

**The
25th Annual
Flint Hills Conference**

Archaeology in the Flint Hills Region: Past, Present, and Future

Program and Abstracts

Friday, April 4 , 2003

**Kansas History Center
6425 SW 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099**

Sponsors

**Kansas State Historical Society
Kansas State Historical Society, Inc.**

Bob Hoard, Conference Chair

PRESENTATIONS

Friday Morning, April 4, 2003

8:30 **Registration**

9:10 **Welcome**

Mary R. Allman, Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

9:15 **Introduction, Conference business**

Bob Hoard, State Archeologist, Kansas State Historical Society

9:20 **Invited Session: Reflections on 25 years of Flint Hills Conferences**

Mary Adair, Don Blakeslee, Al Johnson, Pat O'Brien , Donna Roper, Susan Vehik, Tom Witty

10:20 **Break**

10:40 **Ethnohistory for the Defense: El Turco Appeals his Conviction for Lying**

Donald J. Blakeslee, Wichita State University

11:00 **The Kingrey Collection (UBS 1991-90) and the Kingrey Burial Site—
14PH343**

Jim D. Feagins, Archaeological Consultant

11:20 **Project Archaeology: Opportunity for a National Public Education
Collaboration**

Virginia A. Wulfkuhle, Kansas State Historical Society

11:40 **The Quindaro Ruins Archeological Park Project: A Brief Review of
Progress to**

Steve Collins, Ph.D., Kansas City Kansas Community College

Noon **Lunch on your own**

Friday Afternoon, April 4, 2003

1:40 Probability Model for the Distribution of Surficial Archaeological Materials in Morton County, Kansas

Joshua S. Campbell and William C. Johnson, University of Kansas

2:00 GIS Rendering of the Geoarchaeology of Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Northwest Kansas

William C. Johnson, Brad Logan and Joshua S. Campbell
University of Kansas

2:20 Scoured Sites: A Fresh Look at the Archaeology of Lower Stranger Creek, Leavenworth County, Kansas

Brad Logan, University of Kansas and Kansas State University
Scott DeMaranville, Tonganoxie, Kansas

2:40 Analysis of Leary Site Ceramics: Preliminary Results

Lauren W. Ritterbush, Kansas State University

3:00 The Proof is in the Pot: A Pilot Study of the Ceramics from some Plains Border Variant Sites in South-Central Kansas

C. Tod Bevitt and Christine Garst, Kansas State Historical Society

3:20 Break

3:40 "Work, Finish, Publish" (Even if it Takes Over twenty Years): The Archaeology of Site 14ML417

Mark A. Latham, Burns & McDonnell Engineers, Inc.

4:00 House and Houselot at the Albert Bell Site, Sheridan County

Donna C. Roper, Kansas State University

4:20 Jasper Bifaces Big and Small: Iva's Cache and Liggett's Cache

Randall M. Thies, Kansas State Historical Society

4:40 Taxonomy and Little River Focus: Time and God-Knows-What-Else at the Tobias (14RC8) Site

Susan C. Vehik, University of Oklahoma

6:30 Dinner at the Blind Tiger, a Topeka micro brewery with a full menu. Location: 417 SW 37th St (see map)

Next year's host: The Saint Joseph Museum, St. Joseph, Missouri

Abstracts

The Proof is in the Pot: A Pilot Study of the Ceramics from some Plains Border Variant Sites in South-Central Kansas

C. Tod Bevitt and Christine Garst
Kansas State Historical Society

Several sites in Kiowa, Comanche and Rush counties in south-central Kansas contain examples of exotic materials and ceramic wares, causing researchers to question what is going on at these sites. Some of these artifacts are apparently from the Southwest, indicating trade. Some ceramics are more ambiguous and seem to be similar to those found at Oneota sites in the north or northeast. Additional research needs to be undertaken to address the sources of these materials: is it an exchange of ideas, of trade items or of people? Neutron activation analysis, in particular, might help to narrow the field of possibilities.

Ethnohistory for the Defense: El Turco Appeals his Conviction for Lying

Donald J. Blakeslee
Wichita State University

Coronado's native guide for the first portion of his entrada onto the plains was an Indian that the Spanish nicknamed El Turco. Eventually, the Spanish became convinced that El Turco had plotted to lead them astray in order to kill them all, and after they reached Kansas, they killed him. Mildred Wedel suggested that El Turco may not have been lying and that he may not have been trying to lead the Spanish to Kansas. This paper argues El Turco's appeal from the grave, using arguments beyond those that Wedel offered.

