from the video, I used a piece of software called FFmpeg. This is normally used to transcode video from one format to another. With the use of a Windows command line, I used it to extract single, or multiple images from video. On smaller models, I will extract between five and ten frames per second (FPS) from the video. With this model being as large as it is, I started with one FPS. This gave me 172 pictures to process in Meshroom. When I initially processed the images, there were not enough photos that had matching features of the bow of the boat to get a good resolution. I then extracted three frames per second, or 512 photos, and this resolved the issue. The upside to increasing the number of photos can be a more detailed

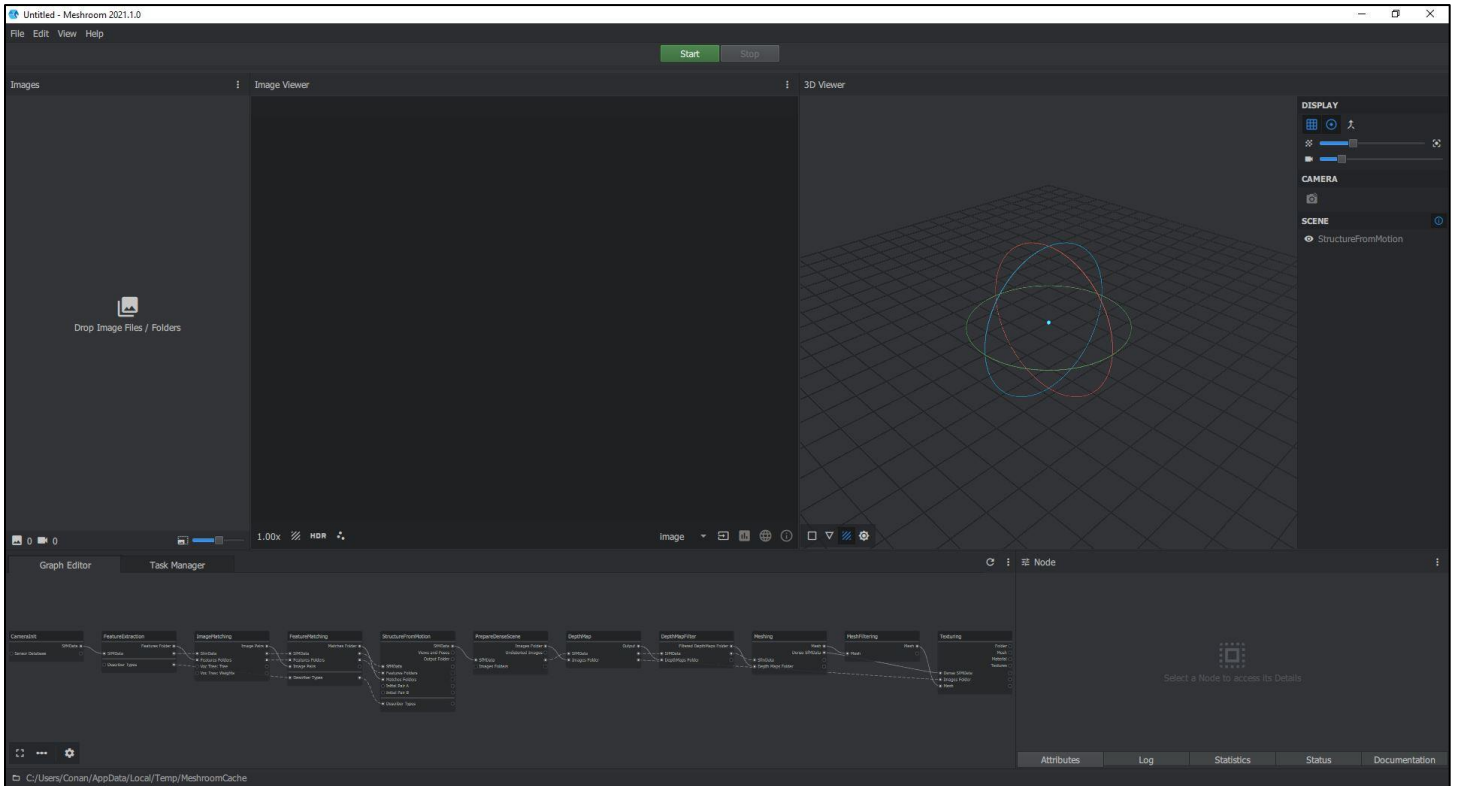


Figure 2. Meshroom open source photogrammetry software.

model. The downside to doing this comes at the cost of processing time and computer resources.

I processed the model in two steps. The initial processing produces the sparse point cloud, and this took around an hour and a half to process (Figure 3). The sparse point cloud shows what the model will look like, and if there were any issues matching any of the photos. It also shows the location of the camera where each photo was taken. The second step produces the final model, which produces the mesh, the frame of the model, and texture, the colors of the different parts of the model. The time to process this second step was around seven hours. I let the software run overnight, so all the computer's processing power could be dedicated to the 3D model.

Once the 3D model is finished and you are happy with it, then it can be put online for everyone to see. While there are several options on the internet to share 3D models, one of the most popular ones for heritage professionals is Sketchfab. Sketchfab has three plans; one free and two paid. Each plan provides for a certain number of uploads and file sizes that can be uploaded to the site, starting with ten uploads and 100 Megabytes for the free plan, and up to 200 uploads and 500 Megabytes per upload for

the Premium plan. After reducing the area covered, the file size, and detail quality, I uploaded the [3D model of the Brookhill](#) on [Sketchfab](#) (Figure 4). With the size of the site, this was too large of a model to upload outside of the paid plans.

