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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

June 2022



Greetings to all!

20 YEAR CELEBRATION JULY 16

The year 2022 is a big one for FOAS! FOAS was founded in 2002...how did 20 years pass so fast! Our July meeting will be, as usual, at the shelter at Ashland Park, but our regular meeting day was not available.

PLEASE NOTE: our July meeting/ picnic will be Saturday, July 16 from noon to 4. We will send out multiple reminders between now and then and request pitch-in items. If you have any ideas to make this a memorable celebration, please toss them out there. It might be a good time to get some news coverage and also bring artifacts to share with the public. And share an award or too!

Public Event in Jeffersonville

We have been in touch with the Jeffersonville Public Library and are planning a public event on September 10 from 10 am to 1 pm. This event is for FOAS to showcase just what we do in service of the community. We can start making plans for what we would like to do at this event, but it could include a short presentation, a display of artifacts, and a venue for the public to bring and share artifacts that they own and may be curious about. We will have a medium-sized meeting room to ourselves. At the same time, a family and local history organizations fair will be ongoing on in the large meeting room. Audiences can wander between the two events. The library will offer door prizes to peak people's interest.

Meetings

For those who do not know, we will continue to have hybrid meetings. COVID has taught us that these can

work very well and allow those of our members who are elderly or disabled to tune in and listen to guest speakers. It also provides us the opportunity to listen to professional speakers who live some distance away to present to us without the expense and time of traveling. We have several special Zoom presentations from regional experts scheduled for this Fall. More to come on that as the time draws closer. Those who wish to meet in person during our monthly meetings may do so at the lab as usual. If you are still concerned about COVID (I am as it is in the rise again) wear your masks and social distance. And don't come if you are sick! Or you may join the meeting through a Zoom call. Be watching for email communications from Paul with the meeting invitations and link to join the monthly calls.

Thanks to Bob, we continue to have weekly 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 as well as the Hale collection. From what I hear and see, they are doing a great job.

Clark County Museum Shovel Probing

At our last meeting, when we attempted to further investigate the trash pit at the Clark County Museum, a strong storm came in and we were rained out out!!!! However, before the rain set in, Bob and Christina were able to (finally!) relocate the trash pit that we had partially excavated



six years ago. Several days later, Bob and folks returned to the locations with a tile probe and were able to identify the shape and extent of the concrete foundation discovered previously, which was likely associated with a small shed. The shed foundation had a concrete floor at a depth of 50 centimeters below surface. It measured roughly 6 feet by 3

feet. The foundation was filled with trash and artifacts dating to the mid-twentieth century, and it appears the trash deposit derived from a bootlegging establishment that sold liquor during the time of Prohibition. Now we need to further analyze and document the artifacts and complete our report on this interesting time in Jeffersonville history.



Custer Site Memories

One of our most important and significant contributions to Falls archaeology has been the investigation of the Custer site in Portland. Because of FOAS, and especially Sundeia Murphy, and the kindness of Jack and Sandie Custer, this site is on the map and has gotten recognition in professional publications. It has been a good few years since we last excavated there, and, aside from some presentations at professional conferences and an article by Steve Mocas on the ceramics, we have not yet published a report on this site. However, we have not forgotten it, and plans to prepare a report are in the works. To that end, we want to recognize the efforts of Bett Etenohan and Paul Olliges who have been meeting regularly to record all of the artifacts

in a digital database so that the artifacts can be tabulated, summarized, and tabulated. The following memories of the Custer site work are offered by Bett and Paul.

From Bett:

While FOAS was busy at the Custer site, I was working full time at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center and caring for my husband's parents, so I wasn't able to participate. It sounded so interesting, I planned a Fall's summer camp for kids so I could work there too! For a week we met at the site and they learned to do the work of real archaeologists. On Saturday the parents came too and the kids demonstrated what they had learned. This went on for several summers, so I learned a lot!

About a year after I retired from the Falls of the Ohio I began working at Anne's office, Corn Island Archaeology, a couple of days a week. Some of the work was tedious but I was surrounded by experienced archaeologists, fascinating artifacts and stories about previous and current excavations, so I was hooked! Anne and I presented programs for school groups and public events with an archaeology kit containing replica tools. We also spent a lot of time working on articles for FOAS Journals, the E. Y. Guernsey story being my favorite. Hardly anyone knew anything about him until we did that research.



