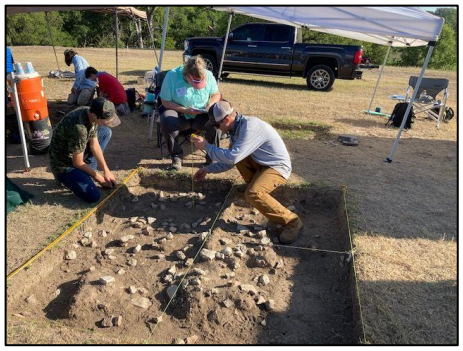
Houston Archeological Society

THE PROFILE

www.txhas.org

Vol 11, Issue 6

Houston Archeological Society Meeting, Thursday, July 21st, 2022 "Highlights from the 2022 Texas Archeological Field School Kerrville, Texas"



A group of Houston Archeological Society members including Beth Kennedy, Sharon Menegaz, Frank Kozar, and Dr. Sarah Chesney will present the monthly program for the Houston Archeological Society which will be held via Zoom and YouTube Live on Thursday, July 21st at 6:30 p.m. The program will highlight archeological excavations and surveys undertaken during the 2022 TAS Field School held June 11-18 in Kerrville, Texas. Sit back in the comfort of your own cool home and take a trip to the excavation site where participants survived high winds, tumbling porta-potties, destroyed canopies and blast furnace heat – and every single one said they had a great time!!!!

Over 300 avocational and professional archeologists from across the State of Texas and beyond including many HAS members attended field school in Kerrville this year. The annual field school provides training in archeological techniques to society members and contributes important new data to the state's archeological and historical heritage. Activities and learning opportunities are offered for all ages including excavation techniques, survey methods and special training for newcomers and teachers. An additional group of approximately 30 young archeologists participated in the youth dig this year run by professional archeologist Doug Boyd, and HAS member, Sharon Menegaz. The youth group worked in eight 2 x 2 units (each worked as four 1 x 1 quadrants). According the Menegaz, the youth group turned in more level bags (over 100) to the lab than any other area. Go Kids!!!!

The primary goals for this year's field school were to continue excavations at the Kerrville site which began in 2021 under the direction of professional archeologist Dr. Eric Oksanen who served as the Principal Investigator. HAS members will report on their specific assignments at field school including Frank Kozar and Beth Kennedy who will discuss excavations at the prehistoric site including the recovery of several lithic artifacts, Emma Baldwin who will discuss lab activities (see her great article on her lab experiences in this newsletter) and Sharon Menegaz who will discuss the youth group dig.

This meeting will be held via Zoom and YouTube Livestream only. We will not be meeting in person for the rest of the summer. The YouTube link can be found at 2022 TAS Field School Report - YouTube 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

President's Message -Linda Gorski

Who's on First?????

As many of you know, HAS is having a challenging summer. Several of our Board members are facing serious medical issues and we have had to shuffle some responsibilities to accommodate their needs. Therefore, we have reorganized our Board with some interim assignments for the remainder of the year until elections in September.

Interim president Larry Golden has been forced to resign from that position to follow his doctor's orders to de-stress while they tackle his medical issues. One of our directors, Frank Kozar has agreed to take on the position of president for the rest of the year. And the wonderful Beth Kennedy has agreed to help me in the vice president's role, setting up programs for 2022, until elections in September. Bob Sewell will continue as treasurer, Diana Cooper will continue as Secretary and Leonie Waithman and Mike Woods will continue in their directors positions.

So let me introduce you to your new president, Frank Kozar. Frank has been a member of HAS since 2016 and joined us after reading an article on the Dimond Knoll project in the Houston Chronicle. He has had a lifelong interest in history and archeology. For those of you who have never worked with him in the field – he is incredible! He's the first one to show up and the last one to leave. He works harder than anyone else with a shovel and trowel. He is generally the one to pull out all the equipment in the morning and store it away in the afternoon. In short, he is a workhorse!!!