3D imaging provides another avenue for researchers to analyze and share work being done on artifacts, features, or, in this case, a shipwreck. While pictures and sketching artifacts are typically the norm, photogrammetry and 3D imaging provide an avenue for those who may not have the artistic skill necessary to document artifacts, units, or features through drawing. Furthermore, the Mississippi River will eventually reclaim the *Brookhill* and her story will be forgotten until the next time she reappears. Recording sites with traditional archaeological methods is one way to document and aid the preservation of sites. Photogrammetry offers another modern method in the archaeologist's toolbox to document and preserve endangered sites. 3D scans and photogrammetric models are also great educational tools that can be viewed and studied across the internet (McCustion 2013).

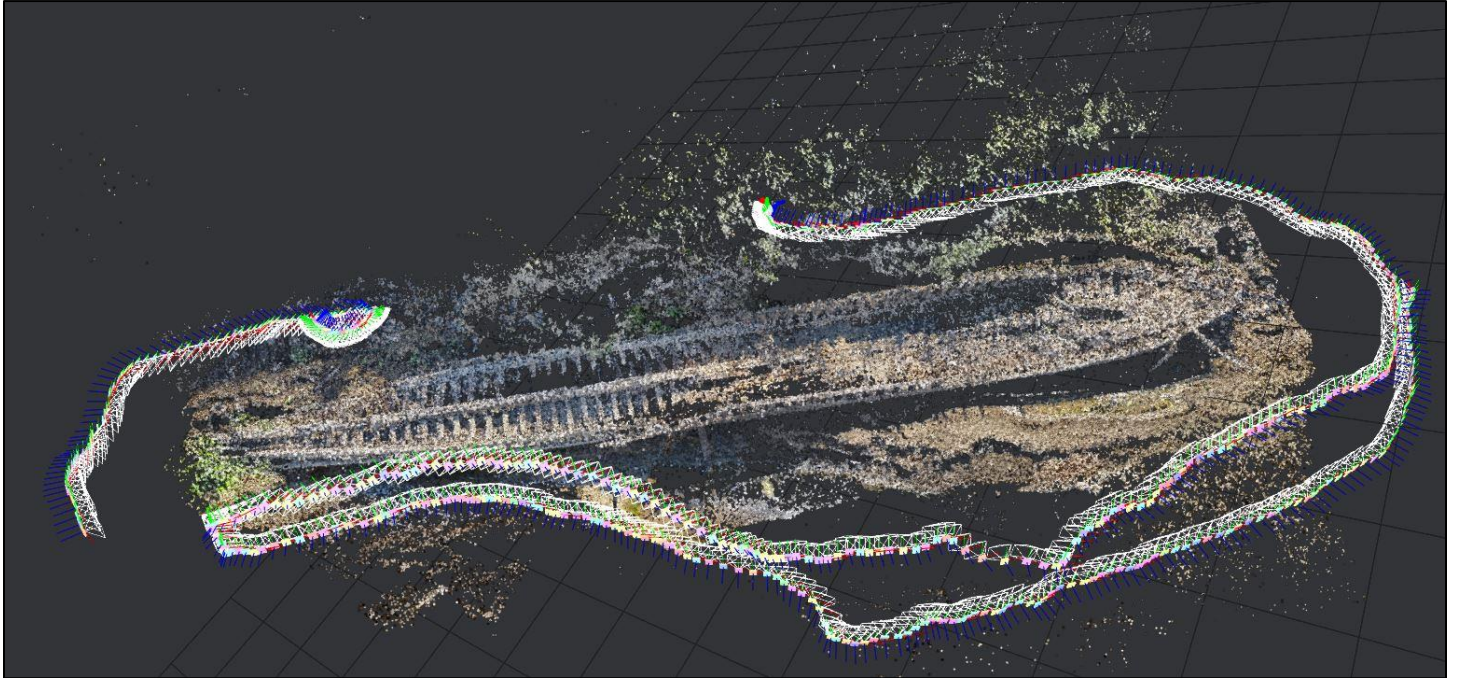


Figure 3. Sparse point cloud of the *Brookhill* with camera locations calculated by the Meshroom.