Probability Model for the Distribution of Surficial Archaeological Materials in Morton County, Kansas

Joshua S. Campbell and William C. Johnson
University of Kansas

A statistical method for describing the surficial distribution of archaeological material has been developed for Morton County, Kansas. Geographic Information System (GIS) software is used in conjunction with a binary logistic regression to generate an equation which assigns a probability for the potential of every 30 m² land parcel to contain

archaeological material. The probability score ranges from 0-1 and is based on local environmental conditions. Environmental variables relevant to cultural activity, such as landform, relief, and distance to water are combined with archaeological site data and entered into a binary logistic regression analysis. Because the model focuses on hunter-gather cultures, no socio-cultural variables are used. The regression analysis relates the probability of an archaeological site occurring at a location to the environmental conditions at each location. Once the regression equation is computed using sample locations, the equation is reentered into the GIS. The GIS then applies the equation to the entire study area and a probability score describing the potential of each 30 m² land parcel for containing archaeological material is computed. Archaeological data were provided by the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS) site database, which represents a detailed compilation of recorded archaeological sites in Kansas. Environmental data were derived from both public sources (USGS, NRCS, and State of Kansas) and from prior work completed at the University of Kansas and Kansas Geological Survey (playa-lunette system distribution, locations of springs). Model testing and validation uses random samples of archaeological sites from the KSHS database withheld from the original model development. Results of the model indicate that using a probability cut point of 0.4, 69% of known sites are predicted and 91% of non-sites are predicted.

The Quindaro Ruins Archeological Park Project: A Brief Review of Progress to Date

Cancelled

Steve Collins, Ph.D.

Kansas City Kansas Community College

In November of 2001, the Western University Association of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Kansas City, Kansas (A.M.E.) was awarded the National Park Service "Save America's Treasures Grant" to begin the preservation of the Quindaro Ruins. Because of the death of the primary author of the grant, the most Reverend Sylvia Drew, the grant was nearly lost. However, the Kansas City Kansas Community College made a good faith offer to provide in-kind matching funds to secure the grant in March of 2002. We are now preparing to meet local, state, and federal guidelines in order to begin implementation of the grant. This presentation will very briefly illuminate the progress made toward the preservation of the ruins as of April, 2003.

The Kingrey Collection (UBS 1991-90) and the Kingrey Burial Site—14PH343

Jim D. Feagins

Archaeological Consultant

In 1931, a road crew accidentally uncovered a burial site along Deer Creek, southwest of Phillipsburg, Kansas. Thirteen years later, Cecil Kingery donated a small amount of burial goods from this site, as well as other artifacts in his collection to the Kansas State Historical Society. The location of this site was not known until recent NAGPRA investigations were conducted to study the Kingery collection. Fortunately, a local newspaper account of the burials was confirmed and a witness to the original discovery was located, interviewed, and valuable information was obtained about the site. It was assigned number 14PH343. The skeletal material had been reburied adjacent to the burial site shortly after discovery some 70 years ago. The artifacts had already been removed by road crew workers, town-folks, and the late Mr. Kingery. The Kingery collection is described. Probably the most unusual artifact in the collection, which probably is not from the burial site, is a pendant made from a sea turtle shell.

GIS Rendering of the Geoarchaeology of Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Northwest Kansas

William C. Johnson, Brad Logan and Joshua S. Campbell
University of Kansas

Traditional surface archaeological survey and geoarchaeological exploration were used in concert to evaluate the cultural resources of Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge, Phillips County, Kansas, a Bureau of Reclamation project located on the North Fork Solomon River on the High Plains-Smoky Hills border. Geoarchaeological investigations incorporated subsurface survey of feeder-stream cutbank exposures, shoreline wave-cut exposures, and cores extracted. Subsequent tasks included laboratory analyses of samples collected from exposures and cores; map development (field and DEM data in a GIS-environment) for contemporary landforms and other data; and development of a landscape evolution model with burial depth and probabilities for cultural material. Radiocarbon ages were obtained from buried soil A horizons at eight profiles established on exposures. The ages document periods of surface stability and moderate to strong soil development at ca. 550-940 yrs BP, 1300 yrs BP, 1520-1750 yrs BP, 2020 yrs BP, and 2770-3060 yrs BP. The assayed soils range in depth from 1 to 4.5m, documenting the potential for burial of prehistoric cultural materials below the interval of surface survey and shovel testing. Consequently, sites of Late Prehistoric (ca. AD 900-1500), Woodland (ca. AD 1-1000), and Archaic (ca. 8000 BC-AD 1) age are undetectable by surficial examinations. Alluvial stratigraphic sites and archaeological sites were compiled with GIS-based data, including geology, geomorphic/landform features, digital elevation models (DEMs), orthophotography, soils, cultural features, and hydrography. From these data layers, the probabilities for finding cultural material associated with the various landform surfaces and subsurfaces of the project area were rendered in a GIS data.

“Work, Finish, Publish” (Even if it Takes Over twenty Years): The Archaeology of Site 14ML417

Mark A. Latham
Burns & McDonnell Engineers, Inc.

