

NEW MEXICO ARCHEOLOGICAL COUNCIL 2022 FALL CONFERENCE

Underrepresented Groups in New Mexico History

University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Livestream address: *via Facebook Live; web links will be sent out in the week prior to the event to all registered attendees*

Keynote Event: Friday, November 11, 2022

Anthropology Lecture Hall 163

Anthropology Building, UNM Main Campus

Livestream address: <https://fb.me/e/2ljEJZcC2>

7:00–8:30 P.M. *The Significance of Blackdom in New Mexico’s History*, by Dr. Timothy E. Nelson, Ph.D.

Free event, open to the public

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Hibben Center, UNM Main Campus

8:00–9:00 A.M. On-site registration; refreshments (Hibben Atrium)

9:00–9:15 A.M. Welcome and Announcements: Distinguished Archaeologist Award and Lucy C. Schuyler Award —Christina Chavez, NMAC President

9:15–9:20 A.M. Conference Introduction—Meaghan Trowbridge, NMAC Past President

9:20–9:40 A.M. *Plazas, Ranchos, and Poblaciones: Genízaro Settlement in Eighteenth Century New Mexico*, by Emily Brown and Rory Gauthier

9:40–10:00 A.M. *The Archaeology of Chinese Immigrants in New Mexico: An Undiscovered Country*, by Dave Phillips

10:00–10:10 A.M. Questions and Comments

10:10–10:20 A.M. BREAK

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10:20–10:40 A.M. *Unpacking Erasure: Katherine Marsh Sumner and the History of Southwest Archaeology*, by James Snead

10:40–11:00 A.M. *George McJunkin's Historical Sites*, by Brian Kenny

11:00–11:20 A.M. *Conline's Skirmish: The Forgotten Prelude to the Battle of the Hembillo Basin, Apache vs. Buffalo Soldiers 1880*, by Karl Laumbach

11:20–11:30 A.M. Questions and Comments

11:30 A.M.–12:00 P.M. NMAC Business Meeting. All members are welcome to attend.

11:30–1:00 P.M. LUNCH

Lunch on your own

1:00–1:20 P.M. *Farther Along: Clarence Fielder and the Historic Preservation of Phillips Chapel C.M.E. Church*, by Beth O'Leary

1:20–2:05 P.M. The African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico presents,
The Journey of African American Homesteaders in New Mexico: Homesteads, Cultivation and Community, by Rita Powdrell and Maya Allen

2:05–2:15 P.M. Questions and Comments

2:15–2:25 P.M. BREAK

Session: New Research on African American History in New Mexico at the Historic Preservation Division

2:25–2:40 P.M. *Overview of HPD's Historic Context*, by Jeff Pappas

2:40–3:00 P.M. *Importance of Historic Contexts for NRHP Eligibility Determinations*, by Karla McWilliams and Jean Fulton

3:00–3:20 P.M. *Two African American Schools from the Period of Segregation in New Mexico*, by Steven Moffson

3:20–3:40 P.M. Questions and Comments

ABSTRACTS

Friday Night Keynote Presentation:

The Significance of Blackdom in New Mexico's History, by Dr. Timothy E. Nelson

Narratives about “frontier” spaces reflect peoples’ entrepreneurship, opportunism, and grit. However, Black Peoples in the same spaces appear feckless side notes to the historical trajectory of history. For example, Blackdom on Wikipedia and in New Mexico’s K-12 Social Studies books project the violent perpetual racialization of Native and Indigenous Peoples; with, purported insignificance of “Black” people in the popular tri-cultural narrative.

The current narratives about Black people migrating from the South to America’s western frontier at the turn of the Twentieth Century fundamentally fails to capture the dynamism. Exoduster is a pervasive term that characterizes the motivations of Black migration narratives in the post-bellum and post-Reconstruction eras as a fear of White people and their violence. The “exodus” captured the idea that Black people migrated to escape the horrors of racist subjugation and violence indicative of Southern politics and culture.

By extension, stories of All-Black (incorporated) Towns describe a promised land—one ordained by God and predetermined for the “refugees.” Scholarly narratives imply Black inferiority or lack control over their fate. As part of this keynote address, The Afro-Frontier Thesis authorizes alternative narratives that quarantine notions, and the effects of White Supremacy to undergird the historical agency of people under the conditions of American Blackness within Mexico’s Northern Frontier.

<https://blackdomthesis.com/>

Saturday Conference:

Presentation 1: *Plazas, Ranchos, and Poblaciones: Genízaro Settlement in Eighteenth Century New Mexico*, by Emily Brown and Rory Gauthier

Relationships between Pueblo, Spanish, and nomadic tribal groups constantly fluctuated between relative amity and violence in eighteenth and nineteenth century New Mexico. Communities and ethnic groups were factionalized and as alliances shifted, trading and raiding became intertwined. Symbolically and physically, New Mexico’s Genízaro settlements were at the margins of Spanish Colonial occupation of northern New Mexico. Populated by low status individuals who were not of Spanish descent but who lived as Hispanics, these communities were established by land grants as buffers against depredations by nomadic tribal groups. Their layouts exhibit physical evidence of the conflicting pressures the inhabitants faced to conform to Hispanic ideals of community organization and form and the need to protect themselves from violent attacks. The result is a landscape-scale pattern in which communities contained both the dispersed buildings of individual households (ranchos) and defensive plazas. The layouts and architecture of two such communities, La Cañada on the Rio Chiquito and a plaza site on the Abiquiú land grant are discussed as examples of how the communities met their needs for subsistence and defense.

Presentation 2: *The Archaeology of Chinese Immigrants in New Mexico: An Undiscovered Country*, by Dave Phillips

Chinese immigrants have been a small but noteworthy component of New Mexico's cultural mosaic since the mid-1800s. Archaeologically speaking, this component is almost invisible. I provide examples of the limited evidence reported to date. We will be more likely to recover additional archaeological evidence of Chinese immigrants if we are attuned to the possibility of such occupations throughout the state.

Presentation 3: *Unpacking Erasure: Katherine Marsh Sumner and the History of Southwest Archaeology*, by James Snead

Writing "inclusive" histories of archaeology continues to be an elusive goal. The challenge, reflecting biases at multiple levels, is particularly evident in the neglect of women in our historical accounts despite widespread awareness of such absences. It is thus important to identify and tell the stories of women in archaeology, but also to unpack how/why they are erased. The story of Katherine Marsh Sumner is a useful example of such processes. Marsh Sumner was (probably) the first woman to excavate at both Cliff Palace and Pueblo del Arroyo, working at these locations well in advance of any formal scholarly investigation. She was also one of the pioneers of the movement to preserve southwestern antiquities, and the organizer of one of the few artifact collections of the era that persists to the present. That these achievements are almost entirely absent from our accounts makes this a productive case study for "placing" women in the archaeology of the late 19th century Southwest, and for evaluating why they continue to be overlooked.

Presentation 4: *George McJunkin's Historical Sites*, by Brian Kenny

Team McJunkin's first year of research 2021-2022 was presented at the August 2022 Pecos Conference. The work focused on regional and family contexts and identifying historical sites associated with George McJunkin. The thought experiment now underway considers how these sites can best be evaluated and conserved as a resource within the Folsom community.

Presentation 5: *Conline's Skirmish: The Forgotten Prelude to the Battle of the Hembrillo Basin, Apache vs. Buffalo Soldiers 1880*, by Karl Laumbach

On April 5th, 1880, a veteran Lieutenant led an undersized company of 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers across the Tularosa Basin and into the San Andres Mountains in search of Victorio's Apache. After an overnight camp at Malpais Spring in the center of the Tularosa Basin, Lt. Conline had orders from Captain Henry Carroll to separate from the other three companies and forge ahead to find the location of the Apache camp. Arriving at the mouth of Hembrillo Canyon, Conline's company soon found tracks of Apache driving cattle up the canyon. Following the tracks, the company soon came to a place where "the canyon boxed up". Sensing an ambush Conline picked a position and waited. Soon they were involved in a full skirmish with an equal or greater number of Apache.

