

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Colorado Archaeological Society-Denver Chapter

...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists. ~ H.M. Wormington, 1978

Vol. 61, No. 2

June 2023

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GUEST ARTICLE:

Things Take Time

By Brian Kenny

Brian Kenny is an Applied Anthropologist and Southwestern Archaeologist. He worked for Colorado State University providing cultural, environmental, and climate change analysis to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force SAF/IEE program at the Pentagon.

In the Spring of 2021, casual readings in journal subscriptions fomented an idea that things were not entirely right, and that Archaeology could do better. A community of scholars standing on the shoulders of Giants in the fields of Anthropology and Regional Public History took to an idea that George McJunkin was a 'set piece' tale, a self-contained section of New Mexican history, which a writer might

rearrange in an elaborate or conventional pattern for maximum effect.

For forty years or more, there had been a steady 'churn' in McJunkin short stories in the popular press, in the rag trade of hotel, tourism and travel magazines, and in weekend news subscription Sunday supplements, much of it centered on McJunkin's bone pit discovery near Folsom and the subsequent excavation of the Folsom Site. The place, the story, and the cowboy were famous regionally and world-wide, and much of the redeployed data and information was derived from Dr. George Agogino's and Franklin Folsom's works in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, all of which was taken as truth-telling meant to elevate McJunkin and herald his reputation as an everyman who deserved more credit and recognition in all aspects of his life. George McJunkin is a foundational story for New Mexico.

Earlier works tried to moniker George McJunkin as the 'Othello of Union County New Mexico,' possibly because

McJunkin was Black as was the Moor, the main character in Shakespeare's play *The Tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice*. More likely, the George McJunkin foundational myth should have placed him as a modern *Gilgamesh* – there was a great flood that devastated the region, and George McJunkin traveled widely and had significant friendships and exploits on the road to eternal life and immortality. However, everything fades, and the Folsom site, and the long-lasting Folsom hotel (McJunkin's death site) and the stories recounted are the nearest to immortality that Gilgamesh McJunkin can achieve.

Contrary to the epic tales noted above, meant for marketing and money-making, the processualism paradigm of American Archaeology is the obverse side of the coin for the George McJunkin story.

The obverse side is its 'head' or front principal surface, and as such, it represents the Processual paradigm of American Archaeology, a methodology that discounts McJunkin's story in a variety of ways. We see this approach in the excellent scientific works on Folsom written by David Meltzer, and in review science articles written by Stephen Nash and others.

Processualism involves theories of general processes which explain variation and change, and progress is based on outcomes that assume objectivity grounded in observer-oriented interpretation. Archaeologists credit the origins of such scientific approaches to positivist philosophers such as Carl Hempel.

Processual Archaeology argues that ideas and theories mean nothing without an ability to prove them.

The scientific method applied to archaeology prioritizes objectivity, while the material record of archaeology ensures replicability. What archaeologists find gets compared to what already was found, while newer or advancing technologies (materials science and physics) provide for a changing view or a segue in thought and new classes of isotopes and molecules concentrated or modified in variations by human agency and cultural practices. Such additive approaches build upon the fixed past, and they sometimes change knowledge and beliefs in revolutionary thought.

The coin flip is the push pull dialectic that informs the George McJunkin story today, and if you get heads, you get processualism. If tails, you get romanticism and travelogue approaches.

Into this mix, American society has injected a driving need for more equity and representation. This is a social demand based partially on the founding principles of the Nation, and in the contract strengthened and challenged in popular culture and law after World War II with the successes of natural rights and freedoms in the civil rights era.

In the new mix, Anthropologists, Archaeologists and Historians write of George McJunkin as an early exemplar of a man rising to full equity in a society otherwise flawed, and of the cowboy ethic — in and around Folsom Village (and the West) — as the social element in a natural history ecological crucible that demonstrates in situ change. Bonnie Pitblado has noted how George McJunkin is used to thrill archaeology students and tell of the discipline's origin stories (as they trot him out on a regular basis). It is the dominant culture of the White scientific version of the up-by-the bootstraps, self-made person story, imposed on McJunkin to affirm philosophically and materially, that order and progress exist in the world.

Having trained as a processual and post-processual archaeologist, I felt disquietude each time I bumped into George McJunkin.

Post-processual archaeologists view objects or artifacts in more subjective ways. They must account for the context that the artifacts were found in, and for other objects found in association, as well as considering scale (e.g., individual vs site vs landscape vs region) and human behaviors, and as well the culture of the period studied. Such an approach allows one to reach interpretive and factual conclusions which can be offered for rejection.

Things take time, and the Gregorian centennial anniversaries of George McJunkin's passing (January 2022) —and the incontrovertible professional affirmation of the antiquity of the Folsom Site by American archaeologists (September 2027) — allowed a five-year window of opportunity to calm that disquietude.

At the 2021 Pecos Conference at Mancos Colorado, archaeologists reacted positively to a brief notional presentation that the profession could now move to examine a missing element of the story — the historical archaeological sites, all greater than 100 years old, that George McJunkin built, occupied and shared with cowboys and the Village of Folsom — and thus “Team McJunkin” was christened and valorized to find and engage the post-processual archaeological elements of the obverse side of George McJunkin.

This would be a sample of known sites, a small cluster of locations within a wider McJunkin sphere of existence which ranged from 1851 - 1922 within the region of Texas and New Mexico, including Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and northern Mexico. These sites would contain in situ materials which related to George McJunkin's adult life and more sedentary existence after the railroad prompted the founding of Folsom New Mexico in 1888.

Team McJunkin, a mix of archaeologists, historians, Folsom community members and interested correspondents, visited

the Village of Folsom and northeastern New Mexico on multiple occasions from September 2021 through June 2023.

The team gathered survey-level data through archaeological fieldwork to confirm the existence of in situ historical deposits associated with McJunkin.

The team also engaged in archival research in museums and databases, literature reviews, oral history and ethnographic-style interviews, and extensive correspondence with colleagues and interested parties. Applying an open-source approach, public presentations of preliminary results allowed team members to obtain feedback from professionals and the public at large.

The past two years of work have been tactical in nature and contingent in multiple ways. No official permits were obtained, and there are no State, Federal, Section 106 NHPA, NAGPRA, or development actions which serve as a project driver.

Everything done to date was an act of imagination conducted on private lands with the explicit permission of the local community and the ranching families of the Folsom community.

In summer 2023, Team McJunkin started a new phase of activity, and formal documentation and interpretation are the next tactical steps in a much longer process involving George McJunkin. The editors of the journal *Kiva* have reviewed a draft proposal for a themed volume featuring George McJunkin, and revisions were requested before the proposal can be vetted by the editorial board of the journal.

As a principal engaged in the effort, I want to clear up one issue that keeps coming up. Why is this George McJunkin historical archaeology project valuable to me? For me, the answer was spelled out in what I noted to a friend about it (the project) not being about giving "credit" to McJunkin [a repeating problem over which some archaeologists seem to want to contend] :

This writing project that we hope to cook up into a themed volume of the journal *Kiva* is not about demonstrating credit.

Our work is a pure play on the reality that McJunkin's historical sites are worthy enough for study in their own right — although McJunkin discovered a bone bed paleontological specimen site that later became a famous archaeological site. McJunkin's discovery and subsequent fame are useful prerequisites for us, but only to gain wider readership and appreciation for the utility of continued archaeological research.

McJunkin associated historical sites have everything an archaeologist might need in a set of archaeological sites: features, artifacts, contexts in situ and disturbed, charcoal, seeds, depth, activity areas, and administrative documents and

databases and records to probe, and so on. Likewise, the modern community of Folsom has a historical past and a deep and unique set of oral histories and ethnographic traditions that provide everything an anthropologist might need to study culture and subcultures, and human behavior at scale.

The credit issue and value of George McJunkin has been done to death and it is time to move on. The Folsom Museum, the surrounding community of ranchers, and American archaeology, will always have the Folsom Site (and its story) to draw people to Wild Horse Arroyo for enjoyment, education, and for fresh comparative research opportunities.

If we are successful in getting the themed journal volume completed, our attempt at telling the story about a resident cowboy-scholar's historical sites and his home community — from an archaeological and ethnographic and sometimes political and social perspective — is an additive and alternative way to tell a story that compliments everything we currently think we know.

George McJunkin's historical sites contain data sets that are unused to date, so in seeking this work and these materials appropriately we are also engaging in some measure of capacity building for the Folsom community and future work in northeastern New Mexico.

Other social scientists in the West are working the historical cowboy, colonial, Black, Native, and western genres as well, giving more agency and humanity to all ancestors in our diverse society, so it is an interesting sphere in which to address our professional career talents as Westernists.

There Is a Lot of Work to Do Down Range of Where We Are Now

There is change afoot as archaeologists turn their attention to issues like "decolonizing" the archaeological profession, and how to recruit members of diverse communities to join our professional practice.

The historical sites we visited are likely to reveal added information about a multidimensional Black cowboy who was well-practiced in the arts, skilled at making a living, and doing so on his own terms despite facing significant adversity. It is a compelling story when told well, and research from an historical archaeological perspective will produce added details which are additive and go beyond what is known already. We might learn a good deal about inequality and equality and the leveling of personhood.

Since archaeologists classically investigate the causes of inequality and injustice contextually, these sites represent that 'something more,' that useful in situ context that we might seek. George McJunkin's historical sites may provide the place and a context and theme to introduce Black, Indigenous

and People of Color to the scholarly work of prehistory and history of the southwest for a season, or for multiple seasons in a field school setting for entry-level scholars.

We do not really know yet, but Team McJunkin is inspired to think that good archaeological and archival work could be combined to confirm and strengthen the McJunkin story and add new and incontrovertible facts to our understanding in ways that we do not currently understand.

The artifacts and historical records suggest that George McJunkin was on the side of the Colonists in a Capitalist system, that he owned private property and had a keen sense of property, that he demonstrated Agency, and that he actively built his reputational status with his clothes, his tools and his built environment, and the discovery of the bone pit. This leads us to wonder if we can talk about George McJunkin and his acts of “deep play” in ways that Clifford Geertz similarly described deep play in his famous essay about the Balinese Cockfight.

George was a cowboy, so he was all about movement across the landscape. Constant movement on the landscape brought McJunkin the opportunity of knowledge, work, obligation, money, success, and a modicum of personal reputation and fame, even before he found the Folsom bone pit.

So, let us look at other ways to theorize – let us look at movement, deep play within the system, strong belief in personal agency, reputation, and private ownership. If we get to dig in these historical sites in a field school setting of the future, how much or how little of that shows up in the archaeological record as material fact to substantiate these proto hypotheses? His personal and community artifacts lead me to wonder how he came by his personal agency and personhood, because the artifacts seem to show that he was actively seeking opportunities to demonstrate his skills and build his reputational status in the community.

- His spring box at George Spring on his homestead still functions after a hundred years, as do his fences, corrals, and irrigation ditches.
- A photo shows George on horseback, wearing a white shirt and playing polo at a community event. It is said that he always wore a white shirt, even when cowboying or working as the ranch supervisor, and he kept it clean to demonstrate that he could work physically and still properly maintain his attire.
- His saddle and its maker’s marks reveal an expensive piece of equipment built in Cheyenne Wyoming by a well-respected saddle maker. We checked at museums in the region, and all the saddles are local, but George’s saddle was higher quality, more expensive, and more exotic.

Do these pieces of material culture demonstrate that George McJunkin was actively building his reputation among fellow cowboys and townsfolk? It makes us wonder if we came to town and saw that saddle on a well-trained horse, if we would think the owner was a man of means and skill and high reputation?

The things that McJunkin gathered in his movements got stuck in his historical sites during his later more sedentary adult life, and these locations may help represent the retired cowboy, ranch supervisor, and avocational scientist. McJunkin’s sites have depth, context, material culture, and a variety of eco-factual remains and contexts, which can be subjected to traditional methods of analysis, with modern technologies bringing additional insights to these problems of understanding and appreciation.

So, what is it about George McJunkin’s historical archaeological sites that professionals have missed? We have been looking the gift horse in the mouth all along (literally). Now that we have identified his historical sites, we can speculate that George McJunkin was famous — but for the right reasons that we now have a chance to extend and expand upon more thoroughly.

Yes, he discovered bones that later led to important archaeological discoveries, but George becomes more real and less tangential to our discipline if we look at his quotidian life and the very ordinary sites that he built and where he worked and played.

George McJunkin Is Still in Folsom New Mexico

The future means that we will need continued permission and goodwill from ranchers and private landowners. The work to date was no dig – no permits – leave only footprints and smiles. That will need to change, and the first step to a more professional presence will occur with publication of a themed volume in a refereed journal of regional significance and professional importance.

Post publication, Team McJunkin will need to economize, using innovative technologies and off-the-shelf tools; we have already started with cell phone-based location and mapping applications. A variety of tools, including Lidar, will allow us to explore and develop alternative and complementary research opportunities potentially manifest through professional work efforts conducted in George McJunkin’s historical sites.

