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Credit Where Credit is Due: Looking Back at The Junior Archeological Society of Baton Rouge, 1958-1976

Ashley Lauren Terry
University of Pennsylvania

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Abstract
The Junior Archaeological Society of Baton Rouge, which operated from 1958 through 1976, afforded middle- and high school-aged students the opportunity to learn about anthropology, history, and a wide range of other topics. The Society (headed by J. Ashley Sibley, Jr.) also excavated at Native American sites in Louisiana and Mississippi – for the perceived “unprofessionalism” with which they proceeded, they have received considerable scrutiny from the Southeastern archaeological community. My goal, from the project’s outset, was to understand the Society’s archaeological endeavors (particularly as they centered around Smith Creek site in Wilkinson County, Mississippi). In order to do this, I chose to employ interviews with former members and archival materials. I came to understand that, far from being haphazardly-digging bugs, JAS members excavated meticulously, scientifically, and sparingly. Moreover, Sibley placed a great deal of emphasis on education and leadership. In this thesis, I explore the work, play, and continuing positive impact of the Society – hopefully, in the process, I also chip away at the poor reputation with which the Society been saddled.

Disciplines
Anthropology

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CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE: LOOKING BACK AT THE JUNIOR ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BATON ROUGE, 1958-1976

By

Ashley Lauren Terry

In

Anthropology

Submitted to the

Department of Anthropology

University of Pennsylvania

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Megan C. Kassabaum

2016
ABSTRACT

“Credit Where Credit Is Due: Looking Back at the Junior Archeological Society of Baton Rouge, 1958-1976”
(Ashley Terry, advised by Dr. Megan Kassabaum)

The Junior Archaeological Society of Baton Rouge, which operated from 1958 through 1976, afforded middle- and high school-aged students the opportunity to learn about anthropology, history, and a wide range of other topics. The Society (headed by J. Ashley Sibley, Jr.) also excavated at Native American sites in Louisiana and Mississippi – for the perceived “unprofessionalism” with which they proceeded, they have received considerable scrutiny from the Southeastern archaeological community. My goal, from the project’s outset, was to understand the Society’s archaeological endeavors (particularly as they centered around Smith Creek site in Wilkinson County, Mississippi). In order to do this, I chose to employ interviews with former members and archival materials.

I came to understand that, far from being haphazardly-digging bugs, JAS members excavated meticulously, scientifically, and sparingly. Moreover, Sibley placed a great deal of emphasis on education and leadership. In this thesis, I explore the work, play, and continuing positive impact of the Society – hopefully, in the process, I also chip away at the poor reputation with which the Society been saddled.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Fieldwork is stressful; some handle it better than others. I am not one of those people, and so I’m afraid that I was a grump for the entirety of the Smith Creek Archaeological Project’s Summer 2015 season. Nevertheless, Dr. Megan Kassabaum agreed to advise me in the carrying out of this project, and for that, I thank her. The chance to engage with former members of the JAS and with the greater Southeastern archaeological community has been incredible, and I look forward to continuing to explore the possibilities that this research topic presents.

I would also like to thank Dr. Kate Moore, for helping me choose between two different research topics. I’m consistently thankful that you persuaded me to choose the once-in-a-lifetime, when-will-you-ever-see-a-project-like-this-again option! And thanks, as always, for the moral support and encouragement you have provided to me. I’d like to extend the latter statement to Dr. Janet Monge as well – I look forward to working with both of you more closely in the upcoming semester!

I am, of course, indebted to the Anthropology Department as a whole. This may perhaps be interpreted literally, as they graciously provided the funding which allowed me to participate in the Smith Creek Archaeological Project in the first place. On a more serious note, I thank every member of this department’s faculty and staff – you have all had a hand in my growth as both an anthropologist and a student.
Above all, I believe I owe my thanks to the JAS alumni with whom I’ve corresponded. Without all of you – Janice Pierce, Neill Terry, Ginny Benoist, David Floyd, David Britt, Randy Ellis, Randy Soileau, and Bill Myrick – there would never have been a project! I have truly enjoyed deepening my understanding of this organization which all of you hold so dear. I must say that the Society now holds a special place in my heart as well.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not thank my family and friends. For everything.
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May the Great Spirit guide me to carry out my pledge as a Junior Archeologist to promote the scientific study of man through anthropology, archeology and related sciences; by the exploration, excavation, classification, labeling, exhibition, and evaluation of artifacts; by working in fellowship with others interested in the preservation of the pre-history and history of our state, nation, and the world, during this meeting and in all other activities that add to the knowledge, understanding and respect for man by ‘learning the past – to better the future’!

– “Opening”.
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

In May and June of 2015, I participated in an excavation at Smith Creek (22Wk526), an archaeological site in southwestern Mississippi that is home to three Coles Creek-era (750 – 1200 CE) earthen mounds (Fig. 1). Under the direction of Dr. Megan Kassabaum, a total of four units were opened on the site. One was situated on Mound A, the site’s tallest mound (Nelson et al. 2013). Another probed into Mound C, which is abutted on the east by Smith Creek. The final two units were located in the site’s South Plaza, which surveys had indicated was underlain by extensive midden deposits (Kassabaum et al. 2014). These efforts left one mound unexcavated – Mound B, a burial mound likely used during the Coles Creek and Plaquemine periods.

Fig. 1. Contour map of Smith Creek site, 22Wk526. Courtesy of the Mississippi Mound Trail Project (Kassabaum et al. 2014).
Current archaeological sensibilities dictate sensitivity and conscientiousness with regards to the study and handling of Native American remains, particularly in light of a long history of exploitation of these remains (and peoples) in the name of “science”. These considerations have come to the fore in recent years, particularly since the passage of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) in 1990 (Ferguson 1996). The decision to leave Mound B unexcavated was, therefore, born of an acknowledgement of these sensibilities and a desire to ameliorate the unequal political relationships that have historically existed between Native Americans and non-Native archaeologists.

These same sensibilities were not in place, however, during the middle of the twentieth century. During the late 1950s through the early 1970s, Smith Creek’s Mound B was systematically excavated by the Junior Archeological Society of Baton Rouge. The organization, led by schoolteacher and avocational archaeologist J. Ashley Sibley, Jr. (hereafter, Sibley), was comprised of students ranging in age from eleven to eighteen. Local professional archaeologists attributed trenching and pitting atop the mound to these young amateur archaeologists, and so the Society came to be the object of some contempt among Southeastern archaeologists (as well as residents of Wilkinson County) from the late 1970s to the present day. That being said, archaeologists may rely on data from excavations such as this one to fill in the gaps in our understanding of important sites which are known to contain burials (and are therefore left unexcavated).

At the outset of this project, my goal was the following: to contact and interview former members of the Junior Archeological Society (hereafter, the “JAS” or the “Society”) about the nature of their excavations at Smith Creek. However, soon after having begun the interviewing
process, I realized that this goal limited the scope of this project unnecessarily. My revised goal was, then, to understand the Society’s work at Smith Creek in the context of its history, operations, and other endeavors. Along the way, I have developed an augmented understanding of the only mound there that has not been (and likely will not be) professionally excavated. I synthesize interviews and archival materials in order to move towards these goals; any inconsistencies or mistakes in spelling (“archaeology” and “archeology”, etc.) or grammar therefore reflect the content of these sources.

I came to understand that Sibley wholeheartedly devoted himself to the sponsorship of the Society and to the edification of its young members. He sought to ensure that the Society offered these students a strong background in archaeology, anthropology, and history – particularly as they related to the Native peoples of the American Southeast – as well as other transferable skills (e.g., leadership, research). I was also apprised of the emphasis that Sibley placed on scientific and thorough archaeological procedure, and therefore I have also aimed to explore the incongruity between the JAS’s values and the accusations of destruction levied upon them by professional archaeologists.

In this paper, I integrate interviews and archival materials to present a three-dimensional profile of the JAS and its constituents, formation, and activities. In so doing, I hope to convey the meaningful impact that Society membership had on the young adults who were involved and to dispel the notion that they were nothing more than “digging termites” (Rich Weinstein, personal communication, 17 September 2015).
Preliminary clues regarding the Society’s work at Smith Creek came in several forms. Notably, Smith Creek’s Mound B bore evidence of prior excavations. A report prepared as part of the Mississippi Mound Trail Project (Nelson et al. 2013) in 2013 noted the remnants of several excavation units, all in various states of erosion, on the mound (Kassabaum et al. 2014). These units had been open and in the process of degrading for several decades – in fact, Ian Brown had surveyed Smith Creek for the Lower Mississippi Survey roughly forty years earlier and noted the presence of “a large trench in Mound B that had heavily weathered human skeletal remains strewn around the edges” (I. Brown to V. Steponaitis, email, 16 September 2015, JAS Archive, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania). This trench, which extends from the mound’s summit to its base, is visible below (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2. South-facing view from the summit of Smith Creek’s Mound B (Nelson et al. 2013).
The Museum at Grindstone Bluff

If the scars on Mound B had been the only indicator of the Junior Archaeological Society’s excavations, then the organization may have been lost to collective memory. Luckily, there was another, much more permanent reminder of the JAS and its excavations: the Grindstone Bluff Museum (Fig. 3). In 2011, Jeff Girard entered and explored this old “museum”, recovering many of its contents in the process – he obtained permission to do so from Holy Cross Episcopalian Church in Shreveport, to which Sibley had willed the Grindstone Bluff property and everything situated on it.

Girard described the building itself as “a mess”. Inside, he recovered artifacts of many different kinds – lithics, human remains, sherds, and so on – from several sites across Mississippi and Louisiana (J. Girard to I. Brown, email, 16 September 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). These objects, along with various documents, were scattered across floors and counters at the time of
recovery (Fig. 4). Some objects were contained in exhibit cases – notably, a mixed assemblage of human remains from Smith Creek’s Mound B. I later learned that one of the members of the JAS, Randy Ellis, had built the case and articulated the skeletal remains himself (Fig. 5), and that he had used it as part of a science fair project (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Dioramas also occupied table space.

Fig. 4. Materials scattered about in Grindstone Bluff Museum

Fig. 5. Articulated skeletal remains from Smith Creek (Jeffrey Girard).
Among the papers strewn about the Grindstone Bluff Museum, there were several object bags (Fig. 6). These brown paper lunch-bags were crumpled and dusty; however, they provided crucial information in the form of names of former JAS members. In the field, each bag was inscribed with the details of the provenience of the objects within. As one might infer, it is vital to include the name(s) of the excavator(s) along with other information such as site name, unit number, etc. Contemporary excavation techniques dictate that the information included on each bag be absolutely consistent; the Junior Archaeological Society’s object bags, however, were not entirely consistent in terms of included information. Nevertheless, it was possible to compile a lengthy list of names of former JAS members from these bags alone (Appendix A). Some names were fragmentary – pencil holds up poorly through the years and the elements – but Dr. Kassabaum and I, working together, proceeded with our best guesses.

![Fig. 6. Object bag filled out by Ginny Benoist (JAS Archives).]
Remembering Members

Dr. Kassabaum and I disseminated this list of former members (Appendix A) to a variety of southeastern archaeologists and natives of southwestern Mississippi, some of whom had been contemporaries of J. Ashley Sibley, Jr.’s, in order to see what information we could glean about the Society. A number of these contacts remembered snippets – one might say “sound bites” – of information about people on the list. Failing that, the list jogged their respective memories and they were able to provide names which we had not yet encountered. For instance, Rich Weinstein, Vice President and Archaeologist at Coastal Environments, Inc. in Baton Rouge, was able to tell us that “Randy S.” might have been “Randy Soileau, who was planning on becoming a professional dancer, possibly in New York” (R. Weinstein to M. Kassabaum, email, 13 July 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn).
CHAPTER THREE: GOALS AND METHODS

Goals of the Project

Though Jeff Girard’s 2011 excursion to Grindstone Bluff had resulted in the recovery of a considerable quantity of artifactual materials, and though these materials were made available to me, I elected to center my analysis of the JAS on interviews and archival information. Previous analyses of the JAS’s collections had already focused upon characterizing and cataloguing various material remains from the Sibley collection. Megan Kassabaum, for instance, had analyzed the ceramic materials recovered from Mound B in order to determine its date with more precision. These analyses, which were based on Lower Mississippi Valley ceramic design typologies, indicated that the burial mound was used during the entirety of the Coles Creek period and at the beginning of the Plaquemine period (Kassabaum et al. 2015). Also, Christine Halling, a forensic anthropologist who works with the Louisiana Department of Justice, examined the skeletal remains hailing from the site. Her analyses concluded that the JAS’s collection included twenty-six individuals – sixteen adults and ten subadults – who showed little evidence of pathology and trauma (Halling et al. 2015). Having reviewed these analyses, I felt that we lacked a detailed understanding of the excavators themselves and the ways in which they engaged with Smith Creek. Therefore, I aimed to develop a more person-centric understanding of the Society.
Interviews

I conducted the interviews which formed the basis of my project in several forms: by telephone and by email. Though I had the opportunity to personally meet several interviewees after having interviewed them, I did not conduct any additional interviews beyond the scope of ordinary conversations.

All oral interviews were conducted via telephone. In some cases, these interviews were pre-arranged via email. If I was unable to find the person’s email address, I called the individual and led with an introduction of myself. (In one instance, the tables were turned – a former JAS member called me.) Prior to each interview, I confirmed that the interviewee was willing to allow me to record our conversation; each of my contacts permitted this. I used “Tape-A-Call”, an app available on Apple devices, as my recording medium. Following the conclusion of each interview, I transcribed the conversations and archived them along with their corresponding MP3 files.

When initiating email conversations with interviewees, I began by introducing myself and orienting the individual to the aims of my research. If applicable, I included an explanation of how I had learned of their involvement in the JAS. The following email, sent to former JAS member Bill Mollere on October 22nd, 2016, is an apt example of this procedure:

My name is Ashley Terry, and I'm a student at the University of Pennsylvania. As a senior Anthropology major, I am currently researching and writing a Senior Honors thesis. The topic that I've chosen is J. Ashley Sibley Jr. and his Junior Archaeological Society – I did field work at Smith Creek this past summer, and it seemed appropriate to follow up on others who had excavated there.

I am emailing because others have suggested that I attempt to get in touch with you to speak with you about the society. However, it is altogether possible that I am emailing the wrong "William Mollere", and if this is the case, I am sorry for the mistake!
If you are, however, the right one, I would love to speak with you! You can email me back at this address or call me at (xxx) xxx-xxxx [A. Terry to B. Mollere, email, 22 October 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn].

Email conversations proceeded, then, in much the same way as an oral interview. After the conclusion of any given email conversation, I compiled each thread into a document and saved it for future reference.

*The Bold Narrative Approach*

Rather than formulating and asking a list of targeted questions during the oral interviews which I conducted, I elected to employ a technique of my own devising. In this method, which I called the Bold Narrative Approach, I briefly familiarized each interviewee with the goals of my project (i.e., to learn more about the Society and its work at Smith Creek), and then asked her/him to “tell me a story” of her/his involvement. In other words, I did not employ a pre-formulated list of questions – I only asked questions for clarification or to elicit more information about a topic which the interviewee had already mentioned. As a result, these interviews were organic, rather than formulaic. It is impossible to predict, from an outsider's vantage point, what aspects of JAS membership were the most engaging and memorable; the Bold Narrative Approach allows the interviewee to move beyond the bounds of traditional, circumscribed questions and reminisce about whatever comes to mind.

Notably, however, I only employed this technique during interviews with former JAS members. When corresponding with other individuals (e.g., scholars, affiliated individuals), I tended to employ targeted questioning. I term these individuals whom I did not interview using the Bold Narrative Technique “key informants” (Appendix B).
Archives

In addition to the information gained from interviews, I also amassed a sizable quantity of written materials – member reports, organization publications, meeting minutes, newspaper articles, etc. – which I have termed “archival”. Each item has been individually scanned and archived in anticipation of returning the materials to their owners. These scans, along with any original documentation that is not being returned, are being held in the JAS Archive of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. The contents of these archives are summarized in The Official JAS Archive Finding Guide (Appendix C).

Amassing Contact Information

The methods presented above gloss over one crucial component of this project: gathering contact information for interviewees. In some cases, this task was simple. For example, David Floyd’s email is listed along with his name on the website of Louisiana State University’s Rural Life Museum, where he currently serves as director. Other former JAS members – those whose names were mentioned in passing by particular contacts or scrawled on the front of wrinkled, dusty object bags – presented a larger challenge. In surmounting it, creativity was key.

Allow me to digress here and present a story of the magic of the Internet. Though this story is an extreme case, it serves as an excellent illustrator of the tactics which I used to contact potential interviewees. Our initial list of members (Appendix A), compiled from the fronts of artifact bags, listed a “Janice Pierce”. Rich Weinstein, whom I have mentioned previously, recognized the name from the list and noted, “I see Janice Pierce's name on your list. Janice went to LSU in the late 70s and I believe she worked at Poverty Point with [William] Haag and
“Debbie Woodiel” (R. Weinstein to M. Kassabaum, email, 13 July 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn).

Other interviewees also remembered Janice – and cited her as an influential member – but regretted that they had fallen out of touch with her. I determined, with resolve, to find her.

After a period of failed Googling, I decided to contact Debbie Woodiel. Finding her contact information was somewhat easier, as she is currently an Assistant Director and Museum Educator at the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. I emailed her, introduced myself and my project, and asked if she recalled working with Janice. She replied that while she remembered working with Janice, she had no current contact information for her. I felt somewhat resigned at that point…until Debbie sent another email, noting that she had recalled Janice’s husband’s name. I typed both Janice’s and her husband’s name into Google, and a copy of their son’s Masters thesis appeared in the search results. Where there are completed Masters theses, there are PhD students, and where there are PhD students, there are departmental websites which list their email addresses. I located Aaron Groth’s information and emailed him with the same information I had given Debbie Woodiel, and I was overjoyed when he responded, “I am sure my mom would love to talk to you” (A. Groth to A. Terry, email, 29 September 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). With a bit of ingenuity and single-minded determination, therefore, I was able to contact Janice.

Correspondence Statistics

In total, I corresponded with twenty individuals. Nine among them were former Society members; I conducted phone interviews with six of these individuals, and five of these interviews culminated in my creating a transcript of the conversation. One former member was
interviewed via email only. I did not interview two former members with whom I established contact; in both cases, there were issues regarding interview scheduling. For this reason, they have been termed “key informants”. The other eleven individuals were non-JAS key informants who helped me to gain supplementary information about the Society and to contact former JAS members.
CHAPTER FOUR: INTERVIEWEES

As previously stated, I was able to conduct oral interviews via telephone with six former members of the JAS. Another, whom I was unable to interview via phone, but with whom I still employed the Bold Narrative Technique, also served as a key interviewee. Here, I offer short biographies of each of these individuals – I aim both to introduce them and to demonstrate the positive and enduring effect that JAS membership had on each of them.

