

**CURRENT RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGY
10TH ANNUAL MEETING**

Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24, 1998
Ed Jones Auditorium, Ellington Agricultural Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

- 1:00 Archaeological Advisory Council, Quarterly Meeting
- 3:00 Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology, Annual Meeting (immediately following the Advisory Council meeting)
- 4:00 Reception Sponsored by the Tennessee Council for Professional Archaeology (immediately following the Annual Meeting)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

- 8:25 **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
Michael C. Moore, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- 8:30 **Salvage Archaeology at the Brentwood Library Site (40WM210): A Fortified Mississippian Town in Williamson County, Tennessee**
Michael C. Moore and Suzanne D. Hoyal, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- 8:45 **Survey of Civil War Military Sites in Tennessee**
Benjamin C. Nance, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- 9:00 **Phase III Data Recovery of the Possum Creek Site (40GN52) and the Myers Site (40GN63) in Greene County, Tennessee.**
Yong W. Kim, *University of Tennessee Transportation Center*
- 9:15 **Waiting on the Ridge: Archaeological Investigations of the War Creek Cemetery (40HK9)**
Hugh B. Matternes, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
- 9:30 **Tennessee's Pleistocene Fauna**
James X. Corgan, *Austin Peay State University*; Emanuel Breitburg, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*; and John B. Broster, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- 9:45 **Archaeology at Bledsoe's Station, 1997**
Kevin E. Smith, *Middle Tennessee State University*
- 10:00 **Recent Excavations at Pinson Mounds**
Mark Norton, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- BREAK 10:15-10:30
- 10:30 **Recent Studies of Tennessee's Prehistoric Cave Art**
Jan F. Simek, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
- 10:45 **Current Research in Tennessee**
Guy Weaver, *Brockington and Associates, Inc.*

- 11:00 **Recent Investigations at the McCroskey Site, Sevier County, Tennessee**
Richard Polhemus, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
- 11:15 **A Preliminary Report of Phase III Data Recovery at Westview Plantation, Site 40WM178.**
C. Alan Longmire, *University of Tennessee Transportation Center*
- 11:30 **Salvage Excavations at the Red Velvet Spider Rockshelter (40RE243)**
Jay D. Franklin and Todd M. Ahlman, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
- 11:45 **The Bowen Farmstead: Public Archaeology of an 18th Century Frontier Plantation**
Daniel S. Allen, IV, *DuVall & Associates, Inc.*
- LUNCH 12:00-1:00
- 1:00 **Testing a Woodland Component on Maclellan Island, Chattanooga, Tennessee**
Nicholas Honerkamp, *University of Tennessee, Chattanooga*
- 1:15 **Testing and Data Recovery at 40WM153: Early Nineteenth Century Settlement in Williamson County, Tennessee**
Jeffrey Gardner, *Brockington and Associates, Inc.*
- 1:30 **Recent Archaeological Investigations in the Reelfoot Basin, Lake and Obion Counties, Tennessee**
William Lawrence, *Tennessee Division of Archaeology*
- 1:45 **Knoxville Urban Archaeology**
Charles Bentz, *University of Tennessee Transportation Center*
- 2:00 **Cherokee National Forest Archaeology**
Quentin Bass, *Cherokee National Forest*
- 2:15 **Relocating the Trail of Tears**
Nick Fielder (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*) and Bill Jones (*Trail of Tears Association, Tennessee Chapter*)
- BREAK 2:30-2:45
- 2:45 **New Research at the First Hermitage Site**
Larry McKee, *The Hermitage*
- 3:00 **Phase III Data Recovery at the Chandler Site (40CH74), Cheatham County, Tennessee**
Joseph A. Giliberti, *Brockington and Associates, Inc.*
- 3:15 **Archaic Chert Mining in 3rd Unnamed Cave, Tennessee**
Erin E. Pritchard and Jay D. Franklin, *University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
- 3:30 **Current Research in the Lower Cumberland Valley Early Archaic: National Register Testing at Site 40SW333.**
Scott E. Simmons, *R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.*
- 3:45 **A Report of Phase III Data Recovery at the Waterfront Site, 40KN149**
Lance Greene, *University of Tennessee Transportation Center*
- 4:00 **Current Research on Hiwassee Island**
Lynne Sullivan, *New York State Museum*

ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

Ahlman, Todd M. (see Jay D. Franklin)

Allen, Daniel S., IV (*DuVall & Associates, Inc.*)

THE BOWEN FARMSTEAD (40SU21): PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF AN 18TH-CENTURY FRONTIER PLANTATION. In Middle Tennessee, the frontier period of regional settlement was characterized by the emergence of fortified agricultural complexes called “stations” as a cultural response to the need for secure lifeways amidst the dangers of Native American hostility. The comparative safety of these stations provided the measure of security necessary for settlers to exercise claims to the land and develop large farms, often utilizing fields previously cultivated by aboriginal populations. The rapid expansion of these early farmsteads effectively stimulated regional economy by providing products destined for commercial trade in the lucrative markets of Natchez, Mississippi. This paper presents the results of three years of public historical archaeology at the Bowen farmstead (1784-1836), a transitional frontier agricultural complex on the Cumberland River of Middle Tennessee. The project has utilized volunteer labor directed by experienced field archaeologists and technicians. Analysis of contexts and artifacts associated with the excavation of several components of the site provide new insights into this important critical period of transition for pioneer farmers of Middle Tennessee.

Bass, Quentin (*Cherokee National Forest*)

Bentz, Charles (*University of Tennessee Transportation Center*)

KNOXVILLE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY. Over the past twelve years, I have been involved with a number of historic archaeological projects in downtown Knoxville. Often this has meant following heavy machinery and hoping to see the features before the next bucket of dirt is removed, having so little time and money to adequately investigate sites, dealing with the results of bottle hunters on the Monday or morning after, and having agencies “write off” areas because of existing development.

Extensive earth moving activities associated with the Knoxville waterfront redevelopment and nearby road projects have impacted numerous historic features. Archaeological investigations have been undertaken in only a few areas of the total development area even though multiple federal agencies are involved with the undertaking. Now Knox county is poised to develop two to three square city blocks of downtown Knoxville adjacent to the former location of James White’s fort and probably little if any archaeology will be conducted in this area.

Breitburg, Emanuel (see James X. Corgan)

Broster, John B. (see James X. Corgan)

Corgan, James X. (*Austin Peay State University*), **Emanuel Breitburg** (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*), and **John B. Broster** (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

TENNESSEE’S PLEISTOCENE FAUNA. In an on-going effort begun in 1820s, investigators of Tennessee’s fossil record have documented the presence 245 vertebrate species at 161 sites, ranging in age from Devonian period to late Pleistocene epoch, or 380,000,000 to about 10,000 years before the present. A brief overview of the abundance and distribution of species that resided in the state is presented.

Fielder, Nick (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

RELOCATING THE TRAIL OF TEARS. Using 19th and 20th century historical maps, deed records and field surveys, the original route of Higginbotham’s Trace and Rainey’s Turnpike has been mapped across the Cumberland Plateau from Pikeville to McMinnville. Eleven detachments of Cherokee, about 1100 persons, are known to have taken this route in the fall of 1838. The survey methods and results are presented.

Franklin, Jay D. and Todd M. Ahlman (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

SALVAGE EXCAVATIONS AT THE RED VELVET SPIDER ROCKSHELTER (40RE243). We present results of salvage excavations at the Red Velvet Spider Rockshelter (40RE243), which has been repeatedly looted over the past few years. Diagnostic ceramics and an associated radiocarbon date indicate intensive occupations spanning the Woodland period. However, other recovered artifacts suggest that occupational episodes at this rockshelter may actually range from the Paleo-Indian through the Mississippian periods.

