

by metal detector-using artifact collectors were encountered on several occasions. Fencing that includes a locked gate prevents direct vehicle access to the site, but artifact hunters still find means of entry by foot or by vehicle via private land. Effective policing or even frequent patrolling of the site is impractical for the one or two Kanopolis Lake rangers on duty, whose base of operations is the Lake Project Office at the opposite end of the lake, some 24 miles away. Data recovery is seen as the best means to preserve important information before it is lost.

Within the general research goal of reconstructing past lifeways, three specific research domains are addressed in the proposed research: (1) site structure or the built environment of Fort Ellsworth, including the types of structures present, their condition, and their distribution over the landscape; (2) subsistence or the foods consumed at the fort; and (3) material culture or the artifacts used by the fort's inhabitants to cope with their physical and social environment.

No plan drawings, sketches, or photographs of Fort Ellsworth are known to have survived; consequently, little is known about the layout of the fort or the structures that were present. However, it is possible to piece together a limited picture of the fort in 1864-1865 based upon contemporary descriptions. Taken together, these accounts suggest that Fort Ellsworth consisted of a loosely organized collection of temporary structures not surrounded by any type of stockade. Dugouts and log huts served as quarters for the soldiers. Other structures include a blockhouse, a commissary, an officers' mess, and a makeshift shelter for the horses. Based on the descriptions, all of these structures were made largely from materials on hand—logs, sod, and brush. Descriptions of permanent frame or stone buildings are conspicuously absent from the accounts, but logs were often used in the construction of the dugouts. Archeological excavations are needed to confirm that the surface features identified in the 1995 testing are the remains of dugouts or other fort structures. Data from excavations may also help define the sizes of these possible structures and identify the materials from which they were made. Surviving structural elements, postmolds, glass, nails, and building hardware would provide data useful in understanding these structures.

At frontier outposts, the mainstays of the common ration were likely to be salt pork, beans, hard bread, and coffee. Soldiers supplemented their diets by hunting, fishing, gathering wild plants, and cultivating vegetable gardens. Officers' families often kept livestock. Soldiers spent their own money to buy extra food from the post trader or sutler, but it is not clear when or even if Fort Ellsworth had a sutler. Little is known regarding the composition of the diet or the quality of the food supplied to the troops at Fort

Ellsworth. Data from Army records and personal accounts are needed to determine what foods were supplied through the military supply system, and archeological data can identify foods actually consumed at the fort. Animal bones, botanical remains, and container fragments should provide evidence for consumption of certain types of foods and beverages.

At frontier military posts the purchase of all military supplies except commissary and ordnance stores was the responsibility of the quartermaster department. Sutlers provided a great variety of non-food goods. Much regarding the material life at Fort Ellsworth remains unknown. Archeological deposits are most likely to be the best source of data regarding those items actually used at the fort and the activities they imply.

Data recovery methods will include historical study, geophysical survey, metal detector survey, and excavations. A preliminary geophysical survey will be carried out by Steven DeVore of the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver. The results of both magnetic and electrical resistivity techniques will be used to guide placement of excavation units in locations where subsurface features or artifact concentrations may be present. A systematic metal detector survey will be conducted in selected areas. Excavations will emphasize collection of data within the suspected dugouts along the riverbank. Units will also be placed on top of the knoll and in other areas suggested by the remote sensing surveys. Remains of other structures, trash dumps, latrines, bake-ovens, or other similar features may be present. Samples of feature fill will be recovered for flotation. Artifacts will be processed in the KATP field laboratory and prepared for analysis.

The KCD will assume overall responsibility for completion of this study. The analyses of the artifact assemblage and faunal and botanical remains will be conducted by KCD archeologists and contracted specialists. A final report will integrate the results of the archeological analyses and the historical study. One or more articles will be published in *The Kansas Anthropologist* or *Plains Anthropologist*, and oral presentations will be made at local and regional conferences.

OVERVIEW OF FORT HARKER

by Marsha K. King

The first forts established in what later became the state of Kansas were created to protect the permanent Indian frontier, keep Euro-Americans from encroaching on Indian lands, and reduce conflict among the various Indian tribes and between whites and Indians. In December 1866 the site

for the new post of Fort Harker was selected, replacing temporary Fort Ellsworth. A time line of events relevant to Forts Ellsworth and Harker is provided on pages 11 and 12.

