



**Thursday, December 17th, 2020, at 6:30 p.m.**

**“The Archeology of Christmas”**

**Wilson W. “Dub” Crook**



*Dub Crook at the Great Stone at  
Temple Mount in Jerusalem*

Long-time Houston Archeological Society member, **Wilson W. "Dub" Crook**, will present a very special holiday program at the **Thursday, December 17th** HAS monthly meeting. His topic will be **“The Archeology of Christmas”** and will be presented via ZOOM.

“Many people approach the Christmas story in the Bible in the same way as they do Santa Claus – it’s a nice tradition to celebrate during the holiday season, probably based on a few facts, but more myth than truth,” said Crook. “There are a lot of historical descriptions in both Matthew’s and Luke’s description of the Nativity story. Is it possible to evaluate the credibility of their account based on current archeological research?”

Dub will go through the Christmas story from Mary’s conception in Nazareth to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the visitation of the Magi, to the Holy family’s flight to Egypt and show how many aspects have been supported by archeological discoveries, many over the last several decades. We invite you to listen in and have your faith in the Gospels strengthened for the Christmas season by this special presentation.

Mr. Crook is a Life Member (Fellow) of the Houston Archeological Society, a Life Member of the Dallas Archeological Society, a member of the Texas Archeological Society, a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, a Life Member of the Gault School of Archeological Research, a Research Fellow with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, and a Fellow of the Leakey Foundation. He is also an Archeological Steward for the State of Texas. He is the author of over 180 papers in the field of archeology and has recently published his fourth book titled *The Carrollton Phase Archaic: A Redefinition of the Chronology, Composition, and Aerial Distribution of the Early Archaic Horizon along the Trinity river, Texas* which is available to all HAS members for free as well as on Amazon.

Social hour will begin at 6:30 and the business meeting and programs will begin at 7:00 p.m. In addition to Dub’s talk, HAS President Linda Gorski will also give a quick look back at HAS activities in 2020. HAS members will receive a Zoom link via email prior to the meeting. If you are not an HAS member but would like to join us for this important program highlighting biblical archeology, please email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) and she will send you the Zoom link.



*A Courtyard house in Nazareth*



## President's Message – Linda Gorski

Happy Holidays, HAS members –

2020 has been the strangest year. All of us have been affected in one way or another by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have not had an in-person meeting at the Trini Mendenhall Center since last spring. Our public outreach programs have been disrupted. And our large-scale fieldwork projects have been impacted as well.

However, **you cannot keep this society down just because of a pandemic!!!!** Because we could not meet in person, this summer we went virtual via ZOOM with our monthly meetings thanks to the efforts of Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen and her son Julian. All of our presenters have given fabulous programs – and everyone enjoys the virtual social hour we hold between 6:30 and 7:00 before our meeting start where members can chit chat with each other. As a bonus, those programs are then uploaded to our HAS YouTube channel!

Check them out here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCn55YXMO2CwgO811GMFQow>

We've also been able to continue our Outreach programs via Zoom, Facebook or Webinar. Dub Crook, Jack Farrell, Beth Kennedy, Bob Sewell and several others have presented programs to school classes, museum groups, and other societies virtually. Last week Bob Sewell and I presented our educational program (including show and tells!!) to four separate 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes at Awty International School AND a whole bunch of students who are continuing to attend class virtually from home. It went off without a hitch and we have received some amazing feedback from the teachers and students!!!

Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach have continued producing Journals and Reports at an impressive rate!!! They already have at least four publications in the pipeline for next year! This month we will be distributing Journal 142 to all HAS members – for free! Since we will likely not see you in person, please email me at [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com) and send me your mailing address so I can get one to you.

As you know, your membership in HAS will expire at the end of December. I really hope you will renew your membership for next year. You will now have three ways to join or renew your HAS membership:

- 1) Print off our membership form on our website at <https://www.txhas.org/membership.html> and mail it in with your check
- 2) Pay in person the next time we are together
- 3) Pay online!!! Thanks to our fabulous treasurer Bob Sewell we now have the option of using the online option. See Bob's article in this newsletter with instructions on how to pay online.



We have so much planned for 2021 including lots of fieldwork: Phase 4 of our Lone Oak prehistoric site excavations, a historic project that will knock the socks off early Texian era (1820s-1830s) archeology and history and a project at a very historic African American cemetery in downtown Houston. We have a full lineup of excellent programs scheduled for next year (see the first quarter programs on the back page of this newsletter). And hopefully our in-person meetings will resume. However, due to popular demand we will also offer our in-person meetings at Trini Mendenhall Community Center via Zoom. So, you will be able to decide how you want to attend meetings in the near future. So please renew your membership as soon as possible!

