

Annual Bulletin covers baskets, bison, farming

Articles cover a range from prehistoric agriculture to Kickapoo baskets in the 2012 Oklahoma Anthropological Society Bulletin.

Edited and compiled by Bob Brooks of the Oklahoma Archeology Survey, the 90-page Bulletin is the first in years to include an article on Native American culture, Dr Brooks said in his introduction.

Marshall Getty's discussion on Kickapoo basketry notes Oklahoma's unique position as home to Native American tribes. He describes Kickapoo basketry as among the least collected and most poorly represented in public and private assemblies.

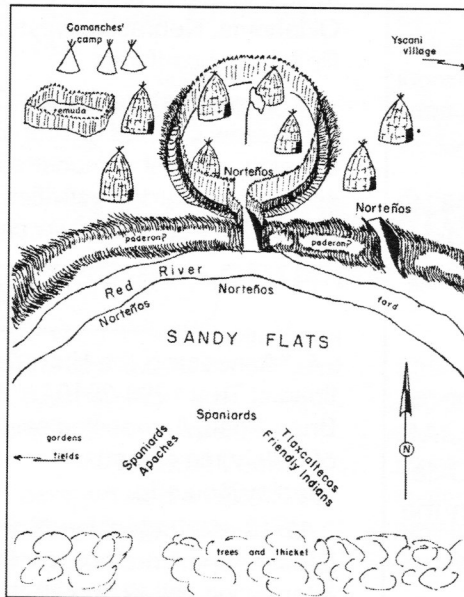
Getty's brief article highlights Kickapoo baskets and mats that may be encountered by a collector in Oklahoma.

"Settled in the area just east of Oklahoma City near Meeker, OK, the Kickapoo continue to shun many Euro-American influences, and for the most part items produced by traditional craft artists are consumed by the Kickapoo themselves with only a limited amount of material made for the outside market," Getty says.

His article includes a generous bibliography and references.

Next, Lee Bement, Kent Buehler, and Brian Carter discuss a late paleoindian bison kill near

(See Bulletin Page 5)



Great Plains Journal

A drawing depicts the Indian Fort at the Longest Site west of Marietta and south of Ringling on the Red River boundary of Texas and Oklahoma.

Dig set at Wichita village Spanish failed to capture

Evidence of an 18th century Indian fort will be sought by the Oklahoma Anthropological Society at the Spring Dig.

Set May 24-June 2, the excavation marks the Society's first visit to the Longest Site.

Located in Jefferson County on a broad terrace above the Red River, the 40-acre site is elevated above the flood plain. The site is named for the Longest farming family.

According to Spanish historical documents, Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla attacked the Wichita Indian village in 1759. Driving north across the Red River, he wanted to punish allied tribes that occasionally harassed Spanish missions and forts in Texas.

While he and his Apache allies were repulsed, he left detailed records of his expedition. The documents are a valuable part of research on the region, said Richard Drass of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

Dr. Drass directs the OAS Dig. Joining him as they have in the past are colleagues Steven Perkins of Oklahoma State

(See Longest Page 4)

How the past informs the present

OU anthropologists to offer varied topics at Spring Meeting

Speakers from the University of Oklahoma will offer a range of subjects at the Spring Meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

The April 20 session, held at Dale Hall on the OU campus in Norman, presents five faculty members. Program Coordinator Cathy Compton titles the session "OAS: A is for Anthropology."

Registration and the annual OAS Board Meeting begins at 8:15 a.m. OAS President Debra Baker, Lawton, will moderate the session

The theme is "How the past informs the present, and how research impacts current living populations as well as our understanding of the prehistoric human condition."

The speakers will cover some of their favorite topics. The program is open to the public.

A small fee will be charged at the door.

The OAS Cleveland County Chapter of the OAS will host the meeting. Leading the Norman chapter volunteers will be Simone Rowe and Elsbeth Dowd.

The first speaker is Lauren Cleeland. Her topic is "Oh, Those Pesky Parasites. Prehistoric Parasitism Informing the Modern World: A Case Study."

Susan Vehik follows with "Men Only? The Role of Women in the Little River Focus Council Circles of Central Kansas."

After a general meeting and a lunch break, the program resumes with a presentation of 2013 awards by OAS Awards Chairman Mary McHard.

Patrick Livingood discusses "How far away do you live from your chief?"

(See Meeting Page 3)

Time to renew

Simply fill out the OAS Membership Form in this newsletter, add a check or money order, and mail. That will do it for another year. We thank you.

(See Longest Page 4)



Trowel Marks Newsletter

A quarterly publication
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Executive Officers

Debra Baker, Lawton, President (580) 678-1416
Ed Mayfield, Oklahoma City, Vice President (405) 525-3343
Cathy Compton, Oklahoma City, Treasurer (405) 308-2829
Cari Foster, Oklahoma City, Secretary (405) 320-1993

Membership

You can find an application to join the Society or renew your membership, and information about OAS activities, publications and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology in this OAS Newsletter and on the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members also receive OAS Memoirs. For more information, contact Cathy Compton at (405) 308-2829

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs and other publications and material of The Society from the Publications Director. Contact Amanda Regnier at aregnier@ou.edu. OAS publications and materials are listed on the OAS Website.

OAS Newsletter

Editor Jon Denton and Co-Editor Diana Denton
(405) 376-0074 or 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.

OAS Website www.okarcheology.org

Events of Interest

March

22-23 Annual Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, Kansas State University, Manhattan. Preservation and archeological stewardship, Kansa Indian Archeology and other topics related to archeology and early peoples of Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, western Iowa and Missouri. See www.flinthillsarchconf.info.