Frank has attended every TAS Field School in recent memory and is on a first name basis with most of the members of the Texas Archeological Society. It is great for HAS that he has that kind of network. He was a member of the TAS Bylaws Committee in 2021 and has served on the HAS Board for two years, including a position on the HAS Bylaws committee.

Frank's career background is also an asset to us. He was in the Navy for 4 years as a radar operator and spent the next 44 years in aviation working for Eastern Airlines in Cleveland, Atlanta & Miami and the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller and instructor in Houston from 1983-2019. Obviously, he knows how to keep a lotta balls in the air!

Frank has two grown sons and lives in the Spring area. In addition to everything else, Frank has willingly offered his home and enormous garage and driveway for HAS lab sessions. In short, he will be a fabulous president! Please welcome Frank as president of HAS at the next meeting on July 21st.

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2022

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting! Meeting called to order at 7:02pm**.** Louis Aulbach welcomed all to the meeting held in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center and virtually by Zoom. Texas Historical Commission meeting last weekend with a number of HAS members attended. Tom Middlebrook, Robert Sewell, Charlie Gordy, Sandy Rogers and Aucoin were honored with awards.

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.

Membership (Bob Sewell): Our membership currently stands 183. Lower than at this time last year, but still are doing very well for this year and on target!

Website /Newsletter/Hats (Bob Sewell): No problems reported and performing well. Any problem please report to Bob Sewell. There will not be a newsletter published for June. This is a normal occurrence due to the activities of the TAS Field School. Hat order is available. If you have ordered a hat please contact Bob Sewell.

NEW BUSINESS

Projects:
Lone Oak: **(Bob Sewell)** – On hold at this time. Even though the site is still producing artifacts, it is still the same as in the past four years. There is a new site that will be explored as a potential project. This is close to the Lone Oak site and the land-owner is ready for us to perform walking surveys. HAS will investigate further before a decision is made and develop a project proposal as is required by the HAS constitution

San Felipe de Austin – Sarah Chesney, site Archeologist, will have a project coming up soon. Funds are available to build a Archeological Lab. Before the building will be started, clearance work will need to be performed to make sure the building will not be place over something significant. Shovel testing will start sometime in July. There will be an online signup sheet. Contact Sarah Chesney.

Outreach projects will take place during the summer and fall at schools and other institutions. More information will be shared and if interested please join HAS to share the love and knowledge of Archeology.

Publications (Louis Aulbach): Journal # 144 is available to be picked up or it will be mailed to those requesting delivery or live out of town.

Constitution Proposed Amendments – All should have received the changes to review.

The motion will be to vote on the amendment allowing all membership voting on business matters be conducted via email and/or post ballot.

This will change having voting only at in person meetings.

Many reasons to allow for email or post voting, such as living out of town, illness, having to drive at night and traffic make voting in person difficult so opening up email voting will allow every member to have a voice in the decisions placed in front of the membership.

Vote was taken and a unanimous vote was noted. Amendment passes and will go into effect after the meeting.

Tonight's Program: Dr. Jon C. Lohse spoke on the topic titled "The Calf Creek Horizon: A Mid-Holocene Hunter- Gatherer Adaptation in the Central and Southern Plains of North America". Book on the subject was published in 2021 with sales donated to the Native American Scholarship Fund for the Society of American Archeology. The talk coved the many collaborators that assisted with the information gathered through dating, geographic distribution, environmental reconstruction, bison evolution and distribution, typological studies, technological studies and heat treating studies performed at Calf Creek.

Dr. Lohse is a senior associate with Terracon Consultants, Inc. He is a professional practicing Archeologist, affiliated researcher in the Anthropology Department at Rice University and is Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Gault School for Archaeological research.

Next Month's Program: There will be no program or meeting in June due to the TAS Field School. The next meeting will be in July.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm
Diana Cooper, Secretary

--------*o*--------

Jay Alan Gavitt 1947 -2022

HAS member Jay Gavitt sadly passed away on 13th May, 2022. Jay regularly volunteered with HAS at the Kleb Woods "Diggin Old Stuff" days, and HAS participated with his History Camp for a number of years.

