



NEBRASKA ARCHEOLOGY MONTH – VOLUNTEER DIG NEAR COURTHOUSE ROCK

Summer 2021
Volume 34

Nebraska Association of Professional Archaeologists

NAPA Business

A Letter from the President

by Nolan Johnson

Dear NAPA Members,
2021 is half over. A lot has happened since the last newsletter in early 2019. The Bomb Cyclone in March and subsequent flooding in the spring and summer of 2019 damaged roads and bridges across Nebraska and the surrounding states. Our colleagues at the Nebraska Department of Transportation and History Nebraska (HN) have been busy ever since with work relating to that event. The most obvious event since the last newsletter is, of course, the global Covid-19 pandemic. Work, school, and home life were drastically altered for most if not all of us. NAPA members had many of our connections cut by work from home, canceling of trainings and conferences, social distancing preventing NAPA Happy Hour and other social gatherings, and general disruptions to daily life. As work and life in general creep towards something approaching normality so does NAPA. Happy Hours have restarted, the first renewed event was June 25 and more will be held on the last Friday of each month at rotating destinations.

The NAPA Board has continued to meet via Zoom during the pandemic and is still working hard to keep NAPA moving forward. The board held a strategic planning meeting

on February 29, 2020. Covid-19 and all that has happened since the meeting have made implanting the plans difficult. The NAPA Board will be working hard to implement both member suggestions from the 2019 survey and plans created at the 2020 strategic planning meeting moving forward.

Archaeology Month in 2019 was a success. Events were held across the state and reviews were overwhelmingly positive for those who attended, and we handed out lots of pens, stickers, photo scales, and other items with the NAPA logo. For me, the highlight of Archeology 2019 was the Volunteer Dig at Courthouse Rock. More on the dig to follow in a separate section.

On November 22, 2019 History Nebraska debuted a new exhibit at the Nebraska History Museum focusing on the questions most asked of archeologists. The exhibit was curated by NAPA members Rob Bozell and Nolan Johnson. I encourage all members to come and see the exhibit, it will be up through at least 2022.

NAPA had a strong showing at the 2019 Plains Conference in Bloomington. Many NAPA members presented papers or posters and several Plains Anthropological Society board members are also NAPA members. NAPA and HN hosted the 2019 Flint Hills Conference, and many of the presenters were NAPA members. The 2020 Flint Hill Conference held in March of 2020 in Topeka

and NAPA had many members present. On a related note the 2022 Flint Hill Conference is still searching for a host.

Archeology Month 2020 was a strictly virtual undertaking. NAPA partnered with the UNL State Museum for a discussion and construction demonstration about earthlodges, which can be seen here ([11](#)) [University of Nebraska State Museum - Morrill Hall - Posts | Facebook](#). An event with the Nebraska History Museum discussed how artifacts go from the dirt to collection storage, which can be seen here ([11](#)) [Facebook](#). Also a heavy dose of posts were made during the month on the NAPA Facebook page and several blogs were posted on the NAPA website, [Blog | Nebraska Archaeology](#), and the HN website, [What Do We Do With This Stuff Now? | History Nebraska](#). Planning for Archeology Month 2021 is underway including a return to in person events with a Sunday with a Scientist at Morrill Hall about Native American Pottery on September 26, 2021. If anyone has ideas for more events, please contact me.

NAPA remains in fine financial shape, thanks to all our members, and that should continue for the foreseeable future.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to Nebraska Archaeology!

History Nebraska - State Archeology Office 2019-2020

by Rob Bozell

The Nebraska State Archeology Office (SAO) saw a few staff changes in 2019 and 2020. Courtney Ziska is now managing the Nebraska Highway Archeology Program. The highway program also welcomed a new archeologist to the team -- recent University of Nebraska-Lincoln MA graduate Brian Goodrich. Edward Harthorn also joined the team as a second historic architect. Long-term highway archeologist John Ludwickson retired late in 2019 but we are all quite pleased John is still regularly in the office working on a variety of interesting research projects. Reagan Duranski and Jen Banks joined the staff in 2019 as term appointment archeological field and lab technicians. Both received some great hands-on experience and have now entered graduate programs outside the state. In early 2021, Trisha Patton and June Weber joined the staff under temporary appointments helping tremendously with field and lab work.

Long time Collections Curator Trisha Nelson is now the Associate Director of History Nebraska's entire Collections Division. Nic Fogerty is the new Archeology Collections Curator working under Trisha's direction. Nic will be handling site file searches, loans, assigning new site numbers, and curation issues. Nic is also undertaking a comprehensive digitization of the entire site files. History Nebraska is currently a repository for several archeological collections under the authority of federal agencies such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 2019, History Nebraska completed Bureau of Reclamation funded curation of the La Sena mammoth site (25FT177) collection.

Staff worked with over 30 Great Plains tribes to craft a joint repatriation claim for over 600 Indigenous individuals and associated funerary objects. These are remains that could not be identified with a particular tribe. The remains were reburied in early 2021. We also worked with over 20 law enforcement and local government officials to recover human remains inadvertently found during construction, farming, or from erosion.

In 2019 and 2020, the Highway Archeology Program completed National Historic Preservation Act investigations and prepared compliance documents on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Transportation

(NDOT) for 309 proposed transportation projects statewide. We also worked with our NDOT partners to produce a short video on the Highway Archeology Program (link to the video can be found at [Archeology in Nebraska | Knowledge Nook - Bing video](#)). The SAO also carried out over 30 small-scale surveys for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and various consulting firms and agencies. Severe flood events in the early spring of 2019 required office staff to not only survey many emergency repair projects for NDOT as well as for the USDA Farm Service Administration.

