

paperback book. You can't just misplace it under the bed. Did he take it to them, and if so, where did he take it....what address? Or did he have them come and get it....if so, who did he contact to come get it, what is their phone number? We really need details on this if we are going to pin it down and find out what became of that stone. I know the man's name was Bill Midgely. I cannot find the email from Mr. Dycus with his phone number, unless you saved it. I do have Don Dycus' email address. You can check with him again and get the phone number and see if he has heard anything more. I think that a call from the actual tribe itself would maybe jar this guy's memory a little better. I would call him, but I have no official capacity to do so, so it comes better from you.

Don Dycus  
Don L. Dycus, RPA, LLC  
P.O. Box 10148  
Kansas City, MO 64171-0148  
(816) 931-7319  
(816) 561-4602 (fax)

Bill Midgely - Did Jim ever contact Bill

① Visit

② Memorial

③ Return Headstone



Here is some correspondence about that grave:

. I do intend to make them cognizant that he was the chief of the wolf clan Delaware NATION in Kansas, not the Kansas Delaware Tribe. And the second thing is that his grave is not a "tourist attraction." Besides that, it was not an unmarked grave. It WAS marked until the whites took the gravestone, and the cemetery was on the historic maps of the area, thus it was considered a MARKED cemetery.

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. It is titled Historic Spots in Wyandotte Co., Kansas. In that book you will find information on the chief's grave. It also has a historic map, showing the cemetery, which in effect makes it a marked cemetery. It also has a photo of the chief's gravestone (now missing) and his bones lying in front of the stone. They are there because the local people had a curiosity about the grave and the metal coffin in which the chief was buried. For some reason, whites did not consider it a bad thing to dig up and rob a grave if it was an Indian grave. One account I have read was a letter telling about an excursion of a group of youths who went out after attending church and dug up an Indian grave as a lark, stealing the items off of the corpse they found there. That was the grave of James Swannuck, a Delaware scout for John C. Fremont.

Another source of information might be the Kansas Historic Society. They have had the site registered for a number of years.

One of my friends sent me the recent article concerning Neconhecon's grave and the housing addition planned there. I do not know who wrote it, but it appeared in the Lawrence, Kansas newspaper. I could clarify a couple of items in it for you so that those errors are not passed along. One is that he was not the chief of the "Kansas Delaware Tribe." The correct title would be chief of the Wolf Clan of the Delaware Nation in Kansas. The Delaware Nation was removed to Indian Territory in 1867 and is now known as the Delaware Tribe of Indians, headquartered in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It currently has about 10,000 tribal members. Another change I would suggest is the phrasing that his grave might be a tourist attraction. I think a better term might be a local historic site or place of historic interest. The third thing was the statement that his grave was unmarked. It was not unmarked. In the past it was marked with the gravestone pictured in the book I mentioned above. Some past owners chose to remove the stone in order to make his grave harder to locate to discourage people from digging him up. They kept the stone at their house or barn on the property for a number of years. The base that the stone was mounted in still remains on the grave and marks it, as I understand. One of the later owners removed the stone from the property and its location is now unknown, though we and the present developers are attempting to find it. And, as I mentioned above, the cemetery was featured on a historic map of the county, which technically makes it a marked cemetery.

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I'm writing to inform you of the most recent developments concerning Chief Neconhecon's cemetery in Wyandotte County.

A remote sensing (electro-magnetometer) survey of the area surrounding the Chief's grave indicates only one anomaly that is potentially an unmarked grave, located approximately six feet west of the Chief. Otherwise, the area is remarkably free of suspicious subsurface features.

Bob  
Hoand



Robert Hoard, Kansas state archaeologist and chairman of the Unmarked Burial Preservation Board, has expressed his concurrence with the results of the survey and with my conclusion that no other unmarked burials appear to be present in the vicinity. Unfortunately, state government budgetary constraints prevent the Board from meeting for the foreseeable future, so no formal Board decision is forthcoming. In the meantime, my client would like to proceed with developing the property, provided the Delaware have no objections.

