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FOLLOWING THE 1724 BOURGMONT ROUTE THROUGH KANSAS TO THE PADOUCA

By Craig Crease

From the dawn of the eighteenth century, colonial France, strung along the Mississippi River from the mouth of the Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, longed to establish trade with Spain's far flung northern colonial outpost of Santa Fe. Numerous attempts were made to reach Santa Fe, all requiring long distances through unknown territory with a belligerent Spanish government awaiting if they did make it. However, the main impediment to reaching Santa Fe were the nomadic and war-like Padouca Indians, who reigned supreme across western Kansas and beyond. Finally, in 1723 the French charged Etienne de Veniard, sieur de Bourgmont, a charismatic and respected French officer, with the task of making peace between the Padouca and all the other tribes of the lower Missouri River basin. Many in the French government were skeptical that such a mission could succeed. Bourgmont did succeed, however; he marched a small group of French soldiers and Native American allies westward across the Kansas plains for a meeting with the Padouca, who traveled eastward to meet with him. Bourgmont's route through Kansas has intrigued historians, archeologists, and scholars for years. This study concerns a recent effort to trace his 1724 path, which resulted in some confirmations and some revelations about Bourgmont and the expedition.

THE QUIXOTE SITE: LATE WOODLAND IN NORTHEASTERN KANSAS

By Brad Logan
With contributions by David Maki, Carl R. Falk, John R. Bozell, and Gina S. Powell

Quixote (14JF420) is a Late Woodland site in the Delaware River drainage, a tributary of the lower Kansas River in northeastern Kansas. Investigations by the Kansas Archeology Training Program in 2017 incorporated geophysical survey of the site, excavation of a 64-m^2 block on one of two low mounds that dominate it, and exploration of two magnetic anomalies that revealed two features interpreted as roasting pits. Radiocarbon dates of the latter indicate use ca. A.D. 650-680, significantly earlier than a series of such dates from the block excavation between the features that attest activity ca. A.D. 890-980. Thus, the site was occupied during at least two separate times, apparently for different purposes.

The block revealed a cultural horizon ~10-60 cm below surface that is relatively undisturbed by modern agricultural activity, due to use of the area as pasture. (The other mound had been disturbed by construction of a windmill.) Spatial analysis of block data indicate a palimpsest of dismantled or disturbed hearths and associated areas of debris that represent chipped stone tool maintenance, food preparation, and cooking. All ceramics are Grasshopper Falls ware, typical of Late Woodland in the region. Chipped stone tools, dominated by Scallorn arrow points, include biface fragments, drills, scrapers, hammerstones, grinding stones, abraders, and an axe preform. Animal remains are of deer, beaver, rabbit/cottontail, intrusive rodents,

birds, a variety of fish, turtles, and mussels. Macrobotanical remains are of various wild plants and cultigens, the latter including squash, sunflower, maygrass, chenopods, marshelder, little barley, erect knotweed, and perhaps amaranth, purslane, barnyard grass, and panic grass. These signal late spring to summer site occupation.

Both pits had been filled with limestone that rested on beds of timber. Lipid analyses of selected stones from each suggest roasting of large herbivores, probably deer, and fish. The role of feasting during Woodland periods (A.D. 1-1000) is discussed in the context of these and burned rock features at other regional sites. It is argued that such activities were an integrative mechanism that forged social ties and mitigated resource uncertainties among dispersed nuclear or extended families during Late Woodland time (A.D. 500-1000).

Book Review

Dubuque's Forgotten Cemetery: Excavating a Nineteenth-Century Burial Ground in a Twenty-First-Century City by Robin M. Lillie and Jennifer E. Mack. Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins