

IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF A BURIAL MOUND IN RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS: ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF 14RY652

By Jakob Hanschu and Lauren W. Ritterbush

Scattered through parts of northeastern and north-central Kansas are prehistoric burial sites in the form of relatively small rock and earthen mounds located on the uplands overlooking stream valleys. While these are far from scarce, few have been investigated using professional archeological methods. In June 2016 the Kansas Archaeological Field School (KAFS) conducted limited test excavations of a low knoll (14RY652) atop a bluff in the northern Flint Hills. The goals of the project were to determine the origin (human or natural) of this subtle feature and whether it had served as a burial monument, assess the extent of damage to its cultural deposits caused by non-systematic digging, and collect additional data about the site's age, construction, and associated human behavior. Excavation confirmed that 14RY652 was humanly built and served as a place of burial, as indicated by human remains. The prehistoric builders used unmodified limestone available in its immediate vicinity to construct this mortuary feature. Debitage scattered in the fill suggests that flintknapping occurred, perhaps in the production of offerings for the dead. Three bifaces uncovered in the southern portion of the rock fill may reflect this. Overall, much of the structure is intact despite historic digging near its center. Although many similar features in the region appear on the surface to have been disturbed in a like manner, excavations at 14RY652 suggest that some still hold valuable information about the people and cultures associated with them and deserve protection and study.

A KICKAPOO HORSE RACE NORTH OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN 1833

By Jim D. Feagins

Horses have long been an important part of Native American culture. This includes horse racing. However, relatively little has been written about the details of that topic. What follows is an analysis of a first-person account of a Kickapoo horse race in 1833.

THE THOMAS JOHNSON/HENRY WILLIAMS HOMESTEAD: A RURAL COMPONENT OF THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY SETTLEMENT OF NICODEMUS, KANSAS

By Christine D. Garst, Robert J. Hoard, Daniel Hougland, Dan Morrow, Margaret C. Wood, Virginia A. Wulfkuhle

The town of Nicodemus in Graham County, Kansas, was settled by emancipated slaves beginning in 1877. Despite significant impediments to progress, the community survived and, for a time, thrived. Later immigrants established farmsteads in the surrounding area. In 2006 and

2007 Washburn University, the Kansas Historical Society, the Kansas Anthropological Association, and the Howard University Nicodemus Archaeological Field School conducted archeological survey and excavations at the Thomas Johnson/Henry Williams farmstead (14GH102). These efforts document some of the details of late nineteenth-century pioneers in a demanding landscape.

Book Reviews

Frontier Forts of Iowa: Indians, Traders, and Soldiers, 1682-1862, edited by William E. Whittaker. Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins

Musket Ball and Small Shot Identification: A Guide by Daniel M. Sivilich. Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins