

March 20, 2024

6:00-7:45 PM

Meeting of COMO Preservation

www.comopreservation.org

Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

I. Call to order by Dianna O'Brien

The sign-in sheet was passed around and the following were present: Bruce Alspaugh, Melissa Bernhardt, Brianna Bland, Debby Cook, Chris Creasy, Mary Kaye Doyle, Matt Fetterly, Dennis Fitzgerald, Cindy McCord, Dianna O'Brien, Nina Sappington, Thomas Southall, Elena Vega, Deanna Wasman, Mercy Austin, Susan Robinson, Brent Sappington, Michelle W., Joe Kouba, Melissa Kouba, Jay Creasy and K. Green.

Event Reminders:

-Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23 at 6:00. Our meeting speaker will be Verna LaBoy portraying Annie Fisher, African-American caterer and entrepreneur famous for beaten biscuits. June 25 - Barbara Horrell will be speaking on the new sites on Columbia's African-American Heritage Trail.

-Future dates: Tuesdays, May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22 & Nov. 19.

-May 28 will be our 2nd Anniversary Celebration at Café Berlin. Ticketed event-Watch for announcement on Facebook, our Website Events page and email.

-Walking Tour- Movie Theaters Through Time- presented by Dianna O'Brien- April 27, May 18, June 8, 10-Noon. Free but registration is required: <https://www.comopreservation.org/events>

-Walking Workshop: How to Build a Walking Tour, 10-Noon on May 14. Free but register.

-Brick Streets Tour- presented by Patrick Earney, 10-Noon, June 22. Free but register.

Volunteer Opportunities – email us, if interested. comopreservation@gmail.com

-May Party Helpers (set up/breakdown, run raffle, pub quiz graders, get prizes)

-Tour Ambassadors (check-in tour participants and assist tour guide)

-Got a story or image of a historic property? Please let us know.

Education Team meeting: 5:45-6:45 PM on April 9 at The Grind on Rangeline.

Restoration Team meeting: 5:15-6:30 PM on March 26 at Acola Coffee.

Announcements:

-Become a member for only \$20/year!

-Elena and Bruce recorded a video of our February meeting!

***In order to ensure the safety of all library visitors, Daniel Boone Regional Library requires that children under the age of twelve (12) be accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult age sixteen (16) or older while on library property. The library is not responsible for caring for children who are left unattended in the library or who come to the library without an adult or other responsible person. Coloring pages are available for children.*

II. Speaker- Greg Olson. Preserving the Indigenous Past.

One thing we need to remember – We occupied their land. Indigenous people have been in America for more than 12,000 years. They say, “we came from this place.”

Indigenous people lived in what is now Missouri between 12,000 and 15,000 years ago. Around 4,000 years ago the Woodland people started burial mounds. Cahokia was once one of the largest cities in the world with more than 20,000 inhabitants.

3,500 years ago - plant domestication.

3,000 years ago - began to make pottery.

Professional archaeologist Gerald Fowke identified the Cahokia Mounds 100-150 years ago. The mounds had been plundered by grave robbers and souvenir hunters. 1880's -1890's the Smithsonian discounted the theory that they were built by lost peoples. They said the mounds were too big to have been made by man. But the Indian burial mounds were proved to have been made over many years. The burial chambers were on the top levels of the mounds, with the bodies encased in stone. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is now a World Heritage Site.

Mounds are found throughout the Midwest. In Columbia, the Breckinridge area overlooking Perche Creek has burial mounds surrounded by houses. Some were found in the Chapel Hill area in the 1980's. Often the mounds were not identified as spiritual centers, but just hills to be leveled. I-64 is built over burial mounds. St. Louis had over 20 mounds identified. The caves around St. Louis were considered portals for the spirits. Still Big Mound is under portions of I-70. There is a ceremonial mound on a bluff south of St. Louis. In 2009 the Osages bought the property. There is a Picture Cave in Warren County, Missouri that was sold to a private buyer. They outbid the Osages by paying \$2.2 million. This site contains the important drawings made around the time of Cahokia by the Oneota people. It contains a picture of an underwater panther. We don't know what will become of Picture Cave.

