Dear Isabel

Archeological Correspondence
A.R. Kelly and Isabel Patterson
1934-1953

Compiled and Edited by R. Jerald Ledbetter

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Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc.
Athens, Georgia

By R. Jerald Ledbetter
Athens, Georgia

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Cover: Photograph of Isabel Garrard Patterson ca. 1920
Preface

The following compilation of letters relates, in large measure, to the Works Progress Administration-era research at the Bull Creek site in the Columbus, Georgia area. The original letters are curated in the Patterson files at the Columbus Museum. The contents of these documents have been reproduced through the cooperation of Frank Schnell, Jr., of the Columbus Museum and Southeastern Archeological Services, Inc in Athens, Georgia. Michelle Riley was responsible for transcribing the letters and most aspects of report preparation. Initially examined as a result of a recent survey of the Bull Creek site (Ledbetter 1994), the letters were found to be particularly valuable sources of information for reconstructing many events relating to previous investigations at that site. A comprehensive description of those excavations is being prepared as a follow-up to the 1994 survey.

Isabel Garrard Patterson (1894-1955) was an enthusiastic supporter of archeology and the sponsor of much of the work conducted at the Bull Creek site (9Mel). Her manuscript, Notes on the Exploration of the Bull Creek Site, Columbus, Georgia, published in Early Georgia in 1950 was, until recently, the most complete description available for the excavations conducted during the 1930s.

Arthur Randolph Kelly (1900-1979) served as director of the federal relief archeology project at Macon from its inception in 1933. Kelly continued his work with the United States Park Service prior to joining the faculty of the University of Georgia in late 1947. As director, Kelly corresponded with influential proponents of archeology throughout the Southeast with the goal of obtaining private supporting sponsorships for survey and excavation at various sites and localities. The paragraph on the following page, found in the Patterson files at the Columbus Museum, appears to be a ca. 1934 letter of introduction by Kelly.

1936 photograph of Isabel Garrard Patterson at the Bull Creek site.
Many of the following letters date to the period of federal relief programs of the 1930s. The earliest letters relate to the basic implementation of archeological projects in the Columbus area. A single letter from Frank Lester to Kelly is included which describes the beginnings of excavation at the Bull Creek site. Copies of the draft manuscript of Lester’s preliminary report survive in the files of the National Park Service, in Tallahassee, Florida and at the Columbus Museum.

Aside from their value with respect to the Bull Creek site, there are many references to other sites and individuals of significance. The letters also chronicle Bull Creek as one example of a common problem with federal relief archeology. Money was spent to keep people employed in excavating the sites, but once the programs ended funding was no longer available for report production. A recurring theme in many of the letters from the 1940s and 1950s revolve around a means of producing such a report. These letters may be tied to detailed historical accounts of federal relief archeology. A series of papers published in a volume recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of Ocmulgee National Monument (Hally 1994), is particularly relevant in this light.

Dr. Arthur R. Kelly, brief history (ca. 1934)

I did my undergraduate work at the University of Texas, graduated in 1921 and was for four years an instructor in anthropology at the University of Texas. After that, I went in 1925 to Harvard as the Hemenway Fellow in American Archaeology, which I held for two years at Harvard. I took my Master of Arts at Harvard in anthropology in 1925 and my Doctor’s Degree in 1929. In 1929 I went to North Carolina as Fellow of the National Research Counsel to make racial studies on the Cherokee Indians. Also, in 1929 I accepted a position at the University of Illinois as professor of anthropology directing archaeological research for the University of Illinois. Most of the work undertaken in archaeology for the University of Illinois was in the famous Cahokia mounds region near east St. Louis, where we have large pyramidal truncated mounds similar to the big so-called ceremonial mound A in the Macon group, Macon, Georgia. I was at the University of Illinois four years. My research in archeology was discontinued due to financial conditions. I went to east Texas then in 1933 to make a racial study of the Alibamu Indians, who are one of the last surviving remnants of the Creek race. I then came to Macon to take charge of the Smithsonian project at this place.
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Mrs. Isabel Garrard Patterson,
Wildwood,
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:-

It has not been possible for me to write a satisfactory reply to your recent letter during the past ten or twelve days. I mean that I could not plan during that interval to get off for a pleasant trip and sojourn at Columbus, as projected in your very kind suggestion to that effect.

We have been doubly busy on the work at Macon due to the loss of one of our four supervisors. Also, I am trying frantically to get under the wire with several new projects for archaeological exploration in Georgia. It looks as if our program during the fall and winter would be considerably expanded.

There are several places where I would like to see work done before I finish my labors in this state. You are already acquainted with our project to explore an historic village and burial ground on the Oconee near Dublin, the site identified by Dr. Swanton as the place where de Soto crossed that river on his way to the Ogeechee. This is probably a Hichiti town abandoned in the first quarter of the eighteenth century.

Then I am interested in the site of Old Oconee Town near Milledgeville and the new Oconee town on the Chattahoochee. Exploration of these two sites should go far toward identification of the material culture, particularly pottery indices, of an important division of the Lower Creek nation.

Finally, I am aware that Columbus is the locus of an area in which a number of important documented historic sites belonging to the historic removal of the lower Creeks are found. Particularly do I wish to see the site of the very large Coweta town located near the present Columbus on many of the early maps. This again should give a check, confirming impressions received elsewhere, as to the identification from village site and midden materials of the cultural peculiarities of historic Creek peoples. On the Chattahoochee, somewhat further removed from Columbus, should be identified the site of a Kashita village, possibly two of them.

Within the week I shall present to Miss Shepparson in Atlanta a rather expansive program of archaeological and historic research. It does not seem wise to deluge her with too many separate projects. What is granted by way of specific local research will largely depend upon the interest taken by the communities involved, their willingness to contribute a small sum of money to defray additional expenses, the labor supply and work relief needs of the area, and the changing set up and purposes to be achieved under the new program of work relief planned for this fall and winter.

At Milledgeville, for instance, the local people are much interested in having a scientific field party explore mounds and historic village sites (Old Oconee Town) near that city. When they have organized local sentiment, provided a sinking fund of two or three hundred dollars to take care of incidental expenses not provided for by government disbursements, and have presented their requests vigorously to Atlanta through their divisional engineer under the usual GERA procedure, it is probable that Miss Shepparson will ask me to investigate, determine the scientific value of the projected work and make recommendations to her office. If they have something of real interest and give substantial indications that they want archaeological work done, it is very probable that a project will be initiated.
That was the way things were handled at Dublin. The Dublin people are much interested and have been for some months. The local D.A.R. and business men are combining to set up a sinking fund to take care of expenses not provided for under the present GERA set up.

I would suggest that you appraise the situation at Columbus, do some discreet "politicing", work with your district and divisional engineers for a specific project to explore the historic Coweta town near Columbus. This seems to me to be the procedure most calculated to get more immediate results. Also it is a plan which will fit in with a program already initiated for the whole state.

I have read most of your articles in the Constitution. They are admirable. You are doing a fine work to interest Georgians in their history and prehistory. I am hoping that another year of expanded research and dignified publicity may result in some permanent organization to carry on such work in this area.

Thanking you for your interest and valuable co-operation, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
A.R. Kelly
Dear Mrs. Patterson:

I regretted very much not to be able to make the trip to Columbus after Labor Day. There was really not time enough to inform you of my engagements in Macon and Atlanta over the holiday relative to the presenting of archaeological plans to the state administrator for the fall and winter.

Our Dublin project is being held up pending decision of the local group as to whether or not they can pay the salary of the supervisor, who would be an assistant of mine, a stipulation set by Atlanta for acceptance of the project. It is probable that the local group at Columbus would also be expected to pay for supervisory. Labor would be provided doubtless, subject to local relief needs and quotas. Supervisory would come to about $30 a week. The incidental expenses, photography, etc. would not amount to so much. I am still tremendously interested in the possibilities of exploring historic settlements of the lower Creeks on the Chattahoochee and hope to see something lined up in that connection before winter has passed.

I have received a long letter from Dr. Swanton relative to Georgia archaeology. He also is much interested in the Columbus situation, particularly in the Mercier site (Early Co.), Kolomoki as it has been come to be known in the records. This site is the third major mound and village site for which Georgia will eventually become famous.

I feel sure that my scientific peregrinations will bring me eventually to Columbus and when that occasion arrives I shall look forward to availing myself of your kind invitation to visit "Wildwood". That is, I hope there is no time limit. At present I am working over-time to get my fall and winter program set up on paper for the state administrator and the chief of the national park service.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Sept. 28, 1934
203 Katherine Ct. Apts.
Macon, Ga.

Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Wildwood
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Joe Coke reports all slides prepared for you except two prints given him by Mrs. Drake. I have asked him to hurry those up and send them on. I regret very much that we have not been able to get photographs of the de Soto crossing at Carr Shoals on the Oconee near Dublin. Coke was cut off the staff by the local CWA office soon after I wrote you of our projected work at Dublin. We intend to do this job yet and, of course, when we do will get all photographs, Springfield, Uchee Trail east of Oconee, de Soto’s crossing, village site, burial ground, and all the rest of it. But that probably will not be in time to be of use to you on your California trip. Dr. Swanton wants the photographs also and will want to be present during excavations on this site. I am hoping that work can be started before long in the fall.

The opening of fall brings a number of requests for speaking engagements. The D.A.R. chapters at Gordon and at Thomaston seem to be interested in our work so shall probably visit them sometime in October. Dublin will come in for more attention. And I have not forgotten your Columbus folk. Now that I have sent my big project for state archaeological survey to Miss Shepparson I shall have more time. More about that later if there are any developments --- at present nothing for publication.

The Columbus situation will probably rest until you get back from your trip. Dean Smith of Wesleyan told me yesterday that he has an older brother living on the Chattahoochee who had been interested in a scholarly way in historic Creek towns on that river. He wants to do a bit of reconnaissance. Something may come out of this. When opportunity offers, if otherwise free I shall be glad to go, but without a car of my own and no travelling allowance my small stipend does not permit me to move around very much.

I regret very much not being able to make the Oconee slides for you. In time we hope to have the prints but just now, minus the services of Joe Coke, we are badly crippled.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Wildwood,
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

I cannot adequately express my appreciation for the chance to see the north Georgia sample of the Folsom. I had never seen a Folsom before and it gave me quite a thrill to see this specimen so like the western examples which I have seen in photographs.

You remember our conversation regarding pot-sherd collections. Dr. Harrold and Lint Solomon brought in two fine study series from the territory around the Eagle Mound at Eatonton a few weeks ago. It is very interesting to see designs and techniques we find intermingled in site situations at Macon becoming isolated and relatively homogenous at other documented or historical sites where we know specific tribes lived within the last 150 years.

Coke will make a photograph of the Folsom if you don’t mind. I would like for our artist, Jackson, to make a sketch for my notes. I am convinced now that the points found here, which I thought might be Folsom, are only superficially resembling, lacking the deep longitudinal groove. Just to have the same general shape and the fishtail haft end is not enough.

I shall guard the point carefully and return it to you within the next few days.

Thanking you again for your kindness and helpfulness, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A.R. Kelly

P.S. I have shown the point to Lint and the Doctor but have not had an opportunity to show it to the General.
April 21st, 1935
203 Katherine Court Apts.
Macon, Ga.

Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Wildwood
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

My efforts to reach you over long distance failed twice due to the inability of the operator to get in touch with you. I am very sorry. I suppose the owner of the Folsom is becoming a bit worried over his precious find. It is a precious find, by the way, and I wish to thank you for the opportunity to study it. Dr. Harrold, Gen. Harris, and Lint Solomon have all examined it. I took it up to Elberton thinking you might attend.

It is my intention to visit the country in which this remarkable find was made. Some Macon friends have invited me to a lodge on Lake Burton. Later in May I plan to do some reconnaissance on a Cherokee site in northwest Georgia, and perhaps at that time I will be able to reconnoiter the Etowah country.

The Macon field expedition continues to find new and valuable leads to prehistory. Our pit village is expanding marvelously. Lately our work has extended to Brown's Mount and our early pottery collections from that site lead us to anticipate some very important findings.

I did not know until a short time ago that you were also getting sherd collections for Dr. Swanton. I fear that we are really working our collaborator too hard; at least I am because my working arrangement with you was probably made later. Perhaps I will be able to get over to the Chattahoochee with Hanna or Solomon to see the sites we are interested in within the next month or so. As I wrote you recently these historic towns on the Chattahoochee are becoming increasingly important; they may eventually become the "key sites" for historical cross-reference.

Thanking you again for your courtesy and splendid assistance in archaeological reconnaissance and personnel work,

I remain as ever,
Gratefully yours,
Arthur Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson,  
Wildwood,  
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

I haven't the slightest idea where you are, whether you received my last communication, or when this note will reach you. I received you telegram and noted with keen regret your very evident and natural resentment of my failure to send sherds on to Washington as per agreement.

