



**OFFICE OF THE
STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST**

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15 February 2021

Re: 2020 Keyes/Orr award

Dear Iowa Archaeological Society Keyes-Orr award committee,

I nominate Alan Becker for receipt of the Keyes-Orr award. I have known Al for 28 years, first working with him in 1992 during an archaeological project at 1840s-era sites near Fort Atkinson. Al and LuAnne Becker were IAS members for 17 years (1998–2015).

Alan Becker, a retired high school social studies/history teacher at Turkey Valley Community Schools in northeast Iowa, has worked tirelessly to generate enthusiasm for and promote public awareness of the importance of history and archaeology among persons of all ages. For several decades and until very recently, he played an active role in organizing and participating in the annual school day kicking off the Fort Atkinson Rendezvous each September, an event that annually draws more than 1,000 schoolkids to the fort to experience re-created history first hand.

Al, through his work on the Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission (and for many years, serving as its chairperson), applied for and received numerous Certified Local Government (CLG) and other grants—at least six that I am aware of, all toward work at archaeological sites in the Fort Atkinson vicinity. These projects funded professional archaeological assessments of the Subagency, the Fort itself, a probable Catholic mission to the Ho-Chunk, a trading post, a Ho-Chunk ridged agricultural field, and several Ho-Chunk camps and villages—with each project utilizing hundreds of volunteer hours, and for two summers, conducted in concert with an innovative University of Iowa archaeological field school that partnered Native American speakers with university undergraduate students and local volunteers. Al has generated community support by creating media interest in these projects; soliciting volunteers from near and far, and old and young; building relationships with Winnebago and Ho-Chunk tribal members; arranging many public presentations on archaeological topics; and co-authoring technical archaeological reports with me.

Al strongly supported an endeavor to nominate Fort Atkinson to the National Register of Historic Places at a national level of significance, an effort that was successful in 2013. Without a national-level listing, the fort would not be eligible for the National Park Service's *Save America's Treasures* grant that was awarded this year. The \$497,500 grant, authored primarily by archaeologist Kathy Gourley, will result in nearly one million dollars' worth of assessment and stabilization measures at Fort Atkinson—including archaeological work—to preserve this treasure for future generations.

Thanks to Alan Becker, a generation of Turkey Valley students learned that archaeology contributes to our understanding of history in their own backyard. Field and lab volunteers gained insights into the varied resources of the region and the importance of recent (1840s) Native American archaeological deposits. His advocacy resulted in The Archaeological Conservancy (TAC) acquiring their first property in Iowa—the Hewitt-Olmsted Trading Post, which is also the site of the only known, preserved Ho-Chunk ridged agricultural field in the state. The site's landowner had recently died, and the property was endangered of being purchased by a nearby quarrying operation. Al's discussions with the estate directly enabled this land purchase by TAC.

In all these ways—especially in his work with professional archaeologists and generating support for archaeology and history—Al Becker personifies the Keyes-Orr partnering relationship. In addition to all his direct, tangible contributions to the local and the wider historic preservation community, Al Becker has impacted all who have met him on a personal level, through his kind encouragement, enthusiasm, contagious laugh, and big heart.

Sincerely,

Cindy Peterson, Research Director

Recommendation of Alan Becker for the Keyes/Orr Award

I would like to add my strong support for the nomination of Alan Becker as the Keyes-Orr Award recipient. I do not remember exactly when I met Al, but it must have been in the late 1980s when I served as Iowa's CLG Coordinator or in the very early 1990s when I became the SHPO archaeologist and inherited the Section 106 file for a USDA project in the vicinity of the historic fort.

Al has been involved in numerous history and archaeology projects in the community. I remember his involvement in publishing a history of the community, and in establishing the City's museum.

In 2001, the State Preserves Board held a weeklong cultural resources field opportunity for about 20 adult learners in the Fort Atkinson vicinity. The event included sessions on geology, archaeology, architectural history, museum studies, oral history and archival research. Al served as both the local coordinator and as one of the presenters.

The State Preserves Board had not previously sponsored such an event, and I don't believe the event would have been possible but for Al's participation and enthusiasm. Most small communities simply do not have a tireless volunteer that is so knowledgeable about, and committed to, the historic properties in a community.

I am so happy that Cindy Peterson has nominated Al for this prestigious award and am happy to add my voice to the effort.

Kathy Gourley

Keith Young
2020 IAS Keyes-Orr Award Chair
WAPSI Valley Archaeology Inc.
126 East Main Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

cc: John Doershuk
State Archaeologist of Iowa
Office of the State Archaeologist
700 South Clinton Street
Iowa City, IA 52242

RE: Support letter for Kathy Gourley for 2020 IAS Keyes-Orr Award

22 May 2021

Dear Keith:

It is my pleasure to nominate **Kathy Marley Gourley** for the Iowa Archaeological Society's Keyes-Orr Award. I have known Kathy for over 40 years in a number of capacities: as her instructor and advisor when she was an undergraduate student at ISU, as her Co-Principal Major Professor (along with Dr. Helen Schuster) for her MA degree at ISU, as an archaeological colleague in her various roles with the SHSI and SHPO offices.