Ginny Benoist

At the outset of the project, my advisor shared with me a number of email threads-in-progress with individuals who may have been in some way connected with the JAS. One of these threads involved Ginny Benoist, a resident of Natchez, Mississippi (Fig. 7). Given that her email signature declared her middle (in this case, maiden) name to be “Gerace”, I wondered if she might be the “Ginny Grace” listed on our preliminary name list. This would be contingent on a misinterpretation of the cursive handwriting which had been on the bag front, but that did not seem entirely unlikely. I continued the email thread and learned that Ginny had been one of the first female members of the Society and remained active through her graduation from high school. During that time, she had held a number of officerships, including the presidency (State-Times [ST], 25 July 1968: 7B). After graduation, she went on to earn a Masters degree in Psychology and a JD; she currently heads her own law firm. Her decision to study both
psychology and law were apparently influenced by Mr. Sibley – “He taught [them] all to take an interest in people and how and why they make decisions AND he made writing papers a fun thing to do” (A. Terry to G. Benoist, email, 14 March 2016, JAS Archive, UPenn).

My goal, having learned that Ginny’s future career choices were influenced by her time in the Junior Archeological Society, was to find out if other former members were similarly motivated to pursue fields related to their JAS endeavors. I found that this was overwhelmingly the case, even if these individuals did not enter fields directly related to anthropology, archaeology, or history.

David Floyd

Several of the individuals to whom I spoke early on in this project suggested that I contact David Floyd, who is the current director of Louisiana State University’s Rural Life Museum. Floyd joined the Junior Archaeological Society in 1968, when he was in sixth grade.
His neighbor, Jim Coleman, figured into this decision – Coleman, a professor at LSU who was affiliated with the Coastal Studies Institute, gave lectures to the Society from time to time. On one occasion, he invited Floyd to come along. Also, for David, the Society was a fairly “convenient” extracurricular – in other words, he lived only a half-block or so from the Sibleys’ home, where meetings were held. In his words, “for a kid without a car, it was a geographical advantage” (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). During his time as a member of the JAS, he served as “V.P. twice, Secretary once, and…head of the Sun Clan” (D. Floyd to A. Terry, email, 14 March 2016, JAS Archive, UPenn). After graduation, David went on to study Anthropology at Louisiana State University. Following that, he worked with Louisiana’s state parks for over a decade, and later went on to work at the Rural Life Museum, a museum dedicated to the early history of Louisiana and the various cultural groups who have contributed to that history. In 1998, Floyd began a successful Junior Docent Program there. As part of this program, middle- and high-school students gain expertise in particular history-related subjects and share this information with Museum guests (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). There is, I believe, a logical connection between the JAS (and its operation and ideals) and this Junior Docent program.

Randy Ellis

David Floyd offered me the contact information of Randy Ellis (Fig. 8), a former JAS member whose involvement had predated Floyd’s. I was particularly interested in speaking with Ellis, as a number of his reports had been passed along to me as “preliminary clues”. As I spoke to Randy, I learned that he had been a founding member of the JAS in 1959. His father often
chaperoned trips and acted as a photographer; thus, Randy was able to share a number of photographs of the Society’s activities with me (Appendix E).

![Figure 8. Randy Ellis displaying his collection of projectile points (JAS Archives).](image)

**Janice Pierce**

Floyd also suggested that I speak to Janice Pierce, another of the Society’s first female members (along with Ginny Benoist). So began my efforts to contact Pierce, which was discussed previously in Chapter Three. Pierce, who joined in either 1966 or 1967, served in a number of officer positions during her time as a JAS member (including Secretary, President, and Vice-President). The Society’s impact on her has been pronounced. She went on to study
Sociology at Louisiana State University, and eventually earned her Master’s degree in Anthropology. During her time as a student, she worked in the state archaeologist’s office. She also took part in several paid archaeological projects, both in the American Southeast and Southwest (J. Pierce to A. Terry, email, 14 March 2016, JAS Archive, UPenn). She was somewhat less enchanted with Southwestern fieldwork than Southeastern – in her words, “A feature was fire-cracked rock! Whoopty-doo!” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). She strongly considered earning a PhD in Anthropology, but instead became – “almost by accident” – a paralegal investigator. She finds that both her training in sociology and anthropology were helpful in this career, and says, “I always joked that I was still an archeologist” in a manner of speaking, because I was still digging---just a different kind of dirt!” (J. Pierce to A. Terry, email, 14 March 2016, JAS Archive, UPenn).

Pierce also maintains that there’s a streak of Mr. Sibley in her – when her children were younger, she often took them to visit historical and archaeological sites. She notes that she “can’t see a geographic feature or anthropological site on the side of the road without thinking of Mr. and Mrs. Sibley and the JAS very fondly” (J. Pierce to A. Terry, email, 14 March 2016, JAS Archive, UPenn). This serves as further evidence of the love of learning and interest in the past which the Sibleys instilled in Society members.

Neill Terry

Randy Ellis, whom I mentioned previously, put me in contact with Neill Terry (Fig. 9). Like Randy, he joined the Society right at the time of its inception in 1959. He was in the seventh grade at the time, however, and was not part of the contingent of boys who asked Zilda Sibley to sponsor the organization. He also held multiple officer positions throughout his time in the
Society, among them President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Leader of the Sun Clan. During college, he pursued his dreams of acting by studying speech and drama. This interest was certainly indulged during his time in the JAS – the organization frequently hosted ceremonies and powwows which involved dramatics. Since graduation from college, Terry has participated in several local live dramatic productions, taken part in an episode of Unsolved Mysteries and been an extra in a number of films (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015).

Fig. 9. Members of the JAS in Indian regalia in preparation for a powwow. Randy Ellis, top row, third from left. Neill Terry, front row, second from left (BRA, 27 October 1960:5B).

David Britt

I also interviewed David Britt, whose name I gathered from the archival materials that Janice Pierce shared with me. Britt joined the JAS in the eighth grade, during which time Sibley
was his Earth Sciences teacher. A handful of his friends joined at the same time, and attended meetings together. Like several other Society members, he went on to earn his Bachelor’s degree at Louisiana State University (1976). There, like Janice Pierce, he studied Sociology. He then matriculated to seminary and graduated with a Doctorate in Sociology of Religion. Today, he is the CEO of the Louisiana chapter of the United Way, and devotes most of his efforts there to research and planning (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015).

**Randy Soileau**

I had also been hoping to speak with Randy Soileau since early on in the project – Rich Weinstein had singled out the name and identified him as a member of his 1973 field crew, as mentioned in Chapter Two (R. Weinstein to M. Kassabaum, email, 13 July 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). I had the good fortune of finding Randy through his current job as an antique restorer. Before taking this job, however, he had indeed gone on to be a dancer. According to Randy, he auditioned for his first role – an ensemble position in The Nutcracker – at the behest of the Sibleys. During his time in the JAS, he served as President, Vice-President, and Secretary. After this, he attended Texas Christian University majoring in Ballet, and subsequently became a professional ballet dancer with several dance companies: the Fort Worth Ballet, Dallas Summer Musicals, Florida Ballet, Los Angeles Ballet, and Ballet Austin (Randy Soileau, personal communication, 29 March 2016). The support and encouragement which the Sibleys offered Randy demonstrates an important facet of their sponsorship of the JAS – “…they’d try to find each person’s interests. They didn’t really force them into archaeology or anthropology per se… they kind of explored our individual interests” (Randy Soileau, personal communication, 16
October 2015). His decision to begin restoring antiques, too, seems to have stemmed from the appreciation for the past which his time in the JAS had conferred on him.

It became evident, through my interviews, that many former JAS members had pursued studies and careers at least tangentially related to the activities in which they had participated during their time in the JAS. Further, the Sibleys instilled in each of these individuals a love of learning and, in many cases, the confidence to enter particular fields.

Meeting Former Members

Anecdotally, during a brief visit to Natchez, Mississippi, in February of 2016, Megan Kassabaum and I invited several interviewees to have dinner with us at Fiesta Grande, a Mexican restaurant and Natchez institution (Fig. 10). Neill and Vicki Terry, David and Viola Britt, and Ginny Benoist all joined us; unfortunately, Randy and Elaine Ellis were unable to attend. Over the course of dinner, we discussed several topics, and the conversation eventually arrived at the Society’s ceremonial dances. Neill Terry demonstrated his acting prowess (and confidence) by showing us a dance step which he remembered from his time in the JAS.
Fig. 10. Meeting former JAS members at Fiesta Grande. Pictured, from left to right: Vicki Terry, Neill’s wife; Viola Britt, David’s wife; David Britt, Megan Kassabaum, Ashley Terry, Ginny Benoist, Neill Terry.
CHAPTER FIVE: 
SIBLEY HIMSELF

Dr. John Sibley, the great-great-grandfather of James Ashley Sibley, Jr. was an Indian Agent under President Thomas Jefferson. Essentially, he was charged with making contact with the Native American groups (e.g., the Caddo) whose land had been subsumed under the Louisiana Purchase (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). John Sibley’s correspondence chronicles the daily tribulations of his work, which involved not only acting as a diplomat but also mediating in disputes between the tribes and other settlers (Sibley and Brandt 1988). Perhaps this familial connection to the history of Louisiana, its surrounding territory, and its Native peoples sparked J. Ashley Sibley, Jr.’s interest in local history, archaeology, and anthropology. In speaking to former members and key informants, and in reviewing archival materials, I was able to construct a fairly complete picture of Sibley and his wives, livelihood, and interests – his devotion to education seems to have diffused into all aspects of his life and character.

Sibley’s Character

J. Ashley Sibley, Jr. (Fig. 11) held a Bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University, and earned his Masters degree from Centenary College at some point following his second marriage in 1963 (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015; David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015; Baton Rouge Advocate [BRA], 2 February
1963:9A). During his time as an educator, he taught at a number of different schools in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; among these were Dufrocq Walnut Hills, and Lanier Elementary Schools, and Sherwood Forest Middle School (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). He primarily taught social science courses, though he also occasionally taught Earth Sciences. Members look back on him as a “Renaissance man”, as he had a widely-ranging and detailed base of knowledge (Janice Piece, personal communication, 14 October 2015). He was also a charismatic individual; his penchant for geological wordplay was just one indicator of this. Mississippi’s and Louisiana’s aeolian bluffs do provide, to his credit, an excellent backdrop for “Loess Lane” puns.

Fig. 11. J. Ashley Sibley, Jr (ST, 12 July 1965:10A).
Society Sponsorship

Sibley assumed responsibility for the Junior Archaeological Society at the time of its inception in 1958 – however, his first wife, Zilda P. Sibley (Fig. 12), should rightfully be credited for her part in its creation. Zilda Sibley held both her Bachelors and Masters degrees from LSU (BRA, 5 January 1961:11E). At the time, she was a teacher at Walnut Hills Elementary School, and a contingent of young men from her sixth-grade class asked if she would be willing to sponsor their envisioned organization – the Junior Archaeological Society (“Resolution Establishing the Junior Archeological Society Zilda P. Sibley Museum Foundation”, Sibley and Sibley 1961).

Fig. 12. Zilda Sibley with members of Walnut Hills Elementary’s Student Council. Zilda Sibley, standing; Randy Ellis, seated, right (Baton Rouge Digital Archive).

Sibley and Zilda co-directed the Society until her death on January 4th, 1961 (BRA, 5 January 1961:11E). For a short time thereafter, a Mr. Menefee co-sponsored the Society in conjunction with Sibley. Mr. Menefee was a lawyer and the father of Sam Menefee, a Society
member. Additionally, he owned land on which the JAS excavated from time to time; the property and its accompanying bright red plantation home were collectively called “Whistle Stop”, and were situated on Bayou Manchac (just south of East Baton Rouge Parish) (B. Myrick to A. Terry, email, 6 November 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). He is listed as a cosponsor of the JAS in a May 1962 volume of “The Junior Archaeologist” (a journal in which JAS members self-published their research). Sibley remarried to Anna May Switzer, a teacher at Lanier Elementary, on February 1st, 1963 – meeting minutes reveal that the members of the Junior Archeological Society were invited to attend. At a JAS meeting shortly following their marriage, “...a celebration over the Sibley’s [sic] wedding was held with refreshments. Their wedding gift was given.” (S. Menefee, minutes, 14 February 1963, JAS Archive, UPenn). Anna May assumed co-sponsorship of the Society following her marriage to Sibley.

*J. Ashley, Zilda, and Anna May*

Sibley worked incredibly well with each of his wives. Both Zilda and Anna May “reeled him in”, in a sense – members recall that he was a very driven individual with a Type-A personality (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). This was not, however, due to any similarity in personality between the two women. “The two wives, oddly enough, were somewhat different. His first wife, Zilda, was very strong-willed. She was the strong one, I would say, of the two. I don’t mean necessarily domineering, whereas…Anna Mae, that was his second wife, was very quiet, unassuming. But they both were excellent teachers, both loved teaching, both loved what they did, so in that regard they were very much alike” (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Indeed, each woman demonstrated a great deal of
commitment to the JAS. Zilda, for instance, bought books for the members with her own funds (“Resolution Establishing the Junior Archeological Society Zilda P. Sibley Museum Foundation”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). Anna May dedicated her Saturday mornings to teaching JAS candidates the material with which they would need to be familiar in order to become full members.

To some degree, the members of the Junior Archaeological Society became children to the Sibleys; neither Zilda nor Anna May had any children with J. Ashley (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). The analogy of parenthood and sponsorship of the JAS certainly holds up on a variety of fronts. First, the Sibleys contributed a significant sum of their own money to the group’s activities. According to Neill Terry, “…they spent a lot of personal expense. We paid our dues, but there was a lot of personal expense that they came up with” (personal communication, 25 October 2015). He went on to call both the time and money that the Sibleys gave to the JAS a “phenomenal sacrifice” (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Additionally, unlike many, the Sibleys handled the behavior and idiosyncrasies of middle- and high-school students with grace. On one occasion, a member almost incurred the wrath of the authorities on a trip to Mexico; on another, some among the members decided to have a bottle rocket competition between cars (while they were being driven) (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). David Britt concedes that they sometimes annoyed the “bejeebers” out of the Sibleys. However, “it was very rare for them to lose their temper or whatever, and…they were patient saints with us, because we were junior-high and high-school kids and not particularly any better-behaved than anyone else…” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015). Moreover, meetings and expeditions did not plan themselves – the opus fell solely on the Sibleys’ shoulders. According to David Britt, “…it
took a lot of planning and organizing. I’m sure they did a whole lot behind the scenes that I never saw” (personal communication, 22 October 2015).

**Passion for Education**

All interviewees concur that the Sibleys were devoted to education. In Neill Terry’s words, “there are people who teach to live and people who live to teach”, and the Sibleys were the latter (personal communication, 25 October 2015). Others called their passion for teaching, and particularly, their passion for leading the JAS, their “vocation” and “an outgrowth of who they were” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015).

Sibley’s passion for education is also evident in his publication history. In 1967, he published a book entitled “Louisiana’s Ancients of Man: A Study of Changing Characteristics of Louisiana Indian Cultures”. The book did not receive excellent reviews – according to David Floyd, it was criticized for its simplicity – but, in reality, Sibley’s intended audience was middle- and high-school students (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). He also penned a booklet on the Society itself, which outlined its purposes and activities (BRA, 17 July 1968:1B). In 1972, Sibley published a well-reviewed geological survey of Baton Rouge: “A Study of the Geology of Baton Rouge and Surrounding Southeast Louisiana Area” (BRA, 20 February 1972). The book’s review in the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, penned by Irving Ward-Steinman, proclaimed that, “This study is spectacular! it [sic] is muchly needed and its very comprehensiveness and originality marked it as a pioneering accomplishment. Everyone will find this book absorbing, whether specialist, student, engineer, teacher, historian, or lay reader” (BRA, 20 February 1972).
Fig. 13. A map of the Grindstone Bluff Museum and Environmental Education Center (William Myrick, JAS Archives).
The JAS’s membership, unfortunately, faltered and steadily declined in the mid-1970s. Sibley had, by that point, moved to Shreveport and attempted to open a new “chapter” of the JAS there (to little success). In 1976, Sibley lost Anna May to cancer and became “dejected and angry…at the world”, according to David Britt (D. Britt to A. Terry, email, 12 October 2015, JAS Archives, UPenn). One presumes that he began devoting his time to the Grindstone Bluff Museum and Environmental Education Center near Shreveport (Fig. 13); in 1988, he published a survey of the land and a summary of its history in “Sibleyshire: A Northwest Louisiana Landmark at Grindstone Bluff” (Sibley 1988). Sibley passed away on May 16th, 1991 “after a lengthy illness” (ST, 12 May 1991:12A).
CHAPTER SIX: 
FORMATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY

“Welcome to a brotherhood of those who enjoy the high adventure of seeking knowledge of their fellow men. You can share in this pleasure by searching for information maps and records of people of the past... You can survey and dig into the depths of the sites where they are buried, carefully marking and charting each article recovered. After detailed examination and recording of your observation of each artifact you will classify and label your findings. By cooperation with other members, you will be able to assemble all the pieces of this puzzle into a mosaic pattern that gives a picture of these people and their culture.”
– [“Welcome, Applicant, to the Junior Archeological Society!”, Sibley and Sibley 1961]

Formalization

Though the Junior Archeological Society of Baton Rouge “was officially organized April 16, 1959...members and other interested students [had been] accompanying Mr. and Mrs. J. Ashley Sibley, the Co-sponsors, on expeditions for several years before this” (Junior Archaeologist I, journal, June 1961, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania). The formalization of the organization began when a group of “twenty guys got together and under the leadership of Mrs. and Mr. Sibley...[and] formed the JAS” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). The young men who proposed the idea to J. Ashley and Zilda Sibley – among them Randy Ellis – were united by a common interest in Native American culture and the prehistory of the Lower Mississippi Valley (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015).
The Sibleys’ Sponsorship in Action

The Sibleys took to sponsorship of the organization with zeal. They built connections within Baton Rouge, and established a close bond with both the faculty of Louisiana State University. They also became connected with the Louisiana Archaeological Society following its establishment in 1961 by Sherwood Gagliano (ST, 29 June 1961:13D). The Handbook of the Junior Archeological Society (hereafter, “Handbook”) elaborates upon the breadth of their efforts to extend the Society’s sphere of influence. It describes how they reached out to “the parents of members, the principal and faculty of Walnut Hills School, the administrators and supervisors, teachers and principals of East Baton Rouge Parish schools, and the professors of anthropology at Louisiana State University, plus other professional anthropologists and organizations…” (“Resolution Establishing the Junior Archeological Society Zilda P. Sibley Museum Foundation”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). In fact, one of Zilda’s first orders of business

Fig. 14. Walnut Hills Elementary School (Baton Rouge Digital Archive).
was to obtain the permission of Mona Terry, the principal of Walnut Hills Elementary School (Fig. 14), to house the JAS’s Museum on the school’s premises. These relationships with the community (broadly-speaking), coupled with the emphasis the Sibleys placed on publicizing the JAS and having its members engage in outreach, made possible many of the JAS’s endeavors.