He will be sadly missed.

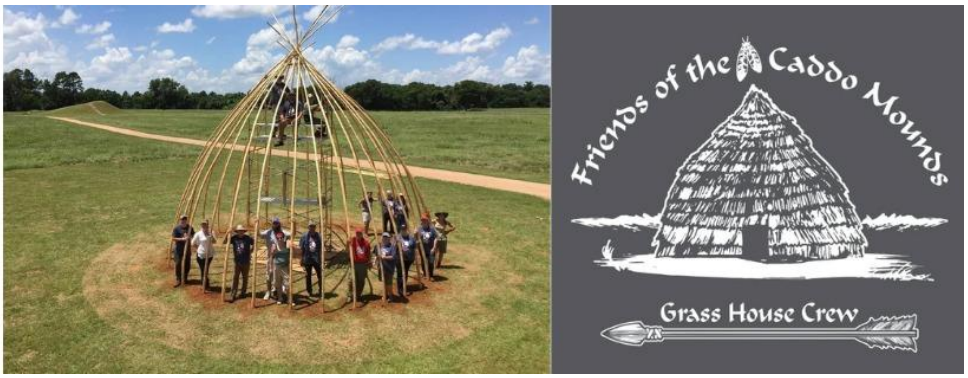
Volunteer Opportunity at Caddo Mounds State Historic Site July 11th – 17th

by Linda Gorski

As many of you know, it has been three years since the Caddo Grass House at Caddo Mounds SHS (built by Caddo, volunteers, and staff) was destroyed by an EF-3 tornado. It is time to rebuild!

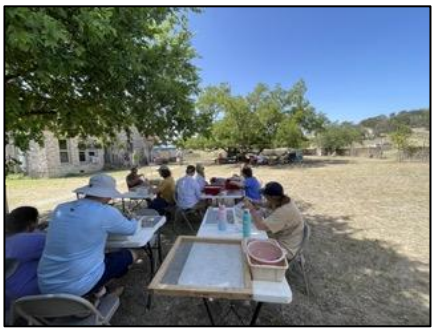
This new grass house will be built by Caddo Mounds staff, Friends of Caddo Mounds members and other volunteers, a build team of five Caddo trainees, and many other members of our Caddo community. Funding from the Summerlee Foundation, Humanities Texas, and TC Energy will support community engagement and public programming during the build. The Caddo Mounds staff outlined several ways that regional archeological societies and individuals could support this project and I'm proud to announce that the Houston Archeological Society has donated $250 to sponsor lunch for the builders. Thanks to Frank Kozar for spearheading this effort.

There are other ways that HAS members can be involved in this incredibly important undertaking. The Caddo Mounds team is looking for volunteers from July 11th – 17th to do lathing and thatching of the Caddo Grass House. You can register for this project by calling 936-858-3221. You will be asked to sign a waiver to participate in this event. When you register you will receive all pertinent information. Frank Kozar will be leading the volunteer effort for HAS so if you have questions, please get in touch with him at tupflash@aol.com.

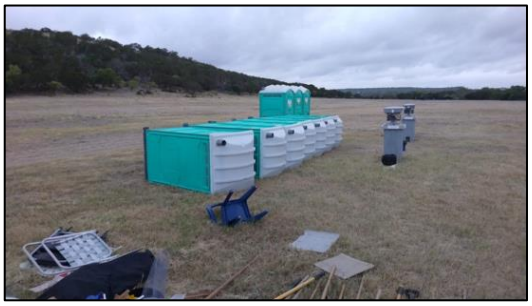


Texas Archeological Society Field School, June 11 – 18, 2022 – Report from the Lab

