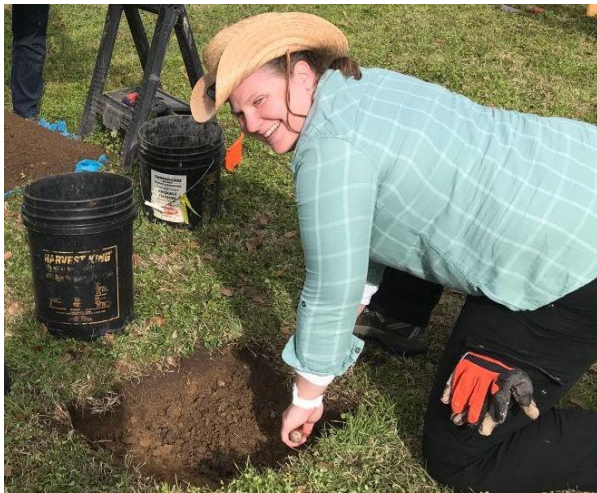




**HAS Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.
What's New at San Felipe de Austin?
The MARS Clearance Project and the Future of Archeology at SFdA**

Dr. Sarah Chesney, site archeologist at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, will be the speaker for the upcoming meeting of the Houston Archeological Society on Thursday, August 18, 2022. This presentation will provide a summary of the ongoing archeological clearance work at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site to date, with updates on finds, plans, and a schedule for the rest of the project. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom and YouTube Livestream and will begin at 6:30 p.m. with time for socializing before the business meeting kicks off at 7:00. The YouTube Livestream feed will begin at 7:15 at this link: <https://youtu.be/QwRBd-lkINY>



Dr. Sarah Chesney, Site archeologist



Site clearance including shovel testing in July 2022

The Maintenance, Archeology, Retail, Storage (MARS) Clearance project is the first phase in the construction of a multi-use area at San Felipe de Austin that will include new facilities for maintenance needs, on-site archeology, retail operations, and additional storage, along with an expanded parking lot and two RV slots. Although the construction is planned at an area that was historically less developed than the main part of the colonial capital of San Felipe, it must still be cleared to state and federal standards before construction can begin. Clearance work began on July 7, 2022, and will continue through at least the end of August. Come out and dig some shovel tests with us!

Members of the Houston Archeological Society have participated in excavations at SFdASHS for several years. This shovel testing project is a continuation of work at the site. This time, all HAS members are invited to participate in this project with Dr. Chesney. It is a great opportunity to learn while digging at one of the most historic sites in the State of Texas. This meeting will be held via Zoom and YouTube Livestream only. We will not be meeting in person for the rest of the summer. HAS members will receive the Zoom link via email later this month. For more information about this program or about HAS, please contact president@txhas.org.

Interim President's Message –Frank Kozar

Hello to all HAS members near and far from Houston,

I am HAS Interim President Frank Kozar, and I took over the position from Larry Golden upon his resignation due to health issues. We certainly wish Larry well. Former Board Member Beth Kennedy has stepped in as Interim Vice President. The other Board members stay the same, and former President Linda Gorski is acting as a Board adviser as we now transition to the yearly election of officers in about ten weeks. We asked Linda not to leave, but the appeal of the South Carolina beaches was just too strong!

It has been an unusually hot and very dry summer for sticking a shovel or trowel into the parched ground, whether in the Houston metro area or in central Texas during the TAS Field School, which was held in Kerrville June 11-18. At Field School, daily watering of the units at the end of the workday was necessary for productive excavations the next morning. But, all in all, it was another successful field school with over 300 participants once again.

Locally, excavations have momentarily ceased at our Lone Oak site near Frelsburg, as Board Member Mike Woods and member Geoff Mills evaluate artifacts and debitage from that site and a neighboring property. The Board will soon discuss the viability of another phase of activity at the site(s).

HAS has also continued work at our Arroyo Dulce historic site near San Felipe, which will be the subject

of our monthly meeting presentation on September 15th by landowner/author Kathleen Kelly. We hope to reinstate in-person meetings by then while retaining the option of virtual participation, so please attend or tune in via Zoom for this compelling story.

