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SPACEPORT AMERICA, CULTURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MITIGATION, AND THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF THE JORNADA DEL MUERTO

Elizabeth A. Oster

**7:30 PM, Tuesday November 15, 2016
Albuquerque Museum of Art and History
2000 Mountain Road NW**

Since the 1990s, the State of New Mexico has contemplated establishment of a commercial spaceport on the Jornada del Muerto. Beginning in 2007 when the effort to construct the Spaceport America began in earnest, the archaeology and history of the cultural landscape surrounding the Spaceport campus has been intensively studied, in compliance with state and federal laws that require consideration of the effects of development on cultural (and natural) resources on public lands. In addition to archaeological investigations and historical studies, intensive examinations of central Jornada hydrogeology and geomorphology have been conducted, greatly expanding our knowledge of the landscape and our understanding of how prehistoric and historic travelers used it.

The archaeology conducted on behalf of the Spaceport undertaking documents human use of the Jornada del Muerto for a remarkably long time, from the First Americans—Paleoindians at 9,500 BC— through Spanish colonization to Territorial times and the coming of historic ranching and the railroad. The kinds of sites present are very diverse: they include Paleoindian campsites, traces of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, protohistoric Apache ring middens (cooking/heating features), and CCC and railroad section gang camps. Cultural resources on the Jornada are very well-preserved, partly due to the dry desert environment and partly due to the relatively low numbers of people that have used the landscape in historic/contemporary times. The presentation will describe some of the highlights of what has been a remarkable opportunity to explore and document the archaeology and history of one of the richest—and least-comprehensively studied—cultural landscapes in the American Southwest.

Elizabeth Oster has worked for more than 28 years in archaeology, historic preservation and cultural resources management, including 13 years with the National Park Service, almost 7 years with New Mexico's Historic Preservation Division, and several years of work as a cultural resources consultant. Oster has conducted archaeological fieldwork in New Mexico, Arizona, Louisiana, and Mexico (including projects in Northern and Central Mexico, and Yucatán), and was graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans with M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Anthropology. She also holds a B.A. in Anthropology from the University of Oregon, and completed two semesters of coursework at the University of Guadalajara, Mexico. She has written numerous technical reports and professional publications, and has presented professional papers in English and Spanish in the U.S., Mexico, and Spain. Currently, she assists communities, agencies, and non-profit organizations with cultural resources management planning and fieldwork in her role as Principal Investigator for Jemez Mountains Research Center. Since 2008, she has served as the cultural resources specialist for the New Mexico Spaceport Authority.

MINUTES OF THE ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

October 18, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Carol Chamberland. Visitors and new members were welcomed and invited to join us for refreshments after the meeting. Refreshments were provided by Ann Carson and Nancy Woodworth. One new member and several visitors were present.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the Newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

John Guth reported that we have \$3250 in our checking account. All bills have been paid except for the cake and the band for the 50th anniversary party. We are beginning our 2017 membership year. Anyone who joins or renews now will be a 2017 member. Membership forms are available in the lobby and will be accessible on the website for all of us to renew our memberships. We had 186 members in 2016; that is 20 more than in 2015.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Newsletter: Helen Crotty expressed thanks to Lou Schuyler for printing and mailing the newsletter and to Evan Kay, our webmaster, who sends the Newsletter by email. Carol Chamberland thanked Helen for putting the newsletter together. The membership expressed their thanks with a round of applause.

Archiving: Karen Armstrong announced that the crew will continue to work on Matt Schmader's West Mesa material after a week off. They may also have another project and may alternate between the two projects. Karen remarked that as it might take seven years just to do the West Mesa material, and the crew is not likely to run out of work any time soon.

Rock Art: Dick Harris reported that the crew was able to go out all four weeks since the last meeting. They worked on several sites.

Field Trips: Pat Harris reported that 20 people went on the overnight field trip to the Chaco outlier and Largo Canyon on September 24-25th. On October 23rd, we will have field trips to Piedras Marcadas, led by Matt Schmader and to Tijeras Pueblo, led by Marc Thompson in conjunction with the anniversary celebration. The trips will be open to members of the public who sign up on October 22. On November 6, Carol Chamberland will lead a field trip to Tomé Hill. This will conclude the field trips for 2016. Our next field trip season will begin in January.

Nominating Committee: Arlette Miller presented the slate of officers to be voted at the December meeting. President Carol Chamberland, Vice Presidents Gretchen Obenauf and Ethan Ortega, Treasurer John Guth, and Directors at Large Marc Thompson and Evan Kay are all nominated for reelection, and Ginger Foerster is nominated for the office of Secretary vacated by retiring Secretary Joanne Magalis.

