

COUNCIL GROVE KAW MISSION: DIGGING FALL 2018

The Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) and the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) returned to Council Grove for the KAA Fall Fling to see if two unanswered questions of the June Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP) could be determined.

During the June 2018 two-week dig, KATP participants dug northwest of the Kaw Mission in hopes of finding remnants of a possible blacksmith shop. During that time, two building trenches and remnants of a wall (western) of that building were located. At the same time, excavators uncovered a large number of artifacts from an area to the northwest of the possible blacksmith shop, but did not find sufficient evidence to determine the function of that debris-filled area.

On Friday through Sunday of September 28 through 30 of 2018, KSHS archaeologists and KAA volunteers returned to look for the location of the fourth wall (eastern) within the building site, and to try to determine the nature of the artifact-rich area to the northwest. Tricia Waggoner, the KSHS archaeologist in charge of the 2018 June KATP, supervised the fall work also. Some of the fall volunteers stayed for all three days while others dug and/or sifted for one or two.

Originally Waggoner had hoped to be finished by noon on Sunday. By mid-morning of the third day, the two questions still had not been answered. Then the two diggers in the northwestern isolated square saw two parallel lines and proceeded to excavate a builders' trench. Thus even though the size of that building could not be determined, Waggoner knew that trash likely had been dumped on an abandoned building site to the northwest of the possible blacksmith site.

In the possible blacksmith area, Waggoner had placed three squares from east to west with another three parallel to the first three. Waggoner had hoped this placement would

reveal the location of the fourth wall of the possible blacksmith shop. Volunteers had begun backfilling the two excavated squares on the west and the two on the east sometime before 11:00 on the last day. When diggers had reached the bottom of a level after 11:30, the two middle squares also were declared closed, despite the lack of finding evidence for the expected wall. Then Nancy Arendt, an experienced excavator who was resting from backfilling, thought she noticed a line and entered the northern middle square to trowel. She found two lines. Bob Hoard, the state archeologist, then dug between the lines and delineated a builders' trench. Another digger uncovered parallel lines in the square to the south. Thus the location of the fourth wall was uncovered at the very end of the weekend.

Due to the added time of the last flurry of excavating, backfilling ended around 2:00, instead of around noon.

Note: KCAS members in attendance were Mary Conrad and Jack Carlson, a new KCAS member who joined KCAS after attending the June 2018 KATP.

--Mary Conrad

GAIL LUNDEEN & MARY CONRAD WERE THE KCAS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE JACKSON COUNTY PARKS + REC VOLUNTEER DINNER AT ADAMS POINTE CONFERENCE CENTER IN BLUE SPRINGS ON APRIL 30, 2019. KCAS MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT FT. OSAGE/MO TOWN EVENTS.

THE KANSAS CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PAST

The Kansas City Archaeological Society is a scientific, not-for-profit group. Membership is open to both amateur and professional archaeologists, as well as to other interested parties. The Kansas City Archaeological Society (KCAS) is a local affiliate chapter of the Missouri Archaeological Society.

KCAS aims to provide opportunities for avocational and professional archaeologists to discuss their common interests and to help educate the public about the prehistory and history of the Kansas City region. KCAS informs members of both field and lab opportunities in the region.

KCAS meets the first Tuesday of each month (except July, August, and September) at 7:00 p.m. at 9300 Ward Parkway at Burns and McDonnell Engineering. The social period with refreshments begins at 7:00 p.m., and the business meeting starts at 7:30. A program follows. Visitors are welcome!

The Burns and McDonnell facility is a large building with a number of doors and with parking on both the east and the west. KCAS has used three different entrances, but most recently has used the door with 9300 above the door. For this door, enter the Burns and McDonnell entrance labeled 9300/9400 on Ward Parkway. If this is your first time to attend a KCAS meeting, you may call one of the ones listed below if you wish.

For more information, call Mary Conrad (931-287-4405) or Gail Lundeen (816-478-6051).

To join KCAS, please detach the portion below and send to
Heidi Monnin, treasurer
Kansas City Archaeological Society
8200 Hardy
Raytown, MO 64138

___ High school or fulltime college student \$10
___ Individual \$12 ___ Family \$15

Name _____

Street address _____

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Telephone # _____ Email _____

(If provide email address, you will receive monthly notices of program speakers.)