

1948

Archaeology in Florida: A Report on the Goodnow Mound

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Recommended Citation

Society, Florida Historical (1948) "Archaeology in Florida: A Report on the Goodnow Mound," *Florida Historical Quarterly*. Vol. 27 : No. 1 , Article 9.

Available at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/fhq/vol27/iss1/9>

ARCHAEOLOGY IN FLORIDA

A REPORT ON THE GOODNOW MOUND

Though we call archaeology "pre-history," so much has been learned about the former inhabitants of the land we might almost omit the prefix. This is not nearly so true of Florida aborigines as it is of many other parts of the country; and what has been accomplished here has been done by scientists from outside the State: Moore, Wyman, Stirling, Hrdlicka, Fewkes, Willey and others. Recently two of our own young men have been avidly following an urge which must have been congenital by digging into the history before history of the peninsula. These are John W. Griffin of Daytona Beach and John M. Goggin of Miami, the one at the University of Chicago and the other in Peabody Museum at Yale University. Both have contributed some results of their investigations to this *Quarterly*. One has come back to Florida and it is hoped the other will also. *

After years of neglect, or let us say procrastination, Florida, through its State government, has begun to take part in digging up the history of our early years. At the last session of the Legislature an appointive archaeologist was authorized for the Florida Park Service, largely through the efforts of Karl A. Bickel, former president of our Society, and Lewis G. Scoggin, Park Director. John W. Griffin is the first archaeologist, and Mark F. Boyd, president of our Florida Historical Society, is honorary historical adviser. Headquarters were first established at Highlands Hammock State Park, but have been moved to a permanent location in Florida State Museum, University of Florida, Gainesville.

Activation was begun with enthusiasm, and already results are evident in the publication of *Contributions to the Archaeology of Florida, Number One*: "The Goodnow Mound, Highlands County, Florida ; by John W. Griffin, Archaeologist, and Hale G. Smith, Assistant

*John M. Goggin has since become Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Florida.

Archaeologist, Florida Park Service." (36 p. 5 plates) Tallahassee, 1948. As long as available, copies may be had from Florida Park Service, Tallahassee.

Excavations were carried on for three weeks at the Goodnow site and the results were satisfactory. Numerous burials were encountered and much evidence gathered showing the extensive trade carried on in the area with the early Europeans. This mound "is fully historic and probably dates from the 1530-1700 time range."

Included is a description of excavations at the Skipper site, also on Lake Josephine. This mound "is prehistoric, dating from the approximate period 1200-1500 A. D."

Investigations are now being carried on at certain mission sites in north Florida, and the results will be made known ere long. Meanwhile an exceedingly interesting exhibit of specimens from these sites has been arranged in the library of the Florida Historical Society in St. Augustine, a sight of which would be ample reward for quite a journey there.