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# NEWSLETTER HOUSTON ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Status Report on Ashton Villa Research

### Texas Anderson

Texas Anderson is currently directing archeological research at Ashton Villa, a nineteenth century residence in Galveston, Texas. Members of the Houston Archeological Society (including Dave Atherton, Dick Gregg, Sheldon Kindall, Mike Kremheller, Jim Felton, Andy Griffin, Lou Fullen, Marcy Grubbs, Jean McGinty, Bernard and Selma Naman, W.C. Smith, Pam Wheat, and Suzanne Wilson) and Rice University graduate students, Roger Moore and Shirley Wetzels, are assisting in field and lab work.

The first phase of the project was funded by grants from the Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund, R.J. Simon Development Co. and Mel Anderson Communications. The second phase of the project will be funded in part by the Kempner Fund and by Mitchell Development Corp.

The estate was built in 1859 by James Moreau Brown, a Galveston merchant and master builder. The three-story red brick structure and its dependencies became the property of the city of Galveston in 1972 and have been restored under the direction of the Galveston Historical Foundation.

The first six weeks of excavations, in late November and December, 1980, were guided by information gained from Sanborn fire insurance maps, panoramic maps, letters, and photographs. These documents revealed numerous additions, alterations, and modifications to the site between 1859 and 1929, when the Brown family sold the estate to the El Mina Shriners.

Work resumed in the field in mid-April, in order to explicate certain problems that arose in the first session and to further examine specific features of which only a small portion were exposed. The results of this research will be reported in October to the Texas Antiquities Committee and in a thesis for the PhD in Anthropology at Rice University.

Preliminary Report on the Wharton Site (41WH39)Joe HudginsIntroduction

The Wharton site (41WH39) is located in the city limits of Wharton, Texas and about 70 miles southwest of Houston, Texas. Sixteen burials have been excavated and it is anticipated that more will be found. The material from this site is being stored at the University of Texas. Meg Kluge, an archeologist employed by the Texas Survey Commission is in charge of this project.

History

On Wednesday, January 14, employees of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company discovered two burials while digging a trench for a telephone cable in the city limits of Wharton, Texas. This trench was about 30 inches deep, 4 inches wide and was parallel to the south side of five houses recently constructed.

These burials were given to the chief of Police of Wharton, who in turn called the University of Texas at Austin. Two archeologists from the Texas Historical Commission arrived the following Saturday. They examined the burials, determined they were Indian and returned to Austin with the material.

Tuesday, January 20, the Entex Gas Company proceeded to dig a gas line about four feet south and parallel to the telephone cable. With their cooperation, plans were made to monitor the trenching operation. The results yielded information suggesting a relatively large burial area. The Texas Historical Commission then made plans to excavate this area. No funds were available for this project so work proceeded on a voluntary basis and was limited to weekends.

Archeologists from the University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at San Antonio, Texas A&M University, students and Houston Archeological Society members began work on the site. Later, Meg Kluge assumed complete responsibility for the excavating and will publish the results of the work on the site sometime in the future.

Location

Site 41WH39 is located on the south bank of an abandoned channel of the Caney Creek. This creek has its origin in the west end of Wharton County near the border of Wharton County and Colorado County. This location places it very close to the Colorado River.

In its natural state, the site was in a region of heavy timber, with native pecan being the most abundant type of tree. Elm, hackberry and oaks account for the remainder. Small open areas near the banks of the creek supported very thick stands of cane.

The soils at this site can be identified from the general soil map of Wharton County as the Miller-Norwood type. They are well drained soils that have a surface layer of clay and a lower layer of silt loam.

## Burial Description

At this time very little has been determined about the burials. There have been sixteen excavated and all seem to be adults. The preferred orientation seems to be with heads to the northeast. All individuals were laid on their backs with their arms and legs extended. Only one was flexed at the knees. Time of burial is suggested to have been during the late Archaic Period. Burials share characteristics with those found on Allens Creek sites.

## Artifacts

Artifacts found with these burials consists of marine shell ornaments, several dart points of varying types, two slabs of sandstone, two preforms, one bone point, several worked pieces of deer antler, worked bone ornaments, small amounts of red ocher and a pair of highly polished rectangular pieces of bone that may have been used as gaming pieces.

## Plans for Site 41WH39

The Women's Service League of Wharton as well as other organizations and private individuals are planning to donate money to this project to assure its completion. The Houston Archeological Society has volunteered to receive these donations under the heading of The Wharton County Grant. Joe Hudgins, a resident of Wharton County and a member of the HAS has been appointed grant coordinator. Plans are being made for the Wharton museum to receive the material from this site.

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## Status Report On The Muller Site (41HR74)

Alan R. Duke

Survey and testing work on 41HR74, a shell midden on lower San Jacinto Bay, Harris Co., has been completed. HAS members participating in the survey and excavation (those who signed roster) included L. W. Patterson, Sheldon Kindall, Richard Gregg, Barbara Neal, Suzanne Wilson, Dave Atherton, Kathleen Gammil, Bill Yaeger, Henry Yaeger, Suzanne Terrell, Bruce Duke, Gary Wiggins, William Ging, Paul and Nancy Jacobs, Gary Dinsmore, Lou Fullen and Alan Duke. Frank Muller, on whose property the work was carried out, made an important contribution to the overall knowledge of the historic aspects of the site.

A newspaper report on the site work was carried by the Bayshore Sun on January 22, 1981 and we had the pleasure of briefing members of the Texas Highway Dept., brought to the site by Bill McClure, as part of a site recognition training program for new THD personnel.

Identification, analysis and tabulation of the artifacts, both historic and prehistoric, is proceeding. Large numbers of sherds from the same vessels has permitted pottery reconstruction that makes definition of vessel size and shape relatively simple.

A final report on the site will be issued upon completion of the analytical work.

