Greetings!

A brief message from the Executive Director – Wayne Brew

The International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture (ISLPMC) is excited to bring back our newsletter. With our recent name change and a new logo our newsletter will be known as “The Compass.” I would like to thank Deb Slater, our webmistress extraordinaire, for the design of the new logo and the suggestion of name of the newsletter. I would also like to thank the board and all the contributors to our first newsletter since 2006. Our plan is to publish the newsletter once a year as we move forward.

For those new to or not familiar with ISLPMC (formerly Pioneer America Society), we are an international, interdisciplinary, educational, nonprofit organization that encourages the study and preservation of landscapes and artifacts, and documents sites, structures, and objects representing history and material culture throughout the world. Members include public servants, college faculty and students, private consultants, and preservationists, as well as interested lay persons. Chartered in 1967, The Society carries out its mission by identifying, documenting, analyzing, and interpreting significant cultural landscapes, architecture and artifacts, and by encouraging educational programs, scholarly research, and preservation. Over the years, The Society has expanded its views and focus. You can find more about us by visiting our website at www.pioneeramerica.org/.

This issue of the newsletter has a summary of the 2014 meeting in Oklahoma City, a glance at the 2015 Meeting in North Canton, Ohio, the 2014 award winners, reports on our publications and Facebook page, and an article about Mount Rushmore.

Enjoy!
2014 Annual Meeting – Oklahoma City

Written by Jim Gabbert with photographs from Wayne Brew

Over 40 members met in downtown Oklahoma City for the 46th Annual Conference of the Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts and Landscapes (PAS: APAL), October 9-11, 2014. The theme of the meeting was “Brand New State: Oklahoma and the Great Plains in Transition.” The conference hotel was the Hampton Inn located in the vibrant Bricktown section of Oklahoma City, the heart of the city’s efforts to redevelop and reinvent itself.

The events began on Thursday with a choice of tours of Oklahoma City, focusing on the historic development of a city that went from a population of zero to over 10,000 in one day. Both tours started in Bricktown and visited historic African-American neighborhoods, viewed amazing art deco and postmodern architecture, and witnessed the city’s legacy with urban renewal.

Top: The First National Bank tower, one of the many examples of fine Art Deco buildings in OKC.

Left: A replacement neon sign for the Calvary Baptist Church. Utilizing the Federal historic preservation tax credit, the church has been rehabilitated for use as law offices.
The Thursday walking and bus tours both ended at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, a beautiful and haunting site dedicated to the victims of the bombing on April 19, 1995.

Top: The temporary fences that were installed to restrict access to the site became the first memorial and were kept (and are updated) as a vernacular reminder by visitors.

Right: The reflecting pool.

Far right: The elm tree that was almost destroyed, but recovered is now known as the Survivor Elm.
The opening reception on Thursday evening was held at one of the city’s most historic venues, the Overholser Mansion. Our host was Preservation Oklahoma (POK), the statewide nonprofit preservation organization. POK is steward for the 1903 mansion, home of one of Oklahoma City’s founding families.

The paper sessions were held on Friday at the Oklahoma City Public Library Downtown branch, a centerpiece of the redevelopment of the Civic Center area. A wide variety of papers were presented and members were treated to a great BBQ lunch. The guest speaker was Dr. Bob Blackburn, the director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, who provided an informative and entertaining account of the history of OKC.

The annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet was held at Tapwerks Ale House in the heart of historic Bricktown. A wide and varied selection of beers were available along with a great banquet of delicious Mexican food. Please refer to later in the newsletter for the award winners.

Saturday was the all-day field trip, a bus tour of sites in central Oklahoma that span the history of the state. The tour began by heading west on old US Highway 66, the storied Route 66, the Mother Road. The bus passed through Yukon, whose original settlers included a large contingent of Bohemians. Yukon sits on the edge of the great grain belt, and is noted for the imposing “Yukon’s Best” flour mill and elevators. The bus stopped in El Reno, an important transportation hub, where historic routes such as the old Chisholm Trail, the Santa Fe and KATY railroads, the Mother Road, and the Meridian Highway all come together. Our stay there included a ride around the downtown on the historic trolley. The next stop was Fort Reno, a US Army outpost during the Indian Wars manned by the Buffalo Soldiers, which later was turned into a US Quartermaster Corps Remount Station, where horses and mules were bred and trained for use during both World Wars. German and Italian prisoners of war were kept at Fort Reno during the Second World War; our tour included a poignant visit to the post cemetery, where soldiers and civilians from the army post were buried, and where a section of the cemetery is set aside for POWs who died in captivity. After a rather lengthy detour, during which our intrepid members got to see a large swath of Oklahoma countryside, we ate lunch at Guthrie, the Territorial Capital. A walking tour led us through much of the National Historic landmark downtown, one of the best collections of late 19th century commercial architecture in the country. The tour stopped briefly at the Gower Cemetery, a remnant of a once-thriving community of African American settlers who sought economic and political autonomy in the Oklahoma Territory. The tour ended at Arcadia, where we visited the Arcadia Round Barn, a fixture on Route 66 and a successful grass roots preservation story.

