TROWEL AND PEN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE KENTUCKY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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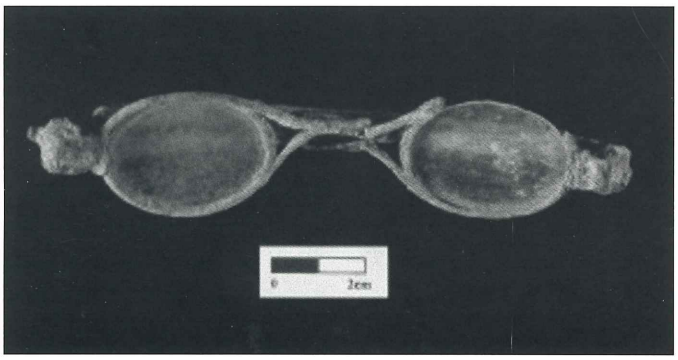
THE OLD FRANKFORT CEMETERY IS REDISCOVERED

In early March 2002, construction workers found bones while removing soil at the site of the new Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office Building in downtown Frankfort. Representatives from the State Medical Examiner's Office, the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Commonwealth's Finance & Administration Cabinet, and the Franklin County Coroner were called in. The bones were human! Looking over the spot where the bones had been found, they agreed that several graves had been disturbed and that other burials were present. Thus was rediscovered the Old Frankfort Cemetery, which had been lost to history for more than 150 years.

Shortly afterwards, Kentucky Archaeological Survey archaeologists began a two-year study of the cemetery. Its purpose? To remove all the graves from the site and to learn more about the people who had been buried there.

Many people pitched in to help KAS with the two month-long fieldwork phase of the project. Among them were archaeologists from the University of Kentucky's William S. Webb Museum of Anthropology and Program for Archaeological Research; Northern Kentucky University; Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Division of Environmental Analysis; AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc.; Gray and Pape, Inc.; and HMB. Graduate students from the University of Kentucky and undergraduate students from the University of Kentucky, Northern Kentucky University, and the University of Louisville also helped, as did other volunteers.



In two people's pockets, we found metal-rimmed eyeglasses. One pair is shown here.

Archaeologists found these 1840s dimes over the eyes of one individual.

By midsummer, KAS archaeologists had washed all of the bones and artifacts collected in the field. Cemetery Project bioarchaeologists then began collecting information about the people. As of this writing, they have analyzed the bones of 200 of the 262 people buried in the cemetery. Information is being recorded on the age and sex of each person. The analysts also are carefully studying the bones for insights into what kinds of diseases these

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people had. They are looking for evidence of broken bones that mended, and of the build-up of bone that might reflect a person's work habits. The information being recorded also will help to identify whether a person was of European, African-American, or Native American descent.

Although our analysis is far from finished, here are some of the facts we do know so far. Somewhat more adult males than adult females were buried in the cemetery. Most of the adults died before they ever reached their fiftieth birthday. A large number of infants and children also were buried there.

Some coffins were fitted with brass handles.

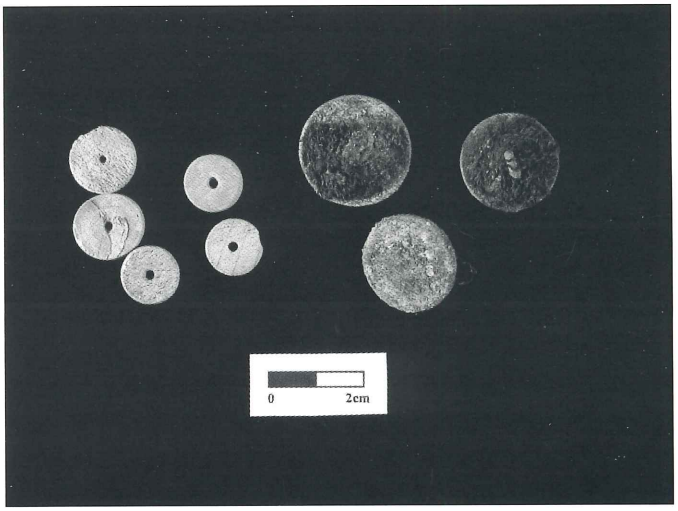
Some of these people suffered from an inherited disease that caused their bones to become fragile. Others endured Vitamin D deficiencies, arthritis, and tuberculosis. Various types of injuries also show up on the bones.

