



Thursday, July 15th, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

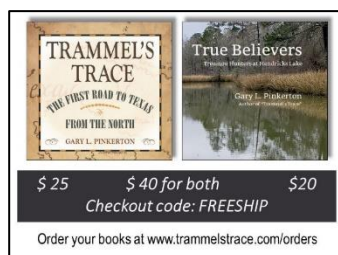
“Trammel’s Trace – the First Road from Texas to the North” – Gary Pinkerton

The July meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will be held on **Thursday, July 15th at 6:30 p.m. both in person and via ZOOM and YouTube livestream.** Historian and author Gary Pinkerton will present the program based on his acclaimed book, Trammel’s Trace – The First Road to Texas from the North. Please join us at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road for the in-person meeting – our first since the Covid pandemic began in early 2020!!! The program will start at 7:00 but we will open the meeting at 6:30 to offer members 30 minutes to socialize. We cannot wait to see everyone!!!! HAS members will also receive a Zoom link to the meeting shortly in case you want to continue watching from home. The YouTube Livestream presentation will begin at approximately 7:15 and the link to the program is <https://youtu.be/zTKE1pufjf0>.



In this program Gary will discuss Trammel’s Trace - The First Road to Texas from the North, which is the history of a 200-year-old road and its role in early smuggling and migration into Texas beginning in the early 1800s. Both the trail and its namesake, Nicholas Trammell, are the subject of his research. This award-winning work was published in 2016 by Texas A&M University Press. (www.trammelstrace.com)

Trammels Trace ran from the Red River to Nacogdoches where it met the Camino Real de los T  jas and was the first road to Texas from the northern boundary with the United States. It was an early trail for the Caddo and later used for migration from Arkansas, Missouri and Tennessee before Texas became a Republic.



Praise for the book has been broad. The President of the Texas Historical Foundation said, “through research, countless presentations to local historical organizations, and one-on-one education of landowners, he has reconnected Trammel’s Trace and brought the historic pathway back into current consciousness.” As a result of his research and his efforts to educate others about the old road, the Stone Fort Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas erected a five-foot granite marker for Trammel’s Trace in Nacogdoches in 2018.

Pinkerton has a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree from the University of Houston and a bachelor’s degree in social work and psychology from Texas A&M University-Commerce. As an independent researcher and Human Resources consultant he contributes to diverse projects. He is a member of the Editorial Board for the East Texas Historical Association. His work also appears in the online Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture, the online Handbook of Texas, the Portal to Texas History, and the Journal of Diving History.

If you have any questions about this program, please contact HAS President, Linda Gorski, at president@txhas.org.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

HAS members –

Yet again I must brag on the terrific members of the Houston Archeological Society! As most of you know, HAS played a big role in this year's Texas Archeological Society Field School which was held in Kerrville, Texas, June 12 – 19. For the first time ever HAS sponsored a massive book sale and silent auction/raffle at field school with all proceeds going to TAS. Normally these events are part of the TAS Annual meeting but since Covid cancelled the 2020 meeting and the 2021 meeting will be held virtually, HAS decided to offer these events during Field School. And we are so glad we did!

First of all, the field school at Kerrville offered an amazing venue for holding the sale – a huge, covered pavilion in the primary campground under which most of the 300+ attendees gathered each evening for dinner and presentations. Second, we were able to partner with members of the Hill Country Archeological Association in Kerrville who tackled the initial logistics for the sale. Third, a dozen or more HAS members hauled 55 boxes of books from Houston to Kerrville. We could not have held this sale without them! And, finally, the most amazing group of HAS members attending field school this year volunteered every single afternoon when they came in from the field and at night after dinner to help run this sale.

We decided early on to offer all the donated books, reports, journals, and bulletins donated by HAS, HCAA and many TAS members who brought boxes of books to the sale for \$1 a book. This appealed especially to all the young archeologists and archeology students who are just building their libraries (Some bought 50 – 100 books each!!!!). In the final days of the sale we offered many of the books for free or for a donation. The book sale was a huge hit with everyone at field school, mostly for the good will and “vibe” that it provided as people gathered and got to know each other as they browsed through the hundreds of boxes of books in the sale.

The silent auction was equally and amazingly successful. We started out with about 30 auction items that were left over from the online auction that HAS member Larry Golden conducted in 2020 to support TAS. Would you believe that by the time the auction ended, a total of 59 items had been donated to the event thanks to folks who brought terrific items at the last minute!!!! The raffle for the quilt made of old TAS Field School t-shirts and donated by THC archeologist Becky Shelton was equally popular! So far, the amount raised from the book sale, raffle and auction totals approximately \$4,000 - and there are still a few more payments coming in! And that entire amount goes to TAS!!! Way to go team!!!!

There are so many HAS members to thank for the success of this effort but I want to mention especially HAS members Louis Aulbach, Jennifer Fuentes, Leonie and Madison Waithman, Emma and Bess Baldwin, Sharon Menegaz, Frank Kozar, Garrett Powell, Dr. Sarah Chesney and Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen and kids Catherine and Julian for being on hand to help with the sale. Folks who hauled books up to Kerrville include Leonie and Madison Waitman (who hauled a record 18 boxes in their SUV!), Emma and Bess Baldwin, Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills, Ann and Tim Clark, Jennifer Fuentes, Liz Coon-Nguyen, and Marcy Brazaitis (if I've forgotten anyone, mea culpa). And, finally, thanks to everyone who attended TAS Field School this year for supporting this effort.