One of the highlights for me during the 2014 Meeting in Oklahoma City was traversing sections of Route 66 on the Saturday Bus Tour. Before he was married my father lived in Los Angeles from 1944 to 1954. He was originally from the Anthracite Coal Region (Swoyersville, PA), but found himself on the west coast working at Sears and Roebuck. Most years he hitchhiked back east using Route 66 to Chicago and then Route 6 to Pennsylvania. I grew up hearing many stories about these adventures which spurred me to hitchhike throughout many parts of the U.S. in 1979 and 1980. I never did get to hitchhike along Route 66 so it was a big thrill (and emotional) for me to see the Oklahoma portions that my father traveled in the past. Soon after returning home from the meeting I found a picture of Jack Brew hitchhiking. I would like to think the picture was taken along Route 66, but there are no notes on the back to indicate any particular place. Route 66 is often called the “Mother Road,” but I will always consider it the Father Road and the ‘fuel’ for my hitchhiking adventures.

-- Wayne Brew
Top: The POW cemetery at Fort Reno

Above left: The chapel at Fort Reno

Above right: The round barn, winner of the 2014 Historic Preservation Award

Right: Street scene from Guthrie
Please Join Us for the ISLPMC 2015 Meeting in North Canton, Ohio

Join us in North Canton, Ohio for 47th Annual Conference of the International Society for Landscapes, Place, and Material Culture. The theme of this year’s conference is “Ohio and the National Hearth: A Mosaic of Rural and Urban Landscapes.”

The conference hotel is the Courtyard Inn in North Canton, Ohio. Paper sessions will be held at the Conference Center at Kent State University at Stark, located across the street from the hotel. Rooms at the Courtyard Inn in North Canton can be reserved for $119; these rates are good through August 24th. Please see our website for more details and registration information and forms.

The events begin Thursday, September 24, 2015, with an all-day bus tour of rural landscapes, focusing on the Amish settlements in the region. The opening dessert reception will be held on Thursday evening at the Courtyard Inn from 8pm-10pm.

The paper sessions will be held on Friday, September 25, 2015, in the Conference Center building on the Stark Campus of Kent State University. Music will be provided during lunch by Cleveland bluesman Wallace Coleman and his three-person ensemble. Wallace Coleman is well-known for his electrified Chicago Blues harp playing, singing, and songwriting. He began his career as the one and only harp player ever hired by Robert Jr. Lockwood, step-son of Blues Legend Robert Johnson. He will be joined by Jody Getz, an award winning songwriter, guitarist, and singer, along with Pete Cavano, a great guitarist who is often invited to play with the Chet Atkins Appreciation Society.

The Awards Ceremony and Banquet will be held on Friday evening at 91 Wood Fired Oven.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015, there will be an all-day bus tour focusing on cultural landscapes and vernacular architecture in the region. Our first stop will be to Magnolia Flouring Mill outside of Canton. We will then take a tour of Zoar Village, founded by German-pacifist “zoarites” who built their own commune that eventually became connected to the Ohio and Erie Canal. Our third stop will take us to Schoenbrunn Village in Tuscarawas, the earliest settlement in Ohio and used originally as a Moravian mission to Lenape American Indians. Our trip may end at Gervasi Vineyard in Canton for a view of their property’s history.

You can find more details on our website at www.pioneeramerica.org/annualmeeting2015.html.

The North Canton, Ohio Conference Committee is soliciting proposals for papers, special sessions, and panel discussions relating to the conference theme. Papers on all aspects of material culture that are of interest to the Society are welcome. Please note that all presenters must be members of the International Society for Landscapes, Place and Material Culture, and that only papers submitted by registered conference participants will be accepted for the Friday program. Please email your abstracts as Word attachments to Wayne Brew at wbrew@mc3.edu. The deadline for abstracts is 5 pm, Friday, September 4.

