

Newsletter



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Unusual Discovery Aboard Civil War Ironclad, USS Cairo

by Elizabeth Joyner

On December 12, 1862, while on a mission to find and destroy torpedoes planted in the Yazoo River by Confederates, the USS Cairo (Figure 1) struck two of the "infernal machines" sinking in a matter of twelve minutes without any loss of life. The vessel sunk approximately eight miles north of Vicksburg beneath the muddy waters of the Yazoo. Although attempts were made by the Union to raise the vessel none were successful and the vessel remained submerged for nearly a century before being discovered in 1956 by Edwin Cole Bearss, Vicksburg National Military Park Historian, Max Don Jacks, an employee of Vicksburg National Military Park with an extensive knowledge of the river and Warren Grabeau, a professional geologist. The men had conducted meticulous research utilizing maps and charts of the area and had also spoken with residents of the area who told them that at times when the river level was low enough the ironclad's octagonal pilot house could be seen just above the water's surface. Satisfied by their research that they knew the general location of the gunboat, the three went out on the river using Jack's boat and a compass to verify the vessel's location. Divers were later used to further verify the trio's discovery.

During raising operations, divers began to surface with bones. The bones were identified as beef bones. Historians knew that meals aboard the vessel consisted of beef or pork with hardtack. One surprising finding was made during this time. Discovered by a diver near the Number 3 Port gun (a 32-pounder smoothbore) during raising operations in September of 1963 was a human bone. Identified by Vicksburg, Mississippi physician, Dr. Walter Johnston as a right humerus, this particular object generated much curiosity since official records of the sinking as reported by Cairo's Commander, Thomas Oliver Selfridge, indicated that there were no casualties during her sinking. Upon further examination of the bone it was determined that the head of the humerus was nonextant suggesting that the arm bone had been torn from its socket. Baffled by this discovery and recognizing the need for further study, the bone was sent to Dr. Lawrence Angel, curator of physical anthropology of the

Smithsonian Institution. According to Edwin C. Bearss' book, *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*, Angel ascertained that the humerus was from "a slender, muscular and rather long male arm, not necessarily white, perhaps Indian." Angel further concluded that this particular bone was much more ancient than other artifacts recovered from the Cairo

President's Letter

As your new President, I would first like to thank Tony Payne for the past two years of dedicated service as President of the association. We have accomplished many good things under his leadership, and have recognized the potential of each and every one of us to collectively and individually further the mission of the association. I hope to continue that momentum and see what great things we can accomplish together both for the MAA and for Mississippi archaeology as a whole.

I am a professional archaeologist at the Cobb Institute of Archaeology with degrees in anthropology from MSU. I have worked on projects in all areas of Mississippi, across the country, and overseas. I have also previously served as Northern Vice-President of the MAA.

For those who may not know, our association's first purpose is "...uniting all persons interested in the archaeology of Mississippi; for the study and preservation of Indian prehistory and history; and for fostering and encouraging a constructive public attitude toward the archaeology of the state." Our second purpose is "...to encourage and participate in scientific investigation, study and interpretation of Indian remains, and to publish and distribute the results of these investigations, particularly those relating to Mississippi."

My goal for the next two years is for us to take these statements and put them at the forefront of our interactions with the public in order to ignite interest and enthusiasm in archaeology across our state. Whether we are archaeologists by profession, avocation, or affiliation, we all share an excitement for archaeology that binds us together. Let's spread that feeling across Mississippi and show that archaeology can not only reveal the past, but can help us understand the present and prepare us for the future.

Again, thank you for electing me President. If you ever have any ideas, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.