23 Three Sisters Spring Celebration, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Chickasaw Cultural Center, Sulphur. Traditional games, stomp dancing, cultural demonstrations, living history performances, storytelling, garden activities. Gift shop and café specials. Admission free. See www.chickasawculturalcenter.com

April

4 "Assessing the Historicity of the Trojan War: Excavations at Troy 1988-2010," 7:30 p.m., visiting lecture by C. Brian Rose, Archaeological Institute of America, University of Oklahoma campus, Norman. Contact Farland Stanley at fstanley@ou.edu.

12-13 Heritage Days/Spring Encampment, Historic Fort Gibson. Sponsored by the Oklahoma Historical Society. For information call (918) 478-4088.

14 Facing the Storm: Story of the American Bison, 1:30 p.m. Sunday Matinee film, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa. Free with museum admission. <http://gilcrease.utulsa.edu/>

20 "A is for Anthropology" 8:15 a.m., OAS Annual Spring Meeting, Dale Hall, OU Norman campus. Contact cathy-compton@ouhsc.edu.

27 Tombstone Tales, 5:30 p.m. Historic Fort Reno, El Reno. Dinner and performance at Fort Post Cemetery. Stories of people who lived and died at the old fort as told by reenactors dressed as the folks they portray. Cost \$10 adults, \$9 seniors, \$5 children 5-12. See <http://www.fortreno.org>

May

11 Annual Archaeology Day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro. Archeologists explain, display and demonstrate tools of prehistory. Reenactors, flint knapping, Indian games of chunkee and stickball, guided tours of mounds. Call (918) 962-2062, spiomds@ipa.net.

24-June 2 OAS Spring Dig at the Longest site, an 18th century French-Indian village on the Red River. Volunteers welcome, OAS membership required to dig. For more information contact cathy-compton@ouhsc.edu or access www.okarcheology.org.

June

21 Summer Solstice Walks, Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center, Spiro. Guided tours at 11 a.m., 2 and 7 p.m. Mile walk reveals a unique prehistoric Native American mound site, types of mounds, why they were created, why some of the mounds are lined up for solstice and equinox sunsets. Admission and tour fees. Call (918) 962-2062, spiro@okhistory.org.

Trowel Marks

President Debra Baker

The OAS has some exciting events coming up.

They begin with the annual Spring Meeting April 20 in Norman. The title of the program is "OAS: 'A' is for Anthropology: How the past informs the present, and how research impacts current living populations as well as our understanding of the prehistoric human condition."

Program Coordinator Cathy Compton has arranged a great speaker lineup for what promises to be an exciting all-day event. You can find the full agenda on the OAS website.

* * *

Over the Memorial Day weekend in late May, the OAS Spring Dig will be at Longest site in Jefferson County under the direction of Richard Drass of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey.

The site is an 18th century French and Indian village on the Red River. Excitement is definitely in the air, considering it has been over 40 years since the last excavation at Longest. As for

Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

Insights on the political life of Mississippian peoples in the Southeast."

Asa Randall will discuss "The archeology of sea level rise: The past's crucial role in coping with future climate change."

Ending the day's presentations will be Holly Irew and Bonnie Pitlido. Their topic is "Emphasizing the 'Public' in Public Archeology: Revealing the Paleindian Past through Professional and Citizen-Archeologist Partnerships."



Debra Baker

OAS, we will be making our first visit there. We will be guests of the private property owners.

Please keep your eyes on our website. It will be updated regarding major events in the OAS year.

* * *

We have finally found a

new Publishing Chair, but we lost a Certification Chair in the arrangement. Amanda Regnier has agreed to take over the reins of publications, a vital position.

While the decision for Dr. Regnier to step down as Certification Chair was difficult, her assuming the important role of managing OAS publications was clearly in our best interest. Cathy Compton had temporarily guided the publishing post, and we thank her for keeping that going for the Society.

Right now, OAS is in need of reinventing the Certification Program. That happens before we even consider finding a chairman.

At the OAS Board meeting in January, it was agreed that a committee re-evaluate certification. The goal is to assist in teaching

our OAS members beneficial techniques and knowledge of archeology in our state.

There are numerous areas in the certification program that need to be updated, not only to benefit members but the state as well. This will not be an easy task. However, it is a necessity that we must assume.

* * *

The Society has improved not only how you receive your publications – in hard copy or digital format – we have also developed the convenience of bank cards as payment. Moving to digital publications saves us an enormous amount of money, not to mention trees, ink and landfills. I heard in a news program not long ago that within five years, textbooks in class rooms will be obsolete, replaced by digital copies.

Just a few years ago, I wouldn't have believed it. Yet the reality of the digital revolution is upon us, and the OAS needs to be very much a part of it.

OAS Membership Form

I would like my copy of OAS Trowel Marks emailed to me at: _____

- () **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** \$35 Receive issues annually of the *OAS Bulletin*, the quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- () **Sustaining** \$45 Receive issues the annual OAS Bulletin, the quarterly Newsletter *Trowel Marks*, 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 \$35 () Institutional Canada/Mexico \$40 () Institutional Other \$45
- () **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 _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____ Email address _____

To renew membership or join the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, fill out this form and send it with a check or money order to Cathy Compton, OAS Membership, 401 NW 46 Terrace, Oklahoma City OK 73118. To use a secure bank card, call OAS at (405) 308-2829.

Longest Site Dig

(Continued from Page 1)

University, Stillwater, and Dr. Susan Vehik of the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

For several years they have researched Wichita Indian villages in Oklahoma. They have focused on the Bryson-Paddock site near Ponca City. The same Indians that lived there along the Arkansas River moved to the Red River.

The natives learned from their years under siege from the northern Osage. By the time they relocated south, the villagers improved security.

They fashioned circular stockades, exterior ditches and interior horse corrals. The stockade had underground tunnels that sheltered people in an attack.