Fort Harker was located in Sections 25 and 36, approximately one mile northeast of the earlier post. According to an 1870 report, the main buildings were located near the center of the reserve and were arranged on the sides of a rectangular parade ground, measuring 252 by 120 yards. The parade ground enclosed by the buildings was divided by graveled walks and margined by a broad roadway. Trees had been planted and were growing well. The west end of the parade ground was marked by a substantial two-story stone guard house with six small cells on the second floor. Four frame buildings used as stables for the cavalry were situated at the west end of the parade ground behind the guard house. The eastern end of the parade ground was defined by 11 buildings used as quarters for officers. Three were built of red sandstone. The largest of these stone buildings, occupied by the commanding officer, contained eight rooms and a kitchen. Each of the other two stone houses contained four rooms and a kitchen. The remaining six sets of quarters were built of wood. Three of them were two-storied with six rooms; the other three each contained five rooms on one floor. All were heated by wood-burning stoves. There were no bath-rooms in any of the houses, and privies were located behind each.

There were four or five sets of enlisted men's quarters or barracks at the post. Two of the enlisted quarters were of balloon frame construction, and two others were built of logs. Each set was intended to accommodate a single company of soldiers. The company's kitchen and mess-room were located in a separate building behind the barracks. A sink or privy was located approximately 150 feet behind each of the company quarters. These frame privies were constructed over 10-foot-deep, wood-lined pits, measuring 13 by 8 feet and providing space for a double row of seats.

Manure from the stables, slops, garbage, and other items to be disposed of were collected in barrels daily, under the direction of the police sergeant, and hauled a mile from the post and buried. The hospital and three officers' quarters had their own wells, but most water was obtained from two springs, located 300 yards west of the post adjacent to Spring Creek. The water was carried down slope in wooden pipes to water tanks below and conveyed in water-wagons to barrels placed near the barracks and quarters. A large frame ice-house, with a capacity of 400 tons, was built near the springs in 1867, and it was filled with ice cut from the Smoky Hill River.

Eight frame buildings southwest of the guardhouse were built as workshops and later converted to quarters for married soldiers and laundresses. Three large frame storehouses were constructed for quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance stores. The building used for a chapel was formerly the office of the depot quartermaster. The post bakery, located north of the west end of the parade ground, was a large frame building. The sutler's store was north of the bakery. No general laundry or schoolhouse was ever built at Fort Harker.

The post hospital was a substantial building of dressed sandstone south of the east end of the parade ground. It had a central, two-story administration building and two wings containing wards, each furnished with 20 single beds. The frame building identified as the "dead-house" was located within the fenced yard behind the hospital. The cemetery was reported as being about 1/4 mile southeast of the post. By 1870 it contained 183 graves, mostly cholera victims from the 1867 epidemic.

After the fort closed in 1872, the town of Kanopolis grew around the site. Four of the original sandstone buildings survive as private residences and a museum, operated by the Ellsworth County Historical Society. The Fort Harker guardhouse and officer's quarters were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and 1974—a tribute to the historic importance of Fort Harker and the action of the Kanopolis community to preserve these historic structures.

Editor's Note: Marsha King will be presenting a detailed paper on the history of Forts Ellsworth and Harker at the KAA Annual Meeting on April 20, 1996. Also, look for the article about the upcoming KATP field school in the March-April issue of *Kansas Preservation*, newsletter of the Kansas Historic Preservation Office.

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| FORT HARKER TIME LINE | |
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| 1859-1863 | D. H. Page and Joseph Lemon (Lehman) operated a trading ranch and mail station on the northeast side of the Smoky Hill River at the point where the Fort Riley and Fort Larned military road crossed the river. |
| Jan. 29, 1861 | Kansas entered the Union as the 34th state. |
| June 1864 | Lieutenant Allen Ellsworth and Company H, 7th Iowa Cavalry established a new post at the site of the abandoned trading ranch. General Samuel R. Curtis named the post after Lt. Ellsworth. |
| 1865 | The Butterfield Overland Despatch (BOD), a freight and stage line linking Atchison and Denver, was established by David Butterfield. Following the 592 miles long Smoky Hill route, the BOD was 61 miles (nearly 2 days) shorter than the Platte River route previously used by freighters. Fort Ellsworth served as a home station, offering food, lodging, and fresh draft animals. |
| Aug. 1866 | Cheyenne and Arapahoe chiefs, assembled at Fort Ellsworth for a council with Col. Wyncoop, promised to restrain their young men from attacking the railroad and settlers. |
| Nov. 17, 1866 | Gen. Winfield S. Hancock ordered Fort Ellsworth renamed Fort Harker, in honor of Gen. Charles Garrison Harker, who died in 1864 from wounds received during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. |
| Dec. 1866 - Jan. 1867 | Fort Harker was moved to a new site approximately one mile northeast of old Fort Ellsworth. Many men continued to live at the old post, while working at the new fort until buildings were ready. |
| Feb. 26, 1867 | Ellsworth County, named after the fort, was established by the state legislature. During the spring the Ellsworth townsite was surveyed. |
| April 1-3, 1867 | Gen. Hancock stopped briefly at Fort Harker with an expedition force of approximately 2,000 men before meeting with representatives of the Cheyenne and Sioux at Fort Larned. Intended to "overawe" or defeat any hostile Indians, Hancock's expedition only managed to provoke full-scale war during the summer of 1867. |
| July 10, 1867 | The Union Pacific Railroad, Eastern Division (later Kansas Pacific) was completed to Fort Harker, and Quartermaster and Commissary depots were established. During 1867 and 1868, the post was the outfitting depot for the plains. |
| June - July, 1867 | Nine companies of the 10th U.S. Cavalry, comprised of black soldiers under the command of Col. Benjamin Grierson, were posted at Forts Harker, Hays, and Larned to escort stages and wagon trains on the Smoky Hill and Santa Fe Trails and to protect railroad construction crews. This marked the beginning of two decades of continuous frontier defense by the 10th Cavalry. |
| June - Dec. 1867 | ASIATIC CHOLERA! Starting in late June, the disease spread among the troops, quartermaster and civilian employees, and settlers in the area. At Fort Harker, 892 cases were reported with 46 deaths. |
| July 1867 - Sept. 1868 | Native American groups increased their resistance to the construction of the railroad, and hostilities along the route increased. |

