

Jana Brown of the OAS Greater Southwest Chapter, Lawton, directs a children's archeological dig at the 2008 Echoes of the Past Festival.

Oklahoma pioneer forts theme at spring meeting

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society will follow a popular theme at the annual Spring Meeting in April.

Lawton's Greater Southwest Chapter asked to serve as host of the OAS 2009 session. Chapter leaders suggested forts of Oklahoma as a meeting topic.

Lawton is home to Fort Sill, a pioneer fort that continues today as a massive Army training post.

The area offers the Fort Sill Museum and numerous sites of archeological interest, said the Lawton chapter spokesman, Jana Brown.

Meeting dates are April 25-26 at the Museum of the Great Plains. The museum focuses on natural history exhibits and has a fur trading fort and a train depot with a locomotive.

Saturday's agenda includes business meetings, with election of officers and board, and several illustrated talks on state forts.

A planning committee is assembling a

(See Forts Page 3)

Archeological Festival to test fourth season

By Connie Masters

The McAlester Archeological Society and the Tahl-equah Archaeological Society will co-sponsor Echoes of the Past again this year.

The spring festival returns to the beautiful Echo Ridge Campground at Arrowhead State Park, Lake Eufaula, near Canadian. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 4.

The fourth annual festival has been shortened to one day, as in the beginning. We want to test its ability to attract both exhibitors and the public. If it does well, we would like to see it move to other areas under cosponsorship of other chapters, perhaps as a state OAS event.

This year we will have demonstrations of the atlatl throw, bow and arrow, and blow-gun shoot. Those events are popular with young people, although their elders are known to line up on occasion or two.

As some of you know, the atlatl is a remarkable weapon. Perfected in ancient times, it is so easy to learn, many people pick it up and hit the target as if by instinct. For thousands of years it allowed our ancestors to bring down big game, including buffalo and elk.

Festival displays will include replicas of items produced and used by our ancestors, both Native and pioneer American. Among displays expected this year are tables with

hand-made quilts, crochet items and dream catchers, along with other items we've had at the previous Echoes of the Past.

We also would like to show toys, flutes, blacksmith items and anything else that was produced and used before there were shopping malls to purchase the necessities of life.

We will once again award ribbons to those who participate. One lucky artist will win \$25 cash for the Festival exhibit judged Best of Show.

Food is a big part of any Festival, and Echoes of

(See Festival Page 4)

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The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Oklahoma Archeology Newsletter

Trowel Marks Newsletter is a publication of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society ISSN 1071-6610.

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Membership

An application to join The Society or renew your membership for the year, information about its activities, publications, and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology can be found on this page, on Page 7 of this OAS Newsletter, and on the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

OAS offers a variety of memberships. All members receive the Society's Journal, Oklahoma Archeology, and the quarterly OAS newsletter, Trowel Marks. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members receive new memoirs. For other membership, contact Curt Hendricks, OAS Assistant Secretary-Treasurer for Membership.

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs, and other publications of the Society from Mary McHard, OAS Publications 812 NW 42, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118 or by contacting her via email at dmmchard@flash.net.

Questions about Trowel Marks?

Questions and comments are welcome by the Newsletter Editor, Jon Denton by mail at 11550 Bartons Butte, Mustang, OK 73064 or email at jonrdenton@aol.com. Opinions, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.

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Events of Interest

March

1 "Unconquered: Allan Houser and the Legacy of One Apache Family," daily until July 3, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City.

3 "The Looting of the Iraq Museum," AIA lecture, with former Baghdad Museum Director Donny George, 7:30 p.m. in Neilson Hall, OU, Norman.

12-14 Annual Caddo Conference, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

14-15 "Did You Hear That Dogwood Bark?", tree i.d. guided hike, 10 a.m. Martin Park Nature Center, 5000 W Memorial Road, Oklahoma City. Repeats March 18-22.

19 Vernal Equinox Walks, 11 a.m., with archeologist Dennis Peterson, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

21 Family Kite Flite Day, 9 a.m., Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro

24 "Plant Lore of the Plains Apache," 7 p.m., Judy Jordan, ethnobotanist and author, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

April

2 "From the Valley of the Kings to Philae: Ancient and Modern Pilgrimages," AIA lecture with Egyptian Archeologist Eugene Cruz-Urbe, Neilson Hall, OU, Norman.

4 Echoes of the Past Archeological Festival, a.m.-5 p.m. at Echo Ridge Campground, Lake Eufaula, Canadian

17-18 Family Fossil Trip, 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday, with Steve Westrop, Museum curator of invertebrate paleontology, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

25-26 OAS Annual Meeting, Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton; business meeting and talks on "Forts of Frontier Oklahoma" on Saturday, field trips Sunday

May

23-31 OAS Spring Dig, Fort Gibson

Why Oklahoma Anthropological Society?

Why is it Oklahoma Anthropological Society and not Archeological Society? In order to practice archeology, we need to understand the relationship between anthropology and archeology. Anthropology is the broad study of people, past and present. Archeology is a branch of anthropology often focused on the distant past. In order to interpret what is found at archeological sites, we need to know how people organized themselves long ago. Knowledge of cultures today can help explain cultures of yesterday. Anthropology gives us that bridge to understanding.

Trowel Marks

Charles Cheatham
OAS President

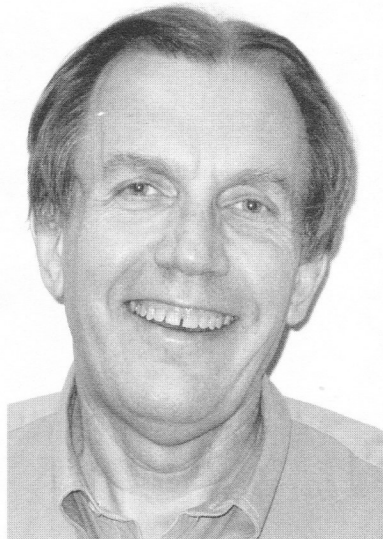
I hope you enjoy this first issue of the quarterly OAS Newsletter. Many thanks to Jon Denton, our Newsletter Editor. By switching to this new format, we will be able to give you more timely notice of upcoming events.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the OAS Spring Meeting. It will be Saturday, April 25 in Lawton, at the Museum of the Great Plains.