Another recent excavation this past spring was the Kirbee Kiln property in Montgomery. HAS hopes to have this on our calendar again this fall when the principals for the program return from overseas commitments.

And lastly, we continue our partnership with Dr. Sarah Chesney at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, with shovel testing running July 8 through late August for all interested members. This is taking place on the southeastern quadrant of the museum property in preparation for new construction, including

archeological space for Sarah. Check your email for information on participating in this and future HAS projects.

You should have recently received an email from me requesting verification of interest from you on digging, screening, or doing lab work at current and future HAS field projects. Please mention any qualifications and previous experience such as field schools, HAS projects, anthropology degrees, or even none of the above, such as was my case when I started with the Society. With this information, we hope to compile a data base of willing members who can rotate through our projects as they become available. If you did not receive this email or if you need further information, please reach out to me at president@txhas.org or tupflash@aol.com.

Take care and stay safe in the heat this summer, and we look forward to hearing from you with any questions you have regarding your archeological society.

Frank Kozar, Interim President

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Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2022

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting! Meeting called to order at 7:00pm. Frank Kozar, interim president, welcomed all to the meeting held virtually on Zoom. The program tonight will be a recap of the Texas Archeological Society Field School.

Elections: A nomination committee has been appointed to fill a slate of officer positions for the next year's term. The committee will be Sharon Menegaz, Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen, and Geoff Mills. They will have the slate of candidates ready to be announced at the August 18th meeting. The election of officers will be by ballot emailed/mailed to everyone. NOTE: In person voting will not take place since the constitution was changed recently to allow email voting. The results of the voting will be announced at the September 15th meeting.

Field work opportunities: Dr. Sarah Chesney, site archeologist at San Felipe de Austin, is conducting shovel testing on the museum grounds every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through August. The work will take place from 8am to noon. Weather is a factor but precautions are taken. All are welcome to participate whatever your level of experience. See the online sign up/waivers forms.

Lone Oak: This 3-year-old project has been closed. A property nearby is being evaluated and may open as the next project in Colorado County. Stay tuned to future communications in August and September.

Arroyo Dulce: Historic property near San Felipe de Austin was paused for a survey and shovel test line grid to be completed. More to come as this project will be expanded to more members including working on weekends starting later this summer and early fall. The project will be the subject of the September meeting talk given by the landowner that you will not want to miss.

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 discuss with Bob.

Membership (Bob Sewell): Our membership currently stands at 187! We had two members pass away this earlier this year, Johnny Pollen and Jay Gavitt. They will be missed.

Website: (Bob Sewell) No problems reported and performing well. Any problem please report to Bob Sewell.

Newsletter: (Bob Sewell) Louis Aulbach and Betsy Wittenmyer will be assisting Bob in organizing articles for publishing.

Hats (Bob Sewell): Hats are available. Those who have ordered hats will be contacted with options to pick up or have the hats mailed.

Publications (Louis Aulbach): Journal # 144 has been published and was given out to about 25 people at the April meeting. The journal is available to be picked up at the next in person meeting. Working on a second munitions report written by Tom Nuckols to be ready for publishing in December/ January.

TAS Convention (Jimmy Barrera): Registration is open. Register now as the cost increases the closer to the start of the convention. The University of Tyler will be paying the registration cost for the first 40 students to sign up. Sign up on the TAS web site. Hurry as the 40 free registrations are going fast. The University of Tyler and the North Texas Society has worked with three or four hotels in Tyler for special rates. Information is on the TAS web site. Limited space available so do not wait. HAS will be moving the books that have been donated to book sale helping to raise money for TAS.

Tonight's Program: A recap was shared from the group of Houston Archeological Society members who attended the Texas Archeology Society Field School this past June 11 - 18 in Kerrville, Kerr County, Texas. The site was 41KR754, the Kemosabe. Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills, Dr. Sarah Chesney, Gary Hartman and Sharon Menegaz each shared with the organization their experiences as they participated in archeological excavations and surveys. Even though the participants had to survive high winds, tumbling porta-pots, destroyed canopies and blast furnace heat, everyone said they had a great time!!! Frank Kozar shared the efforts at the Caddo Mounds State Historic Site to rebuild the Caddo House destroyed by a tornado in 2019. He began with the history of the area and lead up to the status of the site today. The project is planned to complete in December. Lastly, a few details were given about next year's field school. Sarah Chesney and Debbie Eller stated that it will be held in Nacogdoches at Mission Concepcion or several different sites. Tamara Walter will be the PI. Mission Concepcion is associated with the mission in San Antonio and built in 1716. There will be a campground for participants to stay during the event.

Next Month's Program: Sarah Chesney, Archeologist at San Felipe de Austin Museum. She will present on the topic of the Ville de San Felipe de Austin.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Diana Cooper, Secretary

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Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting, October 21 – 23, 2022, at University of Texas, Tyler

Limited Scholarships Available for Students! More information at:
[Texas Archeological Society - TAS Scholarships Overview \(txarch.org\)](https://txarch.org/scholarships)

Call for Papers!

Abstracts and creative ideas are sought for papers, symposia, and posters to be presented at the joint 93rd Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society and the 28th East Texas Archeological Conference at the University of Texas at Tyler on October 21-23, 2022. This is anticipated as an in-person gathering. TAS encourages presentations by avocational, student, and professional members on any topic of archeological interest. The program committee is planning a series of regional and topical symposia. Consequently, time slots for papers and symposia will fill early. Anyone interested in presenting at the meeting should contact the program chairs as early as possible to ensure that time and space will be available. Symposia may be organized around any topic, area, major project, and/or time period. Each symposium will be allotted two hours per five presenters, with a five-presenter minimum. Due to scheduling concerns, symposium organizers must ensure that all abstracts for symposia and symposium papers meet an earlier deadline of August 15, 2022. For effective presentation of symposia, organizers may specify the order of papers and their length, as long as these points are stated in the symposium abstracts. Papers will be limited to 15 minutes. The deadline for receipt of paper abstracts is September 1, 2022. Posters are encouraged. Poster presentations effectively convey visual, graphic, and quantitative information and reach a larger audience than oral papers. Poster abstracts must be received by September 1, 2022, to appear in the program; late poster entries may be accommodated after consultation with the Program Chair. Other presentation formats such as discussions, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops may be held on approval of the Program Chair and Annual Meeting organizers. Submit all abstracts as email attachments. Abstracts must include the following information: Paper/Symposium/Poster (indicate one); Title; Author(s) and Affiliation(s); Abstract for each presentation (150 words maximum). Meeting rooms will be equipped with data projectors and computers; additional audiovisual needs may be accommodated given prior notice. Contact the Program Chairs with questions about submission dates, formats, and/or equipment. We look forward to your contributions to this meeting. Program Chairs: Thomas Guderjan (tguderjan@uttyler.edu; 817-831-9011) & Cory Sills (esills@uttyler.edu; 903-566-7442).

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Sharon Menegaz to speak at Kleb Woods on August 11 and Cypress Top on August 18, Highlighting Excavations at the Dimond Knoll Archeological Site 41HR796



Don't forget that this month HAS member Sharon Menegaz will present two programs highlighting the discovery of and excavations at the Dimond Knoll prehistoric site, one of the most significant archeological sites ever excavated in Harris County. On August 11 she will speak at the Kleb Woods Nature Center, located at 20303 Draper Road in Tomball from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Then, on August 18 she will present the same program to the Cypress Top Historical Society at their monthly History Discussion group from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Cypress Top Historic Park, located at 26026 Hempstead Highway in Cypress. Both of these programs are free of charge and are open to the public. Reservations are not required. As an additional treat, coffee, hot tea, and donuts will be served! For more information about these presentations, see the July edition of the HAS Profile, or contact Sharon Menegaz (smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org).

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Texas Navy History Program

Commodores, Pirates, And Politicians: The Texas Navy Defends the Republic, 1840-1843

Debuts Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.



View on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheTexasNavy/featured>

View on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/texasnavyassociation/>

The Revolution was over, but where did that leave Texas? Caught between a hostile Mexico and a cautious United States, Texas weathered political and military storms as it searched for a national destiny. While Sam Houston, Mirabeau Lamar and other leaders debated whether Texas should join the U.S. or become a regional empire, Commodore Edwin Ward Moore and the Texas Navy battled Mexican forces that tried to take back what Mexico lost in 1836. Jonathan W. Jordan, author of *Lone Star Navy*, recounts how Texas' second navy rose from the destruction of the first fleet, made Texas a naval power in the Gulf of Mexico, and for three years shaped the "Great Game" played in the west by Britain, France, the U.S. and Mexico. The Texas Navy Association is a private, 501(c)(3) organization, dedicated to preserving and promoting the historical legacy of the naval forces of the Republic of Texas, 1835-46. Membership in the Texas Navy Association is open to all persons aged 16 and over who have an interest in Texas history and want to help support the goals of the organization. Event sponsored by the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport, Texas. The mission of the Texas Maritime Museum is to educate and excite the public about maritime history and its importance to the development and current livelihood of our great state. In 1987 the Texas Legislature named the Texas Maritime Museum the official maritime museum of the State of Texas, re-stated in perpetuity in 2007. The Museum does not receive any state or federal funding and relies on the generosity of our patrons and members.

Texas Maritime Museum
1202 Navigation Circle
Rockport, Texas 78382
(361) 729-1289

www.texasmaritimemuseum.org

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How HAS plays a role in Archeology Education and Outreach

By Sharon Menegaz

Do you remember when you first heard about the Houston Archeological Society or the Texas Archeological Society or the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission? Were you excited when you first heard that anyone in Texas could get involved in real archeology?

I remember my own experience well: more than 20 years ago, my then 14-year-old daughter thought she might be interested in anthropology, and my husband found the TAS website advertising a field school in far west Texas. My daughter and I spent four or five days at that field school on a private ranch in Marfa and that is how my love affair with Texas Archeology began. At the first TAS annual meeting we attended,



which was held in Clear Lake and hosted by HAS, we were able to see a newly restored cannon from the Fort St. Louis site, not in a museum, but up close and personal, and all the Texas History stories I was told as a child came to life. I still get to work with some of the first TAS members I met, Sue Gross, Sandy Rogers, and Beth Aucoin, and hear new and amazing stories from them every time we see each other. What a hobby!

This is why I'm involved in our education and outreach programs: to see the amazement on the faces of children (and their teachers' or families') as we show them the archeology in our "backyards" here in Harris County, and the wider view of archeology all over our state. Sometimes we help teachers liven up lessons on prehistoric Texas; sometime we get to let children and adults dig and screen with us; sometimes we get to meet landowners that realize they have artifacts that they could have identified by one of the many experts we know (and which sometimes grow into projects for TAS or HAS); sometimes we educate adults in programs like the Master Naturalist program in the methods they can use to help THC identify and preserve archeological sites. The list goes on and on.

We can always use more volunteers for these programs. One perk: I always reward my volunteers with home baked brownies and cakes! We will be very busy in the fall with events related to Texas Archeology Month in October. Here are some of the events where you can help us:

- Assembling pinch pot kits in advance to then give out during Texas Archeology Month (celebrated annually in October). THC is heading this volunteer effort and will bring us supplies and instructions. This project will begin in August; watch your email for time(s) and place(s). Our own Dr. Liz, as current TAS President, is pushing us to beat every other local society in Texas, a worthy effort for bragging rights at the October TAS annual meeting! If you have a group, such as a scout troop, that can help us assemble kits - or a group that would enjoy receiving and learning about making pinch pots using these kits during Texas Archeology Month, let me know!

- Saturday, October 15th - Archeology Day at Washington-on-the-Brazos. HAS assists with discussions about the archeological record of the former Capitol of the Texas Republic, manning show-and-tell tables, and more! We will need about six volunteers.

- ALSO on Saturday, October 15th - Archeology Day at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. We really need the help of all members to cover both these community events! We will train you ahead of time! Please step forward to help us by contacting me; see contact information below.

- Saturday, November 5th - Diggin' Old Stuff Day at Kleb Woods in northwest Harris County. HAS joins professional archeologist Ashley Jones to allow kids real digging and screening experience. Volunteers also assist with show and tell tables, and activities such as artifact sorting and ceramic reconstruction.

- Saturday, November 12th--Father of Texas celebration at San Felipe de Austin. Details to be announced, but Dr. Sarah Chesney and the staff at the museum count on help from HAS, and it is always a fun weekend to talk to people about archeology.

Our outreach volunteers also give school presentations in the fall, as History teachers in 4th and 7th grades ask for enrichment for their Texas History studies. Watch for announcements of outreach opportunities to places like the Awty International School and some of the private schools and homeschool groups in Harris County.

I asked one of my friends at THC for her view on the importance of outreach--her reply shows what far-reaching effects our volunteer efforts can have. She said that our efforts in interacting with people in our community can give them a sense of ownership of the history within their communities. They may begin to get involved with studying the history of their families or of the larger community around them. All these things can ultimately impact the preservation of the history of Texas. We would be so honored if you would join us in outreach!

Thanks, Sharon Menegaz; smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org

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The Hilton Head Island – Texas Connection - Sea Island Cotton

By Linda Gorski

As many of you know, after ten years as president of the Houston Archeological Society I recently moved to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina to be near family. Hilton Head is part of the Lowcountry, a geographic and cultural region along South Carolina's coast including the Sea Islands. Much to my surprise, while doing research online one day, I found an amazing connection between Hilton Head Island and Texas ... and it all has to do with cotton.

Sea Island cotton is a strain of cotton that was unique to the Lowcountry including Hilton Head Island. My research indicates that this desirable strain of cotton served as a lucrative crop for local planters, especially after the Revolutionary War when the British market for indigo, a major crop on Lowcountry plantations, disappeared. Although named after a group of islands off the coast of South Carolina, Sea Island cotton (*Gossypium barbadense*) has actually been grown in the Caribbean since the 15th century. But this remarkable cotton's origins can, in fact, be traced back to Latin America. Carbon dating has revealed that Sea Island cotton was being cultivated on the coasts of Ecuador and Peru over 6,000 years ago!!!

According to one article, the silky and highly prized Sea Island cotton boasted extra-long fibers that made the variety particularly desirable. William Elliott first imported a sub-variety of *Gossypium bardadense* to grow at Myrtle Bank Plantation on Hilton Head Island in 1790. The results were a higher quality cotton than had previously existed in the American market. The invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793 increased the profitability of the Sea Island cotton industry even further. Many island planters treasured their particular strain of cotton seed, jealously guarding it and handing it down through the generations.



Unfortunately, between the aftermath of the Civil War and the invasion of the boll weevil between 1892 and 1932, the Lowcountry's Sea Island cotton industry suffered too much to ever fully recover. By the 1910s and 1920s, it was no longer a viable crop on Hilton Head Island or elsewhere along the Atlantic coast. Sometime between the 1920s and 1930s, a few surviving seeds went to an agricultural research center for preservation. This research center in **TEXAS** crossbred the surviving Sea Island cotton seeds with another cotton variety. The original strain may have been all but wiped out in a single season many years ago. But today, products made with variations of Sea Island cotton can still be found

worldwide – thanks to the efforts of the research facility in **TEXAS!!**

I'll be looking for more connections between my new home in South Carolina and my old home in Texas, so watch this space!

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Texas Archeological Society Lithics Academy, April 22-24, 2022 – Report from the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of The University of Texas, Austin

By Beth Kennedy

On April 23rd and 24th of this year, several Houstonians, including Gene Bremer, Geoff Mills, Beth Kennedy, Sharon Menegaz, John Rich, and Betsy Wittenmyer, attended the lithics academy held in Austin entitled “Reading Stone Artifacts,” and what an interesting, informative and experiential weekend it was! The focus of the academy was on the identification, production, interpretation, and documentation of stone artifacts, with hands-on exercises, stone tool-making demonstrations, and, on day two, activities inviting participants to practice their skills in using tools such as hammerstones, antlers, or bone to reduce cores, and then look at the type of use-wear produced.

Throughout the two days, Chris Ringstaff, staff archeologist with TxDOT in Austin, Sergio Ayala, archeologist at UT Austin's TARL, and Dr. Robert Lassen, with the Texas State University Department of Anthropology, took turns with lectures on stone tool manufacturing, tool life cycle analysis, use-wear analysis, and documenting lithic collections. Jennifer Anderson, also with TxDOT, served as guest lecturer. Spliced among lectures were group hands-on activities on debitage analysis, biface reduction techniques (modified flakes, unifaces, bifaces, etc.), and projectile point typology. The highlight of the academy, however, was the flintknapping demonstrations performed by all three instructors followed by individual practice! The final lecture stressed the importance of documenting and describing a collection. This academy not only imparted information to participants, but also instilled excitement and interest in lithics analysis.