The George McJunkin story is 172 years old (birth), or 135 years old (founding of Folsom), or one hundred (historic archaeology), 50 (Franklin Folsom publication), or 25 years old (David Meltzer’s Folsom Site excavation), depending on where one might choose to plug into the story.

We will need goodwill and institutional and financial participation to advance to a BIPOC archaeological field school idea, and yet other creative methods to strengthen diversity in the profession. Team McJunkin was inspired to

wonder about some of these issues. If you are inspired to wonder about such opportunities, Team McJunkin will need your help.

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Meeting Reminder: There will be no Board Meeting nor General Meeting in July. We will resume our meetings in August. The Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 7th at 7:00 pm. The General Meeting will be held on Monday, June 14th at 7:00 pm. This meeting is our annual joint meeting with the Egyptian Studies Society, and DC-CAS will host. Further details about our August speaker are given below.

Membership: The Board would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members, and to thank existing members for renewing their memberships. Your support means a lot! Should you have any questions, or you have ideas for speakers or activities, please be sure to contact the Board using the information listed on the last page of this newsletter or through our website (<https://www.cas-denver.org/contact>). We very much welcome your active participation in the organization!

Thank You: The Board wishes to thank Erin Baxter, Jon Hedlund and Justin Batista, Gene Wheaton and Eva Maren, Christian Driver, and Elizabeth Kriebel for their excellent presentations during this past quarter. Also, an appreciative thank you is extended to History Colorado Center for their continued support, and for providing access to the Emery Archaeology Lab for our monthly meetings. A big thank you goes out to Shawn Fausett, Emery Archaeology Lab Coordinator for his time and efforts to make sure our meetings are accessible in person and virtually to our members and guests. We couldn't do it without you! A huge thank you is extended to Larry Beidle and Katy Waechter of the Indian Peaks Chapter for helping to make our inaugural May 14th Joint Meeting happen! Also, thanks to the New Terrain Brewing Company of Golden for providing an excellent venue.

2023 Stephen H. Hart Awards: The annual Stephen H. Hart Awards for outstanding Colorado archaeology and historic preservation projects took place on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at History Colorado Center, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver 80203. The following projects were honored for their important work: Penrose School, Pancratia Hall Lofts, Significant State Document Retrieval and Archival, Granada Japanese-American Internment Camp, and La Junta Downtown. To learn more about these outstanding projects, please see the following video presentations on History Colorado's YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI68fpINJM8CkbO_1zGfcdSXH5FkTpi9I

Alice Hamilton Scholarship Awards: The following information was received from Kristine J. Holien, Co-Chair for the CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee. Since its inception in 1987, the CAS Alice Hamilton Scholarship Fund has awarded 292 scholarships totaling over \$118,000. For the 37th year, the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's awarding of \$8,450 in scholarships to three PhD Candidates, two Masters Candidates and seven Undergraduate students. All of this year's applicants were well qualified and were supported with Letters of Recommendation from top archaeological educators and researchers. The selected scholars attend seven different Colorado institutions, and their research projects center upon the prehistory of the Southwest, Great Basin, Great Plains, Caribbean, Mexico, Belize, Romania and Spain. Congratulations to the following awardees:

PhD Candidate Awardees:

- Kelsey Hoppes, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado-Boulder: \$1,000 for laboratory analysis/testing
- Erik Jurado, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado-Boulder: \$1,000 for dissertation research
- Nicholas Puente, Doctoral Candidate, University of Colorado-Boulder: \$1,000 for dissertation research

Masters Candidate Awardees:

- Gabrielle Perry, Masters Candidate, University of Colorado-Boulder: \$1,000 for dissertation research
- Andrew Rogers, Masters Candidate, University of Denver: \$750 for thesis research

Undergraduate Awardees:

- Linnea Baldner, Undergraduate, Western Colorado University-Gunnison: \$600 for field school expenses\
- Jessica Freeman, Undergraduate, Colorado Mesa University-Grand Junction: \$600* for field school expenses *Please note this award was later regrettably declined as the student was not able to attend the field school as planned.
- Aidan Keener, Undergraduate, Colorado State University-Fort Collins: \$600 for field school expenses
- August Mrakuzic, Undergraduate, Fort Lewis College-Durango: \$400 for field school expenses
- Ana Nemeth, Undergraduate, University of Northern Colorado-Greeley: \$400 for field school expenses
- Hunter Sims, Undergraduate, Colorado State University-Fort Collins: \$400 for field school expenses
- Caitlyn Young, Undergraduate, University of Denver: \$700 for independent capstone project

A heartfelt thank you is extended to all students who applied, and to the many educators and other professionals who wrote letters of recommendation for the applicants. Scholars are encouraged to apply again in subsequent years if they still meet the eligibility requirements.

The Colorado Projectile Point Database: Craig Banister has provided DC-CAS with an update on Coal Creek Research's Colorado Projectile Point Database. You may recall Craig was our speaker for the November 14, 2022 General Meeting*. At the time of his talk, 7,126 projectile points had been entered into the database. Since that time, the project has added another 1,828 projectile points for a total 8,954 projectile points. To learn more about the database, please visit - <https://p3.coalcreekresearch.org/index.php>.

If you have a private collection of Colorado projectile points or know of someone who does, please consider making the collection available to this important Colorado-based project. Your contribution would be a valued addition to archaeological research on Colorado projectile points. Coal Creek Research is discreet when working with private collection owners. For information on how work with private collections is carried out, please read the following: <https://coalcreekresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Private-Collections-How-To-Contribute-to-the-Colorado-Projectile-Point-Database-CCR.pdf>. For further inquiries, please contact Neil Hauser (nhauser.ccr@gmail.com) or Terri Hauser (teribhCCR@gmail.com).

*Craig's talk is available on the DC-CAS YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y0WkKjcaFbw>). A summary of the talk is also available in the December 2022 APB newsletter (Vol.60, No.4, p12) (https://www.cas-denver.org/files/ugd/0afebf_1a06c147851949b9a2ff11ca1012e871.pdf)

The Sand Creek Massacre Exhibit at History Colorado: Please be sure to check out the relaunched exhibit, *The Sand Creek Massacre: The Betrayal that Changed Cheyenne and Arapaho People Forever*. It is a thoughtful and interesting exhibit which should not be missed. For additional information and tickets, please visit - (<https://www.historycolorado.org/exhibit/sand-creek-massacre-betrayal-changed-cheyenne-and-arapaho-people-forever>).

DC-CAS Lithic Workshop: The Denver Chapter held a lithic workshop for members at Veterans Park on Saturday, May 27th. The workshop was led by Indian Peak's member, Christian Driver. Participants worked primarily with mahogany obsidian and black obsidian. Some participants also tried fire-treated Keokuk Chert and petrified wood.



Photographs courtesy of Jon Kent



Photographs courtesy of Jon Kent

The weather was perfect and a good time was had by all! Christian Driver's time and expertise were very much appreciated. Many thanks to Jon Kent and Josef Garrett for their donation of black obsidian and petrified wood. Based upon the enthusiastic comments from participants, there are plans to offer a second lithic workshop in the Fall.

Colorado Calls for Papers: Please be sure to check out, under the Upcoming Conferences section, the call for papers from the Colorado Archaeological Society for its Annual Meeting scheduled for September 29-October 1, 2023 (submission deadline is August 25th), and for the 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium scheduled for September 29, 2023 (submission deadline is August 15th).

PAAC Classes: We have received word from State Archaeologist, Holly Norton that PAAC classes are expected to resume in the Fall 2023. Further information will be forthcoming when it becomes available.

For our new members, PAAC stands for Program for Avocational Archaeology Certification. The program provides education in archaeological methods for those interested in archaeology, but are not planning to pursue a formal archaeology degree. Completing the widely-recognized certificate program prepares you to participate in field and lab projects. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please visit <https://www.historycolorado.org/paac>.

UPCOMING DC-CAS LECTURES:

AUGUST 14, 2023 DC-CAS/ESS ANNUAL JOINT MEETING: (Hybrid)

The annual joint meeting between DC-CAS and the Egyptian Studies Society will take place on Monday, August 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm. As DC-CAS are the host this year, the meeting will take place in the Emery Archaeology Lab, 3rd Floor, History Colorado, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver 80203. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before August 14th.

Salt of the Earth: Coptic Life and Death in Byzantine Middle Egypt at Tell El-Hibeh

Speaker: Dr. Robert M. Yohe II PhD, RPA, Associate Director, Tell El-Hibeh Project and Professor of Anthropology, California State University-Bakersfield (Speaker will be presenting online)

Between 2003 and 2017, Dr. Robert M. Yohe II conducted research at the archaeological site of Tell-Hibeh as part of the University of California, Berkeley Egyptian archaeological team. The site is located in the Beni Suef Governorate of Middle Egypt, approximately 130 miles south of Cairo. In Coptic times, the ancient town was known as Teudjoi (Coptic for “their walls”). During Greco-Roman times, the town was known as Ankyronpolis. Today, it is known to scholars as Tell-Hibeh. Yohe’s responsibilities at Tell-Hibeh centered upon the assessment and recovery of human remains, mummified and otherwise. A test excavation of a feature called the North Gate Looter Pit (NGLP) was carried out by Yohe which resulted in the recovery of numerous Christian “mummies”. The NGLP was thought to be a large “illicit” excavation pit into a post-2nd Century AD/CE Roman Trash dump located outside the north gate of the town. The NGLP had been made a high priority due to the exposure of partial mummies. Later reassessment concluded the disturbance was the result of the 1901 excavations carried out by Bernard S. Grenfell and Arthur S. Hunt in their search for ancient papyri documents. This presentation will focus upon human remains recovered from the NGLP Coptic cemetery, which provide significant insight into the transition from pagan mummification practices to what would come to be recognized as more “traditional” Christian treatment of the dead. Research to-date includes a necropsy with endoscopic work on NGLP-7, one of the best-preserved individuals, osteological analysis of Mummy NGLP-8, and radiographic imaging of six Coptic mummies recovered in 2004. Additionally, radiocarbon dates were obtained from the NGLP-7 and NGLP-8 individuals. The implication of this research will be discussed.

UPCOMING LECTURES – OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

Archaeological Institute of America -

- **National** – Please visit

https://www.archaeological.org/events/month/2023-04/?tribe_eventcategory%5B0%5D=210&tribe_ecp_custom_24%5B0%5D=Virtual and select virtual (hybrid) lectures to see upcoming free lectures (September through April).

- **Boulder Chapter** – Please visit <https://www.facebook.com/AIABoulder> to see upcoming free lectures.

- **Denver Chapter** – Please visit <https://aiadenver.org/lectures-events/> to see upcoming free lectures.

Archaeology Southwest – Archaeology Café, (Arizona) - Please visit

<https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/things-to-do/cafe/> to see upcoming free virtual lectures. If you are not able to

attend the virtual lecture, it will be posted on their YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsRG3vav9m6rbnLM7VYtdaQ>.

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society, (Tucson, Arizona) – Free online lecture. Registration required to receive Zoom link - <https://www.az-arch-and-hist.org/events/category/lectures/>

July 17th (7-8pm MST): *The Fremont Cultural Tradition at the Northern Edge of the Greater Southwest*, Speaker: Michael Searcy

British Archaeological Association – (UK) For those interested in European/Old World archaeology, recordings of 2023 lectures (and earlier) are available on the association's YouTube Channel - <https://thebaa.org/videos-of-baa-lectures/>.

Council for British Archaeology – (UK) Online lectures are Five Pounds for non-members. To register, please visit <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/get-involved/events-and-activities/this-is-archaeology-lecture-series.html>.

- **July 18th, 7:00 pm BST (12:00 pm MDT) (Online)** – *This is Archaeology: Traces from the other end of time: imaginary futures and the prehistoric past.*

- **July 25th, 7:00 pm BST (12:00 pm MDT) (Online)** – *This is Archaeology: Nina Frances Layard and queering archaeology.*

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center (Cortez, CO) – **Online lectures are at 4:00 pm and free.** For further information and to register to attend a talk, please visit <https://www.crowcanyon.org/archaeology-webinars/>

- **July 20th:** *Sustained Research: 40 years of Crow Canyon's Ancestral Pueblo Community Center Archaeology*, Speaker: Donna Glowacki

- **July 27th:** *Pueblo on the Plains: The Merchant Site of Southeastern New Mexico and New Insights into Plains-Pueblo Relationships during the 14th Century*, Speakers: Myles Miller and John D. Speth

- **August 3rd:** *What All of Us Can Learn From the Old Ones*, Speaker: Scott Ortman

- **August 10th:** *Bedrock Ground Stone Features: Landscape, Social Identity and Ritual Space on the High Plains*, Speaker: Elizabeth Lynch

- **August 17th:** *Gardens in the Sand: Historic Early Landscapes in the Southwest*, Speaker: Baker Morrow

- **August 24th:** *Duck Pots in Brooklyn: Rediscovering the Hunters Point Chacoan Community*, Speakers: Kelley Hays-Gilpin and Dennis Gilpin

- **August 31st:** *Seeking My Center Place: Migrations through Science and Tradition*, Lyle Balenquah

- **September 21st:** *The Salado Phenomenon in the Phoenix Basin: Current Research on Ceramic Composition and Vessel Shapes*, Speaker: Caitlin Wichlacz

Past lectures are available on YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CrowCanyonConnects>

Egyptian Studies Society (Denver, CO) – Please visit <https://egyptianstudysociety.org/lectures.htm> to learn more about their free monthly lectures.

