

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE MISSISSIPPI ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

PRESENT



2026 JOINT MEETING

Friday – Sunday
January 31st – February 1st



THE TEMPLE THEATRE
2320 8TH ST, MERIDIAN, MS 39301

AAS & MAA 2026 JOINT MEETING



DAY 1

Friday, January 30th

WELCOME RECEPTION

Threefoot Brewing Company / 517 23rd Avenue, Meridian, MS 39301 / 6:30 - until

Please join us for an informal gathering at the Threefoot Brewing Company to help kick off the 2026 AAS & MAA Joint Winter Meeting.

DAY 2

Saturday, January 31st

2026 AAS/MAA JOINT MEETING

The Temple Theatre / 2320 8th Street, Meridian, MS 39301/ 8:30 am - 4:50 pm

Join us for a full day of paper presentations on current archaeological research across Alabama, Mississippi, and surrounding areas. Make sure to visit our annual book auction!

DINNER RECEPTION WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Temple Theatre Ballroom / 2320 8th Street, Meridian, MS 39301/ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for a catered dinner to wind-down the 2026 Joint Winter Meeting with Keynote Speaker Dr. Vernon James Knight, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and former Curator of Southeastern Archaeology at the University of Alabama.

DAY 3

Sunday, February 1st

SITE VISIT TO ALLEN CREEK TALLAHATTA QUARTZITE QUARRY

Allen Creek Tallahatta Quartzite Quarry / meet at Threefoot Hotel Lobby / 9:15 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for a guided visit to the Allen Creek Tallahatta Quartzite Quarry, led by James Starnes (MDEQ). You are responsible for your own transportation, and carpooling is recommended. Meet at 9:15 am in the lobby of the Threefoot Hotel to carpool to the site.

*Please note that this site is located on private property. No collecting or disclosure of the site location is allowed.

**PRESENTATION
SCHEDULE**

Saturday, February 1st

- 8:30-9:00 AM** Registration opens with coffee and AAS book auction
- 9:00 - 9:10 AM** Opening remarks from AAS & MAA Presidents
- 9:10 AM** Daniel Rhodes (AAS), p.3
- 9:30 AM** C. Andrew Buchner and Erin Stinchcomb (CH), p.3
- 9:50 AM** Jack Green (MSU), p.3
- 10:10 - 10:20 AM** Break
- 10:20 AM** Sarah Coffey (AAS), p.3
- 10:40 AM** Lauren Parker (MSU), p.4
- 11:00 AM** William Henry and Jonathan Matthews (AHC), p.4
- 11:20 AM** Haley Streuding, et al. (Neel-Schaffer, Inc. et al.) p.4
- 11:40 AM- 1:20 PM** Lunch Break and Board Meetings
- 1:20 PM - 2:00 PM** Business Meetings
- 2:00 PM** Van King, p.4
- 2:20 PM** Robby Elmore, et al. (ADAH, UWA), p.5
- 2:40 PM** James Starnes and Natalya Usachenko (MDEQ), p.5
- 3:00 PM** Robert O'Dell, p.5
- 3:20 PM - 3:30 PM** Break
- 3:30 PM** Linda Derry (The Cahaba Foundation), p.6
- 3:50 PM** Erin Nelson (USA), p.6
- 4:10 PM** Keith Little and Hunter Johnson (TVAR), p.6
- 4:30 PM** Tony Boudreaux (MSU) & Brad Lieb (Chickasaw Nation), p.6
- 4:50 PM** Closing Remarks and Book Auction Closes
- 6:30 PM** Dinner with Keynote Speaker, Dr. Vernon James Knight
 Temple Theatre Ballroom

AAS & MAA 2026 JOINT MEETING



ABSTRACTS

➤ **ARCHAEOLOGY AFTER DARK: ARCHAEOLOGY AND COMMUNITY PODCASTING**

Daniel Rhodes / AAS Board Member

Archaeology after Dark is a community-driven research project and podcast that engages public audiences with archaeology. For five years, it has explored both everyday and global issues in the field, blending accessible conversation with scholarly insight. By connecting professional archaeologists, students, and the public, Archaeology after Dark fosters engagement, broadens understanding of archaeological practice, and contributes to discourse on the field's future. This presentation examines the podcast's content and listener interactions to demonstrate how podcasting can democratize archaeological knowledge and promote inclusive, collaborative dialogue within the discipline.