The HAS team on Tuesday night, June 15th, celebrating the end of the very successful TAS Field School silent auction and book sale. Dr. Sarah Chesney, Louis Aulbach, Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen, Ruth Brenton, Sharon Menegaz, Geoff Mills, Frank Kozar, Leonie Waithman, Linda Gorski, Jennifer Fuentes and Daniel Massey.

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting

June 24, 2021

WELCOME to our members-only special HAS Monthly Meeting, held via ZOOM (Linda Gorski, President)!

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. Also, there has been an increase in the storage unit fee – to \$200/month. We will continue to use this facility, as it is convenient and well-maintained.

Membership (Bob Sewell): Our membership currently stands at 230. In 2019, membership rose to 250; in 2020, it dropped to 195, so we are doing very well with our total number for this year!

Website and Newsletter (Bob Sewell): Our website is going great with no outages. Thanks to those who have submitted high quality articles to our newsletter! A “heads up” to check out our next newsletter: open it right away and read Louis Aulbach’s article about the cannon ball recently found in downtown Houston!

New Business

Publications (Dub Crook): Everyone should have received Journal Issue #143 (Western U.S. Archeology) published in January and HAS Report #36 (Lone Oak Site Phases I and II) that came out in April. The Lone Oak Phase III report has been completed and edited and will be out in the third quarter this year. Additionally, our next journal containing articles on the Cottonfield site will be published before the end of this year.

Presentation of Proposed Amendments to HAS Constitution (Linda Gorski/Beth Kennedy): Tonight, HAS held a members-only meeting to review proposed amendments to the HAS Constitution (sent out from Beth Kennedy, Secretary, to members via email on June 2) regarding how we will conduct business electronically (Zoom, etc.) in times of a national emergency. Linda introduced the changes, and Beth read them to members. Any comments should be sent to the Chair of the Constitution Committee, Louis Aulbach, at publications@txhas.org before our next monthly meeting on July 15, at which time Louis will report on the amendments.

Discussion of Future Meeting Formats (Linda Gorski): Linda presented options for future meeting formats, including all in-person, all virtual, or a hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual). Linda asked for comments from members on their preferred format, and a discussion ensued involving concerns about each format related to Covid, the types of technology required, etc. The decision was made for Linda to reserve Trini Mendenhall for our next meeting on July 15, and to try to set up the technology to also project the meeting virtually.

2021 Field School Held in Kerville, Texas: Linda, Sharon and other attendees talked about the highlights of this year’s field school, including the book sale, silent auction, and excavation that occurred!

July Meeting: Historian and author Gary Pinkerton will present a talk entitled “Trammel’s Trace: The First Road to Texas from the North.”

Beth Kennedy, Secretary

Sheldon Kindall, Longtime HAS Member Passes Away

We learned recently that HAS member Sheldon Kindall has passed away. Sheldon was a long-time member of the Houston Archeological Society and served as the society's president from 1991-1993. Sheldon died at his home in Seabrook, TX on June 6, 2021. HAS member Beth Aucoin was able to visit with his family and the following information was related to her by family members.

Sheldon, an only child, was born on October 16, 1932, in Cheyenne, Wyoming where his father, who served in WWI and WWII, was stationed with the U.S. Army. As part of a military family, he lived in numerous places in the U.S. While living in the Washington, D.C. area, his mother served as a code breaker during WWII while his father was away serving his country.

Sheldon earned a BS degree in Physics from Texas A&M and his MS in Physics from Louisiana State University. Sheldon worked at TRW for 20 years which then became Rockwell International and later Boeing. During the early space program, he worked on navigation related to getting the astronauts from Earth to the moon and returning them to Earth. While working at TRW, one of his responsibilities was to map the dark side of the moon utilizing photos taken by the Apollo 11 crew!

Sheldon retired from Boeing and became an active avocational archeologist. Sheldon was a long-time member of Texas Archeological Society, Houston Archeological Society and one of the ten founding members of the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archeological Stewardship Network which began in 1984.

One of Sheldon's greatest contributions to the Houston Archeological Society was his published reports on sites that he and others excavated. If you look at the list of Reports and Journals published by HAS on our website at www.txhas.org, Sheldon Kindall's name appears alongside his co-authors Leland Patterson, Dick Gregg and Bill McClure on many of them. Without his commitment to recording and documenting sites and publishing his findings, information about so many sites in southeast Texas would be lost forever.

His friend and fellow archeologist Tom Hester had this to say: *Sheldon is well remembered by his friends and fellow stewards and will be sorely missed. I had known Sheldon for a very long time and always considered him to be a great avocationalist and a fine person. I am very sorry to hear he has passed. He made many contributions to HAS, TAS, and Texas archaeology.*

Another friend, Bonnie McKee, said: *Sad news. His contributions to Texas' archeology are great and will be part of our records. He will be missed.*

Sheldon's ashes will be interred in a cryptorium in Hunt, Texas, located near Kerrville.



Sheldon Kindall in the field with other TASN Stewards at a project in Liberty County.