Bradley Carlock

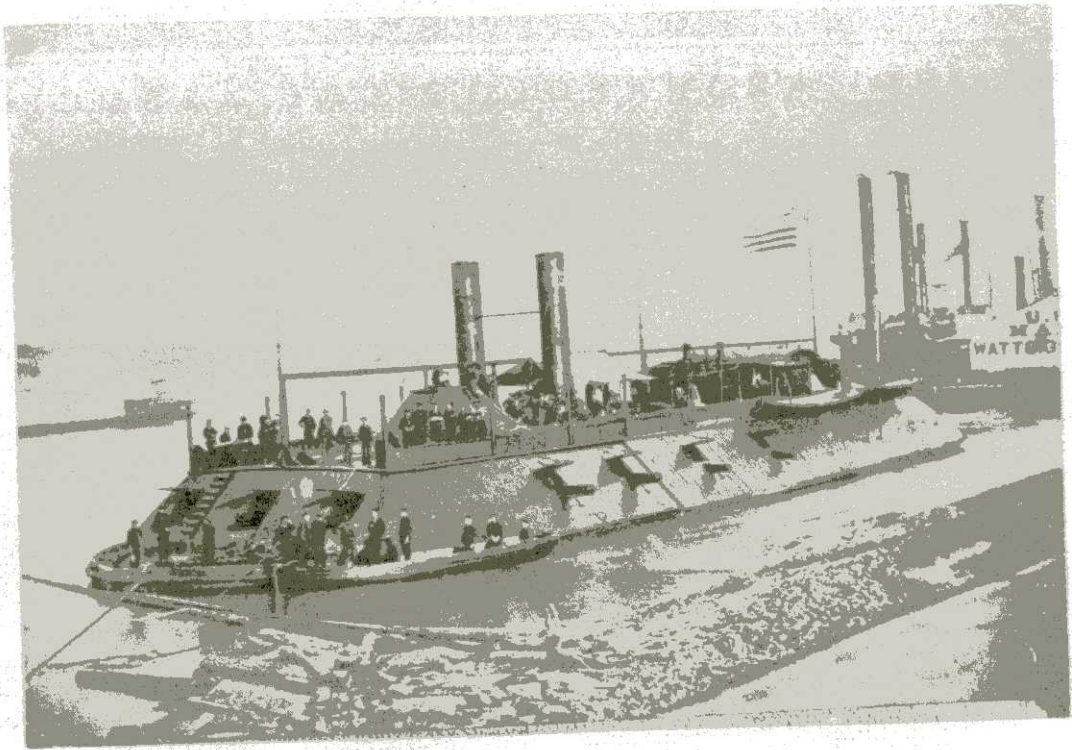


Figure 1. Commissioned in January 1862 and in service for barely one year, this photograph is the only known historic image of USS Cairo as she appeared during her service. The ironclad sunk on December 12, 1862 in the Yazoo River. NH 61568 Photograph Courtesy Naval History and Heritage Command.



Figure 2. Clay pipes discovered aboard the USS Cairo. Photograph Courtesy Vicksburg National Military Park.



Figure 3. Ceramic soap dish and feeding cup discovered aboard the sunken Civil War gunboat. Photograph Courtesy Vicksburg National Military Park.



Figure 4. Much tobacco was recovered from the sunken ironclad and had retained its tobacco scent even after having been submerged in the river for over 100 years. Photograph Courtesy Vicksburg National Military Park.



Figure 5. No original contents remained in this decanter of blue green transparent glass. Photograph Courtesy Vicksburg National Military Park.

and that the bone's dimensions and features "resembled the formations found in Mississippi Indians in the institution's humeri collection." Armed with these new findings, Bearss theorized that the bone could have been brought aboard the vessel by a Cairo sailor as a keepsake since there are many Indian mounds located in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta.

The recovered bones and other Cairo artifacts were taken to Vicksburg National Military Park following the ironclad's raising. Early conservation methods were initiated by an artifact committee led by Margie Riddle Bearss, wife of Edwin C. Bearss. The artifacts were placed in storage awaiting the building of a permanent exhibit. The gunboat's raising was completed in 1964. The vessel was taken via barge to Ingalls Shipyard in Pascagoula, MS where initial preservation efforts would be undertaken. In 1973, the National Park Service obtained title to the Cairo. The vessel was brought back to Vicksburg in 1977 to her final resting place. During this time the Cairo Museum was under construction but in 1980 opened its doors for visitors to see a sampling of the thousands of artifacts recovered from the Civil War ironclad, some of which can be seen in Figures 2-5.

In the 1990's following the enactment of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), all National Parks with museum collections containing any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony were mandated to comply with NAGPRA. Realizing that there was a human arm bone surmised to be of Native American descent recovered during raising operations of the USS Cairo, Vicksburg National Military Park complied. The park sent the arm bone to the Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), a National Park Service archeological repository. Analysis of the arm bone was inconclusive in determining specific Native American origins. This object was retained and curated at SEAC in Tallahassee, Florida along with thousands of other objects recovered from the Vicksburg battlefield during archeological investigations of the area.