Left: The Zoar Hotel in Zoar Village, Ohio, which will be on the Saturday field trip.
Congratulations to the 2014 Award Winners!

The International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture (ISLPMC) is proud to announce the 2014 Award Winners!

**Henry H. Douglas Distinguished Service Award**

The Award is named in memory of the founder of the Pioneer America Society (now known as ISLPMC), Mr. Henry H. Douglas. The award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions over the years in furthering the Society’s goals through service, teaching, publications, and/or the promotion of historic preservation.

The 2014 recipient is Scott Roper. (See photo at left: Wayne Brew presenting Scott with the award at the 2014 Conference.) Scott has been a long time member of the Pioneer America Society and has been a dedicated servant. That service has included being the Book Review Editor of *Material Culture* for seven years, the Editor of *PAST* for five years, a member of the original Hubert Wilhelm Student Research Award Committee for many years, has served on the Board of Directors multiple times, and most recently became a member of the Book Awards Committee.

In 2010, he hosted the conference in Castleton, Vermont, and consequently, served as a member of the Historic Preservation Committee for that year. With the Stuart, Florida, conference hanging in the balance, he stepped in to organize and run that year’s field trip. He also played a large role in the planning of the field trips for the 2013 meeting in Utica. He continues to give interesting and informative papers on a wide variety of topics and we are grateful for his commitment to the Society.

**Fred B. Kniffen Book Award**

The Fred B. Kniffen Book Award, established in 1989, honors the work of Fred B. Kniffen, a long-time scholar at Louisiana State University. The Kniffen Award recognizes the best-authored book in the field of North American material culture.


**Allen G. Noble Book Award**

The Allen G. Noble Book Award is given in honor of the scholarship Allen G. Noble contributed to cultural geography. The award recognizes the best-edited book in the field of North American material culture.


continued...
Historic Preservation Award

The Historic Preservation Award, established in 2000, recognizes the preservation, interpretation, instruction, celebration, or exhibit of American material culture.

The 2014 winner is the Arcadia Historical and Preservation Society of Arcadia, Oklahoma, for its long-term efforts to save, preserve, and interpret the National Register of Historic Places-listed Arcadia Round Barn on Route 66.

The Historic Preservation Certificate of Merit recipient was Preservation Oklahoma, Inc. for its restoration and ongoing preservation of the National Register of Historic Places-listed Overholser Mansion in Oklahoma City.

Warren E. Roberts Graduate Student Paper Competition Award

The Warren E. Roberts Graduate Student Paper Competition, established in 2004 in memory of folklife scholar Warren E. Roberts, a longtime PAS: APAL member and former member of the Board of Directors, is an annual competitive award that recognizes excellence in original graduate student fieldwork, documentary research, and writing in the area of traditional North American material culture.

The 2014 winner is Jeffrey M. Widener (University of Oklahoma), for his paper, “Water-Conveyance Technology and the Preservation of Agriculture in Colorado’s Orchard Mesa Irrigation District.”

Wilhelm-Keiffer Student Research Award

The Wilhelm-Keiffer Student Research Award, established in 2012, is in honor of long-time PAS: APAL member, Hubert Wilhelm, a cultural geographer, whose enthusiasm for teaching has had a global impact, and is in memory of the Society’s Executive Director, Artimus Keiffer, an architectural geographer and student of Hubert Wilhelm. The award is an annual competitive prize in the field of American material culture which is open to both undergraduate and graduate students.

There was no winner of this award in 2014.
Our Publications: A Report

Material Culture Update: Now in its 47th Year

by Sara Beth Keough

The scholarly, peer-reviewed journal published by ISLPMC continues to attract a wide range of manuscripts and authors as it moves through its’ 47th year of publication. The recent Spring 2015 issue was the third in a series of special issues designed to increase the range of topics, disciplinary backgrounds of authors, and readership of the journal. Three articles on technology (broadly defined) as material culture covered everything from irrigation to canoes. Look for a special issue on consumer goods coming in Spring 2016, co-edited by myself and Joe Scarpaci.

Since establishing indexing agreements with academic databases JSTOR and ProQuest in 2009, Material Culture is now indexed in full-text between the two. Furthermore, downloads of the journal’s articles from these databases have generated enough income that the journal now pays for itself. I encourage you to consult these two databases (and others that index the journal in abstract form) for your research.

The journal also provides professional experience to students in the Professional and Technical Writing program at my university (SVSU). One to two students work as copy editors for the journal each academic year. They provide a valuable service, as they work for no pay or academic credit and are better at copy editing than I am! Almost all students who have worked for the journal have gone on to graduate school (most with full funding) or acquired jobs as technical writers and copy editors upon graduation. The experience they gain with the journal is a key part of their success after graduation.