Setzler sent some franks a few days after you left Macon but I found that no plan contemplated by us in discussion would permit the use of franking. To send all or even part of the trays meant crating and transportation either as freight or by express. Either does not come under franking privileges. I did not have a gov't bill of lading and would hesitate to send so much bulk where the essentials in which the Smithsonian are interested are so small a part of the total weight. I am afraid that I was rather impractical and thoughtless in not perceiving that this would be the case when we were making our plans.

On the other hand I could and have taken out the more important sherd collections from the trays, keeping them on the cardboard backs you provided, and am making up a special box to carry these so that they will not be mixed or broken. Possibly you would not like this arrangement but there was no way of conferring with you.

I made my own study of the sherds and wrote a long letter to Dr. Swanton about them, comparing my findings in your sherds with information previously received at Old Oconee Town and at Lamar. I have not yet had time to hear from him.

Moreover during the last ten days we have been running around like so many chickens with our heads cut off conferring with three officials of the N.P.S. here to talk over construction of the monument with WPA funds. I've been in demand night and day to give details from field data and personal knowledge as to what things might be reconstructed at this time.

Despite these conditions Hanna and I both took time out to try and get the sherds off—we found that the weight was too great; crating was necessary; and freight would probably mean delay in getting the things to you in time anyway even if we did crate them and pay the freight to get them off. I wish you to know this so that you will not feel that we have been negligent or unappreciative of your work or thoughtfulness in leaving the sherds with me for study. They have been very helpful and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to see them. I hope that in the light of this explanation you may be disposed to think more kindly of me than you might have at first blush when confronted with an embarrassing situation in Washington.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Wildwood
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Your sherds have been received at the Smithsonian. I received word yesterday from Setzler. He has not yet had time to study them and made no comments. I shall be very interested to know what he thinks of them.

Your letter advising me of your approval of my change of procedure in sending up a selection of the sherds, removing them from the glassed trays, relieves me of some anxiety. It turned out that if I was to send them at all that they would have to go that way. I'm very sorry I didn't make this decision sooner so that some of the material could be in Washington when you arrived.

Bitter cold weather here made archaeological field work rather uncomfortable but we continue to open up new and perplexing situations. The latest is a stockaded fort or large fortified trading post whose historical reference is most obscure or completely displaced. Also an Indian burial with basket-hilt type of sword, an early type of iron axe, glass beads, gun flints, and window glass! I couldn't survive the shock of finding the glass. I can hardly wait until we get the opinion of an expert as to the period covered by this weird assortment of burial furniture. I hope that at last we are getting real Creek interments belonging to the "debatable period" of central Georgia history, the last quarter of the 17th and the first quarter of the 18th century.

Gen. Harris reverts to his favorite theory of an Ocmulgee base for Appalachicola Fort (1684) but the plan of the stockade hardly agrees. The mass of trade material coming out should enable us to solve the problem. At last after two years I am finding historic Creek material, something I had just about given up hopes of finding on the Macon plateau. So far the pottery looks rather different from Lamar village stuff, implying that the Creeks (Kawita and Kasita) were settled on the river nearer the present site of Macon whereas the towns between Macon and Bullard Station are probably Hichiti. This is a tentative conclusion needing further checking.

Your letter reminding me of football arrived on Monday after the crucial Saturday. I'm sorry to have missed the opportunity of meeting the people you had corralled. Dr. Swanton wrote advising me to go and relax. I did go duck hunting on the Oconee this last weekend. Still I don't feel that I've exhausted all the vacation coming to me so let me know when events shape up to another advantageous visit to Columbus.

Sincerely,
Arthur Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson
Wildwood
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Letter from Setzler. He writes about your interesting proposal for an ethnological movie of living Indian tribes. Strikes me as eminently practical, and very valuable from an educational point of view. As Frank probably advised you, the man to sell on this idea is Dr. Swanton. He is one of the half dozen best and influential men in ethnology and could do more to get the plan across than most men.

As to an archaeological survey plan for Georgia, I would recommend a survey of the Chattahoochee alone. I once wrote a prospectus for a state survey which I submitted to Miss Shepparson. She was interested and tried to put it over. It was too big to be handled administratively under relief auspices, however, and died aborning.

The Chattahoochee Survey is practicable. I would suggest a short range project involving the whole Georgia span of the river and its immediate tributary streams, concentrating on the towns mentioned in history for special reference and exploration. **Time:** four months; from February to June—possibly to July, depending on the life of the WPA. **Supervision:** James A. Ford. The project should be written for labor only, to be supplied locally as shovel men are needed on various sites in the different counties. **Expenses** to be funded locally interested parties need not amount to more than $1250, as follows: 1) Ford’s salary underwritten for four months, $150 a month—$600; an assistant—he need not be an archeologist—$250 for the period, about $62.40 per month, oil and gas allowance per month, $75, making $300 altogether; miscellaneous items of expense, including photograph and necessary materials, paper, etc. $100. Grand total, $1250.

If it proves desirable, and the time limit of WPA projects allow, the survey might be carried to July for an additional month of survey for $250, making a total for 5 month survey of $1500.

All collections should remain in Georgia, with the proviso that they be properly housed; preferably at the Univ. of Georgia; with a possible proviso that representative samples of materials be sent as a duplicate collection to the National Museum. Since you will be drawing heavily upon Swanton and Setzler, I would suggest this proviso as a matter of policy.

Mr. Woodruff and Mr. Peabody are both interested in the Univ. of Georgia and in the Chattahoochee. They might be willing to underwrite the project for the amount named if you put the matter to them along the lines suggested.

Ford would employ the survey methods used to advantage by him in the lower Mississippi. He would sink small test pits in the village sites; might do some exploratory work in sinking pits on sites where village sites were known or expected to be on basis of historical descriptions, but where river silting had buried the remains two feet or more. Pottery and flint, thus obtained, would be of incalculable value, in working out a tentative archaeological chronology for the Chattahoochee area. Later, as time, funds, and proper institutional guidance permitted, large scale work might be done on
key sites as that at Kolomoki. Ford's work would give the archaeologist of the immediate future something to shoot at, a peg on which to set out details gleaned from more intensive work on single sites.

No large number of workmen would be required, perhaps 15-20, in some cases as many as 50; depending on the size of the site, its assumed importance, and the amount of overburden to be removed. Ford will be moving rapidly from site to site, going downstream. He would have to have some flexible arrangement by which the required number of men could be supplied him from WPA rolls in the different counties. I would say, however, that you are not entirely dependent upon WPA for the success of your program. For the same amount of money, $1250, Ford, with one assistant, could carry out a four months survey which would yield valuable results. His energy and drive are tremendous when his enthusiasm is aroused.

Please advise me what you think of this prospectus. Ford is young, his enthusiasm is infectious; he is likeable. I think he would do a great deal to develop interest in archaeology in your section if the plan outlined did materialize. And I think you realize, as I do, that Georgia archaeology will flourish only when interest becomes more general and is not confined to a single locality. That is meant in no way to belittle what has been accomplished at Macon by the inspiration of a few individuals. Put that way, I believe the General and the Doctor and Lint would agree with me.

Most sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Wildwood
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Pursuant to Mr. Hanna’s report of your long distance telephone conversation I have waited two days for a letter which Mr. Hanna advised me you intended to write concerning recent developments on the Chattahoochee. Mr. Hanna also told me, however, that you were still inconvenienced by a bad arm, so that I am writing to let you known that I will come to Columbus just as soon as you have things definitely lined out.

These last few days, and today, I am going over plans for reconstruction and adjustment of personnel with a representative from Miss Shepparson’s office, Mr. Boggs. But I hope to be free by Saturday or Sunday of this week if that date would suit your convenience.

Your study sherds are back, have been back, from the Smithsonian for some time. We are having to cement some of the sherds back to the card-boards, as they came lose in shipment to Macon from Washington. They were packed in such a way that sherds from different sites could not be mixed by such an accident.

I called you back on long distance about 4:30 P.M. but the long distance operator informed me that you and Mr. Patterson had left. We seem to be bad at missing one another. I’m sorry but will make amends anyway I can. I have talked to Mr. Boggs, Miss Shepparson’s representative, about your Columbus and Chattahoochee situation. I believe that if you can get backers to provide an archaeological leader that you can find funds for digging test pits in village sites in making maps. I have received a report from Ford on some of his La. work in the last few days and plan to write to him this week end. Boggs intends to talk to your District WPA Eng., a Mr. Gash I believe, relative to a Muscogee Co. survey project, within the next week. I gave Boggs your name for consultation. I hope to see you before then. At Atlanta, I found Miss Shepparson just as interested in our work as she had ever been.

Most Sincerely,

A.R. Kelly
Feb. 19, 1936  
143 Laurel  
Macon, Georgia

Mrs. Isabel Patterson,  
Wildwood,  
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Ford’s telegram via Columbus reached me today. I am not sure that it was telephoned out to you so am enclosing it. This development, Ford’s projected Alaska trip, was not on the cards. Neither was the sudden conscription of the man I expected to take Hugh Hanna’s place, Frank Hull, should we substitute Hanna for Ford. Hull, a certified CPA an experienced business man, has been drafted to become disbursing officer in a new Treasury unit to be established at Macon. I now have no adequately trained and responsible person to take Hanna’s place should he do survey work in the Chattahoochee.

I am not forgetting that the primary person to satisfy in the Chattahoochee is you as sponsor. You were willing to have either Ford or Hanna. For the same amount of money we can probably get an experienced field man in archaeology. Possibly Frank Setzler can help us out of our difficulties with a suggestion. He is coming to Brunswick, unless Stirling comes, to investigate the shell mounds and burials open up incident to clearing ground for an airport by WPA workers. Incidentally, just to show that more interest in archaeology has been aroused than we expected, the Brunswick people offered to pay $50 a week and a bunk at the Cloisters to get some work done (Lint told me this).

I have only two other men in my organization whom I would trust with the responsibility of helping you in your Chattahoochee work, both engineers whom I have trained in field methods during the past two years, Frank Lester and Joe Tamplin. They are thoroughly acquainted with all the techniques of excavation, profile reading and recording, draughting, mapping, cataloguing required in the projected work at or near Columbus. Moreover, they know the ropes in handling NYA and other relief workers, and in making contact with WPA officers. I would sorely miss either of these men but am ready to send you either one you might want if you would rather have a Georgia man or someone local than to bring in someone from the outside (which latter procedure might mean more delay).

It would not be necessary to pay them, either of them, as much as $150 a month. If acceptable as assistants to you, and I am ready to recommend them without any doubts, $30 a week would be adequate. Transportation was an item of extra expense to be considered in the field budget whether Ford, Hanna, or anyone else was assigned to the job. I rather hoped that you would be able to find support for your plans in handling that factor.

Frank Lester went to the Univ. of Tennessee. Joe Tamplin is a graduate of Georgia Tech.

Sincerely and appreciatively,  
Arthur Kelly

P.S. You probably remember Lester, engineer in charge of Mound D a nice clean-cut youngster.
Mrs. Isabel Garrard Patterson  
Wildwood, Columbus, Georgia  

My dear Mrs. Patterson:  

Another letter relative to the possibility of obtaining a competent man in the Chattahoochee, the second or third I have written recently, but this one I hope more happy in recommending a person I know will be thoroughly satisfactory, if he should be available. I understand that Gene M. Stirling, the younger brother of Matt. Stirling, now doing ethnological work on Seminoles near Naples, Florida, is approaching the end of his work. I have written him, asking him if he might be interested in doing some archaeological survey work, and am writing you to see if you would consider him satisfactory in all respects for the job you have in hand. He has a number of years of field experience in both survey and excavation, has been a student at no less than four of the leading universities, and would provide useful connections between the Chattahoochee and the Smithsonian, if we can secure the younger Stirling, I should feel that we were very fortunate. Please advise at your earliest convenience, as I think you are entirely right in stating that we must move quickly while the people are beginning to be interested, if we are to realize fully our aims in the Chattahoochee Valley.  

I am writing Frank Setzler, at the Cloister’s, adding my recommendations to your entreaties that he lend his support and presence to the Chattahoochee project when interest is beginning to be generally incipient among those whose assistance would be most helpful.  

Most sincerely,  
A. R. Kelly
Wildwood, Columbus GA
Monday, Mar. 9, 1936.

My dear Dr. Kelly:

Yesterday afternoon I found the road by the Columbus Air Port was dry enough to get over in my car. It was too muddy and really impassable when Frank was here, so I could not show him one of my mainest (?) treasure finds - A house in a mound!

There is about a foot of top soil then a layer of about 2 inches of black dirt. Just below this are wood timbers, which seem to slant a bit; then at intervals of some several feet are upright wood pieces - In absolute conjunction with this wood are fragments of pottery sticking out of the bank - It has been dug into some and I found a bit of wood loose and about to fall, also a piece of pottery right by it just hanging in loose dirt, so I am sending it for you to see. Please then send it to Frank Setzler with this letter.

