

































ROBI DOUX 1826 - 1843

PLATT R PURCHASE 1836

5/30/77

ST JOSEPH 1843

140F28

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sinker
Spring Valley Farms
Highland, Kansas

Plowed into Indian grave. Beads, bone, metal buttons, etc. Silver piece ??

2 miles north of Sparks, Kansas. On left.

Burials on hill to west of Larry Sinker place. On property of Ted Sinker.

The Ted Sinker's came to the Pony Express Stables May 30th and mentioned to Jacob Lehmer, on duty there that day, that they had discovered a burial on the Sinker property. On Wednesday, June 1, D. Reynolds and Mike Fisher went to site in A.M.

6/1/77. Burial partly uncovered and all bones between pelvis and skull disassembled. Glass beads (both cut and smooth) and tubular shell beads, metal buttons - both round and flat - Hawk bells - piece of a small conventional type bell, approximately 3 or 4" high. Metal arm bands, circular pin ornament about 1-1/2" in diameter. Cloth preserved by copper salts from other metal in burial.

Black hair (from body or adornment?) Must be early or mid 1800.

The "Piece of silver" turned out to be a circular piece of lead about the size of a nickel and about 3/16" thick.

Some smaller seed beads still strung although strands broken into short pieces because of careless digging.

Don R. asked that digging be stopped and that Dr. Alfred Johnson at Kansas University be called.

The Sinker girls quit digging and Mr. Larry Sinker then called K.U. and was put in touch with Dr. Johnson. I then talked with Dr. Johnson and explained the situation asking if he could come up. He arrived at 3:00 P.M. bringing three grad students with him - Ken Reed PhD, Matthew Root MS, Gary Leaf PhD and Dr. Johnson.

I returned from St. Joseph in the P.M. to follow up on the dig.

Burial was excavated by Dr. Johnson and his people and all bone and associated items were taken back to K.U. for study. Dr. Johnson told the Sinker's that it would probably be August or September before they could get a report back. Ted Sinker, property owner, donated all of the burial to the University.

It is probable that other burials are present in the immediate area. The Sinker girls in using a metal locator about the area found other indications nearby. (One said that they located the first burial with the metal finder) The metal locator was used after bone and beads were plowed to the surface.

The cloth found in the burial is thought by Dr. Johnson to be from military clothing or a uniform since it appears to have copper or brass thread or wire woven into it. This would account for the preservation of the cloth.

(over)

Ward Gilmore, green house near schoolhouse, north of Sinker farms - "stones on top of hill" locally known as "Chief's grave" - Mahaska? (check on this)

This information from Ted Sinker. The Gilmore farm is just northwest of the Sinker farm and can be seen from the Sinker burial site. A large tree on top of the hill to west of the Gilmore house is said to be a short distance to the southeast of the stone that is said to cover the burial.

Ron R

2/7/80

The following brought to the St. Joseph Museum by Larry Sinker to be photographed for museum records. These items were brought to the museum at the request of Don R. and will be photographed within the next two weeks after which they will be picked up here at the museum by Mr. Sinker.

Mr. Sinker has recently purchased a new and improved metal detector and in going over the burial site (see report of 5/30/77 on site at Sinker farm) they recovered these items. At the time of the original burial discovery (see report) the St. Joseph Museum was called. Don R. responded and recommended that since the site was in Kansas and seemed important enough to require professional attention, that the University of Kansas be called. They were and Dr. Alfred Johnson and group came within the day. The remainder of the cultivation exposed burial was relieved and all of the items from it were taken back to the university for study. It was Mr. Sinker's understanding that K.U. would return, possibly in the fall, or if not then, during the next year (1978) More beads, metal, bone etc. have continued to erode out at each cultivation and with each rain. It was Mr. Sinker's belief that much of this material could be lost if not collected for study.

He has not contacted K.U. about his most recent finds. I will send slides to Dr. Johnson.