Everyone, regardless of their age and sex, had been buried in a wooden coffin. Dark cloth, held in place with a single line of small brass tacks, lined some peoples' coffins. Sometimes large limestone slabs were placed along the sides of the burial pit after the grave shaft was dug. After the coffin was lowered into the pit, these graves sometimes were capped by limestone slabs also. A few of the graves were brick-lined.

We found only traces of clothing in the graves and no shoes, but we did find many buttons. Several people still wore their copper/brass wedding bands. Glass bead necklaces were found around the neck of a few individuals, presumably women. Silver dimes or copper pennies had been placed on the eyes of several individuals before burial. During fieldwork, local historians told us that Kentucky governors Christopher Greenup, who died in 1818, and George Madison, who died in 1816, had been buried in this cemetery but later removed to another cemetery in Frankfort. Based on our archival research, it appears that these men were originally buried in another early Frankfort cemetery. We have found out, however, that General John Caldwell, a Lieutenant Governor who died in 1804, was buried in this cemetery before his body was moved in 1848 to another Frankfort cemetery.

The Old Frankfort Cemetery appears to have been used from about 1800 to 1860. We know this based on the results of our archival research and on the age of the buildings constructed over or adjacent to the cemetery after it was no longer used. The style of the coffins and the age of certain items buried with these people also support this date range. While it is possible that the Commonwealth buried inmates from the First State Penitentiary in the Old Frankfort Cemetery, at this time we think that it may represent a community cemetery that served lower and middle class families.

Our research on the Old Frankfort Cemetery is continuing and we will have more to report in the future. Stay tuned!



Buttons made of bone (on the left), metal (on the right) and glass were found in some graves.

PROJECT ARCHAEOLOGY

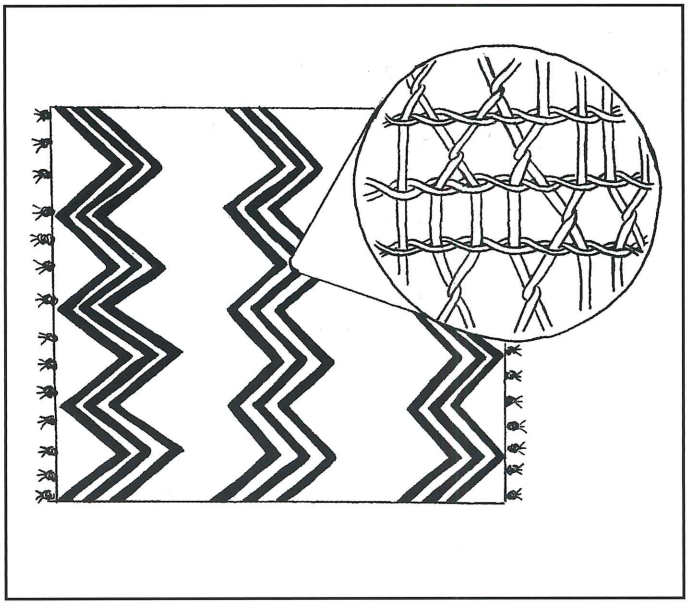
Project Archaeology workshops will be held this summer at Salato Wildlife Education Center June 9-10 and Camp Nelson Heritage Park July 31-August 1. For more information, contact Gwynn Henderson at 859/257-1919 or email her at **aghend2@uky.edu**

DID YOU KNOW...

that Kentucky's prehistoric farming peoples made many different kinds of cloth? They began by making yarn out of natural fibers. They used grasses(plants like rattlesnake master, Indian hemp, nettle, and milkweed); and the inner bark of certain trees. Then they wove the yarn into cloth using a technique called *twining*.

