



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

MS 4658 Field notes and ethnographic material on Alabama, Choctaw, and Koasati (latter incomplete), plus a partial Southeast comparative ethnology of southeastern U.S.

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 4658 Field notes and ethnographic material on Alabama, Choctaw, and Koasati (latter incomplete), plus a partial Southeast comparative ethnology of southeastern U.S.
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS4658
<b>Date:</b>	1936-1940 (part)
<b>Creator:</b>	Taylor, Lyda Averill
<b>Extent:</b>	3 Boxes
<b>Language:</b>	Undetermined .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Received by John M. Goggin from Walter W. Taylor, after death of Lyda A. Taylor, 1960.  
Deposited by Goggin in B.A.E., October, 1962.

### Citation

Manuscript 4658, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Scope and Contents

Shelf list: Box 1. Alabama, Choctaw, and Koasati field notes. Box 2. Ethnographic material on Alabama and Koasati, plus incomplete manuscript on ethnography of southeastern U.S. Box 3. Miscellaneous notes on Alabama and Koasati. Detailed list of contents accompanies main catalog card.

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## Arrangement

Divided into 15 series:

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### Arrangement

(1) Alibamu field notes, miscellaneous subjects July 2 - August 27, 1940;

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### Arrangement

(2) Alibamu field notes, miscellaneous subjects June 7 - July 28,

## **Arrangement**

(3) Choctaw field notes on native medicinal practices. July 12 - July 17,

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## **Arrangement**

(4) Choctaw (at least in part) field notes on medicinal plants July - July 27,

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## **Arrangement**

(5) Alabama, Choctaw, Koasati?? field notes, miscellaneous notes from published sources, and questions,

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## **Arrangement**

(6) Alibamu? field notes on folktales July 31 - August 11,

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## **Arrangement**

(7) Questions,

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## **Arrangement**

(8) Alabama ethnographic material ,

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## **Arrangement**

(9) Koasati culture summary,

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## **Arrangement**

(10) Comparative Southeast ethnographic material ,

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## **Arrangement**

(11) Linguistic notes,

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## **Arrangement**

(12) Tribal names and kinship charts,

## Arrangement

(13) Lyda Averill Taylor Photographs,

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## Arrangement

(14) Miscellaneous notes,

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## Arrangement

(15) Indian artifacts from Harrington, Texas,

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 4658

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- Alabama Indians
- Alibamu
- American Indian -- Southeast
- Choctaw
- Coushatta (Koasati)
- Indians of North America -- Southern States
- Language and languages -- Documentation

### Cultures:

- Alabama Indians
- Alibamu
- American Indian -- Southeast
- Choctaw
- Coushatta (Koasati)
- Indians of North America -- Southern States

### Types of Materials:

- Field notes

## Container Listing

### Alibamu field notes, miscellaneous subjects (Series 1), July 2 - August 27, 1940

*3 Notebooks (342 items)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Informant: Battise, Betty  
Battise, Billy  
Battise, Fanny  
Sylestine, Cooper  
Sylestine, Sissie  
Thomson, Josie  
Williams, Betty  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (1)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: (1) Notebook 1940-Alabama #1 89 items  
(2) Notebook 1940-Alabama #2 94 items  
(3) Notebook 1940-Alabama #3 56 items  
(4) Field Notes 103 items  
Culture: Alibamu  
Indians of North America -- Southern States

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## Alibamu field notes, miscellaneous subjects (Series 2), June 7 - July 28, not year given

1 Notebook (134 items; 7 x 8 1/4 in.)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Informant: Boatman, Charlie  
Battise, Betty  
Battise, Fanny  
Macconico  
Thomson, Josie  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (2)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: (1) Notebook  
Culture: Alibamu  
Alabama Indians  
Indians of North America -- Southern States

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Choctaw field notes on native medicinal practices (Series 3).  
July 12 - July 17, no year given

MS 4658 Field notes and ethnographic material on Alabama,  
Choctaw, and Koasati (latter incomplete), plus a partial  
Southeast comparative ethnology of southeastern U.S.  
NAA.MS4658

## Choctaw field notes on native medicinal practices (Series 3). July 12 - July 17, no year given

20 Pages

1 Notebook (40 items; 7 x 8 1/4 in.)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Informant: Langley, Jackson  
Williams, Susie, Alibamu?  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (3)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: (1) Loose Papers 6 items  
(1) Notebook 34 items  
Genre/Form: Notes  
Culture: Choctaw

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## Choctaw (at least in part) field notes on medicinal plants (Series 4), July - July 27, no year given

1 Notebook (37 items; 7 x 8 1/4 in.)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Langley, Mrs (nformant)  
Informant: Williams, Betsy  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (4)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: (1) Loose Papers 17 items  
(2) Notebook 20 items  
Scope and Contents: Also, includes 10 loose sheets containing notes on Choctaw and Koasati medicinal plants, no informants cited.  
Topic: Language and languages -- Documentation  
Culture: Choctaw  
Coushatta (Koasati)

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## Alabama, Choctaw, Koasati?? field notes, miscellaneous notes from published sources, and questions (Series 5)

35 Pages

1 Notebook (39 items; 6 x 9 inches)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Informant: Robinson, Jake

Language: Undetermined.

Local NAA MS 4658 (5)

Numbers:

Arrangement: (1)Loose Papers 2 items

(2) Notebook 37 items

Culture: Alibamu

Choctaw

Coushatta (Koasati)

Alabama Indians

Indians of North America -- Southern States

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## Alibamu? field notes on folktales (Series 6 ), July 31 - August 11, no year

17 Pages

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Informant: Battise, Alison

Williams, Susie, Alibamu?