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support in 2020. I hope you and your family have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Linda Gorski  
President, Houston Archeological Society

# Houston Archeological Society

## Monthly Meeting

### November 19, 2020

**WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting, held via ZOOM! (Linda Gorski, President):** Due to the continuing pandemic, we will be staying with virtual meetings for a while; however, I have acquired the Trini Mendenhall Community Center for 2021, with every month booked. When we get the go-ahead, we will meet in person

**Treasurer's Report (Bob Sewell):** Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob. Due to the pandemic, our income stream is not what it was; however, our spending has been down also.

**Membership Report (Bob Sewell):** Our membership currently stands at 197, down from a maximum of 250 last year. All members will receive an email reminder about membership renewal. For those interested, we still have a couple of hats available for a \$10.00 donation.

**Website and Newsletter Report (Bob Sewell):** Our website is currently running well. Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article for our newsletter. Send any contributions to Bob, and please request help if you need it. Contributions to the newsletter have been of high quality. Also, if you are not receiving the newsletter, please let Bob know at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org).

#### **New Business:**

**Reports and Publications (Dub Crook and Louis Aulbach):** Two HAS reports (#34 on the *Peopling of the Americas*, and #35 on the *Carrollton Phase Archaic*) have already gone out. If you have not received your copies, please email Linda. Journal #142 (general archeology topics) will be out in December and will include 4 papers by HAS Board members on how they got into archeology and HAS; 4 papers on different aspects of Texas archeology, including one article by Charlie Gordy and one by Dub Crook; and 6 papers on the continuing study of the Andy Kyle Collection. In the first half of the new year 2021, we will publish Report #36 (Phases I and II of the Lone Oak Project), as well as Journal #143 on Western archeology topics.

**Lone Oak Project (Linda Gorski):** Phase III of the Lone Oak Project has been completed. We will resume work there in 2021 and will again follow health guidelines of social distancing and mask wearing as much as possible.

**Tonight's Program:** Our speaker tonight was Amy Borgens, who presented "Beached: Rediscovering the Foreshore Archeology of the Texas Gulf Coast." Amy has been the State Marine Archeologist at the Texas Historical Commission since June 2010 and has recorded shipwrecks from the Byzantine period through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, including one notable shipwreck: The LaBelle! Amy is currently working on her PhD in the Department of Geography at Texas State University.

**December Meeting:** Next month, Linda Gorski will present a short program that wraps up HAS activities for 2020. Then, Dub Crook will give a presentation on "The Archeology of Christmas!"

*Beth Kennedy, Secretary*



# Notes on Munitions: Gardner-like Minié Balls from the Houston Area

## By Tom Nuckols

*Recommended reading: Notes on Munitions: The Gardner Paper Cartridge by Tom Nuckols. Houston Archaeological Society newsletter, The Profile, November 2020 @*

<https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2020/2020%20November%20Profile.pdf>.

### Gardner-like Minié Balls

In his book about American Civil War era Confederate munitions, Dean S. Thomas (2010: 213) illustrates and provides the attributes (weight, diameter and length) of four, nose cast, Gardner-style, .58 caliber, lead, Minié balls (balls).

One of the balls, specimen #405, is defective and unfinished (it was never made into a paper cartridge). For this ball, Thomas remarks: “Dance & Park<sup>1</sup>, Texas gunmakers, made bullet molds and constructed a machine(s) to produce a Gardner-like cartridge. This defective, unfinished ball was recovered from the site of their laboratory near Anderson, Texas” (Figure 1). For the other three unfired and finished (made into a paper cartridge) balls, Specimen numbers 406, 407 and 408, Thomas remarks: “Dance & Park, truncated cone cavity”.

Three unfired balls, similar to the Thomas finished specimens in both appearance and attributes, have been recovered from three historical archaeological sites in the Houston area: 41HR526 (former Town of San Jacinto, from the Larry Golden artifact collection) Catalog number 41SJT021, 41HR982 (Frost Town) Catalog number not known, and 41HR1190<sup>2</sup> (Buffalo Bayou at Milam Street) Catalog number 0162. The only ball available to this author for photography, was the one recovered from the former Town of San Jacinto (Figures 2, 3 & 4).