- **July 17th (7:00 pm MDT - Hybrid):** *Egyptian Archaeology 101: Hard Stone Vessels of the Prehistoric, Protodynastic and Archaic Periods*, Speaker: William Cherb. Lecture will be at the Pettys' Theater, Littleton. Virtual access is available via the link above.

Friends of History – (New Mexico) – Monthly Lectures – Free but donations up to \$25.00 are appreciated:

- **August 2nd (12:00-1:00pm, Online Only),** *Cultural Memory and Amateur Film: The Visual Legacy of the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial*, Speaker: Alison Griffiths, Distinguished Professor of Film and Media Studies at Baruch

College, the City University of New York. To register for this lecture, please visit <https://friendsofhistorynm.org/event/cultural-memory-and-amateur-film-the-visual-legacy-of-the-gallup-inter-tribal-indian-ce-remonial/>.

History Colorado Center – (Denver and other Colorado locations)

- **August 19th (11:00am-12:30pm, In-Person Only)**, Borderlands of Southern Colorado Speaker Series, *Conline's Skirmish: The Forgotten Prelude to the Battle of Hembriillo Basin*, Speaker: Karl Laumbach, Archaeologist in Southwestern New Mexico. Lecture will be at the Fort Garland Museum and Cultural Center, 29477 Colorado 159, Fort Garland. Please visit <https://www.historycolorado.org/borderlands-lecture-series> for further information and tickets.

Museum of Indian Arts & Cultures – (Santa Fe, NM), Innovation in Archaeology Series, visit <https://indianartsandculture.org/whatsnew?releaseID=1168> for additional information and lecture Zoom link.

- **July 22nd (6pm MDT, Online)** *A Look at Classic Period Tewa Communities in the Velarde area*, Speaker: Patrick Cruz (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo)

- **July 29th (6pm MDT, Online)**: *Breaking Down Cardboard Boxes: How Archaeology Can Erase Histories and How It Can Reveal Them*, Speaker: Dr. Lewis Borck

Oklahoma Historical Society – (Oklahoma) – Free Online lectures from the Hidden Oklahoma Series

- **August 2nd (2:00pm CT, Online)** – *Out of the Earth: Revitalizing Choctaw Traditional Art*, Speaker: Dr. Ian Thompson. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.okhistory.org/calendar/event/hidden-oklahoma-out-of-the-earth-revitalizing-choctaw-traditional-art-presentation-by-dr-ian-thompson/>.

- **September 6th (2:00pm CT, Online)** – *Ceramics and Community Interaction at Spiro*, Speaker: Dr. Shawn Lambert. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.okhistory.org/calendar/event/hidden-oklahoma-ceramics-and-community-interaction-at-spiro-presentation-by-dr-shawn-lambert/>.

- **October 4th (2:00pm CT, Online)** *Early-Historic Wichita Sites*, Speaker: Dr. Richard Drass. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.okhistory.org/calendar/event/hidden-oklahoma-early-historic-wichita-sites-presentation-by-dr-richard-drass/>.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center – (Arizona) – Third Thursday Food for Thought Series, Free - registration is required.

- **July 20th (8:00-9:30pm MDT/7:00-8:30 PDT – Online Only)**: *O'odham Place Names: Meanings, Origins and Histories*, Speaker: Dr. Harry Winters Jr. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/third-thursday-food-for-thought-presentation-oodham-place-names-meanings-origins-and-histories/>.

- **August 17th (8:00-9:30pm MDT/7:00-8:30 PDT – Online Only)**: *The 1541 O'odham Annihilation of Vázquez de Coronado's Southern Arizona Townsite and Other New Coronado-Era Discoveries*, Speaker: Deni J. Seymour, Archaeologist. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/the-1541-oodham-annihilation-of-vazquez-de-coronados-southern-arizona-townsite-and-other-new-coronado-era-discoveries-online-presentation/>.

- **September 21st (8:00-9:30pm MDT/7:00-8:30 PDT – Online Only)**: *The Historical George McJunkin Reimagined through His Archaeological Sites*, Speaker: Brian W. Kenny, Applied Anthropologist and Archaeologist. For more information and to register, visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/the-historical-george-mcjunkin-reimagined-through-his-archaeological-sites-presentation/>.

Smithsonian Institute – (Washington, DC) - **(Online Lectures)** – For additional information or to register, please visit <https://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/events/archaeology>

- **August 7th (5:00-6:15pm MDT/7:00/8:15pm EDT):** *The Epic Story of Wildlife and People in America*, Speaker: Dan Flores, Historian. Cost: \$20 Members/\$25 Non-Members.

- **August 9th (4:30-5:45pm MDT/6:30-7:45pm EDT):** *Cave Art: Where It All Began*, Speaker: April Nowell, Paleolithic Archaeologist. Cost: \$20 Members/\$25 Non-Members.

UPCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS:

COLORADO –

Wed, July 19 (9:00-10:00am) - Discover Archaeology at Schweiger Ranch, 10822 S. Havana Street, Lonetree, CO. This family friendly event is free, but you need to register for a time slot via Eventbrite -

https://www.google.com/search?q=archaeology+events+summer+2023&og=archaeology+events+summer+2023&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigATIHCAIQIRigATIKCAMQIRgWGB0YHtlBCTE0MzY0ajFqN6gCALACAA&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8&ibp=htl:events&rciv=evn&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiEr_P04Of_AhVs4kEHe38A2wQ5bwDegQIPhAB#fpstate=tldetail&htidocid=L2F1dGhvcml0eS9ob3Jpem9uL2NsdXN0ZXJlZl9ldmVudC8yMDIzLTA3LTE5fDE2OTA4NzlwMzk1Njg2MjlyMzM4&htivrt=events&mid=/g/11svrz8xs1

Ongoing August through October – Many of Colorado’s National Parks and Monuments have ongoing tours. Here are just a few to check out:

Chimney Rock National Monument – Several tours are offered at the monument located southwest of Pagosa Springs, CO. For more information, please visit <https://www.chimneyrockco.org/programs/>

Mesa Verde National Park – Located 35 miles west of Durango, CO. For more information on Cliff Dwelling Tours, please visit https://www.nps.gov/meve/planyourvisit/cliff_dwelling_tours.htm

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park – Ute Guided Tours only permitted. Located in Towaoc, Colorado. For more information, please visit <http://www.utemountaintribalpark.info/>

Sat, August 5th (9:00 am) – Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve of a prehistoric Mammoth kill site located in Douglas County. To learn more about this site and to schedule a free tour, please visit <http://www.lambspring.org/>. Additional tour dates available for 2023 are September 2nd and October 9th at 9:00 am.

Fri, August 25th and Sat, August 26th – Colorado Preservation Inc.’s *Saving Place On the Road!* will be in La Junta, Colorado, The two-day event is open to the public and is filled with free and fee-based workshops and tours. Registration costs for the two days are \$125 for Colorado Preservation Inc Members, \$165 for those who become a member and register, \$255 for Non-Members, \$125 for Certified Local Government and Historic Preservation Commission, and \$69 for Students. For more information and to register, please visit <https://web.cvent.com/event/d30bc71e-861b-4030-b029-9b7acb0400fc/summary>.

Although part of the *Saving Place on the Road* in La Junta, CO, you can register for two craft workshops without registering for the two-day event –

Sat, August 26th (7:00am-11:30am MDT) – (Las Animas, CO) - *Deep Roots Craftsmen Historic Window Restoration Workshop*, at the John W. Rawlings Heritage Center, Las Animas. Instructor: Jon Sargent, Co-Founder, Fort Collins-based Deep Roots Craftsman. This will be a hands-on window restoration workshop which aims to provide a brief overview of the window restoration process. The goal is to educate, empower and connect interested parties to be able to tackle ongoing maintenance more confidently, and to plan and execute more major restoration work. Fee: \$30.00 – 30 openings remain

Sun, August 27th (9:00am-5:00pm MDT) – (Granada, CO) - *Volunteer Furniture Making Workshop – Interpreting the Reconstructed Barrack at Amache* – Free Workshop. Note: Colorado Preservation organizers have stated on the Workshop page that by selecting this workshop does not constitute registration for the workshop. By selecting this workshop, your information will be forwarded to the local organizers, who will confirm your registration. Instructors: Jane Daniels, Preservation Consultant, Barbara Darden, Principal of Scheuber and Darden Architects, John Hopper, Amache

Preservation Society, and Dana Ogo Shew, Certified Interpretive Planner, Oral Historian, and Archaeologist. This educational workshop will engage a small group of volunteers in the fabrication of replica furniture pieces of the former internees at Amache during WWI incarceration. The pieces created will be used as permanent exhibit furnishings. There will be a presentation on the evening of Friday, August 26th. Workshop limited to 12 to 14 participants.

For more information and to register for these workshops, please visit -

<https://web.cvent.com/event/d30bc71e-861b-4030-b029-9b7acb0400fc/regProcessStep1:4c3b70af-901f-4320-a76a-114b5becb18e> . Scroll down to the registration page to find the desired workshop.

Sat, October 21 (9:00am MDT) – Save the date for the 2023 International Archaeology Day at Red Rocks Parks and Amphitheatre, 18300 W. Alameda Parkway, Morrison, CO. This is a free, family-friendly event organized by Community Connections, LLC. Further information will be forthcoming closer to the event date.

ELSEWHERE -

Sat, July 22nd (8:00am-12:30pm MST/PDT) – (Arizona) Tour to the Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill and the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, Tucson, Arizona. Tour to meet in the courtyard at Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento, Tucson at 8am. \$35 donation requested. Limit to 20 participants. Car required, though carpooling to be available. For more information, please visit

<https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/tour-to-the-desert-laboratory-on-tumamoc-hill-and-the-laboratory-of-tree-ring-research/>.

Sat, August 19th – (New Mexico) Tour of Folsom Paleo-Indian Site, Folsom, New Mexico. Website for the 2nd Expedition Tour info - <http://www.folsomvillage.com/folsommuseum/index.html>. Advance reservations required. To reserve your spot, call (575)278-2122 or email museum@folsomvillage.com

Sat, August 19th (9:00am-4:00pm CDT)– (Nebraska) 19th Annual Nebraska Artifact Show, Seward County Fairgrounds, Seward, Nebraska. Cost: \$12/Adult, Children under 12 Free. For more information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/site/webnas/2018>.

Fri, September 8th (12:00pm MST/PDT)-Sat, September 9th (1:00pm MST/PDT) – (Arizona) Tour of Homol'ovi and Rock Art Ranch Pueblos and Petroglyph Tours, Homol'ovi State Park, northeast of Winslow, Arizona. Cost: Suggested donation of \$109 per person Non-Members/\$87 per person for Members. For further information, tour flier pdf, and to register, please visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/homolovi-and-rock-art-ranch-pueblos-and-petroglyphs-tour-4/>

Sat, September 9th – (Wyoming) Family Friendly 2023 Wyoming Archaeology Fair, Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historical Site, 975 Snowy Range Rd., Laramie, Wyoming. For more information, please visit <http://www.wyomingarchaeology.org/2023-archaeology-fair.html>.

Sat, September 23rd (8:00am-12:00pm MST/PDT) – (Arizona) Autumn Equinox Tour to Los Morteros and Picture Rocks Petroglyph Sites, Marana, Arizona. Cost: Suggested donation of \$35 for Non-Members/\$28 for Members. For more information and register, please visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/autumn-equinox-tour-to-los-morteros-and-picture-rocks-petroglyphs-sites-4/>.

Sat, October 7th (8:00am-1:00pm MST/PDT) – (Arizona) Tucson and Marana Yoeme (Yaqui Indian) Communities Tour, Tucson and Marana, Arizona. Cost: Suggested donation of \$35 for Non-Members/\$28 for Members. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/tucson-and-marana-yoeme-yaqui-indian-communities-tour-4/>.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED:

Volunteering:

Emery Archaeology Lab: If you have archaeological field or laboratory experience, please consider volunteering your time to work on various projects in the Emery Archaeology Lab at History Colorado. Contact Shawn Fausett, Emery Archaeology Lab Coordinator (shawn.fausett@state.co.us) for further information.