Meanwhile the artifacts from FOAS digs began piling up at the office, so I began cataloging them. Paul had retired by then and offered to do the database entries, since that was what he had done at his workplace. I was very glad to have him take over that part of the job! We both sorted and cleaned the artifacts and learned so much from the Corn Island archaeologists who helped with identifying them. My calendar entries show that our work together began in 2016, so we have been at it a long time, meeting at the office once or twice a week for three to four hours. We finished four other sites, with smaller inventories before starting Custer. At the latest tally we had processed showed that we have made huge progress, though we still have some bags to go through!

From Paul:

In early 2007, FOAS Member Sundeia Murphy was invited by the site owners, Jack and Sandie Custer, to have FOAS explore their large yard for Historic and Precontact artifacts. Other than a couple small shed-like structures, the yard had nothing ever built on them, so we'd be digging in an undisturbed site. And the yard was a higher elevation than the 1937 flood, so we wouldn't encounter a floodplain. So we started in early 2007 with Sundeia laying out a (5-meter) grid to start doing Shovel Test Probes (STPs).

The house itself is known as the Irwin House and the oldest part was built around 1841 as the Superintendent's house of the Louisville & Portland Canal Company. At some point the house

was greatly expanded and was the headquarters of the K&I Railroad from very early 1900s to about 1972. The K&I Railroad bridge still stands very nearby.

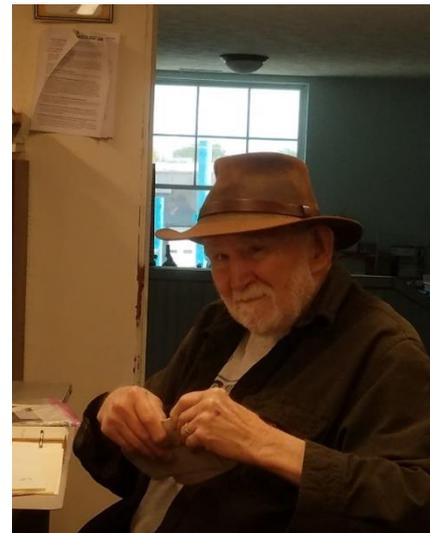
After the STPs, various spots were identified as places to put down a meter-square unit, or even a 2-meter unit. We found Historic artifacts and lots of Precontact artifacts such as pottery sherds and chert debitage. A few points were found, including one particularly large (several inches long and wide) and perfect point. Anne came to suspect that the area must have been a village with a processing location for turning chert into points, etc. Also, GPR was done by AMEC to identify places for future units. The work at the Custer site went on until 2010, usually just on Saturdays and Sundays in the warmer months. We were mostly working people and few were retired yet.

This was by far the largest archaeology exploration I had ever been involved in and I found it all very interesting. I especially remember seeing post molds pointed out to me; the Precontact Native American people's homes. That impressed me greatly!!

Anne and Sundeia submitted samples of charcoal to 2 dating labs and the dates came back to about 500 CE!! We have had hopes for many years since, that after completing the lab and report work on the artifacts from this dig, that we'd be able to do more work in the future, but per Sundeia, that most likely won't be possible. Possibly due to the Custer's health and if they still will own the property.

Stemle Collection Project

In addition to the Custer analysis, Bob and others, assisted by Steve Mocas (thank you!) have been busy working on the Stemle collection. This important collection reflects years of collecting by David Stemle (pictured here), a now retired school teacher, who donated his collection for study. The materials are largely from sites in Harrison County, Indiana but are also from sites in Kentucky, such as Hardin. Of interest to many is a large group (over 50) of chert adzes manufactured from Muldraugh chert. These adzes are believed to be Early Archaic in age, and were being mass produced, possibly for trade, as the site at which they were found is nearby the Knobs containing Muldraugh chert deposits. It is speculated that these adzes, which were wood working tools, may have been used to build canoes. A small study to investigate the use wear on these items is planned to



occur soon by the University of Louisville Center for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage (CACHe) program. Stay tuned. This is fascinating!

The donation of this collection by David Stemle, who took meticulous notes and kept excellent records on provenience, highlights the value of amateur-collected assemblages, and the benefits of cooperative partnerships between professional and collectors.