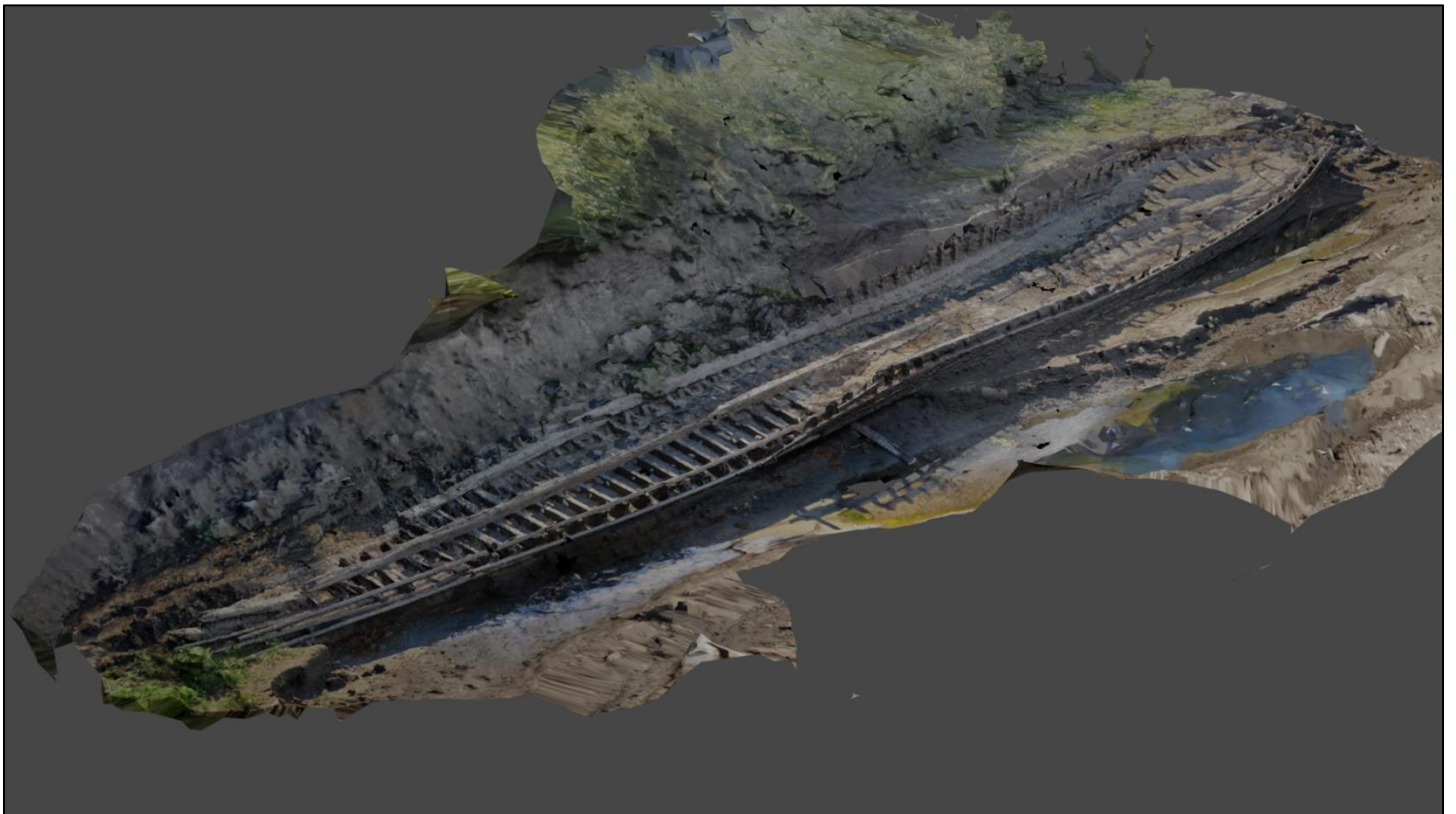


Figure 4. [3D Photogrammetry model of the Brookhill](#) on [Sketchfab](#).

If you are interested in trying photogrammetry, I have included some instructions that can be accessed in the link found [here](#).

References Cited

Biggs, Jack

2018 Modeling the Past: Photogrammetry and Anthropological Research. *MSU Campus Archaeology Program*, <http://campusarch.msu.edu/?p=6284>.

Djuric, Isidora, Ivana Vasiljević, Milos Obradovic, Vesna Stojaković, Jelena Kicanovic, and Ratko Obradovic

2021 *Comparative Analysis of Open-Source and Commercial Photogrammetry Software for Cultural Heritage*. eCAADe2021: Towards a New, Configurable Architecture. Novi Sad, Serbia. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354117250_Comparative_Analysis_of_Open-Source_and_Commercial_Photogrammetry_Software_for_Cultural_Heritage

Kahar, Muhammad Afiq Abdul, Hamzah Hussin, Aziman Madun, Mohd Khaidir Abu Talib, and Saiful Wazlan Wahab

2021 Geological Terrain Mapping Using Geographic Information System (GIS) and Drone Photogrammetry. *Journal of Sustainable Underground Exploration* 1(1).

Matthes, Erich Hatala

2020 Digital Replicas Are Not Soulless – They Help Us Engage with Art. *Apollo Magazine* <https://www.apollo-magazine.com/digital-replicas-3d-printing-original-artworks/>

McCouston, Ashley

2013 Promoting the Past: The Educational Applications of 3D Scanning Technology in Archaeology. *Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology* 29:35–42.



UL Lafayette Students Experience Archaeology in Kisatchie National Forest

Sarah “Gray” Tarry, Reagan Hoehl, and Gloria Church

During the winter intersession of 2022, a five-person crew conducted Phase II site testing in Kisatchie National Forest (KNF), as part of an agreement between KNF and the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. UL Lafayette offered two of us (Tarry and Hoehl) the opportunity of paid internships and an archaeology field school experience. We learned about archaeological fieldwork while assisting the staff archaeologist and technicians. The crew investigated two sites within the Vernon Unit of the KNF Calcasieu Ranger District. We learned the essentials of archaeological fieldwork under the guidance and supervision of project director and instructor, Dr. Erlend Johnson. The lithic and ceramic artifacts produced by our excavations provide a glimpse into over 10,000 years of past lifeways in west-central Louisiana.

The sites we focused on, 16VN3416 and 16VN3366, were very different but also had some similarities. Both sites were located on elevated ridges and were hard to get to, as there were no trails leading to the sites. This allowed us to learn about the importance and use of compasses, GPS, and flagging tape for marking trails. Once we arrived at the sites, we began excavating shovel tests at regular intervals within the site boundaries (Figure 1). This was done to locate areas with the highest artifact densities. Once these were located, we learned how to orient and

set up test units and how to use a Trimble GPS to record these units on a map. As we began excavating the units, we were instructed on how to shovel properly, focusing on measuring the depth of each level, cleaning the walls and floors, recovering lithic flakes and other artifacts in the screens, and noticing cultural features within the units.



Figure 1. Gray Tarry excavating a shovel test pit while Gloria Church screens for artifacts in Kisatchie National Forest.