Toward that end, my client proposes avoiding and preserving the cemetery in the following manner.

First, you and other representatives of the Tribe are welcome to visit the property in order to inspect the gravesite and determine its condition, etc. Accordingly, a copy of the remote sensing survey report and my accompanying report are available for your review.

Next, the preliminary site development plan has been modified to set aside from development one residential lot, approximately 80' x 100', that includes the Chief's gravesite and the adjacent, potential unmarked grave. This proposed development plan is available for your review and comment. The boundaries of this area will be readily identifiable and the lot marked with a substantial memorial, i.e., a granite headstone, which will be inscribed according to the Tribe's wishes. ) *memorial*

Last, the original headstone has not yet been recovered, but progress has been made and efforts will continue toward returning this object to the Tribe.

I look forward to hearing from you and to providing any additional information you might find helpful.

Sincerely,  
Don Dycus

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Subj: Re: Neconhecon  
Date: 9/3/02 5:18:19 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: Deblenape  
To: Jimrem

In a message dated 9/2/2002 7:59:42 PM Central Standard Time, Jimrem writes:

<< I'll try to remember this and get Dee's reply. What do you suggest - should Dee contact Dycus or the other way around? Or perhaps I can work as the go-between. With this being election year he will probably want to run it by the council and not decide on his own. He has to watch his step with those worth opponents, you know! >>

Well. I would suggest that you talk to do Dee about it, explain it to him. I would suggest you



send Dycus an email, tell him that you are bringing it to the chief, who will probably want to bring it before the council. Then suggest Dee ask the council for an ok at the next meeting. That way Dycus knows we are working on it, but Dee can run it by the council for proper procedure. Keep everything on the up and up that way.

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Subdivision replanned around tribal grave

The Associated Press

Thursday, August 22, 2002

Piper â€” The unmarked grave of a Delaware tribal chief has forced developers to rethink the layout of a Piper subdivision.

The burial site of Chief Neconhecon, assistant chief of the Kansas Delaware Tribe and head of the Wolf Clan in the mid-19th century, is nestled inside 34 acres slated for the Delaware Ridge subdivision.

The grave was designated a historical landmark in 1982 and is protected by the Kansas State Historical Society Preservation Act. The designation left Northgate Homes, the developer, to make a decision whether to continue with the project.

"We're going to put up a monument to the site, make it a tourist attraction," said Don Budd, member of the Northgate partnership.

Northgate also has proposed a buffer area around the grave to protect the site.

Two people came forward in April when developers sought a zoning change needed to allow the development to move forward. Landowners Ron and Sharon Fagan opposed the change, claiming Northgate had not accounted for a publicly listed grave in their plan.

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Subj: About Neconhecon

Date: 8/22/02 7:10:23 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Deblenape

To: Jimrem

::sigh:: Regardless of the newspaper article....(reporters are so ignorant) ...we do need to let the developers know if they have the tribe's approval and make suggestions for an appropriate inscription on the marker they propose. I am not clear if they mean a grave marker or historic marker. I do intend to make them cognizant that he was the chief of the wolf clan Delaware NATION in Kansas, not the Kansas Delaware Tribe. And the second thing is that his grave is not a "tourist attraction." Besides that, it was not an unmarked grave. It WAS marked until the whites took the gravestone, and the cemetery was on the historic maps of the area, thus it was considered a MARKED cemetery. If you can't guess, I am getting really



irritated. At any rate, please check with Dee, etc. and see what approval they need to give...his, the tribal council's, Gina's....whatever....and then we need to propose the inscription for the marker, or else they will butcher it.

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Subj: Re: Delaware Ridge  
Date: 8/22/02 7:25:06 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: Deblenape  
To: ddycus@kc.rr.com  
BCC: Jimrem

Dear Mr. Dycus:

One of my friends over in Kansas sent me a copy of the following article.

