

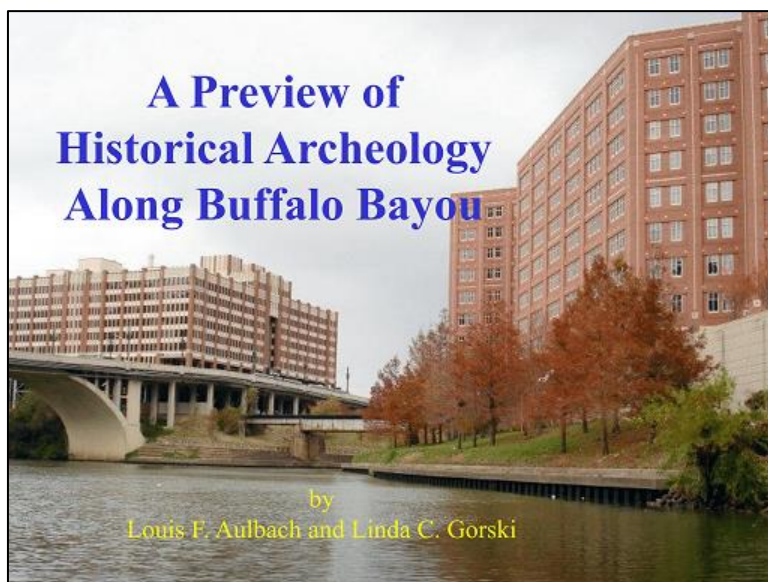


Thursday, January 20th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

“A Preview of Historical Archeology along Buffalo Bayou”

– Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski

The first meeting of the Houston Archeological Society for 2022 will be held on Thursday, January 20. Long-time HAS members, Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski, will give a presentation entitled a Preview of Historical Archeology Along Buffalo Bayou. Due to another surge in the Covid virus we have decided to hold this meeting virtually only via Zoom and YouTube Livestream. HAS members are invited to join the Zoom meeting at 6:30 for socializing and the business meeting at 7:00 with the meeting to follow at 7:15. The YouTube link to the program is <https://youtu.be/GUIj0gby1LQ> and will begin at 7:15 pm. HAS members will receive the Zoom link at a later date.



As most of us know, the City of Houston was founded along the banks of Buffalo Bayou in 1836. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries much of the activity of the city revolved around Houston's main waterway. Modern times have brought growth to the City and many of the historic structures and features of old downtown have been lost to new construction or neglect. We have identified twenty-four sites along Buffalo Bayou, many of them discovered while paddling our canoes, which are remnants of the City's historical past. This presentation will examine the so-called Top Ten of those sites and show how they help to recall the history of Houston's earlier eras.

Louis Aulbach is the author and publisher of guidebooks to the rivers and parks of West Texas. He has authored or co-authored several best-selling river guides to the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, including *The Lower Canyons of the Rio Grande* (with Joe Butler), *The Upper Canyons of the Rio Grande* (with Linda Gorski), and *The Great Unknown of the Rio Grande*. Other wilderness guides for West Texas include *The Lower Pecos River* (with Jack Richardson),



The Devils River, and *The Fresno Rim*. Aulbach's recent projects include *Buffalo Bayou*, *An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings*, *Camp Logan*, *Houston, Texas, 1917-1919*, and *Inside Camp Logan* (both with Linda Gorski and Robbie Morin). Each of these volumes delve into the local history of the city of Houston. His current work includes the *Rome in Ruins Series* of self-guided walking tours to the archeological sites in the city of Rome, Italy, which he co-authors with his colleague Linda Gorski. Six volumes in the series are currently in print including: *Along the Aurelian Wall* (2015), *Campus Martius and its Ancient Monuments* (2016), *The Public*

Land of Ostia Antica (2018), *Constantine's Rome: His Transformation of the Roman Empire* (2019), *The Streets of Ancient Ostia* (2020), and *The Road to Porta Marina* (2021). These guides, as well as all of Aulbach's publications, are available online from Amazon.com.