**Figure 1. Author's illustration of unfinished Specimen #405, pictured in Thomas. The red arrow points to the ring where the paper was wound around when the ball was inserted into the machine to make a Gardner-like paper cartridge.**

<sup>1</sup> In 1858, the Dance brothers, John Henry, George Perry and David Etheldred, opened a metal and woodworking business in East Columbia, Texas, called the J. H. Dance & Company. In 1862, the company began manufacturing .36 and .44 caliber, six-shot, percussion revolvers. At the time, the Confederacy's need for weapons was so critical, that the Governor of Texas, Francis Lubbock, granted exemption to the company's work force from military service. In 1863, because of a threatened invasion by Union troops, the company relocated to Anderson, Texas. It was there, that the Park brothers, A. R. and Sam, joined the firm, and the name was changed to Dance & Park. In May 1865, Dance & Park ceased the production of percussion revolvers, and the Dance brothers moved back to East Columbia to continue their business, adding furniture as one of their manufacturing products. The Hurricane of 1900 destroyed their factory and it was never rebuilt (Coopedge 2009, Wiggins 1986).

<sup>2</sup> See *The Milam Street Bridge Artifact Assemblage* - Josh Farrar @ <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2017/2017%20September%20Profile.pdf>, Page 6.



Figure 2. The blue trapezoid represents the approximate location and size of the truncated cone cavity within the ball. All photos courtesy of Bryant Boutwell, Ph.D. (author's neighbor).

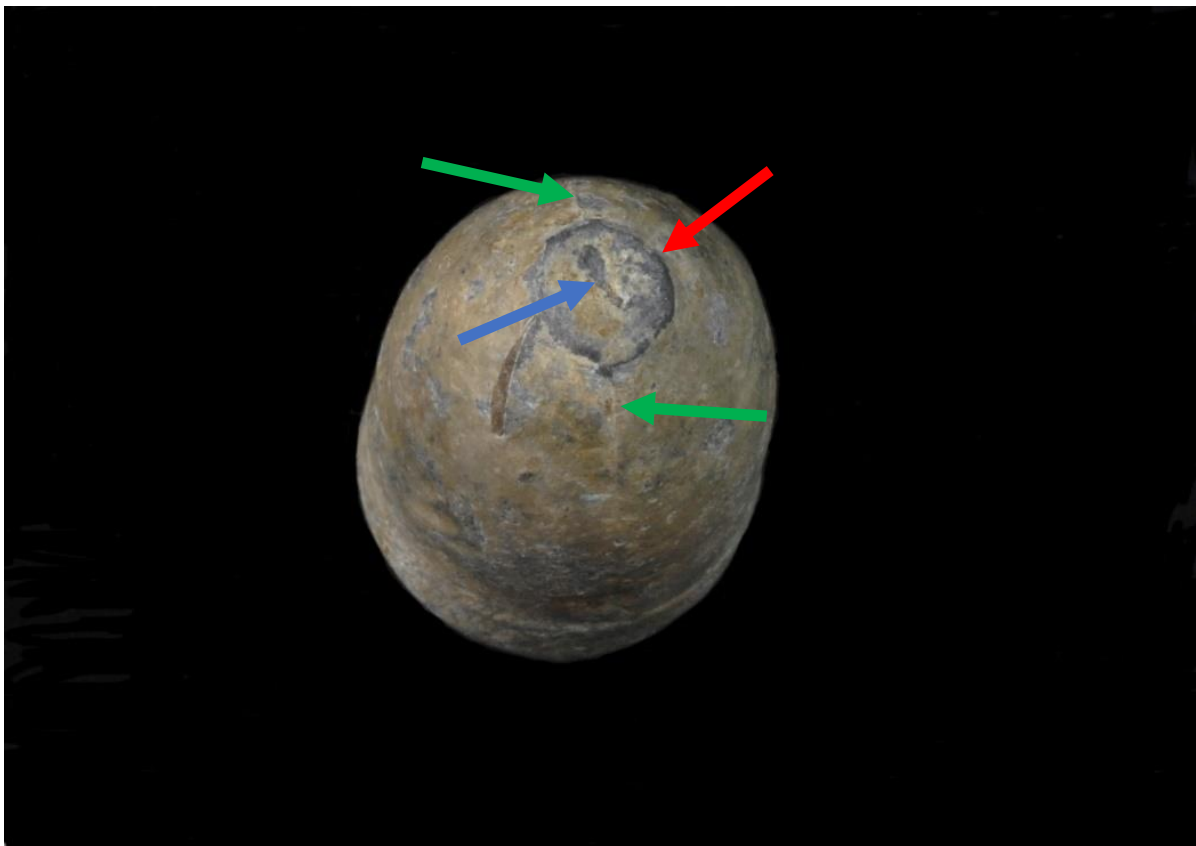
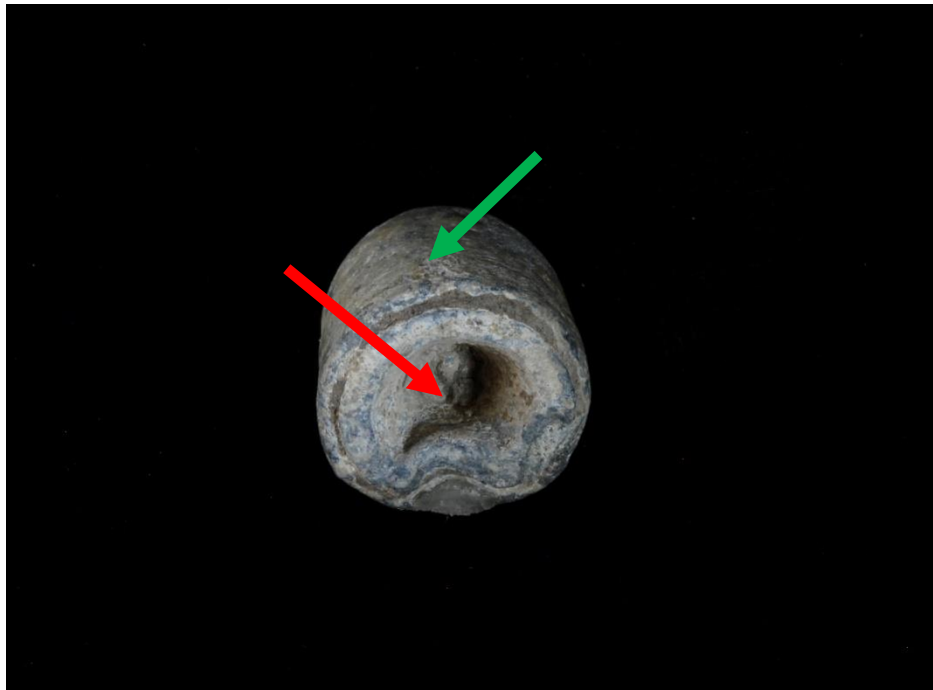