Gardner, Jeffrey (*Brockington and Associates, Inc.*)

TESTING AND DATA RECOVERY AT 40WM153: EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY SETTLEMENTS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE. Phase II and III archaeological and historical investigations were conducted for the Tennessee Department of Transportation at 40WM153 during the spring and summer of 1997. This site consists of a surface artifact scatter and a small number of features representing a possible Middle to Late Archaic component and an early nineteenth century domestic occupation. Historic deposits include a midden, cellar, and a shallow firepit. Recovered artifacts suggest a middle class historic occupation during the first and second quarters of the nineteenth century. Supporting historical records indicate second generation settlement by members of the Patton family.

Giliberti, Joseph A. (*Brockington and Associates, Inc.*)

PHASE III DATA RECOVERY AT THE CHANDLER SITE (40CH74), CHEATHAM COUNTY, TENNESSEE. During the late summer, 1997, Brockington and Associates, Inc. conducted Phase III data recovery of a small portion of the Chandler site (40CH74). This site is a multi-component occupation area located adjacent to Sycamore Creek, a tributary of the Cumberland River in Cheatham County, Tennessee. The site contains several reported mounds and stone box graves. Excavations, however, did not include impacting any of the reported mounds. The Phase III investigations included digging six 2 meter by 1 meter square units and then stripping of the area of direct impact of a proposed water intake structure and parking lot. Results of the excavation indicated that most of the area tested was heavily disturbed. Site stripping revealed two large pit features dating to the Middle and Late Woodland periods. The most intriguing data from the study concerns these two features and includes analysis of the recovered ceramics and associated radiocarbon dates.

Greene, Lance (*University of Tennessee Transportation Center*)

A REPORT OF PHASE III DATA RECOVERY AT THE WATERFRONT SITE, 40KN149. From November 1996 through January 1997 archaeologists from the Transportation Center at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, conducted Phase III excavations at 40KN149, near the Knoxville downtown area. Excavations revealed minor occupations during the early 19th century through the mid-20th century. Cultural debris more than three meters thick attest to the massive changes in landscape use throughout the industrial period. Interpretation of the archaeological record is enhanced through use of the Core Periphery Model, designed to explain the changes in land use within the core area of cities during the industrial period.

Honerkamp, Nicholas (*University of Tennessee, Chattanooga*)

TESTING A WOODLAND COMPONENT ON MACLELLAN ISLAND, CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE. During the summer of 1983 a UTC archaeological field school performed a systematic survey of Maclellan Island. The report on this survey, which took the form of an anthropology student's honor's thesis, indicated a highly localized distribution of prehistoric artifacts in the approximate center of the island; the vast majority of identifiable ceramics were limestone tempered Woodland types. This cultural affiliation is in distinct contrast to Williams Island just down the river, a multicomponent site with a heavy Mississippian occupation. More intensive testing by yet another UTC field school during the summer of 1997 indicates that the survey results accurately reflected the apparent absence of a Mississippian component, and possible reasons for this lacuna are suggested.

Hoyal, Suzanne D. (see Michael C. Moore)

Jones, Bill (see Nick Fielder)

Kim, Yong W. (*University of Tennessee Transportation Center*)

PHASE III DATA RECOVERY OF THE POSSUM CREEK SITE (40GN52) AND THE MYERS SITE (40GN63) IN GREENE COUNTY, TENNESSEE. Data recovery was conducted on two sites in East Tennessee in conjunction with the TDOT realignment of State Route 350 in Greene County. The Possum Creek site (40GN52) was an open habitation prehistoric site containing Middle Woodland components. Limestone and quartz tempered ceramics and Middle Woodland PPKs were recovered in pit feature context and a sample of radiocarbon dates were obtained. The Myers site (40GN63) was a historic rural Euro-American farmstead with components ranging from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. Only subsurface features occurred on the site and included two cellars, three midden areas and two chimney pads.

