Sand Creek Boys

In the early twentieth century, Kansas children explored the prairie looking for Indian artifacts. For **Emil W. Haury** and **Waldo R. Wedel**, these boyhood experiences led to life-long careers as professional archeologists with international reputations.

Emil and Waldo grew up on the Bethel College campus in North Newton, Kansas. Their modest, comfortable family homes were located only one block apart. The prairie and clues to the past surrounded the college buildings and faculty homes. The boys and their friends roamed the open campus as well as the fields and woods bordering Sand Creek to the east.

Like many children in the early twentieth century, the boys were fascinated with Native Americans. Emil read about them in *American Boy Magazine* and the book *Two Little Savages*—the title of which referred not to Native Americans but to two boys attempting to recreate Indian woodcraft.

Filled with tales of Plains Indians of the not-too-distant past, Emil and Waldo diligently searched for traces of history brought to the surface by plowing and by erosion along the creek banks: animal bones, pottery fragments, and stone tools.

Campus kids attended German school before heading to Sand Creek to look for arrowheads: Emil in overalls (middle row, fourth from right) and barefoot Waldo (front row, far right), summer 1916
Mennonite Library and Archives

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Education First

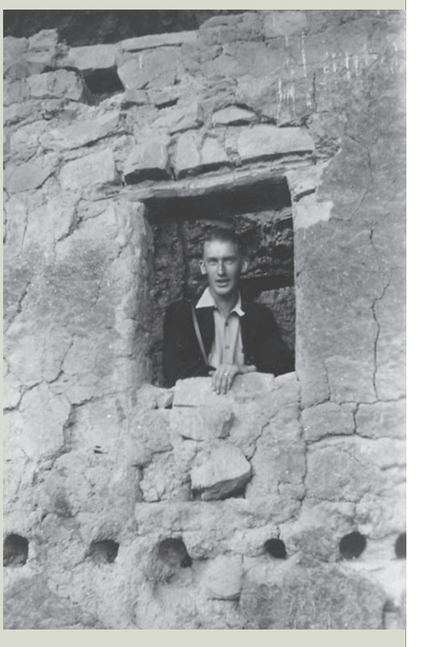
Bethel College Administration Building, 1910
Mennonite Library and Archives

Across the young state of Kansas, communities established opportunities for higher education, including Bethel College, chartered in 1887. **As the sons of Bethel professors, Emil and Waldo grew up expecting to pursue serious academic training.**

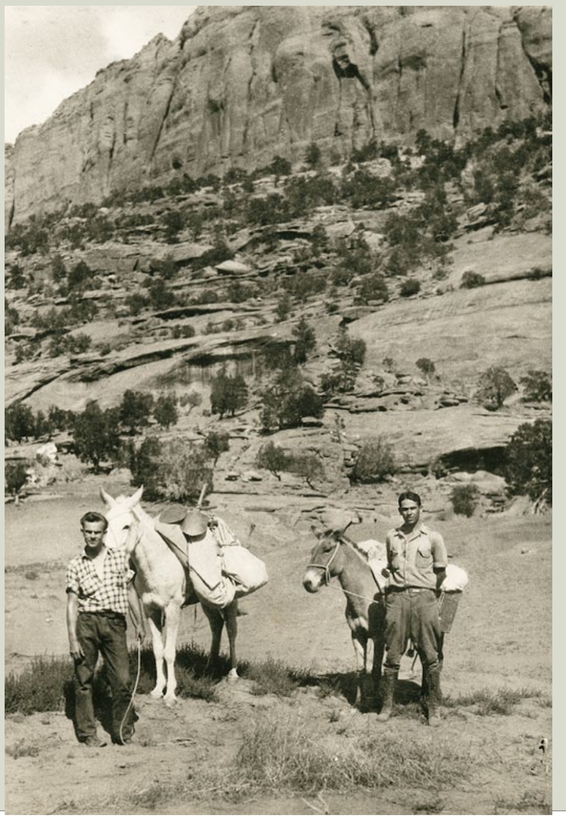
Both boys graduated from Bethel College Academy, the college-preparatory program serving Newton. Emil spent two years at Bethel College (1923-1925), as did Waldo (1926-1928). But pursuing academic training in archeology meant leaving Kansas.