➤ **22MR742: A RURAL ANTEBELLUM BRICK MAKING SITE IN NORTH MISSISSIPPI**

C. Andrew Buchner and Erin Stinchcomb / Chronicle Heritage

Small rural brick manufacturing sites are not often identified in the Upland South. This example is from Marshall County, an area that witnessed an intensive antebellum occupation. Archival research suggests the kiln likely supplied brick for the nearby Marshall Institute Community, a hamlet that grew up around two schools that were established ca. 1848 by the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Hand excavations within an 84 m² block revealed the base of a relatively complete kiln base characterized by linear firing channels separated by firing rows. While recovery was heavy, it was limited exclusively to bricks and fragments.

➤ **THE TALLAHATCHIE COMPLEX: EVIDENCE FOR A THIRTEENTH CENTURY POLITY IN NORTH MISSISSIPPI'S UPLANDS**

Jack Green / Mississippi State University

Late precontact archaeology in Mississippi and Alabama focuses largely on either the polities of the Mississippi Valley to the west or those of the Tombigbee/Black Warrior system to the east. The upland region between the two is largely neglected. Recent evidence from at least three mound sites along the Tallahatchie River in North Mississippi seeks to complicate this picture. A 13th century polity consisting of at least three mound centers seems to have been thriving between the two regions. This paper explores the pre-contact Mississippian geopolitical landscape this polity was both situated in and defined.

➤ **AAS WEBSITE UPDATES**

Sarah Coffey / AAS 1st Vice President

Updates and information about the AAS website from over the past year.

► **A TEMPER ANALYSIS OF LYON’S BLUFF SHERDS**

Lauren Parker / Mississippi State University

Experimental archaeology has helped archaeologists understand the technological dynamics of ceramic functions for decades. One of the most important technological attributes archaeologists have studied is how and why potters choose specific tempering agents for their clay vessels. This paper explores how temper choice influenced vessel shape, size, and thickness from the Lyon’s Bluff Mounds site (22OK520) in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. We studied 153 rim sherds from two house mound contexts and found that jar-shaped vessels are most likely to be tempered with fine to medium shell, while bowls have more variety in temper size and type.

► **PREPARING A FIELD SCHOOL: A PREVIEW OF WORK COMPLETED ON THE KIRKPATRICK PROPERTY AT OLD CAHAWBA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK**

Dr. William Henry and Jonathan Matthews/ AHC, Old Cahawba Archaeological Park

The Kirkpatrick Property—encompassing the extant Barker Slave Quarters and the buried remains of the Kirkpatrick House, an additional slave quarters, and associated features—represents an intact archaeological landscape with exceptional research and training value. As the primary field venue for the Alabama Historical Commission’s CRM Professional Training Program, the site supports a compliance-oriented, integrated approach combining documentary research, geophysics, excavation design, architectural analysis, and digital documentation. This framework advances scholarship on plantation lifeways while supporting workforce development, public interpretation, and long-term stewardship at Old Cahawba.

► **MISSISSIPPI PERIOD SETTLEMENT AND LATE-EIGHTEENTH- TO EARLY-NINETEENTH-CENTURY OCCUPATION IN BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI: DATA-RECOVERY INVESTIGATIONS AT THE GREENHOUSE SITE (22HR1160)**

Haley Streuding , Richard A. Weinstein, Shannon Medah Wooten, Thurston H. G. Hahn III, Michael P. Carpenter, Douglas C. Wells./ Neel-Schaffer, Inc. & Coastal Environments, Inc.

Archaeologists with Neel-Schaffer, Inc., and Coastal Environments, Inc., conducted data-recovery investigations at the Greenhouse site (22Hr1160). Backhoe trenches covering an area of ca. 110 m² exposed 14 features attributable to the Mississippi period and a late colonial-early American homesite. Artifact analyses and historical research indicated the presence of a small Singing River phase settlement (between ca. A.D. 1450 and 1550) followed by the probable habitation of the Carco family (ca. 1770 to 1820). Shell-tempered pottery, two AMS radiocarbon dates, plus sherds of creamware, pearlware, and coarse earthenware, helped determine the dates during which the site was occupied.

► **THE EASTERN WHEELER BASIN (SPECIFICALLY HOBBS’ ISLAND AREA) AS A PROBABLE SOURCE OF SANDSTONE VESSELS FOR POVERTY POINT**

Van King

I propose that the majority of sandstone vessels recovered at Poverty Point were traded after being manufactured in the Eastern Wheeler Basin, specifically the area centered along Hobb’s Island. Evidence: 1. Stone vessel picks/gouges. 2. Preform fragments. 3. Poverty Point style zoomorphic bead recovered at Hobb’s Island.