The State Archeology Office participation in Nebraska Archeology Month 2019 once again focused on a volunteer dig. The 2019 event was held at a Dismal River (Plains Apache) habitation or bison hunting camp located in the shadow of Courthouse Rock in the beautiful North Platte River valley of the Nebraska panhandle. Due to COVID, a volunteer dig was not held in 2020.

Staff also kept abreast of regional research by attending and participating in the 2019 and 2020 Flint Hills Conference in Lincoln and Topeka and the 2019 Plains Anthropological Society Conference in Bloomington, Indiana.

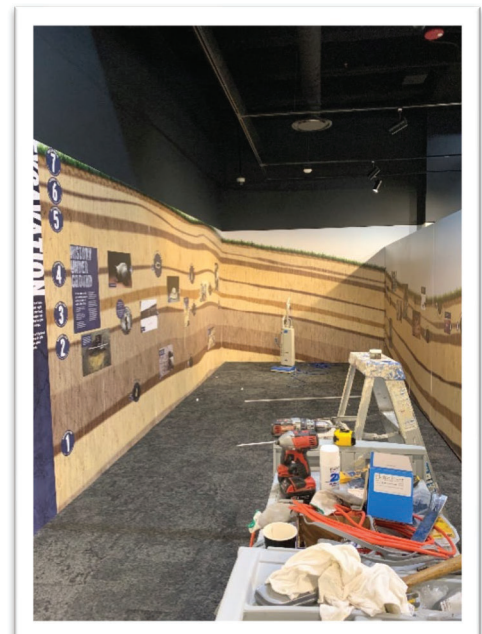
We also completed a long-term goal of installing an exhibit on Nebraska Archeology at the Nebraska History Museum. *Piecing Together the Past: 13,000 Years of History*



Lance Foster of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska delivering remarks at the November 2019 opening of *Piecing Together the Past*.

with Nebraska's Archeologists will be open through 2022. Hope you can check it out!

In addition to a steady flow of NDOT and other compliance projects in 2021, SAO staff will be completing the final report on a multi-year research project in the Nebraska Sand Hills sponsored by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office and a statewide Buried Sites GIS-based prediction tool funded by NDOT.



Piecing Together the Past installation.

Public Archeology at Homestead National Monument

by Rebecca Wiewel and Dawn Bringelson

The Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) in Lincoln recently reached a milestone anniversary, celebrating 50 years as a unit of the National Park Service. At the Center, we spent the past year focusing on bringing more public attention to and participation in archeology to mark the occasion. We used a project at Homestead National Monument of America (Homestead NM) in Beatrice, Nebraska to engage in public outreach, allow for citizen science, and investigate both precontact and historic archeology in the park.

Cub Creek, which winds its way through Homestead NM, has severely flooded several times since 2015, so work focused on two sites threatened by continued flooding and erosion. Site 25GA89 is a precontact scatter identified as a result of a 1985 pedestrian survey. The artifact inventory was dominated by non-diagnostic lithic materials but also included Woodland and Late Prehistoric items. Our aim was to identify any extant subsurface features of the site and answer lingering questions regarding site size, function, and cultural affiliation. Work at this site began with a magnetic gradiometry survey using a cart-based system with 16 sensors to gather data rapidly across a 15-acre area. Following the survey, we investigated a sample of magnetic anomalies via soil cores and select 1-x-2-m test units.



Students from Lincoln Public Schools' Science Focus program help collect resistance data at 25GA91.

Site 25GA91 is the Daniel Freeman Homestead, a key part of the national monument's story. Archeological investigations in the 1940s were unsuccessful in locating two reported features: a cabin used by the Freeman family during their first

two years of occupation and a brick kiln Daniel Freeman used to fabricate construction material for a later house. MWAC staff and volunteers conducted magnetic gradiometry and electrical resistance surveys in forested areas to search



SENSYS MAGNETO MX V3 magnetic gradiometer in a 16-channel towed cart configuration.

for remnants of these structures.

Since our excavations were easily visible from public trails, MWAC coordinated with Homestead NM staff to conduct on-site education for visiting field trip groups. As a result, more than 750 elementary school students were able to observe archeology in action and engage with an archeologist. Additionally, 90 students from Lincoln Public Schools' Science Focus Program participated in citizen science, helping perform



Students from Lincoln Public Schools' Science Focus program screen for artifacts at 25GA89.

geophysical surveys, screening for artifacts, and documenting finds.

Other members of the public volunteered to assist with investigations at a Public Archeology Day in the morning on Saturday, May 4. During the afternoon, Homestead NM hosted public talks, including an MWAC overview of the archeological work within the park. Talks also included remarks from Matt Reed (Historic Preservation Officer, Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma), Elsie Whitehorn (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Otoe-Missouria Tribe), and Dwight Howe (Culture Director, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska). Our investigations were a chance to highlight the Native history of the national monument, and several tribal representatives traveled to Homestead NM to observe our work and share their perspectives.



Alan Kelley and Lance Foster (Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska), at left, speak with MWAC Archeologists Erin Dempsey and Dawn Bringelson during test excavations at 25GA89.