The meeting's overall theme is "The Forts of Oklahoma." This topic touches on many others, and we will definitely have some interesting speakers. When the meeting date gets closer, we will post on the OAS Webpage www.okarcheology.org a Saturday agenda of speakers and the title of their presentations.

If you can stay, please also join us for a field trip in the greater Lawton area Sunday, April 26. We will visit the Fort Sill Museum and other historic sites. Check the OAS Webpage for a more specific itinerary as we develop the details.

The OAS Spring Dig for 2009 will again be at Fort Gibson. Held May



Charles Cheatham

23-31, it continues under the direction of Lee Bement. Dr. Bement will assist with further excavation around the foundations of the stockade and some outlying buildings.

Please check the OAS Webpage later for expanded

information, including camping details, group meals, planned speakers, etc.

To carry out the Spring Dig successfully, some tasks performed in the past by the Dig Chairman will be divided among volunteers. If you are willing to help with some of the tasks necessary for the dig to operate smoothly, please contact me at charles@oba.com and I will pass the information along to the Dig Committee.

On a different subject, the OAS has only a few copies left (or none) of some back issues of the quarterly Journal — including more recent issues. The same applies to Bulletins and Memoirs. Please donate to OAS any back issues of OAS publications that you no longer want or need. They will go to the OAS archives for future reference.

In the OKC metro area, Jon Denton is available to pick up what you have. You can also mail your back publications to us, or take them to your OAS representative at a local chapter meeting.

Thanks for your assistance.

Caddo Conference in Norman

The 51st Annual Caddo Conference is March 12-14 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman.

The annual conference explores the archaeological, ethnographic, and historic aspects of the Caddoan culture. Amanda Regnier is conference coordinator. She can be contacted at aregnier@ou.edu.

The conference session will start with a wine and cheese reception at 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday of the conference week. Norman's own Cross Timbers Ramblers may make an appearance as the evening's musical entertainment.

Friday and Saturday morning

will be devoted to presentations by anthropologists and Caddo tribal members. On Saturday the conference ends with dances by various clubs within the Caddo tribe.

Registration for non-students is \$20 (\$25 at the door). A block of rooms have been reserved at a special rate of \$75 per night at the Country Inn & Suites in Norman. Mention the Caddo Conference when you make your reservations to secure the rate. For reservations, call (405) 360-0240.

For more information on the conference, visit Website: <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/CaddoConf/CaddoConference2009Newest.htm>

Forts

(Continued from Page 1)

speakers' list, OAS President Charles Cheatham said. Oklahoma history is replete with military forts. Remnants of many forts and reconstruction of others dot the Oklahoma map.

Sunday will be devoted to field trips to historic sites in the Lawton area — among them the notable Fort Sill Museum.

For more information, check the OAS Website: www.okarcheology.org

2009 Spring Dig takes OAS back to Fort Gibson

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society will return to northeast Oklahoma for its 2009 Spring Dig.

Volunteers will arm themselves with shovels, measuring tapes and trowels for the annual dig. As in recent past years, Lee Bement of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey will direct the excavation.

Dig dates are during the Memorial Day holiday, Saturday, May 23 through Sunday, May 31.

Grounds of the old fort continue as the focus of exploration. In 2006, the Society joined Dr. Bement and members of the Oklahoma History Center on focusing on the north side of the old stockade. Last year, the same crew focused on the grounds north and west of the stockade, unearthing one of the state's oldest pioneer cellars.

In 2009, the dig site expands further west, across railroad tracks and on private land. It is hoped remnants and artifacts of the original fort will continue to turn up there.

The OAS Dig Committee seeks volunteers. Those willing to assist at the registration tent, tracking paperwork, mending equipment, etc. can contact OAS President Charles Cheatham at charles@oba.com.

Members of the Dig Committee are Bill and Trina Menzie, who will coordinate OAS assistance with archeologist Leland Bement; Cathy Compton,



OAS members dig into the soft turf north of the Fort Gibson stockade during the 2008 Spring Excavation. Varied artifacts dating to the mid-19th century turned up -- among them spoons, buttons, nails and thimbles.

Phil Marshala and Charles Cheatham, tent registration, fee collection, and buying miscellaneous supplies; K.C. Kraft, OAS trailer; Charles Surber, clerical paperwork; Tom Purdin and Connie Masters, food/entertainment/speakers; Jon Denton, media promotion.

More information will be available on the OAS Website, <http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/oas/index.html>.

OAS membership is required to participate in an OAS dig. Membership is available in advance and at the dig site.

Festival

(Continued from Page 1)

the Past offers some tasty treats. They include hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, drinks and cookies.

Our goal is to promote and preserve the ancient arts and crafts. We hope to show how a culture can thrive when it depends on self-made products and trade. For most of history, that was a full-time effort. Only the strong and determined survived, and that was as true in our Great Plains region as any

place in the world.

So far, we've been able to produce this annual Festival without charge for attending or displaying wares, so join us and start spring with a fun and educational day of entertainment.

In support of the Festival, on Feb. 12 the McAlester OAS Chapter held a raffle for a handmade quilt made by Thomas Purdin and Connie Masters. Proceeds help with the Festival expenses. Carl Lester of Muskogee was the lucky winner.

Thomas and Connie are making another quilt to raffle at this spring's Echoes of the Past.

Got craft?

Echoes of the Past Festival is looking for exhibitors. Past Festivals have had chipped stone points, pottery, an archeology dig for children, hand-made bows and arrows, pioneer clothing, sculpture, paintings and weavings, crafted leather goods, cookware, and hand-made musical instruments. Since the Festival has no exhibitor fee, sale proceeds are entirely for exhibitors to keep. For more information, contact Festival coordinator Connie Masters at (918) 339-4226.

Prehistory of Doby Springs (34HP1)

By K.C. Kraft

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Stillwater

As a follow-up to my note on the historic component from the Doby Springs site (OAS Archeological Journal, Kraft, Fall 2008), I want to briefly visit the prehistoric component of the site. In the following paragraphs I review the prehistoric record and draw attention to heretofore unknown Ice Age fauna associated with the locale.

Human utilization of the artesian springs associated with Doby Springs (34HP1) can be traced to Pleistocene hunter-gatherers that roamed a large part of North America. It is curious that few Paleoamerican artifacts have been recovered from the other artesian spring in northwest Oklahoma, Boiling Springs.

However, taking into consideration that Boiling Springs underwent extensive subsurface modifications by Works Progress Administration (Agency) and Civilian

Conservation Corps laborers during the 1930s, one would expect previous cultural occupations to be totally removed.

Doby Springs, on the other hand, yielded the base of a Folsom point manufactured from Niobrara chert found in Kansas. The base was apparently recovered from an eroded bluff northeast of the springs (Figure 1).

Provenience of the point fragment is limited, other than it was found on the surface by Carlisle. Jack Hofman (University of Kansas) very briefly mentions the Carlisle (Doby Springs) Folsom find in a 1991 Friends of the Pleistocene Guidebook (Carter and Ward 1991).

While working at Doby Springs in 1998, Leland Bement (Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Norman) gathered further details about the point's provenience from local informants (personal communication 2007). While discussing 34HP1 with Don Wyckoff (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman), he thought the point fragment was displayed at the local museum in Laverne. However, I was unable to verify this.

Additional prehistoric artifacts, mainly projectile points, have assuredly been removed from the Doby Springs

a. Based on accounts of emigrants and cattle drovers using the springs, it is possible that additional Paleoamerican artifacts were deposited on site

but were never inspected by capable collectors or professional archeologists.

While conducting a literature review of the site, two notations were found regarding "points" recovered from the springs. In addition, two local informants recall collecting points from the general area through the decades. On the 34HP1 site form, Bell (1959) mentions prehistoric and possibly proto-historic artifacts from the site which were collected by W.E. Berkey and family.

Noland Miller, a former landowner with part of 34HP1 on his property, is also noted to have collected artifacts by the "bucket-full and sold them during the Depression." No diagnostic or chronological data are known about these specimens.

Finally, in Maud Doby Mixx's reminiscence of her childhood at Doby Springs, she recalls that "arrowheads" were everywhere (Harper County Historical Society 1974). Again, no diagnostic or chronological details are known about these artifacts.

If the nearby 34HP24 and 34HP25 are included in this prehistoric discussion, the post-Pleistocene Archaic, Woodland, and Late Prehistoric people's use of the areas comes into focus.

In the mid-1970s Chris Lintz (1974a, 1974b) notes cord marked pottery sherds, manos, bone fragments, and copious flaking debris recovered

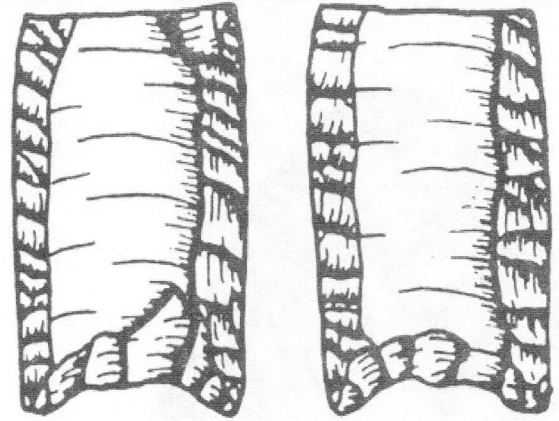


Figure 1. Doby Springs Folsom point (adapted from Carter and Ward 1991 [not to scale]); sketch by Hofman.

from the two sites. In reality, the three sites are likely activity areas of a larger site and thus encompass the entirety of human occupation in North America as we know it today (Brooks and Wyckoff 1983:113).

In regard to signs of prehistoric use of the springs themselves (Doby Springs City Park), very little of this period remains based on my cursory investigation. However, areas outside the park, but still within the boundaries of the site as a whole, are surely being "collected" on a periodic or irregular basis.

As mentioned in a previous note (Kraft 2008), east of the park and springs lies a sandy hill that has a 10 m gash cut through it. Fortuitously, this gash provides a glimpse into depositional sequences associated with the landscape feature. Along the county road, artifacts are eroding from the embankment. These consist primarily of prehistoric lithic debris. The artifacts are limited to secondary and tertiary flakes, many less than 4 mm. Raw materials range from locally available quartzites to the nearby Alibates Formation. Multiple informants I spoke with recall

(See Doby Page 6)

Prehistory of Doby Springs

(Continued from Page 5)

collecting prehistoric artifacts (points/tools) from this location for decades.

In addition to the flakes, two items believed to be associated with Ice Age animals were recovered. Figure 2 is a fragment of tusk (fossil ivory) from either a mastodon or mammoth. There are no recent breaks along the edges. It is possible that the item came from another animal, but unlikely.

From my experience in Texas and Oklahoma, tusk fragments break down into rectangular and cube-like fragments when the material is exposed to atmospheric conditions following primary burial. An origin for the tusk fragment, within the previously mentioned exposed clay lens in the road (Kraft 2008), was not discovered. I have learned in the past that when such fossil ivory fragments are discovered, there is usually an outline of the tusk nearby whether on a graded surface or exposed by erosion.