**Purposes of the Society**

The mission of the JAS, as published in the fourth volume of *The Junior Archaeologist*, was “to provide members and others the opportunity to better understand man and appreciate his contributions to society through the scientific study of anthropology, archeology, and related sciences” (Junior Archaeologist IV, journal, September 1964, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania). Article II of the Society’s Constitution further delineates its purposes, which (like its mission) are very much in line with the interests of the founding members (Appendix F). The Constitution states that:

The purposes of the Society are to promote through organized regular meetings, expeditions, fellowship and service projects:

A. scientific archaeological exploration and excavation.
B. the preservation of archaeological materials, and their display,
C. the classification, interpretation, and recording of the results of the locating and excavation of such artifacts,
D. the encouragement of amateur archaeologists to analyze their own collections and record the information in a scientific manner,
E. contributions to the increasing knowledge of the thousands of years of native history of these United States, America, and the world.
F. the uniting of those who are interested in the Indian history and prehistory of the United States and America,
G. the development and promotion of a greater public interest and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the United States, America, and the world.
H. the better understanding and appreciation of our fellow man through the study of anthropology, archeology and related sciences.
I. the carrying out of our motto: “Knowing the past – betters the future”
The next chapter of this paper, which is entitled “Chapter Seven: Activities of the Society”, will discuss these purposes and the ways in which they manifest themselves in the Society’s enterprises.

![Fig. 15. The logo of the Junior Archeological Society.](image)

**Intent to Expand Society**

The Constitution also insinuates that the JAS was intended to extend beyond Baton Rouge. It provides guidelines for the creation of chapters in different locations, termed “tribes”. These tribes were meant to be united in state-level organizations called “Tribal Confederations”; in turn, all tribal confederations would fall under the umbrella of “the Nation” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania:1). The constituents of the Nation would come together at a variety of junctures for “ceremonies, Indian games, dances, skits, arts and crafts, and reports…staged for exchange purposes and fellowship” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, UPenn:1). This speaks to the
high aspirations that the Sibleys had for the budding Society. Unfortunately, this component of the Constitution never came to fruition, and the Louisiana tribal confederation maintained a constituency of one. As previously mentioned, Sibley attempted to found a second chapter in Shreveport after moving there, but was met with failure.

Expanding Membership Eligibility

At the JAS’s inception, only young men were permitted to apply – the Society’s earliest informational sheets specifically stipulate this. (From the point of view of twenty sixth-grade boys, banning young women likely seemed the most appealing option.) This caused me slight consternation at the project’s outset, as I was certain that there had been female members – I had already been in contact with Ginny Benoist, and several other young women’s names were on my preliminary list. I soon realized that, aside from Ginny, I had only been speaking with the Society’s older members – individuals whose membership began and ended before girls began joining.

Predictably, the first suggestions that girls be permitted to become Junior Archeologists were met with friction. According to the minutes from a July 1962 Society meeting, “Mr. Sibley suggested that girls be admitted to the Society” (S. Menefee, minutes, 5 July 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn). No further comment was offered on the subject at that meeting. At the following week’s meeting, “Neil [sic] Terry gave a report on bringing girls into the Society” – one can only imagine how that speech might have played out. Following the presentation, “Randy Ellis made a motion that we vote on bringing girls into the Society….Joe Holmes made a motion that we have closed-ballot voting….We had voting and girls aren’t allowed” (S. Menefee, minutes, 12
July 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn). At this point, the proposition appears to have been tabled for several months. Then, on August 30th, 1962, “Girls were talked about and [were then] able to join” (S. Menefee, minutes, 30 August 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn). Randy Ellis attributed this constitutional change to the influence and innovation of the Sibleys. “…the Sibleys developed [the Society], you know…they thought out of the box! It was no longer an all-boys club. You know, that’s the kind of people they were” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). By the time the fourth volume of *The Junior Archaeologist* was issued in 1964, the Society was “open to students with above-average grades” regardless of gender (Junior Archaeologist IV, journal, September 1964, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania).

*Leadership of the Society*

Though the Sibleys dedicated a great deal of time and energy to the Society, members were still responsible for the bulk of its quotidian operations. The Society was served by several executive officers, as well as committees devoted to various functions. While discussing the leadership of the Junior Archaeological Society, I will also describe in greater depth their activities.

The President of the Junior Archeological Society, also called the Chief, was the “leader of officers…Society Head of council [and] Ex-officio member of all committees” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania:4). In other words, the Chief managed all other members and held them accountable for their assigned duties. Having interviewed six former Society presidents (Floyd, Pierce, Gerace,
Soileau, Ellis, and Terry), I can safely say that having responsibility of this caliber was a formative experience for these individuals. It should be noted, at this point, that each office came with a corresponding “Native American” title (e.g., “Chief” for President, “Signal Sender” for secretary, etc.) – all are based on an idealized or overly simplified view of Native Americans.

The Vice President, or Shaman, had perhaps one of the Society’s most difficult jobs. She or he was charged with “[planning] programs…[training] members in and [presenting] special arts, crafts, dance, song, game activities [sic], programs, powwows, plays, dramatics, folk festivals – using authentic materials, properties, make-up, continuity, dances…and cultural characteristics” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania:5). The aforementioned “programs” typically consisted of lectures from professional archaeologists, anthropologists, historians, and geologists, many of whom were faculty at Louisiana State University. Through these programs, JAS members were able to meet and form connections with professionals; this turned out to be a great boon to those who went on to attend LSU. Janice Pierce weighed in on just this, stating, “I ended up going to LSU… when I got there, I was known by everybody already! I had already contacted them and had them make presentations to the JAS, you know. The professor emeritus of sociology, the archaeologists and the anthropologists, and people in Coastal Studies Institutes, I already knew most of them! So I was on kind of a first-name basis with these guys!” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Of course, the Shaman did not handle all duties of the job on her/his own. The Program and Ceremonies Committee, which she/he led, consisted of chairpeople who focused on different aspects of program coordination (dance, music, etc.).
The Secretary, or Signal Sender, of the Society kept all members updated about details of upcoming events; in addition, she/he oversaw the Society’s library. The library, which consisted of over one thousand volumes by 1964, employed a strict book-lending protocol – the Secretary issued specific cards for each book and imposed fines if they were not returned within two weeks (“Library Rules”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). She/he not only managed the library but also had a hand in how it was arranged; Secretary Sam Menefee, in the meeting minutes from September 29th, 1962, stated that “On Wednesday, Mr. Sibley called me up, and we discussed plans on the organization of the library” (S. Menefee, minutes, 29 September 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn).

During the excavations that took place in the summer of 2015, the crew of the Smith Creek Archaeological Project appeared in two local newspapers—The Woodville Republican and The Baton Rouge Advocate—naturally, I was curious whether the JAS received the same kind of attention during their expeditions. I discovered that while their lengthier expeditions were frequently covered by local newspapers (e.g., The Baton Rouge Advocate and The State-Times), their local ventures received little press. To compensate for this lack of coverage, the JAS elected a Publicity Chairman, or “Word Bearer”, who was tasked with gaining publicity for the Society and its endeavors. When questioned about media coverage of the JAS, David Britt responded, “We would write our own articles and give them to the Baton Rouge Advocate and they would print them for us. We’d send in pictures and write the articles, and they’d print them pretty much word-for-word” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015). One such article, penned by Janice Pierce in 1970, summarizes the Society’s expedition to Mexico and includes original photographs (Fig. 16); I will discuss this trip in greater detail shortly. The Publicity crew also fielded correspondence addressed to the group and wrote thank-you letters to visitors,
Fig. 16. An article written by Janice Pierce in 1970 and published in the Baton Rouge Advocate. She received $25 in payment (BRA, 13 September 1970:4E).
including program presenters.

I will briefly comment on the duties of the remaining executive members. The Treasurer, or Wampum Keeper, managed the Society’s finances and “promote[d] [the] Bus Fund”, meaning that she/he encouraged members to contribute money to cover transportation fees (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, UPenn:4). The Expedition Chairman – also called the Trailblazer – managed all aspects of the Society’s excursions, including the resulting paperwork. Expeditions were only open to members who had displayed excellent conduct otherwise; the Membership Chairman, or Knotch-Maker, therefore, kept careful tabs on merits, demerits, and points earned by attending events or completing particular tasks. Finally, the Museum Curator, “Man’s Record Keeper”, did just as the name implies – she/he accessioned, organized, and maintained student-built exhibits along with artifactual materials in the Zilda P. Sibley Memorial Museum, which was at various times in the Society’s history located at Walnut Hills Elementary, Dufrocq Elementary, and in the Sibley home.

As we have seen, the Society offered young adults of middle- and high school age the opportunity to take responsibility for every aspect of running a functioning organization: planning events, handling finances, even doling out reprimands. Several interviewees have commented on the transferability of the skills they learned as officers; this, again, stands as testament to the educational value of membership in the JAS.
Clans

Society members were also subdivided into clans, which were in turn headed by clan leaders; these individuals were “responsible for training and leadership of members in Society activities participation” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania:5). These clans – Pelican, Turtle, Sun, and Thunder – faced off against one another in games, debates, and similar activities. Naturally, a sense of pride accompanied winning for one’s clan. The clan system seems to have functioned to promote a sense of fellowship and support among members, as well as an air of friendly competition.
CHAPTER SEVEN:  
ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Having touched upon the formation and organization of the Society, we may now discuss exactly what membership entailed. Prior to full Society membership, each prospective Junior Archeologist was required to undergo a “candidacy period”. During this period, these individuals were charged with “complet[ing] a six-weeks [sic] working test period and tak[ing] the necessary training to prepare [her/him] to be a member in good standing” (“Application for Membership in the Junior Archeological Society of Louisiana”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). Candidates took part in the Society’s normal functions (e.g., meetings and expeditions) during this time; they also attended sessions devoted specifically to training. David Britt recalls that “there were always, it seemed like, people going through training on a Saturday morning between 9 and 12” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015). During her tenure as co-sponsor of the Society, Anna May often conducted these weekend sessions.

Fortunately, the Handbook (Fig. 17) includes training and study materials: summaries of important information, fill-in-the-blank worksheets, and a bibliography, among others. These materials make it possible to reconstruct the lessons taught over the course of the candidacy period, and in turn, illuminate the goals and purposes of the Society more clearly. Among these goals were to offer candidates a well-rounded understanding of social sciences, to apprise them of proper archaeological practices, and to instill in them a greater appreciation for the histories and cultures of the peoples of the American Southeast, to name a few.
As in many other fraternal organizations, candidates had to commit information specific to the Society to memory. In the “Application for Membership in the Junior Archeological Society of Louisiana”, prospective candidates agreed to “learn to repeat from memory the Society’s Oath and Motto, give the Society’s sign and call, describe the Society’s totem, and explain the meaning of the Society’s purposes, constitution and by-laws in [their] own words” (Sibley and Sibley 1961). The bulk of the information presented during the training period, however, prepared candidates for the JAS’s academic endeavors.
Topics of Training

Members’ interests were diverse; accordingly, the training covered several topics. Below are several of the terms and concepts with which trainees had to familiarize themselves, drawn from fill-in-the-blank training sheets:

To better understand people, their activities and their customs in relationship to each other. A broad name for this course is S_________ Studies.

The study of the people, customs, and life of the remote past by excavating and classifying the remains of ancient people, habitations, burials, temples, villages and cities is called A_________.

The science that deals with the origin, development, races, customs and beliefs of mankind is called A_________.

To better understand the written record of past events of people. The name for such a course of study is called H_________ [“Study Sheet No. 1, Primitive Cultures of the Old and New Worlds”, Sibley and Sibley 1961; “Junior Archaeological Society Training Study Guide”, Sibley and Sibley 1961].

The answers to these questions, respectively, are Social Studies, Archaeology, Anthropology, and History. While each of these disciplines approach theory and research differently, they share a common goal: learning about people. The Society’s training program testifies to their integration of these fields in practice, which in turn speaks to their commitment to “seeking knowledge of their fellow men” in a meticulous, scientific fashion (“Welcome, Applicant, to the Junior Archeological Society!”, Sibley and Sibley 1961).

Training materials also emphasized the utility of integrating data drawn from physical sciences, which demonstrates the commitment of the Sibleys to ensuring that members developed a well-rounded understanding of the topics they studied:

The science of the structure of animals and plants is called A_________.

To better understand the description of the earth and features of the surface of the earth in a place or region in which people live. The name for such a course of study is called
The science and practice of archaeology, as well as the exercise of archaeological ethics, are perhaps the key foci of the Society’s training course. A section of the Handbook, entitled “Pottery”, serves as a case study of the JAS’s primary principles vis-à-vis archaeology. This section first ponders the ways in which an artifact, something “made by human skill or wormanship [sic]” can “tell a story” (Sibley and Sibley 1961). The focus here is, of course, on ceramic artifacts. The author of this section, either J. Ashley or Zilda Sibley, posits that “an archeologist can use a piece of pottery (potsherd), as growth rings in a tree, or as a detective-scientist uses even the smallest bits of evidence as clues, by which they can piece together the jig-saw puzzle mystery” (“Pottery”, Sibley and Sibley 1961).

Prospective Junior Archeologists were taught to rely, in part, on formal analysis of artifacts – in other words, the evaluation of characteristics intrinsic to the artifact. Subsequent sections of the Handbook provide overviews of ceramic composition and formation techniques along with a Lower Mississippi Valley ceramic typology.

Training clearly privileged context equally to formal artifact analysis; upon finding a given artifact, Junior Archeologists were encouraged to “look around and see what else [they] could find”, and to document it carefully (“Pottery”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). Included in the Handbook are several provenience recording forms, intended to facilitate this documentation process (Appendix D).

…there is one thing that archeologists are in absolute agreement upon. It is – that a very specific record of every artifact recovered shall be made, and made scientifically – with accuracy. Furthermore, if such a record is not made, and the artifact is not properly preserved (even treasured) in such a way that something of the past can be learned
from it, that it would be better to leave it undisturbed, where it was found [“Pottery”, Sibley and Sibley 1961].

The latter portion of this excerpt alludes to the training in archaeological ethics that prospective society members received (and which was constantly reinforced in further training and in the group’s milieu more generally).

Sibley denounced two “types” of avocational archaeologists: the “Sunday Digger” and the “Treasure Hunter”. The former, according to the Handbook of the Junior Archeological Society, constituted the type of person who would unearth artifacts and “[dump] or [throw] his findings into a shoe box, usually broken into more pieces than he found them, and [shove] them aside in a corner of shelf of the den”, forgetting them for the foreseeable future. The latter, on the other hand, “[had] one slightly redeeming feature” – this individual would excavate and remove valuable and interesting objects from a site, but would leave behind the bulk of the uncovered objects due to lack of interest. According to Sibley, the Treasure Hunter “[wanted] none of those musty old arrow points or those old broken Indian plates with the funny scratches on them. Not he! What he [wanted] is all that gold and those jewels buried by Jean Lafitte and his cohorts” (“Pottery”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). In effect, this type of digger would leave behind objects of archaeological interest. This division evidently entered the “oral tradition” surrounding Sibley and his work, which has been passed around among Southeastern archaeologists (V. Steponaitis to I. Brown, email, 16 September 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). Ian Brown, an archaeologist at the University of Alabama, “remember[ed] from local contacts that Sibley differentiated between archaeologists who save bones and archaeologists who save pots” (I. Brown to V. Steponaitis, email, 16 September 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). The Sunday Digger,
in his tendency to indiscriminately save everything he found, is likely the former; the Treasure Hunter, the latter.

In short, the Society actively embraced and espoused proper archaeological procedures; they also recognized that the consistent utilization of these procedures was a prerequisite for any excavation.

**Entry Examination**

_The Candidate seeking membership in the JAS…is like the boy wanting to become a brave. He knows before he can join this nation he must prove his worthiness on the journey to the new land._” [“Presentation of Awards and Recognition Ceremony”, Sibley and Sibley 1961].

At the end of the training period, candidates were expected to take an entry examination per the Society’s guidelines: “I will take a test on what I have learned and demonstrate that I have completed the requirements for membership satisfactorily.” Ginny Benoist recalls that the exams were rather difficult – "single spaced on legal size paper and mimeographed--old ditto paper style. Thinking back about it, they were probably college level tests” (G. Benoist to A. Terry, email, 19 September 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). Additionally, according to Janice Pierce, these exams “took a long time, a couple hours. And then you passed or failed it, and of course, you felt pretty darn good when you passed” (personal communication, 14 October 2015). Surely this test functioned as not only a measure of the test-taker’s knowledge, but also as a measure of her/his commitment to becoming a Junior Archeologist.

**Induction Into the Society**

_“Thus, as the boy becomes a brave, so the candidate becomes a member”_ [“Presentation of Awards and Recognition Ceremony”, Sibley and Sibley 1961].
Following the successful completion of training, candidates were inducted into the Society as members (Fig. 18). The initiation ceremony frequently took place atop Smith Creek’s Mound A, which Society members referred to as the “Temple Mound” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015; Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). According to Neill Terry, “[Initiation] was a really, really beautiful ceremony. We invoked the Great Spirit and whatnot” (personal communication, 25 October 2015). The JAS would “…do these ceremonies as clans… In full breechcloths and outfits. Fighting the mosquitoes and everything else” (Randy Soileau, personal communication, 16 October 2016). Clan leaders were charged with presenting candidates during the induction and vouching for their worthiness to become members (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Initiation was, of course, only one among many of the ceremonies in which members of the JAS took part.

Other Society Requirements

During both candidacy and membership, JAS members attended meetings, traveled on expeditions, and participated in fellowship and service activities. The Society’s “Application for
Membership” stipulated that applicants must “endeavour [sic] to carry out the purposes of the Society by participating in all its meetings, expeditions, fellowship and service activities” and that, if they “should not carry out their duties and responsibilities properly, [they would be] subject to being placed on probation and/or dropped as a member” (Sibley and Sibley 1961).

Meetings of the Junior Archeological Society took place once per week, on Thursday evenings. They occurred at different places at various times – sometimes in Mr. Sibley’s classroom, and later in the Sibleys’s home at 2007 Cloverdale Avenue in Baton Rouge (Fig. 19). The stated purposes of these meetings, per the Handbook, were to “learn more about our fellowman and plan out activities” (“Welcome, Applicant, to the Junior Archaeological Society!”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). Accordingly, during meetings, the JAS attended to business – presentations by officers (e.g., updates on treasury funds), announcements about upcoming events, and voting and elections – and heard presentations or participated in activities geared towards anthropology, archaeology, history, geology, or related fields. Each meeting proceeded according to Robert’s Rules of Order “where not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, UPenn:9).

Fig. 19. A Google Street View of 2007 Cloverdale Lane, Baton Rouge, where the JAS met regularly for meetings. A portion of the house had been converted into the Society’s Museum and library (Google Earth).
Academic professionals and graduate students, who were scheduled and welcomed by the Society’s Vice-President, presented at many meetings. I have included a sampling of these programs below:


_February 23 [1961] – Dr. Malcom C. Webb, L. S. U. Anthropology and Geography Department Faculty Member – “Southeastern United States Archeology Orientation”._


Occasionally, the Society’s Word Bearer (Publicity Chair) saw fit to publicize speaking events. In the Wednesday, September 27th, 1967 issue of the _Baton Rouge Advocate_, for instance, the JAS published a brief article entitled “Drude to Talk Here Tonight About Indians”. Kenneth Drude, an anthropology major at Louisiana State University, gave a “talk…on the cliff dwellings of the Anasazi Indians…accompanied by photographic slides”. The brief article concluded by welcoming any “students interested in archeology, anthropology, geology, history, paleontology…to attend” (BRA, 27 September 1967:3A).

