

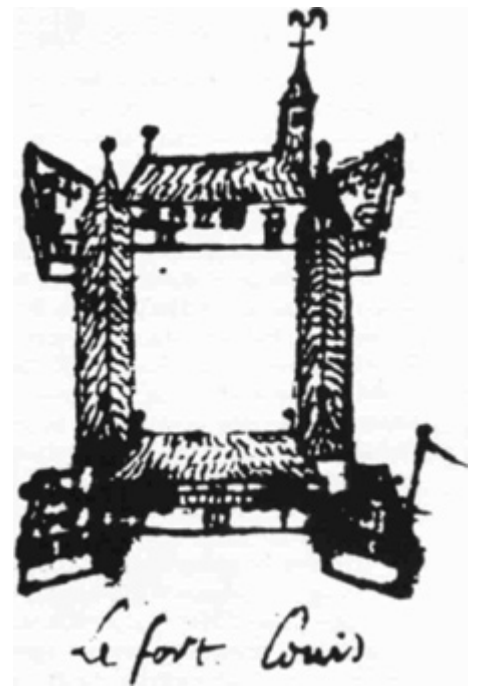
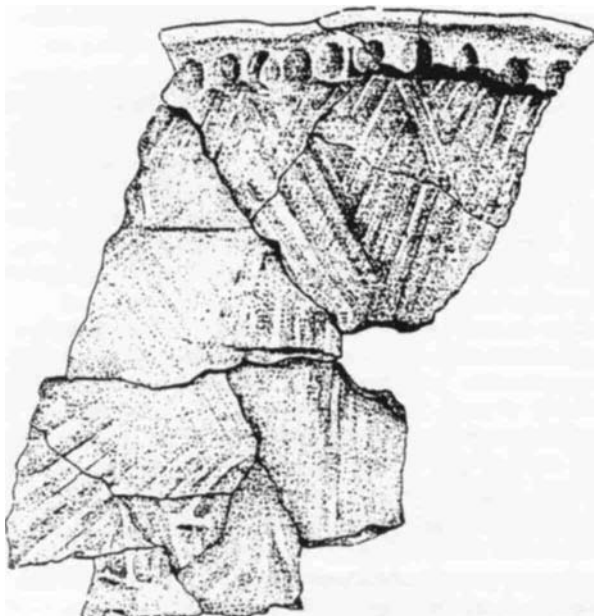
The Old Mobile Project Newsletter

Issue 11

Fall 1994

Apalachee Indians and the French at Old Mobile

Among the first artifacts found when excavations began at Old Mobile in 1989 were sherds of Apalachee Indian pottery, distinguishable from other Native American-made potsherds by their singular surface treatment, called "complicated stamping." Apalachee women potters used intricately carved wooden paddles to finish the exteriors of their clay pots, leaving vestiges of elaborate geometric designs on the finished vessels. Several hundred sherds, representing twenty-three Apalachee complicated stamped vessels, have so far been identified by **Diane Silvia** in the course of her analysis of the Indian ceramics. This, however, is only a small portion of the 451 vessels (represented by 21,166 sherds over 4-inch in size) found during excavations at Structures 1 through 5. We have suspected for some time that a substantial number of the other Indian-made pots from Old Mobile were also produced by Apalachee potters.



Quite a lot is now known about the Apalachee Indians, who originally occupied an area of northern Florida in the vicinity of present-day Tallahassee, due to a flurry of archaeological and historical research during the last decade. In his excellent book, *Apalachee: The Land between the Rivers* (University of Florida Press, 1988), John Hann describes how the Apalachees responded to Spanish efforts at missionization, at first by armed revolt, and eventually by acceptance of Catholicism and many other elements of Spanish culture. Among their accommodations to Spanish colonization was the production of pottery, employing traditionally Apalachee materials and decorative motifs but copying the forms of European vessels, such as handled pitchers and plates with footed bases. Archaeologists call these locally-made knock-offs "Colono wares," and they have been found in several parts of the Southeast on sites of the colonial period. In South Carolina and parts of Virginia, Colono wares seem to have been made predominantly by enslaved Africans, but along the Gulf coast Colono pottery was being produced by Native Americans long before Africans were brought to the region.