The item shown in Figure 3 is a bone fragment from an unknown genus

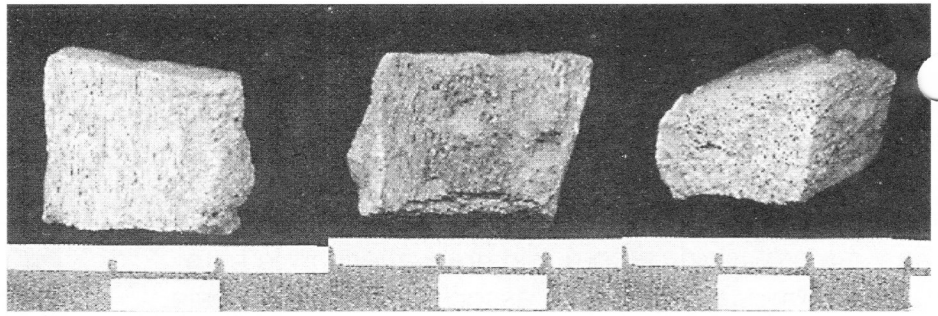


Figure 2. Possible mammoth or mastodon tusk fragment (fossil ivory): obverse, reverse, in cm.

animal, and thus represents extinct (Pleistocene?) megafauna. Note the breakage of this massive bone. This possibly could be associated with human butchering.

Although skeletal elements from extinct species are found in isolated contexts, it seems the animal's presence is probably related to the nearby springs. Coupling this find with the reported Paleoamerican artifact from the near vicinity does provide con-

NRCS' Harper County Field Office and High Plains Resource Conservation and Development office, and the volunteers at the Harper County Historical Society and numerous informants.

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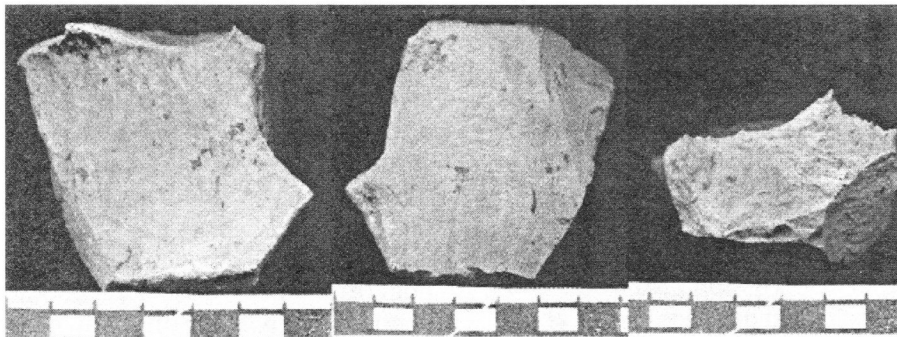


Figure 3. Possible mammoth or mastodon bone fragment: obverse, reverse, side view; scale in cm.

and/or species but most likely a mammoth or mastodon, given its general association with the tusk fragment. There are no recent breaks along the edges as with the tusk fragment.

The thickness of the bone walls precludes it from being from a modern

text. Other signs of Pleistocene fauna undoubtedly will be recovered.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I acknowledge Joe L. Todd, former Oral Historian, Oklahoma Historical Society for his comments on Kraft (2008) and informing me of his video interview with Maud Doby Mixx archived at the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City. Finally, I acknowledge

Requiem: Buck Wade

Buck Wade, 72, a cherished member of the McAlester Archeological Society, died December 23, 2008.

Buck was an active member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society for many years. He rejoined the McAlester chapter at its reinstatement in December 2005.

Born Nov. 29, 1936, in Bakersfield, Calif., he was the son of Elmer B. Wade Sr. and Marie (Manos) Wade. He grew up in McAlester and graduated from McAlester High School in 1957. He married Sharon Collier in 1963.

He worked for McAlester Park & Recreation Department, and with his mother at Wade's Beauty Shop.

Although ill, Buck made the 2008 dig at Fort Gibson. He was a recipient of the Anthropology Society's highest honor, the Golden Trowel Award. It is only given to those members who have been outstanding participants and supporters.

Buck attended almost all the OAS events, and many of the meetings. Everyone who knew Buck loved him. His enthusiasm and knowledge about avocational archaeology, as well as his cheerful willingness to share what he knew with others, endeared him to all.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon Wade, of the home; and sister and brother-in-law, Gloria and Carl Garis, of Crowder.

Buck will be missed by those who knew him and worked with him. The McAlester chapter will especially feel the loss of this valued friend and member. Our condolences and prayers go out to his family.

(From the McAlester OAS Chapter and McAlester News Capital)



Buck Wade

OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Would you like to become a member of the OAS? Then simply fill out this form and send it with payment (check or money order) to Curt Hendricks, Membership Chairman, The Oklahoma Anthropological Society, 6424 Sudbury Drive, Oklahoma City, OK 73162-1725

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DESIRED

- Active** \$20 Receive issues annually of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society, and the OAS Trowel Marks Newsletter.
- Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
- Contributing** \$30 Receive issues of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society; the quarterly OAS Trowel Marks Newsletter, and memoirs published by the Society.
- Sustaining** \$40 Receive issues of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society; the quarterly Trowel Marks Newsletter, and memoirs published by the Society.
- Associate** \$5 For one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
- Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a contributing membership throughout the lifetime of member.
- Institutional** Domestic \$30 () Institutional Canada/Mexico \$35 () Institutional Other Foreign \$40
- OAS New Member Handbook** \$6. Recommended for new members. Everything you need to know about the Society: its history, meetings, field activities, publication series, and more.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Phone () _____
State _____ Email address _____
Zip + 4 _____

Jan. 31, 2009

OAS Board Minutes

From: Jon Denton, OAS Secretary
Topic: Minutes of Winter 2009
OAS Board Meeting

*(To be approved at the Spring 2009
OAS Board meeting)*

The Winter 2009 Board Meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) met Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey office, Norman. President Charles Cheatham opened the session at 1:30 p.m.