## THE WILLIAM DOBIE SURVEY, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

Part 1. History and Genealogy

by Richard L. Gregg

(Continued from August 1980, p.13)

Sterling Neblett Dobie and Robert Neville Dobie. The two other sons of William Dobie who came to Harris County, Texas, were Sterling Neblett Dobie and Robert Neville Dobie. According to Stephen F. Austin's Register, Sterling Dobie arrived in Austin's colony in January 1835 and applied on October 10, 1835, "for land on his way to the Battle." He gave his profession as clerk and his age as 21, although he was only 18. A later addition to this Register entry lists the land as "1/4 League On Buffalo bayou joins Earl & W Vince." No other record of this has been found.<sup>60</sup>

On January 19, 1838, Sterling Dobie appeared before the Board of Land Commissioners of Harrisburg County, claiming 1/3 league of land. Witness J. W. Moore stated that he "knew said Sterling Dobie previous to the declaration of independence at San Antonio" and witness Isaac Batterson said he "knew said applicant in the Army at San Antonio arrived in the Country in 1834 in December at Velasco." (In Batterson's application, Dobie said he had known Batterson since January 1835.) Dobie was issued land certificate number 157. He was also a witness or assignee for three other land applicants from January to March 1838.<sup>61</sup>

On September 6, 1838, Sterling and Robert Dobie were given power of attorney to act for all of the heirs of their father William Dobie and their brother Nathaniel James Dobie. Both brothers are called residents of Texas. However, the conditional second class land certificate for 320 acres issued to Robert Dobie on December 23, 1839, would indicate that he arrived in Texas during the last three months of 1839. He may have applied for this certificate, even though he had arrived earlier, just to insure getting land. The certificate was changed to unconditional third class in 1848, and Robert Dobie sold it for \$50. ten days later.<sup>62</sup>

On May 3, 1838, even before the power of attorney was granted, Sterling Dobie had gone to the Liberty County Board of Land Commissioners and obtained for the William Dobie Heirs the headrights to 3/4 league of land (3321 acres). This was the additional amount due William Dobie as a family man; witnesses declared that Sterling Dobie had arrived in Texas in the fall of 1834 at the age of 17.<sup>63</sup> It is not certain why Sterling Dobie applied in Liberty County. Perhaps he wanted land there, maybe it was because his father had last resided in Anahuac, which then was in Liberty County, or perhaps it was just more convenient for one of the witnesses, R. C. Neblett, a Dobie kinsman mentioned earlier, who was living on the Louisiana side of the Sabine. In any event, the story of the 3/4 league is complicated. In brief, Dobie selected two tracts of land, 1589 and 1909 acres, on the East San Jacinto River in Liberty and Montgomery Counties, the first surveys being dated July 17 and August 7, 1838, respectively. It

<sup>60</sup>Austin's Register, Vol.A, p.73, in General Land Office (GLO), Austin

<sup>61</sup>Gifford White, *Board of Land Commissioners, Harrisburg County, Texas, Volume 1, Class 1 Land Grants 1838* (1980), pp.23,24,33,89,99 (original records, pp.50-52, 72,205,226, GLO, Austin)

<sup>62</sup>Harris Co. Deeds C:361; Dobie Family Papers and L. W. Kemp Papers, Barker Texas History Library, Austin

<sup>63</sup>Petition No. 274, Board of Land Commissioners, Liberty Co., Texas (a copy is in the Dobie Family Papers). The arrival date and age of Sterling Dobie are consistent with those above if Dobie did not enter Austin's colony until January 1835.

seems doubtful that the Dobies ever utilized these lands. In 1871 the larger grant was canceled because of a superior claim. Dobie then selected a plot of equal area in Brazoria County and a patent was issued March 28, 1876, more than 40 years after William Dobie's death.<sup>64</sup>

For a while, Sterling Dobie lived in Houston, as evidenced by the 1840 Census of Harris County, in which he is listed as owning several lots and a slave in Houston. On March 10, 1840, he wrote from Houston to Dr. R. C. Neblett in Louisiana that "I think it very probable I should leave for Va in July if I can raise the where with [all]." In a postscript he added, "Times hard Texas money worth all most nothing."<sup>65</sup>

Sterling Dobie was involved in many legal matters. Besides being administrator of his father's and brother's estates, he was administrator of the estate of one Isaac Ryan (1838), agent for Daniel McCaskill concerning a runaway slave (1839), and tried to collect on debts to the estate of one William Langthrop (1839). In May 1840 he was empaneled for Grand Jury duty. On June 18 he was fined \$120 for not appearing in District Court, but the fine was remitted the next day. However, on the following day, June 20, he was fined \$50 for contempt of court and a suit he had brought was dismissed. Several other suits he filed at that time likewise came to naught. In only one case (vs. Amelia Raymond, 1841) was he successful, being awarded \$210.<sup>66</sup>

On October 13, 1841, Sterling Dobie advertized in the Telegraph and Texas Register for a sale of lands from his father's estate, namely 934 acres "on Middle Creek," Harris County, and 3333 acres in Montgomery County. (Only 934 acres of the original William Dobie Survey remained because one labor, 177 acres, across the northern end had been sold to Fabricus Reynolds in 1838.)<sup>67</sup> This sale was to be held on November 2 in Liberty, but there is no evidence it took place. The William Dobie heirs retained rights to these lands for many years.

In 1843 the Harris County Commissioners appointed Sterling Dobie as one of the Overseers of Roads. In 1845 he lost a court suit to Fabricus Reynolds and in 1848 one to Daniel McCaskill. In the latter, it was ordered that certain lands of the estate of Nathaniel J. Dobie be sold and half the proceeds be given to McCaskill.<sup>68</sup>

By 1843 Sterling Dobie had made the William Dobie Survey his home. On February 6 of that year, the list of 13 Harris County polling places included "No. 7, S. N. Dobie's, Middle Bayou." In February and June of 1845 elections were also held at his house, whose location was given as Clear Creek. Dobie was the presiding officer. The September 1845 election was also held there, the location given as Middle Bayou. This was the only polling place in the southern part of the county.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>64</sup>Files 239 (Liberty), 182 (Montgomery), 85 (Brazoria), containing about 14 documents, GLO, Austin

<sup>65</sup>Gifford White, *The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas* (1964), p.64; letter dated March 10, 1840, S. N. Dobie to Dr. R. C. Neblett, Dobie Family Papers, Barker Texas History Library, Austin

<sup>66</sup>Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court (Houston), B:407,411,415,416,419.434, C:24,132,280; "Telegraph and Texas Register," July 4, 1838, Nov. 6, Dec. 25, 1839, April 8, May 6, 1840.

