



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



August 2018 Archeology E-Gram

NPS NEWS

SciGirls and National Park Service Archeologists spends Archeology Day at MagLab

NPS Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC) archeologists and museum technicians joined the SciGirls at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory summer camp in Tallahassee, Florida. SciGirls is a summer camp to inspire girls entering 6-9th grade to pursue careers in science. For the last six years, SEAC staff has spent a day at the camp teaching girls about archeology.

SciGirls I worked through archeological research and methods hands on-activities. They documented a simulated looted archaeological site. The girls recorded evidence of illegal digging, calculated volume of excavated dirt, photograph evidence, and collected artifacts. Next, they conducted preliminary analyses of the artifacts to identify time periods of site occupation, and determined the number and age of human remains (all the human remains are reproductions).

SciGirls II explored the science of archaeology. They learned about site stratigraphy, dendrochronology, and radiocarbon dating. They learned in-depth methods for studying human skeletal remains and artifact curation. Both groups were asked to do some critical thinking to tie together the concepts they learn.

Girls in the Tallahassee area who are interested in participating in the SciGirls summer camp should visit <https://nationalmaglab.org/education/k12-students/summer-camps/scigirls-summer-camp>

By Alexandra Parsons, Tallahassee Democrat



SciGirls analyze human remains with SEAC staff Brittney Sheilds and Keenan Nessi (Photo: Alexandra Parsons)

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Celebrates Centennial

On August 3, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson used his powers under the Antiquities Act to establish Casa Grande Ruins as a National Monument to protect “the prehistoric ruin known as Casa Grande...ruins of the ancient buildings and other objects of prehistoric interest” (Proc. No. 1470). Today, nearly 100,000 people come to Casa Grande Ruins each year.

Rising four stories into the air, Casa Grande is probably the most significant surviving example of Hohokam building techniques and architecture made from caliche, a concrete-like mixture of sand, clay, and calcium carbonate (limestone). Although it was built close to 700 years ago, the Casa Grande remains one the tallest structures in the town of Coolidge, Arizona. Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, a missionary and one of the first Spanish visitors to the site, coined the name Casa Grande, which means “great house” or “big house” in Spanish.

Situated 1.5 miles south of the Gila River, Casa Grande is the largest and best preserved of the Hohokam big houses. The base of the structure is approximately 60 feet long by 40 feet wide. Close to four feet thick, the walls have resisted hundreds of years of wind and water erosion. Holes in east and west walls of the edifice near the top of the structure align with the sun at the summer solstice, the fall and spring equinox, and with the moon when it arrives at a certain point every 18.61 years. The four southern tribes of Arizona, as well as some pueblo tribes, claim Hohokam ancestry.

Casa Grande was influential to the creation and implementation of laws to protect archeological sites in the United States. Casa Grande was one of the first recipients of federal protection when President Benjamin Harrison proclaimed the 480-acre federal archeological reservation in 1892. In recognition of the structure's fragility, preservationists put a roof over the big house in 1903. The struggle to protect Casa Grande represented some of the earliest activism by archeologists, other scholars, and preservationists to preserve archeological sites, and led to the creation of the Antiquities Act of 1906.



Federal Historic Preservation Laws Publication Available

The NPS State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division has finalized the fifth edition of the *Federal Historic Preservation Laws*, an anthology of Federal laws and portions of laws related to the preservation of the United States' cultural heritage. This newest update presents recent changes in the laws.

The State, Tribal, Local, Plans and Grants division is a part of NPS Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science. John Renaud and Jessica Goodman prepared and edited the text. Matthew Payne designed the publication.

The web version of the book is available at go.nps.gov/preservationlaws. Physical copies will be available through the Government Publishing Office this fall.

Vandal at Biscayne National Park Convicted

In February 2018 Interpretive Ranger Elizabeth Strom reported an encounter with a visitor who had been removing artifacts from archeological context at the park. Ranger Raul Ruiz followed up with an investigation. The individual admitted that he was a bottle collector and pleaded guilty to several misdemeanor crimes including possession with the intent to remove archeological material from NPS lands (36 CFR 2.1(a)(6)) as well as interfering with government operations (36 CFR 2.32(a)(1)) and was fined \$460.00.

