



KyOPA NEWSLETTER

Kentucky Organization of Professional Archaeologists

Volume 4 Number 2

September 1997

Call to Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of KyOPA will be held in Room 228 of the University of Kentucky Student Center on Saturday, January 24, 1998 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's meeting format will differ from those in the recent past. The morning segment of the meeting (10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon) will be devoted to general business matters. Lunch will be from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Following lunch (1:00-2:15), KyOPA members will have the opportunity to present brief (about 10 minutes) reports on their past or ongoing research projects. A slide projector will be provided. Finally, a workshop on some aspect of archaeology of interest to Kentucky archaeologists will be held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. The subject of the workshop has not been selected yet. Any ideas for the workshop and/or volunteers to organize it will be gratefully appreciated. If you have any questions or ideas for the meeting, call Dick Jefferies at 606-257-2860 or e-mail at ANT392@UKCC.UKY.

Call for Nominations

The Board of Directors' positions held by Kelli Carmean and Cecil Ison expire at the 1998 annual meeting. Nominations are sought for these positions. Board members are elected for three-year terms. In accordance with KyOPA bylaws, a single campus or office may not be represented by more than one person on the Board of Directors, but campuses or offices represented by Directors may overlap

with campuses or offices represented by Officers. See the membership status page for the list of current KyOPA members.

Please submit nominations by November 1, 1997, to Dick Jefferies at 606-257-2860 or e-mail at ANT392@UKCC.UKY.

"An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her."

-- Agatha Christie

Murray State University and
Livingston Central High School
Archaeological Projects in Smithland,
Kentucky (1994-1997)
by Kenneth C. Carstens

In summer 1993, Debbie Bell, then at Livingston Central High School (LCHS), Smithland, Kentucky, contacted Ken Carstens at Murray State University (MSU) about the possible impact of the creation of a natural trail on a Federally-occupied Civil War fort located in back of the high school. Joe Brent of the Kentucky Heritage Council in Frankfort was contacted to arrange an on-site visit among the three interested parties. As a result of that meeting, Carstens was encouraged by Brent to apply for a National Park Service grant that would bring together LCHS students and faculty with MSU students and faculty to investigate Fort Smith, 15Lv207.

More than three years later, excavations and research into Fort Smith's past continues by high school and college students, and LCHS and MSU staff and faculty. To date, more than \$30,000 has been obtained in grants to support the archaeological, archival and interpretive study of Fort Smith. During the summer of 1995, two LCHS teachers, Debbie DeWeese and Vicki Conyer, traveled to the National Archives, Washington, D.C., to obtain copies of original Fort Smith documents. These documents are being transcribed by college and high school students. College students Kathleen Tucker, Carrie Anne Berryman, and Jamie Skaggs presented formal papers about their research of Fort Smith at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Kentucky Heritage Council's annual conferences over the past few years.

Now part of the nature trail interpretative system, Fort Smith is a centerpiece of history for the community of Smithland and LCHS. As a result of students learning "hands-on" history, the little community of Smithland (pop. 350), now takes great pride in its historical past. The Smithland Chamber of Commerce uses Fort Smith as its focal point for formal tours that also include historic homes in Smithland.

As a result of MSU's involvement with LCHS at Fort Smith, Carstens was contacted by Diana Fraley, co-owner of the Gower House, the oldest standing structure in extreme western Kentucky (built ca. 1810). The Gower House is located at the confluence of the Ohio and Cumberland Rivers. It is a late Georgian-style, brick house and ell that Fraley and Dave Roberts (Fraley's father and co-owner of Gower House) are going to renovate, returning the house to its grandeur as a restaurant and hotel. Fraley and Roberts were beginning construction of a detached

kitchen at the rear of the ell and wanted archaeological excavations conducted by high school and college students and faculty prior to the scheduled renovations. MSU and LCHS agreed. Excavations at Ft. Smith were put on hold for the summer and fall of 1996. An in-service training day for LCHS teachers was held at the Gower House. We excavated five 1x2 m excavation units in the detached kitchen area; one 1x2 m unit beneath the porch at the inside junction of the ell and house; and a 1x4 m trench across the foundations of a parallel house and ell that burned in 1859. This past fall and spring, excavations were continued at Gower by MSU students. The students also conducted preliminary analysis of the excavated materials and presented results of their research at the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and Ohio Valley Historic Archaeology meetings.

Excavations will continue this fall at both Ft. Smith and Gower House and will carry on well into the future. Both projects are long-term involvements by MSU and LCHS. Although the history and science of these projects are rewards in themselves, the true reward is the excitement these projects have generated in students. LCHS students are more motivated and better prepared for college as a direct result of their "hands-on" learning experiences at Ft. Smith. MSU undergraduates are conducting research and presenting papers at national archaeological meetings and making career decisions about archaeology because of their work at these two sites. Lastly, because of their children's involvement with these projects, the people of Smithland are awakening to the prospects of historic preservation, historic interpretation, and tourism. All persons involved with our joint project have benefitted, cooperation between LCHS and MSU is at an all-

time high, and the past is being preserved and studied for the future. This is truly an exciting time for Kentucky education, MSU, and LCHS. LCHS and MSU thank the National Park Service and the Kentucky Heritage Council for supporting our research and educational activities. Our project is an excellent example of archaeology existing for the public good.

"It is one proof of a good education, and of a true refinement of feeling, to respect antiquity".