We spent about six days working at Site 16VN3416. We excavated four separate blocks of test units: two that

measured 1-by-2 meters, another that measured 2-by-2 meters, and a 1-by-1-meter unit. One of the 1-by-2-meter units (Test Unit 1) and the 2-by-2-meter unit (Test Unit 3) produced the most cultural materials for analysis. Within Test Unit 1, we did not notice any unusual cultural features, but we were able to identify three major strata as the pit reached a maximum depth of about 120 cm below surface. We found a multitude of lithic flakes as well as four projectile points in the artifact-bearing strata. As we moved on to Test Unit 3, we saw signs of possible disturbances. We found a Middle Archaic Evans point during the excavation of the first 10-cm level (Figure 2). As we continued, we noticed vertical soil stains in some areas along the floor of the unit, which we believed to have been from an old tree root or animal burrows. We learned how to document and record these stains.



Figure 2. Evans Point from Unit 3 at 16VN3416.

The stratigraphy in this 2-by-2-meter unit was almost identical to the 1-by-2-meter unit, with the same three

strata having similar colors and soil textures (Figure 3). We recovered an interesting assemblage of artifacts from this unit, which included small flakes, possible cores, test cobbles, and multiple projectile points, including a San Patrice, *variety Hope*, which is thought to date from the Late Paleindian to Early Archaic periods (Figure 4). Analysis of the collections from this site is ongoing. We hope to learn more about the site chronology and ways of life in the region across multiple time periods.

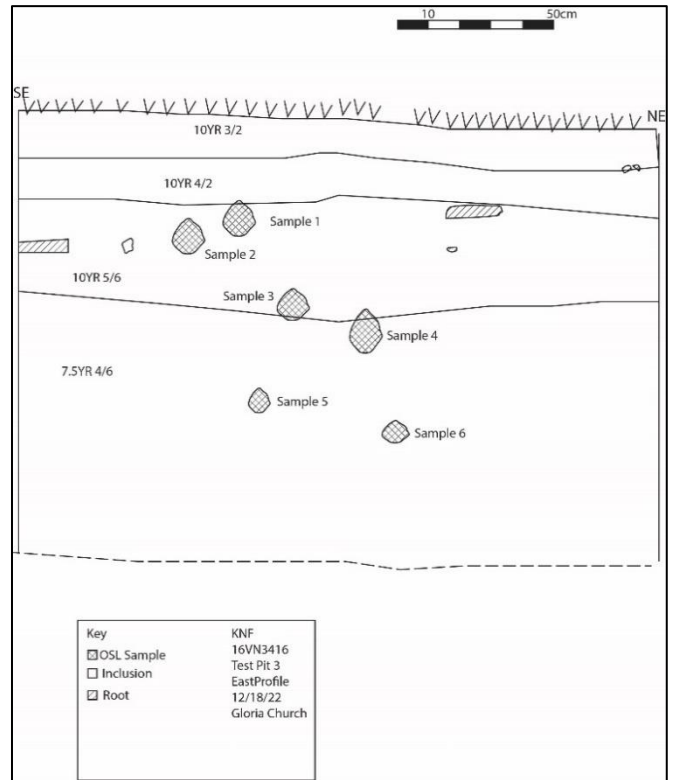


Figure 3. East Wall Profile of Unit 3 at Site 16VN3416.



Figure 4. San Patrice, *variety Hope*, from Unit 3 at 16VN3416.

At the second site, 16VN3366, we began to experience the less glamorous side of archaeology. Through the guidance of our instructor, however, we quickly learned how to overcome obstacles. For starters, although this site was also located on an elevated ridge, the water table in the area was unusually high. We were able to excavate to a depth of about only 40 cm before the shovel test pits filled with water. Moving off the ridge, we surprisingly found that the water table was lower beneath the surface. After laying out a test unit, we were able to excavate to a depth of one meter before once again hitting water. The soil had a very high clay content, so it became nearly impossible to pass it through the mesh screen. Thankfully, Dr. Johnson showed us how to hand-sift the clay to ensure we were not overlooking any flakes or other small artifacts (Figure 5).

We did not notice any cultural features within the two test units excavated in this area, nor did we notice any signs of disturbances. Once the test units were completed, we drew illustrations of the strata in the walls of each unit. We recovered mostly flakes from this site, which ranged in size from medium to small. Only one larger lithic artifact was recovered, which we believe

to be a preform. Although this site did not produce as many artifacts as the previous one, it gave us insight and experience in how to deal with more difficult site conditions that we will probably encounter again in our archaeological careers. In some ways, the contrast between the two sites was comical. At 16VN3416, we held a ten-thousand year-old projectile point in our hands. At 16VN3366, we held unbearably wet clay in our hands.

Overall, the archaeology field school taught us not only about the process of excavation, but also about the importance of documentation and organization. We can now feel more confident when participating in site excavations, as we learned the many steps that go into fieldwork. The sense of comradery that developed among the crew and the project director was an added benefit to our field experience. Any questions we had were happily answered, many of the hours we spent working in the forest were filled with laughter, and there was a sense of joy with every discovery. We are excited to see what the future holds in store for our careers in archaeology.



Figure 5. From left to right, Gabe Parro, Gray Tarry, and Reagan Hoehl excavate a test unit at Site 16VN3366.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visiting a Conservancy Mound Site in Louisiana

Nikki Mattson, The Archaeological Conservancy

This past Summer, Nikki Mattson, the Southeast Field Representative for the Archaeological Conservancy, met with Maegan Smith and Samuel Huey from the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (DOA), and Shieda Perkins, a resident of the community, at the Conservancy's Solitude Mound (16WF27) to discuss future plans for the site. These plans include educational and interpretive signage, presentations, and events coordinated with local Native American groups, archaeologists, and community residents.