Sheldon Kindall in the HAS lab at Rice University

My First Field School

By HAS Field School Scholarship winner, Karla Gomez

My interest in archeology started back in 1999 when the movie *The Mummy* was released. Although this movie did a very awful job of depicting ancient Egypt and archeology in general, for some reason it sparked my interest in archeology. Traveling every other summer with my parents when I was younger to Guatemala City to visit my grandparents also added to my interest in archeology. I remember my parents would take me to the museum every summer just so I could see all the artifacts recovered from nearby sites. Seeing all of this I knew that I wanted to one day be an archeologist.



Standing in front of the Museum of Archeology & Ethnology in Guatemala City

Flash forward to 2021 and we are now living during a pandemic that disrupted everything including the world of archeology. I was put in a stressful situation because I was on the verge of graduating and all the field schools were canceled due to COVID-19. This is when I decided to join the Houston Archeological Society and seek help. I met everyone from HAS during one of their monthly meetings and everyone was extremely friendly and offered me a chance to go out and volunteer with them. The couple of times that I went out to volunteer with the team I learned that the Texas Archeological Field School was actually going to happen this year and there were scholarships that I could apply for to attend. I applied for the HAS Field School Scholarship, and I was very fortunate to win this award.

During my time at field school, I got the chance to meet extremely wonderful people that were willing to give me advice on how to go forward with my career. Although my first day was short because I had to attend orientation, I was still able to do some fieldwork. I also got to meet my crew chief, Mary Jo Galindo, who was such an amazing person to work with. She also did me the favor of taking some pictures of me to share with everybody reading this article. On my second day of field school, I got the chance to meet Geoarcheologist Charles Frederick. Charles gave me some great advice on what I should expect once I go back to graduate school. He also gave me some tips on what kind of experience I should have to get into better graduate programs. That

same day, my team also recovered a Pedernales point from the unit I was working on. On my last day of field school, Mary Jo taught me a very useful technique so I can work faster. This technique will be very useful especially if I plan on working for CRM firms. I was at field school for only three days, but I was able to learn so much and I will never forget my experience at my very first field school!

If it were not for the Houston Archeological Society and the scholarship they provided, I would have not had the opportunity to go to my very first field school. I also would have not had the chance to meet and connect with the people that I did. I will forever be grateful for HAS for allowing me to receive this award and for allowing me to gain experience and learn so many things about archeology. This experience made me realize that archeology is something that I want to continue to do and one day become a professional.



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Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski to Present “A Tale of Two Buried Cities: Contrasting Pompeii with Ostia Antica” at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Tuesday, August 24th, 6:30 p.m. in the Wortham Giant Screen Theater

Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski, members of the Houston Archeological Society and both appointed members of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Stewards Network will present an in-person program entitled A Tale of Two Buried Cities at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, Tuesday, August 24th, 6:30 p.m. in the Wortham Giant Screen Theater. The pair investigated and explored the ruins of ancient Rome and Ostia Antica over a number of years. Through their research and investigation, they have published a series of self-guided walking tours to the ruins of ancient Rome and Ostia Antica. The sixth volume in this series, covering the Porta Marina district of Ostia, was published in February 2021.



The Roman city of Ostia was well known in ancient times, but perhaps not as well-known as that other buried city, Pompeii. As the port city of Rome, Ostia was an important gateway of commerce and travel for the capital of the Empire. After the fall of the Roman Empire in the west, Ostia, located just 30 km from the center of Rome, was abandoned and eventually buried by the silt and mud from the floods of the Tiber. The rediscovery and excavation of the ruins of Ostia in the 19th and 20th centuries have provided a revealing look at the everyday life of Roman society. In many ways, Ostia is comparable to the other rediscovered city of ancient Rome, Pompeii. In this presentation, we will compare and contrast the aspects of everyday Roman life that are found in Ostia and Pompeii, with a special emphasis on the important Porta Marina District of Ostia.

For more information about this program and instructions on how to purchase tickets go to the calendar for the Houston Museum of Natural Science at <http://www.hmns.org/calendar/> and scroll to August 24th.

Archeo Corner: Loess

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, III

Loess (pronounced “lowse” but is often heard as “luss”) is a silt-sized, fine-grain sediment that is formed by the accumulation of wind-blown dust. While we do not have loess here in Texas, as much as 10 percent of the earth’s surface is covered by loess including many areas where there are significant archeological sites.

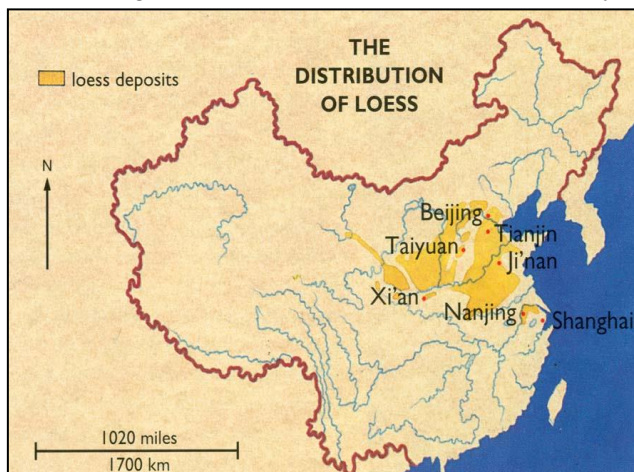
The term “loess” is from a Swiss-German word, “Loss” meaning drop. It was first used by people in the Rhine Valley of Germany and in Switzerland to describe thick, fine grain aeolian sediments. Four fundamental requirements are necessary for the formation of loess: (1) a dust source, (2) adequate winds to transport the dust, (3) A suitable area for accumulation of the wind-blown material, and (4) sufficient time for the dust to become cemented. Loess is composed of mostly fine-grain (20-50 micron) sand and silt with minor amounts of clay. Over time it can become loosely cemented by calcium carbonate. It is homogeneous in nature and highly porous where not tightly cemented. Loess fractures readily and because of the angular nature of the silt grains, frequently forms steep, vertical cliffs. Color of loess deposits is usually pale yellow to buff but can become reddish with oxidation of iron minerals within the silt.