Our test excavations revealed only sparse artifacts from the precontact site, although additional magnetic anomalies remain to be tested. Historic artifacts were more numerous, and the magnetic and resistance surveys in the wooded area identified a possible location for the squatter's cabin, though confirmation is necessary through testing. The brick kiln site remains elusive, so future work will likely include geophysical survey in areas not considered previously.

The wonderful staff of Homestead NM contributed to our project's success through their enthusiasm for outreach and through logistical support. We are excited to work with them in the future!

Central Plains Archaeology Volume 17

Vol. 17 is nearing completion with a few final revisions to be turned in. Once all the finalized papers are in, we'll send it off to be laid out and then printed. If all goes well it could be out by the end of 2021. The contents of Vol. 17 are:

- *Magnetic Survey of the Leary Site, 25RH1, on Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska Tribal Land in Richardson County, Nebraska*, by Steven L. De Vore and Holly J. Staggs
- *A White River Group Silicates Lithic Raw Material Procurement Site (39JK411) in Jackson County, South Dakota* by Jeffrey D. Larson
- *Welcome to the Courthouse and Jail House Rock: The 2019 Volunteer Excavation at 25MO201 a Dismal River Occupation in Morrill County, Nebraska* by Nolan Johnson and Talon O'Connor
- *Careful that Looks Sharp: Two Flaked Glass Artifacts at Red Cloud Agency 2* by Nolan Johnson, MaKenzie Coufal, Polly Wimberly, and Talon O'Connor
- *Historic Archaeology of Lincoln, Nebraska: Defining Urban Trade and Industry at the Turn of the 20th Century* by June F. Weber, Amy S. Neumann, Jade L. Robison, and Effie F. Athanassopoulos
- *Book Review: Petroglyphs of the Kansas Smoky Hills* by Rex C. Buchanan, Burke W. Griggs, and Joshua L. Svaty by Jim D. Feagins

NAPA Happy Hour

Join us on the last Friday of every month for happy hour! Location rotates, watch your email for details.

CURRENT NAPA BOARD MEMBERS

Nolan Johnson, President
Ashley Barnett, Vice President
Brian Goodrich, Secretary/Treasurer
Laura Bender, At-Large
Mike Fosha, At-large
Adam Wiewel, At-Large
John Risetto, At-Large



SAO crew investigating the primary Fort Robinson trash dump exposed during campground expansion.



NAPA 2021 Elections

The ballot for the four Sept. 1, 2021- Sept. 1, 2023

At Large Board Members will be sent out soon so watch your email for a message from NAPA with the ballot attached.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Central Plains Archaeology Volume 18

We are seeking submissions for the next issue of Central Plains Archaeology Volume 18. Please email Nolan.johnson@nebraska.gov with questions.

YEARLY MEMBERSHIP RATES

Regular Membership: \$25
Dual Membership: \$25
Student Membership: \$10
Subscribing Membership: \$10
Affiliated Membership: \$10
Institutional Membership: \$25

For category descriptions, please go here: [NAPA Membership](#)

Thanks!

...to everyone who made contributions to this newsletter. We're always taking submissions and would love to hear about your work!

Send your submissions to stacy.stupka@nebraska.gov



Geophysical Survey in Nebraska, see next page for details!

A Multi-instrument Geophysical Survey of Sharpe Homestead, Stanton County, Nebraska

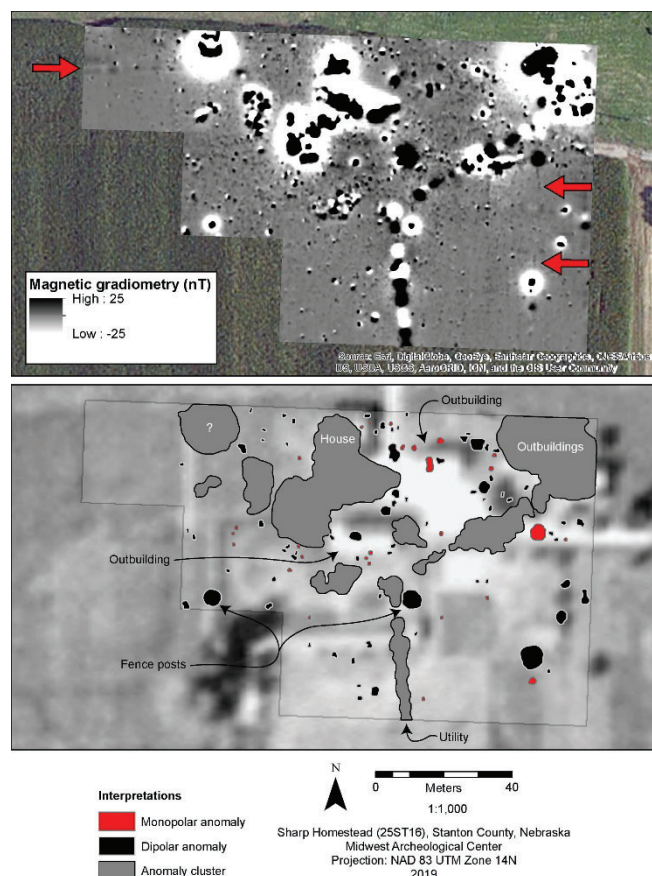
by Adam Wiewel

As has been widely reported in recent years, the Nebraska Department of Transportation is undertaking steps to improve U.S. 275 in rural northeast Nebraska. History Nebraska Highway Archeology staff are therefore searching for unknown sites and revisiting recorded ones that may be impacted by construction along the highway corridor. One such archeological site located near Pilger, Sharp Homestead (25ST16), dates to the mid-1860s and is thought to be Stanton County's earliest homestead.