Aulbach, a native Houstonian, is a graduate of Rice University and the University of Chicago. He retired in 2008 after over seventeen years as the Records Management Officer for the City of Houston, and he served on the Harris County Historical Commission during the 2009-2010 term. He has been a member of the Texas Archeological Society since 1987 and is an active member of the Houston Archeological Society. Aulbach is an appointed member of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Stewards Network, and as an avocational archeologist, he participates in various archeological projects in the Houston area.

Linda Gorski is a researcher and writer who has had a lifelong interest in archeology and history. She has been an avocational archeologist for over 40 years and currently serves as President of the Houston Archeological Society, leading the society in surveys and excavations in Houston and Southeast Texas. She was appointed by the Texas Historical Commission to serve as a member of the Texas Archeological Stewards Network, a group of highly trained avocational archaeologists who work closely with THC professionals.

If you have questions about this meeting or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Linda Gorski at president@txhas.org.



President's Message – Linda Gorski

Happy New Year, HAS members!!!!

And thanks to all of you for helping us end 2021 on a high note! Despite the continuing effects of Covid, as of this newsletter's deadline, we had 255 members, a new record for the Houston Archeological Society. And YOU made it happen! Thank you so much for your support!

If you attended our December 2021 meeting you already know about some of the exciting events, we have planned for 2022. As you set up your calendars for the New Year, please save the date for our HAS monthly meetings and a couple of other Texas Archeological Society events you'll want to add. Here's a list of some of our speakers for 2022:

January 20 – Louis Aulbach/Linda Gorski – A Preview of Historical Archeology along Buffalo Bayou
February 17 – Doug Boyd – Celebrate Black History month - Finding Tom Cook: investigation of the Tom Cook Blacksmith shop in Bolivar (Denton County) Texas
March 17 – Chris Kneupper, Chronological and Archeological History of the Forts Velasco
April 21 – Dr. Mary Prendergast – a virtual tour of the new Rice University Lab and the Bill McClure faunal collection and an overview of Zooarcheology
May 19 – Presentation on archeology at the Arroyo Dulce Project – Home of Samuel May Williams – San Felipe de Austin (speaker to be announced)
June – TAS Field School – No program
July 21 - Report on 2022 Field School in Kerrville, Texas
August 18 – The Ville de San Felipe de Austin – (speaker to be announced)
September 15 – Gavin Miculka - Octoberfest in LaGrange - an archeological history of the Kreische Brewery
October 20 – Texas Archeology Month Program – to be Announced
November 17– Eleanor Stoddart, TPWD Cultural Resources Coordinator for Region 4 – report on Archeological activities at 15 local TPWD sites
December 15 – HAS President – Wrap up of 2021 Activities

Please Note: With the recent surge in the Covid virus we will hold our meetings virtually only via Zoom and YouTube Livestream until further notice. See the Program Announcement on Page 1 for details.

The following dates have been locked in by the Texas Archeological Society:

June 11 – 18, Texas Archeological Society Field School, Kerrville, Texas – Those of you who attended field school last year in Kerrville know that the 2022 event promises to be one of the largest TAS field schools in recent memory. Be sure to reserve your spot early at www.txarch.org

October 21 – 23, 2022 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting – Scheduled to be held at the University of Texas in Tyler.

Watch for details about more of our activities, field work, events and programs in the monthly HAS Newsletter. **Just a quick reminder that HAS memberships are due this month!!!** Please see the Membership tab on our website www.txhas.org. You can join online or by mail using the downloadable membership form on the website.

I really am looking forward to working with you in 2022!!!! If you have any questions about HAS, please email me at lindagorski@cs.com

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2021

Welcome Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center, and via Zoom, for our last meeting of this year! (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. Additionally, we will be paying Dr. Chet Walker \$15,000 for the geophysics survey of Arroyo Dulce.

