

# **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference**

**Program and Abstracts**

**Nebraska History Museum (Oldfather Family Auditorium)**

**History Nebraska**

**Lincoln, Nebraska**

**April 22-23, 2022**

## **Sponsors:**

History Nebraska

Nebraska Association of Professional Archaeologists

## **Conference Organizers:**

Nolan Johnson and Dave Williams

## **Special Thanks:**

Lily Sughroue for coordinating the use of the Nebraska History  
Museum

Nikki Klarmann at the Kansas Historical Society for assistance with the  
conference website

Funding for Saturday coffee and snacks provided by the Nebraska  
Association of Professional Archaeologists

## **Cover Photo:**

**These miniature pots were found at 25LC1, the Schrader Site, a Central Plains tradition site in Lancaster County a few miles south of Lincoln. The site is listed on the NRHP. It was excavated by the Nebraska State Historical Society (now History Nebraska) in 1935.**

# Program

**Friday April 22:** Nebraska History Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508

1:00– 4:00 PM Registration, Nebraska History Museum 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508

2:00 – 3:00 PM Guided Tour of the Piecing Together the Past Exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum, 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508

**Saturday April 23:** Oldfather Family Auditorium at the Nebraska History Museum 131 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, NE 68508

9:00 to 9:30 AM Refreshments

9:30 to 9:55 AM *When Archeology Meets the Road: Testing at 25PT1 for an NDOT Bridge Replacement.* Nolan Johnson History Nebraska

9:55 to 10:25 AM *Silk Purse from a Sow's Ear? Reller Prairie Archaeology* Samuel Thomas and Phil R. Geib University of Nebraska Lincoln

10:25 to 10:50 AM *Archaeology of the Sac and Fox Reservation Period in Kansas* Jack L. Hofman and Barbara M. Crable

10:50 to 11:15 AM *Red Rock Ridge Rock Art Digital Project* Jack Hubler-Dayton University of Nebraska Lincoln

11:15 to 11:40 AM *Insular Interconnectivity in the Viking Age: A Geospatial View from Norse Jarlshof* Trent Carney University of Nebraska Lincoln

11:40 AM to 1:00 PM Lunch (On Your Own)

1:00 to 1:25 PM *Why Dig the Dump: Testing at the Ft. Robinson Dump 25DW131* Nolan Johnson, Talon O' Connor MaKenzie Coufal History Nebraska

1:25 to 1:50 PM *Recent Highlights in South Dakota Archeology* Dave Williams History Nebraska

1:50 to 2:15 PM *A Recent Geophysical Survey at Nohart, a 19th-century Iowa Tribe Town* Adam Wiewel

2:15 to 3:00 Wrap-up and Location Selection for 2023

3:00-4:00 PM Guided Tour of History Nebraska Archeology Building 5050 N 32<sup>nd</sup> St. Lincoln, NE 68504

Thanks to all who attended and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

# Abstracts

**Carney, Trent University of Nebraska Lincoln**

***Insular Interconnectivity in the Viking Age: A Geospatial View from Norse Jarlshof***

In recent years, archaeologists have found that centrality in maritime networks is linked to the number of sailing routes between insular and coastal destinations, and their relative nearness to one another within their socio-cultural spheres (Barrett, 2019; Crouch 2010; Terrell, 2010; Westerdahl, 2006). Terrell (2010) developed the term 'Social Seascapes' to describe this web of interconnecting sailing routes. If we focus only on the landscape surrounding those built centers and ignore the non-tangible sea-based networks that bound them together, then we cannot fully understand how past peoples lived in coastal and insular localities in the past. The goal of the research was the development of a GIS based model that more readily depicts the experiential use of past landscapes and seascapes, while maintaining a quantitative approach. To do this, a series of visibility and mobility analyses, originally developed for landscape applications, were tailored for use in coastal environments and their associated seascapes, including a Cumulative Viewshed Analysis, Maritime Least Cost Path Analysis, and a Fuzzy Cumulative Viewshed Analysis.

