

## OAS Fall Meeting offers diverse topics on theme of scarcity

Topics as varied as pothunting and archeological stewardship mark the Oklahoma Anthropological Society's Fall 2010 meeting.

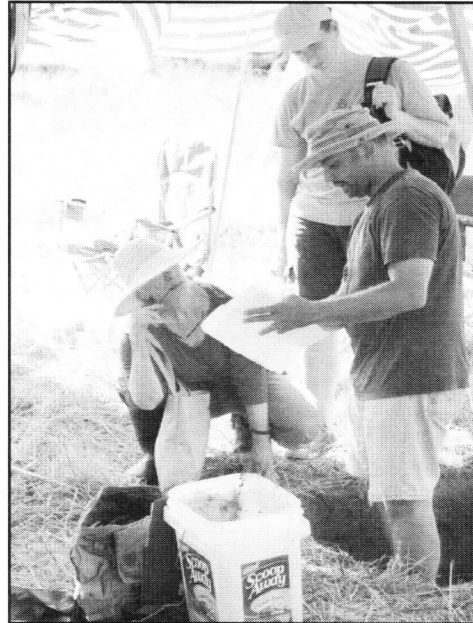
Set Oct. 23 in McAlester, the one-day session will tap speakers from Oklahoma and Arkansas. Program chair Cathy Compton is scheduling speakers for an update on regional archeology.

The program theme is "Archeology in a time of scarcity: Who's watching the store?" A one-hour board meeting, led by OAS President Charles Cheatham, precedes the lecture series.

Admission is open to the public. A small fee will be charged at the door. The board meeting opens at 8:30 a.m. at the McAlester Choctaw Center, 1632 S George Nigh Expressway.

Among speakers at the 9:30 a.m. program are:

- Dr. Ann Early: Archeology Steward Program in Arkansas
- Elsbeth Dowd: The Ramos Creek OU Field School 2010
- Luther Leith: Update on the Fourche Maline OAS Spring Dig
- Dr. Don Wyckoff: Archeological Collections: Good, Bad, Ugly



**University of Oklahoma archeologist Luther Leith talks shop with volunteers at the 2010 OAS Spring Dig, a Fourche Maline site near the San Bois Mountains in southeast Oklahoma (See story Page 8).**

Plans are to invite a speaker from the Army Corps of Engineers, Cathy said. The speaker will be asked to focus on the Corps' federal role in Oklahoma archeology with emphasis on sites managed by the agency.

On the planning committee are Cathy, Charles, Connie Masters, Tom Purdin, Luther and Liz Leith, and Jon and Diana Denton.

Other changes will be announced as the OAS program date approaches.

More program information is available at [Cathy-Compton@ouhsc.edu](mailto:Cathy-Compton@ouhsc.edu).

## Another year of austerity?

# Museums, historic sites struggling in budget crunch

While Oklahoma's public museums and historic sites are taking budget cuts in stride, the outlook is grim if the economy falters another year.

Museum officials say most of the state showcases are coping well. So far no state museum or historical field site has closed. For most, adjusting to the cutback involves shorter opening hours, new entry fees, and leaving vacant staff positions unfilled.

"So far, we are limping along in Oklahoma," said Kathy Dickson, director of museums and historic sites at the Oklahoma Historical Society. "Another year? Honestly, I think some of them might not make it."

As with most of the nation, Oklahoma started trimming budgets in 2008 when the global economic crisis worsened. Since then several states – California and Arizona notable among them – have closed or diminished access to parks, museums, research facilities and historical sites.

In Oklahoma, OHS Deputy Director Tim Zwink estimates his initial budget cut at 17.4 percent. As of July, legislative action added another 5.9 percent, pushing the total cutback past the 23 percent mark.

Making that adjustment has cost him 30 full time equivalent (FTE) employees in the last year. They are a mix of voluntary retirements, part time, and temporary jobs. Most job cuts are at the History Center.

The Center is now closed Sundays. Doors open later each day, at 10 a.m. As for the rest of the Society's 30

(See *Museums* Page 4)

## On Your Calendar

Oct. 7-10 OAS Fall Dig, Rose Hill Plantation, Hugo  
Oct. 23 OAS Fall Meeting, Choctaw Center, McAlester  
Nov. 6-7 OAS Cleanup, Lee's Creek Mound, Sallisaw

## What's Inside

Events of interest	2	Fourche Maline Dig	8
Trowel Marks	3	The Raiding Moon	10
Dalton site dig	5	ProtoJudy Exhibit	12
Rose Hill Mansion Dig	6	Book Reviews	14

## *Trowel Marks*

is a quarterly publication  
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

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### **Membership**

An application to join the Society or renew your membership for the year, and information about OAS activities, publications and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology, is in this OAS Newsletter and on the OAS Website [www.okarcheology.org](http://www.okarcheology.org).

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and the quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life and Institutional members also receive all OAS Memoirs. For more information, contact Jana Brown, Membership at [brown.jana@gmail.com](mailto:brown.jana@gmail.com)

### **Publications**

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs, and other publications of The Society from Mary McHard, OAS Publications, 812 NW 42, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 or by contacting her via email at [dmmchard@flash.net](mailto:dmmchard@flash.net). Publications are listed on the OAS Website [www.okarcheology.org](http://www.okarcheology.org).

### **Contact the OAS Newsletter?**

Questions are welcomed by the Editor, Jon Denton, 11550 Bartons Butte, Mustang, OK 73064 or at [jonrdenton@aol.com](mailto:jonrdenton@aol.com).

Opinions in this publication, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

## ~ Events of Interest ~

### **July**

Red Earth Museum (new location), 6 Santa Fe Plaza, Oklahoma City, 10-5 Mon-Sat

Through Sept. 6 "Chocolate: The Exhibition" Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

Through Jan. 2 "Mediterranean Treasures: Selections from the Classics Collection," Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

Through December ProtoJudy Mammoth Exhibit, Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton

### **August**

31-Sept. 5 Cattle Drive & Trail Ride, Pawnee Bill Museum, Pawnee

### **September**

3-5 Cherokee National Holiday pow-wow, art show, craft market and parade at Cherokee Heritage Center, Tahlequah

11 Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Show, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mabee Center, Tulsa

23-24 Green Corn Ceremony, Spiro Mounds Archeological Center, Spiro

24-26 Annual Meeting Arkansas Archeological Society with guest speaker Dr. Brian Fagan, Hot Springs Ark.

### **October**

7-10 Fall OAS Dig, Rose Hill Plantation, Hugo

8-9 Fort & Fall Festival, Fall Encampment, Fort Gibson

23 OAS Fall Meeting, Choctaw Community Center, McAlester

23 Ghost Story Tours, 6:30-9 p.m. Pawnee Bill Museum, Pawnee

22-24 Annual Meeting, Texas Archeological Society with speakers on underwater archeology "Ships of Discovery," Corpus Christi, Texas

### **November**

6-7 OAS Lee's Creek cleanup, Sallisaw

23 OAS Fall Meeting, Choctaw Community Center, McAlester

### **Why Oklahoma 'Anthropological' 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. To interpret what is found at archeological sites, we need to know how people organized themselves long ago. Knowledge of cultures yesterday can be derived from studying cultures today.

# Trowel Marks

Charles Cheatham OAS President

Thanks to all who participated in the OAS Spring Dig at the Fourche Maline site near Wilburton. Special thanks to the Dig Committee and others who helped with set-up, registration and evening activities.

It was productive and rewarding despite the challenges -- heat and humidity chief among them. We appreciate Luther Leith for his leadership in the excavation.

OAS has several upcoming events this fall, so put them on your calendar:

\* \* \*

The Fall Dig will be Oct. 7-10 near Hugo at Rose Hill Plantation. The site is one of the most important pre-Civil-War mansions in Indian Territory, owned by a wealthy Choctaw planter, Robert M. Jones.

The home burned down in 1911. We will be digging at the site of the plantation house, and may also test for the location of some of the outbuildings. Historian John Davis will supervise the dig.

As we discovered at Fort Gibson, and several years ago at Doaksville, there can be an interesting variety of artifacts found at one of these historical sites, even after the original structures are gone.

There is a nice article about Rose Hill on the OAS website. Go to [www.okarcheology.org](http://www.okarcheology.org) and click on the line in the red box that says "Mark Your Calendars." That takes you to another page, where you can click on "Fall Dig Details."