Geoff Mills and Beth Kennedy practice their new skills! Photo Courtesy of John Rich

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Notes on Munitions North Dakota and Erskine S. Allin By Tom Nuckols

For two weeks in June, I was a member of a team that conducted a pedestrian and shovel test archaeological survey in North Dakota. Team members, myself included, were ensconced in a hotel in the state capitol city of Bismarck. Our survey area was near the town of New Salem (Figure 1).



Figure 1. In this photograph I am standing with Bob Bird, who is holding a mule deer skull. A Lakota Sioux Native American, Bob served as the archaeological survey team monitor and taught me a lot about North Dakota's flora, fauna, and past and present Native American culture. In the winter, Bob operates an ice fishing guide service on the frozen lakes of South Dakota, where he told me surface ice can get three feet thick.

Salem Sue

New Salem is the home of "Salem Sue." Sue is a fiberglass Holstein cow sculpture measuring 38 feet high, 50 feet long, and 12,000 pounds. Sue was built for \$40,000 in 1974, using donations from local farmers and residents, and was sponsored by the New Salem Lions Club in honor of the local dairy farming industry (Fig. 2).

Figure 2. Salem Sue standing on a hilltop near the intersection of Interstate 95 and Highway 31, in New Salem, North Dakota.

Source: North Dakota Be Legendary.
<https://www.ndtourism.com/new-salem/attractions-entertainment/family-fun/salem-sue>. Accessed July 2020.



Day-tripping

On my single day off during the archaeological survey, I visited the following:

- North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, located in Bismarck. This is North Dakota's largest museum, and it is free. I spent three hours in this excellent museum, strolling through its four galleries that trace the state's history from its earliest geologic formation 600 million years ago to the present day. In the museum's gift shop, I purchased the book *A Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri: The Journal and Description of Jean-Baptiste Truteau, 1794–1796*; *A Fur Trader on the Upper Missouri* : Nebraska Press (unl.edu). The book was expensive and weighed three pounds. I carried it in my backpack on the return flight home (Bismark/Denver/Houston) over fear that it might get damaged in my checked baggage. I started reading the book recently and so far, it was money well spent, even though I'm only at page twenty-nine of the Introduction's seventy-five pages.

- Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park, located near the City of Mandan, ND. The fort was established in 1872 and abandoned in 1891. Shortly after abandonment, local residents disassembled the fort for its wood and nails. In 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt deeded the land to the state, preserving the park. In 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a visitor center, shelters, and roads. They also reconstructed military blockhouses and placed cornerstones to mark where fort buildings once stood. Lieutenant Colonel (Brevet Major General) George A. Custer was the first commander of the fort, serving that role from 1873 until the Battle of the Little Big Horn in 1876.

- On-A-Slant, a Mandan Native American village located within Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park. The village sits on the side of a gently sloping hill (hence the name) at the confluence of the Heart River and the Missouri River (Figure 3). On-A-Slant, the southernmost of nine Mandan villages, was built c. 1575, and consisted of approximately 86 earth lodges, with a population at its height of perhaps 1,500 people. The village was abandoned shortly after the smallpox epidemic of 1781.

On October 20, 1804, during the Louis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806), William Clark had this to say about On-A-Slant village:

I saw an old remains of a village on the Side of a hill which the Chief with us Too né tels me that nation lived in a number villages on each Side of the river and the Troubleson Seauex caused them to move about 40 miles higher up where they remained a few years & moved to the place they now live (National Park Service, 2020).



Figure 3. A reconstructed lodge at On-A-Slant village. Source: Field Study of the World, <https://www.fieldstudyoftheworld.com/traditional-earth-lodges-great-plains/>. Accessed July 2022.