1673 Marquette and Joliet were the first Europeans to make contact with Indigenous people. Many different tribes lived in the Midwest. The Osage lived in a huge area including SW Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. The Little Osage and Great Osage are different clans of the same group. The Missouri tribe controlled the Missouri River and were so powerful they could stop travel on the Missouri River. The Osages may have been the founders of what is now St. Louis, because they used it as a trade center.

1803 the Louisiana Purchase. The U.S. purchased land the Indigenous people had been living on for thousands of years. As white people traveled west, the Indigenous people were pushed further from their homes and hunting grounds. The Doctrine of Discovery was Catholic doctrine

from the Middle Ages. It stated that Christians have the right to take land away from people not known to God's will. This Doctrine became part of British Law and later U. S. Law. In the 1820's the John Marshall Court supported the right to take land away from the tribes. The 1830 Indian Removal Act forced tribes from their homes to "Indian Territory." (The Trail of Tears and Potawatomi Trail of Death were terrible examples of forced removal of Native Americans.) By 1839 it was illegal to be an Indigenous person in Missouri without a letter. Some tried to pass as white, black or Italian, but only 27,000 in Missouri claim Indigenous heritage. The intent was total erasure of the people, the spiritual centers and the hunting grounds. Native peoples had virtually disappeared by the 1880's. By the 1890's the idea of "Salvage Anthropology" came about. Anthropologists, historians, etc. decided the Indigenous culture was vanishing and decided to collect artifacts for American museums and universities. Most of the time it amounted to whites stealing artifacts from their rightful owners, although some Native Americans sold the relics. The Field Museum and Nelson-Atkins Museums have Native American relics from the "Salvage Anthropology" era of collecting.

Book- Prophets & Ghosts: The Story of Salvage Anthropology by Samuel J. Redman.

Resistance- 1990- Native American Graves Protection & Reparation Act.

Native American human remains, funeral objects and sacred objects should be returned to tribes. On January 12, 2024, the Field Museum had to get permission from tribes to display artifacts. Native Americans want control over Federal land. Indigenous peoples now have more say in the use of land. The Osage still come to Missouri to see sacred sites. "Wherever you are, you are on Indian land."

Comments

Mounds are hills where hills shouldn't be. In Breckinridge the Indian mounds show up on Google Maps. The houses are very close to the mound. A hiking trail goes over the top of the mound. Natural terraces occur, but they could be ceremonial mounds.

The State Archeologists have a list of mounds in Missouri. One is north of Columbia not far from Perche Creek behind the old Wilcox Homestead. Karst topography of Boone County made a good place for mounds. Known areas of mounds: near Georgetown, Mexico Gravel Road, Pierpont and Red Rock Church. Greg has heard of houses being built on mounds in Callaway County. In East St. Louis the Federal government thought an area had already been checked for relics, it hadn't. Unless you take Federal money, nothing can stop you from bulldozing a site. How do you know which tribe lived here? A careful archaeological dig could tell you the time period, but actual tribal entities have only been recorded since 1673.

How do you know which tribe owns the remains or relics? It is often very difficult to tell.

The term Indian came from Columbus. Try to use Native American or Indigenous People as a sign of respect. The Osage use their tribal name.

Sprinkling tobacco on a mound is a way to get a spirit's attention. They love tobacco. Sweet grass keeps away bad spirits. Cedar draws good spirits. Sage gets rid of bad spirits.

For more information check the Bibliography in Indigenous Missourians by Greg Olson.

For the People Pow Wow- Jefferson City Jaycees Fairground, May 25-26. Admission Free. Contact Greg Olson at 573-814-9135 or ftppowwow@gmail.com for more details.

III. Reminders

May 28 will be our 2nd Anniversary! The celebration will be at Café Berlin. The calendar on our website is up to date with all historical events in the area. Also, the website has notices about our upcoming meetings. Please sign up for our mailing list.

The Movie Theater Tour will be April 27. Free but registration is required:

<https://www.comopreservation.org/events>

If you would like to lead a tour or work on a script for a tour, please contact Julie Plax kikiplax@gmail.com or Dianna O'Brien dobrien387@gmail.com.