This mound seems to have been a house site of some kind - and there is a good portion of it undisturbed - but I fear people are slipping down there and doing some private digging. It is on a corporations property - on the bank of the Chattahoochee - 411 feet north of the mouth of Bull Creek - I stepped it off - (There were 274 of my paces, which measure 18 inches). Height of mound about 10 or 12 feet. I drove to the edge of Weracoba Creek which joins Bull Creek just before it reaches the river.

Weracoba is exactly one mile south of the Air Port Hanger (car mileage 817-5 creek - 818-5 hanger).

There is a large field - full of broken pottery - where plows have thrown it up - which extends from a flat just north of Weracoba, along to its confluence with Bull Creek and on to the river. There are several large bumps of dirt, full of pottery, that may be mounds in this field; - the mound by the river with timbers exposed - is just opposite this field and about 1/10 of a mile from the creek - Weracoba. (817-5 creek Weracoba along the new road 817-6 point opposite mounds).

Just opposite the Hangers, where a city golf course is being constructed a mound was leveled. It looked high to me in past years, now it is about even with the Roadway by the Hanger. Some smart city officials we have. Yesterday, I collected some more sherds along here on a site covering 2 tenths of a mile - mileage as measured from Weracoba Creek- Weracoba Creek 817-5 Point opposite mounds and field of pottery 817-6 Rough farm road to mounds on side toward Chattahoochee River 818-0 Old mound (now leveled) but field of pottery on a high flat - opposite the Columbus Air Port Hangers 818-3 to 818-5 Tenth Ave - Power Line 11 K.V. 818-7 which crosses River going thru Cowetuh (?) settlements Football Stadium 819-1 Oglethorpe Marker (4th Street and Broadway) 819-7 Dillingham St. Bridge (across the Chattahoochee) 820-6 This was measured on GA side. This bridge is at end of street between tenth and ninth streets. I crossed it and give the measurements taken on the road to Brickyard, Ala. as it is the one closest to the Chattahoochee River.

Girard R.R. Station 820-9
Three tenths of a mile from Ga. side of river - This is of course Ala.
Point opposite Oglethorpe Marker .................................................. 821-5
(as seen from Ala. side of Chattahoochee)
Heard Brick Plant Entrance to Cowetuh Fields Settlement .................. 822-1
Hills to right of road - belonging to Coweta ..................................... 822-6
Branch line of 11 K.V. power line that crosses from 10th Ave Columbus Ga
to Cowetuh Fields Ala. ................................................................. 822.8
Home of Arthur Bussey on hills to right of road - but in the Cowetuh Fields 823.2
I drove in his yard to return a corn grinder that he had loaned me for my Indian exhibit, and on to
the hills above his house so this mileage is subtracted from roadway 823-4 to 824-2. The hills 823-4
give a view in the flats of ‘Busseys lake’ ........................................... 824-2
Entrance to Busseys lake and road leading to River flats where 1/4 mile below the entrance of Bull Creek (Ga side) was located the Coweta Town House Russell Co. Ala. ......... 824-6
I did not go down there yesterday - so give return mileage for double check - Entrance to Busseys lake at Wherring Pottery works - on right Road to river on left ............. 924-6
Heard Plant or upper entrance to Cowetuh Settlements ....................... 826-3
Dillingham street bridge ................................................................. 827-7

I am enclosing a map with this - for you and Frank to see - Please return it to me.

The Woodland pottery also I wish to have to go to Washington to Frank as Exhibit A. Now
comes the grief.

Jim Woodruff got hurt yesterday - sprained his knee. He had expected to go to see Dr. Peabody today, but that has to be delayed - so I am arranging to get the money myself. How soon can Mr. Frank Lester come over? I am all set now. Can’t you and Mrs. Kelly, Dr. and Mrs. Griffin come over this Saturday? I would like Lester even before that if possible. I have just got permission to go into this Mound that I am sending the wood and the pottery from - and that winds up all the land on each side of the River from Columbus thru Fort Benning and from Girard Ala. to the Shagee Creek below Oswickee Blvd. in Ala.

I quote the following from Frank Setzler’s letter of March 7, 1936:

"I can not help but feel that the best procedure at the present time would be the establishment of a committee with you as chairman, for the development of the archaeological resources in the Chattahoochee valley. The work of this committee should endeavor to obtain a competent man, preferably one of Dr. Kelly’s staff, in order to make the necessary preliminary survey for establishing the most worthwhile site for detailed excavations - As I emphasized during my visit, the present and future investigations in Georgia must depend to a large extent upon the result obtained from the excavation of selected sites in the Chattahoochee Valley. The historically documented sites in and around Columbus provided they contain sufficient archaeological evidence, will enable the anthropologists to reconstruct the aboriginal history of Georgia."

May I hear from you as soon as possible. Many thanks.

Cordially,

Isabel Patterson
Dear Dr. Kelly:

Arrived safely but was unable to reach Mrs. Patterson until Thursday morning. We visited the site on Bull Creek first, made a simple sketch map and that afternoon went over in Alabama to a rather large village site just across from Bull Creek.

Mrs. Patterson was mistaken about it (the Bull Creek site) being a mound, as it is just a rather heavy midden deposit about two hundred feet long, covered with a yellow sandy clay silt deposit. The house debris is almost in the center of the deposit. All this is exposed in the side of the cut made for a railroad a few years ago. External appearances, very similar to Mossy Oak.

Started excavations Friday (the 13th) with a crew of three negro boys and myself. So far we have made excellent headway, finding quite a bit of material in the very rich midden deposit. The majority of the sherds are extremely small fragments, plain, and very hard tempered. Yesterday, I started hitting baked clay and quite a number of briquettes showing reed imprints. Also the top of what is possibly a firebowl, however, future troweling will prove more enlightening. It is doubtful if enough of the house remains to get a very complete floor plan for the river has made rather deep inroads from the west and the railroad cut on the east so that only a small portion from eight to twelve or fourteen feet wide is left. However, Mrs. Patterson was interested in getting it out and also it would not seem such a bad idea to start this group off with something that they can actually see.

Everything is progressing very nicely at present, of course, it seems slow after the large crews at Macon but we are making headway. I hope that it will be possible for you to come over with Hanna when he comes (Lester 1936).

Frank Lester
Redrawing of a 1936 sketch map of the initial findings at the Bull Creek site (prepared by Frank Lester).
Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Just a note to let you know that I have been gratified by reports from Lester on the progress of work at Bull Creek. As soon as you have 5,000 good study sherds and have notes on one or two house sites, I would advise that your reconnaissance on this site might be considered complete. The next step would be to move Lester and his N.Y.A. assistants to another site on your list near Columbus.

I thought your first story in the Constitution on the Bull Creek Exploration was very good. It served admirably to give just the right atmosphere of pre-occupation with scientific methods and technique rather than ordinary collecting. Unquestionably, the work you are doing should help greatly to remove some of the harmful results from the activities of some of your predecessors in the field by acquainting people with the real objectives and archaeological exploration.

I am glad to be able to report that your exhibit cases are now ready to go to Athens. Some of those prepared by you from documented site collections are rather skimpy and probably should be held up until you obtain better sherds as you are now doing at Bull Creek. You had four empty cases. I filled one of these with study sherds from Mound D Plateau, another from Lamar, another exhibiting pit house pottery, and still another representing materials from our Swift Creek site which promises to be one of the richest and most significant villages explored around Macon.

Let me hear from you in regard to new developments.

Most sincerely,
A. R. Kelly
June 25, 1937  
Ocmulgee Nat'l Monument,  
Box 936, Macon, Georgia.

Mrs. Wayne Patterson,  
Wildwood, Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Thanks for your two recent communications bearing on the Kasita situation at Fort Benning. In reference to your suggestions I would advise that Swanson has written Demaray. And I shall address a note of thanks to Gen. A.G. Singleton within the day for his co-operation. It seems now to be a matter of the War Department; as to just how long they will take. After that Swanson and I are ready to send Willey and a crew over. I want Willey to get the rest of his Columbus area dendro collections while he is there; and in that matter the General is ready to offer a berth to Willey at the Club for several days. Altogether, things look rather promising and I think we should be able to get something done at Kasita soon.

Mrs. Rogers has brought in more material from the sites near Talbotton; one of these, Site "C" if very obviously a Swift Creek site, very interesting and important. I have asked her to show me around at some convenient time.

I am working overtime to get my mss. ready for the Smithsonian, am putting on the finishing touches now; hope to get it in time for the Annual Report. Willey and Ford have gone this week end to Knoxville to interview Webb regarding restoration of our "small post town house" brought out over the cornfield under Mound D. They should be back Sunday.

In regard to the 4 skulls Dr. Childs has. I saw him after receiving your letter. He will repair them as soon as he gets around to it. Since he is using his own materials, plaster, modeling materials, and his skill, more as a labor of love, I hesitate to press him. Also, you should know that 4 skulls restored is hardly a seriation on which to base any important conclusions regarding racial type, or for use in making comparisons with other Indians. They are valuable as a start toward a skeletal collection. I wouldn’t however regard their study as an essential part of the report. Burial data should suffice here.

I come to a matter of some embarrassment; one which you touched lightly upon while last here but which I passed by because I though matters would adjust themselves in time. I refer to the pretty mucky condition of my finances brought about by my failure to get as much as $2900 for the present job as had been contemplated (letter from Kahler etc). The $600 extra would have enabled me to provide for a few outstanding obligations which have long been pressing but which could have been handled under a more favorable arrangement.

Frankly, I should say that I have borrowed about $300 from money lenders in Macon during the last year in order not to embarrass or pester my friends. This, in the expectation that the NPS would do something in order to enable me to finish my work here. That sounds an awfully stupid thing for a man in my position, and with my presumed intelligence to do. But it was the one way I could get help without letting myself in for the unpleasant charge of being a "bum". An you know enough of public relations in my position to perceive that there are not lacking those who want something unpleasant to talk about.
There are three of these money lenders. One of them I have paid. In order to pacify a third
I have taken rent money. No I am up against the fact that my landlord was formerly an official of the
Middle Georgia Hospital and a friend of Harrold’s. In short, I must settle with this chap or else he
might go to other quarters for a conference. Need I say more?

Seventy five dollars would cover all. I would prefer a tithing loan outside Macon if that
could be arranged rather than a personal loan as I have tried religiously not to borrow money from
friends. I’ve had to, for small amounts, usually from the boys on the job; but that has always been
for small emergencies, was easily repaid, and did not touch the crux of my difficulties.

I have until July 1st to make an adjustment. It looks like I won’t be able to make this last
hurdle without unpleasant consequences. I had hoped that developments in regard to NPS would take
place in time to take care of this situation but it seems that it is not to be.

Obviously what is needed is confidence and privacy. But the money lender angle is tragic. It
solves present problems but that 140 percent interest would soon put me in a position where I
couldn’t get out of debt short of a government subsidy. It was foolish, and come what may I don’t
intend to go to such people again.

You might not find it convenient to help with that. If not, say so frankly. It is a matter
which I do not recall having broached but you seemed to have some inkling of it on your last trip.

Swanson returned from St. Augustine a few days ago with a statement from Kahler that
"something important was brewing and might break any moment" regarding my appointment. Well,
I’m hoping it will be soon.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly,
P.O.936, Ocmulgee Nat’l Monument
Macon, Georgia.
Mrs. Wayne Patterson  
Wildwood, Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

A number of important items, some of them suggested by your recent letters, require attention so I shall pitch right into them.

Pending action by the War Department there isn’t much we can do about Kashita Field at Benning. G. Willey and crew are ready when the word "Go" is given and Gen. Singleton certifies that he has accommodations for them.

Irene Mound situation disturbs me greatly. I am writing the following to expedite matters: 1) Watson Davis, Editor of Science Service to have his organization use their influence with WPA to speed the project; I can do this as I have just been made a "minute man" for Science Service in Georgia and because W. Davis has sent out a memorandum that S.S. was functioning now as an intermediary in such cases; 2) Dr. A.V. Kidder, one of my masters of Anthro. at Harvard, now on the Advisory Board for NPS along with Leland, Bolton, and Wissler. 3) Smithsonian, particularly Setzler to see if a prod from that direction will do any good. 4) Miss Shepparson, asking for information regarding both Savannah situation and Macon WPA project which still hasn’t come through yet.

Walter Taylor stopped over two days, Friday and Saturday, on way home from New Mexico and Old Mexico where he has been doing archaeological reconnaissance. Walter is going to teach at a normal school at Flagstaff, Arizona beginning Sept. so he will not be available for any of our calculations in Ga.-- so much for Mrs. McIntyre’s plans in that direction. I think now that Marshall Newman (Chicago and Harvard) is our best bet, following suggestion from Setzler. This is the young man, incidentally whom I recommended to do Phys. Anthro. on Bull Creek skeletal material.

Thanks a million for the enclosure in last letter. Will let you know more about that situation when I see you. It helped more than you might imagine.

Most Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
August 9, 1937
Ocmulgee Nat'l Mon.
Macon, Georgia.