The case was successfully prosecuted by US Attorneys Thomas Watts-Fitsgerald and Peter Outerbridge

Bandelier National Monument Seeks Vandals

The NPS needs the public's help finding a vandal who struck an archeological site called Duchess Castle at Bandelier NM earlier this summer. Superintendent Jason Lott said he can't give out specifics about the vandalism or even release pictures of the damage because the park is offering a \$10,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and an eventual conviction. Anyone with information about this incident should contact the park.

It's not the first time New Mexico's national monuments have been targeted by vandals. In 2015, petroglyphs in Petroglyph NM, on Albuquerque's west side, were tagged with graffiti, in addition to \$75,000 in cleanup costs because tires and trash were dumped across the park. No one was ever caught.

In 2017, two teens vandalized the headquarters of Salinas Pueblo Missions NM in Mountainair, damaging the statue of Saint Francis de Assisi and throwing cigarette butts and trash into the fountain. Their punishment, when they eventually got caught, was to clean it up.

Volumes from Maritime Cultural Landscape Symposium Available

The edited proceedings of the Maritime Cultural Landscape Symposium, held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall of 2015 are now available for download from the NPS National Register Landscape Initiative page. The symposium was hosted by the National Park Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Office.

This version of the proceedings supersedes an earlier unedited version. The papers and edited transcripts are collected in Volume 1; the videos, with links, are in Volume 2.

Volume 1:

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/guidance/NRLI/presentations/MCLS-Proceedings-vol1-final.pdf>

Volume 2:

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/guidance/NRLI/presentations/MCLS-Proceedings-vol2-final.pdf>

FEDERAL NEWS

International Archaeology Day in October

Every October the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) and organizations around the world present archaeological programs and activities for people of all ages and interests on International Archaeology Day (IAD). Whether it is a family-friendly archaeology fair, a guided tour of a local archaeological site, a lecture, or a classroom visit from an archaeologist, the interactive, hands-on programs provide the chance to indulge your inner Indiana Jones.

The 2018 International Archaeology Day poster has been unveiled! You can now download and print the IAD poster to display before or at your event, and be sure to submit your event to be part of the action! Completing the event form will automatically add any organizations you include on the Sponsoring Institution/Organization line to the 2018 IAD Collaborating Organizations list.

To learn more about International Archaeology Day, go to <https://www.archaeological.org/archaeologyday/about>

Bureau of Land Management Researchers Seek Descendants of La Parida

Archeologist Brenda Wilkinson with the BLM Socorro Field Office is trying to locate descendants of a town that was once located on the banks of the Rio Grande, east of Escondida, New Mexico. For a brief period La Parida was a vital part of El Camino Real, and Wilkinson believes direct descendants of the community's inhabitants may still be residing in the area. La Parida is one of the oldest Hispanic communities of the post-1680 Pueblo Revolt in the area. After the Spanish re-conquest in 1692, the middle Rio Grande area was one of the last to be resettled.

According to records, the town of about 200 people originated around 1820, the transition period between Spanish and Mexican rule. After Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821 trade with the U.S. was no longer banned, and trade items made their way from the Santa Fe Trail south along the Camino Real. The town was hit by several Rio Grande flooding events, rebuilt on higher ground, and eventually abandoned around 1860, 52 years before New Mexico statehood.

Wilkinson asked that anyone who believes their ancestors once lived in La Parida to email bwilkins@blm.gov.

By John Larson / El Defensor Chieftain

Bureau of Reclamation Finds Mammoth in Buffalo Bill Reservoir

A research team headed by Wyoming State Archaeologist Greg Pierce has recovered the remains of a Columbian mammoth, a Pleistocene-era horse, bison, camel and a small artiodactyl similar to a deer from the Buffalo Bill Reservoir, west of Cody, Wyoming. The remains of the mammoth were exposed by low water on the South Fork side of the reservoir.

The Wyoming Society of Professional Archaeologists donated money for a radiocarbon date, but the test failed. The team would like to have a large piece of femur for the test material, but the team only recovered portions of the vertebral column, dorsal spines and ribs. Should the team find evidence of human-influenced mortality — including charred bones or cut marks — the Marquette mammoth site, as the remains have been named, would be one of less than 20 such sites ever discovered; three of those sites have been discovered in Wyoming.

If cultural evidence is found, it's likely the team will return to the reservoir to dig for more evidence. The site was secured under riprap and scree and is currently many feet under water in the reservoir. The Bureau of Reclamation owns the site, which lies within Buffalo Bill State Park.