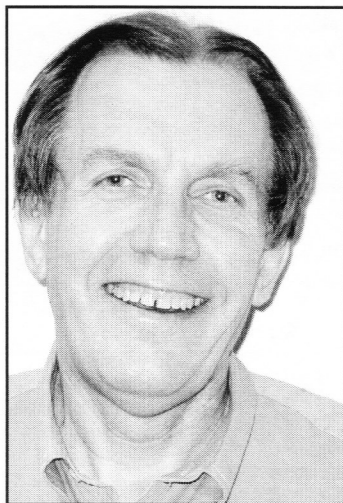
Please continue to check the OAS website for more information as the Fall Dig gets closer.

\* \* \*

Another important activity is the OAS Fall Meeting, to be held Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Choctaw Community Center in McAlester.

Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas State geologist, will discuss the Steward Program, a successful effort to monitor and protect archeological sites in Arkansas, and how we can start that kind of program through OAS.

In Oklahoma, the Army Corps



of Engineers is interested in starting a Steward Program for their properties. We will invite someone to outline what that program will involve.

Others scheduled to speak at the Fall Meeting are Dr. Lesley Rankin-Hill (OU Anthropology Dept.); Luther Leith (results of the Spring Dig); and Elisabeth Dowd (results of this summer's OU Field School at Ramos Creek in McCurtain County).

Dr. Scott Hammerstedt will also discuss plans for an upcoming OAS cleanup project at a mound site in Sequoyah County.

We will schedule some additional Fall Meeting speakers, so check back on the website as we near the meeting date.

\* \* \*

Starting Nov. 6-7, OAS volunteers, in cooperation with the Tahlequah Chapter, plan to clean up the Lee's Creek mound site, with Dr. Hammerstedt supervising.

This site needs major work. The gate posts are broken, the chain link fence is in bad shape in several places, the entire site is covered with weeds, and trees have grown on the mound.

This project may require several weekends this fall. Specific dates and the type of work planned for each weekend have not been decided yet.

The Oklahoma Historical Society technically controls the site, but has no funds for labor or materials to main-

tain it. In this time of fiscal restraint, that's where OAS comes in. You may contact Scott at [swh@ou.edu](mailto:swh@ou.edu) or check back on the website in a couple of months.

\* \* \*

This touches on a broader subject, discussed elsewhere in this issue: Almost all state agencies and state-funded activities are experiencing budget cutbacks, some of them quite severe.

In many cases, belt-tightening will have a major impact on staffing levels, the programs offered, and hours of operation. Non-profit organizations may have different funding sources (donations, grants, and admission fees) but have similar economic challenges.

If you have considered volunteering some of your time to a worthy cause, please pick a local museum, non-profit organization or other activity or your choice and offer to help with some needed tasks.

If there is an activity or organization that you especially appreciate, you can pitch in to take the load off someone or to help the organization continue its important activities. You will feel good about doing so.

They will thank you.

## **OAS seeks donations of archival materials for safe storage**

Back copies of OAS publications are always valuable. They can help fill gaps in the OAS archives, said Mary McHard, Publications Chairman.

An inventory of all material is under way at the OAS storage unit in Bethany. New shelves have been added to move valuable archives above the concrete floor.

Archive materials can be donated by contacting Mary at [dmmchard@flash.net](mailto:dmmchard@flash.net) or calling her at (405) 525-7824.

If necessary, she can arrange to have the materials picked up and delivered to storage.

# Museums, historic sites coping with austerity

(Continued from Page 1)

museums and historical sites, many now charge an entrance fee for the first time.

Fortunately for museum members, they are exempt from fees when they show a current OHS membership card, Dr. Zwink said.

Right now he does not expect to close any museums or sites. Nor does he foresee leaving any unsecured.

"That will ultimately depend on state allocations, and of course how we get through this coming year," he said.

## Support groups step up

A bright spot in an otherwise gloomy fiscal picture can be seen in the support groups of Oklahoma museums and historic sites.

The Cherokee Nation is giving \$50,000 a year to offset the fiscal austerity. Cherokees are boosting budgets at the George Murrell Home in Park Hill, Fort Gibson, and the Sequoyah Cabin in Sallisaw.

The Pioneer Women Advisory Board, assisting the Pioneer Women Museum, writes a \$1,500 check each month to keep the Ponca City center at full operation.

Family members of the Fred Drummond Home have raised money to prevent cutbacks at the historic site in Hominy.

"It was in danger of being reduced to a part-time position," said Kathy Dickson. "I would have to say every place is in danger if our budget cuts continue, and we fully expect that next year."

If today's tight economy gets worse, many of the smaller museums and sites may see their staff reach a critical point. As of August, for example, the state's premier archeological site at Spiro Mounds will be down to one full time staff member.

The second member of the staff is retiring. However, a partial solution is under way. Dr. Zwink said "We are looking at contracting for grounds keeping services and a substitute site attendant."

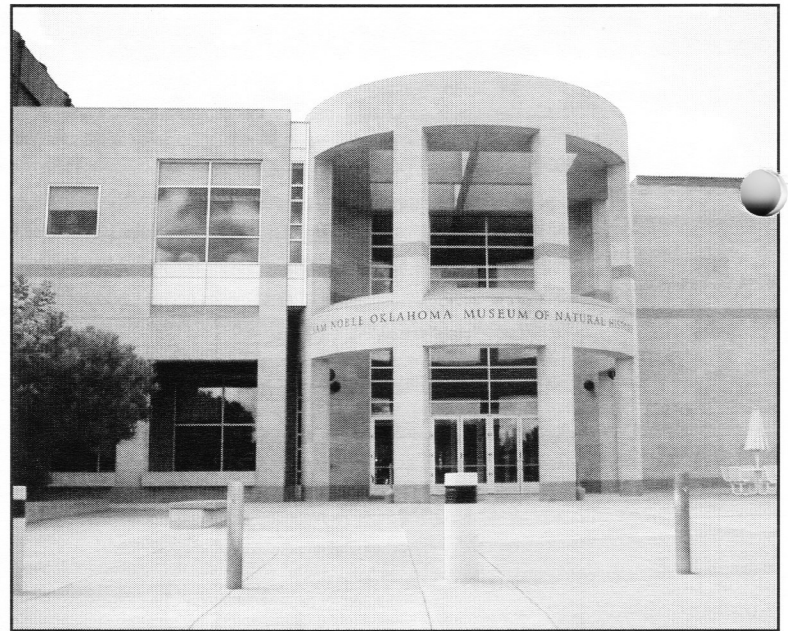
Given four years of budget cuts in Oklahoma, if the sites want to keep operating at near-normal levels, volunteers or significant revenue generation will be the only option for a museum.

Dickson said "We will need to rely on community partnerships to help us sustain operations. If solutions can't be found, it might be necessary to close sites."

"We are only able to operate with hundreds of volunteers ... and that's holding steady so far. It's very important, but there's also a limit to what we can do with volunteers."

Legal obligations, insurance and special training require regular staff members at the museums and historical sites.

Dr. Zwink also emphasizes their importance. Those with obvious interest are museum boards and friends of the museum, volunteer assistants to the staff, chambers of commerce, and business people.



The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Art in Norman

## State Natural History Museum escapes severe budget cuts

While other Oklahoma institutions and departments are struggling under budget restraints of 15 percent or more, the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History has been spared severe cuts, said Michael Mares, museum director and curator.

He estimates Oklahoma's major natural history museum has endured state funding cuts of about 7 percent, including permanent and temporary funds.

"Most of our cutbacks have been in positions, people leaving, and attrition. What that means is the staff is getting smaller, and is not replaced," Dr. Mares said.

"It has affected us, maybe less so than some other state agencies, and I am very glad of that," he said.

While admission income has been down, a lot of free admission days have translated to a higher attendance. On a recent Monday, the center had the rapt attention of 1,700 people, many of them ogling the lavish chocolate exhibit from Chicago.

## Archeological Survey also spared

Foresight is credited with saving the Oklahoma Archeological Survey from major cuts during a period of economic austerity, State Archeologist Bob Brooks said.

Based at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, the Survey office has benefitted from campus-wide plans by President David Boren.

"President Boren was thinking ahead and to some extent, prepared for some budget cuts going into this recession, so we have not had a direct reduction in budget," he said.

Other areas of state archeology also appear healthy. The Army Corps of Engineers has been using federal stimulus funds to stabilize archeological sites along streams and rivers in eastern Oklahoma, Dr. Brooks said.

"It's been said that we need to be grateful for our good fortune. Oklahoma is weathering this recession better than I anticipated," Dr. Brooks said.

# Arkansas Dalton excavation hints at cane forest, weapon retooling

## Additional archeological testing at a Dalton component site in Pike County, Ark.

By Roger E. Coleman  
Archeologist

Ouachita National Forest

Site 3PI418 contains a Dalton component dating approximately 10,500-9500 radiocarbon years before present.

