the Russell Cave inhabitant's way of life remained unchanged until the end of the period.

THE WOODLAND PERIOD— 500 B.C. TO 1000 A.D.

Beginning about 500 B.C., the implements of the Russell Cave inhabitants underwent a dramatic change. Pottery appears for the first time and in quantity. Smaller weapon points suggest that the bow and arrow had replaced the earlier throwing stick. Bone tools are better finished, and there are a variety of bone and shell ornaments.

These changes, widespread throughout the Eastern United States, mark the beginning of the Woodland Period. It was during this time that burial mounds came into use and ceremonialism increased.

The richer and more complex way of life indicates that the Woodland Indians had more time for activities not directly concerned with staying alive. Probably a stable and more abundant economy underlay this development. Increased use of plant foods, perhaps even rudimentary farming, provided this base. At least, we know that by the end of the Woodland

Period primitive agriculture had taker hold in the East.

In this period the Indians used Russell Cave only seasonally. When they left in the spring, they probably joined other groups as part of a summer village that was larger than those of the Archaic Period.

Changes in the shape and style of artifacts are the basis for subdivisions within Woodland Period at Russell Cave. The early pottery is decorated with fabric impressions on the surface. Later pottery is decorated with impressions from wooden paddles carved in a variety of designs. The shapes of projectile points also changed during the period.

THE MISSISSIPPIAN AND HISTORIC PERIODS

Shortly after A.D. 1000 the Indians began to make less use of Russell Cave.

Occasionally small parties, probably hunters, left a scattering of objects that differed from those of the Woodland Period. But the basic way of life had changed. Now the Indians lived in permanent villages. Rich bottomlands near the river supported their fields of com

and other plants. This time of settled villages, most often containing large flattopped temple mounds, is known as the Mississippian Period.

In historic times the Cherokee Indians occupied this part of the Tennessee Valley. The Cherokees and the white settlers who followed them made little use of the cave. The few objects they left are found very close to the surface.

MONUMENT OPEN FOR VISITATION

Russell Cave National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation on May 11, 1961. An area of 310.45 acres, a gift of the National Geographic Society to the people of the United States, was set aside for the protection of the site and its surroundings. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The monument is open all year except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Days. Exhibits are in the visitor center, an exhibit of the archaeological excavations is in the cave.

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RUSSELL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT



8,000 Year Record of Man's Life

Bridgeport, Alabama

U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service

INTRODUCTION

Here hundreds of generations of prehistoric Americans lived a rigorous and demanding life. For most of this time agriculture was unknown, and hunting and gathering were their only livelihood. These people had little time for anything but securing food and shelter.

The tools and weapons they used, the bones of the animals they ate, the charcoal of their fires, and the debris of their camp accumulated layer upon layer as the years—and thousands of years—passed. When the last occupants departed, Russell Cave held beneath its surface the record of life there.

This record was not exposed until 1953. That year four members of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Archaeological Society began systematic excavations in Russell Cave. These four conscientious amateurs included Paul H. Brown. J. B. Graham, Lebaron Pahmeyer and Charles K. Peacock. They realized that they had come upon an important archaeological site, one which demanded more intensive effort than they could give it. They told the Smithsonian Institute of their discovery. That institution, in cooperation with the National Geographic Society, conducted three seasons of archaeological exploration. Other

excavations were later carried out by the National Park Service. From this combined work has come our present knowledge of the people Russell Cave sheltered for 8,000 years.

MAN COMES TO RUSSELL CAVE

Over 4,000 years before the building of the Great Pyramid of Egypt, the first Indians came to light their fires and live in Russell Cave. Man had come to this hemisphere thousands of years earlier and had gradually spread over both continents, but until about 10,000 years ago Russell Cave was uninhabited. Waters from a nearby stream coursed through the cavern. No one could live there until a large rockfall from the roof raised the cave floor above the floodyvaters.

The first inhabitants camped on an irregular floor of rock slabs, it is from measuring the radioactive carbon remaining in the charcoal of their fires that archaeologists can date their arrival at about 6500 to 7000 B.C. For these early people, moving from place to place as food supply and the seasons dictated, Russell Cave was a seasonal haven. The cave sheltered them mainly in fall and in the winter. Water abounded nearby; the

forest bore a rich crop of nuts, and the mountains and valley yielded game. In spring and summer small bands—severa families—probably camped along the banks of the Tennessee River only a few miles from the cave.

THE ARCHAIC PERIOD—7000 to 500 B.C.

For nearly 7,000 years the people who inhabited Russell Cave lived by hunting and gathering. The deer was the most commonly hunted animal, but wild turkey was also a favorite. Other quarry were squirrel, raccoon, rabbit, gray fox, skunk and bobcat. The porcupine, today no longer found this far south, appeared in the earliest occupational levels. Turtles, fish and shellfish were also part of the diet.

A short spear, tipped with a projectile point and propelled by a throwing stick or atlati, was Archaic Man's chief weapon. He chipped the points from chert which occurs as nodules and veins in the limestone near the cave. The quantities of chips unearthed show that projectile points were made in the cave. Archaic Man wasted little of his game. Meat was roasted or stewed by dipping hot rocks into waterfilled containers of bark or skin.

Hides provided him with clothing and shelter. Bones served as tools.

Many plant foods, such as fruits and berries, were scarce or unavailable during this time of year that Russell Cave was occupied. Nuts and seeds, gathered in great quantities, were staple food.

Archaic Man had few tools, reflecting the limited needs of the people and the necessity for household goods to be portable. Besides weapon points, he worked sharp, flinty storie into scrapers and knives. Bones made into awls and needles suggest that he worked leather. He also fashioned bone into fish hooks. No ornaments were found in these deposits.

Occasionally the Indians buried inside the cave family members who died while living there. Several burials, of both adults and children, have been found in the Archaic layers. Their bodies had been placed in shallow pits scooped out of the cave floor. No objects were found with these burials

There are hints that during the last 3,000 years of this period the Indians of the Tennessee Valley relied on the river for their chief source of sustenance. The cave then may have been less frequently occupied. But in most other respects