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### Website

Falls-Society.org

### Facebook Page

Falls of the Ohio Archaeological  
Society

### Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month  
2-4 pm EST

Jeffrey Stoner Cultural  
Resources Laboratory, Clark  
County History Museum

725 Michigan Avenue,  
Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130

# Bits and Pieces

January 2022



Greetings to all!

### Meetings

We enter our third year dealing with COVID. Ugh. In 2021, we did not do much as an organization, all of us no doubt thinking that this pandemic would soon pass. In 2021, we opted for virtual meetings via Zoom. While that worked well, it was not the same as being gathered together in person. Over the summer, there was hope for some normality, and in-person meetings resumed, although the Zoom option remained part of the meeting. Now, with Omicron, some of us have gone back into hiding.

One thing we have learned from this all...aside from the fact that our friends mean a lot to us and it enriches our lives to gather as a group. The virtual aspect of our meetings is not likely to go away, even with the end (???) of the pandemic. With many of our members aging, and some who have moved away, the virtual meeting offers an opportunity to keep in touch and to share the research and experience of those presenters who cannot and prefer not to travel at this time to speak to us. I think this has added all kinds of potential for our membership. And opportunities to grow.

All this being said, for now, those who wish to meet in person during our monthly meetings may do so at the lab as usual. If you are concerned about COVID (I am) please wear your masks and social distance. Or, you may join the meeting through a Zoom call. Be watching for an email communication from Paul with the invitation and link to join the monthly calls.

We have also resumed some work meetings. These are typically on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-???. Bob, Paul, and others, with occasionally Steve Mocas, have

been working on the Stemle collection, primarily from Harrison County, Indiana. From what I hear and see, they are doing a great job.

### *February Meeting*

The meeting this month will consist of a lecture and Power Point presentation from Dr. Carl Kramer. Dr. Kramer will be presenting on the Pigeon Roost Massacre. Although, I am hesitant these days to use that terminology, as it is charged with a one-side perspective. According to Wikipedia (be forewarned):

*Pigeon Roost was established in 1809 by William E. Collings (1758-1828), and consisted mainly of settlers from Kentucky. Collings and his large family held the original land grants in what is now Nelson County, Kentucky, signed by the Governor of Virginia, Patrick Henry. These land grants were deemed illegal. After passage of the Northwest Ordinance, many squatters moved across the Ohio River and occupied Shawnee lands in southern Indiana. Families living in what is today Scott, Clark, Jefferson and Washington Counties still can often trace their ancestry back to these early settlers. The town was named Pigeon Roost because of the great number of passenger pigeons in the area. The settlement consisted of a single line of cabins stretching north and south approximately one mile north of the present town of Underwood. The nearest Indian village was located some 20 miles north near the Muskatatuck River. None of the Indians from this settlement are believed to have taken part in the attack on Pigeon Roost. The closest forts (called "blockhouses") were one to the north in Vienna in present-day Scott County and another built by Zebulon Collings to the south near what is now Henryville in Clark County. On September 3, 1812, a small party of Indians (mostly Shawnee, but possibly including some Delawares and Potawatomis) led by Missilimetaw (or Missilemotaw), made a surprise attack on the village, coordinated with nearly simultaneous attacks on Fort Harrison (near Terre Haute, Indiana) and Siege of Fort Wayne the same month. In all, twenty-four settlers, including fifteen children, were killed, and two children were taken. Only four of the Native American party were killed.*

The presentation by Dr. Kramer should be very interesting and will hopefully generate some meaningful discussion.

### *Council of Allied Societies (CoAS)*

FOAS recently updated their 2022 membership status with CoAS, which is under the umbrella of the Society for American Archaeology. This costs our organization \$35 a year, but we will be provided newsletters, advice, and a forum to discuss initiatives and common interests related to avocationalism, not only across the country, but in Canada as well. CoAS also has a Facebook page, and they have started sharing selected posts from our Facebook page to their page, so we are getting some broad exposure now. Our Facebook following has increased because of this. This year at the national meetings in Chicago at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), CoAS will have a booth and showcase materials from the member societies. We need to update our materials and get those included in this booth presentation.