In addition to hearing guest lecturers, members of the Society often presented during meetings. The Sibleys expected members to maintain an awareness of ongoing developments in archaeology and anthropology, and so required weekly presentations of journal articles “which would be interesting, useful, and challenging to members of the Junior Archeological Society” (“Sheet for Planning Reviews of Periodicals Containing Information on Archeology and Anthropology”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). Among the suggested journals for these reviews were _American Antiquity_ (which remains the flagship academic journal of the Society for American
Archaeology), the *Louisiana Archeological Society Newsletter*, and *National Geographic*. The Society’s meeting minutes refer to the delivery of these “periodical reports” (S. Menefee, minutes, 14 June 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn). By having members of the Society engage in activities such as this, the Sibleys promoted critical thinking and demonstrated the value of being well-informed.

Members were also required to present in advance of expeditions in order to prepare everyone for the trips. Often, presenters utilized visual aids and passed out supplementary materials. Janice Pierce describes the Society’s preparations for their 1970 expedition to Mexico:

> When we went on that trip, we all were responsible for doing a research presentation and handing out materials for the trip. [Sibley] divided it up – you’re gonna do Monte Alban, and blah blah… So that’s what we did and so each of us was responsible for making basically a little research paper on these archaeological sites we were going to visit… Everybody had some responsibility in presentation. So before we ever went, for several weeks before, our job was to make a presentation to our cohorts about our trip and what the materials would be [Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015].

In this way, JAS members were held responsible for their own learning and that of their peers. This emphasis on independent research (also manifested in the Society’s emphasis on science and history fair participation) had a lasting effect on a number of JAS alumni. Ginny Benoist and Janice Pierce, who both became involved with law (as an attorney and a paralegal, respectively), alluded to the fact that their time in the JAS convinced them that research could be rewarding.

The Society also learned by doing – more specifically, they partook of a number of fellowship activities. These events meant to bring members together and allow them to bond, all while teaching them about Southeastern prehistory. Many of these activities were modeled after Native American sports and games. A section of the Handbook entitled “Fellowship Activities of
the Junior Archeological Society” delineates of number of categories: games, dances, dramatics, arts, crafts, and ceremonies (Sibley 1961).

Games often became competitions between different clans. Janice Pierce recalls “[They] …played lacrosse… [They] made [their] own lacrosse sticks, which are like the Choctaw Indians used (the two-stick method) in the Southeast and [they] had lacrosse games at Smith Creek”. The lacrosse sticks themselves – perhaps the result of a crafting fellowship – were apparently “…every bit as good as the Choctaw Indian ones” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). The game to which this refers is commonly called stickball and is still played by many Native groups around the United States, including the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Smith Creek was a particularly popular locus for the Society’s fellowship activities, as we shall soon come to see.

A sizable section of the Society’s Handbook explains different types of dances along with their meanings and associations; among these are the “Hoop Dance…Ghost Dance…[and] Buffalo Dance” [“Fellowship Activities of the Junior Archaeological Society”, Sibley and Sibley 1961]. These dances, which were derived from Native American dances, were intended to help members understand the Native American psyche:

Indian dances represent the complete expression of Indians [sic] beliefs, hopes, and fears. Their dances tell of all the emotions, thoughts, and feelings of the Indians. They are thoroughly masculine and trained the Indian youth and brave to be physically fit. Indian dances are one of the best ways to understand and appreciate the basic cultural patterns and motivating forces of the Indians [“Junior Archaeological Society – Indian Dance Training”, Sibley and Sibley 1961].

I was fortunate to be able to see founding Junior Archeologist Neill Terry demonstrate one of these dances; however, whether or not I now comprehend the “motivating forces of the Indians”
remains to be seen. Nevertheless, dancing as fellowship has proven to have been memorable for JAS members; Randy Ellis mused upon one ceremony in which he danced: “[I remember] very vividly, where that was – I could go to the place right now. Where I danced that heel-toe, heel-toe dance in the circle. I even remember heel-toe step, kinda. Dang” (personal communication, 30 September 2015).

Dramatics and dancing often occurred as part of ceremonies. Ceremonies were held for a variety of occasions: induction, officer installation, member advancement, etc. Dressing up in “Indian” regalia was an important component of these events; says Randy Soileau, “We would all dress in breech cloths or deerskin for the ceremonies. I’m sure it was an unusual site for the locals!” (R. Soileau to A. Terry, email, 5 October 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). Ginny Benoist echoed this sentiment:

The ceremonial mounds at Fort Adams, Mississippi are where we had outlet [sic] night ceremonies. At one point, we wondered if we would be at risk because there we were with fires on top of one of the mounds, dancing around. From the road it had to have looked like a KKK event to someone who did not know what we were doing. Remember that I was in his 6th grade class in 1965 and things were quite "interesting" at that time [G. Benoist to A. Terry, email, 19 September 2015, JAS Archive, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania].

She ends by noting that the locals were familiar with the organization, and so no harm ever befell them during these events.

Ceremonies also served as public outreach. On Saturday, October 29th, 1960, the Society hosted its “first annual powwow, described as ‘Louisiana’s Ancients of Man Reborn in the Youth of the Future’”. This event, which was held at Walnut Hills Elementary in Baton Rouge, was “a story and ceremony showing how the members recreate Louisiana’s prehistoric past [and] include[d] Indian dances and ceremonials”. The powwow garnered two sequential publications
in the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, published on the Thursday and Friday preceding the event, and community members were encouraged to reach out to Zilda Sibley at Walnut Hills in order to secure invitations to it (BRA, 27 October 1960:5B; BRA, 28 October 1960:13C).

Activities considered “crafts” included basketweaving, stoneworking, etc.; breechcloth- and moccasin-making were, on the other hand, subsumed under “arts”. Regalia-making, part of the latter category, was particularly important to Society members – “[they] made [their] own attire. [Their] Indian headdresses…[their] loincloths, if you wanted to get real good, you made a vest” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 30 September 2015). This attire was then, of course, worn during ceremonies. By way of crafts, members were also instructed in pottery-making. According to the “Summer 1961 – Meeting Programs, Expeditions, and Activities Schedule Sheet”, members participated in a three-part ceramic workshop led by Mrs. Milton F. Cook. During this course, members learned not only how to identify and type pottery, but also how to “make copies of pots characteristics [sic] of each period” (Sibley and Sibley 1961).

The 1962 Constitution required that, “Members […] attend at least 30 regular meetings per year, 7 expeditions or field trips, 7 regular fellowship activities and one service activity per year” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania:7). By attending these mandatory events – meetings, expeditions, fellowships, and service projects – Junior Archeologists earned points. In amassing these points, members progressed from one rank to the next. Newly initiated members were designated the rank “Paleo-American”, while more senior members were awarded the “Archaic-Poverty Point Rank” (and a Poverty Point Object-shaped pin). These ranks went on from Tchefuncte to Troyville-Coles.
Creek to Plaquemine on through Modern, at which point members would be given a “large society” pin. Changes of rank were announced and commemorated, naturally, with ceremonies.

Like the Society’s officer titles, the aforementioned ranks are based on a stereotypical interpretation of Native America. Several threads throughout the Society’s practices, in fact, draw on these same stereotypes: the crafting of headdresses for ceremonies, the mention of the transition from boy to “brave”, the invocation of the Great Spirit, and so on.

*The Junior Archeologist*

Another component of membership in the Society was participation in the publication of its journal, *The Junior Archeologist* (Fig. 20). The Society’s Constitution dictated that, “The society [should] publish a scientific journal each quarter of the year on archeology and anthropology, written by the members” (Constitution, document, May 1962, JAS Archives, Anthropology Department, University of Pennsylvania). The journal, along with serving as a repository for student work, included introductions penned by the Society’s co-sponsors and updates on the JAS’s activities and accomplishments. An article entitled “Archeologists Print Journal”, published in the September 2nd, 1965 issue of the *Baton Rouge Advocate*, gives a summary of the contents of one issue of the journal:

…an annual report that lists more than 50 programs held by the Society in the past year. Also reported are expeditions, the accomplishments of accessioning more than 1,000 books in the Society library, new exhibits in the Museum, the play production, “Legends of Louisiana Indians,” work on a new training manual…Papers in the journal are the following: “Can an Animal Be Identified By Its Fossil Teeth and Tusk Remains?” by Joe Collins; “An Improved System for Measuring Time,” Riley Furr;… “The Need for a Louisiana Archeological Salvage Law,” Doug Juneau;…”Archeology as a Hobby That Pays,” J. Ashley Sibley, Jr.…[BRA, 2 September 1965:10B].

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Fig. 20. An issue of The Junior Archeologist, the self-published journal of the JAS (JAS Archives).
As one might imagine, publishing a journal quarterly was a large undertaking for a group of middle- and high-schoolers, particularly in light of the volume of work they produced. As such, near the end of the Society’s tenure in Baton Rouge, members were no longer compiling their own material into the journal, but rather working to publish backlogged papers from former members. Randy Soileau, the Society’s last President, remembered their attempts to do this:

…it was so far behind…we stopped it by my time because it was so far behind and there were so many papers that hadn’t been published…I think we were probably stuck at about 1968, and you know, it was like 1974…We would do them on the mimeograph, a hand-cranked mimeograph. All the papers had to be typed on carbon paper that you would put in the mimeograph. A lot of us were hand-typing other people’s papers [personal communication, 16 October 2015].

This delay notwithstanding, taking part in the publication of *The Junior Archeologist* afforded JAS members the unique opportunity to edit and curate research papers for an audience, even if that audience only happened to be friends of the Society.

*The Zilda P. Sibley Memorial Museum*

Society members could also quite literally curate their work by taking part in the development and maintenance of the Society’s museum. The museum, as an entity, was named the Zilda P. Sibley Memorial Museum following Zilda’s passing on January 4th, 1961. It first resided at Walnut Hills Elementary School, 2040 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, La., and later moved to Dufrocq School at 330 S. 19th Street, Baton Rouge, LA. By the mid-1960s, it was relocated to the Sibleys’s garage. Apparently, the Sibleys’s home was overtaken by Society materials. During David Britt’s membership, “their garage was enclosed and turned into [the Society’s] museum, crammed with science fair exhibits from over the years and with the results
of our excavations at the site [they] visited. Their back porch was glassed in and turned into [the JAS’s] library, with rare folio volumes and other books available whenever we needed or wanted them…” In addition to these two spaces, “…there was an impressive geology display in a small area between their back kitchen door and the door to the garage; the area had been roofed over at some point” (D. Britt to A. Terry, email, 12 October 2013, JAS Archives, UPenn).

![Image](image.png)

Fig. 21. Two JAS members standing in front of exhibits in the Zilda P. Sibley Museum (ST, 9 August 1965:9C).

The Museum was populated with dioramas and displays “prepared by members as projects for Science Fairs and Junior Academy of Science papers and for use as permanent exhibits in the Society Museum” (“Zilda P. Sibley Museum – Archaeological Exhibits”, Sibley and Sibley 1961) (Fig. 21; Fig. 22). The Museum also housed artifactual materials recovered by the Society during excavations and surface-collecting ventures. Junior Archeologists could make
use of these items for science and history fair projects, but were required to observe a strict protocol for “checking them out” – they had to fill out a form entitled “Junior Archaeological Society Application for Materials for Junior Academy Science Fair Exhibit” (Sibley and Sibley 1961).

The Museum was not only for the Society’s benefit. Interested individuals were welcomed to contact the Society and request to view the museum – the first volume of The Junior Archeologist proclaimed that “guided tours are provided for those wishing them, if they write to the Society at the above address” (at that point in time, Walnut Hills Elementary) (journal, June 1961, JAS Archive, UPenn). This offer evidently attracted attention – according to Randy Soileau, “Groups of school children would tour the museum, usually after one of our members had presented a slide presentation on the ancient cultures of the Lower Mississippi

![Image](image_url)

Fig. 22. Neill Terry and Derek Kohler preparing a diorama for the Society’s Museum (BRA, 9 September 1962: 3E).
Valley” (R. Soileau to A. Terry, email, 5 October 2015, JAS Archive, UPenn). Additionally, at
one meeting, “Mr. Sibley asked members to conduct a tour for Mr. Sibley’s class” (S. Menefee,
minutes, 28 June 1962, JAS Archive, UPenn). Tours offered to the public, as well as to other
middle- and high-school students, counted among the Society’s “service” activities.
CHAPTER EIGHT: THE JAS AT SCIENCE AND HISTORY FAIRS

Junior Archeologists also presented original research at regional and state science fairs. The Sibleys offered guidance – and, as I mentioned above, artifacts – for these projects. Janice recalls that every member of the Society entered these competitions: “We all had to compete. Mr. Sibley, I think – well, I don’t know if he demanded it, but it was kinda like the social pressure required it” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Most records prior to the mid-1960s refer only to the JAS’s involvement in the science fairs hosted by the Junior Academy of Sciences, while later records only mention their entries into Louisiana State University’s recurring social studies fairs.

Science Fairs and the Junior Academy of Sciences

The Junior Academy of Sciences, spearheaded by Dr. Harry Bennett of LSU’s Geography Department, aimed to “interest promising high school youngsters in serious scientific work and to encourage their teachers to develop further scientific knowledge” (ST, 19 January 1960:8B). In addition to science fairs, to which students were required to submit exhibits that demonstrated “practical, applied science”, the Junior Academy of Sciences welcomed research papers (to be judged separately). Papers and exhibits could draw upon a range of topics: botany, chemistry, earth sciences, mathematics, physics, social sciences, and zoology (ST, 6 March 1961:8A). At the science fairs, students were also expected to explain their exhibits orally in front of judges.
The Sibleys reviewed and critiqued each JAS entrant’s work (and speech, if applicable) prior to submission and presentation. Randy Ellis likened Sibley to a professor in this regard – he held the Junior Archeologists’ projects to high standards. This is, perhaps, a contributing factor to the success of Junior Archeologists in these competitions. In 1962, Glenn Smith and Charles “Buzzy” Hair were awarded third and fourth place, respectively, on their papers: “Jones Creek, East Bation [sic] Parish, La. Ancient Indian Site?” and “Paleo-American Man, Projectile Point Construction for Survival” (BRA, 30 April 1962:7B). In the following year’s science fair, the JAS had an even more prodigious showing. Baton Rouge’s State-Times reported this, stating: “Honors were heavily represented in the Baton Rouge Chapter of the Junior Archeological Society, with six out of the eight competitors winning honors.” Jay Waller and Kenny Reynard took first place in the physical and biological sciences divisions, respectively. Second place in biological sciences went to Charles Wagghorne, and third in earth sciences went to Randy Ellis. Glenn Smith and Sam Menefee each got honorable mentions (ST, 11 March 1963:10A). The Society’s meeting minutes corroborate this: at a March 14th, 1963 meeting, “...it was told how the Society had done in the Science Fair. We had two first places, one second, one third, and two honorable mentions” (S. Menefee, minutes, 14 March 1963, JAS Archives, UPenn).

In addition to his presentation on earth sciences which garnered him third place, Randy Ellis studied and exhibited Native American remains which the Society had recovered at Smith Creek’s Mound B – “I actually presented in science fairs for about two years on that Indian skeleton, talking about the different cultures of different Indian tribes that were in Louisiana and Mississippi. And then dating the remains” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). He worked with a local plastic surgeon, Bill Hughes, to identify each component of the
remains, and then reconstructed the skeleton and mounted it in a “glass case [with] a glass cover and everything” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Randy’s story attests to the effort that members devoted to developing well organized and researched projects.

*LSU’s History Fairs*

Gradually, references to the Society’s involvement in the Junior Academy of Sciences science fairs taper off; instead, it seems as though members redirected the bulk of their attention to LSU’s social science fairs. These fairs, which were sponsored by the LSU department of geography and anthropology, the Louisiana State Department of Education and the Sears Roebuck Foundation, welcomed presentations in six categories: anthropology, economics, geography, history, political science, and sociology (BRA, 12 March 1971:10C). In the regional competitions, competitors were drawn from six parishes – East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Pointe Coupee and Iberville” – while the state competitions naturally encompassed the entirety of Louisiana (BRA, 12 March 1971:10C). At the culmination of the two-day event, “first place winner[s] in each category received a medallion and certificate, while other winners received regional award certificates. The supervising teacher[s] of winners received a certificate of achievement and appreciation from the State Department of Education” (BRA, 6 March 1968:11A). David Britt recalls that “generally [JAS] members walked away with most of the prizes just because, y’know, [being in the JAS was] such an intensive experience. I think I told you, I felt kinda bad one year when I won Grand Prize and Best of Show at one of the divisions for doing nothing more than having an explanation of what
all of us did to join the club and the proper excavation techniques that we employed...” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015).

Britt’s statement definitely holds true. In 1971, four Junior Archeologists took home prizes in the anthropology, sociology, and geography categories (BRA, 12 March 1971:10C). The following year’s showings were also impressive. At the regional fair, the winner of Division III, which encompassed ninth through twelfth grade, “was George Heard, tenth grader…for his ‘Association between Common Quaternary Mammals and Artifacts on Claycut Bayou’. The merit teacher award went to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sibley” (BRA, 18 March 1972:10G). (Heard, whom Janice Pierce and David Britt mentioned by name, went on to study Paleontology at LSU before becoming a professional harmonica player under the name “Harmonica Red”.) Eleven other Junior Archeologists, spread between three age divisions, took home prizes in anthropology, history, political science, geography, and history. Four of these individuals went on to place at the state science fair. At this event, “in Division II for grades 7 and 8, the top winner was Ginny Mueller, Junior Archeological Society, for ‘Ghosts in Louisiana Folklore’. The merit teacher award was given to J. A. Sibley” (BRA, 12 April 1972:4B). Janice Pierce placed in Division III in Anthropology at this same fair, and is still rather “attached to” the globe that she received as a prize (Janice Pierce, pers. comm.).
CHAPTER NINE:
THE SOCIETY’S EXPEDITIONS

“Man is the most important thing man can study, whether he be in the swamps of Louisiana, on the plains of Western Oklahoma, the Ouchita [sic] mountains of Arkansas, in the valley of Mexico, or the plateau of Maya Yucatan. Junior Archeologists have learned about ancient and modern man in all of these places and more, on expeditions” (ST, 16 September 1965:6B). The above is an excerpt from a September 1965 issue of Baton Rouge’s State Times; in the article, Sibley discusses the value of archaeology as a hobby. Expeditions, he argues, are an indispensable tool for coming to “[know] man’s past to better his future”. Therefore, expeditions – both for excavation and exploration – were an integral part of membership in the Society.

The 1962 expedition schedule, as summarized in The Junior Archeologist’s second volume, provides an example of the scope of the JAS’s expeditions:

Members have planned, participated in and profited by a total of 10 major expeditions during 1961 including trips to: Mastodon Site, Jones Creek; Avery Island Site with Louisiana Archeological Society; Koasati Indians, Elton, Louisiana; Middle American Research Institute, Tulane University [sic], New Orleans, Louisiana; Menefee Marksville Indian Site, Bayou Manchac, Louisiana; Houma Indians, Dulac, Louisiana; Choctaw Indian Fair, Philadelphia, Mississippi; Catahoula Lake Site and Marksville Prehistoric Indian Museum, Marksville, Louisiana, and Smith Creek Site, Fort Adams, Mississippi. Two overnight expeditions to Smith Creek were used for training and induction ceremonies [journal, May 1962, JAS Archives, UPenn].