Membership (Bob Sewell): We have 255 members so far in 2021, which is our record high membership. Memberships for 2022 are due on January 1. If you joined in September or later this year, your membership will be good through 2022. If you are paying your membership renewal online, go straight to "Payments."

Website (Bob Sewell): The website has incurred no recent problems. We are using the platform Go-Daddy, which is currently migrating some emails. Hopefully, all are correct. If you experience a problem, please contact Bob.

Newsletter (Bob Sewell): Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article to our newsletter. If you have a topic for an article dealing with Southeast Texas archeology, and need help with writing it, please contact Bob.

HAS Hats (Bob Sewell): Our hat order has been placed. Arrival should be sometime in early January.

Budget Announcement: Bob will present our 2022 budget at the January meeting. The budget will be sent out early in the month and will be voted on at the January meeting.

New Business:

Update on geophysics survey at San Felipe de Austin Arroyo Dulce: (Linda Gorski): As most of you know, a geophysics survey of Arroyo Dulce, once the home of Samuel May Williams, Stephen F. Austin's land agent and secretary, was recently conducted. The survey, paid for by a \$15,000 grant through the Summerlee Foundation, has now been completed by Chet Walker of Austin, Texas. We do not have the final report yet; however, the survey indicates numerous anomalies that may be looked at for possible artifacts. Property owner Kathleen Kelly, along with her son, John, are here tonight. If you are interested in learning more about Arroyo Dulce and its importance to the Texas Revolution, you may purchase Kathleen's book entitled *Indelible Footprints in San Felipe de Austin: Trailhead to Texas Independence* on Amazon.

Update on Lone Oak, Frelsburg, Tx: A small group worked at Lone Oak last Saturday. Numerous really good artifacts have been found at the site.

Reports and Journals (Louis Aulbach): Copies of Report #36 entitled "The Lone Oak Site (41CD168): A 12,000 Year Occupation in Northern Colorado County, Texas" are still available in limited supply. Our next journal will be published in March, and we have room for more articles. We are looking for articles for next year, so if you have one, please give it to Linda or Louis. Also, we have old reports dating back to the 70's through 90's which we will bring to next month's meeting.

January Program: Linda Gorski and Louis Aulbach will present "A Preview of Historical Archeology Along Buffalo Bayou." The talk will cover the top 24 archeological sites along the bayou discovered by Linda and Louis.

Tonight's Program: HAS President Linda Gorski presented "It's a Wrap: Overview of 2021 HAS Activities." The talk covered participation of HAS volunteers in not only HAS activities such as Lone Oak and Arroyo Dulce, but also in TAS and THC activities, including Archeology 101 Academy, labs at the Stephen F. Austin Museum, field school, and our annual meeting. Linda also highlighted the dedication of the new Rice University faunal lab to HAS and Bill McClure. Upcoming 2022 field work and labs were also mentioned!

Beth Kennedy for Diana Cooper, HAS Secretary

Notes on Munitions
Bar Lead
By Tom Nuckols

Note: Apologies to you, my readers. Because of my busy work schedule and traveling over the holidays, I was unable to complete the continuation of last month's article Lead Shot and Beer, Part 2 of 2. It will appear in the February Profile. Here is a short article that I cobbled together to take its place.

Bar Lead

During the era of muzzle-loading firearms, small ingots of lead called “bar lead” were often purchased and carried by colonists, explorers and frontiersmen. Pieces of lead were subsequently cut off of these bars and melted to mold lead bullets. The lead ingots were often impressed with the name of the company that produced the bar lead (see Figure 1 and Figure 2).



Figure 1. Bar lead, circa mid 19 century. Approximate dimensions are .75 inches wide by 12 inches long. The mold impressed name on the surface is “James McCullough. N-Y”. James McCullough was the President of McCullough’s Shot and Lead Company. From Odyssey’s Virtual Museum @ <http://www.odysseysvirtualmuseum.com/products/lead-ingot.html>.



