Archeological excavations near Lafayette have uncovered five skeletal remains of Indians and pottery dating from the Troyville to Plaquemine period (700 A.D. to 1300 A.D.) on the bank of Bayou Tortue. The position of the skeletal remains indicate that the bodies were not laid straight in the burial ground but arms and legs were crossed. The dig was such that skulls were crushed from pressure of persons walking above ground.

Gibson says the burials at the site could be from the Troyville period to the Plaquemine period, which is from 700 to 1300 A.D. Layton Miller, assistant professor of geography, assisted in the mapping of the area. Mitchell Hillman, a local enthusiast of Indian culture reading of Gibson's plan to excavate of Bayou Tortue for an archaeological study pointed out the area where the excavation is.

The pottery found at the site may be from an earlier period. One in particular is from 200 A.D., Gibson said. Also found among the pottery pieces are artifacts from the Spanish period of occupation in this area including majolica square nails and wine bottle glass dating from about 1780 to 1820. These artifacts are near the present Indian dig.

The importance of the find lies in the fact that the study to be made of the skeletal remains will be the only one in this time period studied in this manner.

Study Made

Gibson said a study was made of Indian skeletal remains found at Pecan Island but they were not of this time period.