Members traveled throughout the southeastern United States, touring archaeological, anthropological, historical, and paleontological areas of interest along the way. Some
destinations were sites and museums, while others were events; some were planned solely by the JAS and others were coordinated with other groups. In the discussion to follow, I will attempt to do justice to the variability of the Society’s expeditions and discuss their importance to both the education of Society members and the success of the projects on which they worked.

The JAS excavated infrequently; more often, if they were intent on collecting artifacts at a particular site, they relied on surface collection. Randy Ellis recalls: “we would wait and they cut the grass, they did their plowing or tilling or whatever…and we would go through these people’s property and see what we could find in the fields. Surface collection instead of excavating” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). (Of course, Sibley would obtain the approval of landowners before allowing the JAS to surface-collect sites.) Sibley’s reasons for promoting this technique are expressed in one of the Society’s study guides, which states “Unless one is willing to devote enough time to properly study a…site by trenching, he should limit himself to _______ collecting” – the answer, of course, being “surface” (“Indian Site Exploration and Excavation Problems”, Sibley and Sibley 1961). In other words, the members of the JAS observed appropriate archaeological procedure to the best of their abilities, and generally recognized the shortcomings thereof.

Excavations, Professional and Solo

The JAS both sought out projects and allowed projects to come to them. Randy Ellis comments on the former, saying that, “someone would say, I found a pottery sherd here. So [Sibley]’d go and research who owned that property, and he’d get permission for us to go out there on those Saturdays and Sundays” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October
2015). Additionally, Sibley’s connections with LSU’s Anthropology and Geography departments often translated into the JAS being asked along on faculty members’ projects. These latter projects afforded members opportunities to participate in large-scale excavations, learn academic excavation methodology, and to establish relationships with professional scholars.

**Professional Excavations.** Janice Pierce’s field journal describes one such venture: on April 11th, 1970, Junior Archeologists traveled to Weeks Island, which was located four or five miles from Lydia, LA (J. Pierce, notes, 11 April 1970, JAS Archive, UPenn). Bob Neuman, a member of LSU’s Anthropology Department, had invited the Society to surface collect artifacts at the site. It was home to “the largest shell midden between Texas and Florida…[whose] estimated period of habitation range[d] from the Archaic period to Plaquemine, or about 1250 BC – 1450 Ad” (J. Pierce, notes, 11 April 1970, JAS Archive, UPenn). This particular excavation yielded a great deal of pottery, which “appeared to be of the Troyville Coles Creek Period (450 Ad. – 1,100 Ad.)…[including] Pontchartrain checked stamped variety” (J. Pierce, notes, 11 April 1970, JAS Archive, UPenn).

The Society’s year-round availability was also a great boon to LSU archaeologists. In 1973, the Mississippi River flooded and changing water levels caused an embankment near Carville, Louisiana to topple. When the fallen embankment exposed timbers, the corporation that owned the land requested that LSU send a team to investigate and excavate the area. However, the request came in May and LSU students had, for the most part, left for summer break. As a result, a team of LSU archaeologists reached out to the JAS and asked for their assistance in completing the first phase of what turned out to be an extensive excavation. The timbers belonged to an 1830s flatboat which had become entangled in the riprap along the river’s
margins. The LSU and JAS team collectively recovered this flatboat and began consolidating it.

"Looking back," David Floyd recalls, “we did a hell of a job” (David Floyd, personal communication, 22 September 2015). LSU’s Rural Life Museum, of which David Floyd is the current director, now houses the flatboat. Society members were also convenient labor for graduate students – during his time in the JAS, Randy Soileau assisted Rich Weinstein with his dissertation work concerning Louisiana’s Amite River Basin.

LSU’s Geology Department also invited JAS members along on their projects. During their senior years of high school, Randy Soileau and Joey Whitfield participated in a survey of the Atchafalaya River Basin. Both Randy and Joey were Louisiana natives, which placed them at an advantage in conducting this work:

We took three weeks off from school to go out with them into the field to survey the Atchafalaya River Basin…Joey and I, both being from that area, knew the Basin pretty well. We grew up in the Cajun culture and the students…who were there were not from Louisiana. The archaeologists who were doing the survey – in fact, the lead archaeologists, was [sic] from New York. So they kinda had the advantage of us knowing the territory and the people already, going down there [Randy Soileau, personal communication, 16 October 2015].

Society participation in these projects was, as we have seen, reciprocally beneficial; JAS members had the opportunity to experience professional excavations, and LSU archaeologists and geologists could compose field teams of motivated individuals with unique repertoires of applicable knowledge.

Excavations Spearheaded by the JAS. Though the JAS excavated on its own infrequently, it did occur. Members were asked to come prepared with “…[a] small cement trowel, old tooth brush, shovel, paper bags, site survey sheet, pencil, food, water, small first aid kid, and camping equipment…” (“Welcome Applicant to the Junior Archaeological Society”, Sibley and Sibley
1961). This list of supplies does not differ dramatically from that which modern archaeological field students are asked to bring. Though we do not have a complete list of the equipment that the Sibleys contributed to these expeditions, the level of knowledge about archaeological practice evident in the various documents which I have reviewed suggests that they had relatively modern tool kits available to them during their excavation work.

Their main locus of excavation was the Smith Creek site in Wilkinson County, MS, near the town of Fort Adams; I will discuss their involvement with this particular site in greater detail in “The Society At Smith Creek”. Another JAS-led excavation took place at Hornsby Farm, which was located north of Grangeville, LA relatively near the Amite River (J. Pierce, notes, 17 February 1968, JAS Archive, UPenn). Sherwood “Woody” Gagliano, who was, at that point, an archaeologist with the Coastal Studies Institute, informed Sibley and the JAS about the site; subsequently, they excavated one of its mounds. According to Janice Pierce’s field journal, the mound was “5-‘ by 30’, 3 or 4” high; elliptic” (J. Pierce, notes, 17 February 1968, JAS Archive, UPenn). Society members opened nine units in the mound’s northwest corner, and each member took responsibility for one section. Janice excavated the mound’s northwestern-most unit, Section 8, while her cousin, Clay Ainsworth, manned the project’s southeastern-most unit, Section 4. The mound yielded stone implements, including “scraper [sic], chips, gouges, [and] cores” – one endscraper, which Janice illustrates in her notes, originated in her unit (J. Pierce, notes, 17 February 1968, JAS Archive, UPenn).
Exploration

Many trips, as I have previously stated, were focused on exploration rather than excavation. Members visited a wide range of sites and attended events throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Texas, and other nearby states. Additionally, on more than one occasion, they traveled to Mexico. The Sibleys and the Society’s auxiliary membership – primarily parents of members – collectively drove thousands of miles over the course of these trips. The Sibleys transported “seven or eight…people at least. [Their car] would be loaded up, and several of the parents would volunteer. And we’d chip in money for their gas, which – gas was really cheap then” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Travel time doubled as lecture time, as well; “all along the way…[Sibley] talked about the geography, geology of the landscape” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Despite periodical annoyance of the Sibleys on the part of the Junior Archeologists, these trips appear to have been incredibly successful in terms of sites visited and knowledge obtained.

These expeditions were an integrative experience – though the sites composing the stops on the JAS’s tours may have been clustered geographically, they often ran the gamut from historical to paleontological. The Society’s 1962 expedition to the American Indian Expedition in Anadarko, Oklahoma from August 15th to August 21st, is a particularly good illustration of this point. Prior to the trip, the Baton Rouge Advocate published a short article detailing the JAS’s plans to “look for geological samples in Texas and Oklahoma and…visit museums in Dallas and Ft. Worth and in Marksville” along the way to the Exhibition, which focused largely on the indigenous arts and performances of several Plains tribes (BRA, 10 August 1968:12A).

Following the trip, the Advocate ran an article summarizing the trip’s main stops:
Ten Baton Rouge boys…toured sites in LA, TX, OK, and AR to view minerals, rocks and fossils. They also stopped in a number of cities to visit several museums which include the archeological items in which the group is interested. Among these were the excellent Fort Worth Children’s Museum, the Louisiana State Exhibits Museum at Shreveport, the Dallas Natural History Museum, the Texas Christian University Archeology and Geology Museum and the anthropology museum at the University of Arkansas, which has the most extensive collection of Louisiana and Caddo artifacts known. Of special interest was the Southern Plains Museum at Lawton, Okla. and the Southwestern Plains Indian Museum at Anadarko, Okla., where they saw interesting remains of the Southwestern Indian tribes” [BRA, 9 September 1962: 3E].

At many of this trip’s museum stops, Society members were led on tours by museum directors and curators. This testifies, perhaps, to Sibley’s aptitude for making connections and thereby providing Society members with access to information and experiences they would not otherwise have been able to obtain.

Equally impressive in scope was the Society’s 1968 trip to a variety of Louisiana geological and paleontological sites. Members of the Society prepared for this particular expedition by inviting Dr. H.V. Anderson, “professor of Geology and the Director of the Geology Museum at LSU” to speak at one of the Society’s weekly meetings. He lectured on “fossils that occur in Sabine, Natchitoches, and Winn Parishes including Rayburn and Prothro salt domes and Montgomery landing” (ST, 25 July 1968:7B). On July 27th and 28th, 1968, the Society set out to see the sites for themselves. They visited a total of eight sites over the course of those two days; to follow are names and descriptions of each of the sites, all taken from Janice Pierce’s field notebook.

Hodges Gardens…Catahoula sandstone is indurated locally to a quartzite…Miocene Epoch.
Fisher…South dip of Saline [sic] Bayou. Ironrock found…Eocene Epoch.
Marthaville…Eocene Epoch…
Rayburn Salt Dome…Exogyra costata of upper Cretaceous chalk found.
Drake Salt Licks. Near Goldonna in Winn Parish...Ostrea lisbonenesis used by Indians for tempering pots.
Winnfield Rock Quarry...A limestone, gypsum, + calcite quarry with anhydrate also present...Eocene Epoch.
Outcrop of Cone R. Formation...Eocene Epoch.
Montgomery Landing...Undoubtedly [sic] the best Fossil site in La. Shark teeth...Flabellum...dentellium.

[J. Pierce, notes, 27-18 July 1968, JAS Archive, UPenn].

Each site’s notes incorporate geological, paleontological, and prehistoric data. Sibley, in his lectures, focused not only on the appearance and composition of these sites, but also on how prehistoric humans interacted with them. Members thereby came to understand the ways in which different disciplines interdigitate; at the same time, their diverse interests were all addressed.

Surface collecting was sometimes conducted at these geological and paleontological sites. Cursory examinations of the materials recovered from Grindstone Bluff have confirmed this – one bag contained several bizarre, cylindrical segments of a fossilized sea lily.

Unfortunately, this bag displayed no remaining provenience information. Janice Pierce noted that there is a significant likelihood that any fossilized materials in the JAS’s collections hail from Little Stave Creek, a scenic site featuring a massive outcropping of fossil-containing sediments. The Society visited this site on November 4th and 5th, 1967, and “were able to identify and collect an extensive number of fossils from 50 to 60 million years ago” (ST, 16 November 1967:8B).

Janice Pierce counts this trip among her favorites, and her excitement is evident even today: “Oh my god, it is unbelievable. It was so much fun, you could not believe it. We found a
shark’s tooth that was like six inches long” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015).

These expeditions were highly educational – members were presented with new information at every turn, as Mr. Sibley was the type of person who “exude[d] knowledge…And want[ed] to transfer it on to somebody…” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 25 October 2015). However, one of the most memorable aspects of Sibley’s impromptu lectures, according to no fewer than four of my interviewees, was his tendency to pun. For instance, according to David Britt, “Mr. Sibley knew from experience that we could find various minerals such as loess or hematite (and he always cracked the same lame pun about someone ‘holding him-a-tight’)” (David Britt, pers. comm.). Another common punch line was “Loess Lane” – an amalgam of the name of Superman’s love interest and a geologic formation characterized by tightly-packed, fine silt sediments (Janice Pierce, pers. comm.).

The Mexico Expeditions

I have briefly alluded to the Society’s trips to Mexico; in the paragraphs to follow, I will examine them in more detail. These expeditions occurred in 1963 and 1970, though there may also have been a third trip between these two.

Prior to these trips, members redoubled their preparation efforts; presentations and lectures at Society meetings focused on various topics relating to Mexican archaeology, history, arts, and culture. During the summer immediately prior to the 1963 trip, for instance, Society members were instructed on the following topics.

a. Aztec-Mayan Civilizations ———— Gustavo Morales
b. Ceramics Course on Mexican Art and Artifacts —— George Simoneaux
Members devoted a comparable amount of effort to preparations for the 1970 trip: “We planned it for a year, at least – did reports on the various sites, planned the route…” (David Britt, personal communication, 22 October 2015).

As is the case with many of the expeditions I have already mentioned, the JAS incorporated as many activities as possible into these trips, which each lasted roughly two weeks.

Glenn Smith summarized the 1963 expedition in a two-installment article in the Baton Rouge Advocate (Fig. 23). Among the sites visited were Teotihuacan, including the Temple of the Sun and the Temple of the Moon; Tenayuca; the “National Museum, the National Palace, the University of Mexico, and the markets of Mexico City”; Xochicalco; Monte Alban; Cuicuilco;
Mitla; and Calixtlahuaca (ST, 29 August 1963:8B; ST, 10 September 1963:10A). Junior Archeologists also visited Oaxaca’s anthropology museum, attended a bullfight (at which one JAS member was nearly arrested) and viewed a Diego Rivera art installation in Mexico City.

The 1970 trip was very similar in terms of itinerary, per Janice Pierce’s account: “We went through Monterrey, and spent a lot of time in Mexico City, to Oaxaca, and, you know, those were the big ones. Monte Alban, and then back. We saw…Teotihuacan, several numerous little museums. You know, the anthropology museum in Mexico City” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). She also expressed a sentiment that other interviewees, such as David Britt, shared: “It just was a fabulous trip. It was unbelievable” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015).

Members universally recalled one particular aspect of site visitation in Mexico – a complete lack of “guards or government personnel at any of the sites” (D. Britt to A. Terry, email, 13 October 2015, JAS Archives, UPenn). At this time, Junior Archeologists were permitted to explore these archaeological sites as they wished. Glenn Smith’s account of the Society’s stop at Monte Alban notes that “passages leading underground from temple to temple proved interesting to several members, who succeeded in crawling through all of them” (BRA 63-9-10). David Britt also recalls, “we clambered all over [the sites] with no restraint whatsoever, from Teotihuacan to many others. I remember one round temple in the middle of a very rural tequila cactus farm…this temple had a dark inside chamber with a square observation window in the top; it’s a wonder none of us got snakebit in there” (D. Britt to A. Terry, email, 13 October 2015, JAS Archives, UPenn). Neill Terry mused upon current regulations on conduct at archaeological sites – particularly restrictions on climbing Teotihuacan’s Temple of the Sun. “On
the last trip I made to Mexico, you couldn’t do it anymore. They don’t appreciate that” (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015).
CHAPTER TEN: 
THE SOCIETY AT SMITH CREEK

“For over a year the Society has been engaged in excavating a large Coles Creek mound near Fort Adams, Mississippi. The site has proven to be very valuable to the young archaeologists. A great truncated temple mound, a large burial mound, and another mound which may have been the habitation mound of a chief, [sic] form the chief structures of the complex.”

[The Junior Archeologist, journal, June 1961, JAS Archives, UPenn].

T-2N R-4W, Site No. 22 Sec. 21. Quar. NE.
Latitude 31.3, Long. 91.6.
Ft. Adams, Mississippi, Wilkenson [sic] county.
[J. Pierce, notes, 27 January 1968, JAS Archives, UPenn].

As I mentioned previously, Smith Creek was an important site of both work and play for the JAS; expeditions there were a constant throughout the its two decades of operation. Field notes from these expeditions describe the site as “Troyville Coles Creek; about 1000 years old. Ceremonial village. Located the east bank of the Mississippi Valley Scarp…Dates 450 Ad. – 1,100 Ad” (J. Pierce, notes, 27 January 1968, JAS Archives, UPenn). The site consisted of “habitation, burial, temple, and midden” mounds which were “elliptic, square, and rectangular” – the former descriptors refer to the theorized purposes of construction of these mounds.

Site Description

As previously stated, Smith Creek is currently considered a three-mound complex: Mound A lies to the west, flanked by State Highway 24; Mound B is a burial mound surrounded by a deep trench, or “moat”; and Mound C lies to the east. A number of field materials from the Society cite the existence of a fourth mound at Smith Creek (Fig. 24); however, no interviewees
remembered it specifically. It is possible that this may have been the “midden”-type mound which Janice’s field notes mention above (J. Pierce, notes, 27 January 1968, JAS Archives, UPenn). The Mississippi Mound Trail Project also noted the possibility of a fourth mound, saying that there is “also a small ridge or rise just south of Mound C…which could be an additional small mound (Kassabaum et al. 2014, 183). However, this location does not seem to match up with the fourth mound indicated on the JAS maps.

Fig. 24. Map of site drawn by Janice Pierce on provenience recording form (JAS Archives).

Play, Bonding, and Celebrations

Members engaged with Smith Creek in a variety of ways: ceremonial proceedings on Mound A, excavations on Mound B, races and games on the site’s flatter expanses, and camping there beneath the stars. My interviewees recalled their time at Smith Creek very fondly – so much so that, when they convened in 2001 for a reunion, they decided to travel to the site as a group (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015).
A typical excursion to Smith Creek incorporated all of the aforementioned activities: “We would spend most of the day doing some excavation and bagging all the stuff and all, and then, we spent a couple hours actually building a bonfire up on the pyramid mound” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Here, Janice Pierce is referring to Smith Creek’s Mound A, which the Society used for predominantly ceremonial purposes (e.g., induction, installation, promotion). Though Mound A was the JAS’s de facto designated ceremonial space, members were not able to include it in the by-laws; during a 1963 meeting, “Joe Holmes moved that ‘All candidate inductions be held at Fort Adams’. This was seconded by Jay Waller and carried, but was ruled unconstitutional by the parliamentarian” (S. Menefee, minutes, 17 May 1962, JAS Archives, UPenn).

An important component of these ceremonies were fires built in the mound’s center and in each of the four cardinal directions. Neill Terry cited the risks of conducting ceremonies in proximity to these fires: “It was always funny, because we rehearsed it in daylight and we had the scripts right in front of us. But by the damn fires, we had hold it up close to the fire to read it without setting the page on fire!” (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). Janice Pierce cautioned me about continuing archaeological work on Mound A, noting that, “You gotta watch your C-14 dating, okay? Because at least once a year, we built four fires in the cardinal directions” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). It seems as though we will have to be cognizant of this in the near future – excavations on the summit of Mound A are planned for the 2016 season of the Smith Creek Archaeological Project. The director of the project, Dr. Megan Kassabaum, sees the excavations as having the potential to
reveal evidence of both ancient and recent activities on the mound (Kassabaum, personal communication, 28 March 2016).