Colorado Council for Professional Archaeologists: The CCPA Education Committee is always interested in having new members working together to bring archaeology to students and the public everywhere. If you are interested in joining the CCPA and the CCPA Education Committee, or just have questions or ideas you would like to share, please contact Amy Gillaspie (amy.gillaspie@ucdenver.edu).

Denver Museum of Nature and Science: There are opportunities to carry out volunteer work on the Jones-Miller Bison Kill Site Collection or another legacy project, the WS Ranch Collection. Read more about these projects in the "Anthropology Rehousing Projects" section at <https://www.dmns.org/support/volunteer-at-the-museum>. If you are interested, please contact Natalie Patton (natalie.patton@dmns.org), Amy Gillaspie (amy.gillaspie@dmns.org), or Elizabeth Kreibel (elizabeth.kreibel@dmns.org).

Classes:

History Colorado Museum Basic Classes: (Online) The Insights and In-Person program at History Colorado Center is offering fee-based classes for those who work or volunteer at cultural institutions such as museums, libraries and archives. Classes are also suitable for graduate students who are interested in pursuing this line of work:

- *Oral Histories* – Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – 5:00pm to 7:00pm MDT

- *Working with Military Collections* – Wednesday, November 8, 2023 – 5:00pm to 7:00pm MDT

For further information and to register, please visit -

<https://www.historycolorado.org/insights-inperson#:~:text=InSights%20%26%20InPerson%3A%20How%2DTo,your%20own%20pieces%20of%20history>.

(NEW) History Colorado PAAC Classes: DC-CAS has received word from Holly Norton, State Archaeologist that they are looking to resume PAAC classes in the Fall 2023. Please visit <https://www.historycolorado.org/offerings-and-communications> for updates. Gene Wheaton, our Chapter PAAC Coordinator will also provide updates when available.

(NEW) Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Online Classes: (Arizona) – *The Hohokam Culture of Southern Arizona*, 12-Session Online Adult Education Class, Instructor: Allen Dart, Archaeologist. Dates: Wednesdays, September 6-December 6 (7:30-9:30pm MDT). Cost is a \$99 donation for non-members. For further information, class flier pdf, and to register, please visit <https://www.oldpueblo.org/event/the-hohokam-culture-of-southern-arizona-12-session-online-adult-education-class-2/>.

(NEW) Society for American Anthropology Online Classes: Per their website - SAA Continuing Education offers free and fee-based online professional development opportunities designed for students and archaeologists seeking to enhance their skill sets or knowledge base. For further information, course description and to register, please visit <https://www.saa.org/career-practice/continuing-education/upcoming-events>.

- *The Practice and Ethics of Skeletal Excavation and Conservation* – September 15, 2023 – Online 2:00-4:00pm ET, Instructor: Katherine Miller Wolf, PhD, RPA, University of West Florida and Carolyn Freiwald, PhD, University of Mississippi. Cost: \$99 for SAA Members/\$149 for Non-Members.

- *More than Fill: Using GIS and Historical Documents in Urban Archaeology* [Foundational Skills] – September 21, 2023 – Online 1:00-2:00 PM ET, Instructor: Ger Knight-Iske, RPA. Cost: Free to SAA Members/\$69 for Non-Members.

- *Project Management in Archaeology: How to Finish on Budget and Ahead of Schedule while Meeting Expectations* [Foundational Skills] – October 11, 2023, Online 2:00-3:00pm ET, Instructor: Stefan Brannan, PhD, RPA, PMP, New South Associates, Inc. Cost: Free to SAA Members/\$69 for Non-Members.

- *Experimental Archaeology: Finding Dynamic Behaviors in Fragments of the Past* [Deeper Digs] – October 2, 2023 – Online 3:00-5:00pm ET, Instructor: Charles A. Speer, PhD, RPA, Idaho State University, Idaho Museum of Natural History. Cost: \$99 for SAA Members/\$149 for Non-Members.

- *Archaeological Database Creation and Management Basics* [Deeper Digs] – November 7, 2023, Online 3:00-5:00pm ET, Instructor: Alanna Ossa, PhD, RPA, SUNY Oswego, Department of Anthropology.

Fee-Based, On-Demand Classes are also available here -

<https://www.saa.org/career-practice/continuing-education/seminars-on-demand>. Please note you are purchasing a recording of a previously-held class. Cost: \$99 for SAA Members/\$149 for Non-Members. Current offerings are:

- *Reading Flake Scars to Understand Lithic Technologies and Past Human Behavior*
- *Assessing Significance and Integrity to Establish National Register Eligibility of Archaeology Sites*
- *Quantification in Zooarchaeology: Calculating and Critiquing NISP, MNI, and MNE*
- *Characterization of Obsidian and Coarse to Fine-Paste Ceramics with Handheld XRF*
- *Exploring Applications of 3-D Printing in Archaeology for Education, Public Outreach, and Museum Exhibits*
- *Step by Step: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act*
- *Historic Ceramics Identification*

If you are an SAA Member, you have access to 30+ hours of free on-demand recordings in the Online Learning Archive by signing in via the link below -

https://ecommerce.saa.org/saa/SAAMember/MyAccount/Sign_In.aspx?WebsiteKey=b764b3f5-fd1e-4004-a990-89b6b82a096b&LoginRedirect=true&returnurl=%2fsaa%2fMember%2fMember_Center_Login_small%2fOnline_Learning_Archive%2fSAAMember%2fMembers_Only%2fOnline_Seminar.aspx%3fhkey%3d4de39403-5b28-41ee-be5b-d4cf0192df50.

Field Opportunities:

Note: Publication of field opportunities by DC-CAS are not to be considered endorsements. Please undertake your own research on the programs listed below.

Colorado -

(NEW) Ninth Street Historic Park Excavations, Auraria Campus: CAS members are invited to volunteer to participate in excavations on Auraria Campus on Fridays starting August 2, 2023. Those interested should contact Gene Wheaton at Gene.Wheaton@ccd.edu.

(NEW) 5DA3991 Rockshelter, Douglas County: CAS members are invited to join the volunteer list for excavations at the 5DA3991 rocks shelter in Douglas County. Tentative start date is mid-to-late August and will continue into the Fall. Those interested should contact Jon Hedlund, ERO Resources Corp. at jhedlund@erosresources.com.

Dominquez Archaeological Research Group: If you are interested in working in the Upper Colorado River Basin area, please visit <https://www.dargnet.org/index.html> for more information about this organization. One current project listed is Phase II of the archaeological reassessment of rock art in Canyon Pintado National Historic District. Additional ongoing projects are also listed on their home page.

Paleocultural Research Group: Please visit <https://paleocultural.org/participate/> for 2023 field opportunities and to join their mailing list. The following projects have been listed:

- PCRG Partner-BEAAR Project, Beartooth Mountains, Montana: August 7-20, 2023 and September 1-4, 2023
- Windy Ridge Quarry Survey, Routt National Forest, Grand County, CO; August 11-17, 2023

South Park Site Stewardship Program: If you hike in the South Park area, please consider becoming a site steward. For more information, please visit <https://www.southparksitestewards.org/>.

Elsewhere -

Archaeological Institute of America (AIA): AIA posts fieldwork opportunities available worldwide. For further information, please visit <https://www.archaeological.org/programs/professionals/fieldwork/afob/> to search for upcoming projects.

Earth Watch: For information on volunteer opportunities available for archaeology work, visit <https://earthwatch.org/expeditions/browse?f%5B0%5D=expedition-focus%3A66&f%5B1%5D=travel-date%3A127>

Ethos Heritage CIC: Excavation of High Hunsley Deserted Medieval Village, Yorkshire, England. Date: July 15 – August 13, 2023. For further information and to register, please visit <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/get-involved/events-and-activities/event-calendar/excavation-of-high-hunsley-deserted-medieval-village.html>.

Forest Service Passport in Time Program: Visit the following website from time to time to see if there are Forest Service projects available in your area - <http://www.passportintime.com/available-projects.html>. The following new opportunities have been posted:

(New) - Turkey House Excavations, 19th Century Homestead (Mississippi) - Located in the Homochitto National Forest in Mississippi. Date: October 2-7, 2023 including weekend. Volunteers must commit to the entire session. Application Deadline is July 31, 2023. For further information and to apply, please visit - <http://www.passportintime.com/turkey-house-excavation-2023.html> .

(New) - Searching Around the Olde Oak Tree (Mississippi) - Survey and Excavation of potential location of historic townsite, Agness (1895-1910). Located in the De Soto National Forest in Mississippi. Date: October 11-18, 2023 including Saturday. Volunteers must commit to the entire session. Application Deadline is August 7, 2023. For further information and to apply, please visit - <http://www.passportintime.com/olde-oak-tree-survey-2023.html>.

Institute for Field Research: Various fee-based opportunities to conduct archaeological field work in the U.S. and around the world. The website states, *IFR programs are open to any individual, of any nationality, major or university across the world. You do not need to be an active, matriculating student to apply. However, you must be at least 18 years old by the day the field school begins....* Some of this year's opportunities include digs in New Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia. For further information, please visit their programs section at <https://ifrglobal.org/>.

National Park Service:

- Homestead National Historical Park (NE): Black Homesteading Project (Online Project) Date: Ongoing. The project is to transcribe records of Black homesteaders who obtained titles for about 650,000 acres of prairie land from the General Land Office in the 1870s-1930s. Online volunteers will transcribe original historical documents into digital formats so they can be shared with scholars and the public worldwide. For further information, please visit <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/citizenscience/be-a-citizen-scientist.htm> to contact the volunteer coordinator and to registration.

Rampart Scotland: King's Park Fort, Stirling, Scotland. Date: August 8-18, 2023. The project is an ongoing research program to learn about the Firth Valley's Late Prehistoric settlement pattern and to understand how the native peoples interacted with the Roman conquest. For further information, please visit <http://www.rampartscotland.co.uk/index.php/join-the-team/>.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

AUGUST 2023 –

Pecos Conference: August 10-13 2023, Flagstaff, Arizona, For further information and to register, please visit <https://www.pecosconference.org/> .

29th European Association of Archaeologists Annual Meeting: August 30-September 2, 2023, Belfast, Northern Ireland. For further information and to register, please visit <https://www.e-a-a.org/EEA2023>

SEPTEMBER 2023 –

International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences XX World Congress: September 5-9, 2023 (Please note date change from previous post), Timișoara, Romania. For further information and to register, please visit <https://uispp2023.uvt.ro/>

(NEW) South Park National Heritage Area Conference 2023, People, Places & Spaces: September 16, 2023, Park County Government Building, Park County, CO. For further information, please visit <https://southparkheritage.org/spnha-conference-2023-people-places-spaces-call-for-submissions/>.

2nd Edition of Global Conference on Geology and Earth Science: September 21-23, 2023 – Virtual Conference. For further information and to register, please visit <https://geology.magnusconferences.com/>.

First Conference on Public Archaeology: September 22-23, 2023, Pensacola, Florida. For further information and to register, please visit <http://www.fpan.us/projects/conference-on-public-archaeology/>.

(NEW) 8th Annual Rocky Mountain Pre-Columbian Association Research Colloquium: September 29, 2023, 9:00am-5:00pm, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver, CO. The day is organized around a series of consecutive sessions in which participants present informal, illustrated discussions of 10-15 minutes. The call for papers at this colloquium is open to research projects at any stage of completion, from preliminary research questions to completed projects. The organizing committee is accepting proposals for individual presentations that will be grouped together into separate panels, and also encourages the submission of session topics and complete panels. By leaving this year's colloquium open to any research subject, the organizers hope that the colloquium will provide a forum for sharing and discussing the latest research by our colleagues across the region. The call for papers for this colloquium is open to institutional and independent researchers as well as graduate students specializing in the study of the pre-Columbian Americas. Abstracts of approximately 200-300 words should include author name(s), email, and institutional affiliation (if any). Please submit abstracts using our online Google form: <https://forms.gle/cvy8LhMPFK2WDyd9A>. All submissions due by August 15th, 2023.

Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Conference and Member Meeting: September 29-October 1, 2023, Colorado Springs, Colorado. For further information, please visit - <https://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/annual-conference>. Call for papers deadline is August 25, 2023. Professional archaeologists, avocational archaeologists and students are encouraged to submit. For abstract submission information, please visit https://www.coloradoarchaeology.org/files/ugd/3cca93_791fc7b5d0f449b3af9f966275b96282.pdf.

OCTOBER 2023 –

16th Biennial Rocky Mountain Anthropological Association 2023 Conference: October 5-8, 2023, Laramie, Wyoming. For further information, please visit <https://rockymtnanthro.org/ConfRegistration/>.

Utah Rock Art Research Association Annual Symposium: October 5-9, 2023, USU Eastern Campus, Price, Utah. Registration opens August 20th. For further information, please visit <https://urara.wildapricot.org/>.

