

Kansas Preservation

Volume 37, Number 3 • 2015

REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES.

Kansas Archeology Training Program

See story on page 10



A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter of the Cultural
Resources Division
Kansas Historical Society

Volume 37, Number 3

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KANSAS PRESERVATION

Published quarterly by the Kansas Historical
Society, 6425 SW 6th Avenue,
Topeka KS 66615-1099.

Please send change of address information
to the above address or email
cultural_resources@kshs.org.

Third class postage paid at Topeka, Kansas.

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Partial funding for this publication is provided by
the National Park Service, Department of the
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On the cover: Father and daughter team, Jack
Edens of Fredonia and Kim Rack of Lawrence, share
an excavation unit overlooking the beautiful Big
Creek valley in Ellis County at the 40th annual
Kansas Archeology Training Program field school in
June 2015. Read more on pages 10 through 14.
Photograph by Nancy Arendt.

New Foundation Continues Preservation of Home on the Range Cabin

by Katrina Ringler

Historic Preservation Grants Manager, Kansas Historical Society

The Peoples Heartland Foundation was recently formed to continue preservation of the Home on the Range Cabin historic site in Smith County. The foundation received the cabin and surrounding property as a gift from the trustees of the Ellen Rust Living Trust that had maintained the site for several previous decades. In 2010 and 2012 the Home on the Range cabin was the recipient of two separate Heritage Trust Fund grants, administered by the Kansas Historical Society, totaling more than \$32,000. The grants, along with numerous donations, allowed the trustees to complete restoration of the cabin in 2013. Work included landscape grading around the building, rebuilding of the north and south walls, and restoration of the original loft area. Work continues to provide furnishings for the cabin as it might have appeared in the 1870s. That is the period Dr. Brewster M. Higley wrote “My Western Home” while living at the small cabin near West Beaver Creek. His poem, later set to music by a friend, became the Kansas state song in 1947.



Clockwise from top: Pete and Ellen Rust with the cabin in this undated photo. The couple is credited with saving the cabin on its original site, declining many offers to sell it individually to entities that would have moved it off site or out of state; the cabin as it appeared before restoration work began in 2010; the cabin today, work included restoration of the upper level loft based on historic photos; restoration work required dismantling and rebuilding the north, stone wall of the cabin.



Seven Properties Nominated to National Register of Historic Places

At its regular quarterly meeting held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka on Saturday, August 8, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to forward seven nominations to the office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., to be evaluated by its professional staff. If staff members concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register.

by **Amanda Loughlin**
National Register and Survey Coordinator, Kansas Historical Society



Above, Great Bend air field hangar, Barton County; Below, Great Bend Norden Bombsight Storage Vaults, Barton County.

Great Bend AAF Hangar and Great Bend AAF Norden Bombsight Storage Vaults • 9047 N 6th Street • Great Bend • Barton County

The Great Bend Army Air Field (AAF) hangar is directly associated with the federal government's wartime aviation operations from 1939 to 1945. The concrete, wood, and metal squadron hangar built from 1942 to 1943, was designed by the Army Corps of Engineers for the maintenance and modification of aircraft as part of a national defense strategy that placed air fields in south central and southwest Kansas. The well-preserved hangar is the oldest remaining resource from Great Bend's World





Above, *Fulton High School and Grade School, Bourbon County*; below, *Evangelical Lutheran School, Lincoln County*.

War II air field. The Great Bend Army Air Field Norden Bombsight Storage Vaults, built in 1943, are utilitarian concrete structures also designed by the Corps for the storage and issue of the Norden bombsights during World War II and were part of the national defense strategy in the area. The structures are nominated as part of the *World War II-Era Aviation-Related Facilities of Kansas* multiple property nomination for its statewide military significance.

Fulton High School and Grade School • 408 W. Osage Street • Fulton, Bourbon County

The Fulton High School and Grade School is comprised of three buildings. Designed by Wichita architect Fred G. McCune, the 1917 Progressive Era school building is a two-story brick example of a town graded school, which was built during a period of standardization in the education system. In 1936 a gymnasium/auditorium was attached to the north side of the brick school. This gymnasium, constructed as part of a Works Progress Administration project, contains salvaged limestone from the demolition of an 1882 school building at the same location. The third building at the site is a free-standing, one-story cafeteria constructed in 1964. The property functioned as a combined high school and grade school until 1966 when the high school consolidated with Fort Scott; the elementary school closed in 1978. The property is nominated as part of the *Historic Public Schools of Kansas* and *New Deal-era Resources of Kansas* multiple property

nominations for its local significance in the areas of architecture and education.

Evangelical Lutheran School • 308 N. Indiana Street • Sylvan Grove • Lincoln County

The Evangelical Lutheran School is located on the east edge of Sylvan Grove, directly north of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The two-and-a-half-story building reflects the Prairie School style of architecture and is constructed of native limestone, a common building material in this area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The school is associated with the early German Lutheran immigrants that settled in this area, following the efforts of Christ Kruse, a railroad man from Chicago known as a community builder and founder of Lutheran churches. The





Above, Francis Byron (Barney) Kimble House, Riley County; below, Martin Cemetery, Stafford County.