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| July 1867 | The 18th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry was mustered into service at Fort Harker under the command of Horace L. Moore. Within days they were patrolling along the Arkansas River. |
| Aug. - Sept. 1868 | Gen. George A. Forsyth's frontier scouts, including 30 men from Fort Harker, were pinned down for 9 days by a much larger force of Sioux and Cheyenne on Beecher's Island. The detachment lost 8 men killed and 20 wounded before being rescued by a regular cavalry detachment from Fort Wallace. |
| Fall & Winter 1868 | Gen. Sheridan, determined to show the Plains Indians the futility of fighting the U.S. military, moved his headquarters to Fort Harker, transferred 7 troops of the 5th U.S. Cavalry to the post, and planned his winter campaign at the post. |
| May 20, 1870 | Gen. George Armstrong Custer was placed in charge of protecting the Kansas frontier during the summer. Commanding Officers at Forts Harker and Hays were ordered to provide him with troops as needed. |
| 1870 | The Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Denver. The usefulness of Fort Harker ended. |
| April 2, 1872 | Fort Harker was abandoned as a military establishment. |
| Winter 1872-1873 | Troops were temporarily stationed at Fort Harker. |
| Summer 1880 | An act was passed opening the Fort Harker Military Reservation to settlement, and it was transferred to the Interior Department for sale. |
| 1885 | Fort Harker's buildings and 4,740 acres were sold to an Ohio syndicate for \$71,200. |
| Spring 1886 | The town of Kanopolis was founded. |

CHAPTER NEWS

Apache Chapter by Virginia Walters

The Apache Chapter of the KAA held its regular monthly meeting on Saturday, February 24, at the home of Lois Graves in Great Bend. Six members were present. The business portion of the meeting was conducted by President Joel Walker. A number of things were discussed, including the coming 175th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail and whether the group will take part in it. Joel gave a most interesting program, "The Wart on the Prairie." This wart is Pawnee Rock. He had researched and arranged information in chronological order from 1820 to the turn of the century. This was very good, and all enjoyed the program. Joel also told us that his junior high school class has prepared computer information about the Santa Fe Trail, Fort Larned, and other historical incidents for the Internet. Joel has a right to be very proud of his class' accomplishments, as this is a "first" for this new type of educational information to be prepared in this area.

Six members were present at the March 16th meeting, held at the home of Bob and Peggy Button in rural Great Bend.

There was not a lot of business conducted at the meeting. President Joel Walker told about the progress he has made on a report that he and Orié Graves, now deceased, worked on. The project, pertaining to the exact location of the signing of the Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty, was one that Orié had been interested in for many years. Joel is now researching and traveling over the area by foot, trying to pinpoint some of the information Orié had given him. This is a very worthwhile project, and Joel is to be commended on his effort. Bob and Peggy Button showed a very interesting video on Canyon de Chelly and the Hubbard Trading Post and served refreshments to the group. Cleat and Virginia Walters will host the April meeting.

Kanza Chapter

from *The Kanza News*, Vol. 12, Nos. 2 and 3

The Kanza Chapter of the KAA had an artifact exhibit at the St. Joseph Civic Arena Sports Show on January 20-21, 1996. Despite blizzard conditions, Mike George and Jim Worth set up the display. Mike's father Otis George, Larry Hinton, and Bill Irons also helped with the show. The official gate count for both days was 11,209. More than 400 KAA membership applications were distributed, and