Round, grass-thatch houses made up the Taovayas village outside the stockade.

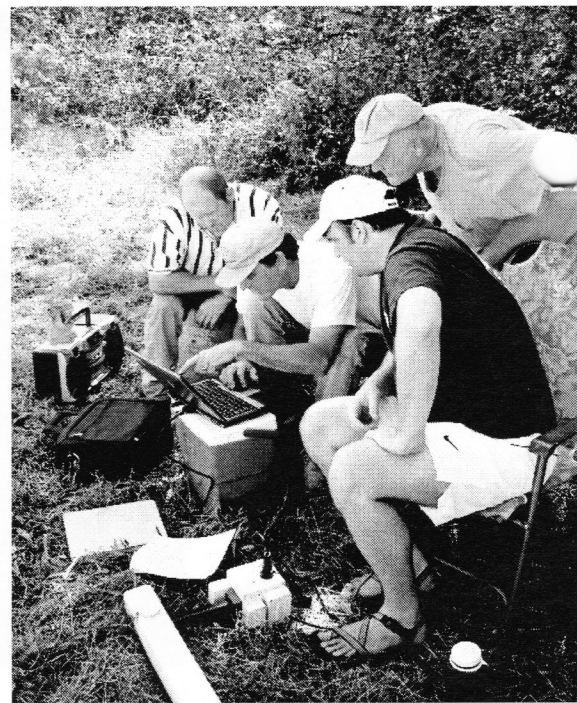
The Wichitas also allied with the most powerful tribe of the Southern Plains, the Comanche, who had no love for the Apaches they drove from the region.

The Comanches camped near the Wichita village, an arrangement of mutual benefit.

Attacks from the south gave the Wichitas added protection from the sandy banks and swirling waters of the Red River.

"There were trade advantages to the Red River," Dr. Drass said. "The French were active there, as they had been on the Arkansas River. So it's a continuation of the Bryson-Paddock story."

Excavators initially worked the area in 1965-1966, Dr. Drass said. Recent magnetic and radar surveys show promising anomalies. Those will be among items examined in the Spring Dig.



Richard Drass points out survey anomalies to volunteers during the 2007 OAS Dig at the Bryson-Paddock site near Ponca City.

Getting there

The 2013 OAS Spring Dig starts May 24 at the Longest Site west of Marietta.

Dig Director Richard Drass will be at the site earlier in the week to set up the grid and prepare excavation units. To offer help, volunteers can contact him at rdrass@ou.edu.

Excavation hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Available lodging is scarce in the immediate area. Lake Country Motel in Marietta, a ground level inn with moderate prices, offers lodging for four nights at a small discount (ask for it). Call (580) 276-3316.

Not recommended: Ardmore motels (40 miles away) Winstar Casino (expensive), or Falconhead Resort (booked up).

No camping is available at the dig site. Foxwoods RV Park, 12 miles west of Marietta on SH 32, has camper/RV hookups. Call (580) 276-4538.

Reaching the site

A carpool will leave the north parking lot at the Marietta Homeland store at 8 a.m. each day of the dig. OAS signs will mark the way. For additional directions call Dr. Drass at (405) 640-1067.

Drass speaking on Longest Site at OAS chapters, OSU in Alva

Several OAS chapters have asked Richard Drass to discuss the Longest archeological site and its history.

Dr. Drass speaks March 6 in Ponca City, March 12 in Ada and May 2 at the Oklahoma City chapter. He also appears March 26 at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva.

His topic is "The Wichita, Spanish and French in the 18th Century: Archeology at the Longest Site." The new show includes Power Point slides.

Historians trace the Wichita moving south to the Red River from sites near Ponca City. In short order the Indians developed several successful villages along the river boundary of Oklahoma and Texas.

They favored the French with their trade. The Spanish, firmly established in Texas, sent troops north in 1759 to punish the Wichita and allied tribes for incursions against southern missions and forts. The attacks proved to be of little consequence.

Col. Diego Ortiz Parrilla marched a force of 500 from San Antonio to the Indian village. In a rout, Wichita warriors and allies forced the Spanish to flee south.

In 1965-1966, excavations at a site about 15 miles south of Ringling revealed the Taovayas village detailed in the Spanish records of the Parrilla expedition.

Aerial photos of a large circular stain in the soil similar to those known for other archeological sites in Oklahoma (the Duncan and Deer Creek sites) led to further excavations at the Longest.

The research suggested the circular stain was evidence of a log stockade constructed by the Wichita to protect their village.

Annual Bulletin

(Continued from Page 1)
Guymon. At 9,000-year-old
Crescroft, remains of
Several bison emerge from
the paleo-arroyo floor. Such
sites are less well known
than Folsom kills.

The search for
Bison antiquus focuses on
herd entrapment, killing and
butchering.

"The realization that
a bone bed is an artifact of
past human behavior has led
to the development of spe-
cific analytical tools directed
at extracting information
from the bones," the article
states.

Building on research
by eminent archeologist
George Frison, the excava-
tors hope to apply concepts
developed for Northern
Plains hunting societies to
the Southern Plains site. Un-
der Dr. Bement's leadership,
plans are to return in June
2013 with a field school.

The Bulletin's theme
of neglected topics returns

in a third article, the foundations for early
prehistoric agriculture in northeast Okla-
homa. Dr. Brooks relies on data from a
Lake Hudson collection by astute ama-
teurs, the Ron Yost family.

Many of the 3,600 specimens
were gathered before construction of the
lake northeast of Tulsa on the Arkansas
River watershed. On hand are hundreds
of projectile points, bifaces, unifaces,
cores and ground stone items.

