



A 1590 engraving by Theodore DeBry.

Native American Life

There is archaeological evidence that native people lived on Dataw Island for over 10,000 years. A Clovis point associated with Paleoindians, the first American Indians in North America, was found on the island. Most archaeological sites on Dataw are associated with Woodland people who lived throughout the Southeast from 1500 BC to 1000 AD. People came to Dataw as part of their seasonal pattern of food collection. They lived in small camps and gathered oysters, fished, and hunted deer. Archaeologists found evidence of lean-tos and other temporary shelters, and small middens of shells where oysters were processed. They also found fragments of pottery, stone tools, shell beads, even small ceramic disks that may have been part of a long-forgotten game.