Midwest Archaeological Conference 2023 Annual Meeting: October 12-14, 2023, Bowling Green, Kentucky. For further information, please visit <https://www.midwestarchaeology.org/annual-meeting/upcoming>.

80th Plains Conference: October 18-21, 2023, Rapid City, South Dakota. For further information, please visit <https://plainsanthropologicalsociety.org/>.

2023 Arizona Historical Preservation Conference: October 25-28, 2023, Tucson, Arizona. Early registration rate ends August 1st. For more information, please visit <https://www.azpreservation.org/conference>.

90th Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation: October 26-29, 2023, Ocean City, Maryland. For further information, please visit <https://esaf-archeology.org/annual-meeting.html>

BLAST FROM THE PAST:BLAST FROM THE PAST:

A look at the rich history of the Denver Chapter, now in its 76th year

This Quarter in DC-CAS History –

April: 1948 – The first Annual DC-CAS Banquet was held at the YWCA. Marie Wormington was the speaker. **1967** – A notice was placed in the APB regarding artifacts from the Roger's Shelter site in Missouri and the Dinosaur National Monument having been taken from the Anthropology Lab on the University of Colorado-Boulder campus. Any assistance in their recovery would be appreciated. **1968** – The April 17th program showed the late Henry Clark's film on Magic Mountain. The excavations were carried out on weekends and after work by DC-CAS Chapter members, Henry and Cynthia Irwin. **1987** – Volunteers were being sought to man the DC-CAS booth at the Peoples' Fair at Civic Center.

May: 1967 – Mr. A. Lynn Coffin was the speaker for the 19th Annual DC-CAS Banquet. The title of his talk was, *The Amateur Archaeologist*. He also discussed past, present and future work at the Lindenmeier Site. **1977** – The May 18th Speaker was Dennis Stanford, Curator of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institute. The title of his talk was, *Possible Evidence of Pre-Clovis Occupation on the High Plains*. **1987** – Harry M. Quinn published a preliminary report in the APB on the Twin Juniper Site in Jefferson County. **1989** – During the May Board Meeting, it was reported that recent donations to the Dig Fund had paid for three months' rent for a port-a-potty at the Swallow Site. The generosity of members was commended.

June: 1952 – A field trip to the site of Lindenmeier and Tee Pee sites was led by Major Roy Coffin. **1969** – A letter was received from Jerry Chubbuck stating he would welcome fellow members to drop by to see him at the World's Wonder View Tower in Genoa, CO. **1972** – The Custer County cave dig by the Denver chapter was scheduled for two weekends each in June and July. The excavation leaders needed all the help they could get from members. They noted the field work has been hard but very rewarding. **1990** – Guest speaker, Payson Sheets presented on the Ceren Site in El Salvador, which was buried by an eruption of the Laguna Volcano.

From the Denver Chapter Vintage Poetry Corner –

CAVE DIG AT FLORENCE

Slowly we delve into the secrets of the cave.
Layer by layer we remove the record of time.
Small bits of bone, mute evidence of hunger.
Small bead speaks of vanity
Stones shaped to fit the current need.
Charcoal once warmed these old ones.

See her cleverness to hide her mill,
Securing a sharp knife beneath for future need?
What happened to you, woman,
That you never returned to reclaim it?

Hear their song in the sighing of the pines?
In the cool sound of flowing water?
In the twittering of unseen bird?
See their companions, the deer herd, the lone coyote?

Slowly their story unfolds before our eyes.
Written language is not needed to learn it.
We found their words in the dust.

Written by Della Bledsoe, Denver Chapter Member

Originally published in the June 1972 APB (Vol. 9, No.6, p.7)

ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE NEWS:

WEST/SOUTHWEST

Biden-Harris Administration Protects Chaco Region, Tribal Cultural Sites from Development (June)- Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland took action today to protect the cultural and historic resources surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park from new oil and gas leasing and mining claims. President Biden first announced efforts to protect the greater Chaco landscape at the White House Tribal Nations Summit in November 2021.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-protects-chaco-region-tribal-cultural-sites-development>

Human Artifacts Dating Back 14,000 Years Discovered At Powars II Site Outside Sunrise, Wyoming (June)-

Researchers working at the Powars II Paleoindian archaeology site in Sunrise, Wyoming have discovered a new, undisturbed layer of time with artifacts at least 14,000 years old, as well as a new type of tool stone. The discoveries could lead to new information about prehistoric man.

<https://cowboystatedaily.com/2023/06/17/oldest-ever-found-in-wyoming-human-artifacts-dating-back-14-000-years-discovered-at-powers-ii-site/>

Provo excavation finds artifacts tied to 1000-year-old Fremont village (June)- “Almost 1,000 years ago, a flourishing Native American village of people archaeologists call the Fremont was sprawled across the area that is now west Provo. “There were large populations living in these valleys before the pioneers and even before the Ute,” said Dr. Michael Searcy, an anthropology professor at Brigham Young University and co-director of the current excavation at a digging site called the Hinckley Mounds.”

Ancient Ovens Uncovered in Washington State - Archaeology Magazine (June)- “Idaho State Journal reports that evidence of earth ovens dating back some 6,000 years have been found on the banks of the Pend Oreille River in northeastern Washington state. Members of the Kalispel Tribe and archaeologist Shannon Tushingham of Washington State University found the fire-cracked rocks in clusters about four feet below ground surface while investigating the site ahead of a construction project.”

ELSEWHERE

Israeli Archaeologist Claims He Has Found David’s Kingdom, but Fellow Researchers Cry Foul - Archaeology - Haaretz.com (July)- In a July 2023 article published in Haaretz, Israeli archaeologist Yigal Shiloh claims to have found the remains of King David's kingdom in the city of Jerusalem. Shiloh's findings are based on the discovery of a large stone structure that he believes to be the palace of King David. However, other archaeologists have cast doubt on Shiloh's claims, saying that the evidence is not conclusive.

Spanish archaeologists plan rescue of 2,500-year-old Phoenician shipwreck | Reuters (June)- Spanish archaeologists are planning to raise a 2,500-year-old Phoenician shipwreck. The shipwreck is located off the coast of Spain and is believed to be one of the oldest Phoenician shipwrecks ever found. The archaeologists hope that the shipwreck will provide valuable information about Phoenician maritime trade and navigation.

12,000-year-old Flutes Found in Israel May Be Earliest Bird-call Whistles in the World - Archaeology - Haaretz.com (June)- The 12,000-year-old bird bone whistles from Israel are the world's oldest known musical instruments. They were discovered in a cave in the Western Galilee and are made from the bones of birds such as swans, geese, and ducks. The whistles are able to produce a variety of sounds, including those that resemble human speech.

This suggests that they may have been used for communication as well as for music. The discovery of these whistles provides new insights into the lives of ancient people and their understanding of music and sound.

Researchers reconstruct lifestyle and face of 7th-century Anglo-Saxon teen (June)- Scientists reconstructed the lifestyle of a 7th-century Anglo-Saxon teenager through archaeology, genetics, and computer modeling. He was a 14-16-year-old, 5'6" warrior of mixed Anglo-Saxon and Celtic ancestry buried with a sword, shield, and helmet. He was healthy and had a variety of occupations.

Archaeologists Discover First Direct Evidence of Drug Use in Ancient Europe (April)- “A study examining human hair strands from a burial location in Menorca, Spain, reveals that early human societies utilized plant-based hallucinogenic substances, according to a new paper in Scientific Reports. This discovery marks the first direct proof of ancient drug consumption in Europe, potentially employed in ritualistic ceremonies.”

In Miami, a modern clash over a 2000-year-old archaeological site: High-rises to be built on "extraordinary" Native American site (April)- “For nearly 2 years, bustling teams of archaeologists—totaling more than 120 researchers on some days—have excavated a sprawling waterfront lot here in one of this seaside city’s toniest neighborhoods. The diggers have uncovered ancient human remains and some 1 million artifacts that are providing rare insight into a major Native American settlement, known as Tequesta, which flourished at the mouth of the Miami River some 2000 years ago.”
<https://www.science.org/content/article/miami-modern-clash-over-2000-year-old-archaeological-site>

South Africa's desert-like interior may have been more inviting to our human ancestors (May)- Study expands range of livable regions in interior South Africa nearly 200,000 years ago. Lining the Cape of South Africa and its southern coast are long chains of caves that nearly 200,000 years ago were surrounded by a lush landscape and plentiful food.

Tooth enamel provides clues to hunter-gatherer lifestyle of Neanderthals -- ScienceDaily (May)- “A study has given an intriguing glimpse of the hunting habits and diets of Neanderthals and other humans living in western Europe. The scientists examined chemical properties locked inside tooth enamel to piece together how pre-historic people lived off the land around the Almonda Cave system, near Torres Novas in central Portugal almost 100 thousand years ago.”

Native American News Roundup April 2-8, 2023 (April)- “TVA ready to repatriate thousands of Native ancestral remains. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) — the largest federally owned utility company in the U.S. — says it has finished inventorying its collection of Native American human remains and funerary objects and is ready to repatriate them to tribes.”

Lessons in sustainability, evolution and human adaptation -- courtesy of the Holocene -- ScienceDaily (June)- “The El Gigante rockshelter in western Honduras is among only a handful of archaeological sites in the Americas that contain well-preserved botanical remains spanning the last 11,000 years. Considered one of the most important archaeological sites discovered in Central America in the last 40 years, El Gigante was recently nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage site.”

DC-CAS BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS : Please note that the monthly Board Meeting Minutes and the quarterly Financial Statements are no longer published in the *All Points Bulletin*. These documents are available to all Chapter members upon request. Please contact us should you wish to receive them.

DC-CAS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES:

DC-CAS APRIL 10, 2023 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The April General Meeting was held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Emery Archaeology Lab, History Colorado, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver 80203. Remote access via the Zoom platform was also made available for those wished to attend remotely.

Craig Dengel opened the meeting by welcoming attendees. He announced the Wray Museum would be hosting an event on May 13th to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the excavation of the Jones-Miller Bison Kill Site. A tour of the site would take place 9:00 am -12:00 pm, followed by an afternoon of exhibit tours, lectures and activities at the Wray Museum. Amy Gillaspie announced the May 14th DC-CAS/IPCAS Joint Meeting would be held at 1:00 pm at the New Terrain Brewing Company in Golden. Jon Hedlund and Justin Batista of ERO Resources would be presenting on a cave excavation in Douglas County. Amy was waiting to hear about the possibility of a second speaker. Next, it was announced that Elizabeth Kriebel, Collections Assistant at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) would be the speaker for the June 12th General Meeting. Kriebel will be speaking on another DMNS legacy collection excavated from the W.S. Ranch Site in New Mexico.

Amy Gillaspie introduced the evening's speaker, Dr. Erin Baxter, Acting Curator of Anthropology at DMNS. The title of her presentation was, *Searching for Lt. Wilson*. During 2021 and 2022, the Defense POW MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) undertook an excavation project in France in association with the Colorado State University's Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands (CEMML) and the DMNS. The mission goal of the DPAA is to search for and to recover 84,000 service members who went missing during WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars. Through their efforts, the DPAA recovers an average of thirty to forty service members per year and reunites them with their families. The project undertaken in France was to locate and identify wreckage of a WWII B-17 Bomber, which crashed on July 8, 1944 near Monchy-Cayeux while on a mission to bomb German V-1 rocket launching sites in France. Ordered by Churchill, it was an important mission as V-1 rockets had begun terrorizing the City of London on June 13, 1944. Two and a half minutes away from their target, the plane was severely damaged by

German anti-aircraft fire. Eyewitness accounts from crew members indicated pilot, Lt. George F. (Frankie) Wilson had been wounded while piloting the plane to enable his crew to bail out to safety. There was no evidence Lt. Wilson escaped the plane prior to it crashing in a field. It was thought he likely died while in flight. With respect to the remaining crew members who bailed, all but one were captured by German forces. Vernon Atkinson (Co-Pilot), Richard J. Dunn (Bombardier), Robert E. Perry (Navigator), Sanford E. Walker (Top-Turret Gunner/Engineer), George E. Vela (Radio Operator), George M. Dye (Waist Gunner) and Martin D. Hansen (Ball Turret Gunner) were captured and sent to prisoner-of-war camps. Tail Gunner, Reginald C. Ferguson evaded capture with the aid of the French Resistance. The tenth crew member, Jack Bohn (Tail Gunner) had not made the flight due to illness. Prior to the DPAA project, an investigation by Lt. Wilson's grandnephew-in-law, a veteran, turned up evidence of a possible crash site through recovery of plane parts, locating maps and speaking to local village eyewitnesses. Lt. Wilson's grandnephew-in-law enlisted the aid of then-Utah senator, Orrin Hatch to raise up the profile of Lt. Wilson's case for recovery efforts. Hatch's lobbying led to the DPAA sending a survey team to France in 2020, followed by an excavation team in 2021 and 2022. The 2020/2021 excavation team included Ray Sumner from CEMML, Erin Baxter, Amy Gillaspie, and Michele Koons from DMNS, and American expert metal detectorists, some of whom were members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion posts in Europe. The team also received support from the local community, civil authorities and law enforcement. Baxter noted her presentation would not be focusing upon the personal finds related to Lt. Wilson, out of respect for the family. Instead, her presentation would discuss the larger war events in which Lt. Wilson and his crew participated. Baxter also noted that working with the military was a new experience for the team, which required learning different methodology, protocols and worldview.