In attendance were President Cheatham, Treasurer Cathy Compton, Secretary Jon Denton, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Curt Hendricks, Journal Editor K.C. Kraft, and Phil Marshala, Bill Burkart, Ed Mayfield, Thomas Purdin, Connie Masters, Scott Hammerstedt, Paul Roberts, Trina Menzie, William Menzie, Richard Drass, Jana Brown, Kathy Gibbs, Luther Leith, Liz Leith, Bob Brooks, Leland Bement, Debra Baker.

Secretary's Minutes (Denton) were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report (Compton) As of 12/31/08, summary shows General Fund Balance of \$40,546; Dig Fund \$3,196; Memoir Fund \$11,474; CD No. 1 at \$26,681; CD No. 2 at \$20,000; CD No. 3 at \$5,000 (detailed reports attached). Approved as presented.

Membership Report (Hendricks) Membership is improving. In 2008, total membership was 486, up from 465 the year before. Primary membership was 405, up from a year earlier when it was 385, the low point of the decade. Institutional membership was 55.

New members totaled 63 including 11 full-time new student members. We need to set numerical goals as part of a strategy to keep the positive trend going (attached is an adjusted full text of the report).

Publications:

1. **Journal Report** (Editor Kraft) Quarterly OAS Journal is being mailed.

Shifting to a semi-annual or annual publication in 2009, with two manuscripts in hand, and another two possible. Will not be peer-reviewed. (Drass) Let's consider sending copies to all museums in the state, and ask if they want to subscribe.

2. **OAS Newsletter** (Editor Denton) Preparation of the first OAS Newsletter is under way. It could average 4-6 pages, printing at a cost of \$3-\$4 per copy, plus mailing costs. It will have one or more photos, with color on Cover Page. Planning to mail first edition (Winter 2009) before April 1.

Publication sales (Mary McHard is absent).

Memoirs (Don Wyckoff absent, passed report to Cheatham) Expect memoir publication on geoarcheology of Oklahoma's Cross Timbers to go to press in March. Memoir on Lee Creek Ceremonial Center (Tom Pluckhahn) goes to press next autumn.

Certification (Lois Albert absent, Cheatham). Lois continues to be willing to serve as chairman for the time being, but has expressed a desire in the past to be able to transition the job to an appropriately qualified person if someone can be recruited. The bylaws specify that the chair should be a professional archeologist.

It was noted that the Certification Committee has not met in a long time, with Lois doing most of the work. Cheatham indicated he would coordinate with Lois to schedule a meeting of the committee, to determine which members want to continue on the committee, and whether it would be appropriate to add some new members.

Web Page (Webmaster Larry Shaver absent, Cheatham). Denton will send update information for the Website.

Dig Committee (Dale McHard absent). Lee Bement suggests OAS return to Fort Gibson, where basics are well known, over Memorial Day holiday, May 23-31, 2009. He will be Chief Archeologist at the site, as before.

The Board approved the recommendation.

Cheatham suggests committee tasks be shared at the dig. Volunteers are Bill and Trina Menzie, who will coordinate OAS assistance with arche-

ologist Leland Bement; Cathy Compton, Phil Marshala and Charles Cheatham, tent registration, fee collection, and buying miscellaneous supplies, finances; K.C. Kraft, OAS trailer; Charles Surber, paperwork; Tom Purdin and Connie Masters, food/entertainment/speakers; Jon Denton, media promotion.

Nominating Committee (Cheatham) Have seven positions open – president, vice president, and five board positions. Volunteering for the nominating committee are Kathy Gibbs, chairman; Jon Denton, Curt Hendricks, Connie Masters and Tom Purdin.

With Jon Denton stepping down as Secretary to become Newsletter Editor, the board elected Trina Menzie, Lawton, to fill the rest of the current Secretary's term, through April 2010.

Awards Committee

(Cheatham) Kathy Gibbs is chairman. She will arrange with Midwest Trophy in Del City to prepare recommended trophies. Board gives unanimous approval. Awards to be made at 2009 Spring Meeting.

Future meetings (Cheatham)

For the OAS Spring 2009 Meeting, the board decided to meet at the Lawton Museum of the Great Plains. The meeting on the theme Frontier Forts of Oklahoma is Saturday April 25. On Sunday, April 26, OAS field tours are planned of the Fort Sill Museum and other area sites.

For the OAS Fall 2009 Meeting, Don Wyckoff has suggested meeting at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, Norman, on Caddo research. He suggests contrasting Caddo of the Arkansas Basin and Red River Basin. The suggestion was approved, with Oct. 24 as the first choice of a date, Oct. 3 second choice.

Liability insurance (Hendricks and Cheatham) As requested at the Fall meeting, Curt Hendricks and Charles Cheatham reported on insurance coverage and liability issues raised by the McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters' Echoes of the Past Archeology Festival.

Hendricks and Cheatham noted that the Society was only responsible for board-approved events, whether a

(See Board Page 9)

Chapter reports (President Charles Cheatham) Let's try to get future Chapter speakers scheduled on our Website calendar. It might increase attendance at chapter meetings.

Tulsa Chapter (Charles Surber to Denton) The chapter is entering its 67th year of existence. Some members trace their involvement back 20 years. Our February program is on Spiro Mounds with park director Dennis Peterson.

Our March program will be recent investigations on Casa Grande by Mike Whalen of Tulsa University. In April, our own Bill Obrien will show three Tulsa Chapter outings from past years.

McAlester Chapter (Connie Masters) We had a great year, even though it ended on a sad note with the loss of Buck Wade, a chapter member for many years. He was a great help with getting the chapter re-started. We will miss him very much.

We've had some very good presentations this year and more are scheduled. In February we'll have an "Ask the Archeologist" program with archeologist Scott Hammerstedt, and a drawing for the handmade quilt we've been selling tickets for.