In the 1920s, the University of Arizona offered an outstanding program on American archeology. Haury spent the summer of 1925 at the Cuilcuilco ruin near Mexico City under the direction of Byron Cummings of the University of Arizona. Haury enrolled there and completed the B.A. degree in 1927. The next years included active fieldwork, master's degree, teaching at the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1934.

Wedel also transferred to the University of Arizona, completing the B.A. degree in 1930. He earned a master's degree at the University of Nebraska, where he participated in ethnographic fieldwork as well as archeological digs. In 1936 he became the first anthropologist to receive a doctorate from the University of California at Berkeley with a dissertation on archeology.



Wedel on student field trip
to Upper Tonto ruin in Arizona, 1929
Waldo M. Wedel



Haury (right) and Clay Lockett
surveying for pottery shards in northeastern Arizona, 1928
Emil Haury Family

The First Americans

Who lived in Kansas long ago?

Ancestors of Native Americans were farmers living in villages, nomadic hunters who followed bison herds, and moundbuilders whose distinctive burial mounds gave them their name.

Ancient Peoples of Kansas

Ancient peoples lived in Kansas 13,500 years ago and maybe earlier. More than 5,000 years ago they made many kinds of tools and used clay to make figures and beads. By 2,000 years ago they planted sunflowers for food and made clay pots for cooking and storage. Over time they began to hunt with the bow and arrow and to grow squash, corn and beans using a bone hoe.

"Classic Plains" Native Peoples

About 700 years ago, the peoples of the Great Plains began living in larger groups. Building villages might have been a response to threats from new people moving into the region. Villagers farmed together and traded with their neighbors. Patterns of sharing can be seen in the styles of their tools and the decoration of their pottery.

Native Americans of the Plains developed their lives around growing corn and hunting bison. They also exchanged goods and materials with other people hundreds of miles away, including the American southwest.

By the early 1600s many Classic Plains groups had horses. These animals were descended from horses brought by Spanish explorers. Horses made it easier to follow bison herds and move their families across greater distances. Warriors took horses from other groups during raids. Horses were important as honoring gifts.

Encounters with Others

Europeans came to the Great Plains of North America as explorers, traders, and missionaries. They brought useful and ornamental goods to trade with the native people, such as metal axes and pots, wool cloth, and glass beads. By the early 1800s Classic Plains peoples regularly interacted with Americans from the east who followed trails across Kansas, taking trade goods to Santa Fe or looking for new homes in Oregon or California.

Competition for land began when the United States expanded its territory to include the Great Plains. The US government brought Native Americans from the east to Kansas reservations before moving them to Oklahoma. Forcing Classic Plains peoples onto reservations meant that they could no longer hunt bison and continue their traditional ways.

Kansas petroglyphs
Kansas Historical Society

First Americans in Kansas

13,500-8,000 years ago
Paleoindian Period

- earliest evidence of humans
- changing environment
- stone and bone tools
- big game hunting
- gathering berries, seeds, nuts

8,000-2,000 years ago
Archaic Period

- ground & cooked plant foods
- spear thrower
- diversity of tool types
- earliest known clay objects
- mound burials

2,000-500 years ago
Ceramic Period

- base camps in stream valleys
- pottery vessels for cooking & storage
- bows and arrows
- corn and beans as staple crops
- farming tools

500-200 years ago
Protohistoric Period

- contact with European explorers & traders
- horses from Spanish stock
- metal & glass trade goods