Carol Chamberland discussed the need for a new Membership chairperson to replace Diane Courney, who has resigned. Basic computer skills are needed. Carol urged members who have enjoyed the society and its activities to volunteer for this role. Anyone interested should see Carol or Arlette.

Anniversary Party: Carol Chamberland reported that our 50th Anniversary party will occur on October 22 between 1 and 4 pm at the Open Space Visitor Center. There will be a band, a children's archaeological-themed art show, a birthday cake and other food and various information tables for members and the public.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Karen Armstrong reported that Phyllis Davis has moved into assisted living and will probably will no longer be able to come to meetings.

SPEAKER

Gretchen Obenauf introduced Dave Weaver, who spoke about the forensic evidence for the identification of the remains believed to be those of Richard III. Dr. Weaver provided the following synopsis of his presentation.

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Magalis, Secretary

RICHARD III FOUND? THE FORENSIC CASE

By David S. Weaver, PhD

In 1485, in an event that effectively ended the Wars of the Roses, Richard III was killed in the battle at Bosworth Field. He was the last King of England to be killed in battle. His death set the stage for Henry VII, the first of the Tudor line. Richard was buried in an unmarked grave, long presumed to be somewhere on the grounds of Leicester Cathedral. In 2012, during work in a parking lot next to the modern cathedral, avocational archaeologists identified a grave that they suspected contained Richard III's skeleton. In late 2012 specialists announced that their analyses had confirmed the remains were those of Richard.

My presentation began with an introduction to common forensic anthropology techniques and methods and continued through the application of some of those techniques and methods to examine the likelihood that the skeletal remains really are those of Richard III. I showed a sample of the techniques used to infer skeletal age, sex, biological affinity ("race"), life history, physical identifying characteristics, and pre-mortem, peri-mortem, and post-mortem events that can be shown in the skeleton.

I then applied some of the techniques to the problem of the identity of the skeletal remains found at Leicester Cathedral. The remains are those of a male of European ancestry in his late 20s to late 30s. He was about 5 feet, 8 inches tall and of slender build. His skeleton was normal except for a pronounced scoliosis, a spinal curvature that left his right shoulder higher than his left, but that would have shown no 'hunchback'. The scoliosis probably was developmental (usually occurring during adolescence) rather than inherited, and might have been the result of intense physical training or other demands as his skeleton was maturing. His dental and skeletal health were typical for the times in which he lived. He had lost several teeth to dental or periodontal disease but no life-threatening dental or oral conditions existed. Careful excavation revealed that his abdominal area had a much higher concentration of roundworm (*Ascaris lumbricoides*) eggs than the surrounding soil, strongly suggesting the he had carried a heavy roundworm infestation, as would have been typical for many people at the time. He would have had chronic indigestion, abdominal pain, or other symptoms and those conditions might have been treated in the usual ways for the times, which would have included bleeding, dietary therapies, and various medicinal compounds.

At Bosworth Field, Richard III reportedly was surrounded by troops, unhorsed, and struck by several weapons. A halberd cleaved the base of his skull and he was stabbed several times. His body was slung over a horse and he was carried into Leicester, where the body hung on display for a time. It is reported that his head struck a bridge along the way and that people did abuse the body as it hung on display. After a time the body was taken down and buried in a hastily-dug and unmarked grave.

So, are the findings compatible with an identification of the remains as Richard III? The inferred age at death, sex, biological affinity, stature and build, and patterns of injury and treatment all are consistent with the identification. The spinal curvature might have been the origin of the notion that Richard was hunchbacked, although the body in question was not. There is no evidence of a withered arm, as several accounts (written well after his life and death) have asserted. The pattern of peri-mortem injuries is fully consistent with the accounts of his death, and several of the wounds would have been mortal. In particular, the very large slice that removed most of the base of his skull is almost exactly as described in accounts of the time. And some of other the damage to the skull, as well as several post-mortem stab wounds are consistent with the treatment of the body that has been described. No grave goods were found and the grave was too small for the body, both suggesting hasty treatment of the body.

Genetic analyses both support and call into question the identification. The mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited along the maternal line, is completely concordant with Richard's maternal line as reflected in modern descendants. Y-chromosome findings do not show a continuous, uninterrupted male line from Richard to a set of alleged modern descendants, but of course paternity is much less dependable than maternity. In the more than 500 years since Richard died, it seems very likely that breaks could have occurred in the male line.

I believe the preponderance of evidence strongly supports identifying the remains in question as those of Richard III, although a small possibility exists that the identification is wrong. In any event, there now is an impressive vault containing the skeletal remains in Leicester Cathedral, so in a sense the case is closed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2017

At the October meeting, the following slate was presented by the Nominating Committee. President: Carol Chamberland; First Vice President: Gretchen Obenauf; Second Vice President: Ethan Ortega; Secretary: Ginger Foerster; Treasurer: John Guth; Director at Large: Evan Kay; Director at Large and Immediate Past President: Marc Thompson.