<sup>67</sup>"Telegraph and Texas Register," Oct. 13, 1841; Harris Co. Deeds G:506

<sup>68</sup>Minutes of County Commissioners Court, Harris Co. A:99; Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court (Houston), E:66,93,109,110,121,287,356,385

<sup>69</sup>Adele B. Looscan, "Harris County, 1822-1845," *SWHQ*, 18:404; "Telegraph and Texas Register," Jan. 22, May 21, Aug. 20, 1845

By 1846 Robert Dobie, too, was living on the William Dobie Survey. Francis Lubbock, who served as Governor of Texas, wrote in his memoirs that "among the later [settlers] were the Dobies, well educated Virginians and fine fellows, whose ranch was about fourteen miles from ours." And C. C. Cox states that "towards the latter part of my sojourn on the Bay other cow men became prominent and influential in the range, notably Mr Dell—F R Lubbock and the Dobie brothers—Sterling & Robert." Horses as well as cattle were a mainstay in the Dobie's ranch operations. Several of their stock transactions were recorded in the Harris County deeds. In 1846, for example, Robert Dobie sold to Daniel McCaskill for \$400 the right to the brand  $\times$  and all horses "branded therewith."<sup>70</sup>

As previously indicated, the Dobies owned a few slaves. The Harris County deeds document several purchases and sales of slaves, and also show that on occasion the Dobies accepted slaves and/or stock as collateral for loans. In an unusual transaction in 1843, Sterling Dobie sold for \$710 "to Fanny McFarland, a free woman of color, the mulatto slave Martha, about thirteen years of age, being the daughter of said Fanny."<sup>71</sup>

On May 15, 1850, Sterling Dobie married Mary J. Morris, daughter of Col. Ritson ("Jaw Bone") Morris and Minerva (Edwards) Morris.<sup>72</sup> According to the 1850 U. S. Census, their household consisted of: Sterling N. Dobie, aged 34, his wife Mary, 17, Robert N. Dobie, 32, Ernst C. J. Wadrick, 14 (born in Germany), and Fred W. D. Wadrick, 4 (born in Texas). Sterling and Robert are called stock raisers, each with personal property valued at \$5000. At that time Houston had a population of 2397 and the rest of Harris County 2272.<sup>73</sup>

On December 3, 1851, Robert Neville Dobie married Amanda Maria Hill, daughter of Jonathan More Hill and Lucinda (Bond) Hill.<sup>74</sup> They entered into an interesting prenuptial agreement:

Whereas the said Amanda May become seized & possessed of property in her own right by inheritance devise, or otherwise, and it being the desire of the parties to this agreement [that] the property which the said Amanda May acquire shall be settled & secured to her own sole & separate use during her natural life. Therefore . . . the said Robert N. Dobie has . . . conveyed . . . to the said Amanda M. Hill & to the children of her body, an undivided one fourth interest in the stock of cattle, horses & mules branded  $\times$  Also one fourth

<sup>70</sup>"Telegraph and Texas Register," March 4, 1846; Francis R. Lubbock, *Six Decades in Texas (or) Memoirs of Francis Richard Lubbock* (1900), p.125; "Reminiscences of C. C. Cox," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 6:128; Harris Co. Deeds K:412

<sup>71</sup>Harris Co. Deeds E:428, M:201, R:619, S:313,467

<sup>72</sup>Harris Co. Marriage Records B:243. The location of Morris' land and his dealings with Nathaniel J. Dobie have been discussed. His land grant predated William Dobie's by just five days.

<sup>73</sup>1850 Federal Population Census, Harris Co., p.81. Other Wadrick children are listed with other families. This was not uncommon. In 1855 a child named Franklin, age 10, was living with Sterling Dobie and a Robert, 12, and a Nancy, 8, were living with Robert Dobie. See Gifford White, "1854-55 Scholastic Census of Texas," unpublished manuscript dated 1979 (copy furnished by Mrs. Villamae Williams, Anahuac). The original data are in the Texas State Archives.

<sup>74</sup>Harris Co. Marriage Records B:314. Information about the Hill and Bond families can be found in the J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39); the Dobie Family Papers; Harris Co. Probate Records K:340; Pearl Hendricks, *Texas Obituaries 1832-1885* (n.d.)

interest in & to the said brand . . . Also he the said Dobie has placed in the hands of Sterling N. Dobie the sum of five hundred Dollars, in cash, to be by him approprated [*sic*] to her use in the purchase of Negro property or other investment which may be by him deemed advisable. . . . It is understood however that the said Robt. N. Dobie shall have the immediate Management & Control of the said property. It is also understood & agreed that all stock Cattle horses & mules branded AH & marked with a split in the left ear & an under slope in the right ear shall remain the separate property of the said Amanda.<sup>75</sup>

Important information about the Dobies in the 1850's comes from letters preserved in the papers of Lizzie Neblett, daughter-in-law of R. C. Neblett, who about 1841 had moved from his Louisiana home to Grimes County, Texas. In a letter of September 8, 1853, to R. C. Neblett, Robert Dobie says that "I have had considerable Sickness in my family this year. So has Sterling \_ I shall make the enormous amount of fifty bushels of corn this year. Awful crops made just around here \_"

Then there is a series of three letters from Hattie Neblett to her sister-in-law Lizzie Neblett:

July 17<sup>th</sup> 1855 . . . We received a letter from Cousin Robert Dobie last week. he is in very bad health and wants to sell out very bad. He has two children.

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1856 . . . Coz Robert was up here not long since, trying to buy a place and gracious knows what all, he is such a figety money-making man. Always looking on the dark side of thing[s]. he is entiligent too. . . . he has two children.

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 1857 . . . Coz Sterling & Robt sold their stock some six months ago I believe - for 6,000\$ apiece I believe - & their stock turned out a great deal larger than they thought - They tried to get them back but no their purchaser a sharp man would not - he went right off & sold them for 8,000\$ —. Coz Sterling went to Galveston & purchased a fine negro man, brought him home & within a month he laid down & died. Twas bad-<sup>76</sup>

The brothers actually received a total of \$8500 for their cattle. The bill of sale states "We sell said cattle as they run not warranting them as to number." J. Frank Dobie says they probably estimated they had 2500 head.<sup>77</sup>

J. Frank Dobie also gives the following information supposedly derived, and in part quoted, from the September 6, 1857, letter; we have been unable to find this in any of the letters of the Lizzie Neblett Papers:

Coz. Sterling went crazy a short time after and it was thought it was the loss of the money on the cattle deal and the death of the Negro man. . . . "They broke up housekeeping and are now living with his mother-in-law. He tried to kill his wife and himself." Cousin Hattie might have added that a money panic, 1857, was throwing many people into gloom.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>75</sup>Harris Co. Deeds O:600. This agreement is mentioned in Robert Dobie's will, where the brand is shown as  $\mathcal{R}$  .