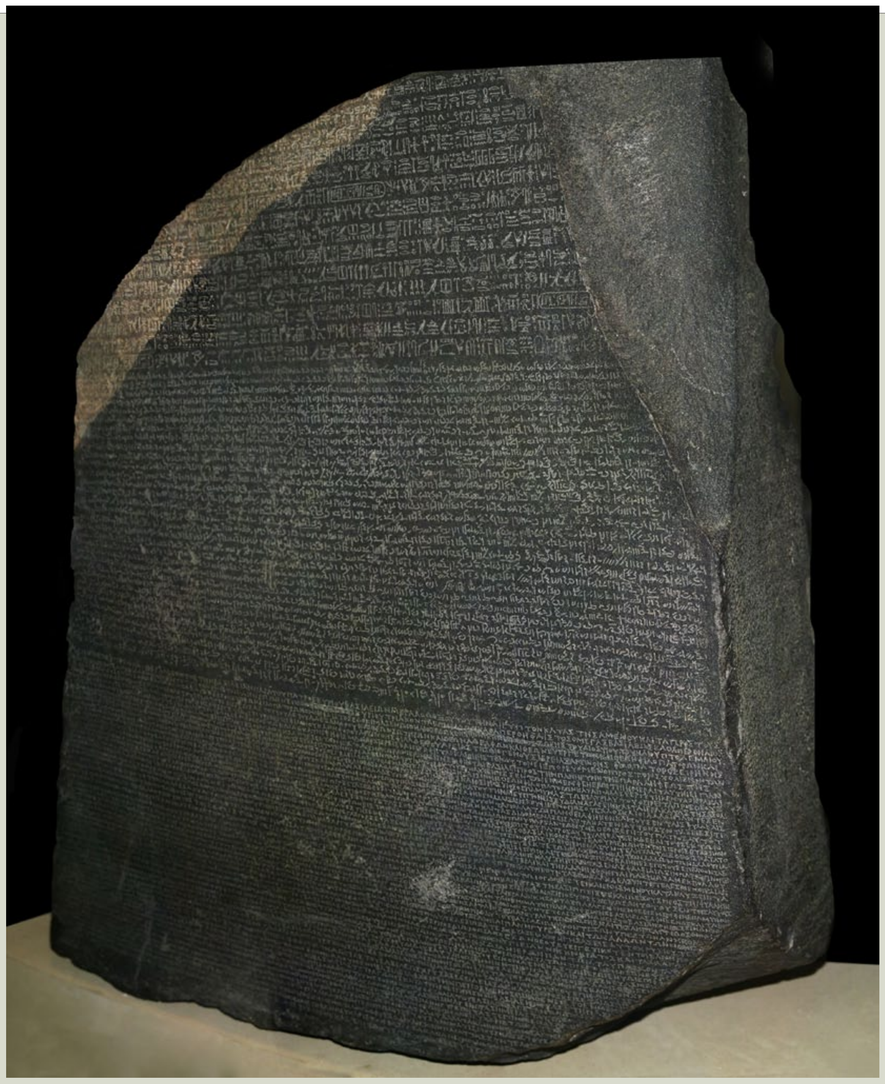
200 years ago-present
Historic Period

- treaties with US government
- 1820s-1840s Indian Territory in Kansas
- 1830-1850 removal to reservations
- 1924 Indian Citizenship Act
- movement to cities

Archeology helps us learn the story of the First Kansans.

Wichita Indian Grass House, ca. 1899,
Photographer William E. Irwin
Harvey County Historical Museum and Archives

What is Archeology?



Archeologists study people of the past by looking for remains hidden in the soil. Artifacts can be a small pottery fragment, a large stone monument or changes in the soil revealing where people lived, worked or were buried.

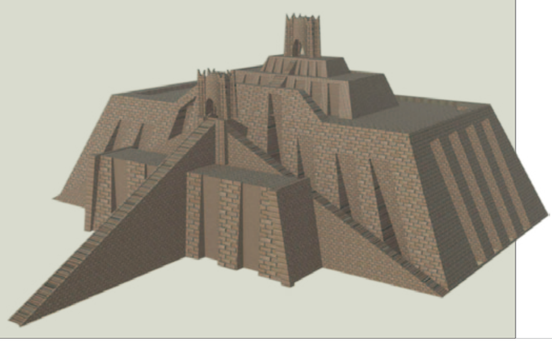
Over 99% of the history of humanity occurred in groups that did not have a system of writing and left no written records. Archeology is important for learning about these people and their ways of life.

Finding traces of the ancient past has always interested people fascinated with old things. These people were sometimes called antiquarians because of their passion for antiques.

