



The George McJunkin Lectures

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

10:00 AM-1:00 PM

PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Title: George McJunkin's Finest Thread

(Session Introductions & Land Acknowledgement)

Presenter: Brian W. Kenny, Applied Anthropologist

Abstract: George McJunkin - a Black cowboy, ranch supervisor, citizen scientist and historian - was an exceptional individual. We will establish a background context for ranching in New Mexico and show proof that an extensive historical and archaeological record exists in association with George McJunkin. The archaeological sites, archival records, and historic contexts are incredibly useful for continued professional research, for a potential future student historical archaeology and earth sciences training, and as a newly recognized resource for community preservation and pride. George McJunkin threaded his way into New Mexico's finest history. Scientists need to do more to update the story and make it relevant for all. We start by acknowledging the land upon which we work, and the Peoples and Cultures who came before us.

Title: In the Land of McJunkin: Ranching in Northeastern New Mexico

(Regional Context)

Presenters: Dr. Robert K. Hitchcock, University of New Mexico & Dr. Melinda C. Kelly, Kalahari Peoples Fund

Abstract: Cattle ranching has a lengthy history in northeastern New Mexico. Beginning in the 1870s, individuals and companies began establishing ranches in what are now Colfax and Union Counties in New Mexico. Some of these ranches were supported by a diverse staff of women and men, one of whom, George McJunkin, an African American ranch foreman, located the remains of what turned out to be Paleoindian materials near Folsom. This paper addresses the complex history of ranching and the livelihoods of northeastern New Mexico residents and the challenges and opportunities that they faced. Emphasis is placed on the factors that



contributed to the waxing and waning of cattle ranching and the changes that occurred over time in the societies, environments, and economies of northeastern New Mexico.

Title: Land Grants, Livestock Herders, and The Evolution of Ranching in Northeastern New Mexico

(Family And Community Context)

Presenter: Karl W. Laumbach Associate Director, Human Systems Research, Inc.

Abstract: The history of herding and ranching in northeastern New Mexico is rich and diverse and was often fraught with troubles. My family's history in the area began with the Mora Grant in 1835 and followed the trajectory of livestock herding, open range ranching, homesteading and the eventual accumulation of homesteads to create large ranches. I will trace that history by enhancing the historical background with the stories handed down to me.

Title: The role of horses in George McJunkin's life

(Lifestyle, Personal Attributes & Work Context)

Presenter: Dr. Daniel Acheson-Brown, Eastern New Mexico University

Abstract: During George McJunkin's life, people were dependent on horses. In addition to being used in agriculture, horses were the main mode of transportation, both of people and goods. In the West, horses were used for large cattle drives and in the daily management of ranches. George McJunkin excelled at these endeavors. He was an experienced horseman who worked with horses most of his life, gentling, training, riding, and caring for them. He also taught ranch boys to do the same. To do this, he must have had insight into the minds of horses and humans, which also enabled him to manage large ranches and cowhands. This presentation will highlight some of the knowledge and wisdom George McJunkin demonstrated.

Title: Jessie Foote Jack

(Human Relationships Context)

Presenter: Abbie J. Reaves, Folsom Museum Board President

Abstract: Jessie Foote Jack married Captain William Howard Jack, a prominent New Mexico rancher and President of the Crowfoot Cattle Company. Jessie helped her husband administer ranches in Colfax and Union Counties, but following his death, Jessie assumed his responsibilities. Jessie Foote Jack also was the first custodian for Capulin Volcano, as well as the



first female custodian in the National Park Service. When she returned to the East, she placed George McJunkin in charge of her ranch, in one of the most significant roles of his life.

**Title: Historical Archaeological Sites Associated with George McJunkin
(Historical Archaeological Context)**

Presenter: Brian W. Kenny, Applied Anthropologist

Abstract: Historical-age archaeological sites associated with McJunkin are present around Folsom New Mexico. The generational ranchers and their families hold these locations in public memory, and they advanced the work reported here - basic documentation of historical sites to better understand George McJunkin and the community. 'Team McJunkin' visited eleven historical sites and three museums in the Folsom region. The work took place in August and November 2021, and May 2022, with a total of 15 days logged in the field including travel time to and from home. Our work is a small accomplishment. Team McJunkin focused on windshield survey of previously unrecorded historical archaeological properties on privately-owned ranch lands. Based on the fieldwork and local information and existing literature, the team confirmed that George McJunkin affiliated sites are present.

GEORGE MCJUNKIN POSTER SESSIONS

**Following The Speaker's Presentations at Pecos NHP Forked Lightning Ranch
Informal Conversation With The Speakers & Poster Presenters As Desired**

**Title: Conservation, Curation, and Conversation: George McJunkin's Saddle
(Material Culture)**

Presenters: Samantha Bomkamp & Dr. Brendon Asher, Eastern New Mexico University

Poster Theme: A saddle belonging to George McJunkin was acquired by Dr. George Agogino, a professor at Eastern New Mexico University during his research into the life of McJunkin in the 1960-70s in Folsom, New Mexico. The saddle has a long history of being on display at the original Blackwater Draw Museum in Portales, in a temporary exhibit at Capulin Volcano National Monument, and currently in the new Blackwater Draw Museum on the campus of Eastern New Mexico University. This poster explores the manufacture history and age of the saddle and notes interesting characteristics and alterations made to the original design.



Current condition is discussed and plans for future conservation efforts are outlined. Through artifacts like these, museum visitors have a unique opportunity to connect with the life and legacy of George McJunkin.

**Title: History of the Hi Low Country
(Museum & Community Interpretive Contexts)**

Presenters: Matt Doherty, Abbie Reeves, Pat Doherty, Kyle Bell

Poster Theme: An extensive display to interpret George McJunkin, Jesse Foote Jack, The Folsom Site, the Folsom Museum, and the Hi lo country around Folsom New Mexico

Title: George McJunkin's Homestead Patent 15 March 1893, 3 December 1894, 27 December 1901, and 8 April 1902

(Government Systems & Their Historical Records)

Presenters: Brenda Wilkinson and Brian Kenny

Poster Theme: A Succinct Review of George McJunkin's GLO Homestead Patent Records & The Processes He Endured

**Title: Historical Archaeological Sites on Private Land Associated with George McJunkin
(Future Research Opportunities)**

Presenter: Brian W. Kenny

Poster Theme: Review the Details of Sites Visited During 2021-2022 Fieldwork. The Work Confirmed the Existence of Several Important Sites.