The site occurs on Ouachita National Forest lands in Pike County, southwest Arkansas in the Langley vicinity, scarcely 40 miles from the Oklahoma state line.

The landform containing the site is composed of two distinct areas:

Area A, the lowest point on the landform at 900 feet above mean sea level (amsl) is a swale or saddle depression north of Area B.

Area B, the highest point at 920 feet above mean sea level (amsl) is a low ridge paralleling Little Blocker Creek a roughly east/west orientation. This is probably a Pleistocene age terrace, albeit unrecognizable today.

In 2009, Forest Service heritage personnel conducted test excavations at 3PI418.

Ten square meters were excavated and 379 lithic artifacts were recovered for a relatively low density of 64 artifacts per cubic meter.

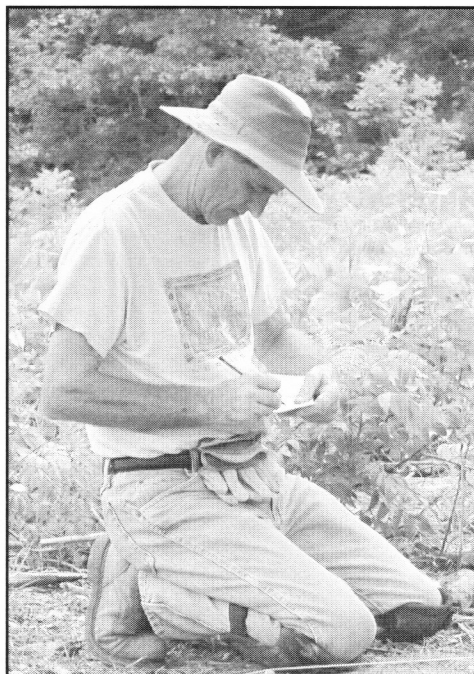
Dalton artifacts were encountered in both areas of the site.

Area B, however, exhibits a truncated Bt soil horizon and is a deflated ground surface. Area A, with a natural A/E/Bt horizon sequence, is depositional and appears to contain a buried Dalton horizon.

Dalton points were identified there in underlying sediments as deep as 54 cm. below datum.

Eight projectile points were recovered from excavated contexts reflecting an extremely high bifacial tool to debris ratio of 1:47. All were minimally exhausted and discarded.

No other tools — flake knives, scrapers, or scraper resharpening flakes for that matter — were recovered. Their absence, however, may reflect a bias stemming from the small sample size. Additional fieldwork was recommended.



**Chester Shaw, an OAS member from from Sheridan, Ark., catches up on his paperwork at the Pike County, Ark., dig in May and June.**

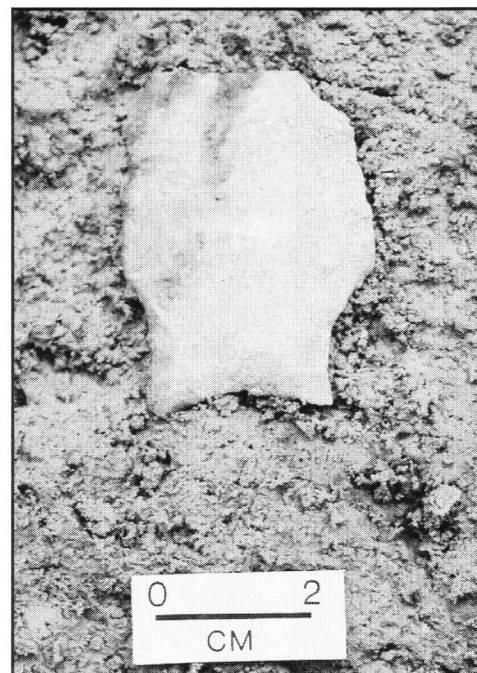
From May 3 through June 4, 2010, Forest Service heritage staff conducted further excavation at site 3PI418. Twenty one field days, or 629 person hours, were invested to excavate an additional 10 square meters in Area A.

Thirty one percent of all labor was from volunteer contributions, including 154 hours donated by Oklahoma Anthropological Society member Chester Shaw.

To promote recovery of paleobotanical remains, one unit was completely water screened from 0-70 cm below datum. The Dalton component was further isolated at 54-65 cm below datum.

Additional Dalton artifacts, including three Dalton points, were recovered. Two flake knives appear to have been utilized to cut hard surfaces. One rectangular unifacial flake tool is manufactured on a sandstone blade. It exhibits edge rounding.

A chert biface is shaped like an adze; however, it is relatively thin and lacks a woodworking bit. Colleagues from Mississippi remark that both artifacts resemble "square knives." This artifact type — at least in collector circles — is thought to have considerable



**Dalton points were encountered in both areas of the Ouachita National Forest site near Langley, Ark.**

antiquity.

Analysis of artifacts from Season two is ongoing and a third field season at 3PI418 is anticipated.

In spite of the abundance of Dalton points, this unusual site does not appear to be a hunting camp. Following two seasons of hard labor, neither scrapers nor scraper resharpening flakes for that matter, have been encountered.

Furthermore, while Dalton point bases are relatively common, projectile point tips are very rare.

This site is highly specialized. Our working hypothesis is that Dalton hunters were perhaps exploiting native cane forests, once perhaps flourishing in this section of the valley, and retooling their weaponry at site 3PI418.

Additional fieldwork will be undertaken to test this proposition. Special emphasis will be placed on tool wear patterns that may characterize a native cane industry.

Furthermore, diagnostic opal plant phytoliths will be used to reconstruct past vegetation and may indicate the presence of a cane community during the Dalton occupation.

# Fall Dig to explore antebellum Rose Hill Mansion

## OAS to work with History Society, state Archeological Survey office at site of pre-civil war plantation

A rare opportunity will soon arrive for archeological research in Oklahoma.

The time has come for shovels, trowels and screens at a major plantation home of pre-Civil War vintage, said state historian John Davis.

"The only other one we really interpret is the Merrell Home in Tahlequah. It was a plantation home, but not of this magnitude," Davis said.

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) will join the Oklahoma History Society (OHS) and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in the first authorized dig at Rose Hill Plantation. It has been surveyed, but unfortunately it gets most of its excavation at the hands of treasure hunters.

In March 2010 the site achieved listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The antebellum farm has a romantic, if troubled past. Rose Hill is one of seven plantations owned by 19th century entrepreneur Robert M. Jones.

A mixed-blood Choctaw, Jones became the richest member of the Choctaw Nation. He is said to have owned between 200 and 500 slaves. He had two steamboats and perhaps two dozen trading posts and stores.

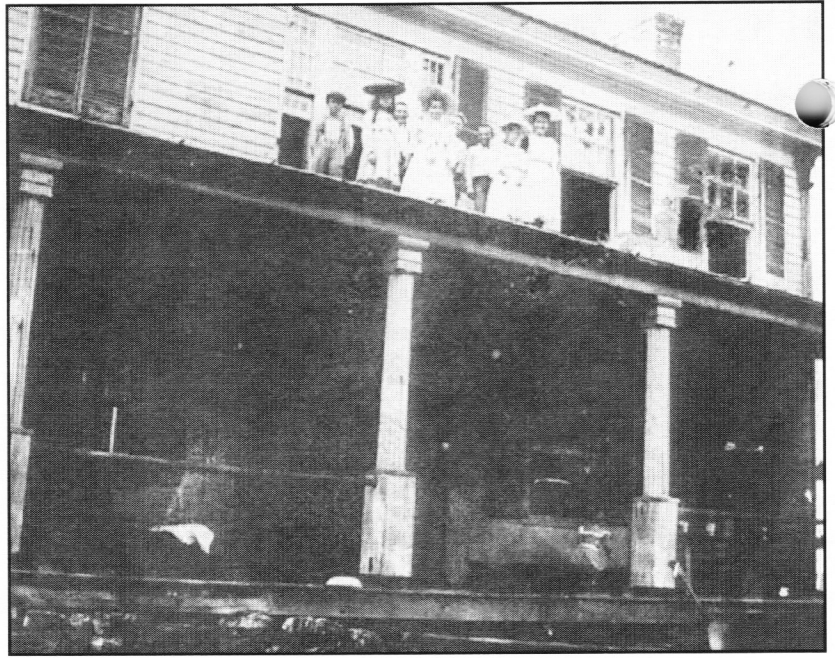
He operated a Louisiana sugar cane plantation and mill in addition to his Red River cotton farms in Indian Territory. His holdings encompassed thousands of acres, most of them in what is now Oklahoma.