*Excavating Mound B*

Smith Creek was also the site of excavations by the JAS throughout the organization’s existence. Though the site was mapped and surface collected in the 1930s and 1950s (Nelson et al. 2013), the JAS was the first group to have excavated there; Janice Pierce notes in her field notebook that there had been, “No previous excavation except by Society” (J. Pierce, notes, 27 January 1968, JAS Archives, UPenn). Rather than opening novel units during each expedition to the site, members dug in the same units established by past groups (Fig. 25). “It was the initial group...that set it up... we’d just go back and look at the benchmarks each time” (Randy Soileau, personal communication, 16 October 2015). “I don't think Mr. Sibley had like a geographic point

![Grid system on Smith Creek’s Mound B](image)

*Fig. 25. Grid system on Smith Creek’s Mound B, illustrated by Janice Pierce in her field notebook (JAS Archive).*
or a geological survey where you can get the elevation of the site…[we] would stake it out by section, and you know he’d been there repeatedly for years. You know, before me” (Janice Pierce, personal communication, 14 October 2015). Between seasons, the JAS would refill these units; therefore, each subsequent excavation began by digging these units down to the level that had been attained during the previous trip.

Over the course of several seasons at Smith Creek, Junior Archeologists found a variety of artifacts. Potsherds “bearing the distinctive markings of the Coles Creek stage” were very prevalent and were found by the hundreds (J. Pierce, notes, 27 January 1968, JAS Archives, UPenn; The Junior Archeologist, journal, June 1961, JAS Archives, UPenn). Other objects, like “an ear-plug, a bone needle of beautiful workmanship, and a chungke [sic]…stone” and “whole and broken parts of points, celts, grinders, knives, scrapers, and other tools and weapons” were also uncovered in the burial mound (The Junior Archeologist, journal, June 1961, JAS Archives, UPenn). They also happened upon human remains in Mound B; this was consistent, of course, with the mound’s usage as a burial mound. In his paper, “Smith Creek: A Transitional Archeological Site?”, Randy Ellis mentions that both flexed and bundle burials were uncovered, as well as a number of disarticulated skulls. This description fits well with other descriptions of Coles Creek burial mounds (Kassabaum 2011). Members proceeded carefully in excavating skeletal remains and other delicate objects: “You meticulously get your instruments out to do the excavation. And when you excavate, you scrape it and get the little broom and make sure not to disturb it. And we’d take pictures and dig a little bit more, take a picture, take the bones and remove them, and then we’d bag it and catalogue them” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 30 September 2015).
As we have seen, the JAS employed the most best archaeological technique available to them. How, then, can we account for the “scars” present on Mound B which were mentioned in Preliminary Clues?

The JAS was conscious of the threat that standing water could pose to artifacts; accordingly, Neill Terry notes that they used “proper procedure...we didn’t dig a deep hole and go down, we dug a trench so it wouldn’t trap water – it would drain off. We did it properly” (Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). The practice of trenching to drain water may partially explain the central depressed area on the mound’s surface, which runs north-south and is visible today, though the dimensions of the trench in the southern slope of the mound more closely match those of an excavation than a drainage trench (Nelson et al. 2013).

The pitting that is present on the mound’s summit, however, may be attributable to the influence of “pothunters” – individuals who, according to Sibley, contrast starkly with “trained amateur archeologists” in that they “destroy forever the opportunity to learn about early man” (ST, 16 September 1965:6B). On February 14th, 1970, Janice Pierce’s field notes record the following:

Arrival at the site revealed that pothunters [sic] had literally torn up the more northern sector of the mound. There were large holes + pits with bones + artifacts scattered all about. Members were assigned to this sector in order to ensure proper drainage of the mound and to salvage whatever possible, and bag it as surface material. Mr. Sibley discussed the situation with the man who rents the land and posted signs will soon be erected. Members continued to fill in the holes and reach their level for real excavating

On May 30th, 1970, Junior Archeologists returned to the site and found that it had been further destroyed:
Upon arrival at the site members surveyed the further damage inflicted on the mound by potthunters [sic]. The mound itself is now virtually worthless, potthunters [sic] having dug holes + pits in which water stands. Members have been concerned mainly with ensuring proper drainage. It is hard to tell whether material is refill or natural, and the situation grows more serious [J. Pierce, notes, 30 May 1970, JAS Archives, UPenn].

This increase in pot-hunting may have been a function of Smith Creek’s decreasing remoteness through time. Randy Ellis recalls that, “that was just a road, a little gravel road, that went through there when we started doing the excavations there in the late 50s” (Randy Ellis, personal communication, 30 September 2015). In 1960, the construction of State Highway 24 ran through the center of the site; to accommodate the highway, the southeastern corner of Mound A was sheared back (Nelson et al. 2013). During the decade to follow, motorists likely passed the site more frequently.

The JAS not only comprehended the gravity of the damage caused by treasure-seeking non-professionals, but also worked to reverse the damage to the best of their abilities. Their intervention likely saved the site from further damage; the landowner, Jack Babers of St. Francisville, did not live on nor have any structures on the property, and may not have taken measures to prevent trespassing without their insistence (J. Pierce, notes, 14 February 1970, JAS Archives, UPenn; Neill Terry, personal communication, 25 October 2015). We should not dismiss these Junior Archeologists as “bugs”, digging haphazardly in search of treasures, but rather as systematic amateur-archaeologists-in-training who exhibited deep concern for and interest in the sites with which they engaged.
CHAPTER ELEVEN:
RECOGNITION OF THE SOCIETY

Throughout its operation, the Society received considerable recognition for its innovation in teaching elementary- and high-school children about archaeology and other social sciences. The JAS certainly was unique in its purposes and endeavors – Sibley, during an interview, said that “he was […] told by a writer from a national social sciences magazine that the Baton Rouge organization is the only one of its kind for such young archeologists” (BRA, 9 September 1962: 3E). Perhaps its singularity stemmed from the fact that members were able to participate in actual archaeological products, or that they willingly participated in science and history fairs on the group’s behalf. No matter the specific reason for each of the Society’s multiple commendations, local and national groups were quick to recognize their achievements.

Among the Society’s 1962 recognitions were articles published about the group by both the American Museum of Natural History and the Archaeological Institute of America; each of these publications described the Society’s mission and activities (BRA, 23 January 1962:12A). Additionally, they were mentioned in a 1962 book entitled, “Archeology as a Hobby,” written by Virginia Fortiner. Additionally, during the same year, a representative from the American Council of Learned Societies attended one of the Society’s weekly meetings.

During a February 1st, 1963 meeting, the Society was filmed for a television program by Messrs. Harry Evans and Bob Durham, though the minutes from that meeting do not specify the name of the program (S. Menefee, minutes, 1 February 1963, JAS Archive, UPenn). In 1968, the
Society was once again featured on television. Each of the Sibleys – J. Ashley and Anna May – along with Ginny Gerace, then-President, and Paul Friloux, then Vice-President, appeared on Midday in Louisiana. “The foursome was interviewed by Jean Wheeler, hostess of the program. They reported on the purpose of the society, membership requirements, activities. Color slides and exhibits were shown” (ST, 25 July 1968: 7B).

By 1964, the JAS had attracted the attention of a variety of educational groups, particularly for the tours and lectures that they offered to other students as part of their “service”. The fourth volume of *The Junior Archeologist* notes that, “The work of the Society and its contribution to the Social Studies curriculum enrichment in the fields of anthropology, archeology and related sciences has been recognized locally and internationally by such organizations as the Association of Childhood Education International, National Council of Social Studies, U. S. Office of Education and other professional organizations and agencies” (The Junior Archeologist, journal, September 1964, JAS Archive, UPenn).

Finally, in 1982, J. Ashley Sibley, Jr. was recognized for his outstanding contribution to the field of archaeology through his creation and sponsorship of the JAS. He was the very first recipient of the Louisiana Governor’s Award for Service in Archaeology (ST, 19 February 1982:12A).
CHAPTER TWELVE: CONCLUSION

As we have seen, the JAS made a significant impression both on its members and on the archaeology of the Lower Mississippi River Valley. I hope that I have appropriately emphasized the thorough grounding in the practice of archaeology and other social sciences which Society members received – we must recognize that JAS members were as discontent with the damage dealt to Smith Creek’s Mound B as were any professionals in the area. Moreover, and more generally, I hope I have conveyed just how unique the JAS was as an organization. Several interviewees have, in fact, lamented its singularity – I am inclined to agree that similar organizations could augment classroom learning for and aid in the cultivation of transferable skills in young people.

The strongest testament to the positive impact which the JAS had on its members is, naturally, the accomplishments which they have gone on to achieve. I have spoken with a museum director, an attorney, a paralegal with a graduate degree in Anthropology, a professional ballet dancer, and a non-profit organization leader who holds a doctorate; all of these individuals have attested to the fact that their time in the Society compelled them, at least in part, to pursue these careers.

My analyses of the JAS are, as a matter of course, incomplete. I have only established contact with nine former members; there are upwards of seventy additional individuals listed in the Reunion Directory compiled by Janice Pierce. In connecting with more individuals, I would
naturally encounter new information: other excavations, other meeting programs and powwows, more of Sibley’s scholarly puns. There are also many more archival documents in existence pertaining to the Society and to Sibley. Among these are the Sibleys’ marriage and employment records, the Society’s charter, and (perhaps) even newspaper articles about the Society hailing from *The Woodville Republican*. I have already searched for all of these items – the only barrier has been non-accessibility due to lack of digitization, etc. I hope that I will one day be in a position to explore all of these options and to expand and improve the reconstruction and analysis that I present here. The Junior Archeological Society of Baton Rouge certainly deserves this much.
May the Great Spirit grant that we, as brother Junior Archeologists, go forth and spread what we have learned, and encourage others to join with us in sharing the great adventure of ‘knowing the past – to better the future’.

– “Closing”.
APPENDIX A:

PRELIMINARY LIST OF NAMES

This list was distributed to various contacts, including archaeologists working in Louisiana and Mississippi and locals in those area, at the beginning stages of the project. The names it lists were gathered from object bags recovered at the Grindstone Bluff Museum by Jeffrey Girard.
1. Charles Poché
2. James Provencher
3. "Farr/Gregg"
4. Dennis Manning
5. Roy Rentrop Jr.
6. "Randy S." (This is probably Randy Soileau, according to Rich Weinstein. He believes that Randy Soileau was planning on becoming a professional dancer, possibly in New York.)
7. Randy Ellis
8. "Shannon"
9. Janice Pierce (Rich says Janice went to LSU in the late 70s and worked at Poverty Point with Haag and Debbie Woodiel.)
10. Ginny Grace (This could be Ginny Benoist of Natchez or with info from Rich Weinstein, it could be Ginny Meuller, daughter of Bob Meuller, Louisiana State Climatologist at LSU at the time and member of the LSU Dept. of Geography and Anthropology. He believes Bob has since passed away, but Ginny may be around.)
11. "Kenneth"
12. "David"
13. K. Nordyke
14. Eddie Martin
15. Greg Newsome
16. Louis Herman
17. Mike Daley
18. Steve Bailey
19. "Keith R."
20. Leslie Roberts (Who served on Rich's field crew in 1973 but may not have been old enough to have been involved in the Smith Creek work.)
21. Joey Whitfield (Who served on Rich's field crew in 1973 but may not have been old enough to have been involved in the Smith Creek work.)
22. Emma Neuman (Bob Neuman's daughter. Last Rich heard, she was living in Corpus Christi, but that was about 15 years ago.)
23. David Floyd (He is now at the LSU Rural Life Museum.)
APPENDIX B:

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS AND CORRESPONDENCE

This table summarizes my communication with both interviewees (those interviewed using the Bold Narrative Technique) and key informants. Name, role, and medium of communication are described for each individual. I also indicate whether the individual is an interviewee or key informant.
Table B1. Summary of Interviews and Correspondence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF INTERVIEWEE OR INFORMANT</th>
<th>ROLE (FORMER MEMBER, SCHOLAR, ETC.)</th>
<th>MEDIUM/MEDIA OF INTERVIEW</th>
<th>INTERVIEWEE (I) OR INFORMANT (N)?</th>
<th>MP3 INCLUDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ginny Benoist</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; in-person.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Britt</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Brown</td>
<td>Scholar; affiliated with the University of Alabama.</td>
<td>Email; in-person.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julie Doucet</td>
<td>Current president of the Baton Rouge chapter of the LAS.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Ellis</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone; post.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Eubanks</td>
<td>Scholar; current graduate student.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Floyd</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph “Smokye” Frank</td>
<td>Scholar; professional archaeologist.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Girard</td>
<td>Scholar; archaeologist with Northwestern State University.</td>
<td>Email; post.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron Groth</td>
<td>Son of former JAS member Janice Pierce.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Halling</td>
<td>Scholar; affiliated with the LA Department of Justice.</td>
<td>Email; in-person.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lance Harris</td>
<td>Scholar; current director of Grand Village of the Natchez Indians.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy Lewis</td>
<td>Editor of The Woodville Republican.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chip McGimsey</td>
<td>Current state archaeologist of Louisiana.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Mollere</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Myrick</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone (not interview); post.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janice Pierce</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randy Soileau</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table B1. Summary of Interviews and Correspondence (continued).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF INTERVIEWEE OR INFORMANT</th>
<th>ROLE (FORMER MEMBER, SCHOLAR, ETC.)</th>
<th>MEDIUM/MEDIA OF INTERVIEW</th>
<th>INTERVIEWEE (I) OR INFORMANT (N)?</th>
<th>MP3 INCLUDED?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neill Terry</td>
<td>Former JAS member.</td>
<td>Email; phone; in-person.</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debbie Woodiel</td>
<td>Current Assistant Director of the Frank McClung Museum at UT Knoxville.</td>
<td>Email.</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX C:
The Official JAS Archive Finding Guide

This finding guide outlines the content and organization scheme of the digitized JAS Archive which I created for this project. Among the included materials are photographs, member reports, reports by current Southeastern archaeologists and related scholars, transcriptions of conversations with interviewees, and Sibley’s publications. It is intended to facilitate the use of the JAS Archive for research purposes. One should note that this document makes use of the colors red and blue, and that certain interpretive elements of the guide may be compromised somewhat if it is printed in black and white. However, it will continue to be comprehensible. Additionally, the guide is incomplete; I am still pursuing new information about the Society, and will continue to update the Archive as necessary.
The Official JAS Archive Finding Guide

Note: Titles that are **bolded** indicate the names of folders (including nested folders). Primary folders are named with **red** text, while secondary (nested) folders are named with **blue** text. Standalone documents are **italicized** with a short description.

0) **Archive Finding Guide.**

1) **Bioarchaeology at Smith Creek.** A compilation of bioarchaeological assays of the skeletal remains from Smith Creek’s burial mound.
   A) **Halling Analyses.** A number of analyses carried out by Christine Halling, MS at the Louisiana Department of Justice.
      i) *CA Presentation Halling.* Powerpoint presentation about skeletal remains.
      ii) *Smith Creek Addendum.* Addendum to Smith Creek Complete.
      iii) *Smith Creek Complete.* Paleopathology/identification.
   B) **Hunt Analyses.** Analyses performed by Elizabeth Hunt, a graduate student.
      i) *Hunt MAA with Abstract.* Skeletal analyses.
      ii) *Hunt SAA Presentation.* Presentation with same information.
      iii) *Hunt Skeletal Analysis.* Additional write-up for academic credit.

2) **Email Correspondence.** Documents are named with the names of the individuals involved in conversation; all threads involving those individuals are in the same document. Individual thread names are listed underneath document titles in quotation marks. JPEG images are included in the text of each thread, while PDF documents are attached in accompanying folders.
   A) **Benoist-Terry Correspondence.**
      i) “Sibley”
      ii) “Hello Again! (And the Junior Arch. Society)
   B) **Britt-Terry Correspondence.**
   C) **Doucet-Terry Correspondence.**
      i) “Former LA Archaeology Society Member JA Sibley”
   D) **Ellis-Terry Correspondence.**
      i) “Ashley Terry Contact Information”
   E) **Eubanks-Terry-Kassabaum Correspondence.**
      i) *Eubanks and Brown 2015.* An article relating to a site which Sibley may have been connected to.
      ii) *Eubanks-Terry-Kassabaum Correspondence.*
         a. “J. Ashley Sibley”
   F) **Floyd-Terry Correspondence.**
      i) “Sibley’s Junior Archaeological Society”
   G) **Frank-Kassabaum-Terry Correspondence.**
      i) “Sibley and the Junior Arch. Society”
H) Girard-Brown-Steponaitis Correspondence.
I) Girard-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Sibley and the JAS”
J) Groth-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Janice Pierce and the Junior Archaeological Society”
K) Halling-Kassabaum-Terry Correspondence.
   i) Halling Attachments.
   a. Ellis 1963 Report. (Also contained elsewhere.)
   b. Ellis 1964 Report. (Also contained elsewhere.)
   c. Grindstone Bluff Museum. PDF of display of items in museum.
   d. Halling Bag Log.
      - Halling Clarification Scans. These JPEGs are bags on which the
         inscriptions were very hard to read. Several JPEGs included in
         this folder.
      - Grindstone Bluff Spreadsheet.
   e. Smith Creek Field Note. A PDF of a field note (just one).
   ii) Halling-Kassabaum-Terry Correspondence.
       a. “Continuing Work on the Sibley/Smith Creek Project”
L) Harris-Kassabaum-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Smith Creek Items at LSU”
   ii) “Smith Creek Items at LSU - Part Two”
M) Lewis-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “JA Sibley Excavations at Smith Creek”
N) McGimsey-Kassabaum-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Sibley and the Junior Archaeological Society”
O) Mollere-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “J. Ashley Sibley, Jr. and the JAS”
P) Myrick-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Sibley, Jr. and the JAS”
Q) Pierce-Terry Correspondence.
   i) Pierce Attachments.
   a. Janice Pierce Journal. A field notebook that Janice kept with many
      sites.
   b. Reunion Directory. Names, addresses, phone numbers of former
      members compiled in anticipation of the reunion.
   c. Reunion Program.
   ii) Pierce-Terry Correspondence.
      a. “J. Ashley Sibley and the Junior Archaeological Society”
      b. “JAS”
R) Soileau-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “Request to Speak with Mr. Soileau”
S) Terry-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “JAS Question”
T) Weinstein-Kassabaum Correspondence.
U) Woodiel-Terry Correspondence.
   i) “J. Ashley Sibley and the Junior Archaeological Society”

3) **Grindstone Bluff.** Information about Sibley’s property near Shreveport, on which he established a small museum to house the JAS’s finds.
   A) *Grindstone Bluff Information.* Map and mission statement indicating Sibley’s intentions to turn this property into an educational site. Obtained from William Myrick.
   B) *Sibleyshire Book.* Details natural and archaeological history of this site. Obtained from the LSU Archives with the help of Domenica Carrière.