<sup>76</sup>Lizzie Neblett Papers and Dobie Family Papers, Barker Texas History Library, Austin; *The Handbook of Texas*, 2:265

<sup>77</sup>Harris Co. Deeds T:125; "J. Frank Dobie: Writes of His Boyhood in Live Oak County," *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, Jan.18, 1959, p.4-J

<sup>78</sup>J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39)

The September 6, 1857, letter concludes with the following:

Coz Robt was drowned — Coz Robt was perfectly sane — he had a sick family — — There is a shallow place near his residence where he generally went to bathe [in Middle Bayou, presumably] — and a very deep hole of water near the shallow. It seemed he had taken one of his children down & bathed it & brought it back to the house at the same time telling his wife that he would be back within a hour to give one of his children medicine An hour past — and darkness came — but still no return — She sent out the negros who looked in vain — then sent for the neighbours — they found him in that deep hole water w[h]ere he took his last bath — he had undressed himself. Oh what must that poor woman suffered during the long dark night — with sick children — far — 10 miles far the nearest house I believe. Then think of the agony when found — drowned — lost — gone forever — — She left alone (I believe she is an orphan) in this wide cold world — with 3 little children. Hard hard is her lot but tis sent from above — .

The date of Robert Dobie's death was August 2, 1857, and he was buried in Seabrook Cemetery. He was survived by his wife and three sons, Robert Sterling, born 1853, William Neville 1854, and James Mayes 1856; a fourth son, Jonathan Richard (called R. J.), the father of J. Frank Dobie, was born January 17, 1858, five months after Robert Dobie's death. In his will, written March 8, 1855, with codicil May 27, 1855, Robert Neville Dobie left his wife "my household and kitchen furniture farming utensils & stock of logs [hogs?] . . . 200 hundred [sic] acres of land to embrace my homestead." To his brother Sterling, "for the use and benefit of my children and wife," he gave the servants and one-fourth interest in the Ⓐ brand and stock. He added, "I do not wish my servant girl Jane to be sold under any considerations whatever neither do I wish any other servant sold unless for bad conduct or an absolute necessity." Sterling Dobie had purchased half interest in the Ⓐ brand in 1851 for \$2000, and the remaining fourth interest was already owned by the widow and children by virtue of the prenuptial agreement. Also mentioned in the will were Henrietta A. Hill, Dr. R. C. Neblett and "my uncle Sterling Neblett of Lunenburg County Virginia." Henrietta Hill was Amanda's younger sister; she died November 29, 1855, at the age of 18.<sup>79</sup>

Sterling Dobie was named executor, with Amanda Dobie to serve in case he could not. On November 5, 1857, Amanda was approved as executrix since "Sterling N. Dobie on account of ill health is incapable of discharging his duties." The inventory of the estate showed:

200 acres and improvements on Middle Bayou	\$1200
2 or 3 lots in Lynchberg	75
cash	7000
3 negroes (Gilbert age 35, Henry 10, Ann 7)	2300
household and kitchen furniture	200
90 cattle	540
80 horses	1600

The "cash" was mainly in the form of notes; the amount was large because of the cattle sale earlier that year.<sup>80</sup>

<sup>79</sup>Tombstones of Robert Neville Dobie and Henrietta A. Hill, Seabrook Cemetery, Harris Co., Texas; J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39); Harris Co. Probate Records M:15; Dobie Family Papers (copy of will); Harris Co. Deeds S:695

<sup>80</sup>Typewritten copy of letter, dated Dec.18, 1857, from Rhydonia T. Goodwyn to My Dear Sister (Amanda Dobie), Dobie Family Papers

On March 1, 1858, Sterling Dobie sold to his wife Mary all his right in four slaves for \$3000, the William Dobie Survey and the additional 3/4 league for \$500, and the cattle branded  $\$$  and mares, horses and mules branded  $\mathcal{D}$  "running in the County of Harris" for \$2000. He then moved to Live Oak County, in the vicinity of Corpus Christi. Whether at that time or within several years, his family joined him.<sup>81</sup>

In 1863 Robert's widow Amanda married Abel H. White, a widower, who lived "on Buffalo Bayou near Houston." According to J. Frank Dobie, "White's sole influence on his Dobie step-sons in so far as I can learn, was to cause their children to call Amanda Grandma White." Abel White died in 1872 and there is no mention of Amanda or her children in his will; no record of divorce has been found.<sup>82</sup>

"In 1869 Neville Dobie, 15 yrs old rode horseback with a man from the home on Middle Bayou to live with his Uncle Sterling and look after his mothers stock. . . . Going back to Harris Co. once in a while, he lived with his Uncle Sterling until 1875, when his mother brought her other three sons, Robert, James and Richard to Live Oak Co." Her grandson, J. Frank Dobie, was born there in 1888. Referring to this time, he wrote that Sterling Dobie "ran her [Amanda's] horses and cattle with his and continued to brand them in the Robert Dobie brand." Apparently this was the  $\mathcal{D}$  brand.<sup>83</sup>

Sterling Dobie died November 4, 1880, and his wife Mary died October 21, 1863. Both are buried in the Lagarto Cemetery, Lagarto, Live Oak County, Texas. Their children were James Robert, born 1853, died 1855, Sterling, Jr., born 1855, Minerva, Dolly, Mary, born 1860, and Dick, born 1863. Amanda (Hill) (Dobie) White died in Live Oak County sometime between 1881 and 1902.<sup>84</sup>

With this we conclude our story of the Dobies. A genealogical outline of the family will be given in an appendix; further details of the Dobie family in Live Oak County may be found elsewhere.<sup>85</sup>

(To be continued)

<sup>81</sup>Harris Co. Deeds U:36,37 ; "Reminiscences of C. C. Cox," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 5:230

<sup>82</sup>Harris Co. Marriage Records D:420; J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39); Harris Co. Probate Records X:64; 1870 Federal Population Census, Harris Co., Texas, p.44

<sup>83</sup>J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39); J. Frank Dobie, *Some Part of Myself* (1967), p.58