But as with other Southern tribes people in his time, he backed the losing side in the Civil War. Col. Jones was an influential Choctaw representative to the 1861 Confederate Congress.

After the war he lost his slaves, and saw the Choctaws punished for their support of the Confederacy. He died of malaria in 1873.

Operation of the Rose Hill Plantation endured squabbles among his descendants and fell into ruin. Shortly after the turn of the century, fire reduced the mansion and its outbuildings to rubble. Little evidence of its historic importance remains in its isolation, about a half-mile from a country road near Hugo.

Today 40 acres of the plantation are owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society.



Rose Hill mansion was a tourist site even after it was abandoned. (Oklahoma Historical Society Photo)

## Rose Hill Mansion a once-loved home

A once-cherished antebellum plantation in southeast Oklahoma will get scrutiny it has not had since it burned at the turn of the century.

"We will be looking for details," said John Davis, state historian at nearby Fort Towson. "There's been no formal excavation at this site, although there was a short survey in the mid-'90s."

Assisted by Bob Rea, OHS His-

toric Sites Director, Davis will coordinate the Oct. 7-10 dig at Rose Hill Plantation near Hugo. Cooperating in the venture will be the OHS, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. They will focus on discovery and evaluation of sub-surface structures at the Choctaw County site.

A prosperous 19th century entrepreneur, Robert M. Jones built the sprawling farmstead, died there, and was buried in a family cemetery.

Although he had several plantations, Rose Hill was his favorite. Said to be a large and imposing man, he married in succession three wives. Only two of his several children survived to adulthood.

Historic records indicate within a half-century after Jones built it, the place was abandoned. According to the *Husonian Democrat* newspaper, published in Hugo, the plantation burned on Feb. 23, 1911.

Archeology is expected to provide physical evidence that would prove or disprove the historical records.

Recent research started in April with remote sensing and coring. Oklahoma Archeological Survey staff members Lee Bement, Scott Hammerstedt

### At a glance

**When:** Oct. 7-10, 2010

**Dig supervisors:** Bob Rea and John Davis, Oklahoma Historical Society, Fort Towson (580) 873-2634

**OAS Dig Chairman:** William Menzie, Walters (405) 820-4189

**Where:** Rose Hill antebellum plantation, 3 miles southeast of Hugo

**Hotels/Parks:** Hugo has two RV parks with laundry and full hook-ups within 9 miles of the site. Nearby Hugo Lake State Park has several RV and camping sites with water, dump stations and showers. Hugo has three hotels, several restaurants, and a Wal-Mart store.

# Rose Hill plantation house built too late for its period

Robert Jones lavished love and wealth on his Rose Hill plantation. Despite his attention, it was an untimely period to build a great house in the American South.

The plantation culture was dying, soon to be a victim of an uncivil war that ravaged the Confederacy and its allies. Jones, a wealthy Choctaw merchant and farmer, could not know he would lose so much, so soon after he started building his dream home near Hugo.

Historic records account for much of the mansion's rise and demise.

Beginning in 1840, Jones fashioned a two-story, 15-room mansion. He and his wives – his first two wives died and he married a third time – finished the place in maple, walnut and mahogany woodwork. They added it with European furniture, a library and a portrait gallery.

While he built the original structure with logs, he enhanced the exterior with clapboard siding.

He installed verandas on two sides. Tall white posts added to the home's vaulted appearance when viewed from the



**Robert Jones and wife Susan Colbert  
(Oklahoma Historical Society Photo)**

south.

Inside, the rooms were decorated with different wood finishes using lumber from around the country. Lighting fixtures were imported from France.

The hallways were spacious. A colonial stairway led from the main hall to the second story, but there also was a secret stairway known

only to those familiar with the place, and later a focal point of ghost stories.

Great stone fireplaces opened into nearly every room.

For landscaping Jones imported a variety of tree that became known as the Rose Hill Cedar. He planted along the entrance road and around the sprawling lawn, providing shade and a distinctive green accent. The saplings, now grown to mighty trees, are a landmark at the historic place.

Jones laid a marble slab sidewalk from the house to an intersection with a military road leading to the Red River. To the southwest, beyond the road, were the slave quarters.

The grassy lawn led to a flower-filled tract the family lovingly called their Deer Park. There an earthen walkway separated two ponds.

The walkway and ponds are among few original landscape elements visible at the plantation today.

Jones laid out a family cemetery after he lost an infant child. Over the years, the burial plot became a resting place for four of his children, his wife of many years, his father-in-law, and finally Jones himself.

He was interred in 1871. The Masons set a cemetery cornerstone to commemorate his life.

Even after his passing, the home remained an architectural drawing card. Serving as a community center, it held dances and festivals into the late 1880s.

According to a 1928 story in The Daily Oklahoman, after years of family squabbles, the house was abandoned and fell into decay.

Stories of ghostly signs, doors opened by unseen hands, and shadowed figures moving on the stairs were common. That stopped when a 1911 fire reduced the place to ashes and stone.

Eventually the home's main visitors were vandals. Armed with metal detectors and shovels, they pockmarked the landscape, looking for treasure, one eye on the ground and one eye on the crumbling outline of the old mansion.

They are particularly active during Halloween, so a volunteer has the assignment of keeping watch then and at certain other times of the year.

## Rose Hill at once-loved home

*(Continued from Page 6)*

and Amanda Regnier conducted the survey west and southwest of the site cemetery, itself located in the center of the grounds.

For decades, weeds and trees had their way at the 40-acre tract. That's been a good thing, since a rough landscape helps deter vandalism.

Pothunters and treasure seekers dislike thick undergrowth. It obscures their targets and slows them down, Davis said.

Some clearing has been done in preparation for the OAS Fall Dig.

Plans are to focus on the mansion foundation. Following the rubble outline of the home, trowels are likely to turn up Choctaw pottery, period China tableware, other household goods and assorted metal and fencing.

In addition to locating the main house and ancillary foundation, Davis hopes to map a stone path leading from the house to a military road.

Also probed will be anomalies near the house. However, neither graves nor slave quarters will be examined.

"The plan is to gather enough information for a National Historic Landmark nomination. We want to interpret the site with trails and signage, and open it to the public. We need more details to do that," Davis said.

# Spring Dig finds Fourche Maline house, hearth

Preliminary findings of the 2010 OAS Spring Dig confirm the Fourche Maline culture, a Woodland period group, had several things in common with Caddoan descendants, archeologist Luther Leith said.

Although the relationship is no surprise, finding evidence has been slow. It was hoped the excavation could add more proof of the cultural link, said Leith, a University of Oklahoma doctoral candidate.

Volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society joined him at the site May 28-June 5 near Wilburton. Dr. Scott Hammerstedt supervised.

Although the excavators worked under muggy conditions topping 100 degrees Fahrenheit, they adjusted by starting at 7:30 a.m. and ending the day at about 2:30 p.m.

The nearby Fourche Maline Creek was a pleasant diversion. The site had a surprising lack of bugs.

William Menzie, OAS Dig Committee chairman, was satisfied with the results, he said.

"Everything was great," Menzie said. "We had about 35 people show up. We took a tour of the site, and dug about 15-20 units. We even picked some blackberries that were all around us," Menzie said.

As proposed, the dig returned to the McCutchan-McLaughlin site in Latimer County, south of the San Bois Mountains.

The site was previously excavated in 1976-1977 by OU field schools and the OAS. Their focus was the mound on the site. Leith's goal was to excavate off the mound, look-

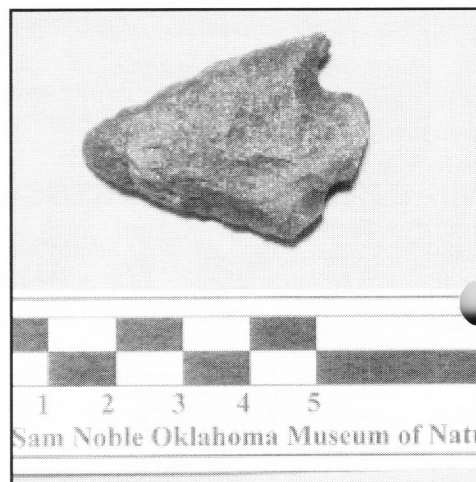


Battling heat and humidity under the shade of a tent are Andy Slaucitajs, Tulsa, left, and Phil Marshala, Oklahoma City, volunteers at the OAS Spring Dig.

ing for domestic and habitation remains. Leith tested recently acquired remote sensing data.

