

40<sup>th</sup> Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Lawrence, Kansas  
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**Abstracts**

(Alphabetical by first author last name)

Bevitt, Wendi

Buried Past Consulting, LLC

**Daughter of Dawn and the Promotion of Native American Culture**

In 2004, the silent motion picture, Daughter of Dawn was rediscovered, lost to history since the late 1920s. Daughter of Dawn was instantly recognized for its historical importance because it starred over 200 Comanche and Kiowa tribe members. The film had been a part of a nationwide movement to capture the rapidly disappearing Native American culture due to the assimilation directives set forth by the United States government. Unique not only because of its stars, but also because it was originated in part by the members of the tribes. This talk will focus not only on Daughter of Dawn's historical significance, but also its ties to Kansas history.

Blakeslee, Donald J.

Wichita State University

**Probing Etzanoa**

Eyewitnesses described the ancestral Wichita town called Etzanoa as extending for about five miles and having a population on the order of 20,000 people. Of that whole expanse, we know of only one spot of 57 acres that is neither under the modern town nor under agricultural fields. In 2015, magnetometry that covered a few acres of that total showed the presence of two dense clusters of artifacts. Excavation in 2017 uncovered small portions of a third such cluster.

In order to deal with the much larger but disturbed portions of the town, we have begun to apply a variety of standard surface survey and remote sensing techniques, both to the unplowed portion and to other spots. These include, LIDAR, Laser-enabled 3-D mapping of the surface, thermal imaging, ground penetrating radar, magnetic susceptibility, and electromagnetic conductivity. The results of all of these techniques have been tied to the same baseline so that we can use Geographic Information Systems to directly compare the results of all of the techniques. Ground-truthing of some of the results will occur during the WSU archaeological field school in June.

Blasing, Bob

**Some Highlights of the 2016 Excavations at the Last Chance Store in Council Grove**

The Last Chance Store in Council Grove, Kansas was constructed by the Westport firm of Northrup & Chick in the spring of 1857. It was built to trade with travelers on the Santa Fe Trail and with the Kaw Indians. Construction of the Last Chance Store was completed in 1857 and the building has remained relatively intact and unchanged for nearly 160 years. Over this time the building has been occupied fairly continuously by a series of more than 15 businesses or families. The building had several advantages which were conducive to preserving artifacts from its various inhabitants. First, the building possessed a cellar under its south half with a clay floor that was periodically prone to flooding and then cracking when it dried out. This allowed objects to fall into the cracks and be preserved. Second, the main floor had a crawl space beneath a little

over half its north side. The crawl space had no access doors or windows, and it appears that except for a few very short intervals this subfloor area has remained isolated. Third, the owners of the site since 1955 have been dedicated to preserving the site and its history. Therefore, a large number of artifacts were found at the site, which represents the entire span of its historic occupation. Archeological excavation at the site was the focus of the Kansas Archeological Training Program (KATP), in June 2016.

Bozell, Rob

Nebraska State Historical Society

### **The Palmer Johnson Site: A Small Central Plains Tradition Habitation in the Upper Blue River Basin**

The Palmer Johnson site was discovered in a Nebraska Department of Transportation borrow pit and completely excavated by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the University of Nebraska in 1989. The site was occupied in the late 1200s by a very small group of Central Plains tradition people. Their tiny community was perched on the leading edge of a low terrace overlooking the upper reaches of the Blue River basin. They built two small lodges – each of sufficient size to house a nuclear family although it is not even certain if these were occupied at precisely the same time. Based on lithic raw material, these people were mostly familiar with the Blue basin of southeast Nebraska but had some limited connection with the High Plains. They subsisted principally on corn, mussels, fish, small mammals and less obviously on bison and deer. While the site is geographically in the Smoky Hill phase region, the architecture and ceramics are more typical of the Itskari phase centered 100 miles to the northwest.