Lawrence, William L. (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE REELFOOT BASIN, LAKE AND OBION COUNTIES, TENNESSEE. The results of small scale testing at two sites in the Reelfoot Basin will be reported. Excavation at the Still site (40LK55) revealed an intact Emergent Mississippian midden. Limited testing of one of a pair of small mounds along the shoreline of Reelfoot Lake (40OB179) indicates that this mound overlies the burned remnants of a Mississippian charnel structure. Radiocarbon dates from this structure will be reported.

Longmire, C. Alan (*University of Tennessee Transportation Center*)

A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF PHASE III DATA RECOVERY AT WESTVIEW PLANTATION, SITE 40WM178. From April 28 to July 10, 1997, archaeologists from the Transportation Center at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville conducted Phase III data recovery at site 40WM178 in the Highway 840 right-of-way in Williamson County, Tennessee. Site 40WM178, Westview Plantation, was an antebellum plantation dating from about 1805 to the present. The area within the right-of-way included the core of the residential part of the plantation consisting of the remains of a large house foundation, a standing antebellum brick structure, a possible cemetery area, and a circa 1930s farmstead with house and outbuildings intact. The 1930s house was built on a foundation which appeared to have been the antebellum icehouse. In addition, the rear yard of the standing antebellum structure contained the remains of at least one slave house, a privy, and a smokehouse. Our research was disturbed by the partial razing of the site by the road construction contractors shortly after the project began.

Matternes, Hugh B. (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

WAITING ON THE RIDGE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE WAR CREEK CEMETERY (40HK9). In East Tennessee, there is little to no information available to identify how long Appalachian burial practices have been part of the local cultural tradition. Recent excavations of five mortuary features in a frontier period cemetery (40HK9) in Hancock County, Tennessee provided an opportunity to address Appalachian funerary data from a temporal dimension deeper than available from local tradition. Investigations of the archaeological and biological data revealed that the cemetery was used during the first quarter of the 19th century by white agriculturists. Many features of the burial features corresponded with information collected by ethnographers as much as a century and a half later. It is suggested that many "traditional" Appalachian burial patterns are grounded in the same historical and cultural patterns expressed at the War Creek Cemetery.

McKee, Larry (*The Hermitage*)

NEW RESEARCH AT THE FIRST HERMITAGE SITE. During the summer of 1997 the Hermitage Archaeology Program undertook excavations at the First Hermitage site, the first home of Andrew and Rachel Jackson on Hermitage property. This presentation will detail findings made within, between, and around the two standing log structures at the site, and discuss initial interpretations concerning changes to the area's use during the nineteenth century.

Moore, Michael C. and Suzanne D. Hoyal (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE BRENTWOOD LIBRARY SITE (40WM210): A FORTIFIED MISSISSIPPIAN TOWN IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE. Between July 28 and November 4 of 1997, the Tennessee Division of Archaeology conducted salvage excavations at a fortified Mississippian town discovered during construction of the new Brentwood city library. These excavations were performed in conjunction with the removal of 68 human burials by DuVall & Associates, Inc. A total of 61 structures, 106 pit features, and two palisade lines were defined and mapped in our allotted time on the site. Site 40WM210 has been assigned to the Thruston phase (A.D. 1250-1450) based upon the ceramic assemblage and presence of the palisade lines.

Nance, Benjamin C. (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

SURVEY OF CIVIL WAR PERIOD MILITARY SITES IN TENNESSEE. The Tennessee Division of Archaeology has conducted the third phase of a now statewide survey of Civil War period military sites in Tennessee. The purpose of the survey was to identify and record those sites of military activity that still retain some archaeological integrity and complete a written report on the findings. The study was conducted using a combination of archival information, field survey, and informant leads. Each site was described in terms of specific military components such as types of earthworks, battle activity, or encampments, and the information was entered into the Tennessee archaeological site file maintained by the Division. The project has resulted in the recording of over 400 sites across the state.

Norton, Mark R. (*Tennessee Division of Archaeology*)

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT PINSON MOUNDS. Recent test excavations at Pinson Mounds (40MD1) have documented a total of three previously unrecorded mounds, bringing the known total to 15. Mounds 36 and 37 exhibit attributes typical for platform mounds, while the classification of Mound 38 is difficult to determine without more extensive testing. A hypothesis will also be presented suggesting the placement of key mounds at the site as markers for a solar calendar.