While partially reconstructing Fort Abraham Lincoln in 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps also reconstructed five earthen lodges on the site of On-A-Slant Village. Today, interpretive tours and a museum provide an introduction to Mandan culture. The site also retains visible archeological evidence of the original village in the form of mounds, where earth lodges once stood.

Allin Conversion Model 1865 Rifle

On display in one of the galleries of the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, is an Allin Conversion Model 1865 Rifle. At the end of the American Civil War, the U.S. army found itself in possession of thousands of surplus muzzle-loading, percussion, rifle muskets that fired .58 caliber lead, Minié balls. The army wanted to replace these outdated muzzle-loaders with breech-loading rifles that fired cartridges. However, government funds were needed to rebuild the country after the war. The problem was solved by Erskine S. Allin, Master Armorer (1853-1879) at Springfield Armory.

Allin's approach was simple and consisted primarily of milling out the rear portion of the barrel on the muzzleloader and fastening a hinged breech block on top of the barrel. A thumb-operated cam latch opened and closed the breechblock, and a ratchet-operated extractor removed the fired cartridge case. Allin was granted U.S. Patent Number 49,959 on September 19, 1865, for his design. A .58-cal. rimfire cartridge¹ was developed, which allowed the original barrel to be utilized without modification or replacement. The resulting mechanism was not unlike that of a trapdoor and the general design was soon unofficially dubbed "Trapdoor" or "Trapdoor Springfield." After preliminary testing, it was adopted as the "Model of 1865," and 5,000 Model 1861 Rifle-Muskets² were ordered to be converted. It is estimated that the cost of the conversion of a M1861 rifle-musket to a breechloading M1865 rifle was only some \$5, which was a fraction of the cost of a newly made arm (Canfield 2020) (Figure 4 and 5).

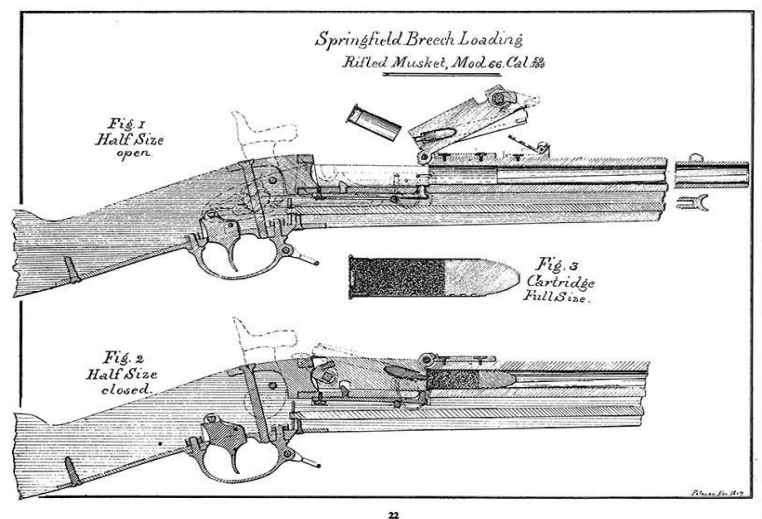
¹ This .58 caliber rimfire cartridge was known by several names; .58 Allin, .585 Springfield, .58 Musket and the .58 Ball. The cartridge contained a 500-grain lead bullet, propelled by 60 grains of black gun powder. When fired, the bullet had a muzzle velocity of approximately 1150 feet per second (Barnes 2006: 487).

² Springfield Armory and twenty contractors manufactured approximately 700,000, Model 1861 U.S. Percussion Rifle-Muskets, c. 1861-1865 (Coates and Thomas 1990: 16).



Figure 4. An Allin Conversion Model 1865 Rifle with the trapdoor breech block in the open position. Source: Canfield, 2020.

Figure 5. Cross sectional view of an Allin Conversion Model 1866 Rifle with the trapdoor breech block open (top view) and closed, ready to fire (bottom view). This was the 2nd conversion of the Model 1861 U.S Percussion Rifle-Musket. The barrel in this model was bored out to a larger diameter, and a .50 caliber rifled liner tube was installed. Unlike the Allin Conversion Model 1865 Rifle that fired a .58 caliber rimfire cartridge, this model fired a .50 caliber center-fire cartridge (center of picture) called either the .50-70 Musket or the .50 Government. The cartridge contained a 450-grain lead bullet, propelled by 70 grains of black gun powder. When fired, the bullet had a muzzle velocity of approximately 1400 feet per second (Barnes 2006: 161). Source: Canfield, 2020.



