



# Archeology Program

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

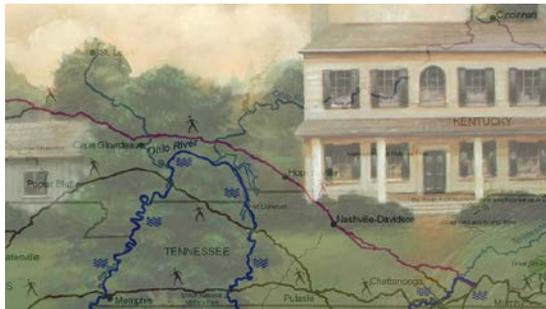


## January 2018 Archeology E-Gram

### NPS NEWS

#### **National Park Service Teaching with Historic Places Offers New Lesson**

The latest teaching resource from the NPS Teaching with Historic Places series is *Discover the Trail of Tears: A Lightning Lesson from Teaching with Historic Places*.



This middle/high school lesson plan about American Indian history offers materials to investigate 19th century Cherokee resistance and assimilation to European-American society. It digs into the effects of the Indian Removal Act of 1830; identifies Cherokee people who supported and opposed relocation; and the routes Cherokee traveled during the 'Trail of Tears.' Skill-building activities provide tools to explore American Indian societies and cultures through the 1800s and 1900s to the present day.

*Discover the Trail of Tears* is the 6th social studies Lightning Lesson developed by the NPS Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation & Education to provide 21st century tools that harness the power of place. It is the 170th lesson from *TwHP*, an award-winning education resource that grounds classroom subjects in NPS units and properties on the National Register of Historic Places to teach critical analysis and empathetic reasoning.

Many thanks go to archeology student and education consultant Sarah Curtis, the Chieftains Museum/Major Ridge Home staff, NPS colleagues, and history education volunteers for their invaluable contributions.

To read the lesson, go to [https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/lightning-lesson-006\\_trail-of-tears-major-ridge.htm](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/teachingwithhistoricplaces/lightning-lesson-006_trail-of-tears-major-ridge.htm)

By Katie Orr

### FEDERAL NEWS

#### **Housing and Urban Development Moves Tribal Directory Assessment Tool**

HUD's Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT) has moved to a new URL. TDAT was developed by the Office of Environment and Energy to help identify tribes that may have an interest in the location of a HUD-assisted project, and provide tribal contact information to assist with initiating Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.).

Two key aspects of TDAT are its ability to link tribes' geographic areas of current and ancestral interest to the county level, and perform queries related to tribes. State reports link tribes to counties of interest in the particular state. Tribes may reside in or outside of that state.

To use TDAT, go to <https://egis.hud.gov/tdat/>



**The Federal Archeologist's Bookshelf**  
**From Landscapes of Meaning to Landscapes of Significance in the**  
**American Southwest** by Matthew J. Liebmann. *American Antiquity*, Vol. 82  
(4) 642-661.

Archeology, as every archeologist knows, is a destructive science. Like anatomical dissection, it destroys what it seeks to explain. Each excavation has unique aspects, such that large samples across sites or across settlement systems are necessary to ensure comparability of data. Archeological analysis, too, is often destructive; each carbon 14 date requires a new sample. DNA samples, petroscopy, and other forms of analysis often require destruction of samples. For these reasons, it is especially important that archeologists collect, record, and report data and analytical findings in a transparent manner to make data available to colleagues across time and space. A scientific framework provides continuity through mutually comprehensible meanings and definitions assigned to raw data.

At the same time, the conceptual framework and theoretical underpinnings of archeology in America has undergone tremendous change in the past 80 years, reflecting dynamics in the culture in which archeology is embedded. At present, the discipline has expanded to embrace a diverse number of research topics and perspectives, including Marxist archeology, feminist archeology, post-processual archeology, the archeology of slavery, and indigenous archeology. No doubt the future will bring other theoretical frameworks and research foci. All, however, rely on a common scientific framework for using, presenting, and communicating about data.

Almost 20 years ago, Joe Watkins, NPS Chief of Tribal Relations and American Cultures, identified two Native American concerns - control over Native American human remains and funerary objects, and control over construction of cultural history – and suggested that indigenous archeology incorporates these concerns into research programs. Recent research in Valles Caldera National Preserve addresses Native American concerns with a scientific methodology in a study that supports indigenous culture history while contributing to archeological science, reported in **From Landscapes of Meaning to Landscapes of Significance in the American Southwest** by Matthew J. Liebmann.

In anticipation of NPS management of land culturally significant to the Jemez Pueblo, the Jemez Cultural Resource Advisory Committee approached the author to collaborate on an archeological research project. Tribal officials wanted to investigate ancestral interactions with the landscape - their cultural history - to aid the NPS in appropriately managing the new park unit. This was indeed a challenge as the caldera is too high in elevation to sustain agriculture and ancestral Jemez villages were situated on the exterior slopes. Material evidence of cultural connections might be difficult to demonstrate.

