

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2015

DIXIE ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

P.O. Box 611

Washington, Utah 84780



John Mangels - President & Newsletter Editor	Boma Johnson - Archaeologist, Advisor
Karen Monsen - Secretary	Mel & Marie Langness
Mary Lou and Howard Christy - Treasurer	

July Meeting

When: July 8, 2015
Where: DSU, Udvar-Hazy Bldg., Room 121 – NEW ROOM
Why: Movie Night

Dues are Due

The 2015 DAS dues are due. They are \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a couple. These amounts are unchanged from 2014.

Please fill out the membership form
<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Membership%20Information/1.%20Release%20of%20liabilityForm-DSA%20%202015.pdf> and either bring it along with your payment to the January meeting or mail it to

Dixie Archaeology Society
PO Box 611
Washington, Utah 84780

Web Site

The Dixie Archaeology Society web site (www.dixierockart.webs.com) is up and running. Please consider signing up as a site member. Site members should receive email updates whenever anything on the site is updated.

Please post your comments on the blog that is part of the site. Please add your archaeology related photos to the photo blog. This site is for you, the members. We'd like to hear what you think.

Field Trip Report

The suggested field trips for June were to Anasazi Ridge and to Parowan Gap to view the solstice events.

Field Trip Info

There will be no field trips for July or August due to the hot temperatures. Field trips will resume in September.

Remember, you must be a member of DAS to participate in a field trip. You must be at the meeting in order to sign up for a field trip.

Meeting Report

Nal Morris gave the June Lecture on "Archaeoastronomy at Rochester Creek and Parowan Gap".

He talked in detail about how he and his team discovered the solstice / equinox / cross quarter glyphs at Rochester Creek and at Comb Ridge.



Nal Morris

He also talked about the zipper glyph and other significant glyphs at Parowan gap.

Go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Archaeoastronomy%20at%20Rochester%20Creek%20and%20Parowan%20Gap.pdf> to see a summary of Nal's talk.

Also go to

<http://dixierockart.webs.com/Technical%20Presentations/Earth%20Sky%20Union%20a%20View%20thru%20Parowan%20Gap%20MayJune%202015%20issue.pdf> for a story about Parowan Gap.

Thanks

Thanks go to Nal Morris for presenting the June lecture.

Thanks also to Feather Robinson and Chris Oravac for volunteering to join the DAS board.

The Westford Knight


We just returned from vacation in the Boston area. During a morning "random" drive, we found ourselves in Westford Mass where we stumbled upon a roadside ceremony.

A local archaeology group was dedicating a monument next to a petroglyph of the "Westford Knight". This was a big deal because Scott Wolter of the History Channel was filming the proceedings for an upcoming show. Also present were representatives for the Sinclair and Gunn clans along with local dignitaries.

The theory goes that a Scottish prince, Henry Sinclair, led a voyage from Scotland to the Nova Scotia and then to Massachusetts in 1398. It is believed that one of his men

(John Gunn) died at the site in Westford, and Prince Henry's people carved a petroglyph into the granite rock to commemorate his death.
Fact or fiction – you be the judge. But it was a fun event to see.





Over the years thousands of people have come to Westford to view “the Westford Knight” carving. As early as the 1870s historians wondered about the mysterious markings on this rock ledge, theorizing the carving was the work of a long-forgotten Native American artist—even then the carving was considered an aged historical oddity. Is the carving some kind of rock art created by Native Americans? Colonial-era graffiti? Something older?

A medieval battle sword (pommel, grip, cross-guard and blade) is clearly visible on the rock ledge; many visitors also see the outlines of a medieval knight with shield in full battle regalia and believe the carving evidences the visit of Scottish explorer Prince Henry Sinclair, who legend says followed in the footsteps of the Vikings and crossed the Atlantic in 1398, eventually working his way south to New England. This site sits next to what used to be a well traveled trail used by Native Americans. Older photographs of the carving (available at the J.V. Fletcher Library) seem to confirm these details. This legend has gained support in recent years—the Westford Knight carving has been featured on T.V. documentaries airing on History, Discovery and Travel Channels, and a feature film based on the carving and filmed in Westford was released in 2013.

A strong argument can be made that the carving is neither Native American nor Colonial. Why would either group choose a medieval battle sword as the subject of the carving? If Native American, where did the artist acquire the metal tool needed to penetrate the rock ledge? If Colonial, why was there no memory of its origin in the 1870s? An interesting clue can be found by examining the “peace pipe” (a few inches above and to the right of the sword’s pommel), believed to be carved by a local boy just after the Civil War—note the “scratching” technique of the carving and how it differs from the “punching” technique evident in the remainder of the carving. Common sense indicates the pipe was probably placed near the mouth of whatever face originally adorned the carving.

In 1999, retired Massachusetts State Geologist Joseph A. Sinnott concluded that a sword and other images had been carved onto the ledge to mark some “historical event” that had taken place at the site. Forensic geologist Scott Wolter, host of the History Channel series “America Unearthed,” wrote in 2009 that the sword was “clearly man-made and exhibited extensive weathering” indicating the carving “could very well be many hundreds of years old.” Wolter also believes the small “Hooked X” mark a few inches from the left of the sword’s blade ties this carving to other North American medieval carvings that may have been left by the Knights Templar. As science advances, we may be able to test the carving and theories and put an exact date to it. Until then, the site should be preserved and protected.

TEMPLARS
91 rubbing of Knight
Norman Biggs
1950

The
KNIGHTS
Scott Wolter filming for History Channel 2014

David Christiana sculpting Knight

These Stones

BOSTON GLOBE BESTSELLING AUTHOR
DAVID S



The Petroglyph of the knight under a protective glass case. The reflection prevented getting a good image of the glyph but you can see markings that resemble a sword. The rest was too difficult to see considering the lighting and the crowd of people.



A chalked photo of the glyph from the Internet.



A bronze statue of the Westford Knight based on the image in the glyph.



Scott Wolter

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westford_Knight

<http://www.clanguinn.us/knight.htm>

<http://westfordknight.blogspot.com>

<http://www.orkneyjar.com/history/historicalfigures/henrysinclair/westknight.htm>

Final Thought

It's summer HOT. Be VERY careful out there and remember - "Leave No Trace".

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John Mangels