Loess deposits can be quite thick, more than 100 meters in parts of China and tens of meters thick in the U.S. Midwest. Where it is found, it forms a blanket-like coating that can cover hundreds of square kilometers. In many places where loess is found, it has formed in elongate ridges that are aligned with the prevailing wind direction during the Last Glacial Maximum of the Pleistocene. These are called “paha” ridges in the U.S. and “greda” ridges in Europe.

Loess tends to develop very rich soils and forms some of the most agriculturally productive terrain in the world. The fertility of loess soils does not derive from the presence of organic matter unlike many tropical soils. Instead, soils underlain by loess tend to be very well drained which increases the ability of plants to absorb nutrients from the soil (cation exchange capacity). In China, loess deposits, which give the Yellow River its name, have yielded strong crops for thousands of years. However, over farming can lead to severe dust pollution because of the very fine-grain nature of the loess soil.

Where is loess found? Much of Argentina is covered by loess – one area in the tropical north part of the country and the other in the vast pampas. The source of the loess is believed to be from the glacial deposits of the Andean foothills which were formed by the Patagonian Ice Sheet. The pampean loess is made of sandy silt and produces incredible lush grasslands which in turn produce some of the world’s best beef cattle.

Another area of massive loess deposits is Central Asia from Tajikistan to northern Kazakhstan. The source of this material is from the glaciated areas of the Pamir and Himalayan mountain ranges.



Map of China showing location of the Loess Plateau (orange).

One of the largest areas of thick loess deposits in the world is the great Loess Plateau (also known as the Huangtu Plateau) of central and northern China. Loess in this area covers as much as 640,000 square kilometers including almost all of Shanxi, Shaanxi, and Gansu provinces. Over farming and poor soil protection has made this area one of the most erodible soil areas on the planet. The Yellow River is so named for the loess dust in the water and on its banks.

Loess deposits of variable thicknesses are widely distributed over much of Europe. The northern European loess belt stretches from France to Germany to Poland to northern Ukraine. The rich soils developed over the loess has led to the Ukraine being known as the “breadbasket of Russia”. A smaller loess region occurs in southern Europe, mainly in the Danube basin which was derived by fluvial transport of loess from northern Europe.

In the United States, extensive loess deposits cover much of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, as well as along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers which have redeposited loess from the mid-continent. As with other loess areas worldwide, rich topsoils have developed on top of the loess which have been prolific grassland and crop producing areas for the last 200 years. The Loess Hills of Iowa are particularly well known for their abundant crops. A series of three massive loess deposits from different epochs within the Pleistocene are exposed in the Mississippi river bluffs near Vicksburg.

Since the 1980s, archeologists have tried a number of different methodologies including thermoluminescence, infrared stimulated luminescence, and optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) in an attempt to date loess deposits where archeological sites have been found. This has only been partially successful largely due to the very small grain size of the sand grains (quartz) in loess. However, during the past several years, luminescence dating has significantly improved, especially with the development of single grain measuring protocols. This technique has resulted in reliable and repeatable age dates for sites occupying paleosols that have developed on loess deposits in Europe, China, and North America. In particular, the new dating technology has allowed Chinese archeologists to more accurately date *Homo erectus* sites in the Nihewan Basin to as old as 1.6 million years old and the Lantian early man site to 1.63 million years old.



Map showing the extensive loess deposits in the Mid-Continent



The Nihewan Basin, China's Olduvai Gorge which contains many early man sites older than 1 million years. All of the soil in the photo is loess.



The Shigou site (1.3 million years old) which is located in a large deposit of loess.

In addition to luminescence dating methods, the use of radiocarbon dating in loess has increased during the past decade. Significant advances in new instrumentation and refinements in radiocarbon calibration curves have enabled archeologists in Europe to obtain reliable age dates in loess deposits for the last 40-45 thousand years. However, this method relies on finding organic material such as charcoal, seeds, snail shells, etc. in the sites.