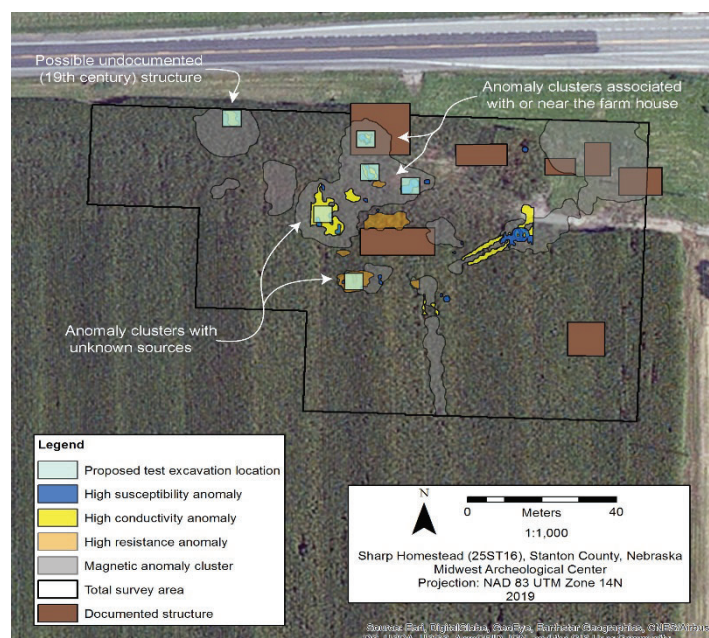
Homestead documents show that Charles F. Sharp applied for a 160-acre parcel on November 21, 1865, which he occupied by March 1866. By 1872, Sharp had apparently built a three-room, one-and-a-half-story house with an attached kitchen and cellar as well as a stable, granary, and well. Structures stood on the property until the 1980s when a farmhouse and outbuildings were demolished, although it is unclear whether these buildings were related to the earliest ones. And while it is now cultivated, architectural debris and domestic artifacts are spread across an approximately two-acre area. In situations like this, a geophysical survey offers a practical approach for identifying locations with subsurface features possibly related to the 19th-century homestead. Thus, a small crew from the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center in Lincoln teamed with History Nebraska in June 2019 to perform a multi-instrument geophysical survey of the site.

Three instruments—magnetic gradiometry, earth resistance, and electromagnetic induction, which yields conductivity and magnetic susceptibility data—were used during the survey. Each provides unique and complementary information, so multi-method surveys can generate richer results, and during this survey, every device produced useful and interesting findings. We achieved greatest coverage, just over 2.5 acres, with the magnetic gradiometer due to the speed at which it collects data. Gradiometers detect near-surface variations in the strength of the earth's magnetic field related to various phenomena, including archeological features and other natural factors. Among the most common causes of anomalies at historic sites like Sharp Homestead are iron and steel debris, bricks, and other magnetic materials. The most robust clusters of magnetic anomalies are associated with buildings like the farmhouse and adjacent outbuildings, which are evident in historical aerial photographs. Interestingly, some documented outbuildings lack similar magnetic signatures, which suggests debris associated with them was completely removed during their demolition.

The sources of other robust magnetic anomalies are unknown. Beyond this factor, these possible subsurface features are intriguing because they also appear in the resistance, conductivity, and magnetic susceptibility results. While geophysical surveys are ideal for locating archeological features, we are not always so fortunate to understand their exact cause. The anomalies are perhaps related to Charles Sharp's house or other structures (e.g., outbuildings, a well, and a privy) he constructed during the 19th century. Further archeological testing is required, but our survey findings facilitate targeted and limited excavations.



Magnetic gradiometry results (top) and interpretations (bottom), superimposed on a 1940 aerial photograph (Nebraska NRCS, USDA).



Comprehensive map of interpretations showing ideal locations for test excavations at Sharp Homestead.

Western History Center Update

by George Zeimens

It is done - It is gone - It is history - 2019 that is. And a good year it was for the Western History Center. As was reported in our last newsletter, summer activities revolved around numerous activities such as the 32nd year that we offered our Expanding Environments (EE) youth program, a tour of the historic Sunrise mine and the Powars II Paleoindian red ochre mine (over 300 people attended), an event that celebrated 50 years of the moon landing which included a presentation by Dr. Alan Keimig about meteorites (over 175 people participated), a Knapp-in to experiment with the John Voight toolstone material at Sunrise, a movie at the library in celebration of 150 years of Wyoming getting the vote for women and a fundraiser that netted a substantial amount for research and development at the Powars II site. All this required much planning and

preparation and kept us really busy, was a great deal of work and we are indebted to all those good folks that volunteered to help make these events a success.



Powars II before erosion control.

The EE kids excavated a test in the terrace in the valley across from the red ochre mine. Although continually hampered by inclement weather they managed to dig to a depth of 12ft where they still found good evidence for human habitation in the form of flakes and bone. Unfortunately, they did not recover any temporally diagnostic artifacts such as projectile points, so the age of those deep deposits remains undetermined.