## **20 YEARS!**

The year 2022 is a big one for FOAS! FOAS was founded in 2002...how did 20 years pass so fast! How shall we celebrate this milestone????? Let's not let this year pass without some special recognition to all our members who have hung in there through good times and bad, and done so much good work to:

- Preserve resources that were slated to be lost
- Preserve and manage private collection
- Educate the public at many, many events
- Support the professionals
- Call recognition to the uniquely wonderful diverse history of the Falls area
- Conduct independent, new, and interesting research
- Recognize and pay tribute to all the unsung individuals who have worked in the Falls area in the past
- Collect and preserve unpublished or out of print documentation on Falls archaeology
- Share a lot of fun and fellowship along the way, making some invaluable lifetime friendships.

Aside from a special celebration in August, shall we develop a special poster? Plan a special event for the public? Approach the local newspapers/magazines to publicize the society? Put your thinking caps on and let's come up with something great!

## **Membership**

We have had some discussion about adding a new category of membership to our society. This would be essentially a digital or virtual membership. Our meetings are generally free and open to the public, and anyone can receive emails, newsletters, participate in events, and follow us on Facebook and our Website. But there are some benefits that are available only to paid members. The most significant of these is the Journal and any special printed or on-line publications such as the upcoming projectile point guide (Yes, it is coming). Now that our meetings are hybrid with a virtual component, there is no reason why we cannot expand our actual membership beyond the Falls area. In addition to attending meetings, these folks would always have the opportunity to drive over and join in for excavations, celebrations, and public events. So, let's brainstorm on what other advantages we can come up with to tempt folks to join remotely, at a reduce membership rate.

## **Potential Fieldwork for 2022**

It's been a while since we had a public event with some excavation. For two years now, due to COVID, we have not dug at the Conrad Pottery site. But we have several potential opportunities that we are exploring. So, stay tuned, and we will see if we can make one or more of these happen. And hopefully, we can attract some younger participants whose knees feel better than many of ours!

## **YouTube**

As mentioned before, FOAS now has a YouTube channel, and Anne is working to get the first presentation on that site. This will be a brief introduction to the Pre-Contact Native American archaeology of the Falls. Anne presented a quick drive-through of the presentation at the last

Zoom meeting in January and got some good feedback, especially on Native American presence near the Falls. Hopefully, this will go “live” soon. Future short videos could include the continuation of our fire-cracked rock experimentation, a presentation on historic archaeology in the area, and one dedicated solely to presenting what is known on the historic-proto historic presence of Native American people at the Falls.

### *Kentucky 5-Year State Plan*

See below from Dr. Orloff Miller of the Kentucky Heritage Council. Perhaps you can take a look and see if it is appropriate for us to respond to the survey for the general public.

#### **The Kentucky Heritage Council seeks input from planners and allied professions for next five-year state historic preservation plan**

The Kentucky Heritage Council/ State Historic Preservation Office (KHC), is targeting professionals in Planning, Civil Administration, Cultural Resource Management, Architectural History, Archaeology, History and allied fields in Kentucky to provide input for the next five-year historic preservation plan. The KHC has developed two distinct surveys, one targeting professionals, and one for the general public. We are asking for public feedback on preservation tools & programs, and endangered resources. From you, we want to develop an overview on the Historic Preservation effort in Kentucky over the past 5 years. Of course, you are welcome to take both surveys!

Our surveys are open for 90 days, after which the data will be analyzed and incorporated into the 2023-2028 Kentucky State Historic Preservation Plan, which must be submitted to and reviewed by the National Park Service next fall.

To access the survey targeting professionals, please click on the link below, or scan the QR code above: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96872YC>

To access the survey of the general public, please click on this second link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DG92V32>

Thank you for your hard work, your expertise, and for your time.

**Orloff Miller**

Orloff Miller, Ph.D.

Certified Local Government & Planning Coordinator

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For more information, visit [www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)

### *Journal*

Journal 10 (I and II) are still in development but getting closer. This journal contains seven (or maybe eight, depending on space) short “reports” of the excavations that FOAS has undertaken over the years, not counting Custer, Meyer, and Loop Island which were large major studies.