Bulls, Joseph T. and Laura R. Murphy

Washburn University

### **Analysis of Lithic Knives from the Saxman Site (14RC301), a Great Bend Aspect Site in Rice County, Kansas**

A total of 56 lithic knives from a donated Saxman site (14RC301) collection were measured, and characteristics were described such as material type, presence of heat treatment, and beveling. The general length and width of the beveled knives were of similar size, averaging 61 x 23 mm, respectively. Lithic material types include local Florence (39%) and Permian (20%) cherts as well as Smoky Hill silicified chalk (27%), and Alibates (5%) from northwest Texas. It appears that six (11%) of the knives were converted to drills or other possible multi-tools. The collection also contains one potential Paleoindian point converted to a knife. We present our initial interpretations about lithic knife re-use, recycling, and discard patterns from this large Great Bend aspect village.

Collins, Josh<sup>1</sup>, Barbara M. Crable<sup>1</sup>, Jack L. Hofman<sup>1</sup>, Tom Parish, and Frank Conard

<sup>1</sup>University of Kansas

### **Basement Tape Measures: Arched Stone Cellars in Eastern Kansas**

People like cellars. Cellars were - in many cases, a necessity for early settlers' survival prior to refrigeration. Many of these early cellars were constructed of cut stone, and a subtype of these includes those with arched ceilings. Dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th century, these cellars were commonly constructed for or by local residents using a variety of construction methods and styles, with a number of varying attributes depending on the ethnic background of the builders and availability of materials. Our current project is to locate and document these

arched stone cellars in each of the nine townships of Douglas County, with the eventual goal of finding patterns and comparison to cellars located in the Blue and Flint Hills regions of the state. Further, properly documenting these endangered structures in will facilitate analysis and comparison of early historic sites throughout the region.

Day, Zachary  
University of Kansas

### **Testing Clay Constituents: A Pilot Study into the Validity of Sourcing Methods for Kansas City Hopewell Pottery**

Hopewell archaeology still has a number of untested and undefined aspects concerning the populations' movement patterns, interaction spheres and initial migration into new regions. As part of ongoing research into the Kansas City Hopewell, we developed a pilot study that aimed to test various sourcing methods on ceramic vessel artifacts to attempt to add some clarity to these aspects. Using two sourcing methods: X-Ray Fluorescence, an elemental characterization method; and X-Ray Diffraction, a mineralogical and chemical composition analysis method, we attempt to build profiles of the clays used in the construction of the ceramics, and if there are any groupings from site to site, or if the samples use isolated clays. The pilot study examined sixty-five ceramic sherds from a number of Kansas City Hopewell sites to test the analytical methods validity for intra- and inter- site analysis for clay constituents found in the ceramic vessel remains. X-Ray Fluorescence elemental profiles had Principal Component Analysis conducted, and clusters of similar elemental profiles were developed. X-ray Diffraction results from each sherd were compared to one another, and groups based on the diffraction patterns were developed to identify similar clay profiles between sites, as well as comparisons for a number of clay groups within sites. Based on the results achieved from these analyses, future research will expand the number of sherds from these sites, include raw resource sourcing analyses for local clay materials surrounding these sites, as well as building a more robust understanding the of specific mineralogy that is contributing to the differences between clay groups found at these sites.

Feagins, Jim D.

### **The Cantrell Site—14LV425: A Native American House & Burial Site on the Old Kickapoo Reservation (1832-1854)**

In the mid-1980s, an historic indigenous burial location, area A, and a presumed indigenous house location, area B, were discovered in cultivated field and timbered (pasture) areas of site 14LV425 by a private artifact collector. The site's finder recently brought the site to the attention of professional archaeologists. It is located on the first Kickapoo reservation in Kansas (1832-1854). The Cantrell site is in the northeast part of the state—north of Fort Leavenworth.

This paper briefly describes the osteological material (teeth) and gives a detailed description of the collection of historic trade materials, all from the ground surface. The artifacts consisted of: an 1853 silver US three-cent coin, one metal broach, a fragment of a silver earring, two brass (hawk) bells, a blue glass setting (most likely from a finger ring), and well over 1,400 glass beads of 12 different types.