The consequence of Allin's trapdoor invention, is that it tolled the death knell for the use of muzzle-loading firearms by the United States military. The Model 1873 U.S. Trapdoor Springfield Rifle and Carbine³ in center-fire caliber .45-70, were the fifth and final variation of the Allin trapdoor design⁴. At the Battle of the Little Big Horn on June 25, 1876, Custer's troops were armed with the 1873 carbine.

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 2006 *Cartridges of The World: A Complete and Illustrated Reference for Over 1500 Cartridges*. 11th Edition. Gun Digest Books, Iola, WI.
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 2020 Origins of the 'Trapdoor' Springfield: The Allin Conversions. American Rifleman. <https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/origins-of-the-trapdoor-springfield-the-allin-conversions/><https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/origins-of-the-trapdoor-springfield-the-allin-conversions/>. Accessed July 2022.

³ In the United States service from 1873 to 1892, and used in the American Indian Wars, Spanish–American War and the Philippine–American War. Replaced by the Krag–Jørgensen .30 caliber rifle in 1892.

⁴ See Canfield (2020).

Coates Earl J. and Dean S. Thomas

1990 *An Introduction to Civil War Small Arms*. Thomas Publications, Gettysburg, PA.

National Park Service

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Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2022
6:30 p.m., Third Thursday of Every Month

August 18 - Dr. Sarah Chesney - What's New at San Felipe de Austin? The MARS Clearance Project and the Future of Archeology at SFdA: a summary of the ongoing archeological clearance work at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site to date, with updates on finds, plans, and a schedule for the rest of the project. YouTube Stream, <https://youtu.be/QR8Hf9goys>

September 15 – Kathleen Kelly - Lost in Time: Samuel May Williams and the Garden Lots of San Felipe de Austin: the story of the importance of Samuel May Williams and his garden lot as told through receipts, artifacts and archeological research. YouTube Stream, <https://youtu.be/k59L5QPsVtg>

October 20 - Gavin Miculka - Oktoberfest in LaGrange – an archeological history of the Kreische Brewery. YouTube Stream, https://youtu.be/izcHXO__3NY

November 17 - Eleanor Stoddart - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Cultural Resources Coordinator for Region 4 – A report on Archeological activities at 15 local TPWD sites. YouTube Stream, <https://youtu.be/t126FbZUniU>

December 15 - HAS President – Christmas Party and wrap up of 2021 Activities, YouTube Stream, <https://youtu.be/8w6CI53PeRQ>

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. For more information about HAS then visit our website at www.txhas.org or email president@txhas.org. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

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HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, or history have you been reading lately? Did you know about the amazing collection conserved at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) of The University of Texas, Austin? The HAS members who attended the recent Lithics Academy toured the TARL facility and viewed artifacts including the historically unique hunter's pouch. You can learn more about the hunter's pouch online thanks to the Texas Beyond History website. TARL partners with Texas State University and fifteen additional organizations to present Texas Beyond History (TBH), a virtual museum. A public education collaboration, TBH shares the results of archeological and historical research on the cultural heritage of Texas with the citizens of Texas and the world. Read and explore more here:

<http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/spotlights/hunterspouch/hunterspouch.html>

<https://sites.utexas.edu/tarl/tarl-collection-spotlights/>

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/spotlight.html>

<https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2017/08/30/more-than-50-million-artifacts/6723391007/>

<https://alcalde.texasexes.org/2015/01/the-things-they-carried/>

<https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/abouttbh/index.html>

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Calling All HAS Members – Please send photos and articles for *The Profile*!

We would love for **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please submit articles for publication to newsletter staff members at wittenmy@flash.net or newsletter@txhas.org. Share a recent on-site experience or find! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological research have you been reading lately? Your contributions can be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. Please submit information for the September 2022 issue no later than August 15, 2022.

Disclaimer: If you have any concerns or issues with any article published in this newsletter, then please contact the author of the article. The newsletter editors take no responsibility for the content of articles published.

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

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