Figure 3. That this ball was made in a nose cast bullet mold is evidenced by a sprue nib (red arrow), a medial ridge (blue arrow) and two faint mold seams located 180° apart (green arrows).



**Figure 4. The slightly damaged base. Red arrow points to the truncated cone cavity. The green arrow points to one of two mold seams.**

Table comparing the similar attributes of Thomas, Gardner-style Minié balls and those from Houston area sites.

THOMAS SPACIMEN #	SITE & CATALOG #	GRAIN WEIGHT*	DIAMETER	LENGTH**
405	-	429	0.563"	0.90"
406	-	371	0.563"	0.85"
407	-	420	0.565"	0.89"
408	-	382	0.570"	0.85"
-	41HR526 41SJT021	418.3	0.571"	0.828"
-	41HR982 ?	440	0.551"	0.80"
-	41HR1190 0162	448.6	0.566"	0.90"

\*Weight variations of the balls, assuming that they were cast in the same bullet mold, can be attributed to the purity of the lead or irregularities in the molds if they were cast in different molds. Molds can become worn with use, resulting in larger sprue nibs and larger mold seams, causing a slight increase in the ball weight.

\*\*Length includes the sprue nib, and this length can vary depending on how much nib remained after the sprue was cut off of the ball.

### Discussion

Unfortunately, Thomas does not reference his remarks stating that the Gardner-like balls depicted in his book can be attributed to Dance & Park, and extensive research by the author has failed to verify this statement.

Numerous metal detectorists' web sites and American Civil War bullet collector blogs, call the above-mentioned balls "Texas Tyler bullets" because it is thought they were made in Tyler, Texas, or "Tom Green bullets" because they are found by metal detectorists on Civil War battlefields where Brigadier General Thomas Green (1814-1864) commanded southern troops.