Subdivision replanned around tribal grave

The Associated Press

Thursday, August 22, 2002

Piper â€” The unmarked grave of a Delaware tribal chief has forced developers to rethink the layout of a Piper subdivision.

The burial site of Chief Neconhecon, assistant chief of the Kansas Delaware Tribe and head of the Wolf Clan in the mid-19th century, is nestled inside 34 acres slated for the Delaware Ridge subdivision.

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Two people came forward in April when developers sought a zoning change needed to allow the development to move forward. Landowners Ron and Sharon Fagan opposed the change, claiming Northgate had not accounted for a publicly listed grave in their plan.

Now, having read this article, I wanted to communicate a few things to you. First, I have asked Jim Rementer to handle the necessary permissions from the tribe. Second, if you will advise us what type of marker your clients have in mind, we will make suggestions for a suitable inscription. It is unfortunate to see the story in the news with several inaccuracies. Neconhecon was chief of the Wolf Clan of the Delaware Nation in Kansas. Not the Kansas Delaware Tribe. There is a big difference if you know Delaware history and politics. Secondly, I would not say that any gravesite of our people is a "tourist attraction," though I know it is



considered a local historic point of interest. And third, it was not an unmarked grave. It was quite well marked before the gravestone was taken. And the cemetery itself appears on historic maps, making it a marked cemetery. Perhaps bringing these points to your attention will help to make any future news releases more accurate. I genuinely appreciate all your work to make this preservation possible and I am sure the tribe is grateful for your clients' efforts to protect the grave of Neconhecon.

Deborah Nichols-Ledermann

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Subj: One source on Chief Neconhecon  
Date: 8/23/02 7:17:33 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: Deblenape  
To: mwiebe@kcstar.com  
BCC: Jimrem

Mark,

One source of information I can point you to is a book at the Wyandotte Co. Museum. It is titled Historic Spots in Wyandotte Co., Kansas. In that book you will find information on the chief's grave. It also has a historic map, showing the cemetery, which in effect makes it a marked cemetery. It also has a photo of the chief's gravestone (now missing) and his bones lying in front of the stone. They are there because the local people had a curiosity about the grave and the metal coffin in which the chief was buried. For some reason, whites did not consider it a bad thing to dig up and rob a grave if it was an Indian grave. One account I have read was a letter telling about an excursion of a group of youths who went out after attending church and dug up an Indian grave as a lark, stealing the items off of the corpse they found there. That was the grave of James Swannuck, a Delaware scout for John C. Fremont.

\*  
Digging  
up  
Bones  
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Another source of information might be the Kansas Historic Society. They have had the site registered for a number of years.

One of my friends sent me the recent article concerning Neconhecon's grave and the housing addition planned there. I do not know who wrote it, but it appeared in the Lawrence, Kansas newspaper. I could clarify a couple of items in it for you so that those errors are not passed along. One is that he was not the chief of the "Kansas Delaware Tribe." The correct title would be chief of the Wolf Clan of the Delaware Nation in Kansas. The Delaware Nation was removed to Indian Territory in 1867 and is now known as the Delaware Tribe of Indians, headquartered in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. It currently has about 10,000 tribal members. Another change I would suggest is the phrasing that his grave might be a tourist attraction. I think a better term might a local historic site or place of historic interest. The third thing was the statement that his grave was unmarked. It was not unmarked. In the past it was marked with the gravestone pictured in the book I mentioned above. Some past owners chose to remove the stone in order to make his grave harder to locate to discourage people from digging him up. They kept the stone at their house or barn on the property for a number of years. The base that the stone was mounted in still remains on the grave and marks it, as I understand. One of the later owners removed the stone from the property and its location is now unknown, though we and the present developers are attempting to find it. And, as I mentioned above, the cemetery was featured on a historic map of the county, which technically makes it a marked cemetery.



Hopefully these pieces of information will help you get started. Send your questions and I will try my best to answer them.