The Apalachee missions and towns in Florida were destroyed by a series of English and Creek Indian raids beginning in 1702 and continuing through 1705. Hundreds of Apalachees and neighboring peoples who escaped enslavement by the English made their way westward to Mobile, where they were welcomed as allies and fellow Catholics and given land for their settlements and fields. From maps and documents, we know that Apalachee farmers raised abundant crops of corn and beans in bottomland clearings along the Mobile and Tensaw rivers, where silt deposited by spring floods annually replenished soil nutrients; their agricultural surpluses found a ready market among the colonists, few of whom were dedicated farmers. A few artifacts, such as jet rosary beads and ear pendants of glass plus the complicated stamped pottery, unequivocally indicate the presence of Apalachees at Old Mobile, but we do not yet know whether they were also responsible for making the several hundred Colono plates and pitchers found there. One (or more) Indian group was clearly an important source of tableware for the colonists. But
(Continued on next page)

Complicated stamped rim sherd, pieced together from a dozen fragments, found at Structure 3. IMB94: 1/2 scale. This sherd came from a large cooking pot made by an Apalachee Indian, after their move in 1704 to the vicinity of Old Mobile to escape English slave raids. The Apalachees evidently produced pottery for sale to the French colonists. (Drawing by Jo Ann Slalen.)

Interesting Reading

Historic Louisiana Nails: Aids to the Dating of Old Buildings, by Jay Edwards and Tom Wells, anthropologists at Louisiana State University, highlights French colonial nailmaking as revealed in specimens found in standing structures and archaeological sites (including Old Mobile). The book contains several hundred excellent photographs and drawings depicting the entire range of nails used during the last three centuries. To obtain a copy, send \$18.00 (plus \$2.00 for mailing) to Geoscience Publications, P.O. Box 16010, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-6010.

After a five-year hiatus, "Archaeological Completion Reports" are once again being published on the Fort Michilimackinac site. The most recent title, number 15 in the series, **Craft Industries at Fort Michilimackinac, 1715-1781**, by Lynn L. Morand, reviews local production at that French (and, later, British) frontier fort. Worn kettles made of sheet copper or brass were recycled into projectile points, tinkling cones, sieves and rivets; lead was easily recast into shot; soft stones were whittled into smoking pipes; and animal skins and cloth were transmuted into clothing to the isolated colonists and neighboring Native Americans. Morand's book can be purchased for \$10.00 (plus \$3.00 for shipping) from Mackinac State Historic Parks, P.O. Box 873-P, Mackinaw City, MI 49701.

The University Press of Mississippi has published a remarkable book designed for classroom use in secondary schools and colleges as a supplementary French-language reader. **Rencontres sur le Mississippi, 1682-1763**, by Gail Buzhardt and Margaret Hawthorne, offers extracts from authentic historical documents on French exploration and settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Interspersed among numerous contemporary engravings and woodcuts are more than a hundred selections covering topics such as French and Indian diplomacy and war. Voltaire on "Discovery," and the natural history of the region (including a charming first impression of *la bete puante*, a striped skunk). A copy of this hardbound book costs \$28.00 (plus \$3.50 for shipping) from University Press of Mississippi, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211-6492. Examination copies are available for consideration of classroom adoption.

Finally, archaeologists will want to see Paul-Gaston L'Anglais's masterpiece of comparative analysis, **Les modes de vie a Quebec et a Louisbourg au milieu du XVII^e siecle a partir de collections archeologiques, tome 1: Place-Royale, tome 2: Louisbourg**. Artifacts excavated at seven households in Quebec and Louisbourg are organized by functional classes in order to reconstruct the life-ways of each family. L'Anglais then draws on inventories and other documents to correlate material conditions, as determined archaeologically, with social levels. Building on decades of data gathering at French colonial sites across eastern North America, archaeologists such as L'Anglais are beginning to make real contributions to social history and comparative ethnography. The two-volume set, number 86 in the *Dossier* series, is available for \$24.90 (plus postage, Canadian funds) from La Librairie du Nouveau Monde, 103 rue St-Pierre, C. P. 83, Succ-B. Quebec. QC. G 1K 7A1 (FAX:418-694-9486).