Meant as an encouragement to scientists who take longer than they should to publish their research findings, the dictum “work, finish, publish” was issued by Michael Faraday, the famous 19th century chemist. As a result of this inspiration, this paper attempts to bring to fruition one such excavation in the 1980 Kansas Archeology Training Program in north central Kansas. The site consists of a Solomon River phase house site and activity area. Site 14ML417 is one of fifteen such sites that have been excavated in the Glen Elder locality, but it is the only one beyond the limits of the Federal property of Waconda Lake and the only one that the findings have not yet reported. Most of the archaeology of the locality has focused on the Solomon River phase sites within the Federal project domain of Waconda Lake, but the investigations at 14ML417 have supplied much needed information that expands the data base on this phase. The data from this site has increased our sample size of the locality and supplied critical information for numerous aspects of the Solomon River phase people. This paper compares the findings at 14ML417 with those of the Waconda Lake sites and attempts to shed light to the phase beyond the limited sample of the Federal project domain. Twenty-three years after the work was completed, it is still important to finish (analyze) and publish the findings of any archaeological investigation.

Scoured Sites: A Fresh Look at the Archaeology of Lower Stranger Creek, Leavenworth County, Kansas

Brad Logan
University of Kansas and Kansas State University
Scott DeMaranville
Tonganoxie, Kansas

Site discoveries along lower Stranger Creek over the past few years by Scott DeMaranville, a local amateur archaeologist, shed new light on fluvial processes effecting site burial and exposure in the valley and on its archaeological potential. That potential includes significant surface and buried components of Archaic, Middle Woodland, and Late Prehistoric age. The sites are discussed with regard to their artifact assemblages and landscape contexts. The information enhances and, in some cases, revises previous interpretations of prehistoric site distribution in the valley with regard to terrain variation and fluvial dynamics. It again demonstrates the critical contributions of amateur archaeologists.

Analysis of Leary Site Ceramics: Preliminary Results

Lauren W. Ritterbush
Kansas State University

One area of on-going research on Oneota occupation of the Leary site, located along the eastern edge of the Central Plains, is detailed attribute analysis of the large number of ceramic artifacts. Resultant data are compared with those defining ceramic horizon styles in the La Crosse locality of southwestern Wisconsin. Although the Leary site and La Crosse locality are distant from one another, many ceramic similarities exist. These confirm temporal and possibly cultural overlap. Despite apparent fit of the La Crosse horizon model, certain temporal and cultural questions remain unanswered.

House and Houselot at the Albert Bell Site, Sheridan County *

Donna C. Roper
Kansas State University

The 1990 and 2002 KATP excavations at the Albert Bell site (14SD305) encountered the remains of a single lodge, and much more. The site lies at the edge of the High Plains and is one of the westernmost Central Plains tradition sites in Kansas. It is well-preserved and yielded a large quantity of material in generally excellent context. With careful excavation and comprehensive recovery, we have not only the floor plan of the house but also a rather sizeable amount of its construction material. Analysis of this material allows us to understand something about how the house was constructed, and how it was abandoned. With excavation and recovery of a large amount of material from beyond the house, we also can understand both that the house is merely one element of a larger farmstead and how that farmstead was structured.

Jasper Bifaces Big and Small: Iva's Cache and Liggett's Cache

Randall M. Thies
Kansas State Historical Society

Interviews with landowners in 2002 revealed details about two previously undocumented caches of Jasper bifaces, one in Sheridan County, in the Jasper heartland of western Kansas, the other in Kiowa County, also in western Kansas but over a hundred miles south of the main Jasper quarries. In Sheridan County, Iva's Cache (14SD1302) consisted of nine remarkably large bifaces with an aggregate weight of approximately thirty pounds; in size and shape, the bifaces are quite similar to those

recently documented at Connie's Cache (14DP431) in extreme northeastern Kansas. The bifaces found in Kiowa County as part of Liggett's Cache (14KW316) are quite different, being numerically greater but much smaller--23 bifaces weighing just under five pounds. The geographic and cultural setting also differed: Liggett's Cache was part of a small habitation site located on a high upland ridge near some springs but at quite some distance from "live" water; Iva's Cache was an isolated feature on an alluvial terrace adjacent to the Saline River.

Taxonomy and Little River Focus: Time and God-Knows-What-Else at the Tobias (14RC8) Site

Susan C. Vehik
University of Oklahoma

There seems to be some perceived need to create a new taxonomic organization to replace Little River focus. Based on stratigraphy and feature intersection at the Tobias site it is possible to create what appear to be as many as five temporally sequent feature groups. Attempts to calibrate these feature groups suggest they do not reflect the passage of time alone or even mostly. The entire exercise suggests that any move to create a new taxonomy needs to be based on a good understanding of the factors behind material variability in Little River focus and we are not there yet.

Project Archaeology: Opportunity for a National Public Education Collaboration

Virginia A. Wulfkuhle
Kansas State Historical Society

Project Archaeology is a national archeology and heritage education program for teachers and their students. Its goal is to promote awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of the nation's cultural heritage. Initiated in 1993 by the Bureau of Land Management in Utah, Project Archaeology now operates in 16 states and is poised to expand to all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories.

A major revision of Project Archaeology's basic educational materials (*Intrigue of the Past: A Teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth through Seventh Grades*) is underway. Teams of archeologists and educators have been working through a series of regional workshops to produce the new curriculum with a target publication date of 2005. While implementation of Project Archaeology in the Central Plains would require considerable additional effort on the state level, participation in this nationwide effort holds the promise of significant benefits for public education in archeology.