Our two main objectives for the Powars II site this year were to abate the erosion and to secure the site for the future. To deal with the erosion problem we petitioned the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

for their assistance. DEQ had damaged the site during reclamation work at the mine in the 1980's. They came up with a plan to build an earthen berm from the

bottom of the slope of the site. They hired several contractors and began working with heavy equipment in early October. The plan included removing the old mine haul road and the chain link fence from above the site. The



Powars II during erosion control.

chain link was replaced with split rail that looks great. The plan worked well and was completed in December. The site is now well protected from the ravages of weather. DEQ paid for the entire project with AML funds and since the red ochre mine dates to over 13,000 years they can now boast of helping reclaim the oldest mine on the American Continent.

While working closely with John Voight owner of the site, we have also made progress on our objective to secure the site for the future. All of our research efforts at Powars II have been supported financially by a generous group of artifact collectors and avocational archeologists that are genuinely concerned about preservation of prehistoric sites in this country. They are keenly aware of just what a boondoggle government programs known as cultural resource management have become. This group is putting together a new nonprofit organization we call the Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHIPPS). The main purpose of the organization will be to preserve and enhance not only the red ochre mine and other prehistoric sites in the Hartville Uplift area, but also the history of the ghost town and mine of Sunrise and other historic sites in area. As is the case for our Western History Center, there will be no government involvement in their preservation activities. You all are invited to join SHIPPS - Dues are \$30 individual and \$50 family.

The Hartville Uplift, a geographically island of hills that extend roughly from Guernsey to Lusk, contains a unique concentration of world class historic and prehistoric sites. Historic sites include the Chicago and Good

Fortune iron mines and related towns of Ironton and Toadville, the Silver Cliff mine, trails such as the Immigrant Trail, the Texas Trail, the



Powars II after erosion control, site is in the white area.

Cheyenne/Deadwood Trail, the Trappers Trail, several military trails, the Government Farm, the Bordeaux Rawhide Buttes trading post, and numerous historic farms and ranches. Prehistoric sites include Hell Gap, Spanish Diggings, literally thousands of toolstone quarries and tipi rings, rock shelters, pictographs and camp sites. Mammoth bones have been found at five sites in the uplift.

John has cleaned and prepared the old vault (a 10ft by 30ft room) in the basement of the YMCA building in Sunrise to serve as a repository for the Powars II collection. John and Geri are also turning other portions of the YMCA into a museum. The Y is still a structurally sound building and would make an ideal facility for a research center for the Hartville Uplift area which is our *dream vision for the future*. The purpose, goals and vision of SHIPPS are almost identical to those of the Western History Center and we are considering combining the two organizations in the future.

Upcoming MWAC Investigations at Scottsbluff and Agate Fossil Beds National Monuments

MWAC will be undertaking two terrestrial LiDAR projects this year at Scottsbluff and Agate Fossil Beds NMs. The Overland Trail ruts that are preserved at Scottsbluff have been suffering from erosion for many years. A 3D scan of the ruts will help document the ruts and provide information to determine if there are measures that can be taken to halt the erosion. An important site at Agate Fossil Beds is also experiencing erosion and the 3D scan of the stream bank will help document the site and may provide information for future stabilization efforts. Stay tuned for some results from these projects in the fall of 2021.

A “Mammoth” Experience

by Bruce Rippeteau

Bruce indicates that this was published in *Teocentli* in March 2021; he shares it with us for its humorous rendition of experimental archaeology relevant to the Plains.

Greetings Teocentlists,

2020 was the year of yet another worldwide pandemic, of a new corona virus, which caused the 1-2% fatal COVID-19 illness, from March onwards, and changed—this year and longer-term—much of our daily routines. Most of us embraced the multi-participant, computer-managed, video conferences that shortened national and world travel distances to a few steps to one's computer. Such “Zooming” also stuffed many more interactions into our days than many could enjoy.

This deadly, but dead itself, corona virus, which has been traced back to Chinese wildlife origins, saw the US Gross Domestic Product (Oct. 2020 WSJ and AP) projected by the IMF to sink some 4% and the European GDP to also fall 8%, while China's is probably rebounding from a veritable crash back upwards some positive 5% by year's end.

Also on an international scale, the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize, the 101st since 1901, was awarded to the United Nations' “World Food Programme”. Interestingly to me, the current, executive-director is from my past administrative chain, the past Governor of South Carolina, David Beasley.

Closer, we lost several of our western archaeology colleagues, such as George Frison (06 September 2020) and Ray Woods (02 October 2020; both thus RIP), giants of modern American Archaeology, the former featuring in the below remembrance.

On a personal level, as many friends know, we leave Lincoln, Nebraska to spend the six months of the Summer in Upstate-most NYS a few feet from the 10 mile-wide St Lawrence River at Cape Vincent, NY. Due to coronavirus restrictions, it was a hard feeling to look Northward, through some 180 degrees of vision, to

Canada, and not be able to go there monthly as we have for years and years.

The most memorable archaeological experiences of 2020, for me, were revisiting memories. One started the very week after last year's 2019 Teocentli issue number 123 arrived, being a ghost from my own archaeological, “mammoth-punching” past.

Don Miller, in California, through calling the U Nebraska Anthropology Department, got a hold of me in Lincoln, some 4 long decades after 1979, to ask about his Dad Don's (RIP) memory from back then, in Denver, of having agreed to provide a large crane-truck to stand up a dead “mammoth”. His Dad was then VP of Public Service of Colorado's Gas Services, and his Dad's memory—and his courage in helping me hold up a dead elephant for atlatl and butchering experiments—were all true.