During the visit, Nikki and Maegan, the DOA archaeology outreach coordinator, assessed the current condition of the site and discussed stabilization and security options. Sam Huey, the LA DOA site file manager, collected information to update Solitude's Site Record Form. The Solitude mound (below), located in West Feliciana Parish, is an eleven-and-a-half-foot tall flat-topped

mound attributed to the Late Woodland and emergent Mississippian periods. Very little archaeological investigation has taken place at the site. Ceramics that were surface collected from the mound and surrounding midden indicate that Coles Creek (ca. A.D. 700-1200) and Plaquemine (A.D. 1200-1700) cultures occupied the site. The site record states "[t]he lithic flakes signal a pre-contact unknown affiliation and the mound suggests that the site functioned as a ceremonial center or important place." The mound is regularly maintained and was recently cleared of heavy vegetation. We look forward to what the future holds for this site.

This site is available for professional research. If you would like more information, please contact The Archaeological Conservancy's Southeast Regional Office at (662) 326-6465. You can also find us online at www.archaeologicalconservancy.org and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, and YouTube.



Solitude Mound (16WF27). Photo by Nikki Mattson, The Archaeological Conservancy.

Tunica Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana Regains Ownership of Ancestral Lands

Reprinted with permission from the [Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana website](#).



The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana reached an agreement with the City of Marksville to regain control of ancient burial grounds and surrounding Marksville State Historic Site.

Marksville, La. – Sept. 23, 2022 – The [Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana](#) and the City of Marksville signed an agreement transferring ownership of the Marksville Historic State Park back to the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe. The park is the location of sacred Native American burial grounds containing ancestral remains from Tunica-Biloxi citizens that once inhabited the area. The Tribe plans to update and restore the property while also maintaining the grounds and educating the public on the cultural significance of the park.

“Regaining ownership of this land and expanding public access to Tunica-Biloxi citizens is integral to the continued mission of Tribal leadership,” said Earl Barbry, Jr., Tunica-Biloxi Director of Community Planning “This land has significant cultural value for our community, and we are pleased to continue preserving our rich culture and heritage on this site.”

The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana will restore The Historic State Park and generate continued awareness of the storied history of the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe. The site’s cultural significance is a driving force for the

revitalization and beautification of this park. This project will also benefit the Tribe’s museum-focused tourism campaign and generate employment opportunities for tribal citizens and the surrounding community while bringing awareness to the Tribe’s history.

“This site is of significant value to the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe as part of our storied history here in Louisiana,” said Tunica-Biloxi Chairman Marshall Pierite. “Prior Tribal leadership worked for many years to restore this sacred place to the Tribe, and we are pleased to once again be caretakers of our native lands.”

“The City of Marksville has long been a partner with the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana,” said Marksville Mayor John H. Lemoine. “This alliance reflects just another chapter in the Tribe’s ancestral history here in Marksville and their work to support this community.”

The 42-acre Marksville State Historic Site is located on a bluff overlooking the Old River, adjacent to the town of Marksville. Archaeologists consider this prehistoric Native American ceremonial center to be of unique significance. The Marksville culture, a southeastern

variant of the Hopewell culture centered in Ohio and Illinois, was characterized by elaborate mortuary ceremonialism, the construction of conical burial mounds, complex trade networks, decorative pottery, and the importation of certain raw materials. It is also possible that this is the site of agriculture of a limited nature, such as the horticulture of native plants.

Although archaeological sites had been recognized throughout this area for many years, it was not until 1926 that the importance of the Marksville site was established. In that year, Gerald Fowke of the Smithsonian Institute conducted the first scientific investigation of the area and produced a detailed map of

the Marksville site. In 1933, James A. Ford, an undergraduate student at Louisiana State University, and F. M. Setzler, also of the Smithsonian Institute, uncovered evidence that connected Marksville to the development of the Hopewell culture, which was then known to be based primarily in Ohio.

The Indian Mound[s], which is the main portion of the Marksville site, is surrounded by semi-circular earthwork which is 3,300 feet long and ranges from 3 to 7 feet in height. The open side of the enclosure is the edge of a bluff along the Old River. Openings in the earthwork, one on the western side and two on the southern end, suggest that its purpose was ceremonial rather than defensive. This enclosure probably was built to delineate a special area where the dead were buried, and formal affairs were conducted. Six mounds of various sizes and shapes are located within the main enclosure, and others are built outside of it. The Marksville State Historic Site was designated a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior in 1964, and thus joined a select group of properties that have since been recognized for their importance in American history.

It is estimated that this land has not been in the possession of a Native American nation since the early 1800s. The late Earl Barbry Sr was the first tribal chairman to try to regain possession of this land. However, the only terms Chairman Barbry was able to obtain involved the city of Marksville leasing said land back to the Tunica-Biloxi nation. This did not satisfy the chairman's desire. So, after decades and multiple generations of tribal chairmen and state governors, both sides finally came together to execute this transfer of land ownership.

Editor's note: As seen in a photo of the museum at Marksville (left), the National Historic Landmark and State historic site had been closed for years before being transferred to the City of Marksville.



ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

Summer 2023

In partnership between the Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Kisatchie National Forest



Two sessions of the Archaeology Field School (Anthropology 490G) will be offered through the University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Session 1: May 15 – June 1, 2023

Session 2: June 5 – 30, 2023

- To be held at sites in Kisatchie National Forest, Calcasieu Ranger District, Vernon Parish, Louisiana.
- Learn scientific techniques of archaeological excavation and site investigation while participating in applied research.
- Earn 3 credit hours of undergraduate, graduate-level, or transfer credit.
- Lodging and local transportation to sites will be provided.
- A limited number of paid student assistant internships will be available.
- *Enrollment will be limited, so apply early!*

For information on admission options and enrollment, go online to:

<https://louisiana.edu/admissions-aid/application-process> or email: recruitment@louisiana.edu

For more information on the Archaeology Field School, or to apply, email:

Erlend M. Johnson, Ph.D., Project Director, at erlend.johnson@louisiana.edu or

Mark A. Rees, Ph.D., Principal Investigator at rees@louisiana.edu

LOUISIANA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

To be held on **February 24 – 26, 2023** at the historic [Hotel Bentley](#),
200 Desoto Street in downtown Alexandria, Louisiana



Early Registration: \$40 for LAS members, \$50 for non-members, and \$20 for students on the [LAS website](#).

