

# NAGPRA Study for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Walter F. George Reservoir

Mississippi and Georgia



Above: Our laboratory staff has completed numerous projects designed to rehabilitate old archaeological collections. Tasks include reorganizing and repacking artifacts, creating databases and archiving associated documents.

## CLIENT

US Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Curation and  
Management of Archaeological Collections

In 2009, the US Army Corps of Engineers tasked Brockington and Associates to complete a NAGPRA inventory for archaeological collections from the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and Walter F. George Reservoir.

During this project, Brockington personnel identified NAGPRA-related materials from sites in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway project area including at least 96 human remains, and over 18600 funerary objects. Brockington personnel faced multiple tasks in dealing with the collections, beginning with an inventory of previously identified sites and review of site documentation and contents in order to identify NAGPRA material. Brockington personnel inspected every artifact box for NAGPRA-related materials and analyzed, recorded, and repacked all NAGPRA-related materials according to federal guidelines. Brockington personnel recorded all information on standard Army forms in order to maintain provenience continuity, attempting to reconcile discrepancies in the data when possible by examination of the physical material.

*The physical inventory included an onsite review of all associated records, especially burial forms, field notes, and reports. This review identified 1,070 boxes of material and documentation.*

Ultimately, we recommended likely cultural affiliations with whom to facilitate repatriation, based on the cultural background, historic maps and treaties, archaeological research, and recognized subject matter experts.

## ELEMENTS

- Archival Research
- Collections Management
- NAGPRA Inventory and Report
- Artifact Curation

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 mandated major changes in the treatment and disposition of Native American human remains and funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony, or sacred objects and acknowledges the right of Native Americans to reclaim these materials if lineal descent or cultural affiliation can be demonstrated. Institutions holding NAGPRA-related materials are required to complete a Summary and Inventory of their collections for review by the Department of the Interior and to ultimately return the material to the affiliated Native American group.