As we reported in the first (also last) issue of “Megafauna Punchers' Review” 1(1), *inter alia*, this context was a large, adult Indian (*Elephas sp.*) elephant dying from food poisoning in a circus in Santa Fe. Since the poor ‘phant, “Margie”, died en route on I-25, and since an OSAC staff archaeologist Betty LaFree, also known for her writings on the famous potter Maria Martinez, immediately told me about this just-arrived, just-departed being.

This clicked since I had introduced long-time friend, the Smithsonian Institution's Dennis Stanford (RIP) several times for his talks on the Hatari (a 1962 popular American movie) elephant, whose deceased, smaller body he had pioneeringly applied quantitative mechanical measurements to the presumed dismemberment skills of Paleoindians by re-enacting her reduction to food portions.

So out of the clear blue sky came this new opportunity of an outstanding, stand-in for the mammoths (*Mammuthus sp.*), for something of an underground cult of Archaeological interest in the arts of megafaunal hunting and open-air butchering. (The MPR issue is now rare, so I have separately reprised the longer story with imagery to be able to email to any Teocentlist who asks.)



Planning, the “Denver Elephant Project” the night before, on 10 June 1979: George Frison (right; RIP) and organizer Bruce Rippeteau (left). Farthest left is Steve Chomko; Center distance is Bill Butler; Both prominent participants and event authors. At the time, George was the State Archaeologist of Wyoming and Bruce the State Archaeologist of Colorado. (George became the President of the Society for American Archaeology, and later Bruce Secretary.)

(A "Mammoth" Experience" continued)

As for Don's Dad—remember this is a Sunday afternoon and he had thought he was

protected by corporate insulation from the usual chippy customers, and for example from this exact kind of "real unusual" request for a crane—had bravely said: "Sure! Tomorrow morning! At 8:00 AM! There in the downtown Denver stockyards! And I don't want to hear any details!"

Well, we had such luminaries as Marcia Tate, Steve Chomko, Bill Butler, George and his crew (after being tracked down at my beseechment by the bemused County Sheriff himself, at the dig crew's evening watering hole), Dennis Stanford (who came soon after and showed how to crack very large bones), Nic Toth, Marie Wormington (RIP) and her husband oil and gas guy Pete Volk (RIP), Denver Coroner George Ogura, AZ classmates Bruce Huckell and Bruce Bradley, Eileen Johnson, and many others (see MPR's list). The upshot, after a meeting in my Denver backyard, was a Monday of scientifically posing a deceased large elephant, chucking spears and atlatls into it, and thence reducing it, the elephant Margie, to small pieces and large science. *Inter alia*, Bruce Huckell in the Plains Anthropologist and MPR, Sally Hershey in MPR, Bill Butler in PA, and Frison and Bradley in their Fenn Cache book, all authored reports, plus various talks by principals and on-lookers.

We learned several lessons: that mostly, not always, our stone-tipped spears and atlatls usually just bounced off, not penetrating. Only at the very thin stomach skin, did our handheld spears, thrusting from dangerously close by, seem to reliably go in. Certainly, the African bush Pygmies, after similarly stabbing their elephant prey, immediately blended into the foliage to avoid liquefaction.

George, later participating in a government culling at Zimbabwe's

Hwange National Park, with lofted Paleoindian-styles tipped-spears having much more arrival energy than did we close-in stabbers, was able to successfully wound elephants, although he told me later that they were clearly not soon fatal. The

engineering for our own hafted points not penetrating but an inch or two, was that, although the sharp point itself went right in, their tough, flexible skin bunched up at the haft itself.

Another great lesson, second, was the amount of work it was to butcher an elephant and surely so a mammoth. It just took all day to carve much meat out. Our obsidian was very sharp, but the skin in general was tougher. We did learn to let the drying blood semi-glue the bigger knives and hand axes to our bare hands.

Third, in Denver Magazine's December 1979 issue, John Denver and I were jointly featured as recipients of the magazine's First annual "Alferd (spelling correct) Packer Poor Taste Awards" (he of that winter 1874 Colorado cannibalism fame). At least the magazine admitted I and mine were scientists (shudder) with a plan to gain knowledge (shudder). Nature admirer and singer Denver got it much worse, there and on the talk shows, as he was savaged for his installation of big gas tanks (5,000 gallons total, was it?) on his mountain property.



Final food reduction being filmed by TV News. The attacking (however mock), and taking apart, of so great a being was an emotionally sobering experience for all concerned.

Actually, it turned out that Marie Wormington (RIP), the first woman archaeologist to be invited and go to China's opening to the sciences) and George Ogura the Denver Coroner, had spent time making sure the original TV and radio reporters understood how pure were our inner science desires (our unwise, hasty motto having been "Butcher the Evidence"; Shudder).

It was a great thing exchanging memories with Don's son Don after these 4 decades from the event, and his Dad and mine turned out to have both been in the CMTC Program in the 1930s up at Ft Snelling, MN. We both found otherwise unremembered coincidences, including that he, for example, had been with Woodward-Clyde Consultants, with Ruthann Knudsen (RIP) as his "...aide, and his primary consultant had been the University of Colorado's Dave Breternitz (RIP)...and he had thus worked with my own long, time CO friends Gary Matlock and Doug Scott and others, in connection with the Shell "Cortez CO₂ Pipeline" through an Anasazi landscape.

Perhaps this 1979 Mammoth Ghosting is enough remembrance this later year. Many thanks to you both, Ian and Easty, for your grand Teocentli community.



Bruce Bradley, a master flint knapper, shows how the delivery is done. Never-the-less, the whole lance with fore-shaft often bounced back. At least the modeled-mammoth did not pivot and trample him and the rest of us innocent bystanders.