On-Site Registration: \$45 for LAS members, \$55 for non-members, and \$25 for students.

Early registration ends February 23, 2023. After that date, attendees must register on site.

Silent Auction: The LAS will hold its annual Silent Auction at the meeting in Alexandria. The auction raises money for the Society's activities and over the years has raised several thousand dollars. Materials, including books, manuscripts, and objects, related to Louisiana archaeology, the archaeology of surrounding states, and Louisiana anthropology, geography, and geology are welcome. If you have something to donate for the Auction, you can send it to Chip McGimsey, La. Division of Archaeology, P.O. Box 44247, Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, or bring it to the meeting. The LAS appreciates your support.

Hotel reservations: call [The Hotel Bentley](#) at 318-442-2226. The conference room rate (government/state rate) is \$99.00. Must have a tax exempt form if tax exempt. To get the LAS hotel rate, attendees must call the hotel and say that they are with the LAS conference. There is no discount code for online reservations.

For more information: email Matthew Helmer, Program Chair, at matthew.helmer@usda.gov or Velicia Bergstrom, meeting co-organizer, at velicia.bergstrom@usda.gov. Additional information is available on the [LAS website](#).

Tentative Agenda of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Archaeological Society

Friday, February 24, 2023

- 3:00 – 5:00 pm REGISTRATION in the Ballroom of the historic Bentley Hotel, downtown Alexandria.
- 5:00 – 6:00 pm EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING in the Executive Board Room, main floor of the Bentley Hotel.

Saturday, February 25, 2023

- 8:00 – 9:00 am REGISTRATION in the Ballroom of the Bentley Hotel, downtown Alexandria.
- PRESENTATIONS in the Ballroom of the Bentley Hotel, downtown Alexandria:
- 9:00 – 9:10 am Opening remarks.
- 9:10 – 9:30 am Chip McGimsey – *Where We Are Now: Louisiana Archaeology in 2023 and the Discovery of the Brookhill Shipwreck.*
- 9:30 – 9:50 am Dennis Jones – *Digging the Dug: Prehistoric Borrow Pits and What They Can Tell Us – The Filhiol Mound Site (16OU2) in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana.*
- 9:50 – 10:10 am Diana M. Greenlee, Rinita A. Dalan, Michael L. Hargrave, R. Berle Clay, Arne Anderson Stamnes, and Davide Oppo – *Dishing the Dirt on Buried Mounds at Poverty Point.*
- 10:10 – 10:30 am BREAK
- 10:30 – 10:50 am Adam Fuselier – *Porter Homestead (22FR1810): An Early Statehood Homestead in Southwest Mississippi.*
- 10:50 – 11:10 am Robert Westrick – *Born, Bred and Died in the Saddle, the Failed Texan Charge at the Battle of Lafourche Crossing: New Archaeological Evidence of Louisiana’s Bloody but Forgotten Battle.*
- 11:10 – 11:30 am Steven J. Filoromo, Paul D. Jackson, Margaret Schultz, and Raychel Durdin – *Personal Landscapes and the “Hazardous” Homeplaces of Van McMurray Playground (16OR752), New Orleans, Louisiana*
- 11:30 – 11:50 am Nathaniel Heller – *Historic Archeology of the McDonogh No. 5 School (1882-1930) in Orleans Parish, Louisiana.*
- 11:50 am – 1:30 pm LUNCH
- PRESENTATIONS in the Ballroom of the Bentley Hotel, downtown Alexandria:
- 1:30 – 1:50 pm Richard A. Weinstein, Douglas C. Wells, Bryan S. Haley, and David B. Kelley – *Archaeological Investigations at Two Shell Middens (16TR29 and 16TR210) on Bayou De Cade, Southern Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.*
- 1:50 – 2:10 pm Natalia Moonier, Paul Jackson, and Steve Filoromo – *Filling the Gaps in Everyday Experiences: Point Pleasant and the Coles Creek Period in Louisiana.*
- 2:10 – 2:30 pm James Fogleman – *Bannerstones, Gorgets, Boatstones & Bar Weights from St. Landry and Avoyelles Parishes.*

- 2:30 – 2:50 pm Eddie Templeton – Bead Making Technology During the Middle and Late Archaic Periods.
- 2:50 – 3:10 pm BREAK
- 3:10 – 3:30 pm Francis Broussard, Andy Licausi, Chip McGimsey, and Samuel Huey — Sites Recently Recorded in Washington and St. Tammany Parishes by Avocational Archaeologists.
- 3:30 – 3:50 pm Amanda Evans — Underwater Archaeology and the Potential for Offshore Wind Power in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 3:50 – 4:10 pm Mark A. Rees — Atakapa Mythistory and the Elusive *Ishak* Villages.
- 4:15 – 4:45 pm BUSINESS MEETING
- 5:00 – 7:00 pm RECEPTION AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Elizabeth Chamberlain – Geoarchaeology of the Mississippi Delta and Connecting to Global Issues of Human-Delta Relationships.

