

Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Newsletter

Number 2, June 1998

PAK News

PAK's winter meeting took place in the Kansas Room of the University of Kansas Union on February 19, 1998. Around 20 people were in attendance. Eight agenda items were discussed. 1) The Secretary's report. 2) The Treasurer's report. 3) Membership criteria concerns. 4) Discussion of standing committees. Also a discussion about getting membership information to potential student members at the three state universities. 5) An invitation to join in a forum for regional, state, or local agencies, to meet at the spring SAA meeting. 6) An announcement of the upcoming Flint Hills Conference. 7) An update on Kansas Archaeology Week and the Kansas Archaeological Training Program (KATP) program. Also included was an update on changes at the Kansas State Historical Society and a clarification of the status of KAA and KSHS publications. 8) Discussion of recent NAGPRA developments. Time precluded the hoped-for discussion of priorities for research and of current research. Formal minutes will be circulated at the fall meeting.

Superseding the report at the February meeting, Treasurer Chris Schoen reported in mid-May that PAK had 25 dues-paying regular members and 6 student members. The treasury balance is \$435. While membership includes individuals from each of the three state universities, the KSHS, and the Bureau of Reclamation, the number of students remains small. PAK must make the effort to directly invite candidates from the undergraduate and graduate classes.

The announcement of PAK's formation in the recent issue of *Kansas Preservation* drew a number of requests for information and membership application forms.

A resolution passed at the February meeting requested the Action Committee to draft a letter to the Director and Board of the KSHS. This letter, to be signed by the PAK President on behalf of the association, would address the commitment of the KSHS to the KATP, the importance of hiring or appointing a State Archaeologist, and express the organization's concerns regarding the appearance of some conflicts of interest in the operation of the Society's operation of the archaeology program. When last contacted regarding the status of this letter, the committee reported that they are researching the state statutes regarding the State Archaeologist position and making sure all committee members are in agreement regarding the wording of the letter before sending it.

SAA Forum Update

Myra Giesen sent along the following information that she received from David Phillips regarding the forum held at the SAA meetings (see agenda item #5 above):

About 20 councils attended the meeting and the agreement was that coordination among the councils (and between the councils and the SAA) is needed. The tentative plan is to form an "Interest Group" according to the SAA bylaws, and to meet each year at the SAAs to exchange information and get to know each other. The councils also formed a small working committee (headed by David Phillips) to get things started.

A list server connecting all the state councils was established, so that when it's time for broad-based discussion or actual votes, that can be done by e-mail. For more information, people should contact David Phillips at dap@unm.edu.

Personnel Changes in Kansas

Applications are being reviewed for the position of Assistant Director of the Cultural Resources Division of the Kansas State Historical Society. This division includes the Archeology and Historic Preservation offices. Individuals with professional training and experience in history, architectural history, architecture, or archeology are eligible. The holder of this position assists in the management of the state historic preservation office and the archeology program of the Society. The individual will "(1) assist the Division Director, who is the Deputy SHPO, in planning, coordinating, and evaluating the operations of the Division programs; (2) supervise personnel involved in the implementation of the Division's activities; (3) participate in public outreach activities; and (4) specific program duties in the historic preservation program that will depend on the individual's education and work experience."

A State Archeologist has not yet been appointed or hired by the Kansas State Historical Society. The priority has been to fill the Assistant Division Director position. The Society is committed to this position, however, and plans are to resolve the issue soon after the Assistant Division Director has been hired.

Pat O'Brien retired from the Department of Sociology/ Anthropology/Social Work at Kansas State University at the end of the spring semester 1998. Lauren Ritterbush will succeed her in the position.

Art Rohn retired from the Department of Anthropology at Wichita State University and as Director of the WSU Museum of Anthropology, also at the end of the spring semester 1998. John P. Carpenter succeeds him in both capacities.

Darcy Morey will join the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas beginning with the fall semester 1998.

Roger Grosser of the Kansas City District of the Corps of Engineers died on April 15, two days after collapsing from a cerebral hemorrhage. Roger did his graduate work at KU, writing both a master's thesis and a doctoral dissertation on Kansas materials. He was 53 years old.