4) **Interviews.** Phone interviews with JAS members, recorded on my phone using a TapeACall. Not all MP3s included – it didn’t occur to me to hold on to those at first.
   A) **Interview MP3s.** Recordings of conversations.
      i) Janice Pierce 10/14.
      iii) Randy Ellis 10/5.
      iv) Randy Ellis 9/30.
      v) Randy Soileau 10/16.
   B) **Interview Notes.** Free-form notes taken while talking on the phone.
      i) David Britt Interview.
      ii) David Floyd Interview. Not transcribed; occurred prior to TapeACall.
      iii) Janice Pierce Interview.
      iv) Neill Terry Interview.
      v) Randy Ellis Interview.
      vi) Randy Soileau Interview.
   C) **Interview Transcripts.** Interview transcripts, with some omissions for clarity.
      i) David Britt Phone Interview 10/22.
      ii) Janice Pierce Phone Interview 10/14.
      iii) Neill Terry Phone Interview 10/25.
      iv) Randy Ellis Phone Interview 10/5.
      v) Randy Soileau Phone Interview 10/16.

5) **JAS Administrative Documents.** A number of documents discussing the rules and activities of the Society.
   A) *Constitution.* This gives a complete sketch of the rules and requirements of the Society. Obtained from Randy Ellis.
   B) *Handbook of the JAS.* Contains much of the same information as the Constitution, along with various worksheets, quizzes, tests, and informational documents. Obtained from Jeff Girard.
   C) *Informational Sheet.* Contains JAS’s meeting times, opening and closing statements, mission statement, and the like. Obtained from William Myrick.

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D) Minutes. Compiled by Sam Menefee; detailing the happenings of roughly twenty meetings. Obtained from Jeff Girard.


F) Worksheets. These worksheets give information about how go about creating projects and the like. They are similar to a number of documents included in the handout.
   i) Excavation Checklist.
   ii) Science Paper Instructions.
   iii) Science Project Directions.
   iv) The Scientific Method.

6) Member Notes. Some notes which members have passed along to me.
   A) Ellis Expedition Notes. A folder of notes which Randy Ellis compiled at some point during his time in the organization.
   B) Janice Pierce Journal. Included above in correspondence with Janice Pierce as well.

7) Member Reports. These are miscellaneous reports that were not included in the copies of the Junior Archaeologist that I received.
   A) Ellis Science Paper. A paper submitted by Ellis for school but concerning the JAS’s excavations.
   C) Smith Creek, Transitional. “Smith Creek, A Transitional Archaeological Site”, by Randy Ellis.
   F) Writings of Ancient Egypt. Paper of the same name obtained from Randy Ellis. Author unknown.

8) Miscellaneous. Items that don’t seem to fit anywhere else.
   A) Archaeology as a Career. Article included in the midst of the JAS Handbook.
   B) Unassociated Page. A single page of a research paper that didn’t seem to have any accompaniment.

9) Newspaper Articles.
   A) Advocate Articles.
      i) *Advocate Finding Guide*.
      ii) Advocate 01-6-23. “Digging”.
      iii) Advocate 48-8-14. “Miss Sibley is Bride of Mr. Seefield”.
      iv) Advocate 60-10-27. “Students Set Up Indian Powwow For Saturday”.

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vi) Advocate 61-1-5. “Mrs. Z. Sibley, Schoolteacher Here, Succumbs”.
vii) Advocate 61-2-6. “Museum Set Up As Memorial to Mrs. Z. P. Sibley”.
ix) Advocate 62-6-16. “Junior Archeological Group Installs Officers”.
xi) Advocate 62-8-10. “Archeologists Group Planning Oklahoma Trip”.
ixiii) Advocate 62-12-16. “Lost Art of Chitimaches Preserved by Young Archeologists”.
ixiv) Advocate 63-1-18. “Nine Organizations File Charter with Clerk Here”.
ixv) Advocate 63-2-2. “Anna May Switzer Weds Mr. J. Ashley Sibley in Episcopal Service”.
ixvii) Advocate 63-4-29. “BR High Student Named Junior Academy of Science Head at Monroe Meeting”.
ixviii) Advocate 63-5-9. “Annual Meeting of Archeologists Set For Tonight”.
ixx) Advocate 64-4-1. “What Teen-Agers are Doing Here – Going to Science Fair”.
ixxi) Advocate 64-9-2. “Archeologists Print Journal”.
ixxii) Advocate 66-12-16. “Archeological Trip Planned by Pupil Body”.
ixxvi) Advocate 68-3-61. “Archeological Group Installs 7 New Officers”.
ixxvii) Advocate 68-3-62. “Area Social Studies Fair Winners Announced by LSU”.
ixxviii) Advocate 68-4-10. “Local Author Writes Book on La. Indians”.
ixxix) Advocate 68-7-17. “Archeological Society Booklet Written Here”.
xxx) Advocate 70-9-13. “Junior Archeologists Take An Expedition to Mexico”.
xxx) Advocate 71-3-12. “Social Studies Work Gets Awards at LSU-Based Fair”.
xxxii) Advocate 72-3-18. “Social Studies Fair Winners Announced”.
xxxiii) Advocate 72-4-12. “Social Studies Fair Winners Listed”.
xxxiv) Advocate 72-7-20. “Geology of Baton Rouge Area Discussed in New Publication”.

B) State Times Articles.
i) *State Times Finding Guide*.
ii) STA 60-1-19. “State’s Junior Science Academy Is Outstanding.”
iii) STA 60-10-27. “Archaeological Student Group Plans Program.”
iv) STA 61-1-5. “Sibley, Mrs. Zilda P.”
v) STA 61-3-6. “Junior Science Academy Meet Slated March 18.”
vi) STA 61-6-29. “Archeological Society Being Formed Here.”
vii) STA 62-5-31. “Indian-Type Pottery to be Craft Project of Society.”
ix) STA 63-2-5. “Plastic Surgeon Will Address BR Junior Archeology Society.”
x) STA 63-3-11. “400 Young Scientists Show Exhibits at Fair.”
xi) STA 63-4-29. “BR Student Named Head of State Jr. Academy.”
xii) STA 63-8-29. “Archeologists Learn Mexico By Sights – and Sites.”
xiii) STA 63-9-10. “Youths Look High and Low on Recent Mexico Expedition.”
xv) STA 63-11-26. “Teachers Hear Pupils During State Meeting.”
xvi) STA 65-4-27. “Youths Ask for Site-Saving Legislation.”
xvii) STA 65-7-12. “Ashley Sibley to Speak Before Historical Assn.”
xix) STA 65-8-12. “Museum Tour and Talk Set as Fundora Show Tonight.”
xx) STA 65-9-16. “Society of Junior Archeologists Discover Theirs is a Hobby that Pays”.

xxiii) STA 66-12-1. “Set Construction to be Discussed by Archeologists”.
xxiv) STA 67-1-12. “Mexican City, Symbolism to be Discussed Tonight”.
xxv) STA 67-1-26. “Archeologists to Discuss Surveying, Map Reading”.
xxvi) STA 67-2-9. “Science Fiction Writers Will Discuss the Future”.
xxix) STA 68-2-8. “Club Members to Visit Anthropology Museum”.
xxx) STA 68-2-15. “Archeologists to Hear Haag”.

xxx) STA 68-3-5. “Archeological Society”
xxxii) STA 68-4-18. “Club Visits Digging Sites in Arkansas”.
xxxi) STA 68-5-30. “New Book Will Be Discussed”.
xxxiv) STA 68-7-16. “Archeological Group Booklet Published Here”.
xxxv) STA 68-7-25. “Archeological Society Will Hold Meet Tonight”.
xxvii) STA 72-1-20. “Job, Career Data Available to Students in New Program”.
xxviii) STA 72-3-16. “District Seven Social Studies Fair Winners Are Announced”
xxxix) STA 75-7-15. “Choctaw Indian Fair Slated in Mississippi”.

9) Reunion Materials. Materials from the 2001 reunion of the JAS at the Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge. Also included in correspondence with Janice Pierce.

A) Reunion Directory. Described above.
B) Reunion Program. Described above.
10) **Sibley Bag Fronts.** Bag fronts and field provenience sheets scanned at both UNC and Penn.
   A) **Fronts.** These bag fronts were scanned at Penn; accompanying materials in Penn’s possession.
      i) *Bag Fronts 1-16.*
   B) **Provenience Sheets.** Sheets filled out in the field with information.
      i) *Provenience Sheets 1-3.* Filled out by Janice Pierce; one depicts a map of Smith Creek.
   C) **UNC Scans.** Scanned information (bag fronts and otherwise) from UNC.

11) **Science Fair.** These materials mainly regard elections within the Louisiana Junior Academy of Sciences. Several members of the JAS contended for positions.
    A) *Science Fair Ballot.* This sheet indicates the necessary attributes of successful candidates.
    B) *Science Fair Candidate Profiles.* These are short biographies of the candidates running for office. Among the included individuals are Neill Terry and Charles Hair.

12) **Sibley, the Author.** The materials in this folder were authored by Sibley. It does not include the JAS Handbook, but that is also among his published works.
    A) *Louisiana’s Ancients of Man.* Discusses Louisiana’s ancient history in what is meant to be a digestible manner. Intended for younger individuals.
    B) “*Sibleyshire: A North Louisiana Landmark at Grindstone Bluff*”. Discusses Sibley’s land at Grindstone Bluff and its natural and archaeological attributes.

13) **The Junior Archaeologist.** This is the publication of the JAS, written and edited by members.
    A) *Junior Archaeologist 1 No. 1.*
    B) *Junior Archaeologist 2 No. 1.*
    C) *Junior Archaeologist 3.* Only the title page of this volume was included, so I scanned it.
    D) *Junior Archaeologist 4.* Versions from Ellis and Girard had different title pages, so both are included; however, only one copy of the issue is scanned.
APPENDIX D:

JAS ON-SITE RECORDING FORMS

These forms were used to record data during the excavation process.
Fig. D1. “Site Index Sheet” used to catalogue recovered artifacts during excavations (JAS Archive).
Fig. D2. "Burial Data Form" employed by Junior Archeologists in the field (JAS Archive).
Fig. D3. “Feature Data” form used by Junior Archeologists in the field (JAS Archive).
APPENDIX E:
RANDY ELLIS’S PHOTOGRAPHS

These photographs come from a science paper written by Randy Ellis – they were submitted in the configuration in which they appear below (Ellis Science Paper, JAS Archive). The majority of the images were taken at Smith Creek (22Wk526), and depict both the landscape and members at work. Readers should take note that this Appendix includes a photograph of Native American cranial remains.
Fig. E1. Photos taken and captioned by JAS member Randy Ellis – the top photo portrays a Native American group, while the bottom one depicts what may be the Menefee Marksville site (JAS Archive).
Fig. E2. Photos taken and captioned by JAS member Randy Ellis – both depict Smith Creek’s Mound A, which was at that point relatively sparsely vegetated (JAS Archive).
Fig. E3. Photos taken and captioned by JAS member Randy Ellis – both views of mounds at Smith Creek, which are difficult to identify in light of changes to the appearance of the landscape since then (JAS Archive).
Fig. E4. Photos taken and captioned by JAS member Randy Ellis – shows relatively intact human skull recovered in Smith Creek’s Mound B (JAS Archive).
Fig. E5. Photos taken and captioned by JAS member Randy Ellis – both depict members of the JAS excavating at Smith Creek (JAS Archive).
APPENDIX F:

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE JAS
JUNIOR ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Constitution
Revised May 1962

Article I

I. Name: The name of this organization shall be: The Junior Archeological Society, hereafter known as the Nation.

A. The Nation shall be made up of State organizations known as Tribal Confederations, such as the Junior Archeological Society of Louisiana.

B. The Tribal Confederations shall be made up of local organizations known as Tribes, such as the Baton Rouge Tribe.

1. The Local Tribes shall be made up of Clans having individual members.

2. The Clans, Tribes, Tribal Confederations, Nations, or World Society shall have Indian names.

3. There shall be a minimum of three Clans to a tribe and none of which shall have more than 49% voting membership.

Article II

I. The purposes of the Society are to promote through organized regular meetings, expeditions, fellowship and service projects:

A. scientific archeological exploration and excavation,

B. the preservation of archeological materials, and their display,

C. the classification, interpretation and recording of the results of the locating and excavation of such artifacts,

D. the encouragement of amateur archeologists to analyze their own collections and record the information in a scientific manner,

E. contributions to the increasing knowledge of the thousands of years of native history of these United States, America and the world.

F. the uniting of those who are interested in the Indian history and prehistory of the United States and America,

G. the development and promotion of a greater public interest and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the United States, America and the world.

H. the better understanding and appreciation of our fellow man through the study of anthropology, archeology and related sciences.

I. the carrying out of our motto: "Knowing the past - betters the future."
Junior Archeological Society Constitution ... Page 2.

Article III

1. Membership and Dues

A. Active Members
(1) Any interested person or others having demonstrated outstanding abilities in archeology, approved by the membership, in or above the sixth grade and below high school graduation may become a member of the Junior Archeological Society by payment of dues and meeting the other necessary qualifications for membership stated in the By-Laws.
(2) Adult sponsors shall be active members.

B. Honorary Member.
(1) A person may be elected for outstanding service to the Society as an Honorary Member.

C. Fellow
(1) A Fellow and Honorary Member may be elected for meritorious contributions to archeology. Fellows and Honorary Members shall be nominated by the Board of Directors, known as the Council, and elected by three-fourths of the membership present at any annual meeting of the Society.

D. Dues
(1) Dues shall be determined by the By-Laws.

Article IV

I Government.

A. The government of the Society shall be vested in the Council of five officers and the adult sponsor(s) who shall be elected by the membership in such a manner as prescribed in the By-Laws.

B. Rules for establishment of other Tribes, Tribal Confederations, Nations or World Society are set up on a separate sheet.

Article V

I. Meetings shall be held every other week during the school term and twice during the remainder of the year or upon the call of the Council or sponsor(s) for a total of 20 regular meetings.

A. Place: The place of meeting shall be: Walnut Hills Elementary School, 2050 South Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, La., unless otherwise notified by the Secretary.

B. Time: The time of regular meetings shall be from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M., unless otherwise notified by the Secretary.

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Junior Archeological Society Constitution ... Page 3.

Article V (Continued)

C. Date: The date of the meeting shall be Thursday, unless otherwise notified by the Secretary.

II Expeditions shall be held monthly for a total of 10 expeditions or field trips per year.

A. Standards for expeditions are listed in the By-Laws.

Article VI

I Amendments. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members in good standing present at any regular meeting.

BY LAWS

Article I

I. Membership and Dues. Membership dues will be as follows:

A. Active (Payable annually or per meeting) $4.00
B. Contributing (Annual) $5.00
C. Life $100.00

II Membership pins and advancement pins fee will vary according to type.

III Privilege of membership depends upon:

A. Meeting the scholarship and conduct standards set by the Society, Tribal Confederation, Tribe and Clan on the attached sheets.
B. Attending and participating correctly in the meetings and activities of the Society or its affiliates, and meeting the requirements set on the attached rating sheet.
C. Filing an application for membership in proper order.
D. Completing a six weeks training and working test period, and demonstrating understanding of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society and its affiliate which membership has been applied in.
E. Be officially inducted as member in appropriate ceremonies.

Article II

I Election of Officers and Sponsors. At each annual meeting of the Society, the membership shall elect officers and sponsors for the ensuing year. The officers shall consist of a President (known as Chief), Vice President (known as
Junior Archeological Society By-Laws ... Page 4.

Article II (Continued)

Medicine Man, Secretary (known as Signal Sender), Treasurer (known as Wampum Keeper), Expedition Chairman (known as Trailblazer), and Sponsors (known as elders).

II Sponsors shall be known as elders, selected in a manner prescribed in the By-Laws and retain sponsorship until the position is vacated.

III Former Presidents shall become Junior Assistant Elders upon completion of their term of office, approved by the membership.

IV Duties. The duties of the officers shall be as their titles, by Roberts Rules of Order indicates, and such others as may be assigned to them respectively by the Society through its Constitution and By-Laws.

Executive Committee: Junior Assistant Elder.
Assists advisors, trains leaders, helps advise officers, inspires; represents.

President (Chief)
Leader of officers and Society Head of council, Ex-officio member of all committees, appoints committee members on advice of chairmen, office advisors.

Vice President (Shaman)
Assistant to Chief, Head of Program and Ceremonies Committee.

Secretary (Signal Sender)
Keeps all Society meeting minutes (log book), librarian.
Assists Publicity Chairman.

Publicity Chairman (Word Bearer)
Prepares, coordinates and obtains publicity for Society.
Gets pictures, makes scrap book.

Treasurer (Wampum Keeper)
Keeps record of Society income-expenditures, collects dues, fees; raises funds, deposits, issues, collects pins.

Membership Chairman (Knotchemaker)
Keeps and posts attendance records, merits, ratings, demerits, awards earned.

Expedition Chairman (Trail Blazer)
Plans, supervises, keeps record of expeditions, collection, classification, Site Index Sheets, transportation, promotes Bus fund.

Museum Curator (Man's Record Keeper)
Supervises securing, catalogueing, classifying, labeling, making and displaying of Zilda P. Sibley Memorial Museum Exhibits, Dioramas, Display Cases, Museum Records, Tours, Visitors' Guides.
Junior Archeological Society By-Laws ... Page 5.

Clan Leaders: Pelican Clan Leader, Sun Clan Leader, Thunder Clan Cleader, Turtle Clan Leader
Head of Clan and responsible for training and leadership of members in Society activities participation.

Sponsor(s) (Elder)
To sponsor Society activities, encourage and work with officers and members in carrying out the purposes of the Society. Be available, whenever possible, to assist officers and members in the planning and carrying out of their duties, and for consultation on any business to advance the Society and its members.

A. Sponsor(s) shall have the care, control, and custody of any museum property and real estate acquired by the Society, placed in its permanent headquarters at Walnut Hills School, 2040 Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, La.
B. Vacancies in the Council shall be filled by the President, approved by the Council until the next regular meeting of the Society, at which time an election will be called to fill the unexpired term.
C. Meetings of the Council. The Council shall meet at such periods as may be determined by the Council, or on call of the President, provided sufficient notice is given members.
D. The Council shall administer the finances of the Society and direct the Treasurer to carry out such requirements accordingly.

Article III

I Committees. The President shall appoint all Committees, except those herewith provided for.

A. Committees appointed by the President shall have such duties and functions as he may assign to them.

II A. Program and Ceremonies Committee - Chairman, Vice President; Co-Chairman; Music Co-Chairman; Dance Co-Chairman; Games Co-Chairman; Fellowship Co-Chairman.
Plans Programs, introduces speakers, makes arrangements; opens, closes building, windows; attends to ventilation, lights, audio-visual aids; helps speakers with materials. Plans, prepares, leads in opening, closing ceremonies, Society song, pledge, call, motto. Plans, prepares, trains members in and presents special arts, crafts, dance, song, game activities, programs, powwows, plays, dramatics, folk festivals - using authentic materials, properties, make-up, continuity, dances, lighting, costumes, musical instruments, ornaments, artifacts, and cultural characteristics. Plans and leads other special induction ceremonies.
B. Publicity Committee (Appointed) -
Plans, prepares, coordinates Society news, gets publicity, keeps scrapbook, takes photographs and articles and arrange in attractive cover. Keep up bulletin board. Edits and issues "The Junior Archeologist". Keeps up file, library; issues and receives books, orders books, journals; classifies, indexes, catalogues reference material. Supervises members in preparing regular reports on journals, current events, books.

