

African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter

Volume 9

Issue 1 March 2006

Article 45

3-1-2006

Montpelier Archaeology Department Brief Progress Report 2004-2005

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Recommended Citation

Reeves, Matthew (2006) "Montpelier Archaeology Department Brief Progress Report 2004-2005," *African Diaspora Archaeology Newsletter*: Vol. 9 : Iss. 1 , Article 45.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/adan/vol9/iss1/45>

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Material Reflections of Georgia's African-American Past. Symposium, May 20, 2006

Submitted by J. W. Joseph.

The Society for Georgia Archaeology is pleased to present a symposium on the material culture of Georgia's African-American past at its 2006 Spring meeting. This symposium brings together archaeologists, anthropologists, and historians to look at African-American life in Georgia through the landscapes, structures, crafts and objects that African-Americans created and employed. While African-American history was not well recorded, the material legacy of Georgia's African-American communities is particularly rich. Papers in this session will address the landscapes of African-American households and communities from plantations, tenant sites, and urban locations; African-American building techniques and architecture, including recent discoveries from the Ford Plantation and Ossabaw Island; African-American crafts and industry, including Colonoware, a pottery reflecting the interaction of African-American and Native Americans that is found on Colonial coastal plantations; and the archaeology of African-American sites, including excavations on both freed and enslaved sites, in both rural and urban locations, and from the Colonial era into the late 19th century. This will be a fascinating look at the African-American experience in the state and will present a number of projects and findings that have not been made public before.

The symposium will be held at the Auburn Avenue Research Library, 101 Auburn Avenue, Atlanta, on May 20th from 9AM until 4:30 PM. The Auburn Avenue Research Library is devoted to reference and archival collections on African cultures and the African-American experience and has exceptional collections and facilities – for more information, visit the library's website at www.af.public.lib.ga.us/aarl. The AARL is in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn District, one of the most significant places in African-American life in the South, and home to the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Ebenezer Baptist Church, the APEX museum on African American History, and many other sites. Visit www.atlantaheritage.com/sweetAuburn.html for more information. The symposium is open to the public. For further information, please contact Dr. J. W. Joseph, symposium chair, at jwjoseph@newsouthassoc.com or (770) 498-4155, x102.