From story by Mark Davis Powell, Wyoming News Exchange

Bureau of Land Management Opposes Allegations of Posting Sensitive Archeological Data

A recent incident involving an unredacted 77-page archeological resources report the BLM posted about southern Utah sites illustrates the agency's delicate balancing act that pits artifact protection against the public's right to know. As first reported by the online publication *Reveal* (and summarized in the July NPS Archeology E-Gram), the report describes about 1,300 known archeological sites within 43 parcels the agency auctioned last March for oil and gas leases in Grand and San Juan, Utah, counties. While it did not provide location coordinates for the sites, it did give enough information to make archaeologists and historic preservationists nervous.

The document contained sufficient detail to potentially help looters who know what to look for, said Josh Ewing, executive director of the Bluff-based conservation group Friends of Cedar Mesa. Ewing noticed the document online in February while preparing a formal protest to the lease sale. At the time, Ewing and other historic preservationists were challenging the BLM's official finding that oil and gas leasing in this area could be managed in a way to avoid damaging the known rock art, structures and other cultural resources. He alerted the BLM about his concerns. Although the agency notes the report was not posted by mistake, the agency did swap it out March 5 with a redacted version. Ewing and others still see the posting as a "mistake" and expressed gratitude the BLM "corrected" it.

The Utah SHPO doubts the report put any sites in imminent danger, "but it was more specific that we are comfortable with," said spokesman Josh Loftin. "It wasn't up there long at all. It's not findable anymore." The Salt Lake Tribune downloaded an unredacted version from the BLM's land-planning website while preparing a story on the controversial lease sale, which covered archeologically rich lands east of Blanding at Montezuma Canyon and Alkali Ridge.

The original document detailed each parcel, giving brief descriptions of documented sites within, from "lithic scatters" to "PIII habitation." It details how many recorded sites are in each parcel; the amount of acreage and percentage of the parcel that has been surveyed for cultural resources; the number of sites eligible for listing on the National Register; and the number of sites within a half-mile of the parcel. The redacted version blacks out much of this information, as well as references to important sites, such as the Sprit Dog Great House, located in one of the 43 lease parcels.

BLM archaeologists were simply heeding agency policy when they posted the unredacted version, a decision that came after careful consideration, according to BLM spokeswoman Kimberly Finch. The regulation the BLM referred to is located at 36 CFR Part 800.5(c)(2)(i) *Disagreement with finding*, which states that the agency should concurrently notify all consulting parties that a disagreement with the

agencies finding has occurred and that the submission documentation is made available to the public. Many agencies are not aware of this provision in the regulations.

“The BLM did not mistakenly post protected archaeological site information for the lease sale,” she wrote in an email. “We are required by regulations to publicly share Section 106 documentation when there is a known disagreement with the agency’s finding of no adverse effect.”

Southwest Archeology’s Bill Doelle agreed the unredacted report would probably not serve as a “treasure map” but wondered if the agency made a rushed decision in posting it. He noted the BLM is generally a reliable steward of archaeological data and avoids releasing information that could direct looters to artifacts. “The BLM is totally by the book with what someone else reveals,” Doelle said. “Archaeologists often get dinged for releasing too much informant on a site. What is frustrating is that there is so much information on the internet. You have to be a lot more careful these days than when reports were hidden away in a library.”

From story by Brian Maffly, Salt Lake Tribune

Joint Mexico-US Exploration Project Searches for Ships Sunk by Cortés

Archeologists from Mexico and the U.S. have begun exploring the Gulf of Mexico to search for ships sunk by Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés five centuries ago. Led by Dr. Roberto Junco, head of the Underwater Archaeology Department at the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), the binational team is combing a 10-square-kilometer area of seabed off the coast of Actopan, Veracruz. The area being explored lies off the coast of Playa Villa Rica, a beach located about 75 kilometers north of the port city of Veracruz. Archeologists Frederick Hanselmann from the University of Miami and Christopher Horrel of the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement are also participating in the project.

In 1519, Cortés scuttled 10 of the 11 ships that arrived in Mexico to ensure that the men under his charge would have no way to return to Cuba and would follow him on his expedition inland. The 11th ship was sent back to Spain to relay news of Cortés’ plans.

“We know from documents, such as [Cortés’s] letters of relation [to Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor] and other sources like [conquistador] Bernal Díaz del Castillo’s account that Cortés didn’t burn his ships,” Junco said. “That’s a myth created from references to ancient Greece. Rather he took everything from them that could be useful to him and then he punctured their hulls to sink them and eliminate the possibility that some of his troops might mutiny.”