Additional nominations from the floor will be entertained at the November meeting.

TZELAQUI/SEVILLETA PUEBLO RESEARCH UPDATE (NOVEMBER 2016)

By Michael Bletzer

Recent fieldwork at the Ancestral/Colonial Piro pueblo of Tzelaqui/Sevilleta (LA774) produced the first clear evidence of the location, size, and layout of the visita mission of San Luis Obispo, established c. 1627/28. The identification of the mission site is part of a long-term project whose main goals are to establish the pueblo's construction and occupation history and to assess the scope of colonial-period settlement changes, hinted at in a number of period documents, in the years between ca. 1600 and 1681.

Sevilleta Pueblo is the only surviving Rio Grande Piro mission pueblo. Of the three other historically known mission pueblos, the sites of Senecú and Alamillo have disappeared. Traces of the fourth mission pueblo, Pilabó/Socorro, were found in 2014/2015 buried in the neighborhood south and east of the church of San Miguel in downtown Socorro. The documentary record for Sevilleta is intriguing for the complexity of occupation it suggests, but fragmentary. There are references to at least four cycles of abandonment and reoccupation during the colonial period alone, up to the fall of 1681. The establishment of the mission also fell during a period of (brief) abandonment, which was ended with the additional settlement at the pueblo of "people from other pueblos." Despite this effort, Sevilleta Pueblo remained a relatively small pueblo and the mission was fully staffed only for a few years. Within ten years, it was relegated to the status of a visita of the Socorro mission, about 30 km to the south. During the first aborted Spanish attempt at reconquest in the aftermath of the Pueblo Revolt, Sevilleta Pueblo was visited by Governor Antonio de Otermín in the fall of 1681. He noted evidence of reoccupation, including a newly-constructed kiva for which the vigas had been taken from the abandoned visita mission. When the Spanish forces retreated late in 1681, Governor Otermín had the pueblo burned down. Sevilleta was never reoccupied.

Archaeological research is gradually adding to and expanding on the complex picture suggested by the historical record. Initial work in 2015 and earlier in 2016 dispelled the long-held belief that the southeasternmost mound at the pueblo represents the remains of the visita mission. Instead, wall-tracing and test excavations have shown this to be a pueblo room block, albeit a very late one. Ceramics (Mayólica, Glaze F, Salinas Red, Tabira Black-on-white, Tewa Polychrome), metal (iron hook, nails), faunal remains (sheep/goat, possibly cow), and architectural features (low-threshold doorway, partial brick construction) place this room block squarely in the mission period. As intriguing as these discoveries were, the result was a bit of a dilemma in that the most obvious candidate for the mission ruin had to be removed from consideration.

As wall-tracing was expanded to other parts of the pueblo, a couple of "new" candidates for the mission emerged in what turned out to be a very large compound of Spanish-looking buildings around three sides of the pueblo's northwestern plaza. This compound completely encloses the plaza, with a set of 12 to 14 rooms on the plaza's west side connected to 10 to 12 rooms on the east side via a long (more than 50 m) wall. Integrated into that wall is a single large structure measuring 13 x 5 m, oriented east-west, with an entrance on its east side almost exactly 1½ Spanish *varas* wide. Although the arrangement is unusual for a mission complex, the size and orientation of the large building seemed consistent with a small church or chapel, which in turn would seem to be most appropriate for a visita mission. Other aspects of the building, however, were unusual: no formal floor, lack of plastered walls, no defined sanctuary end, no attached convento rooms, an unusual posthole pattern in the units excavated, etc. Moreover, wall-tracing revealed a second structure of near-identical dimensions at the north end of the western set of Spanish rooms. That second structure briefly became another candidate for the visita church/chapel, mainly due to its physical attachment to what looked like a series of convento rooms. To date, however, no exterior entrance to this structure, which is

oriented north-south, has been discovered. In addition, limited testing in its interior has revealed a number of floor features suggesting a domestic function for the structure.