Elizabeth Joyner served as curator for the Vicksburg National Military Park for 34 years until her retirement in 2016.

Sources

Edwin C. Bearss, *Hardluck Ironclad The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1966, 1980), p 118, 206

Margie Riddle Bearss, *Artifacts from Cairo: Their Preservation and Care*. Vicksburg National Military Park Archives, Vicksburg, MS 39183

Further Reading

Elizabeth Hoxie Joyner, *The USS Cairo: History and Artifacts of a Civil War Gunboat* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2006)

Elizabeth Hoxie Joyner, *Images of Modern America: USS Cairo* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015)

Elizabeth Hoxie Joyner, *A Field Guide to the Artillery of Vicksburg National Military Park* (Vicksburg, MS: Gunns Bayou, LLC, 2017)

6th Annual Native American Customs and Traditions Festival

On Saturday, May 5, from 10 am to 2 pm the 6th annual Native American Customs and Traditions Festival will be held at Tishomingo State Park in northeast Mississippi. Nested in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachians, Tishomingo State Park is one of the most highly rated state parks in the country. The festival will feature a variety of activities for kids and adults including an arts and crafts fair, demonstrations of Native American cultural activities, educational exhibits, and numerous kids activities. For more information call 662-438-6914 or email terryh@mdwfp.state.ms.us. Information can also be obtained by visiting the website at <http://www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/ms-state-parks/tishomingo.aspx>.

Mississippi Museum of Art Exhibit

The Mississippi Museum of Art is sponsoring an exhibit "Picturing Mississippi 1817-2017: Land of Plenty, Pain and Promise." The exhibit, which is free, runs until July 8, 2018. The exhibit includes some fine prehistoric pottery vessels as well as the Natchez Indian idol excavated by Winthrop Sargent. This idol is on loan from the Peabody Museum and this is an opportunity for folks to see it without traveling to Cambridge, Mass. The museum is closed on Mondays.

Obituaries

-Janet Ford-

Mississippi archaeologist and MAA member Janet Ford died in Baptist Memorial Hospital, Oxford on February 3, nine days before her 73rd birthday. She came to the University of Mississippi as an undergraduate in 1963 and never really left. It wasn't long before she discovered anthropology in an introductory course taught by Tom Koehler and Ole Miss football led by Archie Manning. She was passionate about archaeology and Ole Miss sports for the rest of her life. As a senior she was awarded the Taylor Medal, the highest academic honor at the University, in recognition of her nearly perfect GPA. She made only one B, in a ceramics course in the art department. The summer following her graduation she was funded by NSF to attend the field school at Grasshopper Pueblo where William Longacre and his graduate students applied the principles of what was then the New Archaeology. She entered the PhD program in anthropology at Tulane in 1967 and studied with Robert Wauchope until his death early in 1969. Having finished her course work in two years, she joined Martha Rolingson as a research assistant with the newly formed Arkansas Archeological Survey in 1969.

She returned to the University of Mississippi ABD as an Instructor in 1972 where, over the years, she developed a diverse repertoire of courses beginning with Koehler's class notes and expanding to include most of the basic service courses in anthropology. It was a small department for the following 25 years and everyone taught a little of everything. Among her favorite courses were Indians of Mississippi and

the South (a lot of prehistory and a little Swanton) and Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries. The later began with Wauchope's Lost Tribes and Sunken Continents but developed into a course on critical thinking which introduced several generations of Ole Miss undergraduates to the scientific method without them knowing it. In addition to teaching a full load, she served on forty years' worth of thesis committees and chaired the Taylor and Francis James selection committees for most of her career. Beginning in the mid-1970s and up until her retirement in 2012, she was the sole undergraduate advisor in anthropology. She was fundamental to the program in many ways.