Language: Undetermined.

Local NAA MS 4658 (6)

Numbers:

Arrangement: Loose Papers

Biographical / Historical: The informants are identified as Alison (perhaps Ellison) Battise and Susie (perhaps Susie Williams).

Topic: Language and languages -- Documentation

Genre/Form: Notes

Culture: Alibamu

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## Questions (Series 7)

*2 Notebooks (191 items)*

[Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (7)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: Notebook 1 119 items  
                  Notebook 2 72 items  
Scope and Contents: No data is included.

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## Alabama ethnographic material (Series 8)

452 Items

[Image\(s\): Tribal names and kinship charts \(Series 12\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local: NAA MS 4658 (8)

Numbers:

Arrangement: Divided into 16 folders:

- (1) Alabama Ethnography 5 items
- (2) Alabama Ethnography - Hunting, Fishing, Agriculture, Food and its Preparation 44 items
- (3) Alabama Ethnography - Structures 7 items
- (4) Alabama Ethnography - Clothing and Body Decoration 12 items
- (5) Alabama Ethnography - Transportation 1 item
- (6) Alabama Ethnography - Property and Inheritance 3 items
- (7) Alabama Ethnography - Crime, Punishment, Warfare 23 items
- (8) Alabama Ethnography - Material Culture 37 items
- (9) Alabama Ethnography - Life Cycle 77 items
- (10) Alabama Ethnography - Social Organization 20 items
- (11) Alabama Ethnography - Folklore and Religion- Ballgame; Buried; Clothing; Fishing; Hunting; Loose Notes; Material Cultures; Religion Supernaturals, Structures 64 items
- (12) Alabama Ethnography - Cosmography 2 items
- (13) Alabama Ethnography - Games and Ceremonies 3 items
- (14) Alabama Ethnography - Medicine 12 items
- (15) Alabama Ethnography - Miscellaneous 1 of 2 82 items
- (16) Alabama Ethnography - Miscellaneous 2 of 2 60 items

Arranged into topical folders following subject outline by Lyda A. Taylor at front of box.

Scope and Contents: This material seems to be a series of preliminary drafts for a proposed monograph on the Ethnography of the Alabama Indians (never published) and is compiled in part from information found in the field notebooks.

Topic: Language and languages -- Documentation

Culture: Alibamu

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## Koasati culture summary (Series 9)

36 Items

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill  
Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (9)  
Numbers:  
Local Note: Typescript  
Culture: Coushatta (Koasati)

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## Comparative Southeast ethnographic material (Series 10)

### Image(s)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local: NAA MS 4658 (10)

Numbers:

Arrangement: Comparative southeast ethnography 75 items

Dr. Swanton 53 items

Scope and Contents: Includes: Ms. on comparative Southeast ethnography, with information from the Alabama, Catawba, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Chitimacha, Choctaw, Creek, Koasati, Natchez, Seminole, Tunica, and Yuchi. (Koasati material from field work; data on the rest of the tribes from published sources). 73 pages; typed, with pages 3-40 missing (this seems to be the Koasati data, probably among notes loaned to Dan Jacobson by LAT). Also includes 4 pages trait list. List of clans present in tribes listed above. 2 pages with 2 carbon copies. List of dances present in tribes listed above. 2 pages comparative Seminole-Chickasaw ethnography. 27 pages.

Topic: Dance -- Southeast Indians  
Social organization -- Southeast Indians  
Catawba Indians

Genre/Form: Articles  
Notes

Culture: Alibamu  
Alabama Indians  
Choctaw  
Cherokee  
Chickasaw  
Chitimacha  
Coushatta (Koasati)  
Euclaw (Yuchi)  
Muskogee (Creek)  
Natchez  
Seminole  
Tunica  
Indians of North America -- Southern States

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## Linguistic notes (Series 11)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Language: Undetermined.  
Local: NAA MS 4658 (11)  
Numbers:  
Arrangement: 14 items  
Topic: Language and languages -- Documentation  
Culture: Muskogee (Creek)  
Coushatta (Koasati)

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## Tribal names and kinship charts (Series 12)

8 Pages

[Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local: NAA MS 4658 (12)

Numbers:

Arrangement: 9 items

Place: Texas Polk County

Culture: Alibamu

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## Lyda Averill Taylor Photographs (Series 13)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local NAA MS 4658 (13)

Numbers:

Arrangement: 50 items

Scope and Contents: Some relate to the green corn celebration, Livingston, Texas, July 1938. Others are photographs of Alibamu from the collection of the Museum of the American Indian, taken in 1909. Photographs not viewable online.

Place: Texas Livingston

Names: Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation

Genre/Form: Photographs

Clippings

Culture: Alibamu

Coushatta (Koasati)

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## Miscellaneous notes (Series 14)

### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local: NAA MS 4658 (14)

Numbers:

Arrangement: 14 items

Scope and Contents: Also includes notes relating to Mexican Indian dances

Contents:

Culture: Alibamu  
American Indian -- Mexico -- Dances  
Coushatta (Koasati)  
Alabama Indians  
Indians of North America -- Southern States

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## Indian artifacts from Harrington, Texas (Series 15)

### *77 Drawings*

#### [Image\(s\)](#)

Creator: Taylor, Lyda Averill

Language: Undetermined.

Local: NAA MS 4658 (15)

Numbers:

Arrangement: 77 items

Provenance: Possibly drawn by LAT from objects now at Museum of the American Indian, New York (see letter at beginning of Box 2).

Place: Texas

Genre/Form: Drawings

Topic: Harrington (Texas) -- artifacts

Culture: Indians of North America -- Southeast

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