

Peterson decided to excavate the eastern half of this orifice as one 2018 PA activity. In a day and a half, diggers completed down to 50 centimeters. Peterson suspects the feature may have been a cistern because the sides were beginning to bow outward as the excavators went downward. Whether a well or cistern, Peterson suspects the feature was filled in at least 75 years ago because the soil within was so dense.

The outer edge of the orifice was constructed of an inner ring of bricks, surrounded by an outer ring of fitted tabular limestones. After excavating many centimeters of soil, diggers removed a fragment of an apparent brick-concrete cap that arched upward. The fill was composed of more soil than trash, although curiously the diggers recovered more artifacts in the top 25 centimeters of soil than in the lower 25 centimeters. In the top half, numerous large pieces of sawed animal bones were recovered. Some of these showed sawed striations, likely indicative of hand sawing instead of machine sawing. Excavators found only the older cut nails in the top half, but found both cut and newer wire nails in the bottom half. The diggers also found coal, clinkers, plaster, mortar, flat glass, whiteware, a 22-long rifle casing, and a chunk of molten lead.

If the feature is a cistern, Peterson suspects the depth could be eight to nine feet deep, but just over one and a half feet of the depth was dug in the short amount of excavating time.

On the first day, diggers in the cemetery backfilled many of the test squares. In the afternoon of that first day, Peterson and Dan Patterson used a transit and stadia rod to map the location of the cistern/well.

In the early afternoon of the second day, the cistern/well feature was backfilled while others in the cemetery continued to dig in the expanded test square until backfilling at the end of the afternoon. In the meantime, six participants wet washed most of the artifacts recovered from both the backyard and the cemetery.

While field work and most of the cleaning was completed in two days, activities will continue. KCAS member Jim Roberts will catalog the 2018 PA artifacts before Peterson will write the report. Then the artifacts and associated paperwork will be curated by Layton, the Atkins-Johnson site administrator. Layton likely will select a few items to add to exhibits within the historic home.

Participants in 2018 PA Field Activities

Thirteen participated on Thursday and 12 on Friday, with a total of 15 participating over the two days of field work. The KCAS members included the following: Sally Bell, Mary Conrad, Gail Lundeen, Mary Monnin, John Peterson, and Gina Powell. The non-KCAS participants included Crystal Bradshaw-Gonzalez, Bob Corder (joined later), Penny Hale, Erica Layton, Leah Palmer, Dan Patterson, Pam Stepp, Rachel Walker, and Virginia Wulfkuhle.

KCAS thanks all who participated. --Mary Conrad. Reviewed by Gail Lundeen for accuracy

JUNE 2018 KANSAS DIG: KAW MISSION

Each year the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) and the Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) hold a public archaeological dig somewhere in the state of Kansas, usually during the first two weeks of June. In 2018 this Kansas Archeological Training Program (KATP) was held at the Kaw Mission in Council Grove.

Archaeological investigations at Kaw Mission actually had begun in June 2016 when KATP was at the Last Chance Store, also in Council Grove. At that time, Tricia Waggoner, a KSHS

archaeologist, had supervised metal detecting on the mission grounds. Later that fall, KAA and KSHS spent a three days with more metal detecting and also with test excavations.

The Kaw Mission building was constructed as a Methodist mission school in the early 1850s. The church conference felt too few Kaw boys attended the mission school, so the mission closed after only four or so years. Over time this building also was used as a council house, a school for European Americans, a hotel, courthouse, and residence. Finally, in the early 1950s, the mission building became a KSHS museum. Now over 60 years later, KSHS wishes to renovate the exhibits. This is the impetus for archaeology at the museum site.

From June 2 through June 17, 2018, Waggoner directed completion of metal detecting the property and opening of excavations in areas behind and to the sides of the mission building and education center, as well as in the front yard, extending to the north end of the property.

Due to archival work, the 2016 fall testing, and a spring 2017 geophysical survey, Waggoner knew the general area of the blacksmith shop, but she wished to find the specific location. From the geophysical results, Waggoner knew the smithy shop likely had three walls with a wide opening in the east. KATPers were able to delineate builders trenches for the foundations of the smithy shop in the northern end of front yard. They found foundation stones for only one corner, as many stones obviously had been removed at an earlier time. The geophysical survey had shown a large anomaly north of the shop, so excavators opened that area and uncovered many artifacts, including fragments of milk bottles, but Waggoner had not determined the nature of that area by the end of the KATP.

Recovered artifacts ranged from the mid-nineteenth century to modern times. An Army padlock may date to Civil War times. The characteristics of many buttons, nails, metal cans, and bottle fragments give evidences to occupation over many decades. Quite recent times also were represented. In the latter part of the twentieth century and continuing to the present, Kaw Indians occasionally performed pow-wows at the mission site. Diggers recovered some modern Indian regalia.

A silver souvenir spoon from Helena, Montana could be matched to a specific person of the past. Thomas Huffaker had been in charge of the Kaw Mission. Later his family used the building as a residence. The recovered spoon had the initials AGH etched on the handle. Mark Brooks, the administrator of the current Kaw Mission Historic Site, found that the letters "AGH" are the initials of a Huffaker daughter and that she likely was in Helena, Montana for her brother's wedding.

While KAA digging at a site often ends on the last day of a KATP, this year the Kaw Mission investigations will continue during the KAA Fall Fling on Friday September 28th through noon on Sunday September 30th. Waggoner would like to see if further digging will be able to answer more questions about the east side of the blacksmith shop and the area to the north of the shop site.

In the meantime, volunteers have been washing and cataloging Kaw Mission artifacts at the KSHS Archeology Lab in Topeka. On July 27th, many KAAers spent a Summer Spree day at the Topeka lab to speed up processing. On that day, volunteers completed the cleaning of Kaw Mission artifacts, but cataloging continues. Due to the Fall Fling, the Topeka lab supervisor likely will request a weekend of volunteers so the September recovered artifacts can be washed. When cataloging is completed, Waggoner will continue analysis and write the report. —Mary Conrad