Thanks for all the photos that were supplied to us, and if anyone has any personal photos of FOAS projects, please feel to share them with us.

Journal 12 is also underway. It includes several articles from Steve Mocas (we need to have a volume dedicated solely to him, I think), as well as one on our favorite topic of groundhog archaeology. Jeannine Kreinbrink has submitted an article on a Phase II project along Pond Creek in Jefferson County. So it is shaping up. We are still short, however, and encourage anyone---professional, amateur, student--- to submit an article for consideration. If anyone has anything they'd like to share, send it along to Anne!

### *T Shirts*

Leigh Stein has designed new a T shirt for us that incorporates the river at the Falls with our logo. Rather than printing a bunch of these and not selling them all, this shirt will be available by individual order online. You will be able to pick your color and size. I will resend an email link if you wish to purchase a new shirt. I will order several and bring them in for all to see.

### *Falls Book*

The book signing held at the Falls on December 5, 2021 was a good success. Thanks to all who came out. We sold on the site 11 books and have orders for several more. The authors have agreed to donate to the FOAS the proceeds of the signing. So that means \$165 will be donated to FOAS which reflects \$15 per book, the difference in what we sold them for and the discounted price we were able to buy them for. If you did not take advantage of the discounted price and still want a copy, contact Anne.

### *Facebook/Youtube*

A quick note: for those of you who do not follow us on Facebook, there are so many opportunities to watch and learn on facebook these days. There is a growing list of Facebook pages across Kentucky that I think you would all enjoy. I am compiling a list of these and will provide that information to you in the future. Facebook has this great advantage, despite some of the negatives, it keeps us all in touch with each other and we can see the great work that is going on in our state and region in archaeology.

There are many presentations by professionals that are also offered during the weekdays when we do not meet. These are posted in Facebook. I try to share as many of these as I can as I see them. But those who do not follow Facebook my miss out. So think about it...we have nearly 700 people following our page right now and it is growing.

### *In Memoriam*

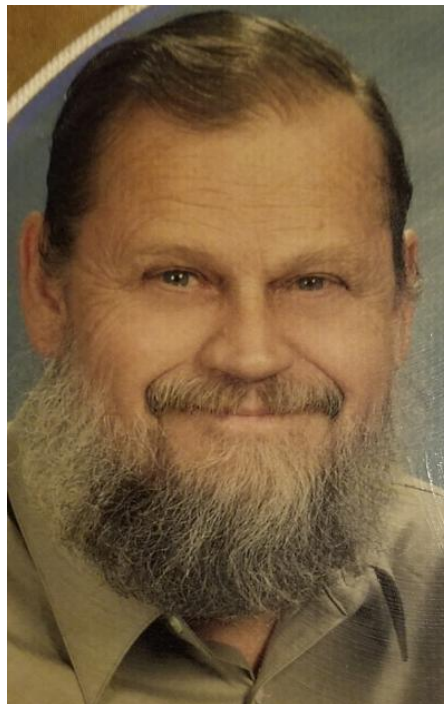
As many of you know, we unexpectedly lost archaeologist Don Ball recently. Don had on several occasions addressed FOAS with his never-ending research. He and his long-time partner Marci attended numerous FOAS events and shared their experiences with us. We keep Marci in our thoughts and prayers, and Don in our memory.

The following tribute was written by Tony Cavender for the *Tennessee Folklore Society*, and I thought I would share it with you all. Well done.

**DONALD B. BALL**  
**August 17, 1947 – December 7, 2021**

**By Anthony Cavender Patterson**

Donald Bruce Ball was a native of Coffee County, Tennessee. He spent his formative years at his maternal grandparents' farm near Manchester where he first developed his love of archaeology and material folk culture. After graduating with a BS in history from Middle Tennessee State University in 1970, he taught American history and English at Flintville High School in Lincoln County for a year before being drafted into the Army. He served in Berlin and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergeant (E-5).