Baxter went on to describe the conditions and dangers air crews faced during WWII. The B-17 was manned by ten crew members. The Bombardier was responsible for the release of bombs over the target site. The Navigator was responsible for guiding the plane to the target site,

and to return the bomber back across the English Channel to England. The job of the Pilot and Co-Pilot was to operate and fly the aircraft to and from the target site. The Radio Operator had the responsibility of communicating with the other bombers flying in formation. The remaining five crew members were responsible for the armament defense of the bomber, and consisted of the Top Turret Gunner, the Ball Turret Gunner, the Tail Turret Gunner, and two Waist Gunners. Conditions in the B-17, also known as the Flying Fortress, were cramped and uncomfortable. The B-17 flew at an altitude of 35,000 feet, carrying a payload of 4,000 lbs. of bombs. To lighten the weight of the bomber, the exterior was made of aluminum while the interior was reduced to meet minimal requirements. Temperatures inside the B-17 flying at high altitude would reach -50°F. In addition to wearing sheep fleece-lined jackets to stay warm, crew members also wore electrified flight suits. These flight suits posed their own dangers of electrocuting the wearer, particularly when crew had to urinate inside the suit. The saving grace of flying at high altitude was the increased chance for crews to escape a damaged plane before it hit the ground. On the day of a mission, crews would rise early, get their bombers in the air, and wait for bombers from other air bases to join into formation. When the B-17s set off on their mission, they would be escorted only part way by P51 Mustang fighter planes. Due to the Mustang's short flight range, the B-17s would be left to defend themselves against German Focke Wulf Fw190 fighter planes and anti-aircraft gun flak as they reached the French coastline. Evasive maneuvers and angled flight plans would be employed to avoid the threats. Other problems relating to fuel and navigation could also occur in flight as well as the ever-present danger of bombers clipping each other while flying in formation. The goal for any B-17 crew was to carry out twenty missions and to survive. However, it was uncommon for crews to reach this goal due to high casualty rates between 1941 and 1944. The position of Tail Gunner had the highest mortality rate, followed by Waist Gunners. Occupied France was defended by more than one million Germans manning 40,000 guns. The highest losses recorded during this period reached eight B-17s per day. Lt. Wilson's B-17 and two other lead B-17s in his formation were lost on July 8th. Baxter noted the B-17 crews were part of the 8th Air Force, most of whom saw action in the European Theatre. During WWII, the 8th Air Force suffered more losses than the U.S. Marines with a loss of 135,000 men. Yet, despite such high losses, the 8th Air Force completed three million combat missions.

Next, Baxter turned her attention to the 2021/2022 excavation project. The landscape around the crash site still bears the scars of war, with much of the land pockmarked with bomb craters. In 2021, the field which was to be investigated was under cultivation, therefore

making it difficult to see anything on the ground. The team attempted to carry out a survey and to put in some test excavation units with limited success. The weather was also not cooperative, and it rained so much that it turned the soil to mud. This made it difficult to screen the soil removed from the test units. The soil was placed on tarps in an attempt to dry it out sufficiently, but it still took one hour to completely screen one bucket of soil. Efforts then turned to interviewing villagers with knowledge of the crash or artifacts in their possession. Oral history noted three groups came to the crash site and recovered remains from the trees. The first was the local Priest who gave the remains a local burial. The second group was the French Resistance also said to have given the remains a local burial. The third group was the Germans, who buried the remains in the WWI Cemetery. The metal detectorists were put to work in the field, the results of which recovered mainly Medieval period artifacts from the Battle of Agincourt. After one week of less than productive work, the army purchased the rape seed crop from the farmer, who then razed it to the ground. Three eyewitnesses were interviewed to try to pinpoint the crash site, but all three had different recollections of the location. It must be noted there had been two bomber crashes three miles apart in the area during June/July 1944. The team attempted to use aerial photographs from July 8, 1944, but the sky was overcast that day. The metal detectorists were then sent in to fully explore the exposed area to identify potential target areas. Test units were put in, and it took nine people two and a half days to screen all of the dirt. Screening dirt became a community event when villagers arrived to help in any way they could. During the 2021 excavations, some munitions were uncovered which required the local bomb squad to come and remove them for proper disposal. The team was finding diagnostic artifacts from a plane, such as an altimeter. They also recovered pottery and other non-plane related materials. The excavation and screening was carried out by quadrants which enabled the team to maintain contact sets of data. When excavations were completed, everything was backfilled. In 2022, proton-magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar were employed to identify additional targets. In total, nine out of the ten planned units were excavated. The investigation was complex as eyewitnesses had different recollections, but generally it was remembered the plane keeled over to one side and crashed with its nose downward. There was no sense where the cockpit was located. The metal detectorists were able to produce a heat map showing the distribution of varying metals. Artifacts were found and identified by veteran detectorists as originating near the cockpit. Upon the completion of excavations, the units were backfilled. Baxter concluded her presentation by noting that it was a great opportunity for archaeologists to consider volunteering or working for the DPAA. She then took several questions from the audience.

A recording of Dr. Erin Baxter's presentation is available on the DC-CAS YouTube Channel -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cT8QW6HP9E>.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm. Submitted by Stacy Greenwood, Secretary for DC-CAS.

DC-CAS MAY 14, 2023 JOINT GENERAL MEETING WITH INDIAN PEAKS-CAS

The May General Meeting was held jointly with the Indian Peaks Chapter on Sunday, May 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the New Terrain Brewing Company, 16401 Table Mountain Parkway, Golden 80403. This was the first joint meeting held between the two Chapters, and consisted of three presentations from ERO Resources and the Douglas County Government, Gene Wheaton and Eva Maren, and Christian Driver. Due to the location, remote access was not available to members. Katy Waechter, from the Indian Peaks Chapter opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and providing food and beverage information.

Excavations at the 5DA3991 Rockshelter, Douglas County:

Stacy Greenwood, from the Denver Chapter introduced the first speakers, Jon Hedlund and Justin Batista from ERO Resources Corporation (ERO). The title of their presentation was, *The Long History and Many Uses of 5DA3991: Excavations at a Rockshelter in Douglas County*. The project was undertaken by ERO with Brittany Cassells of the Douglas County Department of Community Development, in consultation with multiple tribes and overseen by a monitor provided by the Northern Arapaho. The project was supported by funding from the History Colorado State Historical Fund. The rock shelter was initially identified in 2019 during a Douglas County reconnaissance survey after they had acquired the land in 2007, and sought to develop it for recreation and hiking trails. The rock shelter was formed over 5,000 years ago out of Castle Rock Conglomerate which has long been subjected to sheet wash and active seepage. As a result of water action, colluvium and residuum sediment deposits have accumulated inside the rock shelter, with the colluvium sources originating from outside the drip line of the shelter's entrance and the ridgetop. In 2021, ERO was invited by Douglas County to evaluate the rock shelter as it is located in an area not archaeologically well known, and there were concerns about potential looting of the site.

A surface survey was initially conducted during which artifacts, a hearth, and historic and modern trash were discovered inside the shelter. To gain a better understanding of what may lie below the surface, two fifty-centimeter by fifty-centimeter test units were excavated in the area with the deepest deposition, as determined by the shelter floor topography. Within forty-five centimeters below the surface, multiple layers containing roof fall and cultural materials were encountered. Over six hundred artifacts were recovered including debitage, ground stone and charcoal. Based upon the stratified, dense cultural deposits recovered from the test excavation units, coupled with accelerator

mass spectrometry and radiocarbon dating, it became evident the rock shelter had a significantly long occupation. Components dating from the Middle Ceramic Period at the 5DA3991 Rockshelter matched assemblages found at two other Douglas County rockshelter sites excavated between the 1940s and 1960s, Franktown Cave and Cherokee Ranch Rockshelter. Over 4,000 artifacts were recovered from the Franktown Cave, while it was reported 50 artifacts had been recovered from the Cherokee Ranch Rockshelter. ERO's test excavations retrieved twenty percent of the assemblage count recovered from Franktown Cave. In addition to the density and time depth of cultural deposits at the 5DA3991 Rockshelter, the importance of the site was its potential to contain perishable artifacts. The ability to excavate using modern excavation methods, utilizing flotation for organic material recovery, and screening with a finer 1/8-inch mesh would also provide a more complete picture than previous Douglas County rockshelter excavations.

Due to the encroachment of housing developments, and the increased threat of damage and looting, ERO and Douglas County were able to receive support from the History Colorado State Historical Fund to recover the most vulnerable cultural material from the rockshelter. In 2022, plans were made for a full 10-week excavation of the 5DA3991 Rockshelter. Native American tribes such as the Northern Arapaho, Rosebud Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, Southern Ute, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma, and the Southern Arapaho and Cheyenne Tribes of Oklahoma were consulted during weekly virtual onsite meetings to determine the most effective way to approach the project. A total of ten one-meter by one-meter units were placed inside the rockshelter. No excavation was conducted outside of the drip line to prevent erosion. The units were excavated down to bedrock (one meter deep) using trowels, brushes and

condensed air. Detailed mapping, including LiDAR 3-D mapping, was necessary as the rockshelter's interior stratigraphy was extremely complex due to human and animal (largely rodent) activity. Stratigraphic layers were horizontally and vertically discontinuous. For example, a charcoal deposit dating to 200 years ago was found to be uprooted and redeposited with 4,000-year-old debitage. A total of eleven features were identified and 22,000 artifacts were recovered from the ten excavation units. Using a combination of absolute and relative dating methods, it has been determined the 5DA3991 rockshelter was occupied during the Middle Archaic, Early Ceramic, Middle Ceramic, Later Ceramic and Historic Periods. Overall, the rockshelter appears to have been occupied at peak periods when the population in Douglas County was at its highest. However, the 5DA3991 Rockshelter differs from Franktown Cave as it was not used all of the time, likely due to its distance from resources such as Cherry Creek.

Majority of the artifacts recovered from the rockshelter consisted largely of micro debitage. Four ceramic sherds were found as well as a few tools and a small sample of unidentified fiber. The Middle Archaic Period (5000-3000 BP/3050-1050 BC) was identified by two overlapping radiocarbon dates obtained from charcoal in Excavation Unit 8, which roughly corresponded with two radiocarbon dates obtained from Excavation Unit 1. Within this stratum, three projectile points were recovered. They were identified as one McKean Complex Duncan projectile point, one Mallory Side-Notched projectile point, and one possible McKean Complex Stemmed projectile point. The Duncan and Mallory projectile points were found in the same stratum. The radiocarbon dates from this stratum overlap dates found in Middle Archaic component features at the Hess Reservoir Site (5DA1951), located five miles north of the 5DA3991 Rockshelter.

The Early Ceramic Period (1800-800 BP/150-1150 AD) was identified by five radiocarbon dates and diagnostic artifacts. It was noted Early Ceramic temporal markers were represented vertically. However the dates were not organized chronologically and went against the laws of superposition. Two corner-notched arrow points and one cord-marked ceramic sherd were found in this stratum. A hearth (Feature 2) dates to the Early Ceramic Period. An oxidized and charcoal-stain area (Feature 3) and two additional hearths (Features 6 and 11) are possibly associated with the Early Ceramic Period. Feature 2 predates the three other features with a date of 1308-1382 cal BP. Early Ceramic activity in some parts of the rockshelter was extensive enough to extend from just below the surface all the way down to bedrock. The three earliest dates obtained for the Early Ceramic Period overlap dates from other Douglas County sites found along Newlin Gulch (5DA3212 and 5DA1957), Oak Gulch (5DA3419), and Happy Canyon

(5DA3979). The latest two Early Ceramic radiocarbon dates correspond with dated bone recovered from the lower stratum of Bayou Gulch, and dates associated with Middle Ceramic components at Franktown Cave.

Occupation during the Middle Ceramic Period (800-400 BP/1150-1550 AD) is thought to be represented by a black and white bowl sherd. The sherd is similar to Biscuit Ware found in the greater upper Rio Grande Valley which dates 600 to 400 BP. However, further analysis would be required to confirm the association. The painted sherd was found in the same stratum as a side-notched projectile point, but there were no diagnostic Middle Ceramic Period artifacts found with these items. The bowl sherd is thought to have originated from the Pajarito Plateau in New Mexico. It was noted the only other black and white ceramic recovered in Douglas County comes from Cherokee Ranch, located seven miles away. The Cherokee Ranch sherd was interpreted to be Taos Black and White. The side-notched projectile point is normally associated with the Middle Ceramic Period. However, it is likely associated with the Late Ceramic component as it was recovered in the same context as Dismal River ceramic sherds. The two dates which overlap the Middle Ceramic Period at the 5DA3991 Rockshelter fit in well with the Middle Ceramic Components 6 and 7 from Franktown Cave, though it was noted Franktown Cave has a much larger side-notched points assemblage.

The Late Ceramic Period (400-100 BP/1550-1850 AD) is represented by a large charcoal-rich steep-walled earth oven designated as Feature 1. A Gamble oak twig was recovered from the feature and dated to 120 ±20 BP (282-0) cal BP (CE 1668-1950). Unfortunately, the calibrated date range was skewed by abrupt changes in the calibrated curve. Due to this issue, the usefulness of the dating is limited, but it does indicate the potential early use of the earth oven. An Indigenous use of the earth oven is supported by the presence of diagnostic artifacts such as the side-notched projectile point and a burnished Dismal River grayware sherd. There is an absence of historic artifacts in the upper sediments to associate it with Settler activity. Carbonized coiled fiber was also associated with the earth oven, and appears similar to rope or cordage. Comparisons to horse, human and turkey fiber were made with no match found. It appears the coiled fiber is possibly of vegetal origin and will be examined further. It is known historically that the Ute utilized sumac, willow, horse hair, and pinon patch, and a Middle Ceramic Period sandal recovered from Franktown Cave was made of Yucca leaves. Additional artifacts recovered from this time period include a bone needle, a bone awl, a bone paint stick, a hafted lithic tool, a hafted maul or hide-working lithic tool, a lithic drill tip, and a quartz crystal biface. A thin ash lens (Feature 9) was located just below the surface in association with the Late Ceramic Period. With respect to other features encountered in the rockshelter, no clear

association to any particular component could be found for a possible hearth denoted by a circular stain with charcoal (Feature 7), an alignment of four stones of unknown function (Feature 8), and rock-lined basin of unknown function (Feature 10).

Clear glass, Black Cat fireworks, fire starter, square nails, coal, axe-cut logs, and etching provide evidence of Historic Period occupation when a ranch operated on the land. Additional evidence of historic use of the rockshelter comes from two pieces of graffiti. A blackened rock was marked with the letters, *FA* and a south-facing wall was inscribed with the letter, *W*. Finally, with respect to faunal remains recovered from the rockshelter, the bones were fragmentary and no larger than three centimeters. Some bone fragments are burnt and others show carnivore tooth marks. None of the bone fragments show evidence of cut marks. Many of the fractures are indicative of percussion for marrow extraction. Some fragments may be beads or polished bone shafts with worn edges. The species represented amongst the faunal remains are likely deer, birds, rodents and other small mammals. Raptor talon or phalanx bones were found which may be from an owl or raven. They may have been deposited by a carnivore. However, if they are identified as being from an eagle or hawk, there may be some cultural significance for their

presence. A game camera was installed to document the wildlife currently in the vicinity of the rockshelter. It was found that visitors included rabbits, mice, toads, deer and snakes. Porcupine feces was also encountered in an alcove of the cave.

Hedlund and Batista concluded their talk discussing the volunteers who assisted in the excavation. Most of the work was carried out by retired geologist, Craig Banister and volunteers from the Douglas County Repository. Additional help came from members of the Colorado Association of Black Professional Engineers and Scientists (CABPES), students and CAS members. Members from the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and youths from the CABPES also participated in a tour of the rockshelter. The tours were led by traditional consultant, Mike Redman, who shared his knowledge and expertise. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners played a large part in making the excavation project happen. Their support meets their mission to protect historic and natural resources, and promote responsible stewardship of these resources. After consultations with the native tribes, the project will be applying for additional State Historical Fund grants to carry out further excavations at the rockshelter. At the conclusion of their talk, Hedlund and Batista answered several questions from the audience.

Excavations at Ninth Street Historic Park, Auraria Campus, Denver:

The second presentation was a documentary video titled, *Digging for Truth*, which was produced by Community College of Denver student, Eva Maren. The video documents recent excavations carried out during the Fall of 2023 in the Ninth Street Historic Park on the Auraria Campus. Gene Wheaton, an anthropology professor at Community College of Denver, introduced the video and provided background information for this important community-based project. The land upon which Auraria Campus sits had long been home to a number of communities who were subjected to displacement. The Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes were the earliest inhabitants of the area. Then, Georgian miners made their residence on the land, followed by European settlers. Over the years, the area transitioned to become a bustling neighborhood for a mix of immigrant groups. The neighborhood was an older community with some deteriorated homes. During the 1960s and 1970s, the City of Denver sought to condemn all of the homes on Ninth Street under the pretext of flooding problems. As a result, the entire community of largely Hispanic residents, consisting of over 200 families and 300 businesses was displaced. Their neighborhood was then razed to make way for Auraria Campus.

Under the leadership of Community College of Denver and Metropolitan State University of Denver archaeologists, the Ninth Street Historic Park project aimed to place emphasis on the harm which was done to the displaced communities. As archaeology traditionally consists of whites telling the story and controlling the knowledge, the project sought to encourage discourse with the displaced residents to enable them to have a say and to share their knowledge. Speaking with displaced residents, including the Arapaho and Cheyenne, informed the project of what the residents wished to learn from the excavation. It was also important that the project communicate with the larger public about the story of the displaced community. Students from Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver and University of Colorado-Denver were involved in the excavations. Two features were identified for excavation, both of which were located on an empty plot of land. The first feature, Feature E, was a water cistern which had been covered over by a building between 1900 and 1910. The second feature, Feature F, was the rear section of a house located a short distance in front of Feature E.

Although flooding was known to take place on the periphery of the Auraria campus, evidence from the

excavation of these features indicate there had not been any flooding on Ninth Street. This would seem to discredit the City of Denver's rationale for wholesale condemnation. Interviews with displaced residents, concerning their memories of the neighborhood and the eviction and its aftermath, reveal a vibrant community uprooted and dispersed to the winds for the sake of gentrification in the 1970s. As the displaced residents noted, it was easy to remove them as they didn't have the resources to fight against the eviction. It is important that the past inform the future, particularly those who use the Auraria Campus. There are plans to create a memory garden featuring the preserved cistern. There are also future plans for an on-campus museum. Finally, in honor of the displaced community, the *Displaced Aurarians Scholarship* has been established to provide free tuition for displaced descendants through all three Auraria institutions. At the end of Wheaton's introduction, the documentary video was played. At its conclusion, Gene Wheaton answered several questions

The Peoples' Crossing Park, Boulder:

Indian Peaks President, Larry Beidle introduced the third speaker, Christian Driver, who is the Cultural Stewardship Senior Program Manager for the City of Boulder's Open Space and Mountain Parks. Driver's presentation was regarding the research he undertook in support of the 2016 Indigenous People's Day Resolution request to rename Settlers Park after consultation with a number of federally recognized Tribal Nations. In April 2021, the consultation between the Tribal Nations and the City of Boulder was completed, and the park was renamed to the Peoples' Crossing. Driver's task was to ascertain the history of the Settlers Park name by identifying when the area was named Settlers Park, establishing how the park became a commemorative site, evaluating the widely accepted story of Boulder's settlement, and determining how the cultural landscape changed over time. In search of these answers, a wide range of historic sources had to be consulted such as title documents, the Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office records, Sanborn fire insurance maps, the Carnegie Library for Local History collection, the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's Compass database, topographic and local maps, city archives, aerial photo maps, historical photos, and local history publications.

The park is located on the western edge of Boulder, north of Boulder Canyon Boulevard (<https://goo.gl/maps/gM4wY66eZgZ3jKH6>). The park has a soft boundary delineated by a parking lot, Farmers Ditch, and a rock outcrop which connects to the Red Rocks outcrop and a former quarry. Formally, the park is located at the intersection of three land parcels known as the Madden-Rosebaum parcel, the Thorne I parcel and the Thorne II parcel. The Apache tribes. The Boulder area was used by several Indigenous groups

from the audience. He also noted additional excavations on Ninth Street Historic Park will resume on Fridays beginning on August 20th through to December 1st. CAS members are invited to volunteer for this project, and those interested should contact Gene Wheaton for further information at Gene.Wheaton@ccd.edu.

The excellent and informative documentary video, *Digging for Truth*, by Eva Maren can be viewed via this link for an undetermined time - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JbEU2IFfHM2p9GfY0XUYJ00OhX0_VvM1/view. (Duration - 15:33 minutes)

A more detailed 2022 Members Night presentation on the Ninth Street Historic Park excavations by Dr. Michael Kolb, Metropolitan State University of Denver is also available on the DC-CAS YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yXGHPoxsBF0>. (Duration – 38:46 minutes)

such as the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, Sioux, Shoshone, Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee and Apache. The area was included in the lands designated for the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes in the 1851 Treaty of Fort Laramie. Evidence of Native American occupation in and around the park area is found in the form of several manos, which suggests the area was used for base camps. A lithic was discovered on top of the Red Rocks outcrop in the 1980s, and there are possible culturally-modified trees in the vicinity.

The first historic information to be looked at was stories recounting the founding of Boulder. The most quoted founding story can find its origins in an 1873 Boulder News newspaper interview of Captain Thomas Aikins, possibly conducted by then newspaperman, Amos Bixby. Aikins recounted he had been leading a Euro-American party of gold seekers to Cherry Creek (present-day Denver) in September 1858. Upon their arrival at the abandoned Fort St. Vrain, Aikins had convinced the party to head instead towards the Boulder Valley where, in his opinion, the mountains looked good for gold. In October 1858, the group had reportedly made camp near the mouth of Boulder Valley below a distinct Redstone formation which they referred to as Red Rocks or Red Cliffs. At this time, they were said to have been approached by Arapaho Chief Niwot, who was camped to the north along the St. Vrain. Chief Niwot asked the group to leave the area for fear they would damage the grasslands, burn timber and indiscriminately hunt game. Aikins reported the group entertained the Chief and gave him gifts, after which Chief Niwot gave them permission to stay. Later, after the group had apparently built at least one fortified cabin, another Arapaho leader, Bear Head gave the gold seekers three days to leave the area over concerns

about their irresponsible land use. Supposedly, Bear Head returned after the three days to declare he had had a dream about a flood which destroyed the Arapaho camp and spared the gold seekers. He took this as an omen against confronting the group, and an agreement was made so both parties could use the area.

This 1873 account was reprinted in 1876 in the Boulder County News which was owned by Amos Bixby. The founding story appeared again in an 1880 book, *The History of Clear Creek and Boulder Valleys, Colorado* published by O. L. Baskin and Co. A similar second-hand account provided by the widow of John Rothrock was also published in 1946. In 1867, another book titled, *Colorado: A Summer Trip* was written by Bayard Taylor about his 1866 visit to Valmont. The book provides a different view of the encounters between Aikin's group and the Arapaho. Taylor's account is the first to refer to the Aikin's gold seeker party as squatters. Bayard also reported, [*h*]ostilities commenced and were carried on for some time. He notes the source of this information came from an original member of the gold seekers party. The Taylor account of violence between the two groups cast some doubt upon the accuracy of the 1873 account of a peaceful coexistence. If the Taylor account is correct, did Aikin or Bixby feel the need to hide the violent encounters to validate the legitimacy of the Euro-American founding of Boulder? As noted in CAS Member, Tom Meier's book, *The Early Settlement of Boulder – Set in Type – Cast in Bronze – Fused in Porcelain: "It Ain't Necessarily So"*, a closer evaluation of these accounts within the context of their time was necessary to flush out inaccuracies and inherent biases. It was pointed out that it was difficult to trust Bixby's account of events as newspapers at the time were very biased against Native Americans. Newspapers also had the ability to influence public opinion, and to promote the interests of the most prominent and influential members of a community. Often in smaller frontier communities, newspapers were subscription-based which meant they were a vanity product sold to wealthy donors with the aim to promote the community in the best light. Therefore, researchers should be skeptical of Bixby's account. As a result, Driver acknowledged further research was required to determine with certainty which account of the events was accurate.