With the onset of the Viking Age, ca. 790-1066CE we see the diaspora of a maritime society out of Scandinavia into the British Isles and islands of the North Atlantic. These events allow for the consideration of how initial settlement and continued occupation of these areas by Scandinavians may have been facilitated by the maintenance of sailing routes (Jesch, 2016). The initial settlement of the Shetland Islands and Scotland more broadly is not well understood in historical or archaeological contexts (Barrett, 2003;2012). As such, the Norse farmstead at Jarlshof, Shetland, UK which has archaeological evidence for the practice of both local and long-distance trade and exchange, throughout the Viking Age, was selected as the case study for this process (Fanning, 1994; Forster and Jones, 2017; Hamilton, 1956; Hansen, 1993; Hunter, 2008).

**Hofman, Jack L. and Barbara M. Crable**

***Archaeology of the Sac and Fox Reservation Period in Kansas***

Peoples of the Sac and Fox Nation (of Oklahoma) were removed from Iowa to a reserve in Kansas along the Marais des Cygnes River in 1845-46. Most remained until 1867 when coerced to resettle on a new reservation in Indian Territory. Some, however, remained in Kansas until forcibly removed to Indian Territory in 1886. Archaeological documentation of the Sac and Fox in this area during this period has been minimal. Here we document Sac and Fox sites from the reservation period in what are now Franklin and Osage counties, Kansas. These include agency sites, camps, mission or school locations, and government contracted house remains. The history of occupation and archaeological information about the Sac and Fox agencies and camp sites are provided.

**Hubler-Dayton, Jack**

***Red Rock Ridge Rock Art Digital***

To promote recognition of the cultural heritage of Southwestern Minnesota's Red Rock Ridge, and Jeffers Historic Petroglyph Site (JHPS) I am developing the Red Rock Ridge Digital Project. Located on the Red Rock Ridge, and managed by the Minnesota Historical Society, JHPS is a 180-acre rock art site and traditional cultural property held sacred by many American Indian communities including the Dakota

and Lakota, Ioway, and Cheyenne. JHPS holds the largest concentration of rock art in the Upper Midwest and is an exceptional site of cultural heritage; however, to this day the site's profile is low even among archeologists. The rock art at Jeffers represents thousands of years of Indigenous knowledge and has been described by Dakota tribal elders as an encyclopedia of the American Indian. Using open-source technologies to build an engaging and mobile friendly website and archive, this digital project offers users access to the rich repository of cultural knowledge present on the Red Rock Ridge. The purpose of this digital project is to use computational photography technologies such as photogrammetry and Reflectance Transformation Imaging to document, preserve, and celebrate the Red Rock Ridge's unique rock art. An interactive gallery of 3D models and visualizations of the rock art creates a virtual space which facilitates an educational experience for visitors. Contextualizing the 3D models are interpretations shared in the Dakota language which bring insight from the American Indian Oral Tradition. The Red Rock Ridge Digital Project is an ongoing project with fieldwork taking place over summer 2022, as well as a continuation of consultation with stakeholders and descendant community members.

**Johnson, Nolan, Talon O' Connor MaKenzie Coufal History Nebraska**

***Why Dig the Dump: Testing at the Ft. Robinson Dump 25DW131***

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) is expanding its Red Cloud Campground at Ft. Robinson State Historic Park. This location is within the boundaries of 25DW131, the Ft. Robinson Dump. Work on the campground expansion includes digging trenches for utilities. Two of the trenches will impact buried archeological materials which are part of 25DW131. The exact nature of the archeological deposit was not known, and a data recovery plan was implemented to mitigate the impact to 25DW131.