She ran the Ole Miss field school at the Slaughter Site from 1972 to 1975 and used the data she recovered in her 1977 dissertation, *Seasonal Occupation and Utilization of the Yocona River Valley: The Slaughter Site (22La513), a Test Case*, which she wrote for Berle Clay who had been on faculty at Tulane for a short time following Wauchope. The primary occupation of the Slaughter Site was Woodland and this began a life-long research focus on the Woodland period in the North Central Hills of Mississippi. Her reanalysis of mound excavations from that period culminated in a critical redefinition of the Early Woodland ceramic sequence. During seven seasons of field school at the Batesville Mounds starting in 1991 she uncovered one of the few single component Marksville occupations to be studied in the North Central Hills and laid the groundwork for documenting the Early Woodland flat-topped mound construction at the site. Incidentally, many of her field school students during this period were members of the Ole Miss football team. In addition to knowing what they could do with a football, she knew what they could do with a shovel. Both parties benefited from the encounter.

She also had an interest in Mississippian ceramics which began as an undergraduate when she discovered the Davies collection in an upstairs closet in the lab. Most of us are familiar with these artifacts since several of the vessels in the type illustrations of Mississippian ceramics in Phillip's 1970 monograph are from the Davies collection. Janet knew these ceramics like no one else and presented several important papers on the elaborate iconography represented on these pots during the last decade of her career.

Janet attended her first Southeastern Archaeological Conference in 1966 which was held on Avery Island. There she was introduced to James Ford who took a minute to determine if they were somehow related. It appears that they were not, but he decided that they should have been. She coauthored her last SEAC presentation in Nashville in 2015, having attended every SEAC conference in between then and the Avery Island meeting. She was program chair for the 1991 meeting in Jackson, the first time the conference met in Mississippi. Although she gave professional presentations at other meetings including the SAAs and Mid-South, SEAC was, by far, her favorite venue. SEAC was more than that, it was an opportunity to catch up with dear friends she had known since her beginnings in archaeology. It was her extended family. She will be sorely missed.

Jay Johnson
Professor Emeritus in Anthropology
University of Mississippi

-Robert Charles Wilson-

Robert Charles (Bob) Wilson was killed February 10, 2018 in a racetrack accident in Savannah, GA. Bob earned a BA degree from DePauw University, an MA degree from Florida State University and completed his doctoral course work at the University of Florida. In the 1970's he served a stint as archaeologist with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. While with MDAH he was based in Natchez at the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, when that agency had archaeological field offices. He left that position and eventually retired from the National Park Service, Southeast Archaeological Center in Tallahassee, where he served as Supervisory Archaeologist and Associate Director. After his retirement Bob continued to support parks and museums by doing volunteer work. Bob is survived by his wife Christa of Crawfordville, FL. and his son Jeffrey Ian of New Orleans, LA.

Sam Brookes

University News

Mississippi State University

Field School 2018

The 2018 excavation field school for the department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures at MSU will be undertaken at the Hester archaeological site near Amory, MS, from June 11 - July 11. The Hester site contains one of the few stratified Late Pleistocene and Early Holocene sites in eastern North America. Students will learn the basics of archaeological excavation, using and creating spatial data, artifact identification, and learning basic geoarchaeological methods. Contact Shane Miller at dsm333@msstate.edu for more information.

Curation Grant

Recognizing that curated archaeological collections are an underused resource by archaeological researchers, the Cobb Institute of Archaeology, Office of Public Archaeology, is now offering a program of small grants to encourage student use of research collections housed in the Institute's artifact curation facility on the MSU campus. These research grants are competitive awards of up to \$500 that will be given to support graduate student research using collections curated by the Institute. In addition, lab space will be provided for work done in residence. Applicants must have a committee-approved thesis or dissertation topic. Information for submitting grant applications can be found at <http://crm.cobb.msstate.edu/curation/research-grant/>. You may also email the director of the Office of Public Archaeology, Jeffrey Alvey, at jsa3@msstate.edu for more information.

University of Mississippi

Field School 2018

Dr. Tony Boudreaux will lead this year's field school during first summer term (May 29-June 26) at a Native American village near Starkville. For part of the course, students will work with members of the Chickasaw Nation whose ances-

tors lived at the site sometime between 1540 and 1650. Students earn 6 credit hours. Cost for the program is \$995 plus tuition and this includes housing (no meals) and supplies. There is still room in the field school so please contact Dr. Boudreaux (tboud@olemiss.edu) if you or your students are interested.

Curation Project-VISTA

In January Riley Anderson, VISTA worker, taught a Garbology activity to the 3-5th grade EXCEL students at East Amory Elementary School. In March she taught the garbology lesson to children who participated in the LOU Saves/Horizons program. In addition, she taught a Native American Pottery Building activity to a group of children from Marks, MS, which was lauded by the VISTA Coordinator in Marks as important way to expose children to both art and Native American history in the state. Ms. Anderson also gave a presentation on her VISTA activities at the MAA meetings in Biloxi in early March. This summer she is planning a two-day teacher workshop in Oxford, and more details will be forthcoming on the CAR website.

We are also excited to announce that UM will have a new curation facility. The university purchased the old hospital and the College was given space specifically for a curation facility and small associated museum. We are currently working with the university to organize the space and update it to meet federal and state curation standards before beginning the process of moving the materials from Kinard. Meanwhile, curation of the Batesville project has been ongoing all semester, and will be completed by semester's end.

Research

Carolyn Freiwald's work in Belize and Guatemala resulted in an SAA presentation of an overview of burial practices at the Maya site Actuncan, Belize, including the isotope geochemistry. A co-author is Nick Billstrand (MA 2017). Another alumni of the MA program, Stephanie Orsini (MA 2017) co-authored a poster with Dr. Freiwald about Paleoindian and Archaic fauna in Belize. Dr. Freiwald was also a co-author on a paper with another Belize crew on stable isotope ecology of agriculture. This summer she returns to Belize and Guatemala to examine life during the Maya collapse (around A.D. 900).

Maureen Meyers received a College of Liberal Arts Dean's Faculty Award to conduct petrographic analyses of sherds from the Carter Robinson site this summer. She is currently finishing analyses of shell production and modification at the site. Meyers co-authored a paper on Pisgah ceramics in a session on identity at the SAA conference, while Tony Boudreaux was a co-author on two papers at SAA discussing ongoing work on the contact period near Starkville.

Three students are graduating the MA program this May: Emily Warner, who examined ceramics from a site at Carter Robinson; Dalton Capps, who completed a mass analysis of lithics from the same site to identify evidence of craft production; and Nikki Matson, who completed a research project on public history and education at the Batesville Mounds site. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Paper Abstracts from the 2018 Annual Meeting of the MAA, Biloxi

Inventory and Non-Destructive Analysis of Prehistoric Black and Yellow Mud Dauber Wasp (*Sceliphron caementarium*) Nests from the Yazoo Basin, Mississippi

William D. Harris¹ and John M. Connaway² (¹Department of Anthropology and Middle Eastern Cultures, MSU, ²Mississippi Department of Archives and History)

Abstract: The fire-hardened nests of mud-dauber wasps, although underreported, are occasionally recovered from prehistoric settlements across much of eastern North America. Because mud dauber wasp species tend to build in sheltered environments, burned nests are periodically used as indirect evidence for prehistoric construction. Other research applications are generally not pursued, such as paleoenvironmental modeling and species I.D. from the arthropod material very rarely preserved in the nests. Past efforts in this regard have produced mixed results, and often lead to the fruitless destruction of archaeological nests. The work described here has two purposes, first, we attempt to identify a technique that would allow archaeologists to assess the integrity and contents of prehistoric nests. Second, we inventory the species, contexts, and chronology of a nest assemblage collected over a 50-year period from sites in the Yazoo River Basin. For the first goal, two methods of radiographic imaging were used with limited success. The nest inventory suggests that most date to the Mississippian/Protohistoric periods (ca. 1000-1700 A.D.), a time when relatively substantial architecture was widespread among pre-European societies in this region.

Elemental Characterization of Choctaw Ceramics from Kemper County, Mississippi

K. Pierce Wright and Elliot H. Blair (Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama)

Abstract: This paper presents the results of an x-ray fluorescence spectrometry (XRF) analysis of ceramics recovered from historic Choctaw (Late 17th - Early 19th century) contexts at sites (22KE630 and 22KE718) located along the Chickasawhay Creek in Kemper County, MS. XRF was used to non-destructively identify ceramic compositional groups. In this paper, I discuss our methodology and present preliminary interpretations on how these compositional groups demonstrate changes in clay exploitation, ceramic typology, and social interaction.

Preliminary Results from the 2017 Excavations at the Hester site (22MO569)

James Strawn, D. Shane Miller, Derek T. Anderson, Caleb Hutson (MSU)

Abstract: The 2017 Mississippi State University Field School excavated fourteen 1-meter by 1-meter units at the Hester Site (22MO569) in Monroe County, Mississippi. Diagnostic flaked stone tools, which include Dalton, Big Sandy, and Jude point types, were recovered from a buried soil identified during the excavations, comparable to those identified by Brookes (1979) in 1973, 1974, and 1978. In January 2018, a particle size analysis and organic composition analysis were completed on the close-interval sediment samples taken

from the profile wall of one of the excavated units. This paper presents the preliminary results of the excavation and analyses so far conducted to identify post-depositional processes that may have affected the site.

Bioarchaeology of a Founder: An Investigation of the Suspected Gravesite of Rev. John Ford

Nathan Meissner, Marie Danforth, Kristi Carnahan, Hadley Fuller, and Carson Rouse (USM)

Abstract: The minister and frontiersman known as Reverend John Ford (A.D. 1767-1826) had a role in the division of Mississippi Territory and the eventual admittance of Mississippi into the Union. Although his former home still stands today in the Pearl River Valley near Sandy Hook, his final resting place was never recorded. Local historians have recently suggested a burial location on the basis of tombstone fragments and surface evidence of a scattered brick feature. Community outreach by the University of Southern Mississippi has focused on verifying the burial using bioarchaeological techniques. Despite numerous obstacles to excavation, we report the discovery of an interment that could belong to John Ford. This work represents an exciting interface where faculty and students can interact and contribute to local community history.

Engaging in Mississippi: Public Archaeology at Fort St. Pierre, a Commemorative Partnership between Vicksburg and Mercyhurst University

LisaMarie Malischke (Mercyhurst University)

Abstract: The 1970s Revolutionary War Bicentennial Celebrations throughout the United States prompted excavations of fort remains from multiple eras. Forty-plus years later, many of these excavated sites will turn 300 years old and places within Mississippi and elsewhere are instituting celebratory and commemorative events. The City of Vicksburg is one such Mississippi city. The 300th anniversary of the building of Fort St. Pierre (1719-1729) is an opportunity to bring a nearly forgotten history back into public awareness. In this presentation, I will discuss a new partnership between the City of Vicksburg and Mercyhurst University (Erie, PA). I will explain current ongoing actions as well as future plans and the incorporation of undergraduate students and local residents. I will briefly discuss restrictions to planning options and innovative solutions to these restrictions, as well as the beneficial results of this partnership.

Design and Implementation of a Fort St. Pierre (1719-1729) Public Archaeology Event for Children in Vicksburg, MS, Spring 2019

Kyra McCormick (Mercyhurst University)

Abstract: This presentation will discuss plans for a public archaeology senior thesis project by me, an undergraduate student at Mercyhurst University. My vision is to design and implement a public archaeology-based children's event surrounding French Colonial history in Vicksburg, MS. In particular, I will use Fort St. Pierre (1719-1729) as a focal point. This event will be oriented towards families with children of various ages and will educate them on archaeology and the history of Fort St. Pierre through different activities. These activities will take place at themed stations and will help chil-

dren discover the answer to questions about archaeology and the history of the nearby fort. To measure the success of the event, quantitative data will be collected through surveys, on both children's reaction to the event, and their parent's thoughts and reactions. Through this event, the public will learn more about their region's past during the French Colonial period; a topic that is not commonly discussed regarding Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Progress Report of the Vicksburg Municipal French Fort St. Pierre Tercentennial Planning Commission

Dr. Frederick L. Briuer (Archaeologist and Chairman of the Planning Board)

Abstract: A board of nine members was appointed by Vicksburg Mayor George Flaggs to develop and implement a plan for an appropriate 300th anniversary celebration of the French establishing Ft. St. Pierre in northern Warren County in 1719. A variety of efforts have been implemented, including enhanced site protection incorporating cooperation between all law enforcement agencies and a volunteer site surveillance effort to report criminal activities at the Fort St. Pierre National Historic Landmark Site. Efforts to increase the level of public awareness of the importance of historic St. Pierre and its three hundredth anniversary include ongoing local newspaper articles and a speakers' bureau for a series of lectures by archaeologists and historians. Our web site contains various articles and information on other plans and activities including a Fund Me option to raise funds for historical road signs and a green metal Magnolia highway sign. Other grants are being considered for more on site interpretive exhibits and other site improvements as well as artifact exhibits at local museums and other places visited by the public. We are planning to raise contributory funds for a public performance of the Mississippi Orchestra honoring the French and Indian period of our heritage. Our planning board is encouraging a formal National Park Service erosion impact study and further research and excavations by Dr. LisaMarie Malischke and her students in 2019.