While he's still at work on the findings, Leith was able to draw several preliminary conclusions, he said.

--The house floor was a yellowish clay that looked compacted. Found at a depth of about 50 centimeters, the

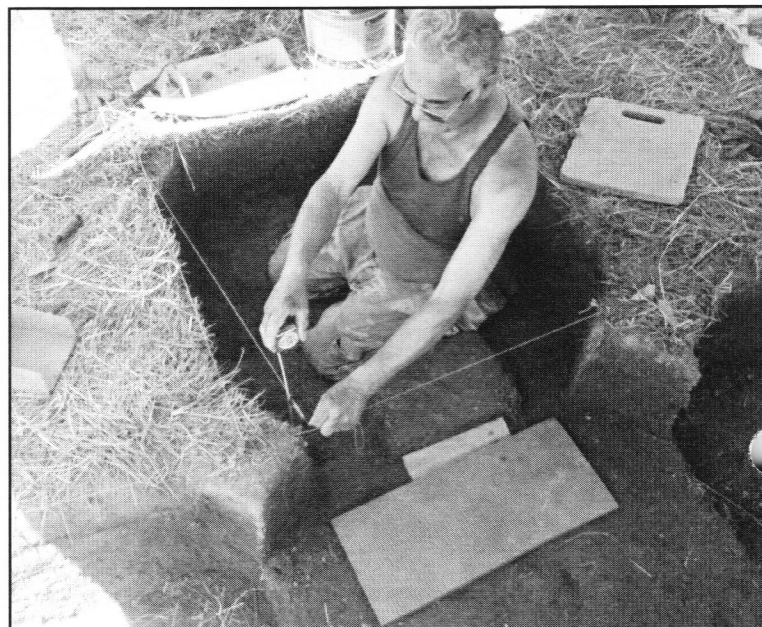


The notched dart point found at the site, above; veteran OAS volunteer Charles Surber measures his square, below.

(See *Spring Dig* Page 9)



Liz Leith and 14-month-old Malcolm share a mother-son moment at the 2010 OAS Spring Dig.





# Spring Dig

*(Continued from Page 8)*

clay was probably swept clean when the house was abandoned, as was the custom of the later Caddo and Wichita.

"This is the first Fourche Maline house recovered in Oklahoma, so that's exciting," Leith said. "The only other house associated with Fourche Maline – and it needs to be re-analyzed – is 3GA3, the Poole Site in Arkansas. It was excavated by the WPA (Works Progress Administration)."

*Photos provided by Ed Mayfield, Trina Menzie, Luther Leith, Guy Folger.*

-- Three possible post holes were identified at the perimeter of the yellow clay circle, indicating a house about 30 feet in diameter. The post holes were typical of support beams for grass houses.

"The house may have been dismantled, which may account for the rarity of post molds," Leith said.

-- Found in the circle's center, where it could be expected, was a grayish layer about 1 meter in diameter, likely a hearth.

-- Unusual for the absence in a mound site area, artifacts uncovered were minimal. Diggers found about 20 flakes and a single large stone tool. Initially thought to be a Gary point, the broken piece was relegated to a notched dart point. It dates to late Archaic or early Woodland group occupation, Leith said.

Even though Leith does not intend to return to the site, he feels there is potential to check anomalies that appeared in electronic surveys, he said.



**The original Fourche Maline Mound, now a slight incline, is shown at the tree line seen from the OAS 2010 Spring Dig site near the San Bois Mountains in southeast Oklahoma.**



**Happy diggers Tim and Simone Rowe, above, pause for a smile at the OAS 2010 Spring Dig.**

**Under the big top things get busy as OAS volunteers excavate at the 2010 Spring Dig near the San Bois Mountains.**

OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



# The Raiding Moon

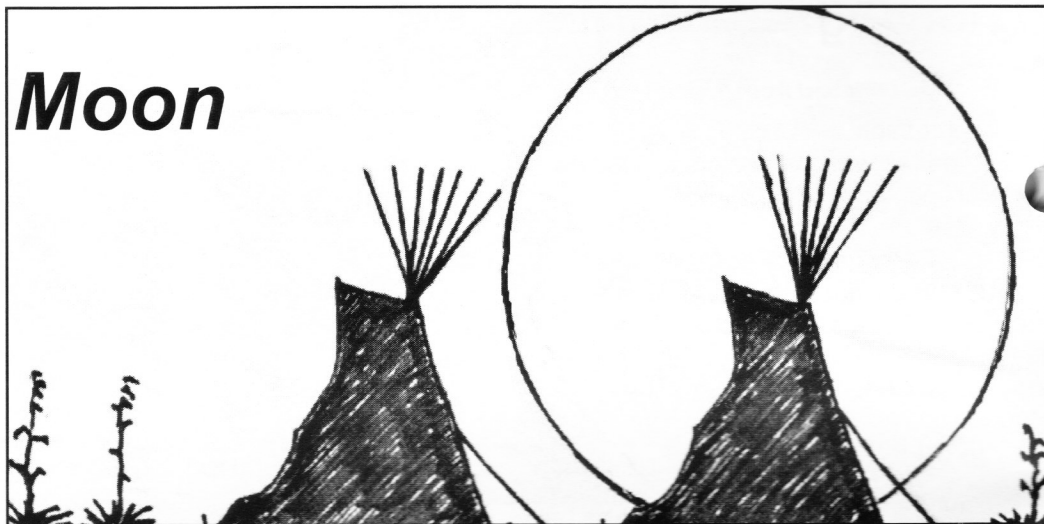
By Seth Hawkins

The call sounded throughout the village. There was to be a raid on the settlements down below. A raucous group of 20 warriors arrived at the designated point, armed and provisioned with enough food to get them there, make a lightning night raid on the herds, and quickly retreat to the cover of the hills and forests, returning to their own kinsmen with their valuable prizes.

They set out as the new day was breaking, their eyes squinting against a brilliant sun as it rose over the eastern mountains. They traveled rapidly on foot, arriving at the edge of the flat plains, waiting expectantly within their protective hills for the rising of the full moon and the cover of darkness.

The raiding moon was up.

They moved quickly, silently, avoiding the village, heading straight for the grazing herds. When enough four-legged booty had been rounded up, the raiders rapidly made their way toward the safety of the hills, hiding among the clefts, peaks, and wooded valleys dur-



*Drawing by Seth Hawkins*

ing the day until their safe return was assured, eluding those who would seek retribution.

If you envisioned a clandestine Ute raiding party sweeping down out of the Rockies onto some unsuspecting Comanche village encamped near a temporary playa on the Llano, or a Kiowa foray striking south out of the Wichitas against an isolated Texas farming community situated along the Brazos, you were only a quarter of a world away from being right.

Among the Highland Clans along the southern border of Scotland, it was an honorable endeavor to increase

one's wealth in cattle by raiding the herds of settlements in the lowlands.

This way of life ran deep and dark among these clansmen. It has been told that after God created the first Highlander, a conversation ensued which went something like this:

"What will you now?" asked God of the Highlander. The Highlander answered, "I will down to the Lowland, Lord, and there steal a cow."

Now that is a sentiment that would have made any horse-loving Comanche proud.

## Historic Fort Gibson due remodel

Fort Gibson, fast becoming one of Oklahoma's premier historical and archeological sites, is scheduled for a \$1 million remodeling. Completion is expected by spring 2012. That falls within the sesquicentennial of the Civil War (1861-65).

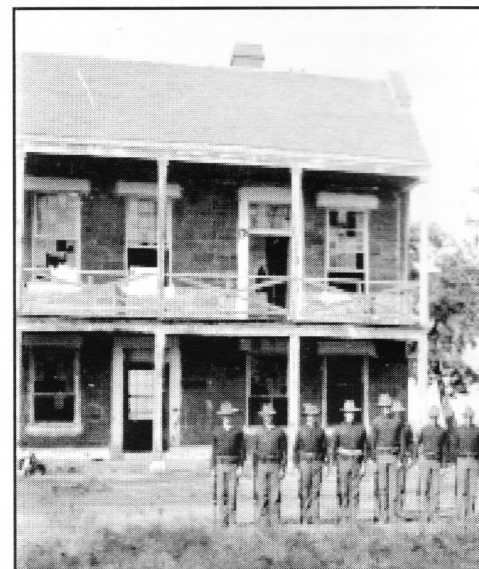
Bob Blackburn of the Oklahoma Historical Society announced the update in April. He said renovation includes installing a drainage system to divert water from log structures; replacing roofs on all sections of the stockade; and replacing deteriorated logs. Also planned are upgrades for the mess hall, commanding officers' quarters, hospital, barracks, and adjutants' headquarters.