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, we can expand our actual membership to people who live beyond the Falls area. In addition to attending meetings, these folks would always have the opportunity to drive over and join us 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. Anyone interested in a digital membership, please email us at abader@ciarch.com or President Chris Pfau at peacockpreservation@gmail.com.

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 opportunities that we are exploring for this summer. 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!

FOAS YouTube

As mentioned before, FOAS now has a YouTube channel, and Anne is working to get the first presentation on that site. That should be ready before the end of June. This will be a brief introduction to the Precontact Native American archaeology of the Falls. 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.

Facebook/Youtube

A quick repeat from our last newsletter: 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. We try to share as many of these as we can whenever we see them. But those who do not follow Facebook miss out. So think about it...we have nearly 700 people following our page right now and it is growing. Not following us on Facebook? Just search for Falls of the Ohio Archaeological Society!

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. The link to view the

shirts is <https://www.redbubble.com/i/t-shirt/FOAS-Logo-by-ciarchaeology/78533348.QUQES> . Copy the link into your browser to see these shirts and place an order.

Officers Needed

Finally, we want to recognize our officers who have on more than one occasion stepped up to keep FOAS going. We are still missing a President elect. Chris has already taken on an additional year in the absence of a vice-president. Please consider taking on this opportunity and responsibility. We have talented and creative members. While it can be a challenge, it does not take that much time, and it is always interesting to see where new leadership can take us. Our elections will be at the end of the year...so give this some thought!

In Memoriam

As many of you know, we lost another long-time FOAS member Jane Sarles recently passed. Jane was dedicated to local history and archaeology. She fought for years to have an archaeological park established to preserve the archaeological remains of the town of Old Clarksville, as well as those of the original Native American residents of the area. We only wish that she could see the plans and progress for Origin Park that are now underway for the area. Jane will be missed!



Her obituary from Newcomers funeral Home reads:

A 1950 New Albany High School graduate, Jane held a master's degree in library science from Indiana University-Bloomington and was a librarian at IU-Southeast, two schools in Bedford, Indiana, public libraries in Jeffersonville and Charlestown, and Lanesville K-12 public school. After she retired in 1992, she devoted countless hours to exploring Clarksville's history and sharing it with the public.

She co-founded and led the town's first historical society, curated its first history museum, and organized a reenactment of the start of Lewis and Clark's 1804-06 journey West—achievements prompting the town to declare Dec. 22 "Jane Sarles Day" and to name a street off Eastern Boulevard "Jane Sarles Lane." She was officially named Clarksville town historian in 2014.

For nine years, her weekly column "Looking Back: Local History as Printed in Clark and Floyd County Newspapers Over the Last 100 Years" appeared in The Evening News, featuring such gems as: "Eddie T., the Utica fat boy who floats like a cork, will give a swimming exhibition Saturday evening at the foot of Spring Street at 6 o'clock" and "The Evening News notes that the flag at the courthouse remains at half mast, but so far as is known, nobody is dead."

Jane also wrote four books: "Clarksville, Indiana," 2001; "The Best of Looking Back," 2012; "Clarksville, Indiana: Then and Now," 2014; and "A History Lover's Guide to Kentuckiana," 2015.

She served on commissions for the Ohio River Greenway, Clarksville Historic Preservation, Falls of the Ohio and Buffalo Trace, received the John H. Minta Tourism Award from the Clark-Floyd Convention and Tourism Bureau, and was a finalist for Clark County Woman of the Year.

An accomplished genealogist, she traced her family tree back nine generations. She was an avid classic movie fan, amassing a collection of more than 300 of Hollywood's best films. She loved to travel and visited the Caribbean, Europe, Morocco, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji.

<https://www.newcomerkentuckiana.com/Obituary/213041/Jane-Sarles/Louisville-KY>

Let's Take a Moment

On another sad note, we want to express our deepest condolences to Alan Goldstein on the passing of his wife Debbie. Alan has been a valued partner to us at the Falls of the Ohio Interpretive Center and we have shared many experiences in public education there. We wish Alan the best and hope he finds peace and comfort in the days to come.

Finally, prayers and good thoughts are requested for a special person dear to FOAS!

FOAS Mission

- Preserve resources that were slated to be lost
- Preserve and manage private collections
- 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.

Take care out there and be safe!