Notes on Munitions

The Nock Volley Gun

Part 2 of 2

By Tom Nuckols

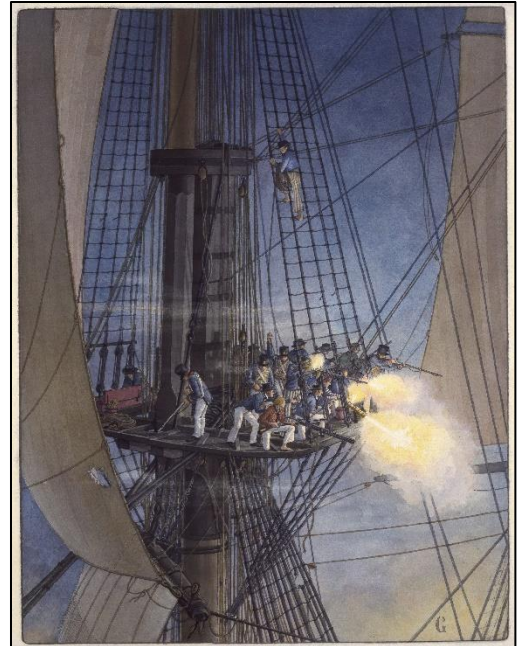
James Wilson, Henry Nock and His Majesty's Navy

In July of 1779, British inventor James Wilson¹ presented the Board of Ordnance with two of his “*new Invented Gun with seven barrels to fire at one time*” for trial (Peterson 1962: 191). The two trial guns equipped with rifled barrels, were made by London gunsmith Henry Nock (1741-1804).

The board was impressed with Wilsons's gun. However, they felt that it could be used to better advantage on board Royal Navy ships; sailors in the tops, firing downward while armed with the gun with its discharge of a lead bullet from each of its seven barrels, would have a devastating effect on groups of enemy sailors trying to board their ship (Illustration shown right). Hence, the Board referred the gun to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

The Admiralty saw potential in Wilson's gun, and in 1780, Nock received a contract to make them. Over the next several years, Nock manufactured approximately 650 of the guns for His Majesty's Navy. Thereafter, the gun would be known as the “Nock Volley Gun” or simply, the “Nock”².

Unlike the trial guns equipped with rifled barrels, the Nocks' made for the British navy had smooth barrel bores. During the 1779 trials, it was determined that rifled barrels might take too long to load in a combat situation. The decision to change the barrels from rifled to smooth bores, essentially changed the Nock into a multi shot musket. The rate of fire improved, but range and accuracy diminished.



The Nocks' Particulars

The Nock, a muzzle-loader, weighed 12 pounds, and was equipped with a conventional flintlock ignition system. When the gun was fired, the priming powder in the flintlock's pan ignited. The flame created by the ignition, traveled through a channel to the center barrel igniting its powder charge. The outer six barrels were connected to the center barrel by additional channels. Thus, when the center barrel fired, the other barrels fired simultaneously. If need be, a Nock could be used as a single shot firearm by simply loading only the center barrel.

Each one of the Nock's seven, 20-inch-long barrels, had a bore diameter of 0.50 inches and fired a spherical lead bullet with a diameter of 0.46 inches. Originally, the Royal Navy's service load, i.e., the amount of black gun powder (powder) used to propel each bullet, was 70 grains. Firing that amount of powder from all seven barrels at once, produced significant recoil (the backward jerk of a gun when it is fired). This recoil was reputedly dislocating or breaking the shoulders of persons shooting it. Hence, the Royal Navy reduced the service load to 40 grains of powder³.

¹ No biographical information available.

² See Pawn Stars: CRAZY EXPENSIVE SEVEN BARREL GUN (Season 13) | History @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QaXCSAlkuql>.

³ Although the references do not state as such, I am assuming that anyone armed with a Nock also had a leather cartridge box containing paper cartridges.

The Nock at Sea

The only mention of the Nocks' use at sea found by this author is the following:

The Royal Navy acquired Nock's volley guns at a time when belligerent encounters at sea were both expected and frequent. With the American Revolution raging across the Atlantic as well as the threat from the French and Spanish, British ships saw constant exposure to hostile forces. In September 1782, the Admiralty sent Admiral Richard Howe to escort a supply convoy to relieve the besieged British territory of Gibraltar. Anticipating a scuffle with the French and Spanish navies, Howe took great measure in ensuring his warships were properly equipped. Among the armaments for his warships was a quantity of Nock's seven-barreled volley guns-20 issued to each of his line-of-battle ships in the convoy and a dozen for each frigate (NRA 2012).

The Problematic Nock

The Nock was deemed obsolete and phased out of British naval service in 1805 due to the following problems:

- Loading all seven barrels was far too difficult during battle.
- Even with a reduced service load of powder, the recoil from all seven barrels firing at once, caused sailors to shy away from using it.
- The channels had a tendency to foul and clog resulting in a misfire in some of the seven barrels. The shooter, without realizing that not all of the barrels had fired, would continue to load powder and bullets into already loaded barrels.
- Naval officers were reluctant to issue it during battle for fear that the flame and sparks created by the seven-barrel discharge would set fire to the surrounding rigging and sails.

Addendum

(Last Month's Article Follow Up)

In John Wayne's movie, *The Alamo*, prop master Joseph Musso, decided that one of the principal actors needed to use a Nock. Actor Richard Widmark who played the part of Jim Bowie was chosen.

Because an original Nock was heavy and difficult to load, a lighter copy was made that fired electronically. To make the gun work properly, a barrel band had to be added.

When Widmark's Bowie is seen using his Nock in the movies action scenes, it is the copy. An original Nock was used only for static shots (devoid of camera movement) and publicity photographs. For continuity, the original was fitted with a faux barrel band to look like the copy.