The basis of modern archeology was set in the eighteenth century. Europeans applied science to the study of the classical world by systematically recording evidence of Greek and Roman temples and tombs. Napoleon's army reported detailed excavations in Egypt. Others studied sites from Syria to Iran. Many colonial powers removed objects and human remains and put them on display in "cabinets of curiosities" and museums.

Archeology became a university program of study in the nineteenth century. Archeologists began researching artifacts from everyday life and the New World in addition to Egyptian pyramids and Roman ruins.

The French expedition to Egypt rediscovered **the Rosetta stone**, which enabled scholars to decipher ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs
Wikimedia Commons



Archeological evidence led to this reconstruction of the **Ur ziggurat** in Iraq,a stepped-tower dating from the third millennium BC
Wikimedia Commons

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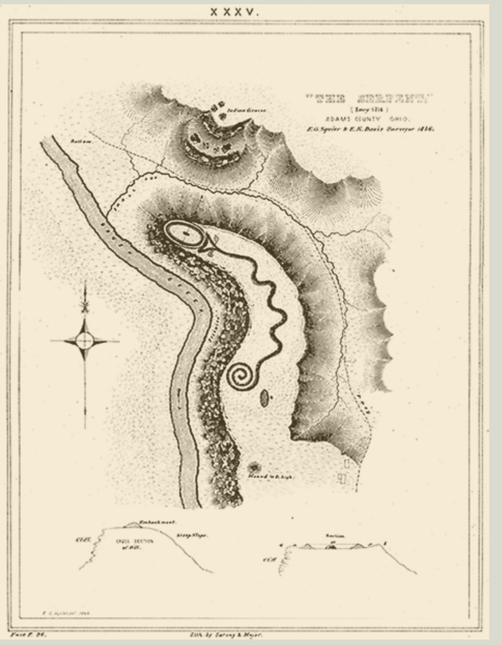
Archeology in the U.S.



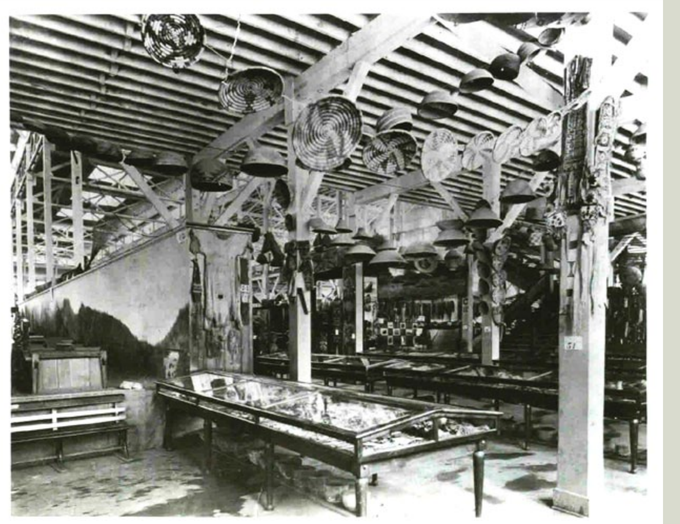
Serpent Mound, a 1,300-foot-long earthwork in southern Ohio dates from about 1070 ACE, Smithsonian Institution Press drawing, 1848
Wikimedia Commons

Explorers and settlers encountered New World peoples as well as earthwork complexes from their ancient past. In 1784 Thomas Jefferson supervised the systematic excavation of a Native American burial mound on his Virginia property.

As interest in the ancient past grew, American Indian antiquities were featured in displays at world fairs and the new public museums. This popularity led untrained amateurs to scavenge for prehistoric artifacts, leading to the destruction of archeological sites. In 1906 the US Congress passed the **Antiquities Act** to protect archeological resources on federal and Indian lands as part of our national heritage.

In the 1930s, American archeology was young field of study. Only a few universities offered serious training and most archeologists knew each other personally. The Society for American Archaeology was organized in 1934. In the deepest part of the Great Depression, New Deal programs supported archeology fieldwork. Trained, professional archeologists led these projects and launched an ambitious program to write the culture history of North America.

The American Philosophical Society, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Smithsonian Institution encouraged the scientific description and publication of investigations of American prehistory.