<sup>84</sup>J. Frank Dobie manuscript (see #39); Tombstone of James Robert Dobie, Seabrook Cemetery, Harris Co., Texas; 1880 Federal Population Census, Live Oak Co., Texas, pp. 8,9,17; Harris Co. Deeds 136:361

<sup>85</sup>J. Frank Dobie, *Some Part of Myself* (1967); References 39 and 77; "Reminiscences of C. C. Cox," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, 5:211,217,230,232,233; J. Marvin Hunter, *The Trail Drivers of Texas* (1963)

White Oak Bayou SitesW. L. McClure

41 HR 282

This site is on the south side of the channel on the inside of a right angle bend. The channel appears to be at the same location as the natural stream. Topsoil overlies a stratum of light brown sand which is over the silty clay stratum. Widening and deepening of the stream have cut into the bank and erosion has exposed artifacts along about 300 feet of the bank. Although some of the artifacts were clustered, there is apparently no great concentration that would represent one large site. Probably, there are several sites combined in this collection. Artifacts were found at all levels along the slope and some appear to originate within the brown sand. Surface elevation is about 86 feet above sea level.

CERAMICS:

The collection includes 13 sherds of pottery vessels. One is San Jacinto Plain and the others are Goose Creek Plain. All are body sherds. Thickness varies from 3 to 6 mm. Color, paste and consistency are typical. Total weight is 33 grams.

LITHICS:Pebbles:

Several pebbles were found but none were retained. Some had adherent concrete and some were probably road gravel.

Bifaces:

Stage 'E' Bifaces: (3) (Fig. 47, A., B., C.)

These bifaces are of silicified wood and weigh 23, 21, and 13 grams. Unmodified cortex remains on the proximal end of A. and B. and on the distal end of C.

Broken Bifaces: (4) (Fig. 47, D., E., U., V.)

Item D. is an irregular flint biface weighing 11 grams. It may be the residue of a core. Item E. is the distal end of a broad biface of white flint and weighs 4 grams. Items U. and V. are semicircular bases with smoothed edges. U. is silicified palm wood and weighs 7 grams. V. is flint and weighs 4 grams.

Projectile Points:

Thirty projectile points or parts thereof were found. One is an arrow point and the others are dart points. Total weight is 134 grams.

San Patrice: (1) (Fig. 47, H.)

This light orange flint point has the base and side notches smoothed. Weight is 4.2 grams.

Pedernales: (1) (Fig. 47, H.)

This is the stem of a well made flint point. Weight is 3.2 grams.

Ellis: (2) (Fig. 47, J., K.)

One of these is a complete point of patinated flint weighing 8.5 grams. The other is a stem of similar material weighing 1.8 grams. It has a straight base with angular corners.

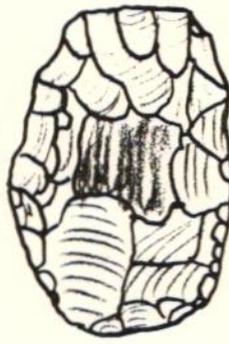
41 HR 282



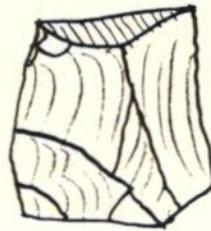
A.



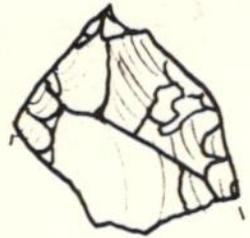
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C.



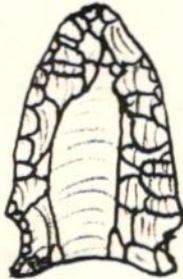
D.



E.



G.



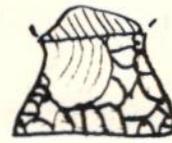
H.



I.



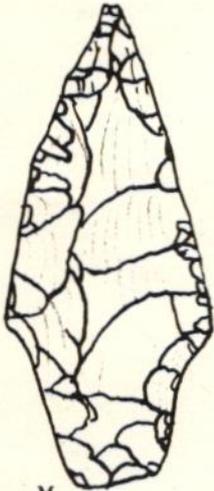
J.



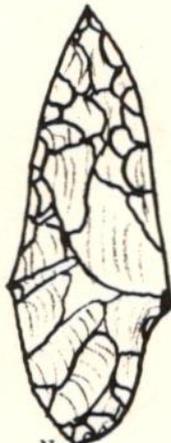
K.



L.



M.



N.



O.



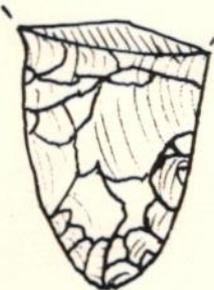
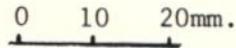
P.



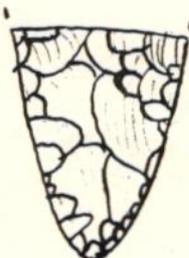
Q.



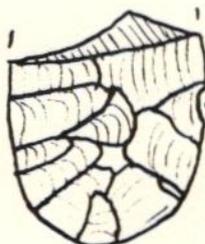
R.



S.



T.



U.



V.



W.



X.