1913 school, designed by Salina architect C.A. Smith, replaced an earlier building at the same location. The parochial school operated every year except one between 1913 and 1981. At the start of the 1918-1919 school year, Lincoln County's Council of Defense closed the Evangelical Lutheran School due to anti-German hysteria during World War I. The school is nominated for its local significance in the areas of architecture and social history.

Francis Byron (Barney) Kimble House • 720 Poyntz Avenue • Manhattan • Riley County

The nominated property was home to Barney Kimble and his wife, Mary Ann, from 1912 until Barney's death in 1920. It is a two-story limestone, Queen Anne Free Classic style house with Colonial Revival influences. The form and layout also relate to the American Foursquare with a large hipped roof over the core of the house and smaller intersecting gables on all four sides. The nomination includes the main house and two limestone outbuildings (a stable and a barn), a grouping rarely found within the Manhattan city limits, particularly in an area that has seen growth and change throughout the 20th century. The Kimble House is nominated as part of the *Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Residential Resources of Manhattan* multiple property nomination for its local significance in the area of architecture as a vernacular interpretation of the later Queen Anne Free Classic style.

Martin Cemetery • US-50 Highway • St. John vicinity • Stafford County

The Martin Cemetery is nominated for its local significance in the areas of exploration and settlement and African American ethnic heritage. This small half-acre burial ground south of St. John in Ohio Township holds the remains of members of the Joseph Martin family. It is significant as the only known vestige of a unique group of African American settlers from Illinois. Their houses of worship are gone, and their descendants have moved away. The cemetery, however, remains as a reflection of their contributions to the history of Stafford County. The cemetery includes the graves of approximately 20 people, though only a few are marked.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Eligible properties must be significant for one or more of the four criteria for evaluation. Properties can be eligible if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. They can be eligible if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. Distinctive construction can qualify properties for the National Register if they embody the characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Lastly, properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history. The National Register recognizes properties of local, statewide, and national significance.

The Register of Historic Kansas Places is our state's official list of historically significant properties. Properties included in the National Register are automatically listed in the state register. However, not all properties listed in the state register are included in the National Register. The same general criteria are used to assess the eligibility of a property for inclusion in the state register, but more flexibility is allowed in the interpretation of the criteria for eligibility.

Related Internet Links:

National Register of Historic Places: nps.gov/nr
Kansas Historical Society (National and state registers): kshs.org/14638



Papes Barn, Ellis County.

Papes Barn • 890 Ellis Avenue • Ellis vicinity • Ellis County

The Papes Barn, constructed circa 1910, is nominated for its local significance in the area of agriculture as it relates to Ellis County's early agricultural history and the family farm economy of the early 1900s. The limestone barn also is nominated for its architectural significance as a vernacular gambrel-roof barn, which was specifically designed for hay storage essential to raising livestock. Czech immigrants Ignaz and Josephine Papes were part of a six-family settlement south of the town of Ellis in Smoky Hill Township. Their barn is one of two surviving resources associated with early Czech settlement in the township. It is nominated as part of the *Historic Agriculture-Related Resources of Kansas* multiple property nomination.

What is a Multiple Property Nomination?

A multiple property documentation form (MPDF), also known as a thematic nomination, streamlines the method of organizing information for future National Register listing and preservation planning purposes. Individual properties are compared with resources that share similar physical characteristics and historical associations. Information common to the group of properties is presented in the historic context, while information specific to each individual building, site, district, structure, or object is placed on an individual registration form. View a list of the thematic nominations in Kansas, kshs.org/14634

IVANPAH

A Little Schoolhouse with a Big Story



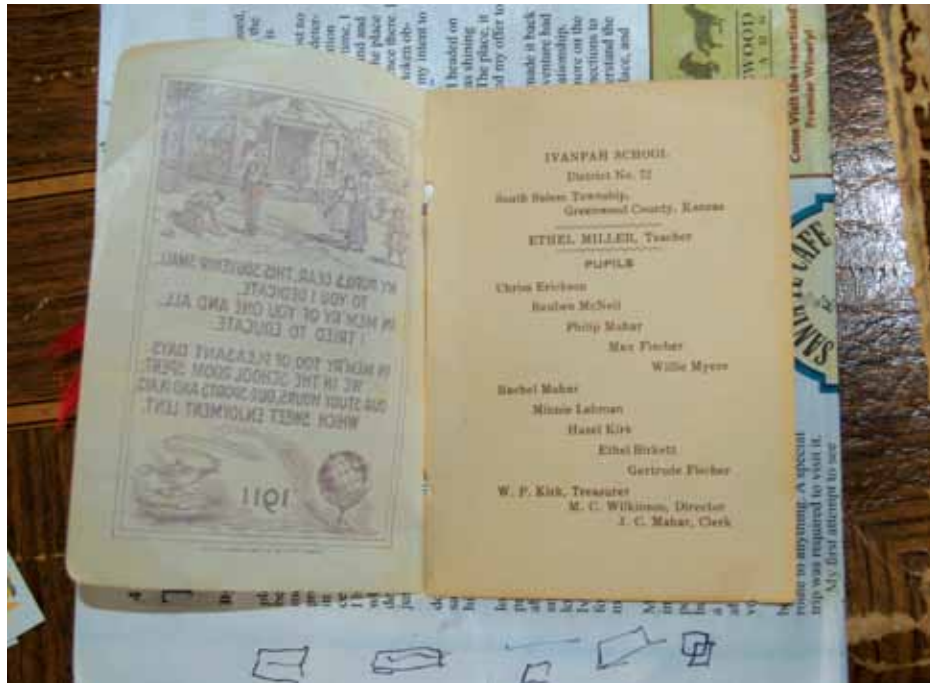
Ivanpah School District 72, Greenwood County