The team is using a magnetometer and a side-scan sonar, among other technologies, to aid the search project, which was made possible through a grant from the National Geographic Society.

Changes at the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

After nearly 40 years with the Advisory Council, Charlene Vaughn has retired from the position of Assistant Director for the Federal Permitting, Licensing and Assistance Section (FPLAS). Jaime Loichinger will serve as Acting Assistant Director for FPLAS. Jaime has been a Program Analyst with the ACHP since 2010, working with a variety of assistance agencies on issues such as disaster recovery, affordable housing and tribal consultation. She will act for the next 90 days while the ACHP works to identify a new permanent Assistant Director within FPLAS.

In the interim, if you have any questions regarding the activities of FPLAS, Jaime can be reached at (202) 517-0219, or via email at jloichinger@achp.gov.

GRANTS AND TRAINING

National Park Service Park NAGPRA Program Offers Assistance!

Park NAGPRA Office Hours/Ask the Expert: September 19, 2018 2:00 – 3:00 EDT

No specific topics are planned for this hour. Instead, bring your questions about any NAGPRA issue and put them to the Park NAGPRA program manager. Submit questions in advance using the registration form.

[Register](#) by Friday, September 14, 2018.

Contact: Mary S. Carroll, Chief, NPS Park NAGPRA Program, mary_carroll@nps.gov

Advanced 3-D Imaging and Morphometrics for Archeology

15-18 October 2018, Tucson, AZ

This four-day event will include lectures, a hands-on practicum, data analysis demonstrations, and discussions of best practices and data curation. The workshop will share and discuss the latest uses of 3D imaging of archeological artifacts to improve utility and precision of analyses that employ 3D data to assess morphological variation. Discussions will cover topics related to digital curation and public archeology, where the utility of 3D scans reach beyond traditional analyses.

Location: Arizona State Museum, Conservation Lab, Rm. 125. 1013 East University, Tucson, AZ.

Lodging: Marriott Tucson, University Park. (520) 792-4100, [880 East Second, Tucson, AZ](#)

Group Code: [Book your group rate for NCPTT National Park Service](#) Room Rate: \$93 plus taxes.

Bring your tax exempt form if you are eligible. Cut-off date for reservations is September 13, 2018

Cost: \$500 Regular/\$250 Student

Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) for Archeologists

This dynamic and interactional class is taught by highly experienced instructors including an NPS archeologist and special agent. You will learn about the nexus between ARPA and related cultural resource (and some natural resource) laws, including NAGPRA, NHPA, and SURPA. This class affords the opportunity to explore different ways of using ARPA embracing other disciplines within cultural resource management. Immediacy of the course content to actual Midwest Region parks will be highlighted by case studies to underscore the relevancy of the curriculum.

After you complete the ARPA course, you should be able to articulate ARPA to lay and professional audiences; articulate and utilize the elements of ARPA; articulate and utilize the three costs and values associated with ARPA; understand the steps required to utilize evidence and data to generate a Resource Damage Assessment; testify in court in support of prosecution.

Date: November 26-30, 2018

Location: National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV

Who Should Attend: This class is developed for cultural resource professionals, including archeologists, architects, and curators. All with similar interests and responsibilities are welcome to apply.

Tuition: There is no tuition for the workshop. Travel for NPS staff is paid by the benefiting account.

To Register: Go to DOI Learn at:

<https://gm2.geolearning.com/geonext/doi/scheduledclassdetails4enroll.geo?&id=334672>. If you are selected to participate in the class, you will be notified in early October.

Contact: Caven Clark at (870)365-2790 or caven_clark@nps.gov

National Park Service African American Civil Rights Grants Application Open

The NPS State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division is now accepting applications for \$13 million in funding for the 2018 African American Civil Rights (AACR) grant program. These competitive grants support the survey, documentation, interpretation, and preservation of sites that are associated with the African American struggle to gain equal rights in the 20th century.

Eligible applicants are federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiian Organizations, States and Territories, Local Governments, and nonprofit organizations. Matching funds are not required, but may be considered as part of the evaluation process.

Types of eligible projects include survey, inventory, documentation, interpretation, education, architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and physical preservation projects.

To apply, head to grants.gov and search for Funding Opportunity Numbers: [P18AS00485](#) for Preservation projects, [P18AS00484](#) for History projects, or African American Civil Rights (AACR) Grants. The deadline is October 8, 2018 at 11:59 PM ET. Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) under each opportunity number for more details.