C. Finance Committee - Treasurer, Chairman.
Plans, prepares, coordinates and leads money raising projects for the Societies activities - The Zilda P. Sibley Museum Foundation, Society Bus Fund, Diorama Exhibit Cases, Library materials, etc.

D. Membership and Awards Committee - (Appointed) Chairman, Co-Chairman.
Supervises records on membership attendance, training, advancement, ratings, rank achievement, awards earned, merits, demerits. Recruits, trains, welcomes candidates for membership. Encourages advancement, participation, earning awards, service activities, represents Society. Takes turn as greeting committee and having visitors sign guest book. Issues information, applications.

E. Expedition Committee - Trailblazer Chairman, Co-Chairman.
Plans, arranges for, supervises expeditions, transportation, assigns members to cars, work groups with help of Clan Leaders. Checks proper collection, excavation, labelling and recording of data on sacks, Site Survey Sheets and in Expedition Record Book.

F. Museum Committee - (Appointed) Chairman, Co-Chairman.
Plans, secures, classifies, labels, makes displays, exhibits, dioramas, supervises other members and trains in making collections, classifying and labelling specimens, creating attractive and informative exhibits; arranges for recording of data with Curator in Museum Record Book of all artifacts collected, donated or loaned the Society, check early receipt of material within two weeks after expeditions; arranges for making guided tours, talks before other groups. Keeps up Society's Zilda P. Sibley Memorial Museum and Exhibits.

G. Pottery Classification Manual and Projectile Point Classification Manual Committee - (Appointed) Chairman, Co-Chairman.
Plans, does research on, prepares, and publishes manuals for the classification of pottery and projectile points of Louisiana Indian cultures in particular, for better understanding of man's development in Louisiana and elsewhere. Thus, learning of his contributions, accomplishments and mistakes, to profit from and improve upon. Render service to archeology in Louisiana.
Junior Archeological Society By-Laws...

H. Junior Academy of Sciences and Science Fair Committee - (Appointed) Chairman, Co-Chairman.

Plans, prepares for, instructs members on methods of making projects, papers for entry in Junior Academy of Sciences and Science Fairs. Encourages support for the program and participation in activities, elections, buying of keys, pins. Chairman, represent the Junior Archeological Society at Academy meetings, programs. All participate and stimulate more exhibits, scientific projects on archeology, anthropology, and related subjects to inform others and "Know the Past-To Better the Future". Coordinate work with L.S.U., Geography and Anthropology Department, Geology Department, Louisiana Archeological Society and similar professional societies and organizations, locally, area, state, nationwide and international.

Article IV

I. Fiscal Year

A. The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on the adjournment of the annual session.
   1. The annual meeting shall be held at the second to last meeting during the school year; induction of officers shall be made at the next regular meeting.

Article V

I. Attendance, Participation and Probation

A. Members and candidates shall meet the minimum requirements of standards set on rating sheets, and rules for recognition of accomplishment and achievements.

B. Members shall attend at least 30 regular meetings per year, 7 expeditions or field trips, 7 fellowship activities and 1 service activity per year.

C. A member shall be put on probation by the Council if he misses three consecutive meetings and/or activities without an acceptable excuse. He shall be removed as a member if he misses two additional meetings and/or activities without a reasonable excuse.

D. After notice has been given a member of his failure to meet minimum standards of the Society he shall be placed on probation by the Council until his next complete regular rating, within at least six weeks period. Should the member not meet the minimum standards within the rating period he shall be removed as a member.
Article VI

I. Rules for Recognition of Accomplishments and Advancement.

A. Rating sheets shall be used as a basis for determining the achievements of the member and his right to receive recognition for advancement within the Society, Tribal Confederation, Tribe and Clan.

B. Rating sheets shall also be used for determining the extent to which the member is in good standing or shall be placed on probation.

C. Members shall have a minimum average of one (1) point credit for all items on the rating sheet at the rate below to be in good standing.

D. Members shall have an average rate of two (2) points credit or more for all items on the rating sheet at the following rate to be eligible for advancement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meetings 2 x 20 items</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>40 x 30 per yr</th>
<th>1200</th>
<th>600 x 6 yrs</th>
<th>7200</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expeditions 2 x 26 &quot;</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>52 x 7 per yr</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>364 x 6 yrs</td>
<td>2184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellowship 2 x 10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20 x 7 per yr</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140 x 6 yrs</td>
<td>840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service 2 x 8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16 x 1 per yr</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16 x 6 yrs</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>1720</td>
<td>10320</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Total minimum required for meeting basic score on rating sheet for advancement is 128 points.

2. Total minimum required for meeting basic score on rating sheet for advancement per year is 1720 points.

3. Total minimum points required for meeting basic score on rating sheets for six years of advancement is 10320.

E. Candidates for membership shall have earned the equivalent of the amount of points he could earn on rating sheet in six weeks working test period or

1. Meetings - 6 in 6 weeks at 40 points = 240 points
2. Expeditions - 1 in six weeks at 52 " = 52 points
3. Fellowship - 1 in 6 weeks at 2 points = 2 points
4. Service (extra credit when earned) = 294 points/6 wks.

F. Members shall have earned the number of points equivalent to that which he could earn as a minimum for recognition for advancement in 18 weeks at the following rate:

1. Meetings - 15 x 40 = 600 points
2. Expeditions - 3 1/2 x 52 = 182
3. Fellowship - 3 1/2 x 20 = 70
4. Service 1 1/2 x 16 = 8

860 points/18 weeks

G. For higher ranks of achievement members must have earned multiples of the 18 weeks requirements.
H. Minimum requirements for membership shall be:
1. Meetings - 1x20 - 20 Per year 20x15 600
2. Expeditions-1x26 26 26x7 182
3. Fellowship- 1x10 10 10x7 70
4. Service 1x8 8 8x1 8
One Rating Sheet Total 64 Min. Yr. Total 860

Awards may be earned in the following order when the number of points required for each shown in the By-Laws are met:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Meetings</th>
<th>Culture-Period Represented by</th>
<th>Pendant-Award For</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 40</td>
<td>Coming of Man (Candidate)</td>
<td>Plain Ceramic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 294</td>
<td>Paleo-American (Member)</td>
<td>Folsum Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 860</td>
<td>Archaic (Poverty Point)</td>
<td>Clay Heating Balls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 1,720</td>
<td>Tchefuncte (Early Woodland)</td>
<td>Shell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 3,440</td>
<td>Marksville (Late Woodland)</td>
<td>Conical Burial Mound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 5,160</td>
<td>Troyville-Coles Creek(Miss.or Neo-American)</td>
<td>Pyramidal Temple Mound-truncated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 6,880</td>
<td>Plaquemine (Miss. and Neo-American)</td>
<td>Corn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 8,600</td>
<td>Historic (Natchez)</td>
<td>Sun Circle-Human Hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 10,320</td>
<td>Modern (Future)</td>
<td>Large Society Totem</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Officers and leaders shall receive the following pendants symbolizing their rank:
1. Chief - Peace pipe
2. Shaman (Medicin Man) - Mask
3. Signal Sender - Drum; Word Bearer (Wind Mask)
4. Wampum Keeper - Conch Shell
5. Knotch Maker - Knotched stick
6. Trailblazer - Axe; Man's Record Keeper (Curator)-Clay tablet and stylus
7. Clan Leaders - Large Totem of Clan
8. Assistant Clan Leaders - Small Totem of Clan
9. Elders - Large eagle

Article VII

I Robert's Rules of Order, the latest edition, shall be recognized as the authority governing the meetings of the Society, Council and Committees, where not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws.

II Robert's Rules of Order, 1951 edition, page 299 provides: "The Right of a Deliberative Assembly to Punish its Members". A deliberative assembly has the inherent right to make and enforce its own laws and punish an offender, the extreme penalty, however, being expulsion from its own body. When
expelled, if the assembly is a permanent society, it has
the right, for its own protection, and to give public
notice that the person has ceased to be a member of that
society.

III Robert's Rules of Order, page 207 provides that "With
such an organization (one that is not in session at the
time of business is being carried out by its members) it
is customary and necessary to delegate to a committee,
usually known as the Board of Managers or Directors, all
its authority, with slight limitations, to be exercised
between its meeting. (When a committee or board (council)
member does not carry out his duties, the final authority
must rest with remaining authorities, the Sponsors.

Article VIII

I Amendments. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote
of the active members in good standing present at any regular
membership meeting or at any special session called for
that purpose, provided the nature of the called meeting is
plainly stated in the notice of the meeting, filed with
members in sufficient time to be present.

1. A member or candidate not paying dues for three consecu-
tive meetings, shall be placed on probation, after warned
by the proper official of the council, that is the
Treasurer (Wampum Keeper) or Assistant.
2. An officer may serve three terms, but only two of which
may be in the same office.
3. Each Clan Leader shall call the members of his clan,
which may be equally divided between he and his assistant,
for each Society activity, and for each member not reached,
1 point will be deducted on the rating sheet of the per-
son responsible for calling and the Clan Leader, provided
the member or candidate does not attend the meeting.
4. Each Clan shall plan in advance and present to the Society
at least one program per year, for which participants
will receive credit on rating sheets.
5. The Society shall publish a scientific bulletin each
quarter of the year on Archeology and Anthropology,
written by the members, provided the articles are re-
viewed and approved by the Sponsors and also provided
that it is financially feasible.
6. When a member or candidate is separated from the Society,
he shall rejoin only by following the same procedure
required of any applicant as a candidate for membership,
and he shall meet the requirements established for can-
didates applying for membership.
7. Any person handling the property of the Treasurer other than those duly authorized by the Treasurer and/or the Council shall be penalized all points for the meeting and subject to further penalties by the council.

8. No person shall take pictures of secret ceremonies or attend such ceremonies unless authorized by the council, and such pictures shall be kept private and confidential, as are the ceremonies.

9. If any member fails to do his duty, the council will consider what action is necessary in each case to encourage, promote and/or require the carrying out of such duty or recommend the membership such penalties as demanded, by the situation, for action by the members.

10. All members shall buy membership pins, and he shall pay for the pin within a twelve week period at the rate of at least 50¢ per meeting, until a total of $5.00 is paid for the pin. He may pay or start paying for his pin after the acceptance of his application as a candidate for membership.

11. The Clan Leader of any person separated from the Society shall contact that person and notify him of his responsibility to return his card, books, handbook, artifacts and any other material of the Society to the Clan Leader or other authorized person for deposit in the Society headquarters at 2040 S. Acadian Thruway, and any person not returning such Society material after notified shall have his parent contacted by the Clan Leader for such material.

12. Members or candidates late to meetings shall provide an excuse before or after his absence to the membership chairman (notch maker) and/or Clan Leader, for acceptance by the council or receive appropriate demerits determined by the council.

13. A member who is separated or requested his resignation must return to the Society all materials, pins, books, cards, dues and fees due before his separation or resignation is accepted, otherwise he will be dismissed in bad standing.

14. Members will be placed on probation until dues are paid up to date. Member may make up payment at a minimum of 10¢ per meeting plus the regular dues of 10¢ or may pay $4.00 for the year, which is less than one would pay for the year at 10¢ per meeting. Members will be given demerits for each meeting dues are not paid up in the amount of 5 points per meeting. Members need to keep dues paid up to date and on time to be a member in good standing and to keep the Society operating properly.
Article IX

I Rules for Meetings, Expeditions, Fellowship and Service Activities.

To be used in determining merits and demerits on all activities and as a total in making large pendant award at annual powwow for member recognized by membership and awards committee, approved by membership, as the most outstanding for courtesy, loyalty, fellowship, leadership and all-round best brave. The large pendant will rotate from year to year, but member will keep a smaller one and certificate. Each member will receive points credit or demerits, be placed on probation or separated as recommended by the committee. Except, probation and separation, requests must be approved by membership, and council. Committee can act on merits and demerits at any meeting or activity of the Society. All action shall follow constitution, by-laws, rules covering merits and/or demerits, rating sheets and this list of rules for meetings, expeditions, fellowship and service activities. The committee shall also recommend awards for recognition of advancement to the council for approval, and presentation at ceremonies. It shall plan and conduct membership drives, greet new members, candidates and others and provide them with necessary papers, then follow up by calling or otherwise encouraging their joining. The will set up and conduct training programs in cooperation with Clan Leanders and determine when candidates have completed requirements for six weeks training and "Candidate's Check List" and are eligible for examination and final induction test and ceremony.

Rules; Candidates and Members are expected at all times to:

1. Know and observe the Society Pledge.
2. Know and observe the Constitution and By-Laws; Rules.
3. Regularly and Promptly attend all Society activities.
4. Participate in all Society activities, mark on Rating Sheet right.
5. Be proud to be a member, wear the pin to meetings and on other tours, or assignments as representative of the Society.
6. Be proud of and wear pendant at ceremonies or special occasions.
7. Pay dues regularly and on time.
8. Know and carry out all duties as candidate, member or officer.
9. Attend special training and successfully participate for advancement and to carry out the purposes of the Society.
10. Know and observe the purposes of the Society, as stated in the Constitution and By-Laws and on Totem.
11. Know and use the Society sign of greeting and fellowship.
12. Respect individuals and property, especially school property and that of others when attending meetings, expeditions.
13. Observe rules of East Baton Rouge Schools with regard to "No Smoking" or "Gum Chewing" on school property; also in other Society activities - "No Smoking", or incorrect behavior, language.
14. Respect the rights of others, have self respect, be kind, considerate and understanding, willing to share with others.
15. Be honest, trustworthy, dependable, accurate, careful.
16. Loyal, cooperative, modest, cheerful, industrious, willing to stand up for other members and Society, using self control.
17. Use good manners, be polite, friendly, show fellowship.
18. Willing to accept better ideas and improve self, and Society, Clan.
19. Know and observe good moral standards of conduct and behavior.
20. Develop wise code of behavior in line with religion, Society rules, community, State and National laws and carry out in own philosophy of life and in daily living.

Article X

Procedure for starting a new Unit (Tribe)

Sponsor.

A. A teacher or other qualified person who understands the responsibilities of sponsorship, the purposes of the Society and sincerely desires to sponsor a unit (tribe) of the Society may apply to the Society as a sponsor, with the recommendation of the principal at the school in which the teacher is employed and/or a parent's council.

Parents' Council

B. A Parents' Council made up of at least three interested parents of students who want to participate in such an organization shall join with the teacher or other qualified person seeking application as a sponsor in applying for the establishment of a new unit.

Student Leaders (Tribal Council)

C. A Tribal Council made up of student officers or potential officers make up the tribal council together with the sponsor. At least five students who are potential leaders for the unit shall also apply for establishment of the organizational unit along with the sponsor and parents' council.
D. Application
Letter of application for establishing a unit of the Society shall be addressed to the President (Chief) of the Junior Archeological Society, 2040 S. Acadian Thruway, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, permanent address of the Society. Upon receipt of the application the President will at the next regular meeting of the Society present the application to the Society Council for consideration and approval. Upon approval the applicants for sponsoring a new unit will be sent a form to be completed and returned when requirements for establishing the organization are completed within a six weeks period.
A choice of names for the unit will be suggested, based upon the names of tribes or Indian cultures native to the area of the applicant. The unit will choose the name desired, and notify the Society. The Society will send necessary information or a representative(s) at a time, date and place designated by the applicants; and agreed to meet with an discuss with them the requirements for setting up a tribal unit, including a once a week training session to be completed within a six weeks period. The training session shall include the Sponsor applicant, at least one Parents' Council representative and at least five potential student leaders. Tribal and Clan Leaders are to be selected and trained as the result of this.
Meeting place, date and time are to be established.
The applying unit will report all requirements completed by the end of the first six weeks after organization. Also semi-annual and annual reports are to be made to the State Society to assure progress and so the State Society may furnish assistance as needed.
Assistance may be requested at any other time.
Financial Budget - Each applying unit shall set up a budget including the following expenses:
$3.00 minimum for membership pin.
Members will pay for additional Bar with local tribe name.
When earns entitlement to wear as the result of accomplishments and advancement recognition by local unit and approved by State Society, pendants may be bought.
$4.00 minimum for operating expenses ($0.50) to the State Society for certificates of membership, postage, etc.)
Money is to be collected by Clan Leaders in envelopes to be furnished by unit treasurer. Clan Leader lists payments besides names of members written on envelope and the money is sealed in envelope and given to unit treasurer to post in record book.
A rating sheet is used for checking, planning and carrying out meetings, expeditions, fellowship and service of the Unit, (Tribe), Clan and members. This is also used for determining entitlement of members for advancement recognition.
Purposes and Requirements for membership. A copy of the Constitution, By-Laws and Rules for recognition shall be supplied each tribal unit by the Society.

Local or State units may establish additional material for own use and furnish Society a copy, so ideas may be exchanged.

Tribal units shall furnish own members a copy of State Constitution, By-Laws and requirements for advancement and recognition in addition to local materials.

Ceremonies. The Society shall furnish suggested Installation, Ceremonies for officers and leaders, advancement recognition, for entertainment and educational purposes.

Applicants for membership shall submit from parents waivers of any claim against the Society for any injury sustained by member or applicant for membership when participating in activities of the Society.

E. Membership Certificate.

After all requirements are met and approved by Society for applicants of a Unit, a membership certificate shall be furnished the Unit.

F. Annual Meeting.

An annual meeting of members of the Society shall be held each year at a place, date and time set by the executive council of the Society.

Suggestions for the Annual Meeting shall be considered from the Units.

Units shall send a minimum of one representative and one one additional member for each ten members.

Exhibits, and data compiled on sites explored will be shown.

Ceremonies, Indian games, dances, skits, arts and crafts, and reports will be staged for exchange purposes and fellowship.

Recognition of members who have performed outstanding service will also be made.
REFERENCES CITED

Baton Rouge Advocate
1960 Students Set Up Indian Powwow for Saturday. 27 October:5B. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1961 Z Sibley, Schoolteacher Here, Succumbs. 5 January:11E. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1962 Learned Council Consulate Will Attend BR Meet. 23 January:12A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1963 Anna May Switzer Weds Mr. J. Ashley Sibley in Episcopal Service. 2 February:9A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1967 Drude to Talk Here Tonight About Indians. 27 September: 3A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1968 Area Social Studies Fair Winners Announced by LSU. 6 March:11A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1968 Archeologists Group Planning Oklahoma Trip. 10 August:12A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

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1963 400 Young Scientists Show Exhibits at Fair. 11 March:10A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1965 Ashley Sibley to Speak Before Historical Assn. 12 July:10A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1965 Archeology Tour. 9 August:9C. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1982 Local Briefs – Governor’s Award. 19 February:12A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
1991 Sibley Jr., Mr. James Ashley. 12 May:12A. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
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2015 *Descriptive Bioarchaeological Analysis of Human Remains from the Smith Creek Site (22Wk526*), Acquired from the Museum at Grindstone Bluff*. Louisiana Department of Justice, Louisiana.

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Luck, Ann.

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1963 Youths Look High and Low on Recent Mexico Expedition. State-Times 10 September: 10A.

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