I first came across the name “Ivanpah” on maps while doing research on the 1910s oil boom in southeast Kansas. It intrigued me as a funny name that didn’t sound like anything else in the area. It turns out that “Ivanpah” is a Southern Paiute word meaning “clear water” and the only other Ivanpah is in the Mojave Desert in California. An online search for “Ivanpah” is apt to first turn up material about Ivanpah, California, home to one of the largest solar energy plants in the world.

by Jay Price, History Department Chair, Wichita State University

Several years ago I decided to go visit the Kansas version, today little more than a schoolhouse in the Flint Hills. I wrote about this encounter in the *Kansas Traveler* in 2008. A few months later I received a call from Gerry Brazil, who had read the article and invited me to be part of a gathering at the Ivanpah school to meet with local longtime residents with family names like Wiggins, Barker, French, Black, and Stanfield. Most grew up on farms or had ties to farms; although a few were the descendants of drillers who lived near the oil pumping units. They knew very little, however, about the name of the community other than it had been the name of a now defunct post office next to the school building.

In spring 2014 I revisited this community as part of a talk for the Symphony in the Flint Hills and a short chapter in the symphony’s companion book. By now there were considerably larger volumes of digital resources out there that I hoped might reveal more about this odd location and how it got its strange name. In the years since that first foray out to visit the schoolhouse the profusion of newspaper databases and digitized sources have totally transformed research. Many important local history resources are now online as well allowing researchers to do keyword searches in the text. These include the Library of Congress’ *Chronicling America* database, items on the Hathi Trust, and those part of the now defunct Blue Skyways website. A particularly good



Ivanpah school program, 1911

set of sources come from the Kansas Historical Society's *Kansas Memory* online archives with digitized county plat atlases, and portals to ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, and newspapers.com.

At first the search seemed to lead to more questions. A visit to the Historical Society's *Kansas Historic Resources Inventory* (kshs.org/khri) is a good starting point. It showed that the Ivanpah schoolhouse dated from 1880 and "this is the only building presumed to remain from the town of Ivanpah." Since the school was not in the National Register, the Historical Society's useful and user-friendly database would not be of much help. A search on the digitized newspaper databases initially referenced only Ivanpah, California, which made headlines in the early 1870s as the site of a modest silver strike in San Bernardino County, California.

The first Kansas references in the newspapers dated about 10 years later in articles in the *Emporia News* from 1878 and 1879 in reference to a Frank Presbrey as the editor of the *Eureka Herald* who lived in the community. The digitized plat maps at the Historical Society, meanwhile, showed a 1903 plat in which the Ivanpah post office was on the land of an A. H. Thompson. The 1880 census listed Thompson as a wool grower but the 1900 census did not show him living in the area. By the 1920s the site had transferred to the Teichgraber family that ran an important milling operation in central Kansas. R. E., Teichgraber, who owned the land on

which the Ivanpah schoolhouse sat, was a miller in Eureka, and brother of a miller in Emporia and one in Lindsborg.

These initial hints deepened the story, but only by a little. Presbrey and Thompson didn't show up in the standard histories of Kansas such as those of Cutler or Blackmar. Even histories of Greenwood County did not shed much light on these two men. Visits with local families, such as at the Brazil's well-attended annual chili feeds, revealed no recollection of either person. Besides, a name like Thompson was so common that searches could produce a lot of false leads.

As my talk for the Symphony in the Flint Hills approached, however, I googled "A. H. Thompson" and "Greenwood County." What came up was a *Wikipedia* article. We historians are trained to dismiss *Wikipedia* for being inaccurate and the initial hits seemed to be about Washington, D.C., so I was about to move on, dismissing this search to another dead end, when I decided to check into the footnotes of the *Wikipedia* piece and I followed the additional leads. What I found that night, sitting in bed typing on a laptop, made my jaw drop.