On April 25th, E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company donated an easement on its portion of the Old Mobile site to The *Archaeological Conservancy*, a private, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the most significant archaeological sites in the United States. The easement created the Conservancy's first preserve in the state, and provides a model for other Old Mobile site landowners to follow. Mark Michel, Conservancy president, and southeast regional director Bill Kerrigan represented the Conservancy at the presentation ceremony held at the site. Also attending the ceremony were Framon Weaver, tribal chief of the Mowa Band of Choctaw Indians; Michel Pinard, deputy consul of France; Mark Barnes, National Park Service senior archaeologist; Ann Chestang Miller, descendant of one of the Old Mobile families and LeMoyne Industrial Park community advisory panel vice chair; and Joel Wommack, DuPont director of global operations.

This easement is a major step toward permanent preservation of the fragile archaeological site, insuring that at least this portion will be available for future research. This accomplishment does not, however, provide public access to the site or enable plans to proceed for on-site interpretation. The struggle to retrieve Old Mobile from historical obscurity and resurrect this portion of America's French colonial past for the public's edification has turned out to be much more difficult than any of us imagined when this process began over five years ago.

Friends of Old Mobile

The **Friends of Old Mobile, Inc.** - a non-profit association to promote and support the Old Mobile Project " invites you to become a supporting member by contributing \$25 (individual) or \$40 (family). Mail contributions to: Friends of Old Mobile, Inc., P.O. Box 6685, Mobile, AL 36660.