**Johnson, Nolan History Nebraska**

***When Archeology Meets the Road: Testing at 25PT1 for an NDOT Bridge Replacement***

The Nebraska Highway Archeology Program (NHAP) completed an archeological survey for project STP-22-5(119) in January of 2020. There are four known archeological sites in the APE of the project; 25PT1, 25PT17, 25PT18, and 25PT21. Because of the archeological sites in the APE and the proximity of the project to the former Pawnee Indian Reservation nearly all the APE was intensively surveyed. Artifacts were found in three of the four previously known sites as well as in two new locations. No subsurface testing was undertaken at that time. Project activities continued to be refined by NDOT and on September 2, 2020 History Nebraska (HN) Archeologist Nolan Johnson met with several NDOT staff on site to discuss the project. During the discussion it became clear that the replacement of the bridge over the Loup Power Canal, which is in the middle of 25PT1, remained a concern for affecting archeological sites. A testing plan was developed and was implemented on April 19, 2021. This paper presents the results of the April 19, 2021 testing.

**Thomas, Samuel and Phil R. Geib University of Nebraska Lincoln**

***Silk Purse from a Sow's Ear? Reller Prairie Archaeology***

The Reller Prairie Biological Field Station, located 20 miles south of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was the focus of the UNL 2021 Field School directed by Phil Geib of the School of Global Integrative Studies. Two areas with a potential to contain buried prehistoric materials were shovel tested and revealed to be newly discovered archaeological sites, designated 25LC264 and 265. The one with the greatest research potential, 25LC265, was further tested using a series of 1 x 1 m grid units. Excavations recovered a variety of prehistoric artifacts and fire-cracked rock, demonstrating prehistoric activity in the area across an unknown but evidently lengthy span of time. Artifacts uncovered during this process

included various types of flakes, projectile points and a few other flaked tools, hammer stones, sherds, and pigment stones. Temporally diagnostic projectile points and pottery fragments suggest intermittent use of the location from the early Archaic (Logan Creek and perhaps earlier) until the Central Plains Tradition. Unfortunately, no archaeological features were discovered and there is no stratigraphic separation of remains from different temporal intervals. Here we report on the excavations and laboratory analysis of the recovered materials along with an examination of materials both horizontally and vertically. This research adds somewhat to archaeological knowledge of southeastern Nebraska.

**Wiewel, Adam**

***A Recent Geophysical Survey at Nohart, a 19th-century Iowa Tribe Town***

In recent weeks the Midwest Archeological Center performed a multi-instrument geophysical survey of a historical site at the request of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. The site was identified in 2014 when a dense scatter of domestic artifacts and architectural debris covering a 1,600-m<sup>2</sup> area was discovered in a field near the Nebraska-Kansas border. Further pedestrian survey in subsequent years located similar artifacts in other areas of the same field. Based on historical records, the location of these finds, and the age of some artifacts, the Iowa Tribe THPO Lance Foster considers the site to be the best candidate for the town of Nohart, a historically and culturally significant Iowa settlement where the Great Nemaha Subagency was headquartered during the latter half of the 19th century. While we covered wide areas with gradiometry, our resistance and ground-penetrating radar survey was limited to locations where artifacts are visible on the ground surface. In this presentation, I will discuss the results of each survey and consider the significance of our findings.