I would like to start a data base for these Gardner-like Minié Balls. So, if any of you have found one of these balls or can shed some light on who was making them, please contact me @ [tluckols58@att.net](mailto:tluckols58@att.net).

## REFERENCES

Coppedge, Clay

2009 Dance Pistols. TexasEscapes @  
<http://www.texasescapes.com/ClayCoppedge/Dance-Pistols.htm>.

Thomas, Dean S.

2009 *Round Ball to Rimfire. A History of Civil War Small Arms Ammunition. Part Four. A Contribution to the History of the Confederate Ordnance Bureau.* Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA.

Thomas James E, and Dean S. Thomas

1996 *A Handbook of Civil War BULLETS & CARTRIDGES.* Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA.

Wiggins, Gary

1986 *Dance & Brothers. Texas Gunmakers of the Confederacy.* Moss Publications, Orange, VA.

### Addendum

After sending this article for publication, I was thumbing through James E. Thomas and Dean S. Thomas (1996: 45) and found another pictured example of a Gardner-like Minié Ball similar to the ones mentioned above. The remarks for this one, number 164, are: “.58 caliber, RM\*. (Bullet: D .568, L .86, W 416.) Called the “one-ring insert” or “Tyler, Texas Enfield.” Cast in the South. The cartridge was made in the same manner as the Gardner.”

\*Indicates rifled musket or rifle musket.

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## HAS Membership Payment using Credit/Debit Card has Arrived!

As you know HAS memberships expire at the end of December. BUT, did you know that you can now renew your membership online using a credit/debit card?? Our updated membership page shows you the options for renewing your membership either by credit or debit card. Of course, you can still renew by completing a hardcopy membership form and mailing it with a check.

For renewing online:

- 1) Go to the HAS Membership page <https://www.txhas.org/membership>. Make sure that you are using the **https://** version of the website
- 2) Select your membership category (Individual, Family, Student, or Contributing)
- 3) Complete the online form
- 4) Press “Print this Page” button to keep a copy for your records
- 5) Then press the “Submit Form to HAS Membership” button. (*Note: If after submitting your form the browser takes you back to the main page, then simply press your browser’s back button to return to the membership page*).
- 6) Finally press “Go to Payment Processing” button and complete your credit card information

**Please note that there are some known issues with the Google Chrome browser, so please use an alternative such as Microsoft Edge.**

## ARCHEO CORNER: Manos and Metates – Indicators of Agriculture or Not?

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, III

Beginning in the Archaic and persisting through the Late Prehistoric and Historic periods, simple grinding stones can be found in many archeological sites across Texas. In reality, grinding stones are essentially one implement that is made up of two parts, wherein the larger “metate” forms an anvil upon which the smaller “mano” is moved so as to produce pulverizing and grinding. Archeologists have observed that grinding tools undergo a 5-step manufacture-use process including (1) lithic procurement, (2) manufacture, (3) use, (4) maintenance and (5) ultimately discard. In the American southwest, specific quarries for ground stone tools have been found. Ethnographic and experimental studies have shown that the smaller hand-held manos could be constructed in anywhere from several hours to over a hundred hours, depending on size of the stone and the composition of the lithic material; larger metate slab construction could take over a month from initial preform construction to final completion. Historical accounts from the Great Basin showed that due to the construction time involved, tribes such as the Utes made a new mano or a metate only if they could not secure an ancient one first. Thus, mano and metates were a unique artifact in that they could be recycled over generations. Moreover, due to their size and weight, manos and metates were considered “site furniture” with the tools “curated” at sites for future use instead of carried long distances.

Manos and metates were the basic food grinding tools used by aboriginal Americans until the early 1900’s when mechanical mills and pre-milled flour became readily available. Their presence in archeological sites has traditionally been associated with the processing of plant materials for food. Manos and metates were the technological solution to the problem of reducing grain to flour. In this regard, manos and metates have been typically linked with Late Prehistoric occupations where use and dependence on maize (corn) and other grains gradually increased. However, manos and smaller netherstones (not true metates) are also found in Archaic and even Paleoindian contexts, suggesting their use in a wider range of activities. Ethnographic studies from around the world have shown that grinding tools were also used in pulverizing salt, clay and temper for pottery, in pigment production, and even for hide processing.