Twining involves twisting one or more weft yarns around one or more warp yarns; a loom is not needed. Think of macramé, and you have some idea of how they made their cloth. Native weavers used yarns of different thicknesses and varied the spacing between the yarns to make very fine, delicate cloth, durable day-to-day cloth, and coarse cloth. When finished, they used the cloth to make skirts, mantles, blankets, bags, and all kinds of items they needed in their daily lives.

Most actual examples of prehistoric Kentucky textiles are preserved only under special conditions. Archaeologists have found preserved fragments in a few of Kentucky's dry rockshelters or in caves. But most of these lovely fabrics are preserved simply as impressions on the outside surfaces of large, thick-rimmed, shallow vessels called "pans". These impressions give us a glimpse into this rich prehistoric artistic tradition.



Sometimes native peoples twined stripes or complex geometric and zig-zag patterns into their fabrics.

Announcing the fifth booklet in the KAS Education Series! Taming Yellow Creek: Alexander Arthur, the Yellow Creek Canal & Middlesborough, Kentucky presents the history of Arthur's attempts to build a modern city in the mountains of Bell County in the late 1800s during America's "Guilded Age". Written by Maria Campbell Brent of Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc., Versailles, KY, this 30-page booklet is illustrated with black and white archival photographs. The cost is $5.00. Other booklets range in price from $3.00 to $5.00. Contact us if you would like to purchase a booklet(s).

Building Blocks of History has been recognized for a third time! Building Blocks is Riverside, the Farnsley-Moreman Landing's award-winning program where school students participate in hands-on archaeology and tour an 1830s farmhouse. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) awarded a Certificate of Commendation to Riverside for its excellence in educational history programming. It was one of only two awards given to Kentucky organizations at the 2002 meeting in Portland, Oregon.

Are you looking for lesson plans that focus on a local Kentucky site? Then the new KAS resource guide, Exploring History in Your Own Backyard: The Ashland Estate. An Historical Archaeology Resource Guide Designed for Elementary and Middle School Teachers (Grades 4-8) by Cecilia Mañosa, KAS Archaeology Education Specialist, is just what you need. In these five lessons, students learn about the importance of the past and the results of research at the Ashland privy. Other lessons ask students to examine their views on site preservation and to evaluate the effectiveness of archaeological preservation posters. These guides are only $5.00, so contact us for a copy if you are interested.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS STUDY ARCHAEOLOGY IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Livingston Central High School students are luckier than most! They can take an archaeology class at their own school, one of the few such courses offered in the Commonwealth.

Teachers Theresa Lang and Meg Tolley developed the curriculum that forms the core of this semester-long class. Neither are strangers to archaeology. They both have extensive experience working with archaeologists and are trained *Project Archaeology* facilitators. They and their students worked for several years at Fort Smith, a Civil War site located behind their school. That project was conducted under the supervision of Murray State University archaeologists.

Livingston Central's archaeology course introduces students to many aspects of archaeology: a history of the discipline, research design, field methods, lab methods, and ethics. With the assistance of KAS archaeologists, the coursework culminates with excavations at the nineteenth-century Dallam-Bush House in Smithland.

Students excavate a unit at the Dallum-Bush house.

Students participate in all aspects of research at the site. They excavate, wash, catalog, and have created an artifact database. This year's students produced a summary research report that spanned the past three seasons of work at the site. Their research has documented intact mid- to late nineteenth century deposits and it promises to shed light on our understanding of the early years of Smithland. KAS is indeed proud to be part of this wonderful program that helps students connect with their local history.

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The Kentucky Archaeological Survey, which is jointly administered by the Kentucky Heritage Council (State Historic Preservation Office) and the University of Kentucky Department of Anthropology, publishes this newsletter annually.

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It is the mission of the Kentucky Archaeological Survey to provide technical assistance to state and federal agencies and non-profit organizations and to work with educators to develop public education programs by establishing good working relationships with other agencies and organizations, conducting archaeological surveys and other research, and providing educators with information on Kentucky archaeology.

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