Sunday, February 26, 2023

Tours To Be Announced

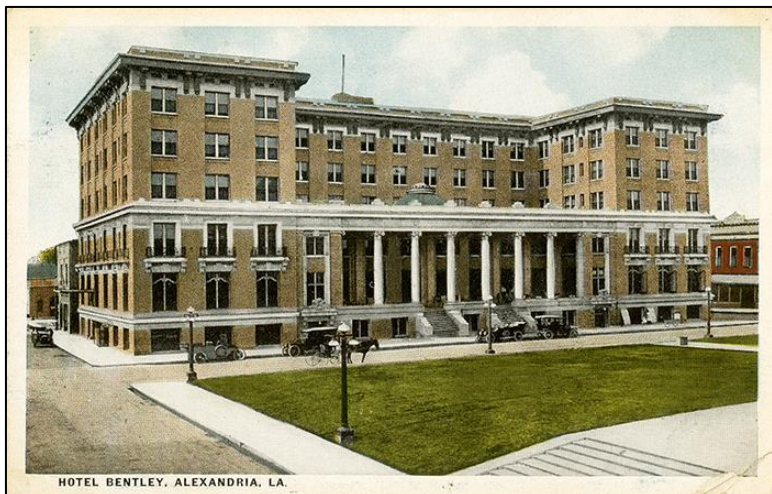
[History of the Hotel Bentley](#)

The Hotel Bentley was constructed in 1907 by Joseph Bentley, a native of Pennsylvania who became wealthy in the lumber industry in Central Louisiana. Bentley was an eccentric fellow, and legend has it that the only reason he built the hotel is because he was turned down for a room in the former Ice House Hotel. Bentley was particularly impressed by the Capitol Hotel in Little Rock Arkansas, and asked architect George R. Mann to design him a hotel in Alexandria, opened to the public on August 10, 1908. In 1933 Bentley built a massive eight-story wing fronting Third Street to his hotel, adding more than 80 rooms, which was constructed by a local firm, Tudor-Ratcliffe. Bentley ensured the hotel could also serve as his personal residence. He carved out a large apartment on one of the top floors and installed a personal elevator; both the apartment and the private elevator remain today.

During World War II, the United States military trained over a half of a million troops in the Alexandria area. The commanders of these troops Dwight Eisenhower and George S. Patton resided for long periods of time at the Hotel Bentley, sometimes joined by Omar Bradley and Henry Kissinger planning the historic Louisiana Maneuvers.

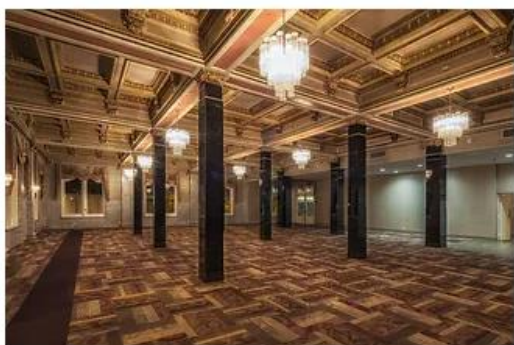
Throughout the 1950s, the hotel continued to flourish, but by the late 1960s the hotel closed for business for nearly a decade. On November 15, 1979, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places and then in early 1980's Buddy Tudor, a local developer, purchased and renovated the shuttered hotel, reopening it after millions of dollars in repairs to national acclaim in 1985. Mr. Tudor remained as owner for nearly 15 years and in the late 1990's he sold to a group out of New Orleans, and less than a year later, they sold the hotel to Bob Dean who eventually closed it's doors in 2004.

On August 1, 2012, plans were announced for local developer Michael Jenkins to renovate and reopen Hotel Bentley, with luxury condos, a 96-room hotel, meeting rooms, and restaurant. On October 11, 2012, the sale from Dean to Hotel Bentley of Alexandria LLC, headed by local entrepreneur and preservationist Michael Jenkins was completed. The hotel has undergone a multi-million dollar restoration which included converting the seven-story tower portion of the property into condominiums. The original portion of the property will remain a hotel with 92-94 rooms. Various entertainers and Hollywood stars have been registered guests at the Bentley over the years, including John Wayne and Roy Rogers.



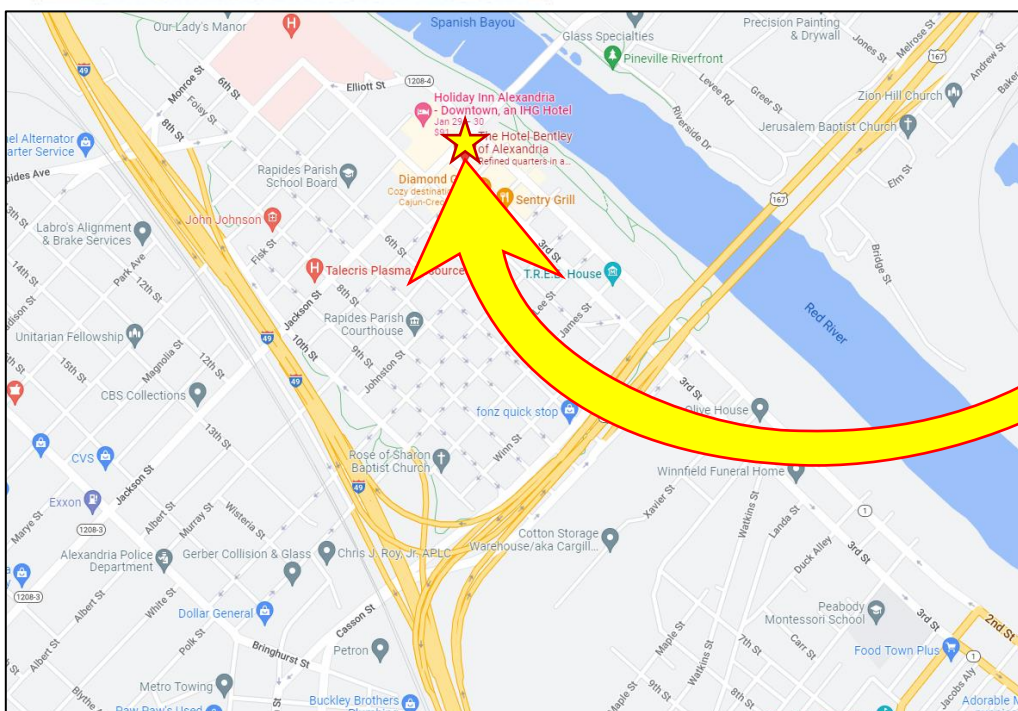
Left: color relief halftone postcard of the Hotel Bentley, postmarked 1920. From [64 Parishes](#), courtesy of the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Right: color postcard showing the lobby of the Hotel Bentley in 1912. From [64 Parishes](#), courtesy of LSU Libraries, Special Collections.