Although not required to do so (since the collection was privately obtained before NAGPRA's enactment), the site's finder wished to return the skeletal remains to the appropriate Native

American tribe. Therefore, he has recently donated the osteological materials to the Kansas (State) Historical Society—where NAGPRA guidelines are in place. This paper is a small example of the productive cooperation between the professional and the collector for the benefit of the indigenous and archaeological communities, as well as the general public.

Flanagan, Brennan  
Kansas State University

### **Kanza Indian Lesson Plan for Middle School History**

Public schools in Kansas typically do not provide much instruction in pre-settlement history and cultures of this region. This includes limited understanding of the Kanza, for whom our state is named. Likewise, what exposure students have to the Native peoples of Kansas is given largely from a traditional historical perspective, not an anthropological approach that encourages understanding and empathy for diversity. In a move to improve this situation, I am developing middle school curricular materials for Kansas History utilizing a hands-on approach to Kanza ethnohistory. This lesson plan will help students critique etic approaches commonly employed in history through a cultural analysis of a primary historical document pertaining to the early nineteenth century Kanza. Through careful analysis of the primary source and potential biases, students will translate the original observations from a non-native individual to an emic or insider's perspective of their culture. This will not only provide students with understanding of another culture, namely the historic Kanza, but also improve their empathic abilities for other people and societies. This addresses the multiple perspectives and disciplines emphasized through the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies for effective instruction.

Flowers, Ashley  
Kansas State University

### **A Preliminary Study of the Flowers Locality on Stranger Creek, Northeastern Kansas**

This presentation introduces a collection of artifacts from the Stranger Creek watershed near Easton, Kansas that adds to the body of knowledge regarding ceramic-age occupation of the area. Preliminary findings based on the assemblage of 213 lithic, ceramic and groundstone surface finds indicate they are diagnostic of the Late Woodland and Late Prehistoric (Steed-Kisker and Nebraska phases) periods. Because the original collection has general provenience, additional survey and data collection in the area will be done to determine if the assemblage represents multiple sites or multiple components of one. In addition to better determining the site context of the assemblage, work at the Flowers locality will test a previously held hypothesis that prehistoric peoples preferred to settle along tributaries of Stranger Creek rather than the primary stream. Alternative hypotheses are that this reflects periodic flooding of Stranger Creek or burial by flooding of sites along the creek. The locality is located at the confluence of Stranger Creek and its tributaries, Dawson Creek and Cramer Creek. Its anomalous location could indicate that the current sparsity of recorded sites along Stranger Creek is due to their burial by aggradation instead of area avoidance.

Fluker, Morgan  
Kansas State University

**Kanza Subsistence Patterns and Cultural Change, 1724-1873**

The Kanza (or Kaw) Indians resided in the northeastern region of what is now Kansas during the late seventeenth century until 1873 when they were removed to Indian Territory in Oklahoma. During this time they remained mobile in the area, annually travelling between their hunting grounds and sedentary villages, and making semi-permanent relocations to new villages. Through the use of ethnohistorical research focusing on the Kanza use of natural resources and cultural change over time I have assembled a tentative timeline of the Kanza tribe's settlements and movements through northeastern Kansas. An emphasis was placed on wild and native plants harvested near the village, and wild animals obtained while at each village that were utilized for food. I originally hypothesized that that the resources available and utilized at each village would change as the location of their primary village(s) changed. This study indicated that this was not the case. The wild and native resources utilized at each village location were consistent between 1724 and 1873 due to the Kanza people's knowledge of the land and choice of village locations. This reveals the importance of natural resources in the shaping of the lives of the Kanza people.