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The Mysterious Ten Inch Cannonball

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

On Thursday evening, June 17, 2021, the local news media reported that a large spherical iron object was discovered during construction excavations under Caroline Street in downtown Houston. The Sheriff's Department bomb squad was called, and the iron ball was transported to the Sheriff's Department firing range for analysis. On Monday, June 21, an attempt to detonate the cannonball was made, however, the ball was empty and had no gunpowder in it. It did not explode.¹

The cannonball is quite large and was measured at approximately ten inches in diameter. It is heavy, as well, weighing about 98.5 pounds (see Figure 1). And there are many questions about the cannonball that have not been answered. How did it get where it was? What kind of weapon fired such a large caliber shot? To what period does the cannonball date? Although there is no documentation of this artifact, it might be possible to provide some explanations about the cannonball based on the historical conditions in Houston during the nineteenth century.²

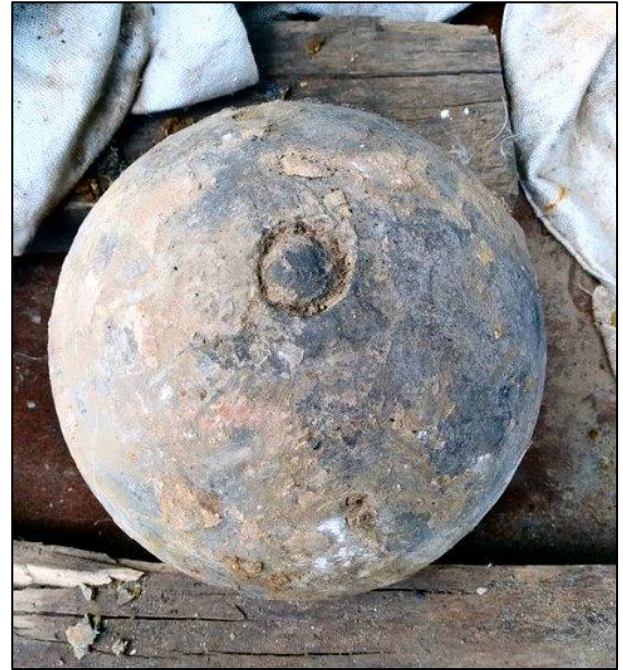


Figure 1: The 10-inch cannonball found by construction workers beneath the surface of Caroline Street in downtown Houston, Texas on June 17, 2021. (Photo: Harris County Sheriff's Department)

Although the cannonball is quite large and heavy, historical records indicate that there were guns that fired those large caliber shots. The cannon that fired a large caliber cannonball was the known as the columbiad. The columbiad was invented in 1811 by Colonel George Bomford for the War of 1812, and it was produced in models of 8-inch caliber and 10-inch caliber. During the Civil War, the Confederacy used columbiads that had been captured from Federal arsenals. The 8-inch and 10-inch shot could be used in either guns or mortars.³

Most likely, the 10-inch cannonball found in Houston dates from the Civil War. Although the columbiads existed during the Texas Revolution, there is no indication that the Texas army had them. The Texians did have the Twin Sisters, smaller caliber cannons of 4-pound or 6-pound shot (depending upon whom you believe). The town of Houston, of course, did not exist until after the Battle of San Jacinto. However, during the Civil War, the Confederate forces captured artillery pieces and ammunition from Federal forts along the Rio Grande. In January 1863, Dick Dowling, a Houston businessman, commanded a unit that used an eight inch columbiad to defeat the Union troops at the First Battle of Sabine Pass. So, perhaps it is plausible that a 10-inch cannonball was stored in the local Confederate armory in Houston.⁴

If the cannonball was in Houston during the Civil War, how did it get to the location where it was discovered 156 years later? The cannonball was discovered near the center of Caroline Street about twenty yards north of Preston Avenue (see Figure 2). Surprisingly, it was about eighteen feet below the surface! In our experience with excavations in downtown Houston, the nineteenth century street surface is usually within two feet of the modern street surface. What is going on with this artifact?⁵

