Popular Series Books from the Arkansas Archeological Survey

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Ouachita Mountains Archeology
Mary Beth Trubitt

Ouachita Mountains Archeology is a concise overview of the past 10,000 years of American Indian history in the Ouachita Mountains region. Intended for a general audience, this book shows how archeologists ask and answer questions about past ways of life. Examples are drawn from two recent Arkansas Archeological Survey excavation projects. This Popular Series book communicates research results and highlights new archeological techniques for learning about Arkansas’s past.

Rock Art in Arkansas
George Sabo III and Deborah Sabo

This volume provides an overview of current knowledge about Arkansas rock art, incorporating the findings of ongoing research in a presentation suitable for general readers as well as specialists. This book summarizes the foundation for new studies that relate Arkansas rock art to the religious and mythological iconography of the Southeastern Ceremonial Complex. Arkansas has one of the highest concentrations of well-preserved prehistoric and early historic rock art, both pictographs and petroglyphs, in the American Southeast. Rock Art in Arkansas is the first comprehensive treatment of this important cultural resource.

Paths of Our Children
Historic Indians of Arkansas
George Sabo III

This volume has proved an enduring favorite for those interested in the people who called Arkansas home prior to the arrival of Europeans. It provides a brief but comprehensive introduction to the cultures and experiences of Arkansas Indian tribes from prehistory to the present. The Quapaws, Caddos, Tunicas, Koroas, and Osages, joined by the Cherokees and others in the 18th century, all suffered removal to Indian Territory. Paths of Our Children is a useful introductory source for research, an excellent resource for teachers, and is suitable for high school and college students and all general readers.
Ghost Boats on the Mississippi
Discovering Our Working Past
Leslie C. Stewart-Abernathy

Stewart-Abernathy recounts Arkansas’s full-scale salvage archeology of wooden boat wreckage exposed by record low water on the Mississippi River in the 1988 drought. Packed with details of steamboat and model barge construction, accounts of late 19th and early 20th century wrecks in the Memphis area, and the changing role of river transport near the end of the steam era. Especially for steamboat buffs.

Wooden Boats and Curving Blue Lines
Leslie C. Stewart-Abernathy

This slim book, developed from popular public lectures given by the author over a number of years, presents a brief history of watercraft and water transport in Arkansas from earliest days to the end of the era of wooden-hulled vessels, and a quick overview of the archeological remains of dugout canoes, barges, flatboats, keelboats, and steamboats that represent this history. Always interested in boats and underwater archeology, Stewart-Abernathy had his first chance to excavate boat wrecks at the West Memphis Ghost Boats site (3CT243) in 1988, when the Mississippi River fell to record low levels and exposed an array of wooden wreckage on dry land. Following that extraordinary fieldwork, he continued to visit and investigate wreckage sites exposed along the riverbanks, and to collaborate with other regional experts, particularly including cultural resource firms. As a result, he was able to compile for the public this short introduction to the kinds of underwater cultural resources that reveal and record our transportation history on the watercourse “highways” that were so important for trade and travel before the advent of railroads and the modern interstate.

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