--Lydia H. Sigourney

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Ongoing through 1998. "In the Presence of the Past: The Miami Indians of Indiana", Eiteljorg Museum 500 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Indiana. Display of contact period and historic Miami Indian artifacts and videotaped oral history interviews of contemporary Miami Indians. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. Admission: adults \$5; seniors \$4; children 5-17 and students with ID \$2; free for museum members. For more information call 317-636-9378.

September 24-28, 1997. The public is invited to participate in the Riverside Archaeology Weekend, 10-5 Saturday, September 27, and 1-5, Sunday, the 28th. Riverside is the Farnsley-Moreman house and historic farmstead owned by Jefferson County. The weekend will feature excavations exploring the wash house area and attempting to locate the slave quarters. The public can dig, screen, and wash artifacts. There will also be tours of the house and historic garden, a story teller, and demonstrations of historic cooking techniques, flintknapping, prehistoric

pottery making, quilting, and other historic and prehistoric skills. Special tours of Riverside for school children will be held September 24 through 26. These are booked solid, with over 4,000 children on waiting lists. Riverside is planning a spring event to cope with the overwhelming public interest.

September 26-28. Red River Gorge Archaeology Weekend sponsored by Daniel Boone National Forest at Gladie House, features excavations, demonstrations, and special exhibits. The public is invited to participate in excavations, and professional archaeologists encouraged to volunteer, September 27-28. A reconstructed long house which accidentally burnt down last year is being used to demonstrate how a structure becomes an archaeological site and what archaeologists can and cannot learn about past lifeways from archaeological deposits. Special tours for school children will be held on September 26, with over 1,000 children scheduled.

October 10, 1997. Perryville Battlefield Tour hosted by Filson Club and led by Kent Masterson Brown. Tour will leave Louisville from the Oxmoor Center parking lot behind the Lazarus store at 9 a.m. and return by 5:30 p.m. Fee is \$35 for Filson Club members and \$40 for nonmembers and includes lunch. To make reservations call 502-635-5083.

October 11-19, 1997. Mammoth Cave Colorfall. Two events in one-- Colorfall and the Hearthstone Festival. Colorfall celebrates the cultural heritage--prehistoric, historic, and folklife--of the Mammoth Cave region through art, seminars, storytelling, and music. Events include an arts and folkart exhibit in the Rotunda Room, Mammoth Cave Hotel, and art, craft, and folklife workshops and demonstrations. The Hearthstone Festival focuses on the

culture of the Karstlands, prehistoric to present. Archaeological seminars on prehistoric religion, art, and cave exploration will be presented October 11-12 by Dr. Patty Jo Watson, Washington University; Dr. Guy Prentice, National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center; Ms. Valerie Haskins, Western Kentucky University. Genealogical seminars will be presented evenings, October 15-17, including tracing your family tree, black history, the Gorins at Mammoth Cave, and the Max Kamper cave map. A cemetery studies workshop will be held by Western Kentucky University and Kentucky Historical Society on October 18, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. There is no fee for the seminars or the cemetery workshop, but some of the other events have fees and require pre-registration. Costumed interpretation by rangers dressed in period costume will take place through the Weekend Lantern Cave Tours, 8:30-11:30 a.m., 1-4 p.m. (fee charged, make reservation through Destinet, 1-800-967-2283) and campfire programs on Friday and Saturday evenings, 7-8 p.m. (no fee). An oral history panel will be held on October 18 (no fee). People who once lived and worked at Mammoth Cave will share their recollections of daily life in the Karstlands. For more information about any of these events, call Mammoth Cave National Park, at 502-758-2254, e-mail at MACA_PARK_INFORMATION@NPS.GOV, or visit the website at www.nps.gov/macac.

October 24-25, 1997. "Ceramics in America, 1640-1860: A Seminar in Celebration of the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of 'Ceramics in America' Winterthur Conference 1972", Winterthur, Delaware. Topics will include ceramics from east coast archaeolog-

ical sites and the availability of English and French ceramics in the colonies and young republic. For information call 1-800-448-3883 or 302-888-4600.

November 5-8, 1997. The 54th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological conference, Radisson Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For hotel reservation call 504-925-2244. For more information contact David Kelley, Coastal Environments, 1260 Main St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802, e-mail cei@premier.net.

November 6-9, 1997. The Eastern States Archaeological Federation annual meeting, Travelodge hotel and Conference Center, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. For information contact Herbert C. Kraft, 201-761-9543, e-mail krafther@lanmail.shu.edu; for arrangement information, contact Debra Campagnari Martin 303-832-0653, e-mail debbiec@udel.edu.

November 19-23, 1997. The American Anthropological Association 96th Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.. Archaeologists are encouraged to reassert their presence in the AAA. For additional information contact Elizabeth Brumfield, 517-629-0432, e-mail ebrumfield@alpha.albion.edu.

January 7-11, 1998. The Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia. For information see the web page at <http://www.mindspring.com/~garrowga/sHal998/index.html>.

March 25-11, 1998. The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Seattle, Washington. Contact the SAA by phone at 202-789-8200, fax 202-789-0284, or e-mail at meetings@saa.org.

To submit materials for the newsletter, mail or fax articles to: Pamela Schenian, 3600 Raintree Place #102, Louisville, KY 40220-3364. Home phone/fax: (502) 495-1628; work fax: (502) 624-1868.

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Changes are underlined; wp = work phone; wf = work fax, hp = home phone; hf = home fax.

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DROPS

To be reinstated send dues (\$10) to Anna Bader, KyOPA Sec./Treas., 8910 Hatlerhall Dr., Louisville, KY, 40291-1439.

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 Next issue is November 1997. Please submit materials by October 27.

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