Since the historical accounts cannot be trusted, another avenue of inquiry was to review land records to understand how the landscape was altered and developed by society. The earliest documented use of the land by Euro-Americans was in 1876, when Sylvester Douty was issued a mineral patent for a placer. The mineral patent permitted Douty to extract mineral resources, but did not provide him with surface ownership rights. The second documented use of the land was in 1868, when carpenter, Eric J. Anderson purchased the land from the federal government. Anderson contributed to the founding of the Silver Lake

Ditch which ran through his property, and is presumed to have used the land for grazing and, possibly, timber. The earliest infrastructure development at the mouth of the Boulder Canyon occurs in 1862 with the construction of the first three miles of Farmers Ditch. At an unknown date, Sylvester Douty settles in the area just west of Settlers Park. In 1865, the Boulder Canyon Wagon Road was completed up to Silver Spruce, and became a major route to move goods between Boulder and mountain communities. In 1866, Sylvester Douty and his father, Andrew Douty constructed the Red Rock Flour Mill, a three-story, thirty-foot by fifty-foot wooden structure. A photo dated 1875 also shows a residential building on the property. However, there is no record pertaining to its construction. In 1876, Douty sold the mill to Abram K. Yount and his wife, Ella B. Yount, who renamed the mill to the Colorado State Mills. The flour mill burnt down in 1878, but was rebuilt with stone. A 1965 book on the history of Boulder, mentions Ella B. Yount had operated a boarding house on the property, which may account for the residence in the 1875 photo. However, where this information came from was not provided. Based upon an 1886 Sanborn fire insurance map, there is additional development in the area with the establishment of Metcalf's Reduction Works next to the flour mill, now owned by the H. Neikirk & Co. Colorado State Mills.

Most of the land owned by Eric J. Anderson was sold to John Brierley in 1871 upon which he established a commercial nursery and garden business at the end of Pearl Street and, possibly, a lime kiln for lime cement. The business was quite substantial with many buildings on the property. From an 1896 photo, it appears Brierley had left the land north of Farmers Ditch undeveloped, although a bit of quarrying may have taken place on the eastern slope. Industrialization of the area continued with the addition of the Atlas and Delano Mill, Kilton Mill, Boyd Smelter, and Marshall Gold Extraction Works. The location along the Boulder Canyon Wagon Road was an ideal location for these businesses as they were near a constant source of water which enabled them to process ores coming out of the mountains. In 1919, a large portion of John Brierley's land located north of Farmers Ditch was sold to David Hull Holmes. Holmes constructs two homes on the property which were made from stone quarried from around Red Rocks. In 1920 these homes, located in what is now known as the Anemone Hill area, were sold to the City of Boulder. Holmes retained the property which is now known as the Madden-Rosebaum land parcel. Sometime in 1921, Holmes installed a rock crusher high up on the edge of an outcrop, and intended to quarry the whole Red Rocks area. Those plans were abandoned when a proposed railway extension to the city failed to happen. He then leased the crusher to a business which produced crushed rocks for use in road construction in Boulder and Denver. The crusher operation was shut down after a dispute broke out between Holmes and another resident regarding rocks

falling onto the resident's property. In 1923, Holmes sold the property to a lumberman named Handy, who later sold it to another lumberman, M. L. Rosebaum. In 1926, Rosebaum and his partner, Frank Madden sold the property to the city. Throughout the early 1900s, the area experienced a slow decline in industrial use. In 1901, the Atlas and Delano Mill burned down. The Marshall Gold Extraction Works also appears to shut down by 1901, and the Colorado State Mill also was destroyed by fire in 1905. As industrial works moved eastward along the floodplain, the Boyd Smelter finally shut down in 1920.

In 1929, the Arapahoe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) placed a plaque below the Red Rocks which listed the names of the first Euro-American settlers in Boulder Canyon. As part of a national campaign, the plaque commemorating the *First white camp in Boulder County, established near this cliff by the original gold seeker's party, October 17, 1858*. Due to Farmers Ditch and surrounding private land, it appears the DAR members accessed the area from the north. There is a 1929 map which shows the location of the plaque. However, there is no evidence the City of Boulder was involved in placing the plaque, nor that the area was designated or maintained as a park. Into the 1940s, the area continued to decline as industry moved out and railway lines were removed. The industrial land in the Settlers Park area remained undeveloped with large unused buildings. The Brierley property was still under agricultural use, and nearby land was under residential development. In 1960, the land was sold to Elba Development Corporation who planned to construct an office building on the site. The City of Boulder heard about the planned development, and hoped to purchase it from Elba Development Corporation to prevent the development. However, the city lacked the funds to do so. In 1961, new Park Advisory Board Member, Oakleigh Thorne purchased the property to protect it from development with the understanding the city could purchase it from him at a later date. The City of Boulder

purchased the land from Thorne between 1964 and 1965. Although it is not clear exactly when the land was formally designated a park, it was referred to as Red Rock Picnic Area on a 1966 map. Before or after the sale to the city, the City of Boulder wished to name the park after Oakleigh Thorne. He declined the honor and suggested Settlers Park based upon the presence of the DAR plaque. Land surrounding the area continued to transition from industrial to a rural-urban one with industrial sites being redeveloped for other uses.

The earliest modern use of the Settlers Park name was in a 1983 book, *Frontier Boulder* by Richard Fetter. The book stated Aikin had told Chief Niwot that his group would only be staying the winter and would leave in the Spring. There is no documentary support for this statement, but it has since become part of the modern version of the settlement story. Settlers Park was also used at this time in internal city and public facing documents. The first official use of Settlers Park appears to be in the plans for the 1988-1990 West Arapaho Transportation Project. As part of this project, the city joined city-owned lands located south of Boulder Canyon Blvd with the Settlers Park lands. A new parking lot was built along with a new bridge over Farmers Ditch. During the construction of an underpass joining two areas, a mono was found by Indian Peaks-CAS members who were monitoring the site. Although the park is likely near the location of the first Euro-American camp in Boulder Canyon, it has been demonstrated the name of Settlers Park likely originated with the sale of the land by Thorne to the City of Boulder, based only on the presence of the DAR plaque. As the placement of the DAR plaque did not have any official involvement by nor support from the city, it did not seem appropriate to continue using Settlers Park as an official designation. Hence the decision was made to rename the park, the Peoples' Crossing Park. The new name was suggested by Terry Knight, of the Mountain Ute Tribe to include all people who live in the Boulder area. Driver concluded his talk by taking a number of questions from the audience.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 pm. Submitted by Stacy Greenwood, Secretary for DC-CAS.

DC-CAS JUNE 12, 2023 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

The June General Meeting was held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Emery Archaeology Lab, History Colorado, 1200 N. Broadway, Denver 80203. Remote access via the Zoom platform was made available to members who wished to attend remotely.

Craig Dengel opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He reported on the 75th Anniversary celebration of the Jones-Miller Bison Kill Site

excavations held on Saturday, May 13th at the Wray Museum. There was a large turnout for the event including a number of people involved in the original excavations of the site. The widow of Dennis Stanford was also in attendance. Wray Museum did an excellent job of hosting the event. Craig also noted the Joint Meeting between the DC-CAS and Indian Peaks Chapters, held on Sunday, May 14th, was also well attended. Members were reminded there would be no

General Meeting in July. Meetings would resume the following month on Monday, August 14th with the Annual Joint Meeting between DC-CAS and the Egyptian Studies Society. DC-CAS is hosting this year's meeting. Information on the speaker would be forthcoming.

Amy Gillaspie introduced the evening's speaker, Elizabeth Kriebel, Collections Assistant at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS). The title of her presentation was, *Rediscovering WS Ranch: Caring For and Learning From An Unprocessed Archaeology Collection*. The W.S. Ranch site is an Upper Mogollon pueblo located near Alma, New Mexico on the New Mexico-Arizona border. The site consists of the main W.S. Ranch site plus five smaller sites which included the Apache Creek Pueblo, the Eva Faust Site, and W.S. Ranch Sites 5 and 17. The sites were occupied over three different cultural phases between AD 800-1300 CE. The three cultural phases represented are the Late Pithouse (550-1000 CE), the Classic Mimbres (800-1150 CE), and the Tularosa (1150-1300 CE) Periods. The W.S. Ranch Classic Mimbres occupation is the northernmost expression of the culture. It was later replaced by Tularosa material from the north and east. Over 500,000 objects were excavated from middens, room blocks, and kivas. Recovered artifacts include complete and fragmentary ceramic vessels, ceramic sherds, stone tools, lithic debitage, bone tools, faunal remains, and plant remains. The collection also contains beads and pendants, and raw materials such as pigments and minerals used for dyeing. The presence of both the Classic Mimbres and Tularosa Phase materials at the W.S. Ranch makes this a unique and important collection for the study of Southwestern culture history, dynamics and processes.

The main site at W.S. Ranch consists of several room blocks, middens and two kivas. It is largely situated on private land with a portion of the site extending over the Gila National Forest boundary. The site represents the last large excavation in the American Southwest. The project was led by Dr. James Neely from the University of Texas-Austin. Between 1977 and 1994, hundreds of students, volunteers and professional archaeologists participated in eleven field seasons of excavating, recording data and processing artifacts. At the conclusion of excavations, all of the artifacts and field notes were shipped to the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory on the University of Texas-Austin campus. The collection was stored in its original field bags and boxes. As the laboratory was not outfitted with temperature and humidity control, the original storage materials degraded and exposed the artifacts and other items to damage from pests, dust, dirt and other pollutants. No comprehensive final report was ever produced on the excavated sites. Some analysis had been undertaken by undergraduate students for research papers. There was also unfinished thesis work by graduate students. Neither were of publication

quality. It was decided to move the collection from the University of Texas-Austin to the DMNS as the facility had room to care for the collection, and it had archaeologists on staff actively researching Upland Mogollon sites in West-Central New Mexico. Together, staff from both facilities wrote a proposal for a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to acquire funding for the move to Denver, and to process and rehouse the collection. In September 2021, four DMNS staff members arrived in Austin to pack up the collection. The work consisted of prebuilding boxes and transferring items into new bags or vials after labeling, recording and weighing them. A total of 560 boxes were loaded into a -20°C (-4°F) freezer truck for two weeks so as to kill any pests which might be residing amongst the collection. The boxes were then delivered to DMNS on October 11, 2021.

Upon the arrival of the W.S. Ranch Collection to DMNS, staff began assessing the preservation needs of each item, and they began to rehouse the collection in archive-quality storage materials. Small lithics were placed into bags, and stored with other objects of similar size which came from the same area of the site. Larger items such as ground stone artifacts were housed in boxes with foam interiors (mounts) which have been customized to their unique shape. During rehousing, all excavation information associated with an item (original artifact, excavation unit and level numbers) are recorded in the DMNS catalog system to maintain its provenience. Once an item has been rehoused into new preservation material, it is stored in the Avenir Collections Center at DMNS. All of the documents associated with the W.S. Ranch collection have been sent to the DMNS archives for digitization and preservation. It is imperative to maintain the integrity of the collection so that it may be of value to current and future researchers. Pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA), DMNS consulted with several Puebloan tribes regarding repatriation and reburial of the human remains within the W.S. Ranch Collection. To date, under the lead of the Pueblo of Acoma, forty-five individuals and thirty burial objects have been repatriated and reburied. Repatriation work will continue for additional individuals encountered while processing the collection.

Ethnobiological analysis of plant materials has begun to identify species represented in collection. Wood found at the site include Joint Fir, Gymnosperm, Cottonwood/Willow, Gambel Oak, Juniper, and Pine. Reed stems and Yucca leaves are also present. Identified seeds are Dropseed, Purslane, Juniper, and Goosefoot/Pigweed. Maize in the form of cobs and seeds were recovered which indicate intensive corn production. Initial shell analysis has also taken place. Bracelet fragments are the most common shell item in the collection. There is also a shell pendant which is thought to be reworked from a bracelet. Shell in the

W.S. Ranch Collection is similar to that found at other Mogollon sites. It is likely present at the W.S. Ranch sites through trade with Hohokam peoples from the Tucson and Phoenix Basins in Arizona. Further research of the context the shell objects were found in may reveal a ritual use for them. Known ritual contexts include under Kiva roofs, behind plastered pithouse walls, under floors, and in post holes.

Once the collection is fully processed and documented, future work will include replicating previous radiocarbon and obsidian rehydration analysis to ensure their accuracy. W.S. Ranch has significant amounts of obsidian. Previous analysis by the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory identified two main sources located nearby at Mule Creek and Gwynn Canyon. To confirm this finding, plans are to redo the analysis, and to broaden the sample size to see if the results can provide any new information. A collection-wide survey will also be undertaken of standard types of materials such as ceramics, lithics, ground stone and faunal

remains. Once completed, then site-specific questions about the collection data can be posed. Kriebel concluded her presentation by noting why it was important to work on the W.S. Ranch Collection. The collection had not been taken care of very well since the materials were excavated, and it needed special attention to help preserve it. Once the preservation and documentation work is completed, the story contained within the W.S. Ranch collection can be told. It is important to invest in caring for unprocessed collections already in the possession of universities and museums. By doing so, new research opportunities can be made available to current and future generations without the need for excavation. The ultimate benefit of such work is the new knowledge it adds to archaeology by bringing to light data left behind in dusty bags and boxes. Work on the W.S. Ranch Collection is ongoing, and Kriebel indicated there were volunteer opportunities to do data entry for the project. Interested persons should contact her at elizabeth.kriebel@dmns.org. Kriebel answered numerous questions from the audience.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. Submitted by Stacy Greenwood, Secretary to DC-CAS.

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