The problem of which of these structures in the large Spanish compound may or may not have been a chapel has now become moot, as a third building of similar dimensions was discovered a few weeks ago. This building is located at the southwestern periphery of the pueblo. Its dimensions are similar (12 x 5 m) and like the first such structure discovered, this third one is also oriented east-west and has an east entrance. This entrance, however, is buttressed and plastered. The entrance appears to have been 2 Spanish *varas* wide originally but was then reduced with adobe bricks to 1½ *varas*. Most importantly, the structure has an adobe-rock platform at the end whose dimensions suggest the base of an altar. There are several rooms attached to its north side, and walls of what appears to be a small campo santo in front of building. Walls traced so far suggest the roofed compound was no larger than ca. 12 x 11 m. Based on these and other structural observations, there can be little doubt that this at last is the visita church (or rather chapel) and convento of San Luis Obispo de Sevilleta. Wall-tracing continues and excavation tests are planned for next year. The discovery also means that the function of that other, much larger Spanish compound around the pueblo's northwestern plaza is unknown. Documents from the mid-1600s suggest that Sevilleta was used as a collection and transshipment point of salt, piñón, and buffalo hides from the Salinas Piro pueblos. If that large compound is related to such activities, they may have approached almost industrial dimensions. The only period reference to storage structures among the Rio Grande Piro pueblos is to a *galerón* or *almacén* at Senecú Pueblo. Perhaps the large Sevilleta compound is an architectural equivalent of such an operation. Future research may throw some light on this and other questions, though based on experience so far, more new questions are likely to arise than old ones being resolved.

Another weekend session of additional wall-tracing around the convento complex is planned for the first or second weekend of December (depending on weather). Anyone interested in participating, should contact Michael at michael.bletzer@gmail.com.

POTTERY SOUTHWEST

Pottery Southwest 32(2-3) Fall 2016 issue is now online. Published by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society since 1974, *Pottery Southwest* is available free of charge on its website, which is hosted by the Maxwell Museum of the University of New Mexico (<http://www.unm.edu/~psw>). The Fall 2016 issue offers two feature papers: "Pottery Kilns and Their Relationship to Unit Pueblos in Southeastern Utah" by Owen Severance and "Chupadero Black-On-White Coiled Variety and Its Placement among the Southwestern Ceramics" by Alexander Kurota.

MAXWELL MUSEUM'S ANNUAL NAVAJO RUG AUCTION NOVEMBER 19

The Maxwell Museum's Navajo Rug Auction will be held on Saturday, November 19, at the Prairie Star Restaurant in Bernalillo. Viewing begins at 11 am and the auction at 1 pm. This annual event benefits the Navajo weavers and the Maxwell Museum.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE

Temporary Halt to Fracking near Chaco Canyon Overturned. An effort to temporarily halt drilling across part of one of the nation's largest natural gas fields has been rejected by a federal appeals court, leaving environmentalists to push their case against hydraulic fracturing in district court. A coalition of environmental groups sued the Bureau of Land Management in 2015, accusing the agency of failing to study the effects of fracking on local communities, the area's cultural resources and the environment as it approved dozens of drilling permits in the San Juan Basin over a five-year period.

The groups appealed to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals when a federal judge rejected their request to put drilling on hold while the merits of their case were heard. The appeals panel backed the lower court in a ruling issued October 28, finding that the groups did not present any argument or evidence to warrant a halt to drilling in the region.

The lawsuit challenges the Bureau of Land Management’s approval of some 260 drilling applications, citing violations of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Environmentalists contend that land managers were basing their decisions to grant permits on an outdated resource management plan that took into account traditional drilling techniques rather than today’s horizontal drilling and fracking to reach previously inaccessible pockets of fossil fuels.

The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of amending its management plan for the San Juan Basin in the face of an expected shale oil boom, but the judges noted that the recent uptick in development still falls within the agency’s expectations. Jeremy Nichols with WildEarth Guardians said the ruling was a setback but vowed the groups would continue with their case. <http://bit.ly/2fueM27>. [*Santa Fe New Mexican via Southwest Archaeology Today*, a service of Archaeology Southwest.]

CALENDAR CHECK

Free Lecture

“**The Catholic Church in the Late Colonial Period**” by Rick Hendricks, PhD, New Mexico State Historian on Friday, November 11, 7:30 pm in Hibben Center 105, UNM campus. New Mexico Archeological Council Fall Conference Public Lecture

Conferences

New Mexico Archeological Council Fall Conference 9 am to 4 pm November 12 at Hibben Center Room 106, University of New Mexico campus.

Archaeological Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting May 5–7, 2017, Moriarty Civic Center. Preliminary notice.

ALBUQUERQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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2016 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Officers	Standing Committee Chairs	Committee Chairs (continued)
President Carol Chamberland 341-1027	Membership: Vacant	Field Trips Pat Harris trips@abqarchaeology.org
Vice Presidents: Gretchen Obenauf 821-9412 Ethan Ortega 545-9569	Newsletter: Helen Crotty 281-2136 Mailer: Lou Schuyler 856-7090	Refreshments: Ann Carson 242-1143
Secretary: Joanne Magalis 565-8732	Archiving: Karen Armstrong 294-8218	Publicity: Evan Kay 249-8412
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