Hansch, Jakob  
Kansas State University

**Learning to *Dig* in the Anthropocene: Archaeology as the Archive of Human Experience**

The Anthropocene is an epoch of immense precarity. Both social and ecological systems face large degrees instability. These unprecedented changes present a challenge to what it means to be human. If being human is going to mean anything in the Anthropocene, we must not abandon the knowledge, wisdom, and memories we have accumulated throughout our existence. In this era, archaeology provides a perspective of the human experience over the *longue duree* that allows for humanistic reflection. Through active engagement with and reworking of the collective archive of human experiences, we can better recognize who we are, who we have been, and who we might become. Archaeology is the study of past humans, but it is also the study of ourselves as a part of that large collective self and human existence that dates to hundreds of thousands of years ago. Along this philosophical bent, archaeology presents perhaps one of the foremost ways of cradling humanity, and what it means to be human, through this era of instability and into the future of the Anthropocene.

Holstrom, Lori and Laura R. Murphy  
Washburn University

**Test Excavations at the Classen Ranch, Meade County, Kansas**

Meade County, Kansas, has had a rich history of Pliocene-Pleistocene investigations since the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, including years of work by Claude Hibbard, former paleontologist at the University of Kansas Museum of Natural History. However, few intact late Holocene-age prehistoric hunter-gatherer archaeological sites have been discovered or investigated in this region. In July 2017, we conducted survey and test excavations at the Classen Ranch, located 15 miles south of the town of Meade, Kansas, as part of an archaeological field school with Washburn University and the Odyssey Archaeological Research program at the University of Kansas. At the ranch, we documented and excavated a hearth feature (14MD101) within a buried soil between 50 and 80 cm below a terrace surface of Sand Creek, a low-order tributary of the

Cimarron River. The feature contained charcoal, fire-cracked rock, hackberry seeds, burned bone fragments, an antelope-sized mandible, and chipped-stone. Two charcoal samples from the feature yielded AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  uncalibrated ages of  $780 \pm 15$  and  $790 \pm 20$  B.P. The initial results add to our knowledge about the lives of late-Holocene High Plains hunter-gatherers and their environment, of which we have little evidence of in the archaeological record.

Johnson, Nolan, Makenzie Coufal, and Nicholas Fogerty  
Nebraska State Historical Society

#### **An Uncommon Find: A Stone Bead from Boyd County Nebraska**

Stone beads are an underrepresented category in Nebraska's archeological record. After one such bead was discovered during a survey in Boyd County, preliminary research on the subject revealed little in the way of additional information. While several similar artifacts have been found at least nine sites, we are left with an incomplete picture: tracings scattered through time and cultural contexts. Therefore, it is in these circumstances that the authors attempt to present a thorough account of the find, in order to add a measure of detail to the rough outline we have of these intriguing and uncommon items.

Kempf, Samuel  
Kansas State University

#### **Developing An Archaeological Mindset through Video Games**

While many techniques of archaeology can only be developed in the field or in the lab, archaeological thinking can be practiced anywhere. Video games provide a variety of opportunities to consider change over time, use of space, and ethics. This presentation highlights the ways in which video games can offer aspiring archaeologists an opportunity to develop their archaeological perspective and how non-archaeologistgamers can develop an appreciation of archaeology through gameplay.

Kern, Alexandra P.  
University of Kansas

#### **Raw Material Sourcing and Artifact Types from the Saxman Site (14RC301)**

This is a preliminary study on the lithic sources selected for tool manufacture by the occupants of the Saxman site, 14RC301, in Rice County, Kansas. The Saxman site represents an extensive settlement of the Great Bend aspect. A total of 523 formal tools and debitage were selected for analysis. The study reveals the use of at least seven different raw materials which are further broken down by artifact type and compared to other Great Bend assemblages.

Kerns, Kaylee and Jakob Hanschu  
Kansas State University

#### **Archaeology in the Public Sphere: A Kansas Case Study**

Archaeology is the study of past humans. However, it is linked to the present through its role in creating identity, a sense of place, or meaning for different individuals, cultural groups, and regional populations. The goal of this study is to understand whether and why archaeology is valued by members of the public and its role in creating meaning, place, or identity in their lives. To gain an understanding of perceptions of archaeology among the public, the research team from Kansas State University conducted interviews and surveys of members of the public. Participants of the Kansas Archaeological Training Program and members of the public present

at the Hillsboro Arts and Crafts Fair were included in the study. It serves as a pilot study for assessing Kansans' attitudes towards archaeology. Perceptions of archaeology among the public could prove to be invaluable to professional archaeologists and resource managers looking to stimulate public awareness and preservation of the finite and fragile archaeological record of past societies.

