

A LATE HOLOCENE BISON KILL SITE IN NORTHWESTERN KANSAS: THE WILLIS-BEESON SITE (14CN6)

By Jack L. Hofman and Barbara M. Crable

A visit to a bison bone bed site in the Cheyenne Breaks of northwest Kansas is documented here. More than 40 bison elements and bone fragments that were eroding from the arroyo were documented and provide some initial clues about the bison kill that occurred there. The site is not yet radiometrically dated but is believed to date to the late Holocene and is probably not more than 4,000 years old. No diagnostic artifacts were found with the bones.

POTTERY RECONSTRUCTION

By Debi L. Aaron

This report offers guidance in the reconstruction of a prehistoric ceramic vessel. The pottery sherds pieced together were collected from a single provenience (14GT310) in Grant County, Kansas, in 2006 and were believed to be from the Early Ceramic period, specifically the Keith phase. In 2019 organic residue, taken from a few of the larger pieces, provided a radiocarbon date of 1142 ± 44 B.P. This date corresponds well with the pot itself, which is typical of Keith phase ware.

DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THREE RECONSTRUCTED KEITH PHASE CERAMIC VESSELS

By Robert J. Hoard and Debi L. Aaron

There are no known complete pottery vessels attributed to the Early Ceramic (ca. 500-1200 C.E.) Keith phase. Partial reconstruction of a Keith phase ceramic vessel from Grant County, Kansas, gives insight into construction and use of the earliest vessel form in the Central High Plains. The vessel compares favorably to other partially reconstructed Early Ceramic vessels in the region.

TIME, SPACE, AND FORM AT THE HAMON SITE (14JF350): A MULTI-COMPONENT LATE WOODLAND SITE IN NORTHEASTERN KANSAS

By Steven Keehner

During the fall of 1971 and spring of 1972, Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) archeologists and Kansas Anthropological Association (KAA) volunteers conducted excavations at the Hamon site (14JF350), located in northeastern Kansas. The site was interpreted as a single-component house

feature and was assigned to the Grasshopper Falls phase of the Plains Woodland period (A.D. 500-1000). However, the field records and artifact assemblages went unanalyzed, and a report was not generated—until now. This paper presents a reconstructed spatial distribution and analysis of the artifacts recovered from the original excavations, new AMS radiocarbon dates, and the results of limited site testing in 2014. Evidence indicates that 14JF350 consists of a multi-component palimpsest, formed by peoples' repeated occupation during the Late Woodland period. The original interpretations were based upon unvalidated assumptions and incomplete data analysis. These problems extend beyond the Hamon site. Regional interpretations of the Late Woodland period are based upon taxonomic frameworks that have not been confirmed through comparative examination of archeological findings. More accurate reconstructions of the past rely on methods of thorough data analysis—not generalizations or suppositions, and this study demonstrates the value of applying such methods to curated collections.

Book Reviews

The Ritual Landscape of Late Precontact Eastern Oklahoma: Archaeology from the WPA Era until Today by Amanda L. Regnier, Scott W. Hammerstedt, and Sheila Bobalik Savage.
Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins.

Ledger Narratives: The Plains Indian Drawings of the Lansburgh Collection at Dartmouth College, edited by Colin G. Calloway, Editor. Essays by Joyce M. Szabo, Michael Paul Jordan, Jenny Tone-Pah-Hote, Melanie Benson Taylor, Mary Peterson Zundo, and Vera B. Palmer.
Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins.

Plundered Skulls and Broken Spirits: Inside the Fight to Reclaim Native America's Future by Chip Colwell. Reviewed by Taylor Nickel.