Material Culture continues to accept manuscripts on a rolling basis (except for special issues, which have concrete deadlines). As Editor, I am happy to discuss your article ideas and answer any questions you have. Most authors are seeing their manuscripts published within 1 year of final acceptance, and I am indebted to a team of excellent reviewers that facilitate this process and help maintain the journal’s high standards. As always, please carefully consult the submission guidelines (available on the ISLPMC website) before submitting your manuscript! I look forward to receiving your submissions!

ISLPMC at AAG 2015 in Chicago, IL

ISLPMC was well-represented at the AAG meeting in Chicago, IL this past April. Sara Beth Keough, Editor of Material Culture, organized and chaired two full sessions of conference papers on various topics relating to geography and material culture. Sara Beth also offers one-on-one meetings with scholars interested in submitting manuscripts to Material Culture, and these sessions often generate strong submissions to the journal. New ISLPMC brochures, membership forms, and conference fliers were available at these sessions and others. Chris Post, Chair of the Cultural Geography Specialty Group, also promoted ISLPMC and the upcoming conference in Canton, OH in September 2015 at the CGSG business meeting. Needless to say, ISLPMC is on many geographers’ radar!

The following papers were presented at the 2015 AAG meeting as part of the sessions sponsored by Material Culture and ISLPMC:

Material Culture I: Cities, Towns, and Structures

Timothy Gene Anderson, PhD, Department of Geography, Ohio University: Habsburg Colonial Policy, Material Culture and Ethnicity in the Danube Swabian Landscapes of the Romanian Banat

Christa Smith, PhD, Clemson University: Tiny Houses, Big Solutions: Homelessness and the Tiny House Movement in Austin, Texas.
Jennifer Lee Immich, PhD, University of Minnesota: *Conceptualizing Meaning in the Material Culture of Timber Castles*

Henry W. Lawrence, PhD, Edinboro Univ of Pennsylvania: *The Roots of Suburbia in Early Modern Europe*

Janna R. Caspersen and Derek H. Alderman, PhD, University of Tennessee: *Welcome to Chiraq: The Politics of Branding & Shaming through Place Name*

**Material Culture II: Objects and Landscapes**

Michael Leverett Dorn, PhD, SUNY - Stony Brook: *The Material Culture and Origins of the 'Tweed Run'*

Alyson L. Greiner, Oklahoma State University: *Making Malaria-free Spaces and Landscapes: Historical Examples from Oklahoma and Arkansas*

Toni A. Alexander, Southeast Missouri State University; Luke Marzen and Tyler Jones, Auburn University: *Archiving Toomer’s Oaks: Geospatial Technology and Memory*

Catherine P. Bishop, Indiana University: *African Occasional Textiles: Vernacular Landscapes of Development*

Emariana Widner, PhD, Kent State University: *American Views of Nature Reflected in Sci-Fi and Horror Films*

---

**Check Out Our Facebook Page!**

The International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture (ISLPMC) has a presence on Facebook to post the many interesting things about our area of study that are available on the internet. It is also a great way to keep up with what our members are doing.

For a while we had two Facebook pages, but under the direction of Scott Roper they were consolidated to one. ISLPMC member Jeff Durbin has generously agreed to maintain the ISLPMC Facebook page. Ralph Hartsock will continue in his role of helping Jeff to manage the page.

If you have not had a chance to see it, be sure to visit the [ISLPMC Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/islpmc).
Layers of Stone and Culture: Mt. Rushmore National Memorial

Essay by Edie Wallace and Paula Reed / Photos by Edie Wallace

The unique geology that forms the landscape of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the surrounding Black Hills is a many-layered resource with natural and cultural components spanning an immense timeline.

The landscape itself, the layers of stone that form the Black Hills, document the evolution of the American continent before the Age of Man. The fossil record details the natural history of the Hills. Archeological sites, some known and many still unknown, form a record of the first Americans, as-yet unnamed nomadic bands that exploited the natural resources of the Hills over thousands of years. This layer of “time out of memory” gave way to the protohistoric and historic occupants of the Hills and surrounding Plains, identified by their own “winter counts” (pictographic histories) and by early contacts with Euro-American explorers. Crow, Kiowa, Kiowa-Apache, Cheyenne, and finally Lakota all used and claimed the Black Hills territory to varying degrees over several hundred years prior to United States’ westward expansion. The Lakota name for the Hills, Paha Sapa, variously translated as “hills [or mountains] that are black” or the Black Hills, aptly describes the visual impression created by the ponderosa pine-covered hillsides rising from the treeless Plains. Oral traditions handed down by the tribes ascribed sacred meaning to the ancient formations of the Hills. Euro-Americans added new layers of cultural expression as the focus turned to mining the geologic resources, ranching, homesteading, marketing the Hills formations and natural beauty as a tourist attraction, and finally carving the ancient stone into a national icon.
Culture and stone intimately intertwined through the millennia. The cultural accretions attached to the Black Hills landscape, and to Mount Rushmore in particular, could not have happened without the billions of years represented in the stone now bearing the likenesses of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.

Paula S. Reed & Associates – ISLPMC members Paula Reed and Edie Wallace – are currently working on a two-year contract with the National Park Service, Midwest Region to produce a Historic Resource Study for the Mount Rushmore National Memorial.

The study will cover the whole history of the Mount Rushmore Black Hills landscape and its use by the human occupants, from the earliest prehistoric hunter-gatherers, through the Lakota (Sioux) occupation and their eviction by the U.S. government in favor of gold miners, homesteaders, and cattlemen, to the climactic story of American sculptor Gutzon Borglum’s carving of the mountain into an American icon with the help of nearly 400 workers through the 1930s. Beginning in 1941, the “Shrine of Democracy,” as Borglum christened it, came under the full administration of the National Park Service and a new layer of cultural accretions on the landscape began as visitors from all over America and beyond descended on the park in ever-increasing numbers, clamoring for food, souvenirs and interpretive displays.

It is a fascinating and complicated history that will require research in a variety of facilities. So far they’ve combed the archives at the Mount Rushmore National Memorial; visited the Pine Ridge Reservation to speak directly with members of the Oglala Lakota tribe; perused the Peter Norbeck collection, and acquired transcripts from 25 interviews with Dakota Territory settlers, their descendants, and several Lakota members, all housed at the University of South Dakota; they’ve spent more than 100 hours in the Library of Congress looking at and photographing nearly every document in the Gutzon Borglum Papers, a whopping 72,000 items!; and they are just now beginning at the tip of the iceberg that is the National Park Service records at the National Archives at College Park (Maryland).

This is a big project and the kind they truly love to do. Guaranteed they will walk away from this project with a deeper understanding of the settlement of the western U.S. territories, of American Indian culture and relations with the U.S. government, of iconic art and the artists who see the world as a massive canvas, and of the regular people who help to make that kind art possible and those who work to preserve it for posterity.
Save the Date: 48th Annual Conference

September 15 – 17, 2016
Bowling Green, Kentucky
Western Kentucky University

Please make plans to join us for the 48th annual conference of the International Society for Landscape, Place, & Material Culture in historic downtown Bowling Green, Kentucky, September 15 – 17, 2016. The theme for this year’s conference is “Cars, Caves, and Cultural Connections.”

The conference hotel is the Hyatt Place, located on the edge of Western Kentucky University’s campus and the College Heights Historic District. Paper sessions will be at WKU’s Augenstein Alumni Center, adjacent to the hotel. The ISLPMC board will meet Wednesday evening, Sept. 14, in the conference hotel.

Conference events begin Thursday, Sept. 15, with several field trip options:

A walking tour including Bowling Green’s picturesque downtown square, an early modern automotive district along the old Dixie Highway, the historically African American Shake Rag neighborhood, and recent efforts at economic revitalization such as the Hot Rods baseball stadium and Corsair Distillery.

A tour of GM's Corvette assembly plant, home of the iconic sports car for thirty years, and the Corvette Museum, which made national headlines in 2014 when a sinkhole opened and swallowed eight of the museum’s treasured collection of cars.

The opening reception will be held Thursday evening in the atrium of the Augenstein Alumni Center. Paper sessions will be Friday, Sept. 16, in the Alumni Center ballrooms. The banquet and awards ceremony will be held Friday evening at a downtown restaurant. On Saturday, Sept. 17, an all-day bus tour will highlight tourism from the stage coach through early automobile eras and will include Bell’s Tavern, a famous nineteenth century stage coach stop, Bowling Green’s Railpark, dedicated to preserving the history of travel on the L&N Railroad, Cave City’s Wigwam Village tourist cabins, and the destination that drove tourism through all these eras, Mammoth Cave.

Bowling Green Then and Now: Fountain Square Park in the 1920s and in 2015