Nebraska DOT - A Programmatic Update

by Stacy Stupka

In July 2015, the Nebraska Department of Transportation entered into a programmatic agreement entitled *Programmatic Agreement Among The Federal Highway Administration, The Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation And The Nebraska Department of Roads to Satisfy the Requirements of Section 106 for the Federal-Aid Highway Program In The State of Nebraska*, in July 2015. An interim report completed in support of this agreement noted that during the period of reporting, from July 31, 2015 – February 2020, NDOT processed a total of 767 undertakings, 215 of which were emergency repair projects processed in response to the extensive flooding that occurred across Nebraska in March 2019.

Overall, the Federal-aid Highway Program in Nebraska is characterized by undertakings that rehabilitate or repair existing infrastructure. This is borne out by the overall number of undertakings resulting in a project effects determination of either *no potential to cause effects to historic properties* or *no historic properties affected*, which taken together equal 96% of the entire program. During the time frame covered under this interim report, NDOT has processed 25 undertakings which resulted in *no adverse effect* determinations. Undertakings resulting in no adverse effect determinations include re-habilitation of sandstone slopes associated with an overpass, such as the Kimball Underpass project, reconstruction of a local road adjacent to the historic Oft-Gordon House, construction of bridge structures over the historic Lincoln Highway in Douglas County, grading within the boundaries of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listed W.H. Faling Mansion to create a smooth transition between the property and the ADA ramp, and in-kind repairs to a girder on one of Nebraska's 12 exceptional bridges

During the time frame covered under this interim report, there were six undertakings which resulted in a project effects determination of *adverse effect*. Four of these determinations were associated with the replacement of historic bridges and one undertaking involved a bridge replacement that adversely affected a significant archeological site associated with a historic mill. One of these six undertakings, Alexandria South, was processed as one federal action with Alexandria South Bridges. Other than the historic bridge identified on the Alexandria South Bridges project, there were no historic properties identified within the APE associated with Alexandria South.

In each instance of adverse effect, after efforts to avoid and minimize the adverse effect, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into to record each historic bridge and to complete data recovery at the mill site. All stipulations in these MOAs have been met, and there are no outstanding MOAs. NDOT continues to grow their efforts to conduct tribal consultation and conducted consultation with nine tribes on 29% of their projects during the reporting period. The full Interim Report can be found here:

https://dot.nebraska.gov/media/113765/section-106-pa_interim-report.pdf

Development of a new statewide PA is underway in collaboration with FHWA, ACHP and NESHPO, with an expected completion date in 2022.

Section 106 Training - August 2019

In August 2019, NDOT collaborated with Jacobs Engineering to design a Section 106 training course that was tailored to NDOT's Section 106 program. This 2 day course was highly interactive and featured

Nebraska examples during many spirited conversations. The course was designed for Section 106 and NEPA practitioners and in addition to internal staff, NDOT invited FHWA, NESHPO, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) and our partners in the History Nebraska Highway Cultural Resources Program to attend. THPOs representing the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska and the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma were able to attend and provide their perspective.

Archeological Site Testing - July 2020

In July 2020 NDOT staff joined colleagues from History Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska to complete archeological investigations at an archeological site near Niobrara, Nebraska. These investigations were associated with the emergency repair project Niobrara West Bridges (Project No. ER-12-5(122); CN 32320) and were conducted as a result of consultation NDOT completed with the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska. The

archeological site consists of a light scatter of lithic material and some bison bone eroding out of a nearby creek bank. Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Stacy Laravie indicated that the Tribe has records of village sites in the vicinity and wanted to better understand the nature of the recently identified archeological site. The archeological investigations

consisted of numerous shovel tests placed across the area of potential effects (APE) as well as across an area just outside the APE. The investigations concluded that there was no evidence of archeological materials within the APE and that the archeological material outside the APE was sparse and was widely spaced. Based upon these results, archeologists with NDOT and History Nebraska concluded that the archeological site does not represent a long-term occupation, such as a village site, but rather likely represents a onetime use by a few or even a single individual. Beyond locational information already recorded, this archeological site does not have the information potential to answer important questions about past human activity and was not determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska agreed with these conclusions and with the determination.

These archeological investigations allowed us to help answer questions posed by the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska regarding village locations in the vicinity while providing an excellent opportunity for all involved to learn from one another and to further strengthen relationships.



History Nebraska Highway Archeologist Brian Goodrich (L) and Ponca Tribe of Nebraska THPO Stacy Laravie screen excavated soil.

Danial Watson Obituary

by Steven Hohen

Danial Watson was born on December 21, 1953 to Charles "Buck" and Patricia (Bowring) Watson. He grew up on the family Sandhills ranch south of Chambers, Nebraska. He graduated from Chambers High School in 1971 with a Regents Scholarship to the University of Nebraska. He attended the university and studied agriculture. Danial returned to the family ranch to work with his father in the cattle business. However, a severe October blizzard decimated Dan's cattle herd. Dan then worked for other ranch operations for several years. He returned to the university and studied Anthropology/Archaeology and received his BA degree in 1993.

Dan married Tamara Krueger in 1981 and they had three children, Aletha, Charles and John. Dan and Tamara were later divorced. Dan is survived by his three children and two grandchildren.