Figure 47

WOB-109

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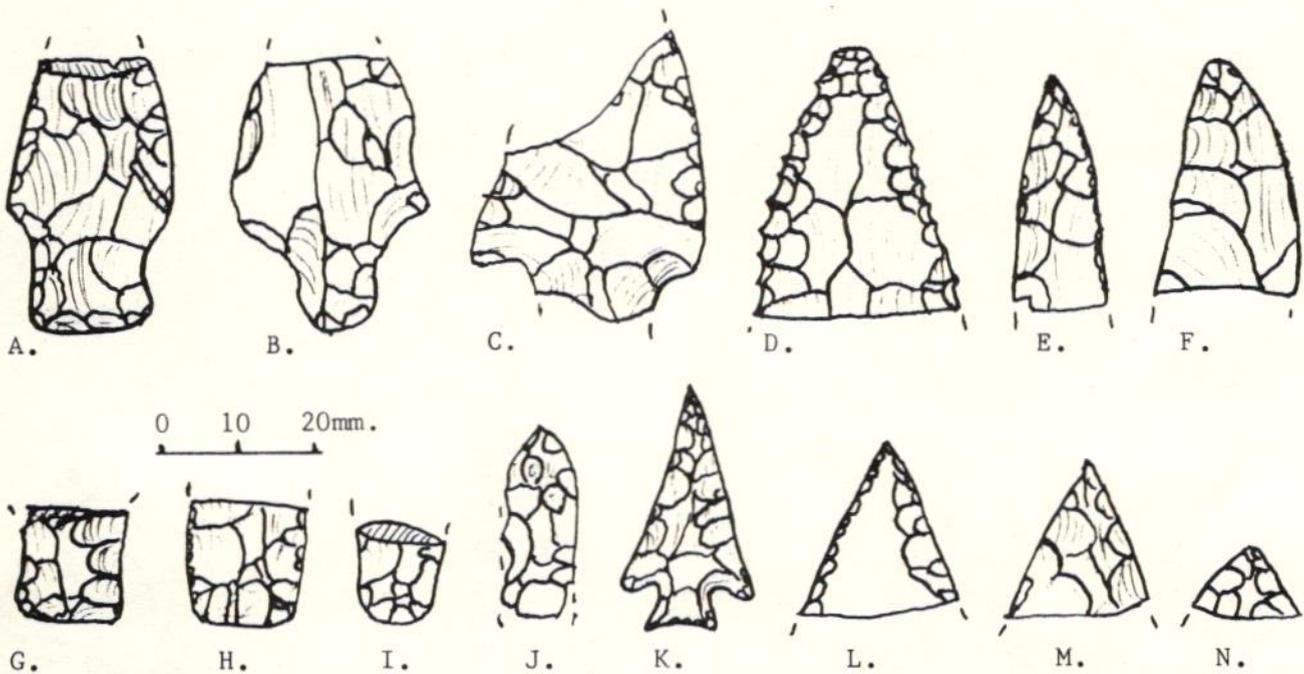


Figure 48

Marcos: (1) (Fig. 47, L.)

This complete flint point weighs 5.7 grams.

Gary: (6) (Fig. 47, M., N., O., S., T., W.)

These Gary points include both small and large specimens ranging from 2 to 16 grams in weight. Two broken stems are from larger points. All are flint except the smallest, which is silicified wood.

Palmillas: (1) (Fig. 47, P.)

This patinated flint point has a broken stem. Weight is 6.5 grams.

Darl: (1) (Fig. 47, Q.)

This complete silicified wood point weighs 6.2 grams.

Kent: (2) (Fig. 47, R., X.)

Item R. is flint and weighs 5.7 grams. Item X. is silicified wood and weighs 3.5 grams. Some of the unidentified parallel-sided stems may be of this type.

Yarbrough: (1) (Fig. 48, A.)

The distal tip of this flint point is missing. Weight is 6.1 grams.

Unidentified Dart Points--Parallel Stem: (Fig. 48, G., H., I.)

These nearly parallel-sided stems may be from Kent Dart points or other tools. The edges of Item H. are smoothed. All are flint. Total weight is 4.7 grams.

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Unidentified Dart Points--Stemmed: (2) (Fig. 48, B., C.)

These are broken flint dart points that can not be assigned to any type. Total weight is 15 grams.

Unidentified Dart Points--Distal Tips: (7) (Fig. 48, D., E., F., J., L., M., N.)

These are fragments of variously shaped dart points. Item J. is badly fire popped. All are flint. Total weight is 19 grams.

Rockwall: (1) (Fig. 48, K.)

This flint arrow point is well made. Barbs are rounded. Weight is 1.5 grams.

#### Flakes and Chips:

The collection includes 213 flakes and chips that weigh 215 grams. Sixty-five are silicified wood and the others are flint. Fifty-two are larger than 15 mm.

Use scars are on 55 (26%). Forty-one show evidence of use for cutting and 11 for scraping. Four are lipped flakes. A tabulation of characteristics of the flakes and chips is shown in Table 26.

#### DISCUSSION:

This site shows indications of occupation from Early Archaic to Late Prehistoric periods although most of the artifacts are from the Late Archaic, before the introduction of pottery and arrow points.

Items L., M., Q., W., and X. of Fig. 47 and Items H. and F. of Fig. 48 are in the Paul York collection.

Size	Material	Utilized				Unutilized				Totals			
		P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total	P.	S.	I.	total
0 to	flint		1	5	6		6	31	37		7	36	43
10mm.	sil.wood					3	6	13	22	3	6	13	22
	total		1	5	6	3	12	44	59	3	13	49	65
10 to	flint		5	13	18	7	13	27	47	7	18	40	65
15mm.	sil.wood			2	2	3	5	21	29	3	5	23	31
	total		5	15	20	10	18	48	76	10	23	63	96
15 to	flint		7	12	19	3	1	14	18	3	8	26	37
20mm.	sil.wood		3	4	7	2	3		5	2	6	4	12
	total		10	16	26	5	4	14	23	5	14	30	49
20 to	flint		2	1	3						2	1	3
25mm.													
Totals			18	37	55	18	34	106	158	18	52	143	213

Table 26

41 HR 285 Addendum

Houston Archeological Society Newsletter No. 58, Dec., 1977, carried the account of this site. Since then, a San Patrice Dart Point has been located in the Caskey collection at TARL. The flint point, Fig. 47, G., weighs 2.8 grams. The sketch is by P. Wolf.

EXCAVATIONS AT SITE 41WH25, WHARTON CO., TEXAS

L. W. Patterson

INTRODUCTION

This article describes test excavations and results for archeological site 41WH25 in Wharton County, Texas. This site was originally located and recorded for state (TARL) records by Joe Hudgins. An HAS group excavated two one-meter test squares on September 20, 1980. The group included: Joe Hudgins, Lee Patterson, Sheldon Kindall, Mike Johnston, Dick Gregg, Dave Atherton, Jean Clark, and Suzanne Wilson. Permission to do this work was obtained through the courtesy of the landowner, Bill Krenek.

Site 41WH25 is somewhat over 200 feet in diameter, and is located on a high, sandy knoll overlooking what appears to be an old stream channel. The stream was probably at least seasonally active during periods of pre-historic occupation. This general area has a history of chronic flooding. This site appears to be totally post-ceramic, and has unusually deep stratification for this type of site. Excavations reached 80 cm in depth before sterile soil was encountered. The deep stratification is probably due to large soil depositions during seasonal flooding.