Figure 2. A portion of bar lead recovered at 14EL430, an archaeological site in Ellis County, Kansas. The bar is stamped with the partial word “LOU” advertising for the St. Louis Shot Tower Company. From Kansas Memory, Kansas Historical Society at <https://www.kshs.org/km/items/view/456799>.

A Piece of Bar Lead

In December 2020, the Houston Archeological Society conducted a controlled metal detecting survey on Garden Lot 26, approximately 1.5 miles from the historic site of San Felipe de Austin (41AU2)¹.

One of numerous artifacts recovered was a piece of bar lead with the serified letter “S” on its surface (see Figure 3). A possible letter, to the right of the “S”, is illegible.

¹ See, *Houston Archeological Society Wins Summerlee Grant for Upcoming Project at San Felipe de Austin Garden Lot 26* by Linda Gorski @ <https://www.txhas.org/PDF/newsletters/2021/2021%20November%20Profile.pdf>, Page 4.

Unfortunately, at this point, we are unable to identify the name that is impressed on the bar lead. As a result, we are appealing to our readership for help. Can any of you identify the company that produced the lead bar that this piece originated from? If so, please contact me at lnuckols58@att.net.



Figure 3. Photo courtesy HAS member Kathleen Kelly.

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HAS Memberships for 2022 Are Now Due

We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know will enjoy digging up Texas history with us – one trowel full at a time. You can either pay your dues online using a credit card at <http://www.txhas.org/membership.html> or download a hardcopy of the membership form from <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf> and mail it to us with your payment.

Our membership is the best deal in town:

- \$25 Individual membership**
- \$30 Family Membership**
- \$35+ Contributing membership**
- \$15 Student membership**

Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and your FREE copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!

How High Were Those Flood Waters?

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

When heavy rains in the Houston area cause the bayous, especially Buffalo Bayou, to rise to levels that cause flooding, one often may wonder exactly how high the water level rose. Although the reporting in the local media rarely mentions the specific level of Buffalo Bayou in the downtown district, it is fairly easy to obtain the actual level of the water. And, once the water in Buffalo Bayou has returned to near normal levels, there is a location in downtown where one is able to visualize the height of the flood waters. This place is the river gauge for Buffalo Bayou in Sesquicentennial Park (see Figure 1).

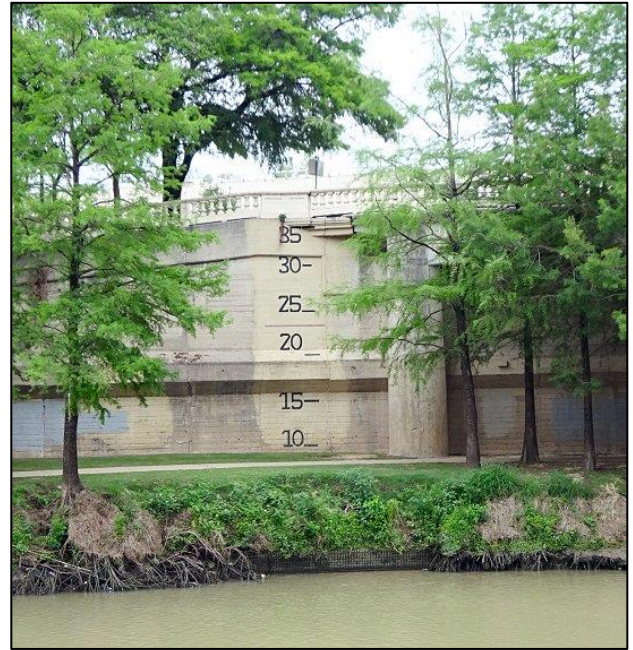


Figure 4: The river gauge of Buffalo Bayou as seen from Sesquicentennial Park. (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

The river gauge for Buffalo Bayou is located on the concrete wall of the channelized section of Buffalo Bayou along Franklin Avenue (see Figure 2), and it is easily seen from the lower plaza of Sesquicentennial Park (bounded by Preston Avenue on the south and Smith Street on the east).