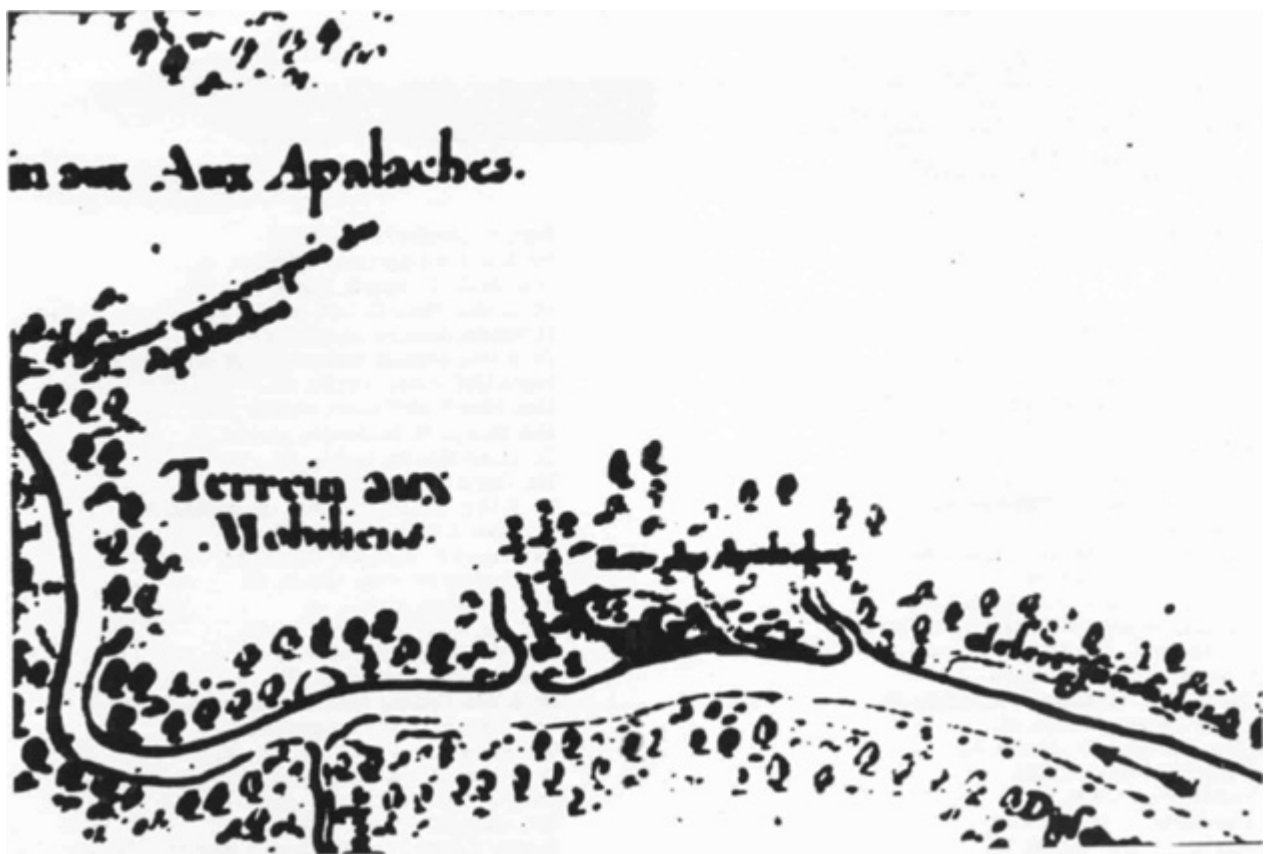
1995 Calendar

The "Alliance Franco-Americaine du Midwest" publishes a full-color, bilingual calendar depicting historical events and prominent French Americans. The 1995 edition of **LES FRANCAIS D'AMERIQUE/FRENCH IN AMERICA**, with 13 color photographs, is available for \$6.00 (add \$1.50 for postage and handling) from R. Mikesell, 1155 E. 56th St., Chicago, IL 60637-1530. Please make checks payable to: "French-American Calendar- 1995.

(Continued from frontpage)

we should not conclude prematurely that the Apalachees monopolized this cottage industry. When the town was founded in 1702, the French encountered Mobile and Tomeh Indians occupying the land, two years before the first Apalachees arrived; both groups may have diversified their pottery production to include Colono forms. On the other hand, many Chitimacha Indians from southern Louisiana were brought to the colony as slaves beginning in 1707, and they, too, might have contributed to our collection of excavated ceramics.

In order to resolve this complex problem, **Ann Cordell**, at the Ceramic Technology Laboratory of the Florida Museum of Natural History, plans to analyze the Old Mobile Indian-made pottery specifically to study continuity and change in Apalachee pottery production, building on her earlier studies of Apalachee pottery muKing at the site of San Luis de Talimali, in Tallahassee. Apalachee culture effectively came to an end in 1705 in Florida, but we may discover, by studying their artifacts at Old Mobile and other sites along the route of their diaspora, that those resilient and adaptive people continued to play an important role in the colonial Southeast throughout the eighteenth century.



Detail of a mid-18th-century French map entitled "Carte d'une partie du cours de la riviere de la Mobbille et de celle des Chicachas." showing Apalachee and Mobilian Indian lands and agricultural fields along the Mobile River a few miles north of the Old Mobile site. The fields, in the lower right are labeled "desert ynnondez." inundated fields, so-called because of their tendency to flood every spring (Library of Congress. Geography and Map Division, Alabama, G3972.M6 17887.C2 Vault).

Upcoming French Colonial Meetings

The Center for French Colonial Studies will hold its annual meeting at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (October 7-9, 1994). Presentation topics include Jean Mane Cardinal (the town's founder), French colonial architecture in the western Great Lakes, and status in the fur trade. The meeting begins and concludes with tours of French structures in the "Villages" of Prairie du Chien. For additional information, contact the Center for French Colonial Studies, 339 St. Mary's Road. Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670.