The location of this site is at the edge of a heavily wooded area that probably supported a significant wildlife population to provide food resources for the Indians. A variety of wild plant foods would also have been available. This is probably a seasonal campsite for people with a nomadic hunting and gathering lifeway. However, there is a significant quantity of ceramic remains. This would indicate more than short term use of this site, as pottery is not a highly portable item.

Two one-meter test squares were excavated on the highest level ground of the knoll, approximately 20 feet apart. These test locations were chosen because of higher concentrations of artifacts on the surface at these points. While some tentative conclusions can be made from these tests, this does not represent a detailed study of this site. The overall site appears to be undisturbed, except for some possible natural erosion on the steeper outer margins. Future research could be conducted here with good stratigraphic integrity over much of the site.

EXCAVATION DESCRIPTION

Two one-meter test pits were dug on this site, using arbitrary 10 cm levels. There were no indications of individual living floors. Tabulations in this report are for the combined materials of both test pits for each excavation level. The fill was sandy soil throughout.

Excavation was done to a maximum depth of 80 cm, with ceramics found on all levels. Excavation work was stopped in sterile soil. If there were any earlier occupation periods on this site, the evidence would be found below some unknown depth of sterile soil. A smaller test pit within Test Pit 2 was carried from 80 to 110 cm, with only sterile soil encountered. All excavated soil was put through  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch mesh screens for artifact recovery.

Relatively small amounts of artifacts were recovered from 60 to 80 cm. There is a possibility that cultural materials below 60 cm are due to soil mixing, and do not represent actual separate occupation levels.

### PROJECTILE POINTS

All projectile points found here are arrow points, as shown in Table 1. One bifacial arrow point preform was found on the surface. Three Scallorn points were found at various depths, down to 60 cm. This point type is common in this region during the Late Prehistoric (Suhm and Jelks 1962:285). A well made Edwards points was found in the 40 to 50 cm excavation level. The Edwards point type is usually associated with the Edwards Plateau and adjacent regions (Sollberger 1967, Hester 1970). Some of the arrow points and other artifacts are shown in Figure 1. One possible bone arrow point was found in the 10 to 20 cm excavation level.

All excavation levels containing arrow points are associated with the Late Prehistoric period. Aten (1971:fig. 10) dates the start of standardized bifacial arrow points in this region at approximately AD 600.

### CERAMICS

Ceramics were found in all excavation levels, as shown in Table 2. Most of the sample is of the Goose Creek Plain sandy paste type. No incised specimens were found. Two bone tempered sherds were found from 20 to 40 cm. Aten, et al (1976:fig. 16) date the start of pottery in this region at approximately AD 100, or about 500 years earlier than the general use of standardized bifacial arrow point types. Since the small amounts of cultural materials recovered from 60 to 80 cm, below the first arrow point, may not be significant, however, it is likely that this site is totally of the Late Prehistoric period, with initial occupation starting sometime after AD 600.

There are few distinctive traits to discuss concerning this ceramic sample. One sherd does show the original conical shape of a pot bottom. Another sherd has a neatly drilled small diameter hole.

### FAUNAL MATERIALS

A summary of faunal materials recovered is given in Table 1. Aside from one piece of turtle shell, the other identifiable bone specimens are deer. Miscellaneous bone fragments listed are too small or broken to classify. One possible human tooth was found at 20 to 30 cm. Little can be concluded from this faunal collection, except that deer hunting was a major activity.

One bone bead, with a drilled hole, was found in the 40 to 50 cm level. An unclassified canine tooth was also found at this level.

### GENERAL LITHIC COLLECTION

Lithic flake size distributions for each excavation level are shown in Table 3. In all cases where sample sizes are significant, the flake size distributions are skewed toward higher percentages of smaller size flakes. Experiments show that this type of flake size distribution is typical of debitage from systematic bifacial reduction (Patterson and Sollberger 1978:111). At this site, flake size distributions show the manufacture of bifacial arrow points.

The lithic flake collection shows little evidence of butchering activities, even though faunal remains are present. Few of the flakes are large enough

(say over 25 mm square) to have been useful as butchering tools. Also, none of the larger flakes show much evidence of edge damage that would occur from use wear during butchering activities. Butchering may have been done at remote "kill-site" locations, or on portions of this site that were not sampled, or nearby but off the main site boundaries.

Most of the lithic materials found are local alluvial cherts that occur in the nearby Colorado River system. None of the specimens could be identified as finer grades of flint from the more distant Edwards Plateau region. Since there is evidence of some Edwards Plateau flints in Wharton County during the earlier Archaic period (Patterson and Hudgins 1980), the exclusive use of more local types of lithic raw materials on this late period site could be significant. A more restricted mobility of later Indians could be indicated, or simply the lack of need to go long distances for finer flint when making small arrow points. A wider range of raw materials is suitable for the manufacture of small arrow points than for the manufacture of generally earlier larger bifacial dart points.

Table 4 summarizes the amounts of cortex remaining on lithic flakes. This can be an indication of how much primary lithic reduction was performed at raw material sources before bringing materials to a remote campsite. Primary flakes are completely covered with cortex, secondary flakes have some remaining cortex, and interior flakes have no remaining cortex. While sample sizes are small, there are indications that highly trimmed raw materials were being imported to this site, especially in regard to the low percentages of primary flakes. This is supported by the fact that only one small core was found, with all other chert recovered in the form of flakes. It is likely that flakes were manufactured at quarry locations and then transported to this site.

Other lithic materials recovered are summarized in Table 1. These include a sandstone pendant with a partially drilled hole, a biface fragment, a small chert core and a graver. Three thin prismatic blades were found on the surface, with widths of 11, 14 and 20 mm. A few small smooth pebbles were found that may be natural to this area, but may have been used in rattles.

#### EVIDENCE OF COOKING ACTIVITIES

As shown in Table 1, a few fired clay balls were found at various levels. These may have been connected with cooking activities. In test pit #2, a possible cooking feature was found at the 40 to 50 cm level. This consisted of 12 fired clay balls (18 to 27 mm diameter), and 17 iron concretions (10 to 26 mm diameter). This could be some type of hearth feature or a supply of "boiling stones." This feature included 1 deer tooth, a Goose Creek sherd and 1 piece of miscellaneous bone.

#### SUMMARY

The preliminary excavations described here show that site 41WH25 is a deeply stratified Late Prehistoric site. This was probably an extended use seasonal campsite for a nomadic hunting and gathering lifeway. Most of this site is undisturbed and represents an excellent resource for future research on the Late Prehistoric period.