Kathy has made outstanding academic and bureaucratic contributions to Iowa archaeology and history, and to the Iowa Archaeological Society and Association of Iowa Archaeologists. She is deserving of the 2020 Keyes-Orr Award several times over.

I first met Kathy when she was an undergraduate student in anthropology at ISU in the mid-1970s. She was in a number of my classes, and always excelled. At that time, she was somewhat shy, but her contributions to group discussions were always pointed and germane. Kathy was an eager and diligent student in the ISU Archaeological Summer field School. She served as my Archaeological Field and Lab Assistant in 1977-1978, and obtained her BA degree in Anthropology in 1978.

After graduating from ISU, Kathy held a number of professional positions, and still managed to run a household, entertain for and support her husband Chris (a photojournalist), and raise two sons. From 1979 to 1981, Kathy worked for CIRALG (Central Iowa Regional Association for Local Governments); I worked with her on the archaeological resources along the Skunk River Valley. Her report was very well executed. Later, Kathy worked for the State Historical Society of Iowa and Iowa's State Historic Preservation Office in various roles: including Field Historian, Certified Local Governments (CLG) Coordinator, and Community Programs Bureau Director. In the latter role, she administered the Historic Site Preservation Grant Program. In 1998-1999, I worked with Kathy in obtaining a Preservation Grant for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society that enabled the construction of display cases, vitrines, and pedestals for the IJHS Museum; those display cases served the IJHS Museum initially in the Harmon Building on the Drake University campus and are still in use at the present IJHS Museum at the Caspe Terrace near Waukee.

Kathy returned to graduate school at ISU and completed an MA degree in Anthropology in 1990. Her thesis entitled "Locations of Sauk, Meskwakie, and Associated Euro-American Sites 1832-1845: An Ethnohistoric Approach," was outstanding, very much a major contribution to Iowa's historical archaeology and ethnohistory.

In 1991 Kathy taught my North American Archaeology course at ISU, on short notice when I was forced to take emergency medical leave. She taught the course masterfully, and was well-liked by the students. In 1993, she taught the class again during which time I was on Sabbatical.

Although Kathy is now putatively "retired," she is still contributing to Iowa archaeology and history. Most recently, she wrote a successful grant application for DNR funds to explore and restore Fort Atkinson.

In sum, the IAS should honor Kathy by awarding her the Keyes-Orr Award.

Cordially,

David

David M. Gradwohl
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and Founding Director
Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory

May 22, 2021

To: Keyes Orr Award Review Committee – Iowa Archaeological Society

From: Jerome Thompson, State Historical Society, Retired

Subject: Nomination for Kathryn E.M. Gourley

I first met Kathy when I began work at the State Historical Society in 1982. I was the historic sites coordinator and she was a self-employed archaeological consultant. I would spend my lunch breaks exploring the Native American collections on display at the Historical Building. A collection of 19th century trade goods excavated from burials in 1905 at a site in Des Moines near the Chesterfield School caught my interest. I pointed these out to Kathy and knew that these objects were not nearly the age described in the exhibit label.

This launched extensive research by Kathy that resulted in the identification of the Sauk village that was located near the Raccoon River Indian Agency 1842-1845. This was part of the research that led to her master thesis, "Locations of Sauk, Mesquakie, and Associated Euro-American Sites 1832-1845: An Ethnographic Approach" in 1990. As a result of her research the associated funerary objects and human remains from the Chesterfield Site were repatriated to the Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa in 2001.

While Kathy's career has not always involved archeology, it has never been far afield. She spent seven years as a review archaeologist in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), four years as the Certified Local Governments Coordinator in the SHPO, and six years as the Field Historian working to provide outreach to local historical organizations. For one year 1985-1986 she worked as an archeological consultant for Brice, Petrides, Donohue Engineers doing research on the Fort Des Moines Number 2 site in the City of Des Moines. She also taught upper level courses on North American Archeology at Iowa State for two semesters.

Kathy's professional work has included providing her expertise to many governmental and non-profit groups including the Iowa Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, the Silos and Smokestacks Partnership Panel, the Loess Hills National Scenic Byway Council, and the State Preserve Advisory Board.

She has made more than twenty presentations at professional conferences, including the Iowa Archeological Society and to public groups. Kathy has authored numerous reports and publications. Her research on Meskwaki sites appeared in *"From the Great Lakes to the Great Plains: Meskwaki Archeology"* Edited by Lynn Alex (The Wisconsin Archeologist Vol 89, No 1&2 Jan-Dec 2008) Significantly, her research on Iowa forts found its way into three chapters in *Frontier Forts of Iowa: Indians, Traders, and Soldiers, 1682-1862*, Edited by William E. Whittaker (University of Iowa Press 2009).

Since she retired several years ago, Kathy has stayed involved. She recently wrote a successful application for Iowa Department of Natural Resources to Save America's Treasures to aid in restoration effort at Fort Atkinson.

I hope you will give this long-time IAS member serious consideration for this award.