King, Artemis  
Kansas State University

**The Winslow-Debold Site (14SA403): A Preliminary Look into a Late Prehistoric Lodge Site in Saline County**

Since at least the 1950s, avocational archaeologists and artifact hunters have known about the Winslow-Debold site (14SA403), located along the Smoky Hill River. Jim Stauffer dug into a lodge in 1963 and recovered a sample of artifacts from a pit. In 1968 avocational archaeologist Harold Reed formally recorded the site and state archaeologist Tom Witty, KSHS archaeologist Jim Marshall, and Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) President Early Monger guided and led excavations by members of the KAA in July 1968. During the course of four days, they fully uncovered a lodge floor and an assortment of artifacts. Previous, but incomplete, analyses of materials and features have identified this as the remains of a Central Plains tradition (CPT) settlement, potentially with more than one lodge. Proceeding with a descriptive analysis of the 1968 excavated materials, on loan from the Kansas Historical Society, I found that the Winslow-Debold site is comparable to other Central Plains tradition habitation sites in the region.

Logan, Brad  
Kansas State University

**Time and Space at a Late Woodland Site in the Delaware River Drainage: Preliminary Analysis of the Quixote Site (14JF420)**

The Quixote site, a Late Woodland habitation on Cedar Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River in northeastern Kansas, was the subject of intensive excavation by the Kansas Archeological Training Program in June 2017. Recovered data permit analysis of the development of one of two putative house mounds. That explored by block excavation yielded cultural material to a depth of 50-60cm. While no evidence of a lodge was found, lithic, ceramic and bone material indicate a midden or palimpsest of domestic activity areas. Diagnostic pottery and projectile points indicate prolonged occupation by Late Woodland people. Mound development is tracked by analysis of the distribution of piece-plotted ceramics, chipped stone tools, and bone/shell. Geophysical survey identified the magnetic signature of the explored mound (the other is obscured by historic metal from a windmill) and two nearby burned features. Excavation of the latter revealed roasting pits, foci of feasting events that promoted social bonding of dispersed family-based groups. Both contained much burned limestone, charcoal, and charred annual plant remains. Radiocarbon dates on samples of the latter are (two sigma ranges and highest probabilities) AD 564-690 (99%) and AD 683-779 (72%). Statistically different, they suggest distinct occupations pending additional dates.

Mahoney, Meredith  
Wichita State University

### **Testimonies and Test Pits: Reconsidering Settlement Scale and Layout at Etzanoa**

The interplay between historic documents and the archaeological record presents an opportunity to reevaluate the scale and organization of Great Bend aspect sites, particularly at the Etzanoa site in Cowley County, Kansas. A synthesis of the official account of the Juan de Oñate expedition of 1601 and other eyewitness descriptions of Etzanoa produces an image of a town at least five miles in length and containing as many as 2,000 houses. Noninvasive survey and excavation at Etzanoa suggest the site was as extensive as the Spanish reported. The similarities between the documents and archaeological record, particularly regarding the arrangement of agricultural and domestic space, are striking and make a compelling case for expanding archaeological interpretations to acknowledge the vast scale of the settlement.

McIlrath, Sarah and Laura R. Murphy  
Washburn University

### **Initial Analysis of Scrapers from the Saxman site (14RC301): A Great Bend Aspect site in Rice County, Kansas**

The Saxman site (14RC301) is a Great Bend aspect (AD 1400-1700) village site in Rice County, Kansas. The site was surface-collected and excavated by Mike Weimer in the late 1960s. Weimer donated 1,198 artifacts to the Kansas State Historical Society. Of these artifacts, 316 were classified as scrapers. Here we present an initial analysis of the scrapers organized by material type, and then measured, weighed, and described, to include the number of worked edges. Of the initial analysis of 278 scrapers, the most prevalent material type is Permian chert at 61%, and along with 12% Smoky Hill silicified chalk, most of the lithic material was locally available and expedient; however, 16% of the scrapers are Alibates material from Texas. The average weight and dimensions suggest these scrapers were used to the point of discard, and may indicate the site was an intensive hide production center. Through the analysis of a donated collection, we hope to enrich our understanding of the use of scrapers at this Proto-Wichita site and how these tools relate to everyday women's tasks with hide working.