- 3 Complete gilded brass bracelets. (One cleaned by Fenn Ward)
- 2 Partial " " "
- 1 2½" iron buckle
- 1 Small crucifix - white metal - silver plated?
- 2 Pcs. 1" wide thin metal w/ 1/8" holes in the finished ends. 2¼" and 37/8" (Total 61/8") Bracelet? Thought to be silver Probably plated brass or copper?
- 1 Circular ornament 1¾" in diameter. Has 11/16" hole in the center with three concentric ridges around inner side 5/16" from the hole. Made from metal similar in appearance to the bracelet pieces above.
- 1 Circular ornament same as above but slightly smaller (1 5/8" in diameter with 5/8" hole) Same concentric ridges around the hole. Same kind of metal. This ornament has a center pin 1/16" wide, loop on one end, attached through edge of hole on the convex side, long enough to reach across hole and ridges on opposite side. Traces of fabric on this attachment pin. Military uniform decoration? Bangle?
- 1 Circular ornament similar to the two described above but smaller still. 7/8" diameter with center hole 11/32". No concentric grooves but appears to have also been slightly concaved. Has a similar attachment pin to one previously described.
- 4 15/16" flat circular brass buttons. Gilded. One has been cleaned by owner. 1/16" thick. Uneven vein like decoration lines on face side. Brass eye of round wire soldered to back center. Double ring around eye. Double branches with leaves and "Rich gold colour" imprinted in circle at about center of the radius.
- 1 Hawk bell. Brass with flat wire eye. 3/4" in diameter. Double 3/32" holes 3/8" apart with slit between. 5/8" from eye to bottom.
- 3 Hawk bells (Two with flat wire eye and one with eye missing) All damaged. Two partial.
- 1 Globular button. 11/16" in diameter. ½" from eye to top. Two piece brass. Gilded. Soldered eye without foot. On back or eye side: " _ F _ T" (?) and around the bottom, "FAST"

copper. The thread has been remarkably well preserved by the salts from the decomposing metal.

Beads

- 42 Blue, translucent, faceted, rough ends. Average size $3/16$ " in diameter and $3/16$ " long. Two of these are still strung on round brass wire and attached to each other. The wire is looped on either side of the bead. Not twisted but with the end of the wire circled back and its end just touching itself on either end of bead.
- 28 White, translucent, faceted, rough ends. Of slightly larger average size than the blue beads above. Probably were strung with them.
- 22 Tubular, white to grey shell, app. $1/8$ " diameter, ranging in length from $1/4$ " to 1".
- 62 Purple, slightly translucent, faceted, worn, corroded with iridescent coating. Average size $1/8$ " in diameter. (Smallest $3/32$ ", largest $1/4$ ")
- 1 White round bead. Translucent.
- 1 Pink round bead. Translucent. $1/4$ " in diameter. Broken in half.

February 29, 1980

Dr. Alfred Johnson
Department of Anthropology
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Ks. 66045

Dear Dr. Johnson:

You will recall the burial exposed by cultivation on the Spring Valley Farm near Highland, Ks. and your visit there with a crew in June of 1977.

On a recent visit to the St. Joseph Museum, Larry Sinker mentioned that he has in the last two years, after cultivation and further erosion, found more beads, etc. at the site. He later brought the items over for us to photograph and we made extra slides (enclosed) for your own record of the burial site. Can't seem to identify the three circular items on the lower left? Buttons? Military decorations? What? Would welcome a comment.

Best regards from all here and a hello to Messrs. Reed, Root and Leaf if they are thereabouts.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js
Enc.

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LAWRENCE, KANSAS

66045

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Area Code 913, 864-4103

June 24, 1977

Mr. Ted Sinker
Spring Valley Farms
Highland, Kansas 66035

Dear Mr. Sinker:

I want to thank you and your family for the many courtesies during our recent visit to your farm. We appreciate the opportunity to investigate the skeletal material and artifacts which had been discovered. Our analyses so far are only preliminary but I can provide you with some information on the discoveries. These comments are subject to change as we do further studies of the materials.

First of all, Professor David Frayer of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Kansas examined the skeletal material and he reports that it is probable that two females and one male are represented in the collection of bones. Second, preliminary studies of the artifacts suggest that the burials probably date to the middle part of the 19th Century. Third, it is probable that the burial area is that of the Sac Indians.

We are still very interested in returning to the site to do more work during the fall. Professor Donald Stull from the Department of Anthropology at K.U. is well acquainted with Indians living in Northeast Kansas and prior to the time of our trip in the fall he will determine the reaction of the Indians to additional excavations at the burial site.

Once again, many thanks for your interest and help. As more information is gained from our studies of the material, we will send this on to you.

Sincerely yours,


Alfred E. Johnson
Professor

AEJ/bjb