



If the Shoe Fits: Subarctic-style Moccasins and the Apachean Journey from the Northern Dene Homeland to the Precontact Southwest

A Zoom Presentation by Archaeologist Kevin P. Gilmore, PhD

The timing and routes taken by the ancestors of the modern Ndee (Apache) and Diné (Navajo) on their journey south from northern Canada to their current territory in the south has been a matter of speculation since the linguistic relationship between the northern Dene (Athapaskan speakers) and Southwest Apachean speakers was identified more than 100 years ago.

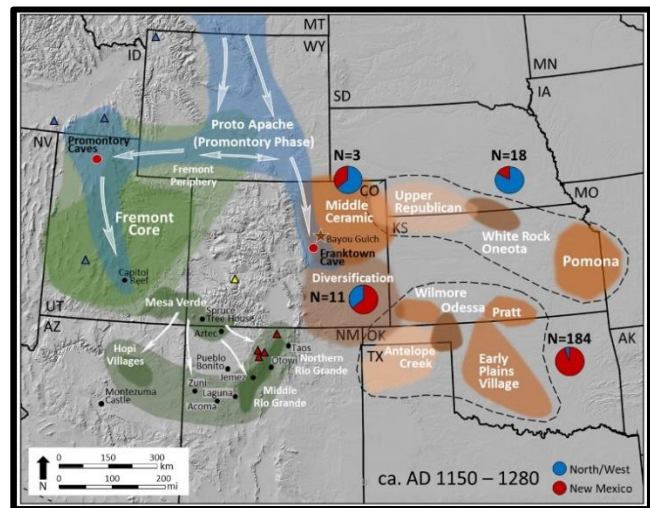


Four views of BSM Type 2(Bb) moccasin from Montezuma Castle, Arizona; from "If the Shoe Fits: A Subarctic-Style Moccasin from Montezuma Castle National Monument and the Fourteenth Century Shift to Hide Footwear in the Precontact Southwest" by Kevin P. Gilmore, Edward A. Jolie, and John W. Ives (2024, *Journal of Arizona Archaeology* 10(2):145-162)

In this presentation, Dr. Kevin Gilmore will discuss the factors that may have influenced the initial move to the south by Apachean ancestors, as well as when and how a relatively small group of people with a Subarctic adaptation became differentiated into the Ndee and Diné. He will also consider how their interactions with people already living in these areas may have influenced aspects of culture as disparate as the shift from sandals to moccasins and patterns of obsidian conveyance from source areas to groups on the Great Plains.

See more information on next page.

Within the last decade, a three-piece Subarctic style BSM type 2(Bb) moccasin associated with proto-Apache Promontory phase migrants has been identified in museum collections from an increasing number of archaeological sites throughout the eastern Great Basin, Southwest, and Western Plains margin. Several recent publications documenting the direct dating, archaeological context and materials analysis of these artifacts have provided more nuanced understanding of the story of the Dene arrival in the traditional territory of the Ndee and Diné.



Map showing hypothesized movement of Proto-Apache and other cultural groups during the late 12th and "Turbulent 13th" centuries

Thursday January 16, 2025

7 pm Mountain Standard Time

To register for the Zoom program go to

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BVkljyx5SIm3W0YWvYz2Nw.

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If the Shoe Fits . . .

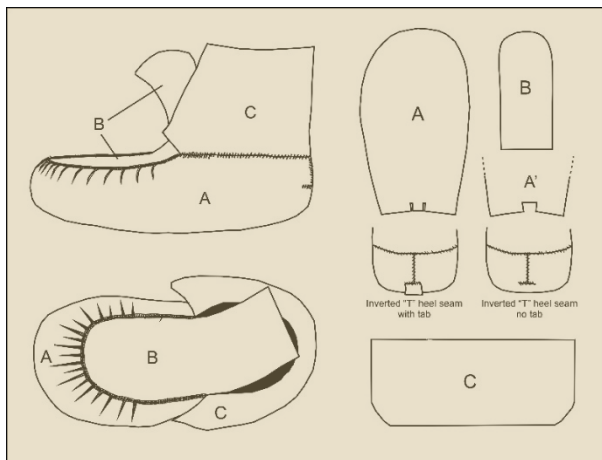


This month's Third Thursday presenter **Kevin Gilmore** has been the Archaeology Program Manager at HDR in Englewood, Colorado for almost nine years. He grew up in Denver, and after post-secondary education up and down the Front Range, eventually received a PhD in Physical Geography from the University of Denver after asking himself "where can I get a PhD within seven blocks of my house?"

His regional area of research interest is the Palmer Divide, a forested upland at the divide between the South Platte and Arkansas River basins that includes Franktown Cave, a rock shelter on the Divide 20 miles south of Denver that contained an extensive collection of perishable artifacts unusual for the Plains.



Archaeologist Kevin Gilmore



Left: Schematic of a Promontory type BSM 2(Bb) moccasin; from "If the Shoe Fits" article by Kevin P. Gilmore, Edward A. Jolie, and John W. Ives (2024)

Kevin has published on the archaeology of eastern Colorado, proto-Apache migration, precontact population, geoarchaeology, gender in precontact Plains society, landscape archaeology, and the paleoenvironmental records found in "pocket fens" in eastern Colorado.

*Illustrations courtesy of Dr. Gilmore
except for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center logo ones*

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's "Third Thursday Food for Thought" Zoom webinars on the Third Thursday evening of each month feature presentations on archaeology, history, and cultures.

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