THE GRAND BALLROOM

Central Louisiana's only Ballroom complete with an ornate plaster ceiling original to 1908. The Grand Ballroom is close to 5,000 square feet with a dedicated stage for your entertainment, a private entrance from the front porch and 8 glass chandeliers. The Grand Ballroom can accommodate up to 500 guests or 300 seated.



Historic [Hotel Bentley](#), [200 Desoto Street](#), downtown Alexandria

[Link to location of Hotel Bentley, 200 Desoto Street, in Google Maps](#)

MEETINGS

**SAA 2024 to be Held in New Orleans**

The 89th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology will take place in New Orleans, April 17–21, 2024, at the Sheraton and Marriott hotels on Canal Street. The chair of the SAA 2024 Program Committee is David Carballo, from Boston University. The chair of the SAA 2024 Local Advisory Committee is Chris Rodning, from Tulane University, and this committee will include other archaeologists based in Louisiana and Mississippi. The annual SAA meeting is the largest gathering of archaeologists in the Americas, with attendees from across the U.S. and around the world.

Information about the conference can be found at <https://www.saa.org/annual-meeting>, and there will be relevant articles and announcements in forthcoming issues of the SAA newsletter, the *SAA Archaeological Record*. New Orleans is a popular destination for the SAA conference, which has taken place there in 2001, 1996, 1991, 1986, and 1977. This will be the sixth SAA meeting in New Orleans and the first in 23 years.

SAA 2024 will include a presidential forum on Wednesday (April 17, 2024); paper and poster presentations, as well as panels and workshops from Thursday (April 18) through Sunday (April 21, 2024); meetings of committees, task forces, and interest groups; the annual SAA Ethics Bowl; vendor exhibits in the SAA Book Room; awards presentations; and some local events and excursions. SAA membership is not required for conference registration, but registration fees are lower for current SAA members than for non-member registrants.

Volunteers are welcome to apply to help with staffing conference registration tables and booths, the SAA conference-site-office, and SAA session rooms. Volunteers who cover two four-hour shifts may be eligible to receive complimentary registration for the conference. Prospective volunteers need not be SAA members. Please mark your calendars!

**Southeastern Archaeological Conference**

The 79th annual SEAC meeting will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on October 25-28, 2023

See the [SEAC website](#) for more information.



The 94th Annual Meeting of the

Texas Archeological Society

Will be held on

October 6 - 8, 2023 in

San Marcos, Texas

See the [TAS website](#) for more information.



LOUISIANA
OFFICE of CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT

ARTS • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORIC PRESERVATION • CODOFIL

LAS CHAPTERS AND MEMBERSHIP

Acadiana Chapter

Contact: Sadie Schoeffler, President

Email: acadianalas@gmail.com

Gloria Church is the new Vice President of the Acadiana Chapter. Gloria is an undergraduate anthropology major at UL Lafayette with plans to pursue a career in archaeology.

Baton Rouge Chapter

Contact: Brandy Kerr or Margeaux Murray, Co-Presidents

Email: batonrougelas1975@gmail.com

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

Delta Chapter

Contact: Brian Ostahowski

Email: brian.ostahowski@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/DeltaChapterLAS

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

Northwest Chapter

Primary Contact: Tad Britt

Email: tad.britt@gmail.com

Secondary Contact: Jeffrey Girard

Email: jeffreygirard@att.net

West Louisiana Archaeology Club

Contact: John Guy, President

Email: johnnyhguy53@gmail.com

Rockey Rockholt, Vice President

Email: richardrockhold@yahoo.com



LOUISIANA
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICE



Newsletter Information

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

Information for Contributors

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

Mark A. Rees, LAS Editor
Louisiana Public Archaeology Lab
P.O. Box 43543, Anthropology Program
University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504

Membership Information

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

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

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

Make checks payable to the *Louisiana Archaeological Society*.

LAS publications, including issues of *Louisiana Archaeology*, as well as shirts, hats, and other gear can be ordered from the [LAS website](https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/) at: <https://www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org/>



LAS Officers for 2023

President: Amanda Evans, New Orleans

Email: amevans@gmail.com

Vice President: vacant

Secretary and Treasurer: Rachel Watson, Baton Rouge

Email: rwatson@crt.la.gov or
treasurer@laarchaeologicalsociety.org

Editor: Mark A. Rees, Lafayette

Email: laarchaeology@gmail.com

Webmaster: Paul H. French

Email: webmaster@laarchaeologicalsociety.org

Visit the LAS website: www.laarchaeologicalsociety.org for additional information or to join the LAS.

Opinions stated in the Newsletter are those of individual authors or the editor and do not necessarily represent the viewpoints or policies of LAS members or the LAS.