Almon Harris Thompson was born in Stoddard, New Hampshire. He went to Wheaton College, and became friends with a young John Wesley Powell. Thompson married John Wesley Powell's sister, Nellie, in 1862. Almon and John both served in the Civil War and John W. Powell lost his arm at the Battle of Shiloh. Afterwards, Thompson

went on to become a self-taught entomologist and served on Powell's expeditions to the Rocky Mountains. His wife, Nellie, was a botanist in her own right, serving as curator of the Illinois Natural History Society. A. H. Thompson did not go with Powell on his famous 1869 trip down the Grand Canyon but he was chief topographer and geographer for Powell's second expedition down the Colorado River in 1871. This was a mapping expedition, with Thompson basically the second in command and a key figure in naming a number of places in Utah and Arizona. The web page of the National Geographic Society includes the following:

In 1873, after a year and a half of mapping, Thompson and his topographers completed the first comprehensive map of the Colorado Plateau and Grand Canyon. In the process he may have been the first white man to travel openly in the Shivwit Indian country. He was also possibly the first white man to look into Bryce Canyon

Frederick Dellenbaugh, one of the project's topographers, would later recall Thompson's achievement: "To his foresight, rare good judgment, ability to think out a plan to the last detail, fine nerve and absolute lack of any kind of foolishness, together with a wide knowledge and intelligence, this expedition," and the scientific work of the entire Powell survey, he added—"largely owe success." Thompson himself, notably laconic, had merely said, "We done middling for greenhorns."

It turned out that A. H. Thompson was responsible for creating many of the maps of Utah, Nevada, and the Great Basin, with a tendency to use Paiute names . . . like Ivanpah!

By the late 1870s, however, the expeditions wound down and Thompson searched for new opportunities. He showed up in Kansas in 1878 as a person interested in scientific endeavors. The 1878 meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science held its business meeting in Topeka at Thompson's office. At this time, he also expressed interested in wool ranching in the Flint Hills, such as in Greenwood County. For a time Thompson became a noted figure in the state's sheep raising community.

It was at this point that he became acquainted with Frank Presbrey, noted in an article in the *Emporia News* on March 29, 1878:

Prof. A. H. Thompson and Frank J. (sic) Presbrey, of Washington, D. C, friends of Mr. Davis, our school superintendent, arrived in town Tuesday, with a view of locating in Lyon county in stock farming. Prof. Thompson was leader of the first government expedition to explore the

IVANPAH SCHOOL DISTRICT 72



The school is the only building remaining from the town of Ivanpah, located about five miles north of U.S. 54, west of Eureka. Built in 1880 of limestone and wood frame, the school has a gable roof with clapboard entry. It appears to retain its original two over two wood windows and wood door. The Ivanpah school is featured in the Historical Society's *Kansas Historic Resources Inventory* (KHRI), a research and education tool for professionals and homeowners. In addition to entries made by historic preservation professionals, we rely on members of the public to provide information about the places important to them, which ensures that the site continually expands. To view, edit, search, and explore KHRI, visit kshs.org/khri.

Rocky Mountain range, and spent two years in establishing the topography of the Colorado canyons, and had charge of the expedition under Prof. Powell. Mr. Presbrey is manager of the national newspaper correspondence bureau at Washington, and is an experienced newspaper man. We trust these gentlemen will decide to locate among us.



The school building remains in good condition thanks to the efforts of individuals who have maintained it. In September 2008 it was the site of an event where alumni of the school and their friends and relatives shared memories of the community, the school, and the area. Two key individuals involved in the organizing the event were Gerry and Kathleen Brazil. The Brazils had acquired a vacation property nearby and quickly became involved in efforts to preserve and celebrate local history. For several years their annual chili feed brought together local and visitors alike to appreciate the rich heritage of the Flint Hills.

On July 19, 1878, the *Emporia News* announced that “Professor A. H. Thompson, of Washington, D.C., has lately purchased here, and intended building and equipping his ranch at once,” noting “this gentleman was the geographer of the Colorado River exploring expedition of the government” How Presbrey and Thompson knew each other is still unclear. These articles are critical to the story, however, in part because they prove that Powell’s A. H. Thompson was the same one in the Ivanpah narrative.

Thompson purchased land in Greenwood County, the land where the Ivanpah post office sat. However, just a few years after this endeavor, he returned to Washington, D.C., where he worked for the United States Geological Survey, later serving as its chief geographer. While there, he was part of a select group of folks to come together to form the National Geographic Society! Thompson died in 1906 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. That’s just half of the story.

The other figure in that March 1878 article was Frank Presbrey. Like any modern researcher, one of my first activities was to do an online search for Frank Presbrey. At first the results seemed confusing. Most “hits” referenced a New York advertising executive from the early 20th century who was perhaps best known as the author of *History and Development of Advertising*. Subsequent research that used digitized genealogical and family history records hinted at a

fact that seemed hard to believe: Frank Presbrey, small town newspaper editor, and Frank Presbrey, New York marketing mogul, were the same person!

Frank Presbrey was born in 1855 in Buffalo, New York, the son of Otis Presbrey, who gained some prominence in President Grant’s administration overseeing affairs involving internal revenue for Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Presbrey went to school in Princeton where he was a classmate of Woodrow Wilson. In June 1878, just months after the *Emporia News* article, Presbrey married his first wife, Emma C. Cochen, of Mount Vernon, Ohio.