Blackburn, the History Society's Executive Director, said \$200,000 in state funds were used to secure a \$200,000 match from Save America's Treasures through the National Park Service. Added to that was a \$645,000 grant from the U.S. Transportation Department.

Blackburn said "Places like this draw us together, remind us that we are all Oklahomans, that we have a shared history and we have worked together to improve our community," according to a Tulsa World story. "So much of American history came through this military post, through the Civil War into the days of the land runs," he said.

Recent archeological excavations by the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, in unison with the Oklahoma Archeological Survey office and Oklahoma Historical Society, have notably added to the fort's lore. Principal archeologist in the research has been Dr. Leland Bement of the survey office.

Founded on the east side of the Grand River as Cantonment Gibson in 1824, the site was renamed Fort Gibson in 1832. It played a role in the removal



*Oklahoma Historical Society Photo*

of Eastern tribes to Indian Territory and in the Civil War. It was abandoned in 1890.

The first excavations were led by Bill Lees of the Historical Society in 2003. Dr. Bement began investigations in 2006. Recent work there identified foundations of the original fort.



Minutes of the OAS Board Meeting are presented in brief. For a full transcript, see the report by OAS Secretary Trina Menzie on the OAS Website [www.okarcheology.org](http://www.okarcheology.org)

## April 10, 2010

**Treasurer** (Cathy Compton) Cathy was ill; report tabled until July meeting.

**Membership Report** (Jana Brown) reported 385 members, including 33 new members, with 262 members renewed, 103 delinquent.

A new OAS brochure is being prepared by newsletter editor Jon Denton.

### Editor's Reports

**OAS Journal** (Bob Brooks) He will send letters soliciting articles for publication. Cheatham suggested an index of Oklahoma Archeological publications. Brooks stated there needs to be a bibliography of OAS newsletters from 1950s to present.

**OAS Trowel Marks** Newsletter (Jon Denton) Jon is working on revamping format to focus on membership services.

**Printed Materials** (Mary McHard) Total received was \$535, with small Points Guide 26 sold; Bell-Perino Point Guides 5 sets; Annual Bulletins 6; Memoirs 5; OAS handbooks 4; Trowel Marks 4.

**Archive Copies:** The Board approved keeping two paper copies and one digital copy of each publication. A comprehensive digital archive project was discussed, with tentative plans for scanning documents by Trina Menzie and Liz Leith. Liz said she had already scanned Bulletin No. 2.

**Certification** (Scott Hammerstedt) Survey link for OAS Certification Questionnaire sent out. Historic archeology is being identified as the members' prime area of interest.

**Spring Dig** (William Menzie) The dig may be limited to a single location instead of two sites as initially planned. The site is Fourche Maline habitation 34Lt11 south of Red Oak.

**Fall Dig Proposal** was presented by William Menzie for historian John Davis. The dig is Oct. 7-10 at Rose Hill Plantation near Hugo.

**Nomination** (Cheatham) Committee's nominations were approved by acclamation as follows:

Officer positions were filled by incumbents Treasurer Cathy Compton, Secretary Trina Menzie and Membership Chair Jana Brown.

At-Large Director positions through 2013 were filled by outgoing incumbents Ed Mayfield, Oklahoma City; Francie Sisson, Anadarko; and Richard Drass, Noble; and in a vacancy, Andy Slaucitajs, Tulsa.

Two 2010 At-Large Director vacancies were filled by Charles Surber, Tulsa, and Stephen Perkins, Edmond.

**Awards:** Memoir editor and longtime OAS mentor Dr. Don Wyckoff, Norman, was presented the first annual OAS Buck Wade Award. Liz Leith accepted the award for Wyckoff.

**Chapter Representatives** presented reports.

## OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



## 2010 OAS Membership Subscription Form

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DESIRED

- Active** \$20 Receive the annual OAS Bulletin and quarterly OAS Newsletter Trowel Marks.
- Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
- Contributing** \$30 Receive issues annually of the annual OAS Bulletin, the quarterly OAS Newsletter, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- Sustaining** \$40 Receive issues the annual OAS Bulletin, the quarterly Newsletter Trowel Notes, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- Associate** \$5 for one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
- Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a Sustaining membership throughout the lifetime of member.
- Institutional** Domestic \$30 ( ) Institutional Canada/Mexico \$35 ( ) Institutional Other/Foreign \$40

I would like my copy of Trowel Marks Newsletter emailed to me at \_\_\_\_\_ (email address)

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Becoming a member (or renewing membership) of OAS is easy.** Fill out this form and send it with payment (check or money order) to Jana Brown, OAS Membership, 4804 NE Winfield Circle, Lawton, OK 73507-6121

# ProtoJudy Mammoth find gets additional scrutiny

Support and interest from unexpected quarters are giving new life to a mammoth excavation near Grandfield.

Contact by soil scientists and an archeologist at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and a grant from the McMahon Foundation, are extending the research.

The expected month of work is now stretching toward two years, said Debra Baker, research archeologist at the Institute of the Great Plains, Lawton. Her partner in the project is Dr. Michael Dunn of Cameron University.

"It's gotten bigger than we thought it was," she said. "We thought we would go out and get a leg bone, and that would be it. But there's more in there, and now we have more things to do."

Joining Dr. Dunn, a paleobotany professor, are his students. Also assisting are volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and the Lawton museum.

Dr. Dunn began the original excavation in 2005 with the Cameron University Biology Club. After a brief interlude, they resumed the excavation in Oct. 2009 in conjunction with the Institute, the museum, and the Greater Southwest Chapter of the OAS.

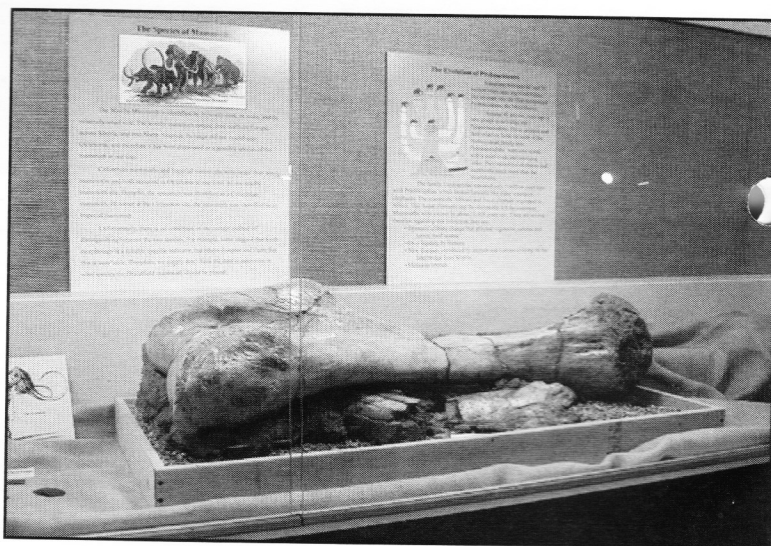
They have unearthed most of the beast they fondly call ProtoJudy.

Within the last year, Steve Holen approached the Institute. An archeologist at the Denver Museum, he wants to conduct fresh carbon 14 dating of the Grandfield Mammoth and the Cooperton Mammoth.

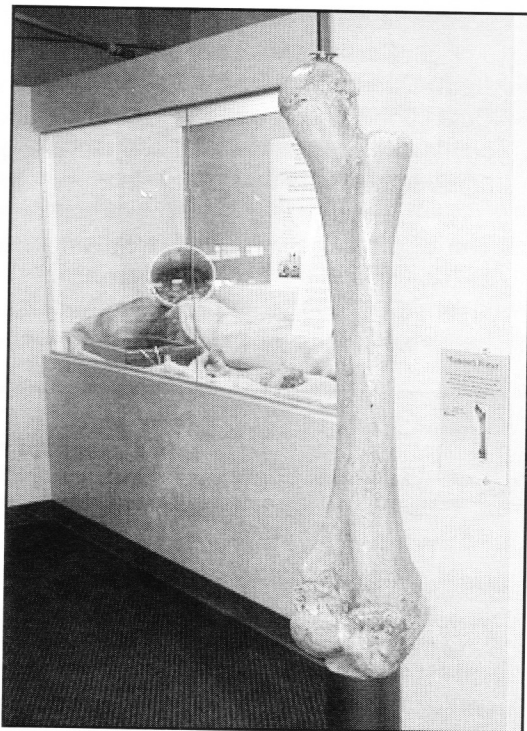
Cooperton, a Kiowa County site, was excavated by the Museum of Great Plains in 1961. Evidence there of human association includes hammer stones from a non-local origin that were used to break the bones for marrow immediately after the mammal's death. The crushing is known as "green bone breaks."