Mrs. Isabel G. Patterson,
Wildwood, Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Just a few current events. Our new WPA got under way Friday; Hanna is Project Supervisor, we have eighty men with sixteen technicians. I'm "Director" without pay as I can't receive two federal checks. Work has started again on the Mound A exploration stopped during the last two months.

CCC and G. Willey are working at Lamar, digging test pits to obtain pottery samples stratigraphically. The big problem here is to see if Lamar and Swift Creek could have any possible relation.

Incidentally, this week end, Gordon and I went to Milledgeville to reconnoiter the Collin's Island site just above the Furman Shoals dam abandoned by the Georgia Power Company. Sherd collections exposed by the river on the island reveal clear stratification of Lamar carved paddle-marked pottery and Swift Creek complicated stamp. A very interesting site, and an important one. I was told that a Mr. Bass of the Ga. Power had control of land and that a permit should be had from him. The tenant lives near the island and is named E.W. Smith. Could you help me with this as some systematic test pits should be sunk and the chronology of the island worked out in case the Georgia Power should complete their dam. In that instance the island will be under water.

My letters to Watson Davis of Science Service, Kidder of Carnegie, and Demaray of NPS evidently bore some sort of fruit as Hopkins has sent down an "archaeological consultant" from Washington, one Vincenzo Patrullo. Never heard of him until I got a telegram yesterday advising me of his coming Sunday or Monday. He'll probably turn up today when Holder and Tono Waring visit Macon for a conference. From other correspondence, including a long delayed report from Holder on his Sea Island work, I gather that the Irene Mound project will come through. Holder writes that he has agreed to stay over this fall instead of going to Chicago as he had planned. I'm very glad of this because the coastal situation is going to be very decisive in any chronological scheme for the whole state.

Have you heard anything concerning the Chattahoochee-Columbus angle? Swanson showed me a letter from Demaray which seemed a little different from what I had expected to happen or from what I thought was agreed upon; namely, that the NPS would agree to sending a senior archaeological foreman to Kasita if Benning would supply a detail of men from the camp there!! Have they written you or Gen Singleton to that effect yet?

Both Sterling and Setzler are away on vacation. You knew that Frank was in Indiana with his wife's family. Got a card from him. He is reading my mss. on "Glimpses of a Macon Chronology etc" and will advise...I'll bet he will. I intend to send you a copy of this last which will give some sort of idea of Macon chronology as soon as I can get some more copies typed. NPS, Smithsonian, and particularly WPA with their requirement of ten copies have just about drained me of all but one third draught copy.
Everything is as quiet and uninformative as a church mouse. I'll probably get a lot of light on the Savannah section today when Holder and Tono turn up. By the way, I'll try and get Holder aside and caution him about his address in dealing with Savannah people. We can't afford to have anything go wrong there after having lost so much skin and hair getting it under way.

Also if something doesn't break within a week or so I'm really and truly sunk. I'm enclosing a typical communication. Would Vinson pay any attention to this? Gosh, if he did, it would be finis for nearly everything, including Ocmulgee development and probably our stake in southeastern archaeology. Don't write him or do anything about it; I just wanted to know your reaction. There's more to the business than appears on the surface. Will let you know when I see you.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Dear Mrs. Patterson:

After receiving your letter and enclosure on Friday last, I left for St. Simon's to join the Holders and my family. I have just returned. I cannot adequately express my appreciation of your prompt assistance at such a time of stress. How much it means to me and to the job would be difficult to state in words or in any short space of time. The "Demand" wording is satisfactory; I hardly know how you could have known to be more specific. In fact, I don't know myself how long it will be before matters straighten out but am encouraged by developments here during the last two weeks to think it should not be many months now.

One thing which has caused me much grief and loss of sleep has been the lack of provision for housing or study of the vast collections accumulating in Georgia as the result of exploration during the last four years. The thought that these materials, and data, might be burned, stolen, or water-soaked has been rather frightening. Georgia's one chance for a real museum development, one might say the one chance of the whole southeast, lies in the monument museum to be erected at Ocmulgee. All of us intend to see something over and above the ordinary park museum realized if possible, something which will serve as a research center and source of data and information for the whole southeastern archaeological area. Yet the materials already gathered, valued at more than a quarter of a million dollars, might go up in smoke within a few hours; and such a loss would be without replacement; there would go glimmering the material which would make the museum, and which tells the story of the monument.

So much I told the Indian Mounds Commission yesterday. They seem to have been pretty much impressed with the danger and the necessity for action because things are beginning to move already. They are ready to turn over the large Art Room (36x90 feet) and adjacent space for storage and research studies, all in fireproof surroundings in the basement of the auditorium. A petition is being addressed to the City Council to provide $1500 in budget to catalogue, reclassify, and maintain custodianship of the collections for a year. You must know how much relief I would feel to know that this huge collection of irreplaceable material should be in one safe place, where a clearing house might be maintained in making materials available for studies with responsibility always fixed.

Another important matter which we have had under consideration. At Holders, I learned that there was some danger that Savannah sponsors might get the necessary "sponsor's contribution" and that the project might fall through; that in fact unless the money was forthcoming by Spt. 1st WPA might withdraw the project. They want to get started.

Holder had planned to go to Columbus this fall and now if the Irene project falls through he could hardly be blamed for hanging around without pay as poor Taylor did to his near ruin. As it is Holder has saved up only about $200 to go to school on in New York, and while I admire his courage, I hardly see how he can wangle a year at Columbia unless he has friends there to help him to some kind of job while he goes to school.

It would be a tragedy if Irene Mound project should fall through. My visit to Holder's gave me an opportunity to look over his dig at Evelyn Plantation and to study his materials from other sites. It is very evident that his chronology will check in nicely with that at Macon. The successful completion of his job, and the important light which will certainly be thrown on Georgia prehistory, means that Irene Mound is all the more important. That Irene is stratified, with a cord-marked and a Lamar-like deposition of cultural materials, cannot be doubted.
Could Mrs. Lane be persuaded to save the Irene project by a personal appeal? I can’t in a short letter go into all the important and pertinent details. But the job is tremendously essential to working out coastal chronology. For one thing, the Lamar-like phase at Irene helps to fill out the linkage with Lamar at Macon, and your Bull Creek site. All are undoubtedly foci of the same aspect (to use McKern’s terminology).

Please let me hear from you soon as I am very much perturbed about the above.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Isabel Garrard Patterson,  
Wildwood, Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

The family council resulted in a favorable decision regarding the proposed New Haven trip. I am writing Carl Guthe that I would like to have fifteen minutes on some phase of Georgia Archaeology. You might add your support to make sure that we get a place on the program. Unless that can be arranged, your group would hardly care to be represented merely in person. Considerable national interest has developed in the Georgia work and I imagine my colleagues would be glad to hear more about it at New Haven.

I had a long distance call from Holder yesterday. He and Caldwell are getting under way rapidly. There is considerable slumping along the old profile cut by Moore through the mound. Also, a number of colonial burials, some partially exhumed recently, have held up trenching into the mound proper. Confidentially, Holder suspects that the people responsible for removing the body of Gen. Elbert may have left the General's legs behind. Be that as it may, rapid progress is being made toward our archaeological objectives at Savannah.

Very little trenching our stratigraphic study of the village around the mound at Irene has been made yet. Pottery collections, mostly miscellaneous, show Lamar-like designs and ware characteristics, and a large complement of cord-marked pottery which seems to extend up into the Lamar level. Ideas of stratigraphic succession, or chronology, are being held in restraint, however, pending more careful analysis of profiles and more meticulous cataloguing of individual materials.

The Irene Mound explorations promise to give further information bearing on the indications of prehistoric and proto-historic Indian occupations studied for over a year at Sea Island, and St. Simon's. Lamar-like paddle marked or stamped, incised; cord-marked; Swift Creek complicated stamp; gridbar or check stamps appear again in a new context. The two field explorations combined should go far to enable us to make a workable systematic chronology for the Georgia coast. Holder is working hard at night with his material looking forward to a preliminary report as soon as the Irene work is well under way.

You will appreciate the importance of Irene in connection with previous research carried out at Lamar Mounds in Macon and at Bull Creek, at Columbus.

These three sites together give an idea of the cultural characteristics of tribes who inhabited Georgia at about the same time over wide areas, as indicated by the Chattahoochee, middle Georgia, and coastal sites mentioned. These sites show types of pottery, mound characters, burial traits, game pieces, ornaments, pipes, and other cultural features implying a mixture of cultural habits between two groups. One of these, represented by the Lamar complicated stamped pottery indices, native to the southeast; the other indicated by the incised ware, almost certainly were immigrants from the lower Mississippi east, crossing many streams, and finally settling on the Georgian rivers. The Kasita and Kawita were in the vanguard of these early tribal movements. Bull Creek, Lamar (Ocmulgee Old Town), and Irene represent stations on which settlements and remains of these first contact of the ancestral Creeks with "strange Indians" already inhabiting the area were made.
Time indicated for these settlements would be pre-de Soto according to my conceptions. And I believe that Dr. Swanton would concur in this judgment as he feels that the restless, unsettled condition of the country at the time of De Soto was an aftermath of tribal dislocation incident to these original migrations of the Creeks.

The above summary gives about the gist of the remarks which I would like to make at New Haven. I hope that this will serve to cover the information you advised me you would like to have. Please let me have your reactions.

Most sincerely,

A.R. Kelly
Mrs. H. Wayne Patterson  
"Wildwood"  
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Concurring in our telephone conversation of recent date and in pursuance with our agreement made at that date, I am sending on copy of mss. "Lamar and Related Site Exploration", to be offered for the meeting at New Haven. It strikes me that this topic would be of more general interest to Georgians in general as well as to my scientific colleagues. It touches on crucial exploration in three areas of Georgia, the Chattahoochee, the Ocmulgee, and Savannah. It brings into comparison other site exploration familiar to students in the Southeast who know existing archaeological literature. I think the topic can be handled within a fifteen minute period although it would not be possible to read the mss. verbatim in that time. Please let me hear your reactions as soon as possible.

I was called to Washington this past week to confer with WPA, the Smithsonian, and National Park Service officials regarding the extension of archaeological work in the Southeast, and also to give a paper before the newly formed Eastern States Archaeological Association. I met a number of old friends and had a very pleasant trip. I think it did me good to get away from things for a little while and to indulge in a few orgastic bull fests. It seems likely that there is to be very close intra-Bureau cooperation by the National Park Service and Smithsonian, and WPA seems more ready to play ball now than in the past. I had a very satisfactory consultation with Mrs. L.N. Woodward, Hopkins' assistant. She is a person of very vigorous mentality and lively temperament, and a shrewd one; a Mississippian sincerely interested in various phases of conservation in the South and anxious to conform WPA projects to effective development. She understands the needs of archaeology and the need of cooperation with organized scientific institutions. Whereas most conservative institutions are still a bit doubtful about WPA, I think nevertheless that under the plan of organization now under way more complete assistance in providing needed personnel and resources can be had.

The emphasis locally in these cooperative arrangements will likely be between state universities, the Park Service and the Smithsonian, utilizing both CCC and WPA facilities.

I talked to Dorothy Gross, directing the state-wide archaeological survey in New Jersey under WPA auspices. She has a Ph.D. from Pennsylvania and has both New and Old world experience, having worked for a number of years with Speiser. She is doing a very capable job. I hope to get up there and have a look at survey work in New Jersey with an eye possibly to getting something done along the same lines in Georgia. Can you perceive of a possible setup in which the University of Georgia might become a sponsor or co-sponsor of a state-wide archaeological survey like that in New Jersey, working with WPA, supplying the director of the survey, with other technicians supplies by WPA? It would probably take $3,000 a year to get a sufficiently capable person, but a complete survey ordinarily would cost tens of thousands of dollars and would require years. Under the favorable conditions or available labor, an archaeological survey of Georgia might be initiated and
completed with relatively little expense to the University, and resulting scientific credit and influence would be of much value to the institution. Materials and collections could be divided between the University and the Park Service, with a view to systematic museum exhibit and organization of study material both at Athens and the Monument Museum at Macon. I believe that the cooperation with WPA could be had for such a project. Please advise if you think the University might be interested in such a venture, or if, where so much was at stake, they might be able to pay the salary of the director if everything else was provided.

George Valliant, American Museum of Natural History and Yale University, outstanding authority on South American Archaeology, will visit Macon this coming Sunday to be with a cousin at Tennille, Georgia, and to visit our dig. Valliant preceded me in getting a Doctorate at Harvard by a few years. He is one of the half-dozen outstanding men in American Archaeology and I am very glad to have this opportunity to show him some of Georgia Archaeology. You realize, however, that his unanticipated visit cuts short our tentative plans to visit the Rhodes and Hollywood sites at August, November 6.

Please write and tell me about your trip to Memphis and Cincinnati, and your conversation with Dr. Swanton, as I missed him in Washington.

Most Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly

P.S. My mss. got on Setzler’s desk before the Deadline, Nov. 18th, along with one on southeastern dendro-chronology by Willey.
Dr. A.R. Kelly,
Ocmulgee National Monument
Macon, Georgia.

My dear Dr. Kelly:

Thank you a million for your letter of November 4th containing a copy of your MMS "Lamar and Related Site Exploration," to be offered for the meeting at New Haven. I am delighted that you could get it to Frank Setzler by November 1st, and I am sure that he and all the others will be more interested in Georgia archaeology and excavations after they learn of your findings in the Chattahoochee, the Ocmulgee and the Savannah in comparison to other site explorations in existing archaeological literature.

It would be difficult to describe my appreciation of your going and telling about Georgia. I am very grateful to you for this information for I had only fragmentary inklings of much that you now make plain. I believe that a realization of the possibilities in Georgia will do much to obtain a Chair of Archaeology at the University. Sometime after the meeting can this, or a similar article, be sent to the University of Georgia Bulletin? I believe it would help tremendously as anyone should be able to understand it if I can.

I am glad that you sent to Washington to confer with WPA, NPS and Smithsonian officials regarding the extension of archaeological work in the southeast.

Have you a copy of your paper given to the Eastern Archaeological Association? I should like to read it at least, and if possible, to have one for my own future reference.

I am sure the trip would do you a lot of good and do much for Georgia. I am glad that you had such a nice talk with Mrs. Woodward and I am delighted over the new light in regard to emphasis between state universities, park service, and the Smithsonian. I hope Georgia will not be a laggard in taking advantage of this service.

Why don’t you stop in New Jersey to see Miss Cross’ work either going to or from New Haven? Eve Rogers is at White Plains, New York. Her address is: 77 Livingston Avenue, and so can be reached through the phone of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ford at that place. I wrote her a letter telling her something of your lecture as she knows the Mikins and Minors of the American Museum, and I thought that she would be more than interested as she may also attend the meeting in New Haven.

I believe the University of Georgia will be more than willing to become sponsor of a statewide archaeological survey if they can raise sufficient funds as that seems to be the only reason they have been apparently slow. Therefore, I believe the article for the bulletin should be there as early as possible in order that those who are interested and who have the means can contribute for this.

Can I write Dr. Caldwell what you wrote to me, last section of the second paragraph on your second page of your letter?
I do not think that the university at present could even pay the salary of the director if everything else were provided, but they are definitely interested and ready to publish anything that you can tell them.

I hope that Jim Swanson gave you my paper or at least the first part of it for WPA. I enjoyed seeing him very much and he told me that he is moving to Washington soon.

I believe the Kasihta matter will soon be ready for the work to begin. Delay is nerve wracking for impatient people as you know.

I am sorry that we could not go to Rhodes, Hollywood, Stallings Island on November 6th, but I am very glad that it could be postponed as I am up to my neck in work for the De Soto committee. I had a most satisfactory talk with Dr. Swanton and wanted him to come on to Georgia but it will possibly be better later on. I will write you more later about the Memphis trip. I sent word to you by Mary Drake about Madame Clarice and Miss Wright so I did not telephone you as it was impossible for me to come over. I hope to see you soon. However, give my kindest regards to Mrs. Kelly.

Sincerely,
Isabel Patterson
Mrs. Isabel Garrard Patterson  
Wildwood  
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

I am writing to you because of your historical and archaeological interest in the area of Southwest Georgia and the Chattahoochee Valley in particular. There has come to my attention notice of an opportunity to get some excellent field work done in conjunction with the CCC camp now stationed at Cheehaw (Chiaha) State Park, Albany, Georgia.

As you know this state park was established to mark the site of the historic Cheehaw Village near Leesburg and to provide recreational facilities in that portion of the state. As yet no work in history or archaeology has been done to throw light on the human associations upon which the park was established. The work of the camp in a constructional way is about ended. The time is right for the type of work which I am mentioning.

Mr. Winchester advises me that there will be no difficulty in getting application for job orders through at this time. The difficulty lies in the absence of archaeological technicians to direct the work. Everything else in the way of men, transportation and supplies could be had. The foremen assigned to the camp would not be at all satisfactory to direct archaeology or historical research.

In this situation several thousand dollars worth of very important research could be carried out if a state sponsor could be had to provide the necessary archaeological director. It has been suggested that either the University of Georgia or the State Park Commission or Planning Board might be able to provide an archaeological technician for a period of six months to organize field parties and conduct the exploration at or near Albany as a base. An adequately trained professional archaeologist, probably a young graduate from one of the Eastern universities, could be obtained for a period of six months for as much as $150 a month. That corresponds to the base rate of instructor in a university.

In short, the university acting as sponsor, possibly in cooperation with the State Park Commission, for as little as $1,000 might be able to get the equivalent of nine or ten thousand dollars worth of field work done.

No one knows better than you how important the area around Albany is both to history and archaeology of the state. The large Cheehaw (Chiaha) Indian village on the Flint nearby has considerable documentation in both Spanish and English sources, having been occupied during the 16th, 17th, 18th and early 19th centuries by the Chiaha Indian. Dr. Swanton is of the opinion that this village was visited by De Soto in 1540 in the crossing of the Flint. Other interesting ethnographic references made by the De Soto chroniclers need to be checked in the immediate area. I know of no other place, except possibly the extended territory of Chattahoochee Valley south which offers a more fascinating opportunity for combined historical, ethnographic, and archaeological studies.
In the event that the University might be interested, they might anticipate having materials and data on which to base a very important publication at the conclusion of field work. If the University is in any way interested in the subject of historical and archaeological conservation of the rich resources in which this state is abounding, it seems to me that the Chiaha State Park proposition is worthy of the most serious attention, offering the possibility of first-rate research with a minimum expenditure of funds.

In the event that the University should be interested I would suggest that they cooperate both with the State Park Commission and the National Park Service. The collections made from actual explorations should remain in Georgia and I would recommend here that some sort of distribution be made whereby the bulk of the collections would go to the University with a representative study collection going to the proposed museum to be established at Ocmulgee National Monument. This would probably be satisfactory to most Georgians as any facilities which the University might ultimately provide in the way of museum exhibits, as well as the development at Ocmulgee, would serve to preserve Georgia antiquities within the state.

To take advantage of this opportunity any arrangements made should be expedited as it is possible that the Albany camp might be lost through inability to justify the retention of the camp because of lack of work.

Please give me your opinion as to what might be done at this time to take advantage of the opportunity offered at Albany.

Most sincerely,

A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Isabel Garrard Patterson  
Wildwood  
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

This is to report that the two young lady journalists, Mme. Clarice and Miss Wright, came to Macon as scheduled and were shown over the mounds by Lint. Solomon and me. They were not interested in photographs except to have a few for their own personal use. They were the guests of Wesleyan and their mission concerned itself almost wholly with Wesleyan history. They were both very much interested in the Macon explorations, however, and seemed to enjoy their visit.

I am enclosing a letter from Joe Bishop relative to the Albany situation which does not sound favorable. Apparently this camp is going out December 15, and so any suggestions of getting work done there seem to be out. [Comment in Margin: Sorry, Tidwell failed to enclose this, will send it later]

The situation in regard to Fort Mountain, according to intimations from Bishop's letter, seems to be more favorable. That is Mrs. Judd's particular hobby as it is near her home and I am considering sounding her out to see if residents there would be interested in building up popular support for archaeology in connection with the developmental plans for that state park.

I am very glad that you liked my mss. on Lamar and Related Site Exploration. I have got myself out on a limb in regard to this paper as now I must go to New Haven in any event. Our telephone conversation in relation to same was not very clear as to just what action the National Society of the Colonial Dames are taking in regard to it. I have ascertained that a round-trip Pullman, without berth, will cost just short of $50 between Macon and New Haven ($48.85 to be exact).

We are having our usual hectic time just now in getting an extension project for our Macon explorations through Atlanta and Washington. Swanson has taken up to Washington the two projects.

You will be glad to know that Swanson also intends to take up the matter of a stratigraphic survey of Kashita town on this occasion. We rather anticipate some action in the near future. This is the one bright spot in an otherwise sad picture so far as our various plans for Georgia archaeology are concerned at the present moment. Please let me hear if you have anything encouraging as I have received several setbacks and am feeling a bit under the weather.

Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Dec. 18, 1937
Ocmulgee Nat’l Mon.
P.O. 936, Macon, Ga.

Mrs. H. Wayne Patterson
Wildwood, Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

I have less than a week in which to make preparation for the New Haven jaunt. That is my fault alone because I have not pressed this matter on the one or two occasions when we had occasion to discuss it. The situation has developed in an unanticipated manner and I think I should be frank in dealing with the embarrassing features of the case.

My impression over the telephone when the New Haven matter was presented by you was that the Colonial Dames and others felt strongly that Georgia should be represented at the meetings and that papers dealing with Georgia archaeology, which has attracted such widespread attention, should be given. That there was a feeling that I should have been present at the last meeting and must certainly attend this one. Holder, coming back from the last meeting reported something of the same kind independently of what you told me.

But it was also my very definite impression that the C.D. and others interested would provide the wherewithal to make this possible and that you, personally, would not have to dig down as you have so generously in the past for other things when projected work got to a crucial point. You will recall that I particularly wanted assurance that this would not be a boomerang to you as sponsor. I know that you have the thoroughbred view of carrying through with anything you undertake, and that anything of a promise or obligation would be carried out even if you did not get anticipated help from others. And I suspect, candidly, that some of those who might reasonably have been expected to help you out on this particular matter, have not come to your aid.

Now that my name and that of G. Willey are down for papers on the morning of Dec. 30th at New Haven, I must go. And I will manage in some fashion. But still I am going to be stubborn about the finances unless it turns out that you have got the support you expected. I have no objection to letting your organization help me to make the trip because I feel that the subject of my paper has great significance for work in which they have been particularly interested for some time; i.e., the Lamar sites description pretty well outlines the archaeological picture of what Georgia was like at or just before the time of de Soto’s journey.

Moreover, in attending the New Haven meeting, I shall meet a number of key men in Anthropology whose aid will be indispensable in furthering the following objectives of future work in George archaeology:

1) historical and archaeological survey of the Chattahoochee valley. Dr. Duncan Strong, the new head of the Dept. of Anthropology at Columbia University, succeeding Dr. Boaz, is much interested in combined historical and archaeological methods of approach to prehistory and from preliminary correspondence, I know, is definitely interested in several of our Georgia prospects, notably the Chattahoochee.

2) dendrochronological research in the Southeast, continuing work already begun by Willey. Dr. A.V. Kidder of Carnegie Institute is the key man here. Willey’s paper at New Haven may well pave the way for discussions which might lead to the setting up of research in southeastern dendro located centrally in Georgia. This possibility is entirely practicable and possible if pressed in the next few months. Stirling and I both intend to have a consultation with Dr. Kidder regarding it.
3) Holder's work at both Brunswick and Savannah has added stature and importance to earlier work in the Savannah Basin, particularly at Stalling's Island. I hope at New Haven to get attention drawn to this point, leading to a reexamination of Claflin's material now at Peabody Museum, Cambridge. This is important as an adjunct in getting project research on sites near Augusta undertaken. With my Harvard contacts, I think I can probably get something done in this quarter.

4) One of the most fascinating problems of Georgia history and archaeology deals with the cultural affinities of the mysterious Uchee Indians, so badly dislocated and fragmented by strong tribal pushes in the 16th century and later. Dr. Speck, chairman, Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Pennsylvania, is the authority on Uchee ethnology. I am hoping that something might be done to get field work done around Mount Pleasant, on the Savannah, which seems to have been regarded with particular reverence as a traditional stamping ground by the Uchees in the early 18th century when the Uchees were disputing the area with Oglethorpe's Salzburger colonists. Also, Woodward's fortified Uchee village, a very large settlement, must be on the Savannah, the Ogeechee or possibly in South Carolina.

These are all problems of research which will require university cooperation from some of the great research institutions of the East, even if current plans for survey under the sponsorship of the NPS should go through. I have been out of contact with my scientific colleagues for nearly four years in Macon and it is important that I meet them and pick up where I left off nearly four years ago when I left Illinois.

In addition to the above, I might list a fifth practical objective in discussing certain matters of policy with Dr. Carl. E. Guthe, of Michigan. Guthe has been the "referee" over a long number of years, as chairman of the State Committee on Archaeological Surveys (Nat. Res. Council), in integrating the various local archaeological organizations and in building up a more scientific attitude and methodological approach to field work. This is important as I feel that in the Southeast there is particular need for a strengthening of personnel, greater emphasis of scientific methods, both of field work and in publication. This will be an indispensable condition to any sort of organized survey which might be initiated in the Southeast in the next year or so. In short, my aim here would be to reconcile conflicting views existing within the anthropological fraternity among professional men as to just how much can be done expeditiously in improving the status of field work in the region.

As to expenses at New Haven, I do not see how I can possibly hope to get out with less than $100 altogether. Inquiry at the R.R. station shows that fare plus Pullman berth, round trip rates will total $50 (fare) plus about $15 for berth, coming and going. That makes $65. One must eat on the train, perforce, if he spends nearly two days on board, and even government per diem rates permit $5 a day for this. At New Haven, hotel and meals will push, probably exceed a $5 per diem. In short, the remaining $35 would just about be adequate with a constant eye being kept open for reasonable economies.

If I could go as far as Washington with Swanson by car expenses might be cut to some extent although the time element involved would be increased. In that event I could go on with someone from the Smithsonian who would normally be going up in a car. Also, there is still a chance that Setzler might be able to wangle some help for me through WPA in Washington. But I haven't heard from him, and at this late date, would not look for travel orders or funds on hand which would enable me to make the trip, from that source. I don't know what I'll do about clothes--and in writing that I'm not talking in the same sense as the debutante worrying about a coming out party. Gosh, it may be alright to go without a hat in the amenable Georgia Climate; that can be set down as eccentricity, maybe I'm just collegiate—but a 1200 mile trip to the less clement North is another matter. However, that's a purely personal element so we'll skip it.

Most Sincerely,
A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson
Wildwood
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

A number of important topics have come up for discussion incident to my trip East. The present letter will probably not suffice to cover these adequately.

The New Haven Conference was from most points of view successful and propitious. On returning to Macon, I stopped over in Washington and had a preliminary exploratory discussion with directors of the National Park Service regarding general matters of policy concerning southeastern archaeology.

The time is one of severe economic restriction. Camps are going out, ECW personnel is being sluffed off, and the problem of administration of all areas under National Park Service control is becoming acute. As result of these combined trends, I found the Park Service officials entirely receptive to my suggestion that personnel needs in research direction, might be filled by cooperative agreements with universities and museums. Within reason, I have authority to explore the possibilities in this direction in consultation with various institutions in the eastern United States.

Interestingly enough, at New Haven I was approached with an exploratory suggestion from Harvard University that they provide graduate Fellows or students to assist in working up field data at Macon, Georgia. In previous correspondence, and further discussion with Dr. Duncan Strong, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, I had encouraging indications of help from that quarter. As you know the new Columbia school is primarily interested in the so-called direct approach to American Prehistory, combining history, ethnography and archaeology as a composite methodology.

I also had a very interesting discussion with Dr. A.V. Kidder regarding the possibilities of cooperation from the Carnegie Institution to assist in getting dendrochronological studies under way in the Southeast, following up initial work done by Gordon Willey at Macon and Carl Miller at Jamestown, Virginia. It will be necessary to discuss the matter with Dr. Clark Wissler, another member of the advisory counsel on policy to the National Park Service. I have real hopes that something can be managed here.

It seems to me that if the eastern graduate schools are so disposed to cooperate with the National Park Service in survey, reconnaissance, or specific research projects in connection with archaeology that it is very desirable that at least one Southern institution of learning find means of entering the cooperative research agreements which vitally affect the Southeastern area. If the University of Georgia could participate, it is my sincere conviction that they have a unique opportunity in entering into so propitious a field more or less on the ground floor. I hope that Dr. Caldwell might have his arrangements sufficiently developed now that it might be possible for him or Dr. Coulter to make an official inquiry, at least in an exploratory way, to the Director of the National Park Service, inquiring as to the possibilities of cooperative research, either in regard to direct archeological exploration within the state of Georgia, or in connection with the combined historical and archaeological work.
A letter from Setzler received today advises me that you have informed him that the University is projecting such cooperation as a definite research policy. I hope very much, in line with our previous discussion, that this is true and that you can count upon Georgia as a leading institution in cooperative research undertaken in this immediate region.

I had numerous other interesting and stimulating discussions with various people at New Haven and at Washington which I would like to talk over with you but the limits of this letter are insufficient to even outline them properly.

As to the reading of the papers, I should advise you that I found the fifteen minutes allotted as expected altogether a handicap to permit reading the entire paper. It was necessary to talk more or less extemporaneously. Mrs. Eve Rogers was present at the meeting, I had the pleasure of having her as my guest at the main table --- she was seated between Cornelius Osgood and myself, with Moorehead to our left and Frank Setzler at our right. I am writing H.C. Collins of the National Museum to send my papers so that I can add notes bibliographically with an eye to publication in American Antiquity. This will give fuller publicity to the interesting connections between Lamar and other related field work in the Georgia area, notably the work at Bull Creek and at Savannah.

It rather looks as if V.J. Fewkes of Pennsylvania and Harvard will succeed Holder at Savannah. Fewkes is a distinguished archaeologist with both European and American experience. Like many Czechs he is temperamental, along with his brilliance, and both Setzler and I have had some concern as to how he might fit in with a WPA program. Holder seems to have succeeded very nicely under Mrs. McIntire's watchful eye, and I think that Fewkes will be equally satisfactory.

I recognize that this is an inadequate summary of events but feel that actual consultation with you is necessary to cover the whole ground. I had a very enjoyable trip to New Haven, meeting quite a number of people whom I had not seen in nine to ten years. The renewal of these old contacts was vital to my personal plans as well as a number of objectives which we hold in common. I think you might report to the Colonial Dames Committee which made possible a partial payment of my expenses, that the meeting was fully as successful as we might reasonably have anticipated, from the point of view of contacts made and encouraging responses given to specific inquiries directed to particular individuals.

Most Sincerely,

A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson  
Wildwood  
Columbus, Georgia  

February 11, 1938  

Dear Mrs. Patterson:  

Enclosed find ms. "Lamar and Related Site Exploration" which I am returning to your files. I wish to express my appreciation for the loan of this as it enabled me to check with bibliographic references and make preparation for publication. Although Antiquity is pretty well filled up already for the next few issues, and they have already accepted one ms. from me, I think that I shall send them this one also.

I had a very interesting trip to north Georgia with C.N. Elliott and two reporters of the Atlanta Journal. There can be no question but that Fort Mountain is a finely preserved example of prehistoric stone fortification at Ladd Mountain, overlooking Etowah, before destruction by the owners to sell off limestone. There were the same rock wall alignments, so situated as to command all approaches up the steep slopes except on the extreme north where the walls are so precipitous that ascent is impossible. Under the conditions of primitive warfare I would consider that this prehistoric fortress was invulnerable from any attack. The walls exhibit the same peculiar conical depressions at intervals, called "sentry boxes" by Moorehead and "doodle holes" by the natives of north Georgia. Again I saw no evidences of pottery or worked flint or midden in any form implying occupation or residence in situ. I suspect that the actual habitations were on lower levels, probably in the rich river valleys, and that the stone walls, refuges, were resorted to in moments of desperation; perhaps the women and children were protected there while the main body of the men engaged the enemy elsewhere. At any rate, the identification of the structure at Fort Mountain as aboriginal and prehistoric is beyond question. Certainly it is the best preserved example of an unique structure which has elsewhere been generally destroyed. I have recommended that the State Parks Division make every effort to carry on archaeological survey in connection with the development under C.C.C., as projected in the near future. This suggestion has been well received by Mr. Elliott and my letter on the subject will be forwarded to Park Service authorities. I really anticipate that something might come from the visit and for the first time I shall have an opportunity get some archaeological survey done in north Georgia. I know that you will be very glad to have this information.

I hope soon to get down to see Fewkes at Savannah and see how he is getting along with the very complex job he took over for Holder. I would like very much to have your reaction to this man as I have been much impressed with his abilities.

Most sincerely,
A.R. Kelly  
Associate Archaeologist  
National Park Service  

Enclosure 1294713
Dr. A.R. Kelly,
Ocmulgee National Monument
Macon, Georgia.

My Dear Dr. Kelly:

This is the first time that I’ve had occasion to write you since your letter of April 1, as I’ve been fortunate enough to have several visits where I could talk to you personally. Nevertheless, I want to thank you, in writing, for your letter to the Director, National Park Service, which serves as "inquiry and recommendation" concerning my appointment as Collaborator.

You were certainly most kind to give such a splendid recommendation, and I sincerely trust that a favorable response is forthcoming from the Director.

Enclosed you will find a copy from the Acting Assistant Director to the Regional Director, 811 Grace Securities Building, Richmond, Virginia. I thought you might like this for your files.

I talked to Russell today and he asked me what you had heard, so I told him that, as far as I know, up to last Thursday there was nothing to report except two very nice letters to me from Dr. Bumpus and Mr. Abrahams. I shall see Mr. Abrahams in Savannah this week. I understand that you will soon go to Washington for a conference and I sincerely trust that you will find it convenient to verbally express your approval of my appointment because I know that more is accomplished through personal contact than we dream of. Please understand that I shall always treasure your letter to the director because I’m happy to know your real opinion of me and my humble efforts to be of assistance in historical and archaeological research.

The DeSoto Committee will hold its meeting at the Shoreham Hotel May 2nd and 3rd, 1938, and I have to go to Washington at this time. I will see Dr. Swanton, Neil Judd and Dr. Wetmore, but I shall surely miss Frank Setzler. I’m also going to Annapolis for a visit to Dr. and Mrs. James A. Robertson.

Our trip to Blakely was very nice and I certainly appreciated Gordon Willey accompanying us. He is really a very remarkable fellow and my respect for him and his ability grows with each meeting.

Again thanking you for all you have done for me, in advice, correction and collaboration, as I assure you I have a deep respect for your knowledge, I am going to follow your instructions with regard to the appointment for the University while in Savannah, I am

Most Sincerely,
Isabel Garrard Patterson
October 5, 1938  
Room 7518  
New Interior Dept. Bldg.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

You have doubtless begun to wonder if I was ever going to come to earth again and settle down where I could write a letter or be reached; so had my family begun to wonder the same thing; and I myself had given up hope of staying anywhere over 24 hours. I did have about three days with my family returning late in September after touring three southwestern states in an automobile with the Park Naturalist, Dale King, working from the Southwestern Monuments Headquarters at Coolidge, Arizona. Then I had to go to Alabama, Birmingham, to check up on the new continuation project for a state-wide survey, and returning home to Macon Sunday left Monday for Washington where you can see I now am. This is now to be headquarters. I shall retain connection with the Ocmulgee project, including preparation of mss. materials and study collections, for publication. My wife is remaining with the children already entered in Macon schools to superintend the preparation of the Swift Creek materials.

I did not get to meet Robert Wauchope but wish to congratulate Georgia and the friends of archaeology in the state on having secured the services of so able and reputable a man. I had planned to stop over in Athens for at least a day when the orders came to go to Birmingham. You may be sure that I will do everything I can, as I know Jennings will, to facilitate his program in every way possible.

Also, I was not able on returning to Georgia for those three or four days to get over to Savannah and check up with Shaeffer. I did understand from Jennings that they found, during September, a large ossuary with many Lamar-type pots as burial furniture. Shaeffer’s reports for July and June indicated much progress in peeling the mound layers and considerable increase in our knowledge of the history of mound-building. Petrullo advises me that Fewkes will not be returning to Savannah; we hope to keep Schaeffer on the job until the job is completed, probably by January. Dr. Speck wants him at the U. of Penn., however, so can’t tell what will happen.

I have a suggestion to make regarding the friendly loan you made me in Macon. Beginning this month, as soon as my check comes in for travel reimbursement on recent travel (that’s where most of it is, as usual), I would like to pay $35.00, and then, thereafter, at least $25.00 a month until the whole is paid. If after I pay the $35, your Columbus bank would make me four notes of $25.00 each, discounted not more than $1.00 per each, due 30 da. apart, I could pay the whole at one time and have only the bank to consider.

Will write again soon. With kindest regards to all,

Sincerely,

A.R. Kelly
My dear Mrs. Patterson:

Inasmuch as your recent letter to Mr. Lee regarding DeSoto sites and their identification deals largely with a discussion of the contribution which archeology might be able to make, I am making the reply for the Branch of Historic Sites.

It is to resume an old topic which has been the crux of many of our discussions in the past. Also, on several occasions I have had the privilege of talking over this very point with Dr. Swanton himself.

Dr. Swanton has stated more than once that he personally believes that, failing the discovery of new documents, perchance another and more illuminating DeSoto commentator, he does not believe that continued delving into historical sources alone can do much more to throw light on specific points of contact in the itinerary. He believes that meticulous archeological investigation might reveal significant findings at some major sites, but I have not had the impression that he was too optimistic in that regard. I have heard Dr. Frank Setzler, speaking as an archeological colleague, give his view that site exploration should be undertaken primarily on the justification of the site's inherent scientific importance for archeology and that any possible DeSoto substantiation should be weighed in the balance—the gamble on that basis alone might not be considered sufficient justification for undertaking expensive or protracted excavations on a particular site. The experience of the Smithsonian Institution at the Peachtree Mound site near Murphy, North Carolina, would seem to bear out this contention. You will recall that this site was the presumptive location of Quasili. They did find historical objects but these were too late (early 18th century) for any DeSoto significance.

I understand from recent letters of Dr. W.B. Jones, Alabama, that his assistants contemplate archeological reconnaissance on the site of Coosa in the near future. Dr. Swanton has always regarded Coosa as one of the best defined DeSoto points, so that we may anticipate in the near future another experiment to determine the gifts of archeology for the identification of important archeological sites. Both Coosa and Peachtree had scientific value of high merit in their own right over and above their presumptive connections.