Don obtained a MA degree in anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1977. He specialized in the study of Southeastern US archaeology, but while at UT he was influenced by Norbert F. Riedl, an Austrian cultural anthropologist/folklorist who was also a member of the Tennessee Folklore Society. While working on archaeological excavations in the Normandy Reservoir in Coffee County, Don was recruited by Riedl to direct a survey of folk architecture of the reservoir area. This was a major breakthrough study in terms of what constituted "cultural resources" in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. At the time, the TVA and other federal agencies were solely concerned with prehistoric materials, but Riedl convinced the TVA that historic materials were also worthy of investigation and he succeeded in securing a small grant from the TVA. Unfortunately, Riedl died before the survey was launched. Don was asked to take over as director. He developed the survey methodology, performed the field work over several months with the help of a few dedicated volunteers, and wrote the report of investigation which was later published as a monograph under the title *A Survey of Traditional Architecture and Related Material Folk Culture Patterns in the Normandy Reservoir, Coffee County, Tennessee* (1977). The Department of Anthropology was so favorably impressed with Don's work that it accepted the report as his MA thesis. One reviewer of the monograph in the *American Anthropologist* argued that such studies of material folk culture "fulfill the spirit, if not the letter, of NEPA's mandate."

After leaving UT, Don served as an archaeologist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District, Environmental Analysis Branch, Planning Division for 25 years. During and for many years after his employment with the Corps, he was continuously engaged in research. In addition to the history of archaeology in Tennessee and prehistoric archaeology of the southeastern United States and Cumberland and Ohio valleys, his research interests embraced the history and technology of nineteenth century flour and grist mills, traditional architecture and material folk culture in the Upland South, nineteenth century industrial and rural historic archaeology, identification and analysis of archaeologically recovered firearms and related materials, burial practices in the Upland South, folk veterinary medicine in Tennessee, the history of firearms, spelean history, diverse aspects of the history of Tennessee, and Indian remnant and tri-racial populations of the southeastern US and Ohio Valley. Don served as editor

of two regional journals, *Ohio Valley Historical Archaeology* and *The Millstone: Journal of the Kentucky Old Mill Association*.

Don's scholarly output was prodigious: an astonishing 467 publications—articles, books, book chapters, notes, book reviews--and at the time of his passing he had 35 manuscripts in-press or submitted for review. (He no doubt had several others in preparation.) A couple of his many publications warrant mention here as they relate to the interests of the TFS. His book, *North from the Mountains: A Folk History of the Carmel Melungeon Settlement, Highland County, Ohio* (2001), co-authored with John Kessler, is the only in-depth study of a Melungeon community located outside the established "Melungeon homeland" of eastern Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and eastern Kentucky. Part of his book, *Chieftdom on the Cumberland, The History and Evolution of Middle Tennessee Archaeology* (2015) examines with acerbic humor the folklore about who constructed the ceremonial and burial mounds and stone-box graves in Middle Tennessee.

Don contributed nine articles to the TFSB, beginning with "Social Activities Associated with Two Rural Cemeteries in Coffee County, Tennessee" in 1975. Subsequent articles were about folk toys, wooden grave markers, grave houses, tub mills, folk speech, and vernacular veterinary medicine.

He often described his research perspective as "Boasian," meaning that he believed, like the anthropologist Franz Boas, that it was first necessary to build a solid archaeological, historical, and ethnographic record before moving to the theoretical level. Like Boas, he was particularistic: each artifact, be it an aboriginal maul, a grave house, or tub mill, must first be accurately described and understood within its specific cultural and historical context. Again, like Boas, he disdained lofty macro-theoretical orientations (e.g., structuralism, psychoanalysis, cognitive anthropology), especially the unprovable tenets generated by them. He was not, however, opposed to mid-range theory, as is clearly evident in his work on the prehistory of Middle Tennessee, the history of the Melungeons, and folk architecture.

Don will be remembered fondly by researchers in many academic fields who were fortunate to have the opportunity to work with him. He happily and encouragingly shared his knowledge and source materials with others, many of whom he did not know personally. If, while doing his own research, he came across some information relevant to a colleague's research interest, he passed it along. He was a skillful editor who assisted many with manuscript preparation.

Don cherished his memories of growing up on his grandparents' farm near Manchester. It's fitting that he was interred there in the McFarland family's cemetery. One can imagine his spirit walking the plowed fields after a rain looking for arrowheads and pottery. Rest well, friend.

*Take care out there and be safe!*