Dr. Brooks focuses on chipped
stone hoes, manos, metates and ham-
mer stones from four sites, working out
evidence of early agriculture in a fertile
floodplain. He concludes the area's late
archaic/woodland groups practiced gar-
dening as a supplement to hunting and
gathering of edible plant foods.

"This early agricultural system de-
rived from indigenous starchy seed plants
serves as the base for future agricultural
enhancements that include tropical do-
mesticates," the article said.

Finally, Chris Lintz and Bob
Wishoff examine the Antelope Creek
phase in the Texas and Oklahoma Pan-
handles. Their attention is on double-
bitted axes much more commonly associ-
ated with sites in the two states' eastern
woodlands.

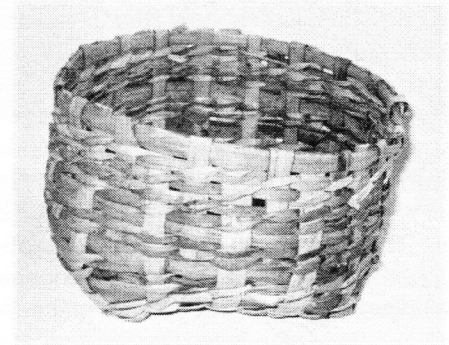
Oklahoma Anthropological Society

Bulletin



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Chipped stone axes are rarely reported
in assemblages from the southern High Plains
region, the authors say. They examine 23 axes
and ax-like specimens, about half of the number
recovered from WPA excavations at the Alibates
ruins in the northern Texas Panhandle.

Since the number of antelope Creek
phase buildings might number in the thousands,
chipped stone axes would have been essential.
Some axes might have been traded out of the

area, some were reused as
hammer stones and mauls.
Others might have served as
pry wedges to dig mortar or
quarry pits.

In conclusion, the
authors say of the axes,
"Documentation dem-
onstrates while they are
uncommon, they are an
important part of the Late
Prehistoric assemblage used
in the Texas Panhandle."

Welge to direct Indian Culture & Preservation

Indian archivist William
Welge has been named di-
rector of the office of Ameri-
can Indian Cultural & Pres-
ervation at the Oklahoma
Historical Society.

Society Executive Director
Bob Blackburn announced
Welge's position in March.
The new program reaches
out to American Indian tribes,
associations and families to
preserve cultural artifacts, ar-
chival documents, oral histo-
ries and historic sites.

"American Indian cultural
preservation has been a ma-
jor part of OHS programs
since 1907 but we have nev-
er had a specific working unit
dedicated to that task," Dr.
Blackburn said.

Welge, the longtime direc-
tor of the OHS Research Di-
vision and an Indian archivist
since 1982, has participated



Terry Zinn Photo

William Welge

in OAS activities in the past.
As a member of the Central
Chapter he spoke on his spe-
ciality.

"For more than 35 years,
I have collected, preserved,
and shared American Indian

history as part of my duties at
the Historical Society," Welge
said in a March 5 news re-
lease.

"The creation of this new
office will allow me to spend
all of my time and use all
of my contacts to build new
bridges of communication
and collaboration in Indian
country."

Welge said the office's
central mission is to create
a two-way exchange of as-
sistance. The office will offer
training sessions, assistance
with grant requests, on-site
consultation, and coopera-
tive agreements.

It also will offer experience
in archival management, mu-
seum exhibit development,
and oral history best prac-
tices. Tribal officials and elders
will offer an understanding of
their own heritage.

Donations?

Donations are always
welcome at the Oklahoma
Anthropological Society.

If you are interested in
helping, please contact
OAS President
Debra Baker at
baker1994@sbcglobal.net

Trowel Marks
Spring 2013 5

Foundation grants boost Great Plains Museum in renovating Gallery, touring science exhibits

The Museum of the Great Plains is benefiting from \$7 million in new Reynolds Foundation grants for renovation of the main gallery and sharing traveling science exhibits.

Museum Director of Development Bart McClenny said the grants will not only update the look and function of the museum, they will benefit visitors with hands-on displays.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation awarded the museum \$4 million to renovate 17,000 square feet of space in the main display area. A two-year plan is well under way. Renovation should be done by November 2015, McClenny said.

Much of the museum's display is devoted to anthropology and archeology. Some of the state's outstanding mammoth remains can be found there.

A separate Reynolds grant of \$3 million funds a network of museums that provide high-quality, hands-on educational experiences.

The Oklahoma Museum Network takes exhibits from the Science Museum Oklahoma in



An exhibit at Lawton's Museum of the Great Plains shows visitors how archeology benefits knowledge of the past and present.

Oklahoma City to Great Plains Museum in Lawton, Jasmine Moran Children's Museum in Seminole, and Leonardo's Discovery Warehouse in Enid.

McClenny said plans are to showcase museum materials ranging from mammoth tusks to Indian spear points,

then present replicas and interactive programs.

"Rather than provide passive observations, we're going to offer experiences to look at and interact with," McClenny said.

David Fowler named Director of Historic Fort Gibson

David Fowler has been named director of historic Fort Gibson, said Kathy Dickson of the Oklahoma History Society.

Chris Morgan has retired as the fort's director after 30 years with OHS, said Dickson, Director of the museums and historic sites division. Fowler was promoted from his position as Director of the George Murrell Home in nearby Park Hill.

Fowler started his career at the Historic Society as a Fort Gibson interpreter. The fort was a vital military post on the Western frontier. It served nearly 70 years, and was rebuilt several times.

Oklahoma Anthropological Society spent sev-



David Fowler dressed as a reenactor.

eral seasons excavating the historic fort. Most recently OAS, led by archeologist Lee Bement, searched for evidence of the original fort built in 1824.

Initially, Fowler was named Interim Director of the fort, expanding his duties at the Murrell Home. However, Dickson said, consideration of the best use of resources changed the decision.