The Jemez, however, have a rich oral history anchored in the Valles Caldera landscape. Not only are landscape features important in origin myths, but the caldera was a rich hunting land and headwaters of streams that sustained villages and crops. Redondo Peak, on the caldera floor, was an important cultural site and source of obsidian used for prayers and religious ceremonies. Other plants and animals collected from the caldera were considered sacred and medicinal.

Taking this oral history as a starting point, the research design focused on the Cerro del Medio obsidian from Redondo Peak as a proxy for visits and utilization of the Caldera – an indexical property of landscape meaning. Quantifying the proportion of the Cerro del Medio obsidian, identified through XRF analysis, in assemblages from 31 dated ancestral habitation sites outside the caldera, Liebmann

demonstrated that this particular obsidian was favored over closer sources. Fluctuations in proportions of the Cerro del Medio obsidian at individual sites were correlated with time periods in which it was too dangerous to travel through the caldera, or when travel was forbidden by Spanish authorities.

The contemporary traditions were a starting point, rather than an ending point, in demonstrating the significance of the caldera landscape to Jemez Pueblo in the past. Key elements of the traditional culture, such as the association of the obsidian with rain and Redondo Peak, contributed to a research design that allowed the researcher to reject certain classes of explanation and to increase the power of the conclusions. While not explicitly discussed, consideration and rejection of economic models of obsidian distribution also contribute to the veracity of the conclusions.

This elegant study demonstrates that it is possible to practice responsible indigenous archeology focusing on topics relevant to and identified by descendant communities as well as good science. Sampling and methodology are transparent and defensible, and the data are accessible and comprehensible to researchers with different interests. While the Jemez Pueblo Cultural Resource Advisory Committee could assert to the NPS managers that Valles Caldera was an important cultural resource, archeological research supported these claims and demonstrated that Jemez ties to the landscape extended into the past as well, providing a more nuanced understanding of the ways that outside historical forces impinged on this relationship. Anyone interested in indigenous archeology will find this article of interest.

*By Karen Mudar*

## **GRANTS AND TRAINING**

### **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Offers Internships**

Recruitment of ACHP interns for Summer 2018 is underway! Last summer's four interns made valuable contributions to ACHP work. Internships at the ACHP are flexible and can be for the summer (8-12 weeks) or an alternative period of time, such as a quarter or a semester during the school year. Specific assignments will be developed based on the skills and interests of selected interns. Interns are volunteers, though a small stipend to help offset expenses will be provided. Projects can be tailored so that academic credit can be awarded. ACHP professional staff members supervise all interns.

A joint Smithsonian Institution-ACHP Cultural Heritage fellowship position was supported by the ACHP Foundation for the first time last fall. Michelle McVicker was the first fellow and studied Latino heritage and intangible history. The fellowship will continue to involve a research project focused on the intersection of historic places and museum collections in heritage education and interpretation.

A new Native American Scholar fellowship was funded by a generous gift to the ACHP Foundation. Analisa Tripp, a member of the Karuk Tribe and part of their Cultural Resources staff will work at the ACHP until March.

**Contact:** Judy Rodenstein ([jrodenstein@achp.gov](mailto:jrodenstein@achp.gov)) For more information, go to <http://www.achp.gov/Internships2018.pdf>

## **SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: India Loses Important Monuments.**

*By Vidhi Doshi, Washington Post*

The ancient temple of Kutumbari stood for centuries in Dwarahat in north India. Then one day in the 1960s, officials realized it had vanished from records — and later discovered it had disappeared altogether. Kutumbari is one of 24 monuments on a list of now “untraceable” protected monuments in India. Some have gone missing because of inadequate or antiquated record-keeping; others have physically disappeared, destroyed by natural disasters or by humans.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the government agency responsible for the conservation of heritage buildings and artifacts, instructed its local affiliates to redouble efforts to find the missing antiquities, which include Medieval tombs, inscribed tablets and temples. Some of the items on the list have been lost for decades.



The search revived concerns from historians and archaeologists about whether India’s centuries-old historical treasures are being protected as the country chases development targets. As India’s fortunes rise, a poorly staffed bureaucracy has overseen decades of growth. Successive leaders have stressed the need for new roads, housing and infrastructure to keep pace with the growing population’s needs. But with the emphasis on rapid development, hundreds of India’s ancient monuments, and with them millennia of history, could be lost, damaged or degraded.

“We have lost sight of the value of these things,” said Swapna Liddle, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, Delhi Chapter. With local authorities and private companies racing to develop land, protected areas surrounding monuments are increasingly valuable. Monuments can get in the way of plans to construct new metro lines, roads and housing developments. On January 2, 2018, India’s lower house of Parliament passed legislation that would weaken restrictions on construction in the area surrounding historical monuments. Lawmakers opposing the bill said it put at risk the conservation and aesthetics of centuries-old monuments.

The list of untraceable monuments points to a wider problem in heritage conservation in India: Monuments that aren’t major tourist attractions are more likely to fall into disrepair. Decades of neglect have already led to the loss of dozens of archaeological treasures. According to ASI Director Devkinandan Dimri, a number of protected monuments have been submerged underwater over the years, while others have been lost to rapid urbanization.

*Archeology E-Gram*, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page [www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm](http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm) on the NPS Archeology Program website.

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