The city of Houston was founded on the banks of Buffalo Bayou in 1836, and throughout its history the bayou has been an important aspect of Houston. In the beginning, the city looked to Buffalo Bayou as the means of commercial activity that brought prosperity to the small inland port. In recent times, however, as the city expanded to cover a large metropolitan area, Buffalo Bayou has become more associated with flooding events and the devastation that the floods have caused.

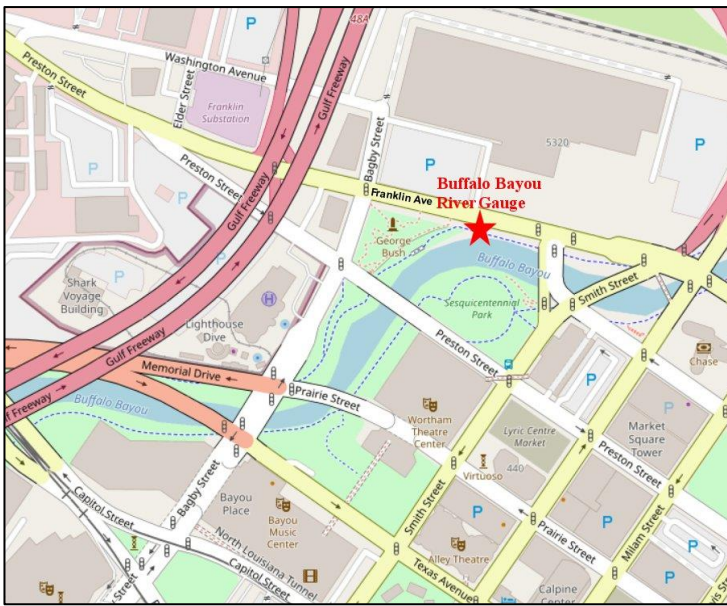


Figure 5: The location of the river gauge of Buffalo Bayou on Franklin Avenue near Sesquicentennial Park.

Although this gauge on Buffalo Bayou is not the official gauge to record the water level of the waterway, it is closely coordinated with the official river gauge of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS). From the records of the USGS, it is possible to understand the impact of flooding on the downtown of Houston. One of the first major floods of recent memory occurred in June 2001 when Tropical Storm Allison dropped rainfall over several days. The peak water level

recorded in downtown Houston during TS Allison was 36.6 feet, a level that is very close to the street level on the river gauge. TS Allison was the fourth highest flood in the city's history. More recently, Hurricane Harvey produced flood waters that reached a level of 41.9 feet, the third highest flood level in the city and well into the streets of downtown.

The top two floods of Buffalo Bayou occurred much earlier in the twentieth century. The flood that occurred in May 1929 reached a level of about 43.5 feet, the second highest flood in history. The number one flood in Houston occurred in December 1935 when Buffalo Bayou reached a gauge height of 49.0 feet. The flooding from each of these two early flood events was extensive in the business district. It was the effects of these two storms that prompted the city administration to request that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers develop a flood control system for the City of Houston. As a result, Barker Reservoir and Addicks Reservoir were constructed in western Harris County to manage the flooding on Buffalo Bayou in the 1940's and 1950's.

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2022

6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

February 17th, 2022 – Doug Boyd – Black History Month - **Finding Tom Cook: Archeological investigations of the Tom Cook Blacksmith shop in Bolivar (Denton County) Texas**

March 17th – Chris Kneupper, **Chronological and Archeological History of the Forts Velasco**

April 21st – Dr. Mary Prendergast – **A Zooarcheologists tour of the new Rice University Lab and the Bill McClure Faunal collection**

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 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 February 2022 issue no later than 25th January 2022.

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

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