"As a result, Fowler's role

was made permanent and expanded to serve as the director for the George Murrell Home, Fort Gibson, and Cabin Creek, a Civil War battlefield near Vinita," she said in a December media release.

The History Society plans to hire an additional interpreter at the Murrell Home since Fowler's new duties will require more travel.

Bob Blackburn, History Society Executive Director, said the appointment will move the state program forward.

"David is the kind of leader who will help the Oklahoma Historical Society be more effective," Dr. Blackburn said. "He is creative, dedicated, and willing to work with other groups and organizations who share our passion for historic Fort Gibson and the regional history of Muskogee, the Creek and

Cherokee nations, and the Indian Territory."

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Fowler is a graduate of Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. He has extensive background in American Indian history and historical interpretation. His specific interest is the Cherokees and their removal to Indian Territory.

"I am looking forward to the challenges of the new position," Fowler said in the news release. "My first two priorities are moving forward with the restoration work on the stockade and building a closer relationship with the community."

Prior to starting his career in 2001 at Fort Gibson, he volunteered for programs there. In July 2009 Fowler moved to Park Hill to serve as the Director of the Murrell Home.

Honey Springs battlefield wins bid to join nation's 'Historic Landmark sites

Honey Springs battlefield has won ranking as a National Historic Landmark, the director of the National Park Service said.

Jonathan Jarvis announced the designation March 11. A dozen other historic places in the country also received the honor.

Honey Springs Battlefield is owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society. OHS is building a new interpretive center at the site with the support of the Friends of Honey Springs and the federal Agriculture Department.

The request for Landmark status was prepared by the state's Historical Preservation office.

Construction will soon start on a new museum building, Director Christopher Price said. At a total project cost of \$1.5 million, the museum, trails, drives and observation points will help make the Civil War battle site a major tourist attraction.



Christopher Price

Landmark status adds considerable luster to the park's tourist appeal, Price said.

"What happened means Honey Springs is something our whole nation should take note of. It's been officially recognized as a nationally significant park," he said.

Archeology is part of the park's development. As a park employee, OAS Dig Chairman Andy Slaucitajs recently helped recover artifacts.

They will be among the museum's 1,800 battlefield items available for display.

The Battle of Honey Springs (also called Elk Creek) was a turning point for the war in the Trans-Mississippi West.

Prior to the battle on July 17, 1863, the Confederate forces were in full control



Harper's Weekly published an illustration of the calvary charge at the Battle of Honey Springs.

of the areas below the Arkansas River. Areas north of the Arkansas River were in dispute.

After the battle, the Union Army controlled the area north of the Canadian River. The Confederate loss at Honey Springs led to the loss of Confederate control of Fort Smith and Western Arkansas and contributed to ending the war.

Located south of Fort Gibson in McIntosh and Muskogee Counties, Honey Springs has several claims that make it unique:

It is the largest Civil War engagement of the 1861-1865 period of conflict in Indian Territory. About 9,000 soldiers faced off.

It was the largest battle in Indian Territory in which Native Americans fought as members of both Union and Confederate armies.

It is the first and largest engagement in which Indian troops of both sides fought in the formalized style of Anglo-American warfare.

It was the largest Civil War battle in which Indians, blacks and whites fought with and against one another.

It was the first major engagement where black troops carried the day.

It may be the first

major engagement where ex-slaves fought against their masters.

Price said winning landmark status makes Honey Springs more attractive in another way: appealing for grants and financial awards.

"We are eligible for funding that other places do not have. But it also means we are competing on a new level with other historic landmarks," he said.

Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Honey Springs is planned Nov. 9-10.

Activities will include battle reenactments with infantry, cavalry, and artillery; guided and self-guided tours of the camps; demonstrations; living history programs; and sutlers.



Civil War era gun parts are among artifacts recently excavated at the Honey Springs Battlefield.

Spiro Mounds to expand annual Archeology Day

By Dennis Peterson
Director Spiro Mounds

Spiro Mounds Archaeological Center will celebrate its eighth Annual Archaeology Day May 11 and we need your help.

On this day the Spiro Mounds site will also celebrate the public opening of its 35th birthday. We would like to make it a big success and increase awareness of Oklahoma archeology as much as possible.

As a bonus, Archeology Day will also have free admission, although donations are gratefully accepted.

Basically, we have no money for events like this, so we depend on the generosity of friends. That includes members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. Here is what we would like:

First, the attendance of yourself, friends, families, and members of your various chapters would help our visitation numbers. Spiro Mounds is the only prehistoric, Native American archeological site in Oklahoma open to the public. Yet how many who are interested have actually visited the site



Admission to Spiro Mounds, Oklahoma's premier archeological site, is free on the Annual Archaeology Day May 11.

recently?

Second, we need your talent and time. It would be great to have a mini-knap-off for flint knappers. We would appreciate having others with Native American skills. Possibilities are Native American dancing by members of the Wichita, Caddo, Cherokee and Choctaw tribes; Native American chunkee, a ball game; and demonstrations of bow making, bows and arrows, blow guns, darts and atlats.

People with expertise in archeology of the region are most welcome. Talks on the Mississippian culture, before and after the advent of Europeans, are

always good. So are presentations on the removal of Choctaw, Cherokee and other tribes to Oklahoma.

Finally, we need expertise in identifying what visitors bring to show us. Volunteers from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey will be here, but sometimes there's a line of visitors who have numerous items to examine.

There's also booth space to rent to those with displays or items for sale. The fee is \$20, and sales tax is required. We would like to expand the vendors, but whatever you sell would need to be related to Native American art, archeology, or

history.

Of course, displays cannot be artifacts or firearms. If you are a flint knapper and your points are identified as modern, i.e. signed, then those could be sold.

We would love to have food vendors that sold nontraditional foods, like Indian tacos or powwow foods. We don't have much electrical outlets or space inside, so some vendors would need to be outside.

Remember that it is important to remind the general public of the role of archeology in Oklahoma. For more information access spiro@okhistory.org.

Arkansas Survey offers website on novaculite comparisons

Arkansas Archeological Survey is launching a website comparing novaculite found in the Ouachita Mountains.

Accessed at <http://arkarcheology.uark.edu/novaculite/index.html>, the new site is presented as "Arkansas Novaculite: A Virtual Comparative Collection."

Novaculite was chipped into stone tools by Indians in

the past.

It is still used today, manufactured as whetstones, according to Mary Beth Trubitt of the Arkansas Archeological Survey in Arkadelphia, AR.

The Archeological Survey is part of the University of Arkansas system.

The website is an educational resource for people interested in Arkansas history, archeology, and Indians of Arkansas. It also is a research tool for archeologists who need to identify novaculite from archeological site, Trubitt said.

At right: Arkansas Indians used novaculite as a valuable raw material for toolmaking. (Arkansas Archeological Survey Photo)



Website highlights include an interactive map and quality photographs. Photos show the range of novaculite colors and textures.

The project is supported in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Oklahoma archeology in the news

Forensic archeologists have been busy in recent months as widespread drought expanded shore lines and exposed ancient remains. Those and other archeological ties to Oklahomans recently made the news.

Lake Eufaula yields Prehistoric remains

Foul play was first suspected when skeletons of two people were recovered in Lake Eufaula, according to Jan. 21 news reports in Tulsa and McAlester.

The bones were about 20 feet apart and appeared stacked. A cinder-block tied by cable was lying between the skeletons, staff writer Jeanne LeFlore said in *McAlester News*.

Pittsburg County Sheriff Joel Kerns said the cables and blocks probably came from an old trotline. The receding lake level exposed the remains of what was until recently under water.

"A lot of people do use rocks or cinder blocks to anchor their lines," the sheriff said.

He did not know why the bones appeared to be stacked. Several people reported sighting the bones along the shoreline.

An anthropologist from the state Medical Examiner's office and an Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation agent was sent to the scene. Although unnamed in the story, forensic anthropologist Angela Berg determined the bones were most likely the remains of prehistoric American Indians.

The bones may be as old as 2,000 years. Teeth marks appear to be made by



Sheriff Joel Kerns and OSBI agent John Graham investigate skeletal remains at Lake Eufaula. (McAlester News Photo)

food common to the human diet. The area could be an ancient burial ground since tribes often buried their dead along a water course.

Human bones appear in Duncan area field

Law authorities called a forensic archeology team to Stephens County in January to examine human bones.

Sheriff Wayne McKinney first considered the bones a cold case crime, according to news reports in *The Duncan Banner* and *The Lawton Constitution*. Found by a rancher near Duncan, the human remains were discovered along a fence line by Mud Creek.

Lawmen remained on the scene overnight. When examiners arrived, they determined the skull and bones to be anywhere from 800 to 1,000 years old. Although unnamed in the story, the investigators were led by Kent Buehler, a forensic archeologist at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in Norman.

Several Native American people shared the land.

Cherokee road crews find human graves

Dozens of grave sites have been discovered by crews preparing a road project near State Highway 100, according to a *Tahlequah Daily Press* story.

Officials with the Cherokee Nation said crews were working in eastern Cherokee County. The highway connects Interstate 40 with the Arkansas state line near Stilwell.

The Oct. 6 story said crews came across two unmarked stones. Ground penetrating radar identified 61 potential grave sites in the same area, said Cherokee Nation Roads Department Director Michael Lynn.

An archeologist is coordinating with the tribe for further study of the radar scans.

"Whatever the finding, we are going to avoid the area," said Lynn. "The Cherokee Nation promotes preserving history and culture and would never cause harm to a community resting place."

Fossil feces reveal lives of ancients

Scientists are examining coprolites, or fossilized feces, to learn more about the microbiomes and lives of ancient humans.

A recent report said samples were taken from La Cueva de los Chiquitos Muertos in northern Mexico.

OU molecular anthropologist Cecil M. Lewis Jr. and his team found the bacteria *treponema* in ancient samples and in modern rural populations. The implication is that both groups have diets heavy in raw, fibrous foods, according to a report in the March/April edition of *Archaeology Magazine*.

However, the microbe does not appear

in the stool of urban or Western populations, which might be attributable to more sanitary living conditions, the article said.

The team also examined the bacteria *bifidobac* appearing in the stool of breast fed children in the 1,400-year-old sample. *Prevotella* bacteria indicates a diet heavy in carbohydrates but relatively low in proteins.

Anthropologist reviews designs on Mimbres pots

Anthropologist Pat Gilman of the University of Oklahoma recently explored the meaning of designs on pottery associated with the Mimbres culture.

The Feb. 19 session, held at Macayo Central in Phoenix, explored the topic "What Is the Meaning of Mimbres Art?", according to the website *Archaeology Café*.

She focused on the meaning of geometric and naturalistic designs on black-on-white pottery.

A noted authority on the culture, she highlighted her ongoing efforts to explore the boundaries of the Mimbres and her interpretation of the evidence encountered to date.

In December 2012, she discussed "Mimbres Beyond the Mimbres Valley Homeland" in a similar format in Tucson.