By early 1879 the Presbrees had decided to make Kansas their home. The *Wichita Eagle* on January 30, 1879, mentions the creation of “Ivanpoh [*sic*], Greenwood county, Mrs. Emma C. Presbrey, postmistress.” Presbrey himself wrote a glowing testimonial in April 10, 1879, about the wonders of Greenwood County! The next day, the paper noted that as of April 11, 1879, “Greenwood county has a new post office named Ivanpoh [*sic*], which means in the Indian dialect, clear water.”

In this regard Presbrey was a modest version of influential community newspaper editors, a tradition that included Marshall Murdock in Wichita, Rolla Clymer in El Dorado, Arthur Capper in Topeka, and William Allen White in Emporia. Figures like White and Murdock, who ran their respective newspapers for decades and intertwined with local

booster efforts of bustling cities, were the exceptional few. Many editors moved from town to town and served short lived careers in each location. That was certainly the case for Presbrey. Presbrey's time with the *Eureka Herald* lasted less than a year. The *Emporia News* noted in November 21, 1879, that Presbrey and his colleague, S. G. Mead, went to McPherson to purchase and run the *Independent*. That venture lasted an even shorter time.

Then, we get this retrospective from *Santa Fe Magazine*:

After leaving college Presbrey went west and spent two years on a cattle ranch, during which time he contributed articles on western life to one of the Chicago dailies.

Subsequently he bought a country weekly in Kansas, where he set type, worked the hand press, did the janitor work, and wrote and solicited all the advertisements. Then he came to the conclusion that he was in a rut and there was no future for him in the country newspaper field.

Presbrey went to Topeka and asked for a job at the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe (ATSF) railroad office; when told "no," he apparently sat in the waiting room for three weeks until someone from the company gave him one.

This change coincided with a personal tragedy. Presbrey's first wife, Emma, died in 1880. In 1881 he married Stella Spaulding of Bloomington. It was the death and remarriage that was mentioned in the digitized Presbrey genealogical materials and confirmed that the Ivanpah Presbrey later became the New York City Presbrey.

In the 1880s Presbrey shifted from being a newspaper editor to a publicist for the railroads, first for the ATSF and later, the Denver and Rio Grande Western. By late 1880s he was back east, first the manager of the *Public Opinion* and then in 1894, the *Forum*, published in Washington. In 1896 he went to New York City to found an advertising firm.

The digitized family history book *William Presbrey, of London, England, and Taunton, Mass.*, by Joseph Waite Presbrey, makes this note about Frank:

In 1896 he became the founder of the well-known advertising company in New York City, which bears his name and of which he is the head. Mr. Presbrey is a director of the Citizens Central National Bank, the Union Exchange National Bank, a trustee of the North River Savings Bank, director of the National Surety Co. and of the New York Life Insurance Co. The two last named being the largest institutions of their kind in the United States.

From its inception, Mr. Presbrey has been a member of the executive Committee of the Boy Scouts of America. He is a member of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences He has participated in many charitable movements. Mr. Presbrey is the author of many illustrated pamphlets, setting forth the advantages of different sections of the country, and books: "Memories of Vacation Days", "Motoring Abroad", and "A Guide for Trans-Atlantic Travellers", Ninth Edition, 1914. Mr. Presbrey has had a very successful business career, and continues doing large business, and is respected and honored by all with whom he has to do.

In the early 20th century Presbrey became one of the leading figures in the new field of advertising, especially advertising for tourism. From his experience in publicity with the railroads, he switched to focus on promoting steamship travel, becoming an early advocate of what would become the cruise industry. Presbrey continued to write, producing travel narratives, guide books, and his best known work, *History and Development of Advertising*.

He also became a major figure with the Boy Scouts. He was one of the pioneers behind the Boy Scouts' journal, *Boys' Life*. At Presbrey's death in 1936, *Boys' Life* ran an obituary that acknowledged "not only have *Boys' Life* and all its readers lost a great and good friend in the death of Mr. Frank Presbrey, Chairman of the Boys' Life Committee, but boyhood everywhere, and particularly the Scouts and Scouters who compose the Boy Scouts of America, have deep reason to mourn his passing..."

Thompson and Presbrey went on to national prominence, so much so that their short time in Greenwood County was quickly forgotten. By contrast, historians such as Carol Kammen have noted how local history tends to favor the "stickers" vs. the "kickers" and so individuals who move on aren't remembered while families that stay are the ones mentioned in local histories, whether in hard copy or digitized. The stories of Presbrey, Thompson, and Ivanpah are case studies in this. The connection between this small schoolhouse in South Salem Township of Greenwood County, the National Geographic Society, and the founding of modern advertising might have never been known had it not been for digital databases that made connections reappear that had been lost for more than a century.

PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT ALONG BIG CREEK

KANSAS ARCHEOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM



Harold and Virginia Kraus join Bob Hoard to inspect the high exposed streambank where the Kraus site was originally noticed.