The Radiocarbon Dating of Winterville Mounds: Documenting Site Occupational History

H. Edwin Jackson (USM)

Abstract: Radiocarbon dates from a variety of contexts have been gathered during the last decade of investigations by USM, providing a better sense of the occupational history of the site. These dates, their contexts, and their implications are reviewed in this paper.

A History of Earthen Mound Construction in the Southern Yazoo Basin: Changes in Location, Scale, and Proximity

Jessica Kowalski (University of Alabama)

The Mississippi Delta has a rich history of earthwork construction stretching back to at least the Middle Woodland period. In this paper, I will briefly review what we actually know about the chronology of earthwork construction in the Southern Yazoo Basin, how construction location and scale changed through time, and how we can recreate some aspects of the ancient landscape of the delta.

Southern Pine Beetle Surveys: Challenges and Opportunities in Exploring the Archaeology of the National Forests in Mississippi

Brenda Reed (U.S. Forest Service)

Abstract: Four of the six National Forests in Mississippi are currently experiencing a Southern Pine Beetle outbreak of unprecedented scale. Resulting archaeological surveys have covered thousands of acres in a short time, providing management challenges but also opportunities to do such things as examine a wide range of artifacts and sites, sample areas that have received little attention, explore site patterning, improve existing data, and evaluate survey methods. Other types of ongoing surveys—ranging from specific efforts to locate particular site types to large-scale surveys along dozer lines—are filling in additional gaps in our understanding of past activities on the National Forests in Mississippi.

Partners In Education: UM CAR Teams Up With AmeriCorps VISTA to Bring Archaeological Education to the Public

Riley Anderson (AmeriCorps NMVP VISTA, UM Center for Archaeological Research)

Abstract: The UM Center for Archaeological Research partnered with AmeriCorps VISTA in September 2017 as a way to develop a public outreach and education program. Our goal is to bridge the gap between our archaeological archives and the public community. To do so we have created artifact displays and educational activities for UM Departments of Biology and Education; hosted a Mississippi Archaeology Month Open Lab; partnered with East Amory Elementary school to develop archaeological lesson plans that fulfill MCCRS requirements; and initiated collaboration with the Mississippi Children's Museum and Lynn Meadows Discovery Center. This paper will discuss and assess these activities and present ideas for implementing similar VISTA programs at other universities.

Excavations at the A. S. Mann Site (41AN201), Anderson County, Texas

David B. Kelley¹, Jon C. Lohse¹, Waldo Troell², Erin E. Phillips¹, and Haley Streuding¹ (¹Coastal Environments, Inc., ²Texas Department of Transportation)

Abstract: Coastal Environments, Inc., (CEI) conducted data-recovery excavations at the A. S. Mann site in Anderson County, Texas, from May 2015 through July 2016 under contract to the Texas Department of Transportation. The work was performed to mitigate the impact of the widening of U.S. Highway 175 on the locale, including several prehistoric and protohistoric Caddo burials. This paper will summarize previous investigations at the site, along with the preliminary findings of CEI's research. Of special interest was the discovery in one of the burials of a highly unusual European artifact.

Site Chronology and Function: An Analysis of Pensacola Ceramics at the Raymond Bass Site (22Hr636) on Back Bay of Biloxi

Brad R. Lieb, (Archaeologist)

Abstract: The Raymond Bass site (22Hr636) is a Mississippi

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***For information about contributing to the MAA newsletter please contact Jeffrey Alvey.**

period, Pensacola variant shell midden on a small bluff overlooking Back Bay of Biloxi on the central Mississippi Gulf Coast. Archaeological ceramics from the 2005 MAA summer dig are analyzed here to date and characterize the depositional history and site function of the Raymond Bass site. Additionally, the assemblage is used to address the issue of sedentism and seasonality on the Gulf Coast during Late Pre-Contact times.