Murphy, Laura R.<sup>1</sup>, Mary J. Adair<sup>2</sup>, and Shelby Beltz<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Washburn University, <sup>2</sup>University of Kansas

### **A History of the Saxman Site (14RC301) and the Value of Donated Collections for Research**

The Saxman site (14RC301) is a large Great Bend aspect occupation situated along Cow Creek in Rice County, Kansas. Although the site was known to local collectors for many years and noted by Waldo Wedel as a one of the more significant Little River Great Bend occupations, it was not officially recorded until 1965. In 1976, the site was listed on the National Register. Between 2015 and 2017, Mike Weimer and the Linden family donated two large collections of artifacts from the Saxman site to the Kansas State Historical Society and the University of Kansas, respectively. Both donations include a variety of chipped-stone, worked and unworked bone, and groundstone tools, along with ceramics and pipes. The artifacts provide an opportunity to address research topics related to proto-Wichita village life, including contact with Puebloan people and the Spanish. Together, these donations have stimulated academic research for students at Washburn University and the University of Kansas, while also advancing public education through outreach programs and archaeology courses.



Perkins, Jeremiah and Kacie Larsen  
Wichita State University

### **Archiving Collections from a County Museum**

Currently at Wichita State University, we are assisting the Rice County Historical Society with the archeological material that was in their basement. The purpose of the grant-funded project is to identify and to curate properly all of the material. We began by assigning accession numbers to all of the artifacts, creating a database and photographing them. We also identified the types of tools, the raw materials used, and provenience, when known. Finally, we packaged the items in keeping with federal regulations. The results will enable the museum to use archaeological specimens that have been gathering dust in the basement for far too long.

Ralston, James V.  
Kansas State University

### **The Kanza Eastern Treaty Community: Construct, History, and Location**

In 1825, the Kanza Indians signed a treaty with the US Government that ceded most of their homelands in present-day Kansas and Missouri, provided one square mile allotments to each of 23 French-Indian "half-breeds", and set aside an east-west strip of land overlapping part of the Kansas River as a reservation for the Kanza. Eventually, an administrative agency was built a few miles west of present-day Lawrence, outside the reservation, at the eastern edge of the half-breed tracts. The agency consisted of a collection of buildings occupied by a federal agent, an agronomist, a blacksmith/gunsmith, an interpreter, various families, an extended group of associates, and occasionally missionaries. Those from the agency interacted with other nearby people, including the Kanza Indian Chief White Plume, Frederick Chouteau at his nearby trading post, and the recipients of the easterly half-breed tracts. I refer to this collection of structures and people as the Eastern Treaty Community (ETC), in contrast to more westerly contemporaneous Kanza villages, which were within their reservation. My research seeks to identify the likely components of the ETC, as well as their locations, by using historically-based geo-referencing techniques. With these, I have identified the likely locations of the agency, White Plume's house, and Chouteau's trading post. Focused research into the ETC will hopefully provide a better understanding of the Kanza and those with whom they interacted during the turbulent years of 1827-1834.

Vehik, Susan C.

### **An Update on the Uncas (34KA172) Site Star Chart**

At the 2016 Plains Conference I presented a paper suggesting that a clay panel with fingertip impressions recovered from the fourteenth century Uncas site in north-central Oklahoma was a star chart that included the Pleiades, Hyades, and maybe part of Cetus. Current research suggests the panel does include the Pleiades and Hyades but not Cetus. In addition to identifying the stars represented, this paper will discuss the specific configuration of the Pleiades represented on the plaque and the timing of its display.