▶ USING LOANED COLLECTIONS FOR MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS AT THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Robby Elmore / Alabama Department of Archives & History
Ashley Dumas / University of West Alabama
Stacye Hathorn / Alabama Historical Commission

In 2022, the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) began planning updates to permanent exhibitions in the Museum of Alabama. Many changes introduce new interpretive content in spaces where funerary objects had previously been displayed. Objects now occupying some of these spaces include loaned archaeological materials from the University of West Alabama and the Alabama Historical Commission. The materials will facilitate an improved interpretive approach and a broadened scope, including Mississippian salt production in southwest Alabama, interactions between Spanish and Native societies in the Black Belt during the 16th century, and community life at Fort Toulouse during the 18th century.

▶ OPALESCENT CATAHOULA ORTHOQUARTZITE UTILIZED AS A LITHIC MATERIAL IN MISSISSIPPI

James Starnes and Natalya Usachenko / MDEQ

Mississippi's prehistoric indigenous inhabitants predominantly utilized varieties of local chert and orthoquartzite resources to produce knapped stone tools. Several prehistoric quarry sites have been documented through field research by the state geological survey. The outcrop belt of the Upper Oligocene Catahoula Formation in south Mississippi contains lithic-quality opaline cemented orthoquartzite, but little is known about its exploitation or distribution in the archaeological record. In rare cases, Catahoula outcrops contain precious opal, but no artifacts have been documented at quarry sites or in other lithic assemblages. Like other opaline-cemented orthoquartzites in Mississippi, Catahoula Orthoquartzite tends to be unstable over time and environment, leading to poor preservation in the archaeological record. Following the discovery of an opalescent quarry spall, known artifacts of Catahoula Orthoquartzite were reexamined for indications of being manufactured from opalescent material.

▶ THE HOMOCHITTO RIVER - HURRICANE CREEK ("HH") SITE, A REPORT ON AN ARCHAIC INDIAN SITE LOCATED IN LINCOLN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Robert O'Dell

In the 1950s and 60s Johnny Parkman of Brookhaven amassed a collection of artifacts from a single site near his home. The assemblage consisted of nearly 1400 points and tools, all glued on a large board that I obtained from Johnny's widow in 2023. As part consideration for the acquisition, I promised that I would publish a site report based upon my analysis of the material. In September 2025, I completed the report entitled "The Homochitto River - Hurricane Creek ("HH") Site". It is self-published and available for purchase. It contains 59 pages, including 28 color plates and five figures.

► USING HISTORICAL RESEARCH TO RECONSTRUCT PREHISTORY AT OLD CAHAWBA - 1 DS 32

Linda Derry / The Cahaba Foundation

Forty years ago, intact features of a fortified Late Mississippian village were found preserved beneath the 19th century remains of Alabama's first Capital at Cahawba. Unfortunately, we also discovered that above-ground features like a mound and the moat that once surrounded the village had been graded away and backfilled before the Civil War. Recently, some colleagues have expressed doubts about my interpretation of these findings, so to defend my honor, I tracked down several historic eye-witness accounts of the ancient earthworks. Moreover, I suggest how future archaeological investigations of prehistoric Cahawba could benefit from data gleaned from historic documents.

► NEW RESEARCH IN THE PENSACOLA HEARTLAND (AND BEYOND)

Erin Nelson / University of South Alabama

Ongoing research in the Pensacola culture area explores the choices potters made regarding clay source, temper material, form and style, and iconography, drawing on these attributes to better understand communities and constellations of practice among Pensacola potters. This paper highlights some recent findings and outlines next steps for better understanding the origins and development of this coastal Mississippian variant.

► PERIODICITY OF LATE WOODLAND HUNTER-GATHERER OCCUPATIONS AT THE HOOK CREEK SITE

Keith J. Little and Hunter B. Johnson / Tennessee Valley Archaeological Research

Material evidence indicates that Late Woodland occupations at the Hook Creek site in northeastern Alabama focused primarily on collecting, processing, and storing a variety of mast crops. A substantial set of radiocarbon dates from the site not only demonstrates that these occupations were periodic but also provides an avenue for exploring the possibility of identifying the periodic site visits at distinct generation levels.

► STARK FARM AND CHICAZA: WHAT DO WE KNOW AND WHAT DO WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT

Tony Boudreaux / Mississippi State University

Brad Lieb / The Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma

Two working hypotheses have been an important part of our research at the Stark Farm site in northeast Mississippi. One is that a number of iron artifacts recovered there likely originated from the Hernando de Soto expedition. The second is that the site is located within or at least nearby the province of Chicasa. In this paper, we review the arguments and evidence upon which these hypotheses are based, and we discuss steps that should be taken to further test them.