Contact: 202-354-2020 or preservation_grants_info@nps.gov

Archeological Violation Investigation Class

Northland Research, Inc. is offering Archeological Violation Investigation Class in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, October 16-18, 2018. The class is sponsored by the United Keetoowah Band (UKB) of Cherokee Indians. The class will be held at the UKB Education Building in Tahlequah. The classes are open to all federal, tribal, state and other government agency law enforcement officers, managers, cultural resource staff, archaeologists and prosecuting attorneys. The investigation class has been determined to meet USDA Forest Service Law Enforcement & Investigations ARPA training requirements.

Northland's three-day class provides training on all aspects of the investigation and prosecution of archeological crimes. Instructors for the class are archeologist Martin McAllister, archeologist Brent Kober and investigator David Griffel who is a recognized national expert in this area of law enforcement. Topics covered in the class include overview of archeological resource crime; the looting, collecting and trafficking network; ARPA and other federal statutes; archeological crime scene investigation, damage assessment, and crime factors; archeological crime investigative methods and damage assessment methods; and archaeological violation case studies

The class tuition fee is \$600.00 per person. The registration deadline for the classes is September 14, 2018.

Contact: To register for the class, contact Sheila Bird - phone: 918-207-7182, email: sbird@ukb-nsn.gov and make arrangements for payment of the class tuition fee.

American Battlefield Protection Program 2018 Planning Grant Awards

The NPS American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded 20 grants, including 13 archeological projects, totaling \$1.043 million to assist in the preservation and protection of American battlefield

lands. This year's grants provide funding for projects at endangered battlefields in 13 states.

Archeological grants include:

Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians, California - \$39,000.00

This project will research and document the 1846 Temecula Massacre. The massacre was the result of the Battle of San Pasqual, the bloodiest conflict in California during the Mexican-American War. The ambush resulted in the killing of reportedly 100 Luiseño/Temecula Indians.

Stonington Historical Society, Connecticut - \$52,000.00

This project will document the Battle of Stonington through archeological and historical survey. The Battle of Stonington, the last time the British fired a shot in New England, was a psychological boost to U.S. troops as the British were unable to meet their objective of capturing the town of Stonington.

Gulf Archaeology Research Institute, Florida - \$74,000.00

This project will identify, recover, and record historic, ethnohistoric, and archeological data related to Chucchohatti Town, the largest and oldest known Seminole town which played a vital role in the Second Seminole War (1835-1842).

Preservation Maryland, Maryland - \$51,000.000

This project will inventory the historic resources and cultural landscape of Fort Tonoloway and conduct military terrain analysis (KOCOA). Fort Tonoloway was constructed in the summer of 1755 by the retreating expeditionary force under the defeated British General Edward Braddock after he attempted to capture the French held Fort Duquesne (modern day Pittsburgh) during the French and Indian War.

University of Mississippi, Mississippi - \$60,000.00

This project will identify two Natchez Indian forts and two mounds that served as firing positions during the 1730 French siege of Grand Village, the Natchez Indian's principal town. The battle marked a major turning point in relations between the Natchez and the French in the Lower Mississippi.

Regents of the University of New Mexico, New Mexico - \$56,000.00

This project will complete boundary determinations for the Vásques de Coronado Battlefield using geophysical survey and metal detection. This project will afford the opportunity to learn more about late medieval European warfare technology, Mexican Native weaponry, and Puebloan defensive artifacts.

Hudson Crossing Park, Inc., New York - \$45,000.00

This project will conduct a battlefield inventory to identify the sites and key military terrain features of arts of the Saratoga Siege battlefield not previously studied, including Stark's Knob and Burgoyne's Bridge of Bateaux. After the Battle of Saratoga, British forces attempted to make an escape by passing between Stark's Knob and the Hudson River but American forces occupied Stark's Knob and prevented the retreat of the British.

Fort Plain Museum, New York - \$50,000.000

This project will collect and interpret data from the Battle of Stone Arabia to locate the areas of conflict and better define the boundaries of the battlefield. The 1780 raids on the Mohawk frontier were part of a British strategy to depopulate the Mohawk Valley.

The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, New York - \$68,000.00

This project will conduct a historical and military terrain analysis of the Fort Bull Battlefield to identify key terrain features using geophysical and archeological methods. The battle was the first major raid against the British in the strategically important Oneida Carry during the French and Indian War.