Dan worked for me at the Nebraska Archaeological Survey (NAS) at the University of Nebraska State Museum as an archaeologist from 1992-1999. Our first project together was the Bureau of Reclamation Fullerton Canal Project salvage excavations where Dan rose quickly to a supervisory position. We formed a strong working relationship and conducted many archaeological surveys and excavations for the Bureau of Reclamation and many extensive Historic Preservation surveys for the Nebraska State Historical Society. Dan was an excellent surveyor because he knew the landscape well and could read topographic maps. Dan was one of the two best technical excavators I have ever worked with. If you needed something excavated that required great patience and skill, Dan was the one you asked to do it (see Figure 1). Dan continued to work for the Nebraska Archaeological Survey after I left in 1999. He continued to work for Dr. Alan Osborn at the NAS until 2004 when he left to pursue careers in gun sales and gun safety training and continue his hobby of re-enacting.

Dan's interest in archaeology was wide-ranging, however, his first love was historical archaeology. He had an extensive knowledge of historic artifacts, especially fur trade and military artifacts from the 1700s and 1800s. This interest in history was also his hobby as he was an avid re-enactor and had uniforms and outfits from several historical periods. He especially enjoyed his work and re-enacting at Ft. Atkinson.

Dan passed away in a car accident in May 2019. He will be missed by his family and many friends.

Please see next page for a list of Dan's contributions to our knowledge of Plains Archaeology.



Dan Watson excavating crossed ribs at the La Sena Mammoth Site, Medicine Creek Reservoir, 1993. I had Dan excavate this unit because it required the highest technical skill. Dan did an excellent job, as usual.

Danial R. Watson Publications

A Pawnee Bone Grease Processing Area: Site 25HW75, Howard County Nebraska 1993.

John K. Peterson, Danial R. Watson, Amy Goedert
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 1993-01, University of Nebraska State Museum

Archaeological Survey at Threshing Machine Canyon (14TO105), Cedar Bluff Reservoir, Trego County, Kansas 1995.

John K. Peterson and Danial Watson.
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 94-01, University of Nebraska State Museum

The Stabaco Site: A Mid-Eighteenth Century Skidi Pawnee Town on the Loup River 1995.

Steven R. Holen and John K. Peterson (editors)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 95-01, University of Nebraska State Museum

Archaeological Surveys and Tests at Two Oregon Trail Sites (25KH6 and 25KH22) 1995

Danial R. Watson, Steven R. Holen, John W. Weymouth, Jerry F. Ayers, Lewis E. Somers, and Richard A. Fox
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 95-02, University of Nebraska State Museum

Trade Goods among the Ponca: General Notes and Assessments 1995.

Danial Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 95-03, University of Nebraska State Museum

Archaeological Survey of the South Fork Big Nemaha Drainage, Pawnee and Richardson Counties, Nebraska 1996.

Steven R. Holen, John K. Peterson and Danial R. Watson.
(Contributions by Joseph E. Herman and Rolfe D. Mandel)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 96-02, University of Nebraska State Museum

The Tahaksu Site (25MK15), Merrick County, Nebraska 1996.

John K. Peterson and Steven R. Holen, Editors
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 96-03, University of Nebraska State Museum

An Archaeological Survey of Ponca Creek and the Keya Paha River Drainages in Nebraska 1997. [Appendix A: Survey Unit Maps and Tables. An Archaeological Survey of Ponca Creek and the Keya Paha River Drainages in Nebraska 1997].

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 97-02, University of Nebraska State Museum

A Phase I Archaeological Survey and Phase II Test Excavations on Bureau of Reclamation Properties at Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County, Nebraska (1998).

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson (editors) (Contributions by David W. May, Joseph E. Herman, R. George Corner, and Brian L. Medow)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 98-02, University of Nebraska State Museum

Phase I Survey and Phase II Testing of Archaeological Sites Along the Arcadia Diversion Dam Area of the Middle Loup River, Custer County, Nebraska: A Preliminary Report.

Steven R. Holen, Danial R. Watson, and David W. May
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 98-05, University of Nebraska State Museum

A Phase I Archaeological Survey of Enders Reservoir, Chase County, Nebraska 1998

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 98-06, University of Nebraska State Museum

Phase I Survey and Phase II Testing of Archeological Sites at the Arcadia Diversion Dam Lands of the Middle Loup River, Custer County, Nebraska.

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson (Contributions by David W. May)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 99-01, University of Nebraska State Museum

A Preliminary Report: 1999 Phase II Tests and Excavations of Three Sites on Bureau of Reclamation Properties at Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County, Nebraska.

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 99-02, University of Nebraska State Museum

An Archaeological Survey of Beaver and Shell Creeks and selected Areas on the Loup and Platte River and Tributaries 1999. Volume 1. An Archaeological Survey of Beaver and Shell Creeks and Selected Areas on the Loup and Platte Rivers and Tributaries L: Appendix A- Survey Unit Maps and Data 1999. (Volume 2)

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson (Contributions by David W. May)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 99-03, University of Nebraska State Museum

An Archaeological Investigation of an 1867 Military Camp in the South Plate River Valley.

Danial R. Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 99-04, University of Nebraska State Museum

1999 Phase II Tests and Excavations of Three Sites on Bureau of Reclamation Properties at Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County, Nebraska 1999.

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 99-05, University of Nebraska State Museum

An Archaeological Survey of the Lower South Platte River and Pumpkin Creek Drainages 2000.

Steven R. Holen and Danial R. Watson (Contributions by David W. May)
Nebraska Archaeological Survey Technical Report 2000-02, University of Nebraska State Museum