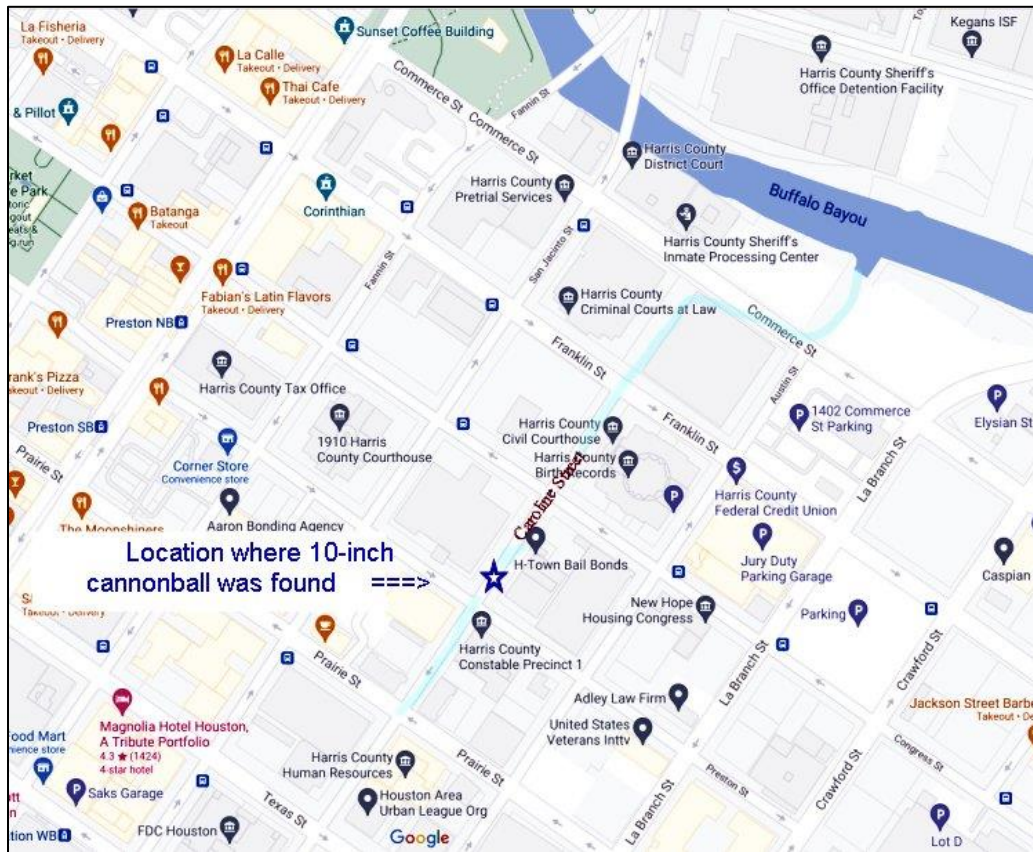


Figure 2: The blue star on this street map of downtown Houston, Texas shows the location where the 10-inch cannonball was found by construction workers, eighteen feet beneath the surface of Caroline Street on June 17, 2021.

The fact that the cannonball was eighteen feet deep in the ground is not as strange as it may seem. Prior to the 1870's, Caroline Street was actually a large gully running from about Prairie Avenue north to Buffalo Bayou, the depth of which varied from about twenty feet to forty feet deep at the bayou.⁶ The depth of the Caroline Street Gully, or Dry Gully, as it was sometimes known, was clearly depicted in a watercolor by Thomas Flintoff painted in 1852.⁷ By 1873, a culvert had been installed in the gully and the Caroline Street right of way was filled in to the same level as the nearby streets.

The question of how the cannonball happened to end up at the bottom of the gully is not easily resolved. However, there are some possibilities that come from the situation in Houston at the end of the Civil War, specifically in the summer of 1865. After the defeat of the Confederacy, John Kennedy, who had leased his store on Travis Street as an armory, disposed of the remaining ordnance in his store by dumping it into Buffalo Bayou off the Milam Street bridge. The Houston Archeological Society analyzed and catalogued over 300 of those artifacts for the Heritage Society in 2017, and Joshua Farrar, an HAS member, researched, conserved and documented several of the munitions in his Ph.D. thesis.⁸

That same John Kennedy owned a grist mill on Congress Avenue at the Dry Gully (Caroline Street), about a half block from where the 10-inch cannonball was found in 2021. One wonders if Kennedy also stored munitions at his grist mill and then disposed of them in the Caroline Street gully. We may never know for certain, but the cannonball was in the right place.⁹

One final bit of information to suggest that the 10-inch cannonball was among the munitions of the Civil War in Houston can be found among the documents of the Union army that entered Galveston in June, 1865, and eventually occupied the city of Houston in July. On July 20, 1865, Captain Seymour Howell, Chief of Ordnance

of the Union army at Galveston informed Major F. W. Emery, Assistant Adjutant General of the Union army that an expedition of one officer, one sergeant, and fifty men were sent up the Houston and Texas Central Railway line to collect all the ordnance and stores of the Confederacy in the vicinity. Ten days later, Captain Howell provided Major Emery with a report that detailed the ordnance and stores that were in the possession of the U. S. Ordnance Department. Among the long list of supplies and munitions that had been collected were: 3 each 10-inch columbiads, 4 each 10-inch mortars, and 35 each 10-inch solid shot. Clearly, there were several of the 10-inch cannonballs in the Houston area when the war ended, and perhaps one was left behind.¹⁰

If only cannonballs could talk!

Footnotes

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KHOU News, June 21, 2021.
3. "Columbiad." *Wikipedia*, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columbiad>.
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10. *The war of the rebellion: a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies*. Series 1. Volume 48 (Part II) United States. War Department, pages 1107-1108, 1133-1135, accessed December 6, 2014, <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/>.

**ATTENTION HAS MEMBERS!!!! THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS A VIRTUAL GO IN October 2021!!!**

The TAS Board of Directors and the Local Arrangements Committee for the 92nd Annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society have confirmed that there **WILL** be a TAS annual meeting October 22 – 23 this year. This meeting will be held virtually Friday evening, October 22 and all day Saturday, October 23, via Zoom and Youtube Livestream with the Friday night (October 22) and Saturday night (October 23) presentations coming to you LIVE from the **Houston Museum of Natural Science!**

This year TAS will be partnering with the Houston Museum of Natural Science to present our public forum and banquet speakers, giving TAS and our speakers a huge new audience! And our “Boyd Doubleheader” is sure to bring in that audience!