Summer 1998 Plans

The Bureau of Reclamation will focus it's summer 1998 Kansas efforts on Norton Reservoir. An 1890s adobe house in Prairie Dog State Park has been stabilized and restored over the last year through the cooperation of Reclamation, Kansas Wildlife and Parks, and the local tourism bureau. The restored house is still on it's original site, and will be used as a museum/interpretive center. It was scheduled to be dedicated on May 2nd. As part of a long term cooperative agreement with Reclamation, the University of Kansas Museum of Anthropology will have a crew at the lake under the direction of Brad Logan. Their goal will be a field survey to create an inventory of all cultural resources found on federal lands at the Lake.

Reclamation also plans to sign a cooperative agreement with Wichita State to upgrade storage conditions of federal collections at the University, to meet the requirements of recent federal curation regulations.

The Kansas Archeological Training Program (KATP), co-sponsored by the Kansas Anthropological Association and the Kansas State Historical Society, will be held near Fowler in Meade County, Kansas June 6-13, 1998. Fowler is at the junction of U.S. Highway 54 and Kansas Highway 98, about 32 miles south-southeast of Dodge City, Kansas in the southwestern part of the state. The nine day program will center around excavation at 14MD306, a possible Wilmore complex site. Tod Bevitt has agreed to write a report of the investigation. Virginia Wulfkuhle and Martin Stein will direct the program. Don Blakeslee will teach a class on prehistoric culture material. For registration materials and additional information, contact Virginia Wulfkuhle, Public Archeologist, at the Kansas State Historical Society, 6425 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66615-1099, (785) 272-8681, ext 268.

The 1998 Kansas Archaeological Field School (University of Kansas/Kansas State University) will run from June 8 to July 31 and be directed by Donna Roper. The field school, which is partially supported by a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, will slide north of the state line to work on Upper Republican sites in the Medicine Creek valley in Frontier County, Nebraska.

Research News

From the Kansas State Historical Society:

Chris Schoen and Fred Scott continue analysis of the Lower Walnut focus, Great Bend aspect materials recovered from the Arkansas City Project between 1994 and 1996. A draft of the report is scheduled for February 1, 1999.

Marsha King is completing a report for test excavations conducted in 1997 at the former John and Mary Ritchie house (14SH370) at 1116 South Madison Street, Topeka, Kansas. A small amount of work was done in 1996 by John Reynolds and Virginia Wulfkuhle with some children enrolled in a summer program at the society. The extant house is believed to be the oldest standing private residence in the city, and possibly in Shawnee County. While some additions and renovation occurred between 1913 and 1929, the original two-story limestone house remains.

The John Ritchie family was one of the first to settle at Topeka in 1855. Both he and his wife were active in the community. Mary Ritchie was a strong supporter of the women's suffrage movement. She was reported to have been present, possibly as a midwife, at nearly every birth in the young community. She provided aid and assistance to fugitive slaves.

John Ritchie was involved in the growth and development of Topeka and the state of Kansas. He was often at the heart of important and sometimes controversial events and debates. Like his wife, John Ritchie was a staunch Abolitionist, which brought him at odds with the proslavery faction in Kansas. He was accused of attacking Osawkee with Colonel Whipple (A.D. Stevens) in 1856 and was sentence to jail. Colonel John Ritchie assisted John Brown with the Lane Trail, the section of underground railroad starting at Topeka. He was appointed Colonel of the free-state militia, the 5th Regiment, Kansas Brigade in 1861. He became commander of the Second Indian Home Guards in 1862. Ritchie received a brevet to Brigadier General of the U.S. Volunteers in 1865.

Ritchie's business interests included the construction of public buildings, bridges, and private homes. He began construction on the first brick commercial block in Topeka in 1857. The state

senate met in one of the halls of the Ritchie Block. He operated a stone quarry and and later a lime kiln at the old quarry site. He was a real estate developer and helped many freed blacks obtain their first homes. He donated land as a town cemetery for the poor in 1855. Ritchie provided stone for the Free Congregational Church of Topeka. He promoted the establishment of a Congregational college and secured a loan for the establishment of Lincoln College, now Washburn University.