Traditionally, grinding implements are often considered a simple and unchanged tool type and therefore of little use in chrono-typological studies. However, studies on manos and metates from the American southwest and other regions have shown that both their size and shape changed over time commensurate with the purpose of their usage. Through measurements of grinding surface area on manos, assumptions can be made regarding the site occupant’s dependence on cultigens. Grinding stones, or manos and metates, therefore represent primary evidence about the volume of subsistence production in archeological sites.

Manos are classified as either “one-handed” or “two-handed” based on general size, with two handed stones generally being larger in size and thus the need for using two hands. “Small” or one-handed manos are typically oblate spheroids which have a grinding surface area of  $<150\text{ cm}^2$ ; two-handed stones have grinding surface areas  $>150\text{ cm}^2$ , often well in excess of  $200\text{ cm}^2$ . Wear on manos comes from grinding and pounding while in use and from pecking during artifact maintenance and reshaping. Experimental evidence shows that maintenance on one hand manos was slight; much more intensive on larger two-handed manos depending on the amount of usage. In the case of heavy usage on two-handed manos, refurbishment could be needed as frequently as every 5 days. Manos wear out as much as 8 times faster than metates. Eventually the manos become so thin that the user’s fingers are subject to grinding and thus the mano is “worn out” and discarded.

In the archeological record, the presence of manos and metates in Late Prehistoric sites has traditionally been used to show a change in subsistence strategies from one based on hunting and gathering to one more dependent on cultigens. Such a shift in economy would have had a profound influence on a number of cultural factors including the form and scale of land use, aspects of labor and social organization, and population growth. Experimental evidence has shown that drying of fresh maize cobs transforms the kernel disaccharides into



polysaccharides, or about 74.5% starch. Grinding the dried kernels and cooking the resultant flour breaks down the starch molecules into simpler more digestive forms for human intake.

Archeological research has demonstrated a strong correlation between mano size and societal dependence on corn. Ethnographic evidence from American southwest, Mesoamerica, and Bolivia show grinding maize is a labor-intensive task often requiring 2-5 hours of work per day. As dependence on grain increases, so does time needed to process food. One way to reduce the task is to increase the mano grinding surface area (size) and move from small basin to larger flat/trough metates in order to produce more flour. Therefore, in high corn subsistence societies, metates have been found to either be large slabs or trough-shaped; manos on the other hand are almost exclusively large two-handed tools.

Subsistence studies have shown that archeological sites which predominantly have small, one-handed manos have a very low dependence on maize. Grinding stones in these sites were either used on plant materials (grass seeds, roots, tubers, nuts, etc.) or on inorganic substances such as salt, clay and pigments. In much of Texas and especially along the Upper Gulf Coast, grinding stones (manos and metates) found in archeological sites are quite small, which is probably not an indicator of their use in grinding maize (corn). For example, the one hand manos found in the Andy Kyle Archeological Collection typically have an average surface area of less than 100 cm<sup>2</sup>. Instead, their primary function was to grind wild seeds, nuts into an edible meal (especially acorns), or to pulverize salt or mineral pigments (ochre). Only in far West Texas adjacent to the Puebloan Southwest and in the deep East Texas Caddo region are manos and metates potentially used for producing corn flour. And even in the Caddo region, wooden mortars and pestles were the preferred grinding (pounding) implement over traditional stone manos and metates.



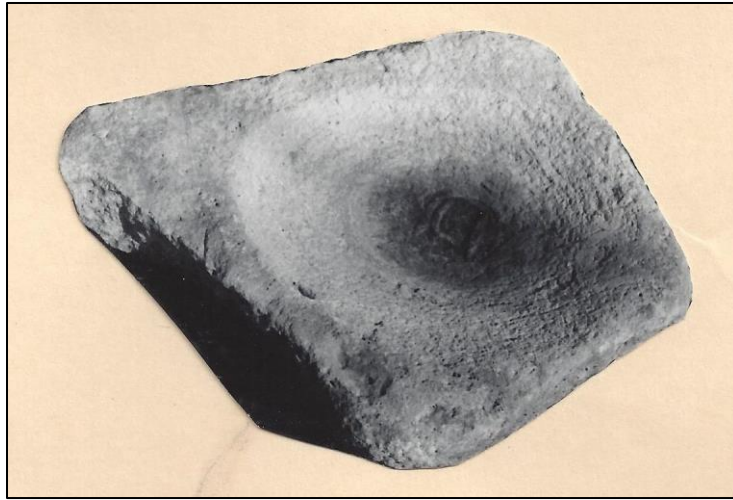
Two one-hand manos from the Upper Farmersville site (41COL34), Collin County, Texas. The mano on the left is made from sandy limestone; the mano on the right from sandstone.