Until the 1990s and the Hembrillo Battlefield study, Conline's skirmish was virtually unknown. Provided to the author by the late Dr. Charles Kenner, Conline's extensive account provides the only first hand,

contemporary account of Captain Henry Carroll's actions leading to the larger Battle of Hembriillo (April 6th and 7th 1880). In 2002, a team that included archaeologists, representatives of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and volunteers located Conline's Skirmish based on his descriptions. A metal detector survey recovered numerous cartridges as well as other artifacts. Forensic analysis of the cartridges by Dr. Doug Scott allowed the definition of position and movement by both troopers and Apache during the course of the two-hour battle. Conline's account also provided new insights to debunk both the prevailing story told by the 6th Cavalry commander of how the 6th "rescued" the Buffalo Soldiers and how "bad water" from Malpais Spring was responsible for the predicament that Captain Carrol and two companies of the 9th found themselves late the following day. Laumbach's presentation links history and archaeology to provide a detailed account of Conline's Skirmish and its impact on the history of the Hembriillo Battlefield.

Presentation 6: *Farther Along: Clarence Fielder and the Historic Preservation of Phillips Chapel C.M.E. Church*, by Beth O'Leary

Formal historic preservation has, for the most part, neglected minoritized groups which include women, Latino and African American communities. Clarence Fielder, was critical to the evolution of the historic preservation and restoration of the Phillips Chapel in Las Cruces, the oldest extant African American church in New Mexico. Through his influence and knowledge of the historic context, the grass root commitment of funds, experts, students, and volunteers the chapel has become a beacon for successful historic preservation. The restoration of the chapel illuminated a place significant to the history of Las Cruces, New Mexico and the U.S. and provides a narrative of a community's heritage which might have been otherwise lost.

Presentation 7: The African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico presents: *Facing The Rising Sun: The Journey of African American Homesteaders in New Mexico- Vision, Belief, and Sovereign Ownership*, by Rita Powdrell and Maya Allen

This Presentation will cover African American Migration to New Mexico the late 1800's and early 1900's.

This talk will frame the larger narrative of Black homesteading. Emphasis will be placed on why African Americans migrated to the American West, and what were the social and economic motivators for this migration. Who were the African Americans that came West - from Buffalo soldiers, to railroad attendants and miners, to farmers and visionaries. What experiences did they find in the West that prompted hope for sovereignty and self-definition. We emphasize that these experiences were largely shaped via land ownership and the Homestead Acts of 1862, 1909, and 1916. Lastly, we focus on the how. How did land ownership augment the development of independent African American communities throughout the state and the flourishing of entrepreneurial businesses? How was agriculture harnessed for Black placemaking? Despite relevant climatic stressors, one homestead community cultivated on several important crops of the African diaspora and was able to form community through resilience methodologies still seen today. An understanding of these histories and the methodologies employed by Black homesteaders aids society in preparing for the future through an understanding of the past.

Presentation 8: *Overview of HPD's Historic Context*, by Jeff Pappas

In the early 2000s, the Historic Preservation Division was approached by African American school alumni in Vado who sought to have their former school listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Dr.

Pappas will discuss how HPD began its study of African American resources through contacts, methods, and strategies developed to identify, evaluate, and preserve important African American resources in New Mexico.

Presentation 9: *Importance of Historic Contexts for NRHP Eligibility Determinations*, by Karla McWilliams and Jean Fulton

Ms. McWilliams will discuss architectural historian Jean Fulton's recent historic context of the same title and how HPD is encouraging the use of historic contexts to aid in the registration of historic sites. New tools such as the improved HCPI form (coming soon!) will be referenced. Ms. Fulton's context may be found online at: <https://bit.ly/3SKBsdv>

Presentation 10: *Two African American Schools from the Period of Segregation in New Mexico*, by Steven Moffson

In 1925, the New Mexico legislature enabled local school boards to racially segregate schools with African Americans in separate classrooms from white students so long as the facilities for blacks were not inferior to those of whites. The result was a building campaign in school districts along the Texas border that lasted a quarter century until the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas* in 1954. This paper will examine the schools as artifacts that shed light on segregation in New Mexico and how it was different than racial segregation in other parts of the country. This paper will focus on the Paul Laurence Dunbar School in Vado and the Lincoln Jackson School in Clovis, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places.