Anthropology Building at Chicago World's Columbian Exposition included human skeletons and burial goods, 1893
New York University

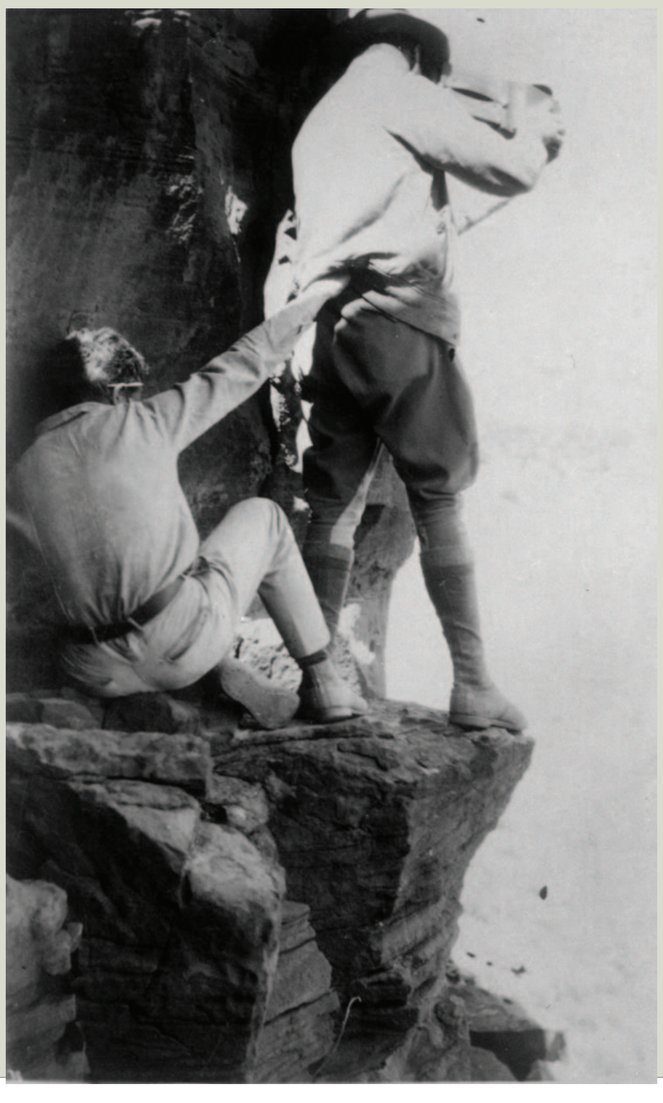
Doing Archeology: Haury

Haury in quicksand at the San Francisco River, west central New Mexico, 1933
Emil Haury Family

As a boy, Emil was fascinated by a black-on-white pottery fragment that his parents brought home from an Arizona vacation, an attraction that led him to study the ancient peoples of the southwest United States.

Haury's studies and archaeological experiences at the University of Arizona increased his commitment to the Southwest. Despite the Great Depression, Haury found support from the Gila Pueblo Archaeological Foundation. He conducted numerous fieldwork projects resulting in scholarly publications while simultaneously pursuing his doctorate from Harvard. It's been said that Haury excavated more Southwestern sites than any other archeologist.

Haury's pioneering fieldwork provided first-hand knowledge about Paleoindians as well as the Hohokam and Mogollon cultures. He focused on describing ceramic types, but also studied the remains of physical structures and applied tree-ring dating information to create timelines. Expeditions and return visits over the years enabled him to gather evidence for determining when artifacts were made – a significant contribution to understanding the ancient past, and the foundation for future work.



Haury at canyon rim photographing Canyon Creek Ruin, supported by Solon T. Kimball, 1932
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona. Photographer Russell Hastings

Doing Archeology: Wedel

Waldo's boyhood experiences along Sand Creek in Newton led him to believe that the prehistory of the plains was waiting to be uncovered, despite the fact that some scholars assumed there would be little to find.

Wedel's professional archeological experiences began as a student in Arizona. But he returned to the Great Plains to study at the University of Nebraska and for employment after his doctorate from the University of California.

Before 1935 little archeological work had been done in Kansas. Although not much was known about the ancient peoples of the prairie, Wedel chose to survey the archeology of his native Kansas.