Small, one- hand mano from the Wood Springs site,  
Liberty County, Texas (Andy Kyle Archeological Collection).



Small, circular one-hand mano from the  
Branch site (41COL9), Collin County, Texas showing  
prominent red staining on the grinding surface. XRF analysis  
indicates the red material is iron oxide (red ochre).



Sandstone metate from the Hogge Bridge site (41COL1), Collin County, Texas. Note the prominent circular depression. This is typical of use wear produced by a small, one-hand mano.

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## New Native American Display at Kleb Woods Nature Center

The next time you visit Kleb Woods in Tomball, be sure to check out the new Native American display in the Nature Center. Members of the Houston Archeological Society including Dub Crook and Sharon Menegaz donated several items to this exhibit including stone tools, clay balls, animal bone, shell, and petrified wood which can now be viewed by all visitors. The Kleb Woods Nature Center is located at 20303 Draper Road, Tomball, Texas 77377. The Houston Archeological Society has conducted several public outreach excavations on the site and has participated in "Digging Old Stuff Day" for several years until the Covid pandemic in 2020 cancelled the event. Kleb Woods also offers a tranquil preserve made up of wetlands & forest, with walking trails, ponds, wildlife & nature programs. Be sure to check it out!!





## Celebrating Christmas at Camp Logan, Houston, Texas

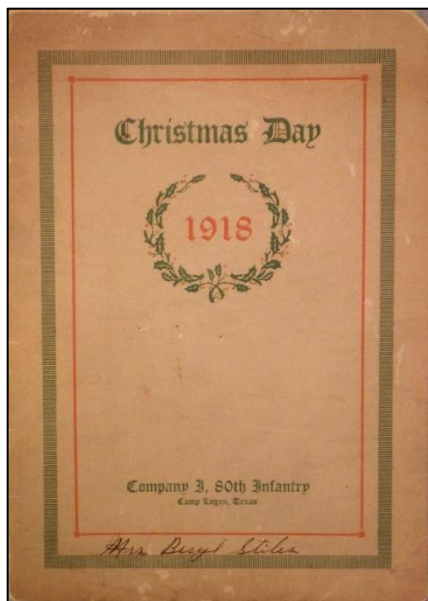
By Linda Gorski, Louis Aulbach and Robbie Morin

If you had lived in Houston in 1917 or 1918, your Christmas holidays that year might have included helping the “boys” at Camp Logan celebrate. Articles in the Houston Chronicle from that era highlight the contributions that civic associations, neighborhood groups, school groups, and just plain citizens of Houston made in an effort to support the 35,000+ troops stationed at Camp Logan at the time. Most of these troops were from Illinois and likely spending their first Christmas away from family. Very few could get back home for Christmas. So, as always, Houston rallied in true philanthropic fashion and adopted the camp for Christmas, providing entertainment, food, gifts, and friendship.

Thanks to our friend Robbie Morin, we have several items from Christmas at Camp Logan to share with you. I especially love this postcard that carries a nostalgic greeting to a family member back home.



The postcard message reads: “Camp Logan, Texas 12/19 – 1918. Dear Brother Well, how are you? I am getting Along O. K. Am looking for a letter from you. Wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. From Brother Ed”



Many of the units at Camp Logan had special holiday meal celebrations for the men in camp. One such group was Company B of the 80<sup>th</sup> Infantry. The menu for the Christmas Day meal at the mess hall was elegantly printed so that the soldiers would enjoy a holiday celebration even though they were far away from their family and friends.

This photo of the men at dinner shows the lengths to which the Army tried to bring a festive atmosphere and some Christmas cheer to the men in service.

*Merry Christmas to all, then and now!*



**Houston Archeological Society**  
**Monthly Meeting Programs for 2021**  
**6:30pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)**  
**(Until further notice meetings are virtual for members only)**

January 21, 2021 – **Wilson W. “Dub” Crook** – The Anthropology of Hunting

February 18, 2021 – **Gary Pinkerton**, Trammel’s Trace – The First Road to Texas from the North

March 18, 2021 – **Dr. Jason W. Barrett, TxDOT Archeologist**, Update on the Dimond Knoll Project

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 situation they are currently being conducted virtually for members only. For more information about HAS then visit our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) or email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com). You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Please submit articles for the December issue no later than 24th December.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:**

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