Kent Buehler will discuss the sandman burial in March. Historian Gene Hellstern is April speaker. Echoes of the Past IV is the first Saturday in April.

We've gained a few new members over the year, and nearly all of those originally joining the chapter have renewed for this year.

Tahlequah Chapter (Thomas Purdin) The chapter has done well this past year, although our November and

December meetings were cancelled because of conflicts with the holidays. We've gained several new members.

John Davis spoke in January on the Red River Riverboat Project, for which we received a nice article in the local paper.

Tom Purdin and Connie Masters will present "It's Not What You Find, It's What You Find Out" at the February meeting. Arkansas archeologist Meeks Etchieson speaks in March.

One of our young members, Carl Klutts, goes to Africa in September for his anthropology classes. We're very proud of him for this opportunity to further his education.

Kay County Chapter (George Hanggi to Denton) The Ponca City chapter meets the third Thursday of the month (except during summer) in the Ponca City Library.

We have had good programs and moderate attendance, with announcements in the newspaper and cable TV bulletin board.

Greater Southwest Chapter (Jana Brown) At the Lawton chapter in November, Joe Watkins, OU Director of Native American Studies, discussed the Kennewick Man in "The Past, the People, and the Politics: How Ancients Become Ammunition."

Our chapter President, Debra Baker talked with him and Towana Spivey, director of the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark and Museum, about issues relating to the Kennewick man. The discussion is recorded and posted (Episode 11) on our Website (www.gsoas.org).

We had a memorable Christmas potluck luncheon. Speaking was Don Wyckoff on "Toolstone in the Antlers Formation."

The January meeting was on amending bylaws and sharing ideas for the upcoming year.

In February, we have as speaker Randy Clark, a direct descendant of Frank and Jesse James.

Randy grew up along the banks of Brush Creek in the Big Pasture area, where he discovered the renowned Brush Creek Flint Cache in 1968.

Central Chapter (Bruce Sanderson to Denton) The Oklahoma City chapter enjoyed an annual Christmas Party in December, then skipped the January meeting when the date conflicted with the New Year holiday.

Speaking in February is Jack Smith, Oklahoma City archeologist working on a Custer County site uncovering dinosaurs, sea shell middens, Indian tools, and evidence of pioneers on the Beale Road, also known as the Santa Fe Trail.

In March, Oklahoma City naturalist Neil Garrison discusses pictographs, pectoglyphs, and Indian lithics in his favorite haunt, Big Bend Park. The April meeting returns the annual Chapter Book Auction.

Cleveland County Chapter (Liz Leith) The Norman chapter meets the first Monday of each month at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Talks last fall were November, Elsbeth Dowd on zoomorphic designs on Caddo pottery; December, Larry Cartmell, on his mummy research and drug testing of mummies. In January, we heard Neil Garrison on the Chihuahua Desert of south Texas; in February, Joe Watkins on the Native American Studies program at OU. Membership in the first year has grown to 40, with typical meeting attendance 15-20.

Board

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state event or one hosted by a chapter. Board approval must be made prior to the event. Hendricks and Cheatham will prepare related guidelines for board consideration.

Chapter reports (Cheatham) Let's try to get future Chapter speakers

on our Website calendar. It might boost attendance.

Archeological stewardship (Cheatham) We need to develop a plan for a protective watch of archeological sites in Oklahoma.

(Bob Brooks) A stewardship program works well in other states, with some OAS members already volunteer-

ing observation in the McAlester area. We might ask somebody familiar with the program, from the Arkansas Society, to speak.

Book Reviews

Jon Denton
Reviews Editor

FRONTIER MEDICINE From the Atlantic to the Pacific, 1492-1941
By David Dary, 381 Pages, illustrated,
Knoph Publishing 2008, \$30

Reviewed by Jon Denton

With medicine such serious business, it's a relief to see it treated as an evolving, sometimes quirky mix of science and art.

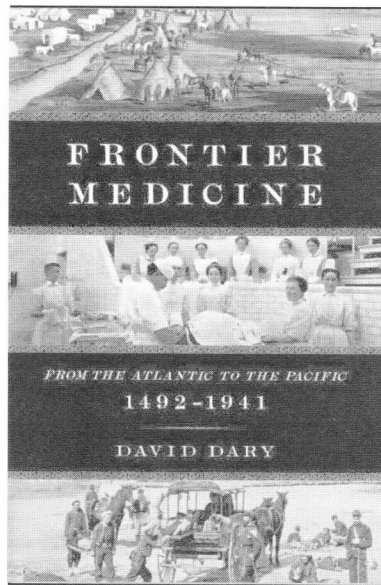
We get that in Norman author David Dary's latest book on the Old West. The story has been written before. What Dary does best, however, is bring balance and compassion to the fumbling business of frontier medicine.

To that challenge, Dary reveals a journalist's eye for detail. His mastery of the short narrative is impressive. The depth of his research is at times almost overwhelming, but rather than put the book down in exhaustion, it's intriguing enough to keep us reading.

Dary is the recently retired director of the Journalism School at the University of Oklahoma. He is author of several books on the Old West, notably "The Santa Fe Trail" and "Cowboy Culture." Among his many honors are the Cowboy Hall of Fame Wrangler Award, two Western Writers of American Spur Awards, and the Westerners International Best Nonfiction Book Award.

In his epic, he follows medicine as it heads out with the pioneers, tracking from the Atlantic to the Pacific, gradually evolving from the early days of leech-sucking, blood-letting barbers. Long before physicians develop the germ theory of disease, Dary shows science applied as medicine's practical guide, cutting through ignorance, superstition and mythology.

Dary credits Indians, with their herbal-based healing, as often the most practical and reasonable course of early American treatment. We can surmise that, had we followed their example,



today we might be paying doctors for keeping us healthy, and banishing those who fail.