However, the Cooperton human-mammoth association has never won full acceptance from the scientific community.

Currently human association is not present with ProtoJudy, Debra said. The upper portion of the skull has not been located. Yet numerous teeth and the lower jaw have been found. With 80 percent of the animal present at the site, it's possible the rest of the pachyderm



The ProtoJudy Exhibit, a first look at the ongoing excavation by the Institute of the Great Plains, is on display at the Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.



may turn up.

As sometimes happens, there's a catch with the added interest: A carbon dating test costs \$1,200. That's \$2,400 for two tests, and it's money the Lawton group must raise on its own, Debra said.

At least the final cost of the excavation is covered, thanks to a \$2,000 matching grant from the McMahon Foundation, Debra said. That will take the excavation through a county road. Tillman County Commissioner Kent Smith has given the project a green light and agreed to temporarily close the thoroughfare.

The environment that seemed to surround ProtoJudy about 10,500 years ago

is preserved in the site as well. A plant of an Equisetum sp. was found in the mammoth's spinal area. Dr. Dunn is hoping to determine if the plant is stomach content.

Mussel shells were also found adjacent to the mammoth remains. The shells are a revealing discovery, since the site is about one-quarter mile above Deep Red Creek. It is possible the elevated area was submerged in a lake.

Also interesting is the soil that surrounds the site.

"The inclined area almost has a very small valley that cradles the two creeks. Then immediately the land levels off at the highest elevation. The earth consists of a deep dark brown soil, ideal for the cotton field that is there," Debra said.

Visitors to the Lawton museum can already see results of the dig. The Museum opened a ProtoJudy exhibit in April. Most of the dig's bones are present – a large humerus, ribs, spine, scapulas and multiple bone fragments.

With the added interest, the project may continue for another two years, Debra said. By then, most of the students who started the project will be graduates, having experienced a hands-on class in paleontological and archeological techniques.

OAS member Debra Baker is research archeologist at the Institute of the Great Plains and Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.

# Useful Oklahoma wild plants there for the picking

Second in series

By Neil Garrison

The pioneer American and American Indian had a great deal in common. Both were adaptable, adjusted to hardship, and always in search of useful plants. Plants provided a grocery store, pharmacy, beauty shop and winter comfort zone, all in one.

For the purpose of several short articles on this theme, I'm including plants found in the homes of both Indians and pioneers. Often the two learned from each other.

## Snow on the Mountain

Some of the common names for wild plants lack descriptive power. Not so Snow on the Mountain. It is a somewhat unattractive plant that gets about chest-high at summer's end, and then puts on a flashy spray of white at the apex of the plant stem.

If you squint your eyes just right, you might say it resembles a green-colored mountain capped with a snowy crown. Attractive, yes. Snow on a mountain, maybe. But not altogether friendly.

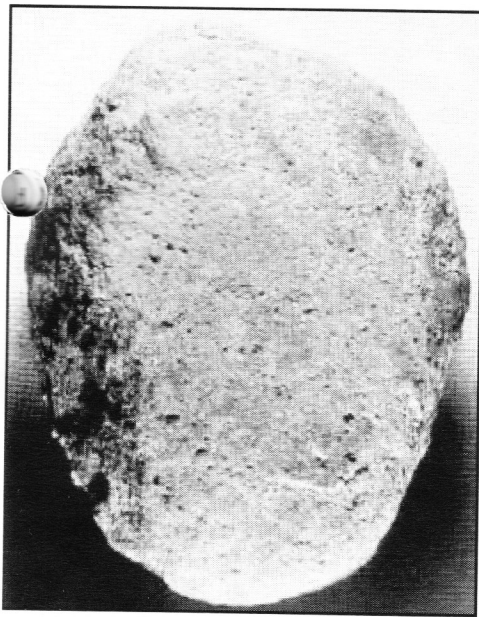
A friend of mine decided to have an outdoor wedding. In retrospect, she admits now that I should have been hired as a wedding consultant. If I had been there, I would have cautioned her not to use Snow on the Mountain to fashion the wedding wreath for her headband.

She was, of course, quite attractive in nature's own tiara. However, she discovered (too late!) that the bruised stems of this plant ooze a white latex substance. When they rubbed her skin, she had a most disagreeable irritation. As one might expect, it cast a pallor over what was intended to be a festive occasion.

I could have told her that frontier cattlemen used to use this latex to brand their cattle. It's not the sort of thing that you want to slather on your body.



**Snow on the Mountain: Valuable to frontier cattlemen who used it to brand their cattle, but approach the plant with caution.**



**Possible hammerstone from the Cooperton site (Oklahoma Archeological Survey Photo)**

## Cooperton Mammoth good for an argument

The Cooperton mammoth site has been a bone of contention since archeologists discovered the ancient beast in a dig 50 years ago near the Wichita Mountains.

According to the Oklahoma Historical Society, the heart of the debate concerns whether humans were involved with the Cooperton Mammoth. The bones are several millennia older than generally accepted dates for North American mammoth kill sites.

The evidence for humans went beyond stone tools. There were unusual patterns of bone fracture and distribution. That provided provocative testimony for a human presence.

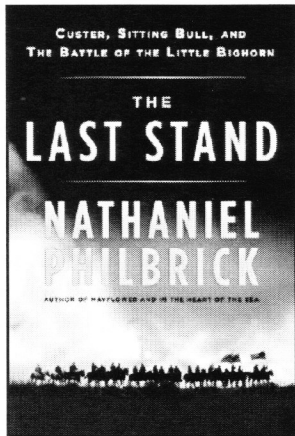
The tools were rough. Four granite cobbles were interpreted as hammer stones and an anvil used to break bones. However, since all other stones in the soil deposit were tiny pebbles, the cobbles were out of place. They were possibly imported by humans.

Leg bone fragments had fractures similar to those made when fresh bone is broken.

The dating is contentious. Three radiocarbon dates ranged from 17,000 to 21,000 years ago. That's more than 5,000 years earlier than bone dates found elsewhere in the area.

# Book Reviews

Jon Denton  
Reviews Editor



***The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull, and the Battle of the Little Bighorn***  
By Nathaniel Philbrick, 456 Pages  
Viking Press, New York 2010, \$26  
Illustrated with maps and photos;  
ISBN 978-0-670-02172-7

Review by Neil Garrison

My primary motivation for the initial purchase of this book was my familiarity with the book's author.

He had previously written a non-fiction book, "In the Heart of the Sea," about the sinking of the whale ship Essex by a rogue sperm whale, and the subsequent episode of human cannibalism of the shipwreck survivors in the lone whaleboat.

I thoroughly enjoyed that true-life yarn about human frailties on the open ocean, and I was eager to read this author's take on the classic clash between the Army Cavalry and the American Indians on the western frontier.

Philbrick is an accomplished wordsmith. His retelling of the saga of the Battle of the Little Bighorn is very well done.

The thing I most enjoyed was Philbrick's willingness to interject his interpretation on what was really going on during that date in our nation's history. I am glad that he did not just confine him-

self to a dry recounting of facts and figures.

The happy result was as if Philbrick had transformed my armchair into a time machine that magically took me to 1876, south of the Yellowstone River, when two very different cultures bashed head-to-head with tragic results for all parties involved.

The book also delves into the Battle of the Washita (near present day Cheyenne, OK). That Indian Territory massacre set the stage for things to come years later in what is now present-day Montana.

I have read numerous books about both Custer and Sitting Bull, but I was pleased to discover that Philbrick had new nuggets of biographical information about both of these larger-than-life characters.

You would do well to get your own copy of this book and settle in for an enjoyable summer read.

OAS member Neil Garrison is a naturalist living in Yukon.

**Oklahoma: A History**  
By Danney Goble and W. David Baird  
University of Oklahoma Press, 2008  
Illustrated 352 Pages, \$24.95  
ISBN: 978-0-8061-3910-4

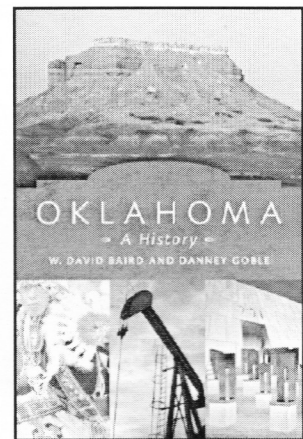
Review by Jon Denton

While few of us would buy a text on a topic we already knew a lot about (or thought we did), it behooves us to keep an open mind when it comes to history.