The LAMAR Institute: New York - \$60,000.00

This project will conduct a historical and archeological study of the Revolutionary War sites of Setauket, Fort Franklin, and Fort Slongo on Long Island. Setauket, Fort Franklin, and Fort Slongo all played major roles as Loyalist force strongholds and were settings for the slow elimination of Loyalist control of Long Island by the Continentals between 1777 and 1781.

Ball State University: Ohio - \$75,000.00

This project will use historical research and archeological survey to delineate the boundary for the Battle of Peckuwe, the largest Revolutionary War conflict west of the Alleghenies. The battle resulted in the Shawnees' forced removal after the attack of General George Rogers Clark and the Kentucky Militia.

City of Cayce, South Carolina - \$23,000.00

This project will document and map the Battle of Congaree Creek Battlefield. Confederate General George Dibrell's dismounted cavalry brigade manned a system of earthworks using the natural barrier of the Congaree Creek to attempt to impede Union General William T. Sherman's approach.

Gloucester County, Virginia - \$39,000.00

This project will conduct a battlefield survey to discover the extent of the Hook battlefield. Lauzun's French Legion along with members of the Virginia militia, refused access to the British of the strategically important Gloucester Point. Without much needed food and supplies, the Battle of the Hook played a role in Lord Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown sixteen days later.

The American Battlefield Protection Program funds projects conducted by federal, state, local, and tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions. The ABPP's mission is to safeguard and preserve significant American battlefield lands as symbols of individual sacrifice and national heritage. Since 1990, the ABPP and its partners have helped to protect and enhance more than 100 battlefields by co-sponsoring 600 projects in 42 states and territories.

by Emily Kambic, American Battlefield Protection Program

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: New Spanish Site in Kansas

Donald Blakeslee, archeologist at Wichita State University, may have located Etzanoa, home to perhaps 20,000 people between 1450 and 1700. Blakeslee became intrigued by Etzanoa after scholars at UC Berkeley retranslated in 2013 the often muddled accounts by conquistadors of forays into what is now Kansas. The new versions are more cogent, precise and vivid.

Using these freshly translated documents and high tech equipment, Blakeslee believes that he has identified the location of the thatched, beehive-shaped houses that ran for at least five miles along the bluffs and banks of the Walnut and Arkansas rivers. Blakeslee says the site was the second-largest settlement in the country after Cahokia in Illinois.

Francisco Vazquez de Coronado came to central Kansas in 1541. He found Native Americans in a collection of settlements he named Quivira. In 1601, Juan de Oñate led about 70 conquistadors from New Mexico into south-central Kansas in search of Quivira. According to Spanish records, they encountered a tribe called the Escanxaques, who told of a large city nearby. The Indians called it Etzanoa.

A delegation of Etzanoans met them. It was a friendly encounter until the conquistadors decided to take hostages, which prompted the entire city to flee. Oñate's men searched the settlement, counting 2,000 houses that held 8-10 people each. Gardens of pumpkins, corn and sunflowers lay between the homes.

The Spaniards could see more houses in the distance, but they feared an Etzanoan attack and turned back, but were ambushed by 1,500 Escanxaques. The conquistadors battled them with guns and cannons before withdrawing back to New Mexico. French explorers arrived a century later but found nothing. Disease likely wiped out Etzanoa, leaving it to recede into legend.

Blakeslee enlisted the help of the National Park Service, which used a magnetometer to detect features that looked like homes, storage pits and hearths. Relying on descriptions from the conquistadors, he

believes he has located the battle site in a neighborhood of Arkansas City. Volunteers using metal detectors found three half-inch iron balls that may be 17th century Spanish cartridge. A Spanish horseshoe nail was also found.

In 1959, the renowned archaeologist Waldo Wedel wrote in his classic book, "An Introduction to Kansas Archeology," that the valley floor and bluffs here "were littered with sherds, flints, and other detritus" that went on for miles. In 1994, thousands of relics were unearthed during road construction in the area. Blakeslee has published his findings in *Plains Anthropologist*, and next spring he will present his evidence for Etzanoa at the Society for American Archaeology conference.

The Wichita Nation, based three hours south in Anadarko, Okla., is watching all of this carefully. They believe the Etzanoans were their ancestors.

Limited tours began last spring, focusing on key historical and archaeological sites. Town leaders are hoping for a UNESCO World Heritage site designation.

From story by David Kelly, Los Angeles Times

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page at www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at karen_mudar@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.