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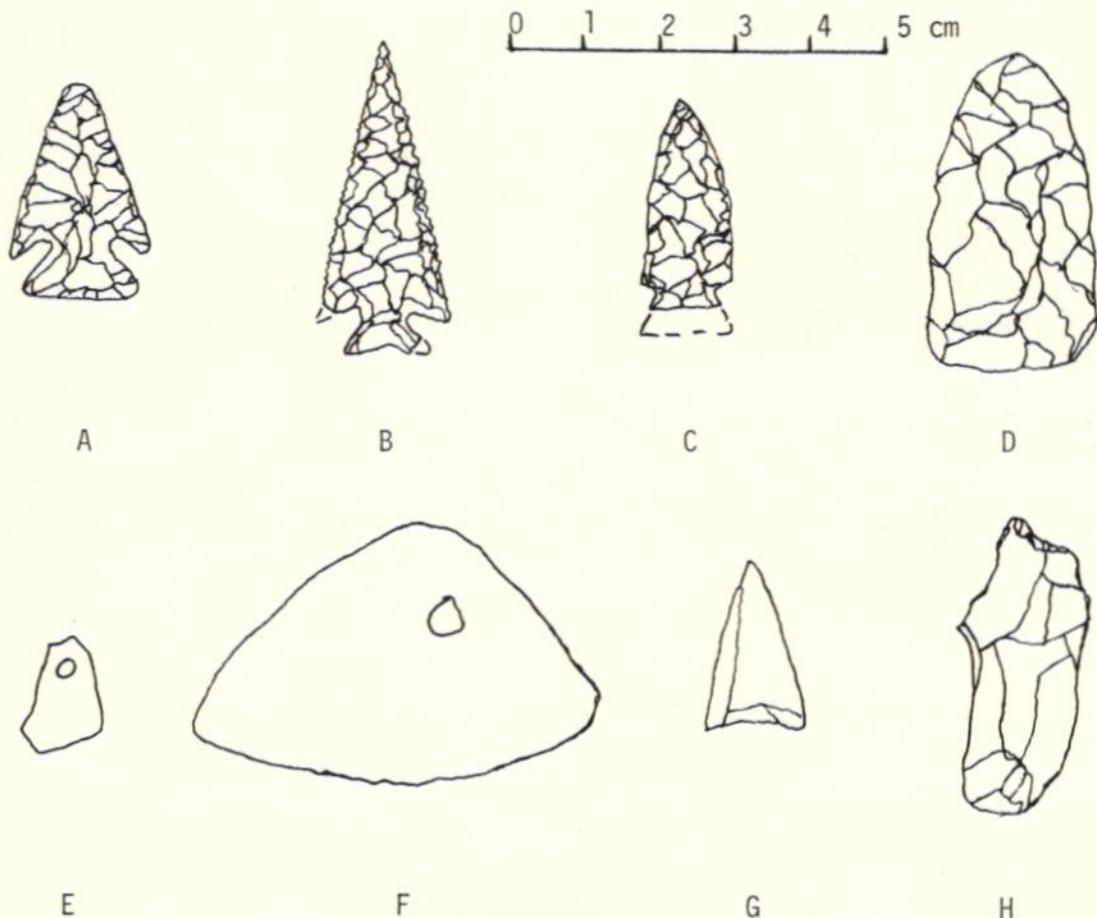
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FIGURE I  
SITE 41WH25 ARTIFACTS



A-Scallorn point (50-60 cm), B-Edwards point (40-50 cm), C-Scallorn-like point (10-20 cm), D-arrow point preform, E-bone bead, F-sandstone pendant, G-bone point, H-graver

TABLE 1  
41WH25 ARTIFACTS

ARTIFACT TYPE	EXCAVATION LEVEL, CM								TOTAL	
	SURFACE	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70		70-80
Arrow Points										
Preform	1									
Scallorn			1			1	1			
Edwards						1				
Bone			1							
Misc. Fragments			2	1						
Faunal										
Deer Bone	13			7	7	28		5	1	
Deer Teeth	2			4	3	4		1		
Turtle Shell	1									
Misc. Bone	6	2	39	101	66	145	13	2		
Freshwater Shell	1									
Human Tooth (?)				1						
Canine Tooth						1				
Small Smooth Pebbles	4	1		2		1				
Fired Clayballs	1		1	4	2	1				
Sandstone Pendant	1									
Prismatic Blades	3									
Biface Fragment		1								
Flint Core, Small				1						
Graver						1				
Bone Bead						1				

TABLE 2  
41WH25 CERAMICS 9/80

Excavation Level, cm	Goose Creek		bone tempered
	body	rim	
surface	35	-	-
0-10	8	-	-
10-20	25	-	-
20-30	31	-	1
30-40	35(B)	-	1
40-50	48	4	-
50-60	10(A)	-	-
60-70	4	-	-
70-80	1	-	-
Total	197	4	2

A-1 with drilled hole  
B-1 is conical bottom

TABLE 3  
LITHIC FLAKE SIZE DISTRIBUTIONS

FLAKE SIZE, MM SQUARE	FLAKE SIZE DISTRIBUTION, % (EXCAVATION LEVEL, CM)								
	SURFACE	0-10	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80
Under 10	15.6	0	38.3	29.7	26.8	16.7	0	11.1	50.0
10-15	31.3	80.0	46.8	46.9	43.9	55.0	77.8	22.2	50.0
15-20	28.0	20.0	8.6	16.0	17.1	18.3	16.7	33.4	0
20-25	12.5	0	2.1	7.4	7.3	5.0	5.5	22.2	0
25-30	6.3	0	2.1	0	4.9	1.7	0	11.1	0
30-35	6.3	0	2.1	0	0	3.3	0	0	0
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
SAMPLE SIZE	32	5	47	81	41	60	18	9	4

TABLE 4  
CORTEX ON FLAKES LARGER THAN 15 MM SQUARE

Excavation Level, cm	% of total flakes			Sample Size
	primary	secondary	interior	
Surface	15	20	65	20
0-10	0	50	50	2
10-20	0	45	55	11
20-30	5	23	72	22
30-40	21	29	50	14
40-50	6	24	70	17
50-60	0	20	80	5
60-70	0	71	29	7
Total Site	8	30	62	98

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