Oklahoma history in particular. Sometimes it can be refashioned in a way that pleases and surprises us.

Baird and Goble's book has enough style, crisp writing, and brevity of topic to keep things interesting. It is touted as the only single-volume, narrative history of Oklahoma for a general audience. That is important to young students who like a good story along with the facts.

In other words, it serves as a perfect text. It flows from geology to genealogy, from ancient inhabitants to the



Oklahoma Centennial celebration, taking in enough history-making events to remind us "I knew that" but I didn't know enough.

Once again we see history made by Will Rogers, Sequoyah, the Land Runs, John Ross, the Glenn Pool oil strike. We also meet early explorer Jean-Baptiste La Harpe, the Chouteau brothers who got rich trading with the Osage, and trail breaker Jesse Chisholm.

To enrich the journey, we get 40 illustrations, 11 of them maps, and an appendix with suggestions for trips to Oklahoma's historic places. Further reading is suggested, a plus for researchers all ages.

Baird is Dean of Seaver College and a history professor at Pepperdine University in California. Goble (1946–2007) was a classics professor at the University of Oklahoma.

If Oklahoma history is important to you, then this book should be on your shelf.

Jon Denton is editor of OAS Trowel Marks newsletter.

**Custer Survivor: The end of a myth, the beginning of a legend**  
By John Koster, Paperback 210 pages  
Chronology Books 2008, \$16.95  
ISBN-10: 1933909-03-X

Review by Ed Mayfield

The year is 1876. On May 10, President Ulysses S. Grant opens the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. Without question the exhibition promises to be the sole subject on everyone's mind back East.

Out West, something else was about to unfold, an event that was to strip everything else that happened that spring.

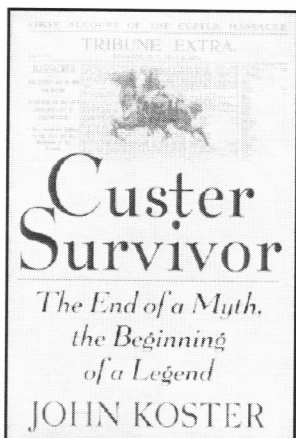
In "Custer Survivor," John Koster sets the stage with the proposition that

there was a lone survivor at the Little Big Horn, a battle that was tailor made for fraudulent claims.

From the outset, almost before the telegraph began clicking news of the outcome of the battle, survivor stories begin to surface. At last count, over 200 of them range from sublime to outrageous.

Yet among all the claims that fall short of any truth whatsoever, one stood out. The survivor in question was August Finckle, a farmer from Washington state, American-born and German speaking. At the time of the battle, Finckle was a sergeant, a ferrier who made sure the cavalry soldiers saddled up on a sure-footed animal.

Although his claim lay dormant until April 1920, it was under the most



mundane circumstance that Finckle's admission came out. It was Sunday and the sounds that emanated from the Finckle Farm must have been soothing and peaceful. The clinking of horse-shoes filled the air, then out of nowhere, talk of Custer and those blasted Indians reached Finckle's ear.

Being married to a full blood Cherokee, he rebuked the statement.

"What do you know about Custer's Last Stand?" somebody challenged him.

"Know about it! Hell, I was there," Finckle said.

With diligent research, author Koster, an award winning writer and historian, makes a solid case that Finckle did survive. How he evaded the murderous circle of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors, his escape and the successful life that followed, turns "Custer Survivor" into a fast and engaging read.

Koster clears up confusion over the recorded enlistment of Frank Finkel,

actually August Finckle. They were the same height, had the same hair color, eye color, the same handwriting, and each spoke English and German. In fact, for reasons made clear by Sgt. Finckle's eventual desertion from the Army, they were one and the same man.

On the obverse side of this story, a mountain of credible facts unequivocally concludes that none of the 210 troopers under command of Lt. Col. George Armstrong lived. It has become part of America's Western lore, the topic of a thousand fanciful stories.

Not that others with Custer's 7th Cavalry Regiment failed to escape. A horse owned and ridden by Capt. Myles W. Keogh was found after the battle. The animal, "Comanche," walked away unbelievably after being shot seven times.

He was found wandering around the battlefield. With great care he was gingerly transported to Fort Abraham Lincoln. He recovered and lived to the age of 28. He is forever preserved, a life-like mount at Kansas State University.

As a student of Custerology, I have studied from many different perspectives the tactics, battle formations, and troop movement of the conflict. I believe it would have been possible for someone to have gotten through the din, gun smoke, dust and horrendous confusion that scarred the Wyoming battlefield.

Although Koster uses a rather broad brush in his storytelling, he makes a very compelling and convincing story of the man who got away, a true Custer survivor.

*Ed Mayfield is President of the OAS Central Chapter.*

### **Cro-Magnon: How the ice age gave birth to the first modern humans**

**By Brian Fagan, 2010**

**Bloomsbury USA**

**Hardcover, 296 pages, \$28**

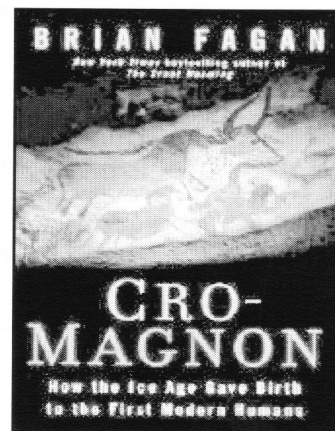
**ISBN-13: 9781596915824**

*Review by Jon Denton*

Brian Fagan is among the best-selling authors of archeological literature, a popular writer of popular science. He can be windy, obvious and redundant. He loves to tell a story, yet his narratives are highly interpretive.

It's clear Fagan writes because he must. As always among academics, it's publish or perish. That gives the book a sense of rush, to get it into print before somebody else beats him to the topic.

You have to question his direc-



tion. For example, in "Cro-Magnon," he spends so much time on Neanderthals that a more apt title would be "Neanderthals: How they gave it up to Cro-Magnons."

With due respect to the need for context, from all we know, Neanderthals contributed little to modern humans except by dying off and leaving the mammoths to better hunters.

Once past that hump in history, what emerges in "Cro-Magnon" is a clean sweep by a dominant species. We follow big events in the formative period of the modern race, including Mount Toba's volcanic eruption, a disastrous blast that decimated the human population 70,000 years ago. Agriculture happens 10,000 years ago, and with it a transformation of upright primates into an imaginative, planning, technically talented and fecund people.

And how they prospered and evolved. They hunted beasts 25 times their size, gathered and selected nutritious plants as crops, painted vivid murals, etched their stories on cliffside perches, carved ingenious tools from bone and stone, and did it all while battling a drier, colder climate.

Fagan tells the story well, bonding archeological science and early human culture in a friendly way, as if he were sitting in an English pub, fire crackling, calling for another pint, clearly a masterful raconteur on his favorite topic.

As a plus, the color plates are stunning and the illustrations are helpful.

Read this if you enjoy Fagan and pre-history in a fact-packed narrative. Unless you are a collector, the library is your best bet.

*Jon Denton is editor of the OAS Trowel Marks Newsletter.*



# OAS Chapter Update



## **Ark-Homa Chapter (Fort Smith, Ark)**

Tim Mulvihill Representative  
(No meetings until September)  
September: TBA

## **Byrds Mill Springs Chapter (Ada)**

Carl Gilley Representative  
June-August no meetings  
September: Lesley Rankin-Hill

## **Central Chapter (Oklahoma City)**

Curt Hendricks Representative  
July: Annual Independence Day Picnic  
Aug: John Davis on Rose Hill Fall Dig  
Sept: Tim Baugh on Pre-Columbian civilization on the Plains

## **Cleveland County Chapter (Norman)**

Chapter Representative: Luther Leith  
(No meetings July-Aug)  
September: TBA

## **Kay County Chapter (Ponca City)**

Chapter Representative: George Hanggi  
(No meetings until September)

## **Greater Southwest Chapter (Lawton)**

Chapter Representative: Debra Baker  
July: (No meeting)  
Aug: Jon and Diana Denton on "Alibates: the Ribbon Rocks of Texas"

## **McAlester Archeological Society**

Chapter Representative: Connie Masters  
July: Burt Pelletier  
Aug: John Davis  
Sept: TBA

## **Tahlequah Archaeological Society**

Chapter Representative: Thomas Purdin  
July: David Marcus  
Sept: TBA

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## ***Trowel Marks***

Oklahoma Anthropological Society  
11550 Bartons Butte  
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