In 1937 Wedel excavated an old Kansa site along the Missouri River bluffs above Kansas City. Although his work led him to other states, he continued the survey in Riley, Scott, Lane, Rice and Cowley counties. Between 1940 and 1967, Wedel studied five village sites in Rice and McPherson counties, focusing on the remains of what local historians called "council circles." Wedel proposed that these structure-ditch complexes were unique to the Great Plains and that their orientation suggested a function of recording the solstice sunrise.

Wedel (second from left) **and University of Nebraska archeological survey party**, 1930
Waldo M. Wedel

Wedel at Lamb Spring archeological site in Colorado, 1962
Waldo M. Wedel

Haury & the Southwest

Emil is often called the **"dean" of Southwestern archeology.** His systematic fieldwork and published reports revealed the distinctiveness of the Anasazi, Hohokam and Mogollon cultures and the complex history of their interactions.

In 1934 Haury began working at Snaketown, an archeological site 30 miles southeast of Phoenix, Arizona. Excavations uncovered adobe structures, irrigation canals, ballcourts, and trash heaps from the Hohokam people (pronounced ho-HO-kam). Haury studied their characteristic red-on-buff pottery, demonstrating how ceramics could help date the settlement to as early as 300 BCE.

Some scholars have argued that Haury's most important contribution was his timeline and definition of Mogollon culture (pronounced muggy-YOHN). Excavations in New Mexico unearthed several house types with pottery, clay objects, grinding stones, projectile points and burials. Haury's definition of the Mogollon as distinct from other ancient peoples resulted in considerable controversy.

Haury's response to criticism was always to "argue the case with a shovel" by gathering more evidence to refine his ideas. Dr. Raymond Thompson, who succeeded Haury as the director of the Arizona State Museum, said that Haury "expected criticism and treated it in a most professional manner."

Haury doing detailed work at the Snaketown site in Arizona, circa 1964
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona. Photographer: Helga Teiwes

Unit **3** Panel **A** Back

1 3/8 to edge of panel

Wedel & the Great Plains

Waldo is often called the **"father" of Plains archeology.** His systematic fieldwork and published reports shaped a deeper understanding of the ancient peoples of the Plains as well as cultural continuity to modern Native American tribes.

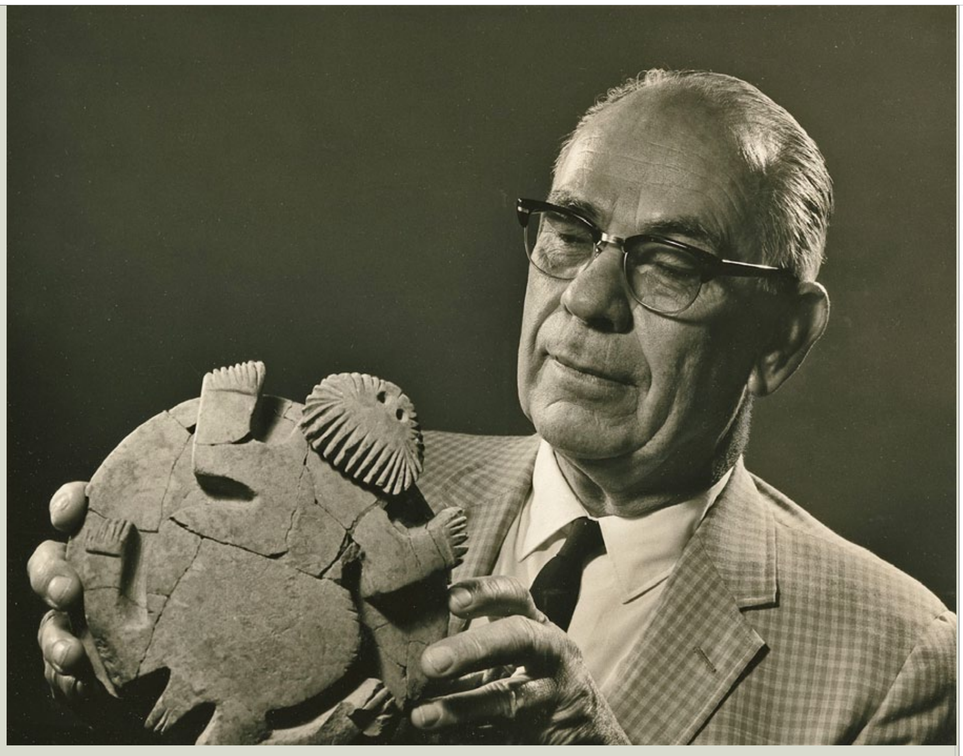
Wedel's analysis of archeological evidence led him to categorize the inhabitants of central Kansas as the "Great Bend Aspect." He studied 16th century documents from the Spanish explorers Coronado and Oñate to compare their description of ancient Quivira with evidence from Great Bend sites. Wedel modeled the direct historical approach – working from the known to the unknown, or from a site of the historic period backward in time to understand prehistoric cultures.