John Ritchie served as a member of the Leavenworth Constitutional Convention in 1858 and the Wyandotte Constitutional Convention in 1859. He was acquitted of the death (justifiable homicide) of Deputy U.S. Marshall Leonard Arms in 1860 when that officer attempted to unfairly arrest him for his escape from jail in 1856.

The excavations included a long backhoe trench at the north and south sides of the yard and ten excavation units. Two brick and concrete window wells covering the lower portions of concrete block sealed basement windows were exposed. Two low, dry-laid limestone retaining walls were found extending out from the house foundation, but not tied into the foundation. One unit exposed the base of the cellar foundation at 1.65 m bgs. A brick cistern was located at the northeast corner of the house. Although most of the artifacts are associated with the recent occupation of the house, some objects from the mid- to late-nineteenth century were found.

Barry Williams is in the process of setting up the GIS files at the society. Most of the state has been completed in the database. The database includes topography, soils, historic trails, archeological sites, and bibliographic information on a county wide basis. Interested persons should contact Barry Williams at (785) 272-8681 ext. 214 for information.

From the University of Kansas:

Brad Logan directed the following three projects during 1997:

1) Investigation of the DB site, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This multicomponent (Paleoindian, Middle/Late Archaic, late Middle Woodland, Late Prehistoric) upland occupation was the subject of a mitigation effort in 1996. The results of that project were documented in a draft report submitted to the Fort and the Kansas City District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May. Contributors include Mary Adair, Margaret Beck, Ann Begeman, Steve Bozarth, Ginny Hatfield, Matt Hill, Bill Johnson, Brad Logan, and Janice McLean. DB was the focus of additional excavation by the 1997 Kansas Archaeological Field School, a joint program of KU and K-State, in June and July. Eight students, with the assistance of Will Banks and Matt Hill, devoted five weeks to excavation of a 36m² block beyond the area that had been mechanically stripped in 1996. This brought the total area excavated at the site since 1995 to 240m

2) Final survey of the Lovewell Reservoir, Jewell County, Kansas was completed in May 1997 with the assistance of Will Banks, Ginny Hatfield, and Matt Hill. About 400 acres, most of it with poor visibility requiring shovel testing, was inspected. Matt and Ginny completed the project report. Brad Logan is currently completing a summary report of the Lovewell project for the Kansas-Nebraska Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, which has funded it through a cooperative agreement with KUMA since 1989.

3) KUMA completed NRHP evaluation of three sites (14EW3, 14EW6, and 14EW19) and a survey of the shoreline between 1463-1465 ft amsl at Kanopolis Lake, Ellsworth County, Kansas in September and October. The sites and survey area are to be affected by a proposed increase in the floodpool. The field work was done by Will Banks, Scott Bossell, Brad Logan, Dan Pugh, and Jason Roberts from KUMA, with valuable volunteer assistance from Greg Jackson of Salina and Bill Stone of Kanopolis. Will and Brad will submit the draft project report in mid-December.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings and Events

June 25-27, 1998 — NAGPRA Review Meeting, Portland, Oregon

October 14-17, 1998 — 56th Plains Conference, Bismarck, North Dakota
announcement and call for papers in *Plains Anthropologist* 43(163):2; February 1998 issue

Some Parting Comments from the Editor

My thanks to all who sent items for this issue of the Newsletter. As you can see, it is heftier than the last issue. Still, I think there is more going on than the combination of this issue's Research News and last issue's Research News reflects—in fact, I **know** there is. We unfortunately did not have time at the February PAK meeting to discuss our current research, and we had to be brief at last October's meeting in Wichita. This means that it has been some time since we all have had the chance to share information on current research. I also know that there is a fair amount of field activity this summer. So beware, this fall I will start hitting you all up by e-mail for summaries of your current research, listings of new publications and reports, and notices of upcoming meetings and events of interest to PAK members.

And finally, this issue is being sent to all paid-up members, all who have not paid up but whose names appear on the mailing list, and all those who recently inquired about membership (which means that you are on the mailing list now if you weren't before). I hope, however, that this will inspire those of you who have not sent your dues to do so now, before we prune the mailing list to paid-up members. To assist with the onset of guilt feelings, I've marked the mailing labels of those who haven't paid (at least as of late May, I'm in the field now without my e-mail connection, so if you paid in the last few weeks, you may disregard the mark).

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