Battlefield and Conflict Archaeology – Some New Insights into Custer’s Last Stand

Our October speaker, Douglas Scott, will be talking about the archaeology of historic battlefields. Warfare is as old as humankind, he notes, and studies of conflict are almost as old as warfare itself. However, he also points out that systematic archaeological investigations of battlefields are relatively new, only a bit over thirty years old. There is a growing body of work being done on battlefields and war zones from widely scattered places around the world, including the trenches of World War I and such locations as Gettysburg from the Civil War. A recent news item reported the recovery of some 1800 lead bullets (propelled by slings!) used by the Romans during a second century siege in southern Scotland. In New Mexico, studies of the Hembrillo Basin provide insight into a significant defeat for the Apache fighting with Victorio. There are also many archaeological projects involving modern battles, atrocities, and human rights violations that fall under the term forensic archaeology. Dr. Scott has been involved in many of these projects, but this month’s talk will be about the Little Bighorn battlefield. As he says, “the archaeology of the Little Bighorn has captured the imagination of the public and media. New archaeological investigations in 2010 as well as the application of new analytical techniques are adding new insights into the battle, yielding new information on combat positions and fighting patterns.” I hope to see you there. –DB
This Month’s Speaker

DOUGLAS D. SCOTT

Douglas D. Scott retired in 2006 from the National Park Service after more than 30 years with the Department of the Interior. Doug was the BLM Montrose District Archeologist from 1975 to 1983 when he transferred to the National Park Service. His last position was as Great Plains Team Leader, Park Programs, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska. He is currently a Visiting Research Scientist at Colorado Mesa University. Doug received his Ph.D. in 1977 in Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He has worked throughout the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain West on a variety of archeological projects. Doug specializes in nineteenth century military sites archeology and forensic archeology. He is particularly noted for his expertise in battlefield archeology and firearms identification having worked on more than 40 battlefield sites, including Palo Alto, Sand Creek, Big Hole, Bear Paw, Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, Centralia, and Santiago de Cuba. He was awarded the Department of the Interior’s Distinguished Service Award in 2002 for his innovative research in battlefield archeology that started with his work at the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. His 2013 book Uncovering History, on the archeology of the Little Bighorn battle, has received several book of the year awards. In 2015 Doug was presented with the J. C. Harrington Award from the Society for Historical Archaeology for lifetime achievements in the field of Historical Archaeology.

Doug has also been involved with human rights and forensic investigations since the early 1990s. He has worked with the United Nations and various human rights organizations in El Salvador, Croatia, Rwanda, Cyprus, Iraq, and on an animal welfare case in Canada.

Photo courtesy of Douglas Scott
Random Notes from the Editor

81st CAS Annual Meeting and Conference this weekend

The newest chapter of CAS in Grand Junction, formed just last year, has done a great job of planning an excellent series of talks and field trips for the annual meeting. It’s close, so it’s a good opportunity to see what goes on at an annual meeting. Steve Lekson will be the keynote speaker on Saturday evening. Chipeta has been trying to get him over here to speak for some time without success, so this is a great chance to finally get to see him. See http://cas-gj.weebly.com/conference-overview.html for information on speakers, and http://cas-gj.weebly.com/field-trip-details.html for info on field trips (also, see next page).

New Student Membership Category

In order to bring our membership categories into line with those of the state CAS organization, we are adding a student member category. This will be effective immediately. The Student Membership is available to any individuals or families with current student identification.

The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

Created in honor of Chipeta Chapter founding member Carlyle “Squint” Moore and his wife, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school senior or college student intending to enroll or already enrolled in an Anthropology or Archaeology program. Students can apply online at collegeXpress—and note that the deadline is April 1.

The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.

Want More?

Archaeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.
Register Now! OCT 7-10, 2016

81st Annual CAS Meeting & Conference

Featuring

Keynote speaker Dr. Steve Lekson, Ph.D. University of Colorado illuminating his latest Chaco Canyon theories and research

LECTURES & FIELD TRIPS

Hosted by the Grand Junction Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society,
In the University Center
at Colorado Mesa University
Grand Junction, Colorado

Conference & Field Trip Registrations
Online at:
www.cas-gj.weebly.com

Questions? Doug Van Etten • 970-433-4312
Correction to this announcement that ran in last months issue: Steve Baker writes, “Regarding the ad for my new book on “Pacomio,” I inadvertently credited the Paco signature panel to Jim Truesdale of Laramie, Wyoming. It should have been credited to Bob Dundas.” Our apologies to Bob.

MY NAME IS PACOMIO

The Life and Works of Colorado’s Sheepherder and Master Artist of Nature’s Canvases

By Steven G. Baker

Shepherders’ carvings are now a dying art, and many authorities feel that the now deceased Pacomio Martinez Chacon was the grandmaster of aspen tree and cliff drawings. “Paco” Chacon has been designated as a “master” folk artist by the Colorado Council for the Arts, the Museum of Western Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service. This book is the story of both the man and his work, as well as the story of aspen carvings by shepherders in the American West. This art is unique, because Paco had to carve in a way where he could visualize his work after the wound scarred and the tree healed. With his cliff drawings he had to plan for erosion and fading.

The cover of My Name is Pacomio shows Paco (1916-2009) and the head of one of his classic “pin-up style” nudes, as well as another good example of his artistic merit. His, as well as most other shepherder’s art, is so rapidly disappearing that today most of what remains has to be viewed in a few private collections or in remote rural areas of western Colorado and eastern Utah. The author, Steven G. Baker, has been a historian, anthropologist, and archaeologist for over fifty years; but even more important to this book, and to him, he was a good friend of Paco for the last twenty-five years of Pacomio’s life. This close friendship that they shared shows through clearly in this book, and allowed Baker to gain many details of Chacon’s life, Mexican-American culture, and the lonely but special life of a sheepherder.

Leigh Ann Hunt, U.S. Forest Service (Retired) writes in the Foreword:

Steve Baker’s book captures and preserves Chacon’s biography and artistic legacy with sensitivity and affectionate detail, and displays many examples that are extinct today. Pacomio’s carvings were a gift to us, and this book will let them endure for perpetuity in the annals of Western history.

This book is dedicated by the author “With many tears for my good friend, Pacomio Chacon, professor of the sheep and master artist of the trees and cliffs.”

Price: $29.95, 146 Pages, ISBN 978-1-937851-14-9, Over 175 photographs, Photos, 7” x 10”, Full Color

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Code of Ethics

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge to:

• Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
• Respect the property rights of landowners.
• Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
• Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
• Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
• Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
• Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
• Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: ____________________ Other Family Signature: ____________________

Make checks payable to "Chipeta Chapter CAS" and mail the signed application to:

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OTHER COMMITTEES AND POSTS
- **Scholarship:** Jon Horn / Bill Harris/ Bill Manske, trlgpa48@gmail.com

Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)
There will be no PAAC course this fall due to remodeling of the BLM facility that provides the meeting room. A spring PAAC course is planned.

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Chipeta November Speaker
Due to a scheduling change, Dr. Mark Mitchell will be our guest next month rather than this month, speaking about the Archaeology of the San Juan high country.

Field Trip Committee
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Ed Horton, hortoned@gmail.com
Carol Patterson, Urracapro@aol.com
Bill Harris, trlgpa48@gmail.com

For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

All unattributed photos are by the editor.