Meeting Notes – Sep. 14, 2021

Dr. John Caldwell was responsible for the program this week and he invited as his guest Teresa Paglione. Ms. Paglione presented a program entitled, "The LaFayette Ceremonial Stone Complex: An Unexpected Discovery of a Stone Row and Stone Piles in Chambers County, AL". The program and research was a result of an informal partnership with a private landowner, the Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, and the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Services. The stone row is approximately 450 feet long, 12-16 feet wide and two feet high. It is made of basketball sized rocks and the row (wall) is shaped like a crescent, with the two ends slanted downwards. It is believed to have been constructed by the Creek Indians who brought in the stones from the surrounding area, from no more than a 50 mile radius. A total of 49 stone piles were also discovered. The stone piles measure approximately four to six feet in diameter and 12-18 inches high. There are other similar stone rows and piles in Alabama and throughout the country.

There is no known purpose for the stone row, although many speculations, and no additional artifacts have been found to provide any clues. However, it is believed that the stone row and stone piles are ceremonial in nature and were meaningful to the Native Americans. There is a snake-like rock formation that may have been considered a "portal to the underworld". The early settlers/colonists in our country reported seeing these stone rows and piles. A similar stone row in Moundville AL is dated back to 900-1300/1400 AD.

Diane Sheriff