By HAS member Emma Baldwin

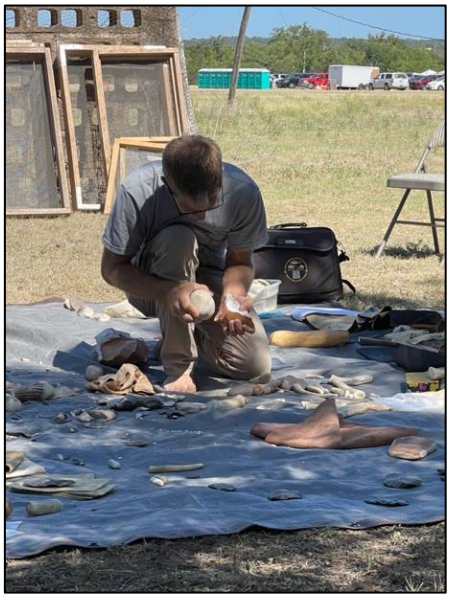


This year's TAS Field School Lab, held under the luxuriant shade of the huckleberry and pecan trees in Kerrville, Texas, was a little different than last. Marybeth Tomka, head of collections at the Texas Archeological Research Lab who normally heads up the lab at TAS Field Schools, was unable to attend and there was no historic site this year. However, lab was in good hands! TAS member Aina Dodge and her very experienced team guided us through the cleaning, identifying, sorting, and cataloguing of all the artifacts that came up from the field.



The weather was hot and at times very windy. Those of us in lab were very cognizant that whilst the excavators were quite literally sweating their socks off across the parched pasture, we had decent shade and a generous breeze! Excavators had to deal with flying shade tents and torn canopies whilst the lab crew, at times, needed to hold down the sorting trays, artifacts and paperwork to prevent them being blown away. We resorted to large stones to weight everything down, these were decorated with sharpie to prevent them being accidentally catalogued -and yes there was a moment. Thankfully the lab porta potties withstood the overnight wind unlike those on the main site.

Our week began with an introduction to lab practices, processes and paperwork before a surprise treat, a flint knapping demonstration by the wonderful and barefooted Chris Ringstaff. His enthusiasm for both his craft and those who have practiced before him is infectious.



He took us on a quick journey into the world of ancient stone tools.

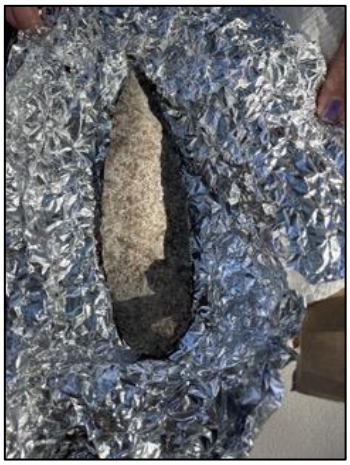
Not only did we come away with an understanding of how a tool or point is made, but I also think we all felt a little more confident that we could identify a flake's platform, bulb of percussion, percussion waves etc. We also learned what was a core and what were primary, secondary or tertiary flakes. We could identify a uniface from a biface and have a very good shot at identifying an expedient tool.

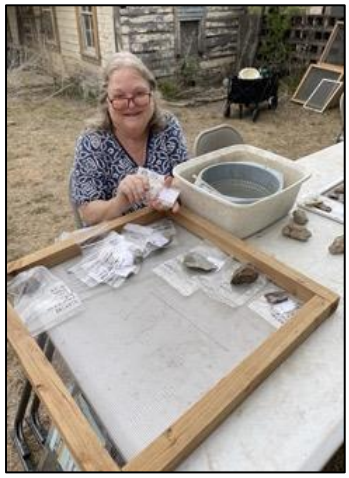
For anyone who has not experienced a freshly knapped edge on a chert flake it can be razor sharp and can make a very efficient blade. Chris also introduced us to a range of knapping tools that may have been used; rock, bone, antler, even a piece of mesquite tap root. It was a fascinating morning.

Chris's demonstration produced material that became a labeled comparative reference collection which will be very useful for

future field school labs. The resulting bucket of debitage became a teaching resource which allowed us to practice sorting and cataloguing flakes.

By day two we started to see a fairly steady flow of artifact bags for processing. This year we were asked to wash and count the snails that came in, this was a less popular task but a good one for archaeology students to learn that it's not all about Pedernales points!