Finally, you must not expect too much from Mr. Phillips' researches. He is not undertaking extensive excavations but is attacking the problem for surface survey, some stratigraphic test-pitting, comparative pottery morphology, and by checking terrain against ethnographic descriptions in the DeSoto accounts.

We shall hope for the best and will encourage and assist in research everywhere which may result in significant finds. But the element of presumption will likely always bulk large in our calculations. And the scientific tendency is to err on the side of conservatism, as we begin more and more to appreciate the special difficulties of our problem.

Sincerely yours,

A.R. Kelly,

Chief, Archeological Sites Division
May 17, 1945

Mrs. Isabel G. Patterson  
Wildwood,  
Columbus, GA.

Dear Isabel:

I am sorry - sincerely sorry - to have twice missed you when you called me on visits to Macon. It is inexplicable how it happened: I spend nearly all my time these days in the Park - hardly get away more than once a week to town - but as sure as fate on those rare occasions when I do get off my base for an evening some old friend or crony of those early Ocmulgee days comes around looking for me.

You want to know about Bull Creek - I don’t know and will have to check. Better write me in detail on what you have in mind. Remember, I’ve been away a long time and its a slow torturous business trying to pick up all the loose ends. And there are plenty of them - things have been going to rock and ruin these years - deterioration is accelerating now and I’m hard pressed to get funds out of NPS, or to get adequate help. I only hope that when our boys come back from Europe, after having witnessed so much tragic destruction in England, France, Italy and northern Africa - lands overflowing with many cultural monuments that have suffered in this war - that they will come home with an alert reawakened sense of the balance of these things and the urgent need to preserve them more adequately in our own country.

There is so much to talk about - can’t we contrive to get together next time?

I had an interesting long letter a week or more ago from a Lt. Chase of Benning Columbus - He has been picking up pottery and surveying sites on Upatoi Creek on the military reservation. Sent some of his site sketches and asked a lot of questions. I’ve invited him to Ocmulgee and hope he comes. Also referred him to you.

I saw Frank Setzler the other day. Kolomoki may come to life again. Here’s hoping.

Also am working with Wylly Folk St. John, feature writer of Atlanta Journal, to get a good article out on archeological salvage on the Savannah River, if and when Savannah River authority sponsored by Senator Russell of Ga. and Maglands of S. Carolina goes through the Senate - Let me hear from you.

As ever,

A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson,
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Isabel:

I haven't heard from you since the flurry last summer in the matter of Bull Creek site and successful efforts to stay off threats of construction there. I have since had further correspondence with the Sect. of the Chamber of Commerce who seems to be a good friend of your museum project and in helping to do something with archaeology around Columbus Falls.

Things at the University are about as hectic as usual with both teaching and exploration details keeping me busy. Caldwell and Miller are going great guns around Allatoona and Cartersville with their $20,000 appropriation to salvage stuff that will go under water come this January. We shall get the great majority of those collections at the close of the work so that the old tendency of our collections to leave the State is being reversed.

Tono Waring was in Athens this week end. He has found some early fibre-tempered pottery in huge circular shell mounds on Sapelo Is. One of the biggest early sites we know of in the Southeast. The owner, R.J. Reynolds, the tobacco magnate, is interested and will probably help us to a dig there sometime this Spring.

I have got the University to approve a new publication series in Anthropology and Archaeology, with Joe Caldwell's Irene Report the no. 1 publication, and with Bill Sears' first two seasons of work at Kolomoki as Publications No. 2 and No. 3. My Swift Creek and Tono's Bilbo and Ga. coastal stuff will be Nos. 4 and 5. It looks as if I would get good support on publications. Some help from the State Parks as well as from private sources.

This is to let you know that a number of people in and around Atlanta and northeast Georgia are meeting in Marietta Ga. at the headquarters bldg. of the Kennesaw Battlefield Historical Park, to organize a new Society, to be known as the Soc. for the Preservation of Georgia Antiquities (sounds a little like the Soc. for the Pres. of Cruelty to Animals, but most of the proponents of the new outfit think this handle will have more popular appeal). Everyone is invited who is interested in saving Georgia sites and antiquities, and I know of nor more ardent battler for this cause than you, so hope you can be on hand if at all possible; and anyway that you will signify your intention to be active in the organization. The meeting is 3 P.M. Saturday, Nov. 12.

Let me hear from you soon. I hope you have been in good health. I also have met a boy from Burke Co. who wants me to go down with him to see Utley's Cave and some other sites on the Savannah river. What did you once tell me about a large site on McBean Creek? I might be able to get that in on the itinerary also.

You should visit Athens and see our Indian art exhibit on the Southern Cult, and all the nice things we borrowed from the Smithsonian.

As ever,
A.R. Kelly
Mrs. Wayne Patterson  
Wildwood  
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Isabel:

I wish to thank you for your good letter received yesterday. I had worried about your long silence, knowing your fervent interest in all things historical and archaeological where Georgia is concerned I felt you would be enthusiastic over recent activation of studies at critical points. I am glad you are recovered and like Buck Benny "back in the saddle again". I hope you take care of yourself and are able to get out with us to see some of the sites again. I was particularly pleased with your full and complete coverage, with good notes, on the situation around McBean Creek, the Hollywood Mound, the Rhodes Group, Old Uchee Town (2b).

Here in Athens my family is still living in a prefab until we can find a house, and my neighbor is a young G.I., a law student, by the name of Odum from Burke county. His family has had large land holdings down there along the Savannah and the Old Oglethorpe Trail since about the time Georgia got the land from the Indians. An awfully nice youngster who wants to show me the Utley Cave and who will be much interested in your notes. Also I have met Dr. E.B. Mell, former school supt. here in Athens, and a son of the former chancellor. Mr. Mell, now well over 70, is still very active. He has a collection of over 45,000 choice flints from the upper Oconee which I think he plans to give to the University. He wants to take me to see Tugalo as he knows the family that owns it and has been there many times. I am particularly interested in both Tugalo and Nacoochee, as these sites were occupied by the Cherokee around 1715 or earlier, and are calculated to give us some archaeological-historical data on the Cherokee before they lost their old culture and became acculturated.

One of my best students is a graduate name Joseph A. Mahan, who lives near Cartersville, and has long been interested in the more recent Cherokee history of north Georgia. Joe will go to the University of North Carolina next year to begin a two year study there for his Ph.D. in history and archaeology. He plans to do his dissertation on Cherokee occupation of north Georgia in the 16th, 17th, and 18th, and 19th centuries. He was public relations officer for the little north Georgia Methodist school, Reinhart College, near Canton, and knows practically everyone in north Georgia. He and I are going up to the Cherokee reservation this week end, at the Museum of the Cherokee, where I am to give an address to the North Carolina Archaeological Society, paper entitled "Problem of Cherokee Origins". Joe is taking his M.A. at Georgia this year. Definitely a very nice person, very acute student, and one of the more promising young scholars of this generation in Georgia. I think he was headed for the presidency of one of those north Georgia colleges, but hope Georgia Univ. is smart enough to add him to their faculty in another two years. He is more interested in colonial history of Georgia and the Southeast, and in ethno-historical study of the Indians, something that has been neglected in Georgia historical research because of our preoccupation with the antebellum South, the Civil War and reconstruction. I know the Civil War and Reconstruction were traumatic for the thinking of much of the Deep South, but think a full recovery intellectually and emotionally will come now from a broader interest in our cultural history with a deeper appreciation of our older landmarks and symbols. Our historical consciousness has been arrested and focalized upon a particularly painful period of our regional experience----that is why we are said to be still "fighting the Civil War". I think the answer to our problem is not less history, but a broader historical canvas or perspective in which a decent pride can feed upon the undoubtedly admirable
cultural depth to be plumbed in future studies. Oglethorpe’s Georgia, Bartram’s Georgia, and DeSoto’s Georgia, and on beyond, on those horizons might be found sustenance and solace for those who still contemplate sadly the bloody assaults on Kennesaw, the tragic Fall of Atlanta, and the March to the Sea. I admire the stand of my great uncle Benjamin H. Hill, who died in the U.S. Senate from Georgia, and who was foremost in encouraging his countrymen to forget the “LostCause”, to accept the new statehood, to join with their Democratic partymen in the North, and to start building anew from the ashes of defeat. There could be no recovery, economically, physically, or of the human spirit, as long as one looked backward, sorrowfully and defeatedly immersed in the humiliation of the War and its aftermath. There are still so many painful reminders of this futile "lost soul" Malaise of our Southland. One could not but feel it when Georgia played Duquesne (from Pittsburg) on Sanford field this year, raising the Confederate Flag instead of the national banner, playing Dixie, and in an air of student bravado and serio-comic jocularity renewing the old conflict with the Yankees. A look at the Duquesne roster of players, full of Polish, Italian, Slav names, should have made us aware how strange and bizarre all this ceremonialism was to these particular northerners who had as second or third generation immigrants no framework of reference to make them understand what it was all about.

The meeting in Marietta to organize the new society accomplished much but there must be another meeting soon to approve our charter or constitution and to elect officers. This will probably be in Athens and should come in December. I hope you can be with us on that occasion as a charter member. There is considerable feeling that we should broaden our scope and field of interest beyond the simply archaeological to call the new society the Soc. for the Preservation of Early Georgia History. We plan to put out a really good quarterly publication to be known simply as "Early Georgia". You will need no great amount of money for membership, simply $5 per year, which gives you the Quarterly.

I'm planning to get to McBean Creek to see the Rhodes Groups, and the Hollywood Mound, sometime this winter while the ground is not so overgrown. I'll keep you informed of events.

Re: the Bull Creek report. Yes, I'll write it up for publication if we can assemble sufficient notes and data. And we'll plan to get it out in our new series on Anthrop. and Archaeology at the University Press, if I can rake up about $300 to get it out. It will probably cost about that much on the basis of what it takes to get out Bill Sears' Kolomoki Season I, now in press. Citizens of Blakely gave us the money for that.

I hope to be seeing you soon.

As ever,
A.R. Kelly
Dear Isabel:

I am enclosing a self-explanatory letter written to Virginia Parker, teacher in the Jordan Vocational School, who wants to prepare an exhibit for the Science Fair on Columbus archaeology and ethno-history. I hope I have not primed a situation which for personal reason or others not known to me you might not want to carry out. If I am wrong, just let me know. To accomplish something along the lines suggested requires work and prolonged attention. Miss Parker may be able to provide a workshop and zealous workmanship from some of her more accomplished students. She needs data and enthusiastic support from someone with the know-how, and I can’t imagine anyone who could supply this more readily and competently than you can. This is something near to your heart, and I really believe a good exhibit prepared as outlines, might help to inject some interest in Columbus fold and possibly revive plans for BULL CREEK. It is worth a try, don’t you think?

At long last I am getting Fall number of EARLY GEORGIA to the printer. Johnston, managing editor resigned and went to Marietta with Brumbie Press; J. Mahan is at home near Cartersville; so I am the only worker in Athens, even doing the typing and all the leg work. This in addition to regular duties in teaching and research has my tongue hanging out...but EARLY GEORGIA will eventually get out. The second number is needed to nail down the fact that the magazine is a reality and fulfills an urgent purpose in the State. I have just returned from a meeting of the newly organized GEORGIA educational Exchange. A lot of prominent people are banded together to preserve sites and to form an Historical Commission. They have a lot of enthusiasm but not much knowledge of how practically to proceed. If they can get lined out on specific, practicable objectives they may get somewhere. At any rate, I shall help them all I can. I really think our SPEGH, with a good magazine to focus knowledge, is a more tangible approach. I made a speech the other night in which I pointed out that to talk about sites or periods of history or personalities in regional or state history inevitably got you all wound up in values...whose history, what history?...and that carbon 14 dates now indicated we had a total overall history of 9 to 10,000 years of human experience in what is now Georgia...and outsiders including tourists might not be interested in our almost total preoccupation with the last 90 years of local history! I indicated that in our concern with the Civil War (pardon) and "Gone with the Wind" episodes that we tended to overlook other segments which had national and even international appeal....Long’s epoch-making experiments with anaesthesia...Eli Whitney’s cotton gin and the Mulberry Grove site...an Uncle Remus museum at Eatonton. My audience including Stephen Mitchell was not as angry as might have been expected, and some of them had a thoughtful gleam in their eyes when they left. Maybe I’m indulging in wistful thinking.

Must close and get my nose--fortunate that it is such a substantial organ--to the grindstone. Havn’t heard from you in some time?

Sincerely, regards to Pat,
Arthur
December 8, 1950

Miss Virginia Parker,
Jordan Vocational High School
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Miss Parker:

I have your subscription for EARLY GEORGIA and have entered your name to receive future copies of same. We are late with our Fall number but are going to press now. The university press has been moved from old Chancellor house, being torn down for a new library building.