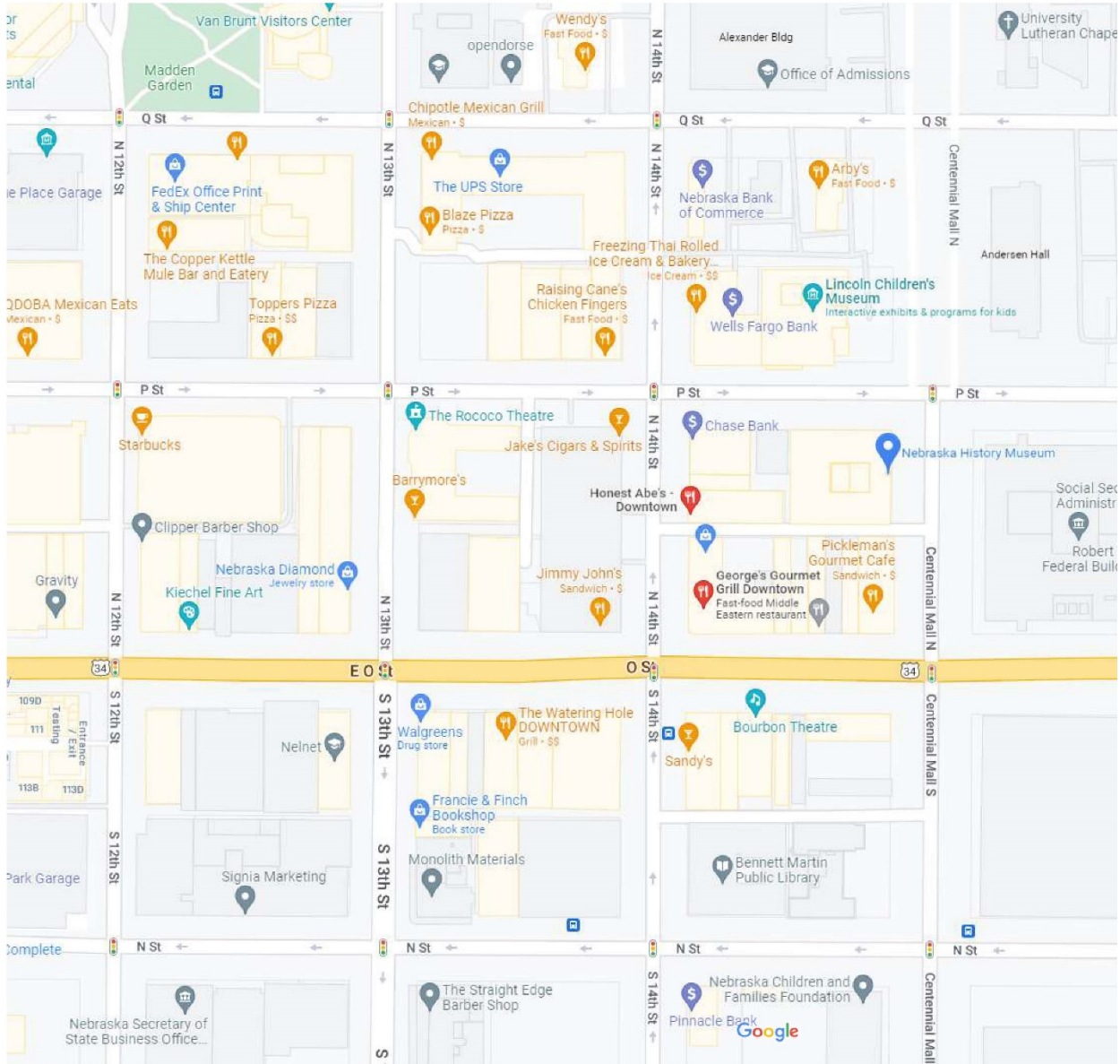
**Williams, Dave History Nebraska**

***Recent Highlights in South Dakota Archeology***

In recent years, the Archaeological Research Center (ARC), a program of the South Dakota State Historical Society, has had the opportunity to work on a number of interesting archeological sites and partake in some innovative research projects throughout South Dakota. This presentation will highlight (in the presenter's opinion!) a few of the more exciting activities staff of the ARC has been able to partake in since 2015.

# Lunch Options

- 1: Bison Witches Bar & Deli 1320 "P" St Lincoln, NE 68508
- 2: Pickleman's Gourmet Cafe 1442 "O" St. Lincoln, NE 68508
- 3: Yia Yia's Pizza 1423 "O" St Lincoln, NE 68508
- 4: Ali Baba Gyros 112 N 14th St, Lincoln, NE 68508
- 5: Honest Abe's Burgers and Freedom 126 N 14 St, Lincoln, NE 68508



Map data ©2022 Google 100 ft

## **Notes:**