Reviews

Jon Denton
Reviews Editor

Acrocantnosaurus: The Bones Of Contention
Written and published by
Russell Ferrell
History Version 440 Pgs \$15
ISBN: 978-0-615-43814-6
Review by Jon Denton

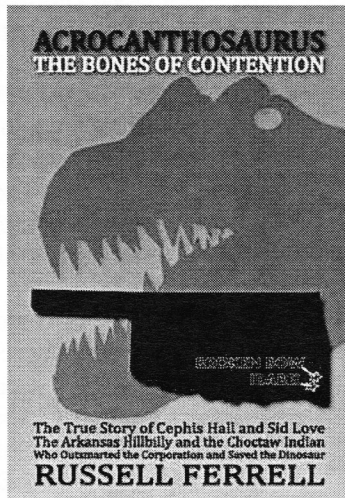
If ever there was a perfect book for avid dinosaur fans, it's Russell Ferrell's "Acrocantnosaurus."

A David-and-Goliath story based in rural south-east Oklahoma, the tale follows two amateur paleontologists who land the big prize, the bones of Acrocantnosaurus, a rare apex predator.

That's just the beginning. The bulk of the story follows Cephas Hall and Sid Love in their struggle to keep their discovery and get it displayed where it belongs. It's a tale where academics do not fare well, linked as they are with greedy, corrupt and shifty characters from the business and political world.

What's more, it's fact, not fiction. It would make a great film documentary. All the screenplay needs to do is follow the story to its climax.

In 1983 Cephas Hall, a naturalist and outdoors guide, discovers big bones near the Mountain Fork River. He gets permission from the property's owner, multinational Weyerhaeuser timber company, to dig. Friend Sid Love joins him and almost four years later, before the exposed



bones can crumble in the air, the excavators have a nearly-intact skeleton of the Cretaceous carnivore.

It's a 16-foot-tall, 40-foot-long dino with big teeth and a powerful body. Most important: The skeleton still has its head. Nothing so intact has been found before.

Soon Hall and Love lay claim to a world-class specimen eventually valued at \$3 million. In short order they are besieged by legal and corporate demands.

When author Ferrell learns about it, the history and science teacher turned author has a couple of other book projects under way. Yet he says he can't resist. Like the dinosaur bones, the story will dissolve unless it's preserved soon. He even resorts to self-publishing.

He's an able but self-indulgent writer. He treats his heroes well, despite some conniving on their own. He admits bias against the banking and legal professions and multinational corporations.

Yet his major fault is telling too much. He's even writes two versions, history

and science, for those with divergent tastes.

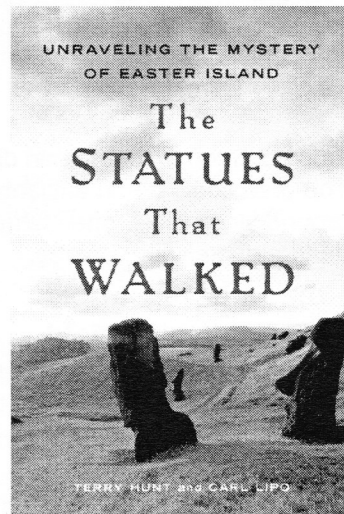
The balance of the cover title is a clue of what's ahead: "The True Story of Cephas Hall and Sid Love, The Arkansas Hillbilly and the Choctaw Indian Who Outsmarted the Corporation and Saved the Dinosaur."

Of course, in the end they do exactly that. For their trouble they earn a meager \$285,000. But they get to see the skeleton go where it belongs, a showcase at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, NC.

— Jon Denton is Review Editor of Trowel Marks Newsletter.

The Statues That Walked: Unraveling the Mystery of Easter Island

By Terry Hunt and Carl Lipo
Free Press Pub. 2011
237 pages w/photos \$25
ISBN 978-1-4391-5031-3



Review by Neil Garrison

A recent issue of *National Geographic Magazine* featured the giant stone monuments of Easter Island (Rapa Nui).

As one might expect, this noteworthy publication included some colorful and thought-provoking art work.

It depicted the way ancient people of that tiny Pacific island transported

huge stone heads from quarry to seaside pedestal.

The most noteworthy point: Archeological experimentation lends credence to ancient oral history. Islanders say the sculptors stood the stone monuments upright and walked them from the quarries to their final resting spot.

How the statues went from rock to beach has long been a quandary for Easter Island historians. Over the years various methods have been tested — moving the big stone heads on logs, sliding them on sleds, even rolling them downhill. None quite seemed up to the task.

I endeavored to know more. The magazine article spans a handful of pages.

I happened to find this full-length book on the topic. I devoured the information with anticipation.

The book's authors described how the monoliths can be wiggled forward much like one would single-handedly manhandle a heavy kitchen refrigerator from one side of the room to the next. Of course, the Rapa Nui stone monuments are more unwieldy than a refrigerator.

Nevertheless, tests proved a couple dozen islanders with some heavy duty ropes could guide the stone to wobble, left and right ... and ... gradually... forward, down the dirt pathway to a final resting place.

That answered the question after decades of wonder and debate. If you have an interest in learning more about the life of ancient civilizations, I would encourage you to read "The Statues That Walked."

Neil Garrison, Yukon, is a naturalist, outdoorsman and avid student of history.

(See Reviews next page)

OAS Board

Highlights of the January Oklahoma Anthropological Society board meeting follow. For more details, contact Secretary Cari Foster at clfoster-99@yahoo.com.

The OAS Board decided to drop the Certification program, citing a casualty of changing times.

The decision came in the Jan. 26 Board meeting at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey office in Norman.

For many years, certification classes gave members experience in archeology. Classroom and hands-on training prepared volunteers to assist archeologists in the lab and field.

However, low

participation in recent years indicated a lack of interest in the process, but not the subject.

Certification chair Amanda Regnier suggested the change. She will move to

Board drops certification, seeks options to training

the vacant OAS Publications chair and oversee storage of OAS materials, now placed at the Survey warehouse.

President Debra Baker will lead a committee to consider future certification. Director Bob Brooks agreed to assist.

Treasurer Cathy Compton provided written

summaries of OAS finances.