I think it would be fine if you and your students could work up a good exhibit for the Science Fair. I suggest that you contact Mrs. Isabel G. Patterson as she has materials and would be enthusiastic to have the important archaeology of your section highlighted under favorable circumstances.

My suggest that you consider building your exhibit around some such theme: "THE COLUMBUS AREA COMPRISERED MANY KEY SITES ON THE HISTORY OF THE CREEK INDIANS".

Materials from the important Bull Creek site would represent 16th century, proto-historic phase; from Kawihta and Kasihta, across the Chattahoochee from one another, providing the best materials for the historic period.

I would work with Mrs. Patterson and exhibit a large scaled map locating the many sites abounding in the Columbus area. The concept of the Columbus area focuses on the Indian occupations around the Falls and the immediate territory both sides of the river. Unquestionably the concentration of sites here is one of the most promising situations for studying the ethno-history of 16th, 17th, and 18th century Muskogean history of Georgia. I would highlight the Muskogean migration myths and the prominence given there to the crossing of the settlement on your strategic territory. Mrs. Patterson can help you immeasurably with the map and in providing data on sites, and with materials.

You might play up the trails converging on the Columbus area, including the important ethno-historic visits of Oglethorpe and his Rangers.

It might be pretty ambitious but if you could get an engineer familiar with the Columbus quadrangle to work with you, you might show the sites not only on a map but on a model perspective of the terrain and river near Columbus. This would be most effective but is highly technical, and would involve a lot of work, and some money for materials.

I shall be very glad to assist in any way possible. I still hope that some formula can be worked out by which the City of Columbus may salvage the important site of BULL CREEK.

Sincerely yours,
A.R. Kelly
March 7, 1951

Mrs. Isabel G. Patterson
Wildwood
Columbus, Georgia.

Dear Isabel:

Just a note to see how you are getting along and to let you know that at long last we are about to get out our second issue of EARLY GEORGIA. Moving the press, the Sesquicentennial, and other things have really stymied us.

Bill Sears has got out his first monograph on Kolomoki: Season I in our new Anthropological Series, and a second season report is in Press. These we get out first because the State Parks is paying for publication, or at least enough of it to enable the Press to take a chance on breaking even in sales. Similarly, Bill is completing now preparation of a manuscript on 9CK5, Joe E. Brown farmsite in the Allatoona, as we must get our stuff out along with Smithsonian working in the same basin. And I am putting the finishing touches on THE SWIFT CREEK MOUND AND VILLAGE SITE; this will really help a lot to clear the decks to go ahead with other things that have been waiting a long time.

I know you have always been concerned to get Bull Creek into print. I have talked this over with Bill Sears. We are prepared to write up Bull Creek, or to start on it at least, this Spring; working with the materials I brought back from last years test excavations, and then going into the old notes and materials if we can get access to the stuff at Ocmulgee. I think we can produce a valid report, and study of the Bull Creek stuff I brought back in the laboratory now is indicating a much wider spread of archaeological materials, with regard to source, than we had expected. For one thing, while the rim treatment, paste, and general morphology of the bulk of the stuff at Bull Creek is definitely in the time level and "feel" of Lamar, the specific designs have a Savannah stamped tradition; also there is a lot of pottery that must refer to influences coming up the Chattahoochee from Florida, Fort Walton influences. This means a very interesting variant in Bull Creek of the widespread Lamar manifestation.

I probably won't have the money to publish the report right away but at least we intend to get the manuscript ready for publication if at all possible in the near future. It has occurred to me that the Columbus people, if they knew an important manuscript had been prepared, with beautiful illustrations and drawings, ready in the press for publication, that some help financially might be forthcoming. I think as much as $500 would insure action by the Press. The expense of preparing the publication can be borne by our Department here, utilizing existing personnel and laboratory facilities. At any rate, I knew you would be interested, and I wanted to keep you informed.

Tono Waring found a beautiful Folsom when visiting Springhill plantation a few weeks ago; sent it up to Roberts; is elated at this first instance of a Folsom on the coast. Thinks there are some quarry and workshop sites that might have a bearing on the problem. Two nice youngsters from Columbia, S. Carolina visited us last week; have some nice surface collections, one from Thom's Creek related to J. Caldwell's Horse Island. Think both of them will come to Univ. of Georgia next Fall, if the Army doesn't get them.

Must close, hope to hear from you soon,

Arthur
Dear Isabel:

Without preamble, while I'm thinking about it, am writing re your long distance call several days ago. You will have received your no. 2 EARLY GEORGIA by now. Hope you liked it. Will send you additional copies of both numbers in a few days. No cost to you, of course, since you are helping as you always have in effort to increase our membership. That is rather crucial; we need around 300 members at least to make a go of the thing. It costs us around $350 to get out an issue. By now we have out 2 nos. and my gamble is that enough Georgians will like the mag. enough that they would not be willing to see such a good thing die. Heard from Chancellor Caldwell, sending in subscription and expressing satisfaction over the No. 2 issue. I shall write him in a few days not in his official capacity as Chancellor, but as an old friend of Georgia Archaeology, asking if he thinks Rich's Inc. and Dr. Raymond Paty might consider making us a donation of about $500. I think if I had that much on hand, I could go ahead with No. 3 copy, material coming in, with assurance of enough temporary financial stability to maneuver.

Here on the campus the reaction to EARLY GEORGIA is very complimentary. They consider it as being in the general class with GEORGIA REVIEW. Inasmuch as the REVIEW started out with some years ago with an original subsidy of $10,000 and we started out with nothing, a hope and a prayer, and a gamblers gesture that would look like a Texas crap game, I think we have done very well.

I could get no. 3 to press within another two weeks but want to see enough support from Georgians to insure payment of at least first two numbers. We should have a meeting of members this Spring to inventory the situation. I am really convinced now that after we get over the hurdle of the first year, the magazine can be maintained in a healthy state, not affluent by any means but strong enough to ensure continuance.

No. 3 will deal with the "Archaic" or "prepottery" sites and materials...this is what makes up most private "Indian head collections" in the State. Have some good papers.

No. 4 is slated to be on Cherokee sites and materials. Some good papers promised by good authors....Chapman Milling, author of "Red Carolinians" M. Kneberg on Overhill Cherokee of Tennessee, J. Caldwell on some very interesting historic Cherokee cooking pits he just found on the Old Federal Road containing check-stamped pits with pinched Lamar rims (big as old fashioned washpots and look about the same!), J. Mahan on the Vann House, Chewan Ruskin on an original Cherokee origin myth she possesses.

Sincerely, as ever,
Arthur
June 4, 1951

Dear Isabel

Without preamble, since I’ve just come half-baked and groggy from the commencement program at Sanford Field where 1200 graduates and their weary parents stood a 2 hour ordeal, I am writing this while I’m still able to advise you that Bill Sears and Lewis Larson will stop by Columbus on their way to Kolomoki on June 13 or 14th to talk over your Columbus museum deal. Bill and Louie are going to do the dig again at Kolomoki this summer. Louie just took his M.A. at Michigan and will be with us again this year. I don’t remember whether you met him or not; if not then it’s about time. He’s an awful nice person, albeit a bit bashful, and a very good field archaeologist. Last year we put him to a severe test, archaeologically and otherwise, by sending him first to Sapelo Island where he was a guest of the owner in sybaritic surroundings, and then sent him to southwest Georgia to live in a farmer residence and do a survey from Southland’s Plantation’s dock on the lower Chattahoochee. At the end of the season he found one of the five insane convicts escaped from the institution at Chattahoochee, Fla. in a very green state on the river. He did a good job at Sapelo with Tono Waring as his mentor, and another good job for Bill Sears and me, and he’ll do well at Kolomoki this summer. They’ll arrive Columbus evening of June 13th or sometime in the morning of the 14th; time indefinite…after all they are both wedding guests on the evening of the 11th when my daughter Joanne marries a rambling wreck from Georgia Tech. and even an anthropologist can’t quite predict how much time he’ll require to recuperate from that. Hope to see you before too long, as ever,

ARK.
May 1, 1953

Mrs. Isabel G. Patterson
Wildwood
Columbus, Georgia

Dear Isabel:

I hope you haven't been blown away by tornados and are still earthbound; I nearly got into the Macon-Warner Robins twirl coming up from Cherokeeeees Fort in the "forks" of the Flint and Chattahoochee, Jim Woodruff Basin....Incidentally, I think it highly likely that Dr. Mark Boyd of Tallahassee found this site in our two day intensive combing of the "forks" area. We found a site on a high hammock, near Cauldin landing on the Flint side, which yielded a very high percentage of Chattahoochee Brushed pottery and other materials such as might be expected on the presumptive site. Logistically, it fits, and both Dr. Boyd and I are high in anticipating the results of archaeological work on the site which we hope Caldwell and Miller can initiate before May is too far gone.

Re your museum project I have the following to report. I went to see Augusta's garden in Athens, with Rene, just before going to southwest Ga. and talked to Wymberly Derenne. He says you or Joe Mahan should go down to one of the two Columbus libraries and make an official request for the two Ms. you want to be transferred there temporarily for your official use in current research. The Eyres Ms. is in the Phillips collection at the University. The C.C. Jones material on the Eatonton eagles is in an old miscellanea of the Peabody Museum, Harvard, not included in later materials published by Jones in his "Southern Antiquities."

I sent you Sam Arline’s field sketch and planimetric readings on the main "eagle" on Athens-Eatonton Road, Rock Eagle Park. If you can get Chuck Fairbanks to send you a copy of the "blimp" photograph taken of the Rock Eagle, in the photographic files at Ocmulgee, that also would be useful.

We have only the plaster ear spools which would not make a good plaster model. We have one model made for us by Brank Roberts from the specimen sent up to Smithsonian by J. Caldwell: THE companion piece, original, recovered by Pat Wofford, is in Wofford's possession. You might be able to get him to loan it to you to prepare a plaster cast. Tell Gene Cline we do not have any molds on hand for these spool ear ornaments. Also, they cannot be prepared adequately from plaster to plaster...you need an original. Paint and surface treatment would come off, and plaster does not give as good impressions as stone or metal. It would ruin our copy and probably would result in an adequate duplicate. If I see Pat Wofford on trip to Cartersville this weekend, will try to persuade him to loan him his original so you can make a cast. Otherwise, would suggest you negotiate with Frank Roberts: we warded him once successfully, hate to call for another copy.

I hope to get back down to Jim Woodruff in mid-May, after the May meeting of the Georgia Historical Commission, and after I return from Urbana, Illinois where I give a paper on the Georgia Cave Burials found in Bartow County, Georgia, annual meeting of the Soc. for American Archaeology. I'll try to get down to Donalsonville via Columbus and pay you a visit on way down. Hope you are proceeding satisfactorily, and look forward to seeing the exhibits.

Regards,
A.R. Kelly
Dear Isabel,

During long absence, due to rash of fieldwork and new developments in Athens (including visit of my daughter Joanna and husband from Connecticut, Sheila from Darien where she is excavating two Spanish missions, Patricia from Jacksonville (now court reporter with the Navy), have not communicated, although J. Mahan’s message finally received from family after I got up to Athens.

I gather from Mahan’s message as forwarded that you are still working on your exhibits and the official opening of the Columbus Museum is not yet. After this week in Athens, I have a meeting of the Ga. Hist. Comm. at Cartersville...Van House...New Echota; then a meeting at the old Jarrett Manor Inn place near Toccoa. After that, prob. a return to Donalsonville with J. Caldwell to take a last looksee at the area in the forks soon to be inundated to the 65 foot contour.

In the meantime, I am enclosing letter received during July while I was in Donalsonville, from a soldier at Fort Benning, who is a trained archaeologist, former Carnegie Museum man, and who apparently is permanently stationed at Benning. I have written him to contact you, as I know you would want to meet him, and he might be the boy to help you with any outstanding problems in connection with your museum project. I know you are probably exasperated with me for my tardiness, but I would beg your kindness in remembrance of my good wishes and efforts to help the best I can (as witness the above information).

Sears is down 5 feet in "the Little plaza" bet. Mounds ABC and the river at Etowah and is finding stratified deposits of different Etowah building periods, With later Lamaroid occupations on top. This is encouraging as Moorehead never got down to any such depth and the information increases probabilities that we will find untouched portions even in the burial mound he is supposed to have excavated completely.

Larson and Sheila are getting good results at Darien and along the south Altamaha. Sheila writes today she is finding more wall trenches, compound walls, Columbia White majolica, 2 complete but crushed olive jars, and tons of pottery. She has two mission complexes, one 16th century (the historians don't know which, and a 17th century structure).

In last week, I have started an emergency project to have an observer keep tabs on a digging machine laying a huge ditch for a gas main that will run from Macon, Ga. to Aiken, S.Car., via Wrens, Ga. where another line will run to Savannah. This will give us over 300 miles of profile through some very critical territory, including some which has produced Clovis-type Folsom points.

There, I've tried to make up for past delinquencies as much as possible. Hope you will forgive me, that you are well, and reasonably happy.

Regards to Pat, sincerely,
A. Kelly
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