In the frontier, we hear of three choices in a medical emergency: find a doctor, or at least an apothecary, treat yourself, or die. Even the arrival of a physician was no guarantee, and all too often the patient suffered as much from medical attention as the malady.

Yet Dary finds a great deal to admire. In the 1720s, Boston doctor Zabdiel Boylston learns from an African slave how to vaccinate against smallpox, and averts an epidemic. About a century later, Kentucky doctor Ephraim McDowell performed the world's first successful abdominal operation.

On the advice of local Indian medicine women, midwife Anna Bixby asked people in her Illinois community to not drink milk until winter, when the wild snakeroot died down. Later, science found the weed, digested by cows, as a source of milk sickness. The illness reportedly took the life of President Lincoln's mother and a multitude of others in frontier America.

Perhaps most important for world health, in 1820 Missouri doctor John Sappington learns quinine can prevent as well as cure malaria. He develops a pill for it, and becomes

wealthy.

For decades, however, American medicine was a festering ground for quick-buck quacks. Dary resists dwelling on the topic, since it has been covered many times before, but we learn how honest doctors, aided by science, manage to drive out the hucksters.

War and its frantic effort to help the injured might seem an unlikely place for good medicine. Yet the Civil War, and later the World Wars, offered physicians great opportunities to learn what worked best. Surgeons got a lifetime of training in a few years. Disease, the most lethal enemy of an armed camp, called on the best efforts of physicians to develop sanitation, quarantines and quick treatment.

Dary approaches the subject with unusual clarity and a depth of research that will silence those who may complain he is a historian writing about medicine, rather than a doctor writing about history. The result is a sturdy, structured view of the way it was when medicine headed west.

Jon Denton is OAS Newsletter Editor and a retired Oklahoma journalist and photographer.

* * *

100 GREAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES

Edited by Paul G. Bahn, Barnes & Noble Publishers, 1995
239 pages, \$49.95

Reviewed by Kathy Gibbs

From rock art to tattooed ice maidens, mammoth bone houses to Assyrian palaces, fossil hominids to writing systems, caves to shipwrecks -- here are some of the greatest archeological discoveries of the world.

They demonstrate the range of subjects that archaeology encompasses. Among them are the Taung Child, Tutankhamen, Olduvai Gorge, Amarna, the Rosetta Stone, Knossos, the Decipherment of Linear B.

Also Mediterranean shipwrecks, ice age art, bog bodies, Babylon, the Terra Cotta army, Peking Man, Sutton Hoo, Masada, Monte Verde, Maya cave art, Easter Island, the Iceman, Jericho, Ur, and Machu Picchu.

We know that archeology is not Indiana Jones Hollywood drama. It is

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Book Reviews

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not about treasure or rich burials, but it is still exciting work. Once focused on spectacular and exotic finds, archaeology is now a more serious discipline -- finding out about lives of ordinary people of the past.

Archaeology concentrates on finding out things, and seeking to explain when, where, how and why things happened and changed in the past. Only archaeology can uncover the human past and examine its wonders.

The joy of archaeology is that it is constantly changing. But its popularity also carries the risk of people visiting fragile sites in excessive numbers and disturbing remains and art, or vandalism, pollution, or just wear and tear. We must protect our past and contribute to its conservation for future generations.

Ancient Greeks, Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Mesoamericans had an idea that humankind was thousands of years old.

In Medieval Europe, the origins of the world lay in written documents and especially the Bible. James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, made the claim in 1650 that the world was created at noon on Oct. 23 in 4004 B.C.

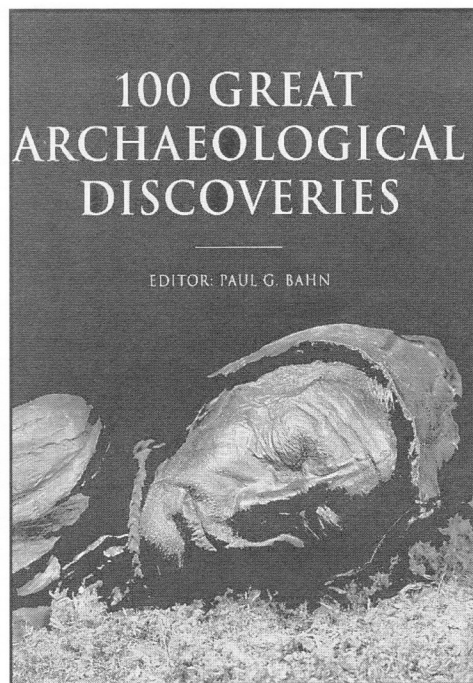
The Jewish calendar placed creation at 3761 B.C., the Venerable Bede estimated 3952 B.C. And, of course, the Bible was deemed God's infallible Word.

But one must realize these scholars lived in a pre-scientific age -- ideas were built on hallowed text rather than natural science.

Flint tools from the Paleolithic (Old Stone Age) were known, but their importance was unrecognized. It was thought these things were from the Romans.

The concept of early times could not go beyond written memory. Megalithic monuments were attributed to Celts or pre-Roman Gauls.

In 1669, a Danish scholar, Niels Stensen, drew up the first geological profile, establishing the principle of



sedimentation and stratigraphic superimposition. He noted that later layers lay on top of older ones.

The first archaeological application came in 1797 in Western Europe. Stone artifacts were found that lay in an undisturbed deposit. It also included bones of large extinct animals.

Stensen recognized them as artifacts of a distant period. He presented his discovery to the Society of Antiquaries in London. This and other finds were ignored by the British for decades, and remained unknown outside of England.

In 1771, Johann Friedrich Esper, a Bavarian pastor, found human bones associated with remains of cave bear and other extinct animals in a cave near Bayreuth in the German Jura.

He concluded, however, that these human bones were intrusive to the deposits containing the fossil animal bones.