Charlie Kraus was out checking his pasture. A little more rain would have helped, but things looked good overall. Coming up from a spring-fed branch of Big Creek, Charlie noticed something in the high vertical streambank—a chipped stone arrow point. He knew that the waste product of prehistoric chipped stone toolmaking was common along Big Creek, but finding an arrow point was just more exciting. As if that were not enough, he found a tiny piece of fired clay—part of a prehistoric clay pot.

By Robert J. Hoard, State Archeologist, Kansas Historical Society

Archeologists were working in the area, excavating a Adugout farther south in Ellis County (see *Kansas Preservation* 35 [Number 3 2013]: 12-15) and were having an artifact identification night at the armory in Hays. Charlie brought the artifacts to the event to see if they meant anything to anyone.

As it turned out, they did. Off and on, over the last decade, I have looked for a site like the one Charlie discovered. Both the potsherd and the point that he found are typical of the technology that existed 1,500 to 900 years ago in western Kansas and southwest Nebraska. Archeologists refer to this technology and time period as the Keith phase. It represents an array of firsts for the people in this region: the first pottery, the first evidence of the bow



Charlie Kraus at the 2013 Kansas Archeology Training Program artifact identification night, shows Bob Hoard the pottery and arrow point that led to the 2015 excavation.



Above, excavation underway at the Kraus Site; right, landowner Kenneth Kraus visiting the excavation. He and his wife Dorothy gave permission for the field school to take place on their property.

and arrow (instead of hand-thrown spears and darts), and the first evidence of houses, although people surely lived in houses before this time.

Along with all of these technological changes, it seems that significantly more people are present. Archeologists and amateurs have located numerous sites from this time period, many more sites than from the previous 12,000 years. Clearly this period is a dynamic time—but why? What caused these changes?

While there are many Keith phase sites, they almost always are located on terraces just above streams—prime agricultural land. Almost all the sites have been plowed, compromising the archeological data they contain. The undisturbed ones, typically in pastures and buried by a millennium or so of floods, are hard to find. Charlie’s site was eroding from a cut bank, so it was a good candidate for excavation—it was shallowly buried, and it was not plowed.

After making arrangements with schools for lab space and classes and getting written permission from Charlie’s uncle



and aunt, Kenneth and Dorothy Kraus, who own the land, we launched the 2015 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school or KATP (which recently won a major award—see the article on page 14). One-hundred and twenty volunteers took classes, worked in the laboratory, and excavated the site. I had some key questions to try to answer. Why do we see a population increase with the Keith phase? Is it simply because we can find these sites in plowed fields, or were there really more people? If so, where did they come from—a local population expansion or migrants from elsewhere? Why are there so many technological changes, and did these have anything to do with the larger population? Why are the



Field school volunteers Sharon Sage, Beth Good, and Beth Olson wash soil samples through fine screen to catch small artifacts and animal bones.

people bothering with pottery? It is hard to make, fragile, and heavy to carry.

To winnow these issues, I came up with possible explanations for some of the hallmarks of the Keith phase. The regional climate shifted to a cooler and wetter state, enough so that people could grow plants for food. Their neighbors to the west, south, and east were doing this. All of these groups had pottery, very useful for the long slow cooking that seed crops need to be edible. People who grow crops—who farm—tend to be more settled than foraging hunters, which might explain the houses. Finally, having more control over at least some of their food source may have allowed a larger population.

Once a story like this is constructed, the natural impulse is to look for evidence to prove it, but this encourages the dismissal of evidence that does not fit and emphasis on the information that does. Instead, archeologists must focus on collecting the evidence to see what does or does not fit the scenario. We used standard archeological methods to excavate the site—digging in squares of known location and depth, peeling off thin layers to expose artifacts in place, and screening the dirt to find small artifacts. This helps us determine where activities took place on the site and how often the site was occupied and abandoned over the years.

We also collected samples from which we can recover tiny objects, like seeds and snails and fish scales. These can be

important. The snails, smaller than a 10th of an inch, tell us about rainfall and temperature. Snails are very picky about where they live and very sensitive to moisture, temperature, and vegetation. The types and numbers of these snails provide clues about climate during the Keith phase. Freshwater mussel shells, abundant at the site, reveal whether nearby Big Creek was deep or shallow, fast or slow, and muddy or clear, which also informs us about the surrounding land and climate. Land animals chosen for food enlighten us about the general environment. Grain size analysis from sections of a soil core, taken by



The site produced large amounts of bison bone, debris from manufacturing stone tools, and arrow points.



Left, a small arrow point, the size and shape indicate it is 900 to 1,500 years old. Right, a 20-foot-deep soil core taken from the Kraus site by Dr. Rolfe Mandel.

Dr. Rolfe Mandel of the University of Kansas, tell us about the nature and speed of sediment deposition or erosion on the site landscape, which is a function of climate and vegetation. Analysis of the stable isotope levels from the core, another indication of temperature and rainfall, are underway. Finally, remains of seeds, teased out of soil samples by submerging them in water and allowing the lighter seeds to float and be collected, can reveal what plants were growing in the area and possibly if people were gathering or even growing certain species.