Wedel was a pioneer in using geography to explore how environment shaped prehistoric peoples. In 1954 Wedel examined Kansas archeological sites to observe the effect of severe drought. He also used aerial photography to scout for ancient settlements, and power earth-moving equipment to uncover large archeological sites.

Wedel's publications are a model of the humanistic viewpoint in that he always went beyond the artifacts to think in terms of the people who made and used the archeological remains.

Wedel (far right) **examining the Hayes Council Circle** in Rice County, Kansas, 1970
Coronado-Quivira Museum, Lyons, Kansas

University of Arizona



Haury with Hohokam horned lizard stone effigy excavated at Snaketown, circa 1975
Emil Haury Family

Immediately after granting **Emil Haury** the master's degree in 1928, the University of Arizona appointed him as instructor of archeology. After more fieldwork and his doctorate, Haury returned to Arizona in 1937 to lead the Department of Archeology.

Despite the constraints of the Depression and world war, a determined Haury broadened the department and built a nationally ranked doctoral program in anthropology. He mentored generations of students before his retirement in 1980.

Haury organized his first field school in 1939 to provide hands-on archeological training. In 1946 he moved the summer school to Point of Pines on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation. Students participated in digging and recordkeeping along with field trips and lectures. When the remote camp closed in 1960, the program had served 278 college students from across the United States and 17 international students.

Haury served as Director of the Arizona State Museum from 1938 to 1964. He developed the state's official museum into a research and teaching unit with exhibitions and programs for all ages. Haury's effort to classify and preserve the pottery of ancient peoples is continued in ASM's internationally recognized collection of Southwest Indian ceramics.

Haury as University of Arizona department head
and Arizona State Museum director, circa 1952
Emil Haury Family

Unit **3** Panel **B** Back

1 3/8 to edge of panel

Smithsonian Institution

Wedel examining prehistoric beads at the Smithsonian, 1975
Smithsonian Institution Archives. Image #94-2865

In 1936 the Smithsonian Institution hired **Waldo Wedel** as assistant curator of archeology. Wedel spent his career at the U.S. National Museum (now Museum of Natural History), developing their program of archeological research and collecting.

After World War II the Smithsonian joined other groups to support the River Basin Survey Projects, a massive undertaking to salvage archeological evidence before the construction of dams and reservoirs essential for postwar development. Wedel became the first field director for the Missouri River Basin Survey, which he led 1946-1949, and four more years in the 1950s. From the collection of artifacts unearthed during this project, Wedel created a chronology of prehistoric cultural groups and became the leading authority on Plains archeology.

Although he never held a university faculty appointment, Wedel was called a "professor without a classroom." His prolific publications and conference presentations influenced scores of younger archeologists. Wedel was particularly known for his willingness to listen to students, provide feedback on their work, and to share his encyclopedic knowledge of Plains archeology.

Wedel was regularly promoted at the Smithsonian, eventually serving as senior archeologist. He retired in 1977 and was named archeologist emeritus.

Repatriation: Going Home

NAGPRA

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Repatriation means returning to one's native land or people. In 1990 the US Congress passed the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. **NAGPRA** works with museums and federal agencies to return human remains and cultural artifacts to their original tribal groups.