But scholars were beginning to challenge the biblical Genesis view of the earth's formation. In France, Georges Cuvier, father of comparative anatomy, perceived the difference between fossil animals and their modern equivalents --- the differences increased with the age of the layers. This perception eventually became the notion of evolution.

While the tale of human history was unaffected by these developments in natural science, the discovery of "fossil man" changed the situation.

Cuvier doubted that fossil man

had co-existed with these vanished species. He went by the Bible, believing Man came after the animals --- and this seemed to correspond to all geological findings so far. He did not deny the possibility of fossil man --- Cuvier only denied that any had been found.

Then in the 19th century, developments changed everything. Paul Tournal, a pharmacist from Narbonne, France, was digging in a cave in 1826. He found human remains associated with bones of extinct animals, and also stone tools. Researchers in other countries in the 1820s also had been finding flint tools mixed with bones of extinct animals.

At this time, geologists proposed the concept of "uniformitarianism," the idea that all past geological processes were the same as those of the present, spanning a huge period -- so now there was no need to believe in supernatural catastrophes like the Great Flood to explain fossils.

People were beginning to change their minds about animal fossils. This had a big influence on British biologists like Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley and the development of evolution.

Biologists turned from an understanding constrained by a Biblical seven-day creation to a vista of an immensely long past. It was vital to establish that crude tools could be identified as works of humans.

But some still denied that people had lived the same time as extinct animals -- it would take indisputable association of humans and extinct fauna.

Conclusive evidence was found in open air sites around Abbeville in Picardy, northern France. In 1842, Jacques Boucher de Perthes, a French amateur archaeologist discovered a flaked stone associated with a mammoth jaw, then went on to find many more examples.

British geologists and archaeologists finally confirmed the truth of these claims. So in 1859, when Charles Darwin published his *Origin of Species*, this long doubted idea was

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Book Reviews

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transformed into a wide spread consensus among scholars.

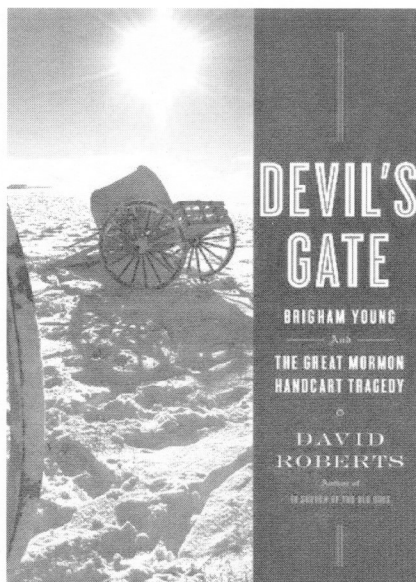
The final convincing proof of evidence for human antiquity came in 1864. Edouard Lartet, a French lawyer turned paleontologist, began excavating rock shelters in the Dordogne region, which had been inhabited in the last Ice Age.

The Marquis Paul de Vibraye, an agronomist, and others also started digging at Les Eyzies in 1863. He and Lartet simultaneously produced evidence of human antiquity. De Vibraye found a figure of a slim naked female carved in mammoth ivory — and in 1864 Lartet discovered an engraving of a mammoth on a piece of mammoth ivory. This proved that people lived along side of vanished creatures.

This a fascinating book full of wonderful discoveries --- many of which I was not aware. The book is divided into the different continents, with maps showing where these finds were made. Over 300 beautiful pictures accompany the two-page stories. It is easy reading, yet offers a wide array of knowledge about the major archaeology discoveries around the world — not only about the biggest finds, but about the most important and best discoveries.

I would highly recommend this book for a thorough overview and background history of the world of archaeology.

Kathy Gibbs is Past-president of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and an avid avocational archeologist and historian.



THE CONTESTED PLAINS Indians, goldseekers and the rush to Colorado, by Elliott West, 1998 University Press of Kansas, \$17-\$35.

DEVIL'S GATE Brigham Young and the Great Mormon Handcart Tragedy, by David Roberts, 2008 Simon & Schuster, \$26

Reviewed by Neil Garrison

Both of these books address the same topic: American Indians and European immigrants coming into contact, and often conflict, in the American West of the early 1800s.

Although neither book is about Indian Territory (Oklahoma) at the time, they are fascinating to the person who is curious about the European conquest of the western part of our continent -- those areas immediately north and west of our state.

I enjoyed both books, and I have no reservations about recommending them to those who want to learn more about the Great Plains in the 1840s and 1850s.

West's book is an intriguing examination of Native American vs.

Caucasian conflicts on the High Plains of what is now western Kansas.

The most insightful thing that I gleaned from the book is an explanation of why the federal government entered into a multitude of peace treaties with the Native Americans -- only to have those treaties broken and trampled upon time after time.

It is West's contention that bureaucrats in Washington D.C. never intended to honor their profession of peaceful liaison. Instead, the treaties were nothing more than ruses.

They had a nefarious design. They allowed the government to stall for time, let military forces build up, then make deep inroads into enemy territory during a period of so-called truce.

The strategy bestowed a decided advantage on U.S. military forces once the hostilities commenced, which the government fully expected to happen.

The whole business is a dark chapter in the pioneer history of our country.

Roberts' book is also about the American Doctrine of Manifest Destiny. It examines the exodus of large numbers of European immigrants across Nebraska via the Platte River route.

It tells the tragedy of scores of impoverished people who trekked westward, all via handcart, and typically restricted to 17 pounds of personal belongings. They were nourished by a ration of a pound of flour per day.

As one might imagine, it was an exercise in futility -- one marked by a 50 percent death rate, often after a truly grisly period of starvation and frostbite.

It is a shocking story, yet a testimonial to the grit and dreams of America's pioneer stock.

Naturalist Neil Garrison is a chipped rock enthusiast, edible wild plant expert, and desert traveler of the Great Southwest.

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