On Friday night, October 22, Professional archeologist **Douglas K. Boyd, Senior Archeologist with Cox|McLain Environmental Consultants** will be the Public Forum Speaker for the 92nd annual meeting. His fabulous presentation about a recent archeological project in downtown Houston entitled **BRICKS, BOTTLES, AND BONES AT FROST TOWN: Historic Archeology of a 140-year-old Working-Class Houston Neighborhood** will be simulcast directly to you from the Giant Screen Theater at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Our Banquet speaker, **Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Shumla Endowed Research Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University and founder of a nonprofit organization, Shumla Archaeological Research and Education Center** will also simulcast her talk on Saturday evening, October 23, from the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dr. Boyd will be presenting preliminary findings generated by her latest research project, “*Origins and Tenacity of Myth in Archaic Period Rock Art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands*,” funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. See more information about both programs in this newsletter.

As most of you have noted during the past year when attending other virtual meetings, there are several benefits to registrants for an online event:

1. **Value!** Normal expenses for travel, accommodation and food are not necessary this year, opening the opportunity for attendance to virtually every interested TAS member. Your registration fee will give you full access to the entire meeting.
2. **Virtual!** Connect from anywhere! The technological advancement in the modern world has improved the internet connection such that users on the web can connect and interact from any part of the world. Finally, our out of state and even out of country members can enjoy our annual meeting with the rest of us!
3. **Variety!** You can pick and choose from a wide variety of online topics and sit in on those virtual meetings from the comfort of your own home.
4. **Voice!** You will have an opportunity for interaction and question and answer periods with speakers and other members of TAS.
5. **enVironment!** Since virtual meeting systems work on green technology, organizations and businesses reduce the amount of carbon in the environment. This environment-friendly [communication](#) method reduces travel and paper printing!
6. **Viewing Parties!** Get together with friends from your neck of the woods to attend this meeting virtually – sort of like Tailgating for Archeology! These Watch Parties will be especially fun for the evening talks by Doug Boyd and Carolyn Boyd.

The First Call for Papers has gone out and the second Call for Papers is included in this newsletter. If you have any questions about submitting papers or posters, our program chairs Dr. Jon Lohse and Dr. Jason W. Barrett (coming to you from his new home in Toronto, Canada!) can be reached at am-papers@txarch.org.

TAS members will be receiving frequent updates about presentations, topics and speakers. Registration forms for the 2021 TAS Annual meeting will be available this summer on the TAS website. In the meantime, if you have any questions about this meeting, please contact LAC co-chairman Linda Gorski at president@txhas.org.

SECOND CALL FOR PAPERS 92nd TAS ANNUAL MEETING To be Held October 22 – 23, 2021

Jason W. Barrett and Jon C. Lohse, 2021 TAS Annual Meeting Program Co-chairs

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for posters, papers and symposia to be presented at the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Texas Archaeological Society to be held October 22 -23, 2021. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional archaeologist members on any topic of archaeological interest. According to TAS policy, all presenters must be TAS members and be registered for the meeting. The Registrar and Program Committee will ensure membership compliance.

The 92nd Annual Meeting will be held in an entirely online format to ensure the safety of our members while COVID limits in-person gatherings and complicates the logistics of travel.

All presentations must adhere to a 20-minute time limit. Simultaneous virtual sessions will be held on the day of the event. TAS members that register for the conference can move virtually from program to program to attend talks of interest, and they may access all presentations online following the conference.

Symposia may be organized around any topic, area, major project, and/or time period. All symposia will be limited to four papers due to platform limitations imposed by the virtual format.

Poster presentations can effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information and posters reach a larger audience than oral papers. Members are encouraged to consider poster presentations as an alternative to papers. All posters will be uploaded to a virtual bookroom where audience members may post comments and questions to engage with the presenter. Other presentation formats such as panel discussions and demonstrations must receive prior approval from the Program Co-Chairs and Annual Meeting organizers.

Abstracts may be submitted at this time via email to am-papers@txarch.org. The final deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is September 1, 2021. Symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of August 15, 2021. Poster abstracts must be received by September 1, 2021. Alternative presentation formats require additional planning, so proposals for such presentations must be received by August 8, 2021.

Presenters must be prepared to present via virtual platform. Contact the Program Co-Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. Authors will be notified in early to mid-September if their paper has been accepted for presentation. We look forward to your contribution to this year's meeting.

GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTERS

The Program Co-Chairs recommend these guidelines for poster presentations to sharpen conference standards and stimulate session impact.

<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/upload/how-to-create-anthropology-posters.pdf>

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2021

6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

(Until further notice meetings are virtual for members only)

August 19, 2021 – **Dr. Catherine Jalbert, Shannon Smith** – Archeology at Varner Hogg Plantation

September 16, 2021 – **Dub Crook** – Report on Excavations at the Lone Oak Prehistoric Site in Colorado County, Texas

October 15, 2021 – **Dan Worrall** - The Lower Brazos Culture and Late Archaic long distance trading networks

November 18, 2021 – **Jim Woodrick** - The Cannons of San Jacinto

December 16, 2021 – **Linda Gorski** - Wrap Up of 2021 Activities

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 or email 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. Please submit articles for the June issue no later than 24th July, 2021.

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

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