Maj. Marcus Reno looked down from the hill and saw Indians everywhere; he quickly ordered his men to charge. The charge was unsuccessful, and Reno and some 300 men were killed or wounded in the resulting battle.

In 1870 and 1871, prior to this event, Major Reno had been commanding officer at Fort Hays, Kansas.

A Button Falls, a Story Unfolds

The Anthony Laboratory at the Kansas State Historical Society has a large accumulation of material excavated at Fort Hays. Christine Davis, who is in charge of the lab, encouraged me to visit her to see what materials were available. As a part of this visit, I did some research on identifying and dating military uniforms that were used at this site.

Recently I found another military button of particular interest. It is beautiful, as is evident in the accompanying illustration. It is quite robust and very well detailed and includes a eagle's head on the top, which is a typical feature of military uniform buttons. But even more interesting is the manufacturer's name, Henry V. Allen Company of New York. In the earlier article, I noted that the Scott Company and the Hartmann Company were the major producers of buttons for the army's use west of the Mississippi River. A little research revealed that the Allen Company was the manufacturer of buttons for West Point, the United States Military Academy.

Stein to Retire After 30 Years at KSHis

After thirty years as an archeologist at the Kansas State Historical Society, Martin Stein is retiring. He began his service in September 1975 as the first staff archeologist in the Historic Preservation Office. Stein worked in the Preservation Office until 1993, when he transferred to the Archeology Office.

Over the years, Stein has reviewed tens of thousands of projects under state and federal laws for the protection of historic properties, in addition to preparing National Register of Historic Places nomination forms for archaeological sites, districts, and for a thematic nomination of rock art sites. The photographs and records prepared for the rock art nomination have taken on a new importance, because some of the included sites have been destroyed through natural erosion or damaged by vandalism in recent years.

The review process is time-consuming in the early days, a time Stein refers to as “B.C. (Before Computers).” A typical review involved going from his office on the first floor of Memorial Hall (which then housed the KSHis to the archaeological files located on the third floor). After completing a review, he returned to the first floor to examine maps stored in the archives. He then returned to his office to prepare a letter of response on a Royal standard typewriter, with the KSHis signature yellow file copy. That awkward procedure led to Stein obtaining copies of topographic maps that were marked with archeological site locations, surveyed areas, and from historic maps. Still later, a computerized database of information on site forms was created with an associated bibliography of references. The maps and database forms were part of the Geographic Information System (GIS) currently used. That same process today is accomplished with more concise forms, bringing in a computer screen a topographic map or aerial photograph showing areas surveyed, historic map notations, and archeological site locations, as well as a site form that can also have photographs, notes, sketch maps, or reports attached. Stein has been instrumental in the annual Kansas Archeology Training Program, must often conducting an archeological survey with volunteers. Past survey projects have resulted in a better definition of the distribution of Great Bend Archeological sites associated with the Little River Archeological District, a national historic landmark, and recording the first day Creek Dolemite quarries, a regionally important lithic resource in Southwestern Kansas, among others. During his tenure in the Archeology Office he worked to preserve archeological components of the historic properties managed by the KSHis, including excavaing prior to construction of the Native American Heritage Museum.

Martin's last day of work will be October 15. Although we will miss him, we wish him the best in his retirement.

Winston and Bauer Begin New Duties

The Cultural Resources Division hired Tim Winston as the new State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archeologist. Winston has worked for the Kansas State Historical Society for 15 years. During most of his tenure, he served the Cultural Resources Division as highway archeologist. Winston began his new duties on August 5. He can be reached at (785) 272-8681 Ext. 214 or twinston@kshs.org.

Winston replaces Will Banks, who left the staff in July to accept a post-doctoral research position in Bordeaux, France. Anne Bauer was hired to replace Winston as highway archeologist. Bauer has worked for the Cultural Resources Division's fee-funded contract archeology program since 2003. She holds a bachelor's degree in historic preservation from Southeast Missouri State University and a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Nebraska. Her research interests include historic cultural resources. She can be reached at (785) 272-8681 Ext. 254 or abauer@kshs.org.