The analysis of artifacts—stone and bone tools and clay pots—will help us understand how far people at the Kraus site travelled or traded. We know the locations of stone used for tools in Kansas. Finding all local material at a site implies that people did not travel far but instead made a living close to home, whereas a lot of material from far away suggests either trade with neighbors or possibly constant travel or long-distance hunting trips, as is well documented from more recent American Indian societies. Preliminary analysis shows that chipped stone tools are overwhelmingly local material, but there is one arrow point made of volcanic glass—obsidian (see *Kansas Preservation* 28 [March/April 2006]: 11-13)—that does not occur naturally in Kansas. We will use chemical analysis—X-ray fluorescence—to learn if it comes from New Mexico, the Yellowstone area, or another distant source.

Initial work on pottery from the site suggests that it was made locally, based on the crushed limestone added to strengthen the clay. The construction and finish of the ceramic sherds shows that it is most similar to other High Plains pottery and not pottery that was brought in from the

east. This indicates that local people adopted the technology of pottery making, rather than an influx of people from the east who brought their pottery with them.

The Kraus site excavation has raised a host of questions. We expected to find at least one hearth and hoped to find a house floor but unearthed neither of these. We may, however, have indirect evidence of a house. We recognized mud dauber wasp nests and silica slag. Mud daubers build their nests on the undersides of things—like the insides of structures. Silica slag can result from burning large amounts of grass, which contains silica. Does the silica slag represent a grass-thatch roof on a structure that eventually burned? Ongoing analysis of the relative position of these materials will help to resolve this issue. We also expected to recover a lot of pottery but in fact found very little. A large amount of bone was recovered. Unlike most Keith phase sites, most of the bone is from large mammals, like deer and bison, smaller animals are not well represented, despite the fine-screening methods we employed to recover these species. Also, much of the large mammal bone was broken and burned. That is not unusual; large bones can be cracked and heated to acquire nutritious marrow. But we also identified numerous chipped stone tools and debris that are blackened and spalled by heat, a finding that is difficult to explain.

There is still much work to do to understand the Keith phase, but the contribution by the 2015 KATP volunteers is a significant step toward that end. Odds are good that the ongoing analysis by Historical Society staff members and specialists from a number of institutions will answer a few questions—and present several more.

Kansas Archeology Training Program Receives National Recognition

By **Chris Hord**, Second Vice President, Kansas Anthropological Association

The Kansas Archeology Training Program (KATP), sponsored by the Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association, has received the 2015 Award for Excellence in Public Education from the Society for American Archaeology (SAA). The SAA is the largest and most prestigious archeological organization in the Western Hemisphere, dedicated to the research, interpretation, and protection of the archeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,000 members, the society represents professional, student, and avocational archeologists working in a variety of settings, including government agencies, colleges and universities, museums, and the private sector. The award for Excellence in Public Education: Community and Public Programming is considered only every three years, and it demonstrates that the KATP is among the best archeology public education programs in the United States.

“The KATP allows the public to participate in science. Instead of listening to experts describing and interpreting evidence that they have recovered, non-professionals are given training and guidance that allow them to work alongside professionals to uncover the evidence for themselves, to understand the process of getting that evidence, and to learn about what has been done in the past,” said Robert Hoard, state archeologist, Kansas Historical Society. “The program is designed to be as affordable as possible and allows people as young as 10 years of age to participate under the supervision of a responsible adult. People also learn about the state of Kansas during the field school, spending time in small communities and learning about the local history and environment.”

While the annual field school in June is an important component of the KATP, the program also offers opportunities throughout the year, including seminars on specific archeological topics and an optional certification program that compels participants to reach levels of competence that they may not have attempted otherwise.

Possibly more important is that the program has volunteers who return year after year. These people choose to spend part or all of their summer vacations learning about the past in Kansas and contributing to that body of knowledge. The national award justifies the commitment of these volunteers.



The Kansas Archeology Training Program began 40 years ago at the ancient site of El Cuartelejo in Scott County. Ninety volunteers began that annual tradition that continues today.



Diverse Group of Educators Benefit from Project Archaeology Instruction

by Virginia A. Wulfkuhle
Public Archeologist, Kansas Historical Society

The Kansas Historical Society partnered with national Project Archaeology and the Museum at Prairiefire in Overland Park to offer a workshop “Project Archaeology and the Classroom,” July 29-31, 2015. Enrolled in the class was a very diverse group of 23 educators, representing grade levels second through high school; the subjects of social studies, science, math, library, and gifted; and school districts from Nickerson to La Cygne. Twenty took the class for two hours of college credit through Baker University. The education staff of the Museum at Prairiefire treated the teachers to a tour of the cutting-edge natural history museum (museumatpf.org).