A symposium on French colonial archaeology is planned during the next annual meeting of the **Society for Historical Archaeology**, to be held at the J. W. Mamott Hotel in Washington, D.C. (January 4-8, 1995). Included on the program will be Marcel Moussette, Universite Lava ("Archaeology of Farming Settlements of the French Regime in the St. Lawrence Valley"), David Christianson and Andree Crepeau, Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site ("Home and Hearth: An Archaeological Perspective on Pre-1755 Acadian Domestic Architecture"), Alaric Faulkner, University of Maine ("Making and Meeting the Abenaki Market: The Warehouse and Workshop of Baron St. Castin"); Ellen Shiasko, Yale University ("Les francois refugiez' in Lowcountry South Carolina: French Contributions to an English Colony"), Jill Yakubik, Earth Search, New Orleans ("Archaeological Investigations Within the Durel Cottage, New Orleans"), and Gregory Waselkov, University of South Alabama ("Companions of Material Wealth at French Colonial Households in North America"), with Paul Farnsworth from Louisiana State University and Edward Cooke from Yale University serving as discussants. A session on colonial Pensacola is also scheduled. For further information on the conference, contact: SHA '95, Historic St. Mary's City. MD 20686; (301)862-0974.

Old Mobile Project Contacts

Archaeology Director:

Dr. Gregory A. Waselkov
Center for Archaeological Studies
University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL 36688
(205)460-6911

University Liaison

Dr. J. Stephen Thomas
College of Arts & Sciences
University of South Alabama
Mobile, AL 36688
(205) 460-6280

The Friends of Old Mobile are Pleased to Welcome the Following New and Renewing Members:

Dr E. E. Ashbee, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Baumhauer, Mobile, AL
Larry Bell, Mobile, AL
Mrs. C. Richard Carroll, Mobile, AL
Mrs. E. Joan Charters, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. David J. Cooper, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Stephens G. Croom, Mobile, AL
Dr. James G. Davis, Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Caroline Roberts Dean, Opelika, AL
Marsyl S. Dees, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Helen Louise Depuy, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Dezauche, Theodore, AL
John L. Dixon, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Chnss H. Doss, Birmingham, AL
Mrs. Grace DuValle, Mobile, AL
Fort Maurepas Society, Ocean Springs, MS
Fortress of Louisbourg, Louisbourg, Nova Scotia
Mr. & Mrs. Vernon E. Fowlkes, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Emmett B. Frazier, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Frank H. Galloney III, Montrose, AL
Mrs. Kenneth Giddens, Mobile, AL
Dr. J. Russell Goodloe, Jr., Mobile, AL
Richard Graveline, Snellville, GA
Ann B. Heann, Point Clear, AL
Ralph G. Holberg, Jr., Mobile, AL
Ms. Wanda K. Houston, Mobile, ALL
Mrs. Herbert L. Hughes. Sr., Mobile, AL
Ben W. Hutson, Mobile, AL
Clifton C. Inge, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Z. M. P. Inge, Mobile, AL
Gerald E. Jones, Bayou La Batre, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Van Koppersmith, Mobile, AL

Mary B. Lankford, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Keville Larson, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Ruby G. Lauzon, Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Wade D. Lott, Mobile, AL
H. William McAtee, Mobile, AL
Dr. & Mrs. Graham McClintock, Jr., Mobile, AL
Frank McCloskey, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Jean T. McCowan, Mobile, AL
Mrs. William R. McDonald, Mobile, AL
Dr. Dixon Movers, Mobile, AL
Ms. Reine Mikesell. Chicago. IL
Mr. & Mrs. John C. H. Miller, Jr., Mobile, AL
Mr. Jerry J. Moore, Paxton, IL
Mrs. Laura P. Norquist. Mobile, AL
Mrs. Louise Parmley, Mobile, AL
J. A. Paterson, Mobile, AL
Mrs. James F. Quinn, Mobile, AL
Mary H. Richardson, Mobile, AL
Lorette Rizer, Zephyrhills, PL
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Rodning, Semmes, AL
Mrs. Richard A. Scon, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Betty Lou Shinault. Mobile, AL
Mr. & Mrs. Earl M. Sigler, Mobile, AL
Mary C. Slaughter, Mobile, AL
Mrs. Margaret Smith, Mobile. AL
Sumter County Historical and Preservation Society, Livingston, AL
Joyce Bassemier Trufant, Mobile, AL
Winston R. Waters, Mobile, AL
Manlyn T. Wilson, Biloxi. MS
Mrs. R. Denny Wright, Mobile, AL
Amos J. Wnght. Jr., Huntsville, AL
Dr. & Mrs. W. H. Zehrt, Mobile, AL