The OAS storage unit in Bethany has been closed and its contents moved to Norman. The Society will save about \$1,300 a year in rental costs, Compton said.

Printing of the 2012 OAS Bulletin is under way. Editor Bob Brooks said mailing will follow soon. About 70 extra copies will be stored for future use.

Hall on the OU campus, Norman. Program Chair Cathy Compton said several speakers will address the topic "OAS: A is for Anthropology,"

Board nominations will be accepted for election at the Spring Meeting, said Nominations Chairman Jon Denton. Positions open are President, Vice President, and four At-Large seats.

Cycling off the board as At-Large Directors are Francie Sisson, Anadarko; Richard Drass, Noble; Stephen Perkins, Oklahoma City; and Charles Surber, Pryor.

Several nominations will be considered for Golden Trowel awards at the Spring Meeting, said Awards Chair Mary McHard.

The 2013 Spring Dig is set during the Memorial Day holiday, May 24-June 2 at the Longest Site near the Red River.

Reviews

Archaeology of Desperation: Exploring the Donner Party's Alder Creek Camp
By Dixon, Schablitsky and Novak
OU Press 2011
Hardcover \$34.95
384 Pages
ISBN-13:9780806142104

Review by Ed Mayfield

I'm not sure when I first heard about the Donner party. I know I was much younger and uncertain what cannibalism was. I did sense the subject was taboo and civilized people did not practice it.

Most people are familiar with the general facts: a group of pioneers traveling from Springfield, Ill. to the fertile valleys of Sacramento, Calif. were overwhelmed by a snow storm. Many died, rumored to have succumbed to the cold and the starving

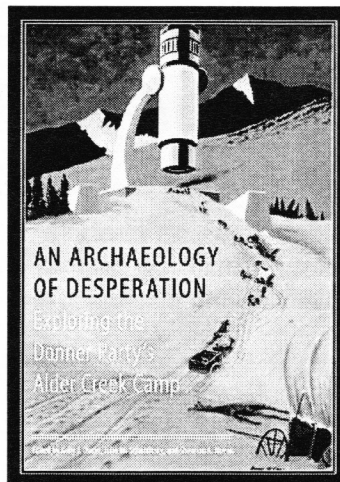
appetites of the survivors.

In more detail, the Donner Party consisted of about 80 adults and children. They had an array of livestock such as oxen, horses and cattle. The route they chose was well used and clearly marked, the California Trail through the Sierra Nevada mountains.

Before beginning their trek in 1846, the Donner Party was given what would be called today a real estate sales brochure, the Lance W. Hastings Immigrants' Guide to California.

Included in the sales pitch was information about a new, possibly faster road to the destination, the Hastings Cutoff. They took it. But it was not short cut, and it put them at the mercy of an early snowfall, the worst in recorded history for the region.

"An Archeology of Des-



peration" probes for answers to the calamitous event through a compilation of essays. Included is detailed and scholarly information from an archeological excavation during the summers of 2003 and 2004.

Two campsites are associated with the event. Traditionally Donner Camp is where most of the of the ill-fated Donner Party spent the winter, caught without shelter or adequate supplies. In the

recent archeological excavation, researchers focused on a second site about six miles away, the Alder Creek camp.

The scope of information that is introduced in this book in some areas is overwhelming. Of course the question is ... was cannibalism practiced?

Analysis of bone remains found at the Alder Creek Donner campsite in 2003-2004 digs shows no evidence confirming cannibalism. However, it's also true that if only human flesh had been cooked, uncooked bone would likely deteriorate, leaving no sign in the soil.

Ed Mayfield, OAS Vice President, follows the history of the American West, Plains Indians and the early American military.

Trowel Marks

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OAS Chapters



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Meetings 7 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
Echols Building, University of Arkansas, Ft. Smith
Contact Tim Mulvihill at tim.mulvihill@uark.edu

BYRDS MILL CHAPTER, Ada

Meetings 7:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesdays
Valley View Hospital Conference Room, Ada.
Contact Carl Gilley at (580) 332-3812

CENTRAL CHAPTER, Oklahoma City

Meetings 7 p.m. first Thursdays
Will Rogers Garden Center, 3400 NW 36
Contact Curt Hendricks at mcokc@cox.net

CLEVELAND COUNTY CHAPTER, Norman

Meetings 7 p.m. first Mondays
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History,
Norman
Contact Simone Rowe at simone.rowe@ou.edu

GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, Lawton

Meetings 2 p.m. on 4th Saturdays
Museum of the Great Plains, 601 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton
Contact Matt Griffin at matthehat2000@gmail.com
See website Greater Southwest Chapter OAS

KAY COUNTY CHAPTER, Ponca City

Meetings 6:30 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
Public Library 5th and Grand, Ponca City
Contact Richard Sherrod (580) 765-9661

MCALESTER ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Krebs

Meetings 7 p.m. 2nd Thursdays
Krebs City Hall, Krebs
Contact Guy Folger at guyfolger@aol.com
See websites for McAlester and Tahlequah Chapters

STILLWATER CHAPTER, Stillwater

Meetings 7 p.m. 3rd Thursdays
First Presbyterian Church, 524 S Duncan, Stillwater
Contact Alisa Hines at alisa-hines84@yahoo.com

TAHLEQUAH ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tahlequah

Meetings 7 p.m. 4th Thursdays
Tahlequah Public Library, Tahlequah
Contact Thomas Purdin at (918) 284-2410

TULSA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Tulsa

Meetings 7 p.m. 4th Mondays
Aaronson Auditorium, Central Library, 400 Civic Center, Tulsa
Before meetings at 5 p.m. at Baxters Interurban 727 S Houston
Contact Pam Proctor at pamela.proctor@cnet.com