The three-day class was taught by Kansas Historical Society Public Archeologist Virginia Wulfkuhle and Gail Lundeen, Project Archaeology coordinator from Missouri. They modeled the national Investigating Shelter curriculum (projectarchaeology.org/teachers), as well as the Kansas-specific units (kshs.org/18959) for shelter, early agriculture, and migration. All of these materials are multidisciplinary, inquiry-based, and designed for, but not limited to, grades three through eight. The course was designed to accomplish a number of objectives, so that at the conclusion of the workshop, participants would be able to:

- Understand that archaeology is a valuable way to learn about past cultures;

- Evaluate how ideas of the past can inform decisions of today;
- Comprehend that evidence of the past is worth protecting;
- Apply Native American and other cultural perspectives to archeological preservation;
- Synthesize numerous disciplines through archeological practices. These include language arts, social studies, history, geography, science, mathematics, life skills of thinking and reasoning.
- Analyze and present ideas to students to encourage new ways of thinking about the past and promoting a sense of responsibility for the stewardship of Kansas’ cultural heritage;

- Guide students through the fundamentals of scientific inquiry to conduct their own investigation of an archeological site, using a toolkit of archeological and scientific concepts;
- Create curriculum using innovative ways to capture students' attention while addressing many educational concerns in the classroom—scientific inquiry, problem solving, cooperative learning, and citizenship skills.

At the conclusion of the workshop 23 classroom sets of Kansas magazines and journals, which will be used by 830 students, were furnished at no charge. This was made possible by federal funds administered by the Kansas Historic Preservation Office.

A few of the participant comments are reproduced below.

"I am so happy to have new materials and new ideas to supplement my classroom. The more you taught us, the more and more enthusiastic and passionate I become with the subject matter, the more my brain came alive with ideas, and the more excited I became with thoughts on how I could blend Project Archaeology into the other subjects I teachThe great thing is an archaeology unit can encompass so many attributes at one time that the learning becomes endless. This unit . . . will make never-ending memories for the students, using all the fixed subjects, the book presents interesting means to teach everything, including the arts and life skills."

—fourth grade, general, Paola

" . . . this curriculum goes along nicely with school and state standards. Project Archaeology creates an environment in which students can build strong content knowledge, demonstrate independence, value historical evidence, and also differentiate between different types of evidence."

—sixth grade, science, Lee's Summit, Missouri

"One can easily make a case of using Project Archaeology materials in an integrated study. The lines between reading, writing, history, science, and math are so blurred as to be almost indistinguishable! Students read to gather information. Students write to communicate their findings and conclusions. Students consider history in order to make reasonable inferences and in order to learn from the past. Students ask questions based on scientific inquiry because those questions are the most effective for gaining understanding. Students use math when they measure, graph, and consider economic impact. It is, therefore, no surprise that students truly gain essential understandings and are able to answer essential questions. They have not memorized information; they have applied it to real-life inquires."

—fourth grade, general, Louisburg

"The creative and multifaceted lessons of the Project Archaeology workshop empower teachers to help students achieve a deeper understanding of past and present cultures by providing many resources and materials for teachers to integrate not only into social studies but also into other academic disciplines, including reading, writing, mathematics, and science."

—seventh grade, social studies, Olathe



Historic Sites Board of Review

The Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review is a group of 11 professionals from various fields that meets quarterly to review and recommend nominations to the National Register of Historic Places and the Register of Historic Kansas Places, and award preservation planning and rehabilitation grants. As prescribed by the Kansas Historic Preservation Act of 1977 (K.S.A. 75-2719), the board is comprised of the following members: the governor or the governor's designee, the state historic preservation officer or such officer's designee, and nine members appointed by the governor for three-year terms. At least one member must be professionally qualified in each of the following disciplines: architecture, history, prehistoric archeology, historical archeology, and architectural history.

Jennie Chinn, State Historic Preservation Officer
J. Eric Engstrom, Wichita, governor's designee
Toni Stewart, Topeka
Sharron Hamilton, Salina
Kathy Herzog, Lawrence
John W. Hoopes, Lawrence
Joseph Johnson, Wichita
Samuel Passer, Wichita
David H. Sachs, Manhattan
Gregory Schneider, Topeka
Margaret Wood, Topeka

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Online at kshs.org/events

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Rock Art from Our Prehistoric and Historic Past • Pawnee Indian Museum, Republic

Through January 3, 2016

The Great Soldier State: Kansas and the Civil War, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 29, 2016

Kansas Day • programs at the Kansas State Capitol and Kansas Museum of History, Topeka, and various State Historic Sites

December 4-5, 2015

Christmas Past, Fort Hays, Hays

December 6, 2015

White Christmas, Red Rocks, Emporia

December 12, 2015

Holiday Open House, Pawnee Indian Museum, Republic

December 24-25, 2015

All locations closed in observance of Christmas

January 1, 2016

All locations closed in observance of New Year's Day

January 28, 2016

What's Cooking, Uncle Sam • exhibit opens, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 28, and March 6, 2016

Bleeding Kansas Program Series, Constitution Hall, Lecompton



Find the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office on Facebook and follow the Kansas Historical Society on Twitter.

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