Polhemus, Richard (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

Pritchard, Erin E. and Jay D. Franklin (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

ARCHAIC CHERT MINING IN 3RD UNNAMED CAVE, TENNESSEE. We present a brief overview of recent archaeological research in 3rd Unnamed Cave in Tennessee, where Archaic Period hunter-gatherers traveled far underground to intensively mine and work chert nodules. As preliminary analyses of the primary mining and workshop chamber have been presented elsewhere, this paper focuses on a flintknapping concentration in an adjacent passage. Through core refitting, we examine the technology practiced at this locality by the prehistoric miners. Results are compared to those from the primary mining and workshop chamber.

Simek, Jan F. (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*)

RECENT STUDIES OF TENNESSEE'S PREHISTORIC CAVE ART. In 1979, two Southeastern caves were almost simultaneously discovered that contained prehistoric art in their dark zones, beyond the reach of all exterior light. Since that time, more than twenty others, mostly in Tennessee, have been identified and recorded, including five over the past year. This paper discusses recent work by the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in locating and documenting these important, beautiful, yet still little-known aspects of Tennessee's archaeological record. Special attention will be given to variability in the art, chronology, and protection.

Simmons, Scott E. (*R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.*)

CURRENT RESEARCH IN THE LOWER CUMBERLAND VALLEY EARLY ARCHAIC: NATIONAL REGISTER TESTING AT SITE 40SW333. Recent investigations at an Early Archaic Period site located along the banks of the Cumberland River in Stewart County, Tennessee were completed in advance of shoreline stabilization work proposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The results of testing at this site indicate that intact shell midden deposits in which relatively high densities of lithic debitage, formal stone and bone tools, and well-preserved faunal material are present along the existing shoreline portion of the site. The results of testing indicate that the site is indeed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. This paper discusses the preliminary results of testing at the site as well as pertinent research topics that could be addressed following additional work at site 40SW333.

Smith, Kevin E. (*Middle Tennessee State University*)

ARCHAEOLOGY AT BLEDSOE'S STATION, 1997. The 1997 MTSU Archaeological Field School completed a second year of investigations at Bledsoe's Station (40SU32), one of the first fortified Euroamerican settlements in Middle Tennessee (ca. 1783-1806). This paper will present the results of the 1997 auger testing program with relation to determining site boundaries, a summary of the seven structures identified in excavations to date, and an overview of the results of laboratory analysis of artifacts from the four seasons of archaeology at the site.

Sullivan, Lynne (*New York State Museum*)

CURRENT RESEARCH ON HIWASSEE ISLAND. The WPA excavations at Hiwassee Island during the 1930s are well-known to every Tennessee archaeologist, but little professional work has been done on the island since then. In the interim, recovery and analytical techniques have improved and changed, as have ideas about late prehistory. In order to update knowledge of this 'old' site, a research program initiated in 1997 is investigating remaining portions of the Mississippian town on the island. The main goal of these investigations is to collect subsistence and chronological information not available from the WPA work. This research program is a cooperative venture with Dr. Cheryl Claassen and the Appalachian State University field school, TVA, and UT Knoxville.

Weaver, Guy (*Brockington and Associates, Inc.*)

CURRENT RESEARCH IN TENNESSEE. This paper reviews projects in Tennessee undertaken by the staff of Brockington and Associates' Memphis office during 1997. These projects include a survey of prehistoric and historic resources at the Holston Army Ammunition Plant near Kingsport, and archaeological assessment of historic period occupations at the proposed Gibson Guitar Manufacturing Facility and Visitor's Center near Beale Street in Memphis. Other projects include a Phase I survey of portions of the Milan Army Ammunition Plant in Gibson County, and the delineation and documentation of the small Massey-Robins Cemetery in Shelby County.