Deborah Nichols-Ledermann

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Subj: Delaware Ridge etc

Date: 8/18/02 4:59:42 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Deblenape

To: Jimrem

Let me know what you think of the proposal from the Delaware Ridge developers. Someone will have to officially decide if this is alright and how to inscribe the marker. I can make suggestions for that. As far as I can tell, they have made a good effort on the site and I have no objections to their continuation of the development. I would suggest that you do try to contact that guy who had the stone, though, as maybe direct contact by the tribe would loosen his memory a little better.

I have deliberately kept this all quiet because I don't want the Kansas Delaware "tribe" putting in their two cents worth. I especially do NOT want Thomas Hahn there to "sanctify" any new grave marker for Neconhecon.

A fellow up here who is living with one of our friends is a Choctaw Indian named Jim. He has been appointed...or whatever....to take care of the Nagpra business for the various Choctaw tribes in Missouri. One thing I had a problem with was that he apparently knows that Greywolf guy back east who claims to be a chief. I told him that as far as I knew, the man was not recognized in any way by the federally recognized tribes. I was trying to be diplomatic, since he seemed to like the fellow, but I was not able to remember exactly what you have told me about him, other than he is a "wannabe" chief.

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Subj: Fwd: Delaware Ridge

Date: 8/15/02 5:18:22 PM Central Daylight Time

From: Deblenape

To: Jimrem

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Forwarded Message:

Subj: Delaware Ridge

Date: 8/14/02 9:14:46 PM Central Daylight Time

From: ddycus@kc.rr.com (Don Dycus)

To: Deblenape@aol.com (Deborah Nichols-Ledermann)

Hello Deborah,

I'm writing to inform you of the most recent developments concerning Chief Neconhecon's cemetery in Wyandotte County.

A remote sensing (electro-magnetometer) survey of the area surrounding the Chief's grave



indicates only one anomaly that is potentially an unmarked grave, located approximately six feet west of the Chief. Otherwise, the area is remarkably free of suspicious subsurface features.

Robert Hoard, Kansas state archaeologist and chairman of the Unmarked Burial Preservation Board, has expressed his concurrence with the results of the survey and with my conclusion that no other unmarked burials appear to be present in the vicinity. Unfortunately, state government budgetary constraints prevent the Board from meeting for the foreseeable future, so no formal Board decision is forthcoming. In the meantime, my client would like to proceed with developing the property, provided the Delaware have no objections.

Toward that end, my client proposes avoiding and preserving the cemetery in the following manner.

① First, you and other representatives of the Tribe are welcome to visit the property in order to inspect the gravesite and determine its condition, etc. Accordingly, a copy of the remote sensing survey report and my accompanying report are available for your review.

② Next, the preliminary site development plan has been modified to set aside from development one residential lot, approximately 80' x 100', that includes the Chief's gravesite and the adjacent, potential unmarked grave. This proposed development plan is available for your review and comment. The boundaries of this area will be readily identifiable and the lot marked with a substantial memorial, i.e., a granite headstone, which will be inscribed according to the Tribe's wishes.

③ Last, the original headstone has not yet been recovered, but progress has been made and efforts will continue toward returning this object to the Tribe.

I look forward to hearing from you and to providing any additional information you might find helpful.

Sincerely,  
Don Dycus  
Don L. Dycus, RPA, LLC  
P.O. Box 10148  
Kansas City, MO 64171-0148  
(816) 931-7319 (phone)  
(816) 561-4602 (fax)

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Subj: One More thing  
Date: 8/10/02 12:08:32 PM Central Daylight Time  
From: Deblenape  
To: Jimrem

We have not heard anything more on Neconhecon's gravestone. Do you think that as our Nagpra person, you could give that man who had it a little call and just find out from the horse's mouth what he did with it? He supposedly turned it over to the OZ people, but they say they don't know about it. SO.....how did he give it to them. It is a large gravestone, not a