As of 2009 (the most recent statistics), the following have been repatriated:

- **human remains:** 38,671 individuals
- **funerary objects:** 998,731 associated with human remains, 144,163 unassociated
- **sacred objects** for practicing traditional religions: 4,303
- **objects of cultural patrimony**—culturally significant items belonging to a group that an individual would not have the right to sell or give away: 948
- **objects both sacred and patrimonial:** 822

> "The time has come for people to decide, are we Indians part of this country's living culture, or are we just here to supply museums with dead bodies?"

Walter Echo-Hawk, Pawnee attorney & native rights activist

Unit **4** Panel **A** Back

1 3/8 to edge of panel

NAGPRA's Impact

How does NAGPRA affect archeology?

The law: Federal agencies and museums receiving federal funds must return human remains and certain cultural objects.

Some archeologists feel pushed to repatriate before fully discovering the scientific value of these remains and artifacts.

Native American groups respond that archeologists are insensitive to their desire to restore dignity by reburying or ritually honoring the remains of their ancestors.

NAGPRA protects Native American burial sites on federal and tribal lands. Consultation with native groups is required when archeologists discover skeletal or cultural remains during excavation. The law encourages preservation of human remains and artifacts at archeological sites.

Is NAGPRA important to collectors?

The law: The sale, purchase or transport for sale of the following items are prohibited:

- Native American human remains obtained without right of possession
- Native American cultural items obtained in violation of NAGPRA.

State and local laws often prohibit trade in human remains, even from private land.

Kansas Unmarked Burial Sites Preservation Act (KSA 75-2741 through 75-2754)

This 1989 law protects unmarked burial sites and human skeletal remains located on all lands within the state by prohibiting unauthorized disturbance of the sites and providing procedures for their proper care.

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Sand Creek Survey

1870s

First Americans left signs that they hunted and camped along Sand Creek in Newton. Settlers in the 1870s as well as amateur and professional archeologists of today have found and saved these traces of the past.

Settlement and farming have changed the land along Sand Creek, making it harder to find remains of the past. Yet beneath the plow zone there may be much more we can learn about those who came before us. Archeologists are committed to finding traces of the past that are part of our national heritage.

In the summer of 2009, Dr. David Hughes, Department of Anthropology at Wichita State University, led a search along Sand Creek for remaining evidence of First Americans. WSU students surveyed sites recorded by Haury, Wedel and other archeologists as being rich with archeological evidence.

2009

The 2009 Sand Creek survey team found traces of Native American camps from almost 1,000 years ago:

- biface tool
- bison tibia (leg bone)
- notched rib bone
- pottery shard
- projectile point
- knife
- scraper

These are the remains of early Kansans related to the culture defined by Waldo Wedel as the Great Bend Aspect, later known as the Wichita tribe.

Surveying a dry creek bank, 2009
Wichita State University, Department of Anthropology

Unit **4** Panel **B** Back

1 3/8 to edge of panel

Kansas Archeology Training Program

KATP

Kansas Archeology Training Program


Scott County, 2009

Every year Kansans work to learn more about the ancient and historic peoples of Kansas. The Kansas Anthropological Association collaborates with the Kansas Historical Society to mobilize volunteers to help preserve our state's heritage.

KATP began in 1975 in Scott County with a focus on El Cuartelejo, a location occupied around 1680 AD that is the farthest east Puebloan site in North America. In 1991 KATP studied Washington County's Hollenberg Pony Express Station, a stage station established in 1858 to shelter and supply travelers.

Some sites have been investigated more than one field season, such as the Tobias site in Rice County. This Great Bend Aspect village and the nearby C.F. Thompson site are listed as National Historic Landmarks.

In 2003 the KATP field school concentrated on the Claussen Site in Wabaunsee County. Below components dating to the Ceramic period (810 years ago) participants uncovered chipped stone, shell and animal bone fragments and charcoal dating to the Paleoindian period (8,800 years ago).

Some KATP sites are selected because of upcoming destruction by highway construction (Killdeer Site in Cowley County, 1974) or riverbank stabilization projects (Montgomery County, 2010).


Montgomery County, 2010


Republic County, 2008


Montgomery County, 2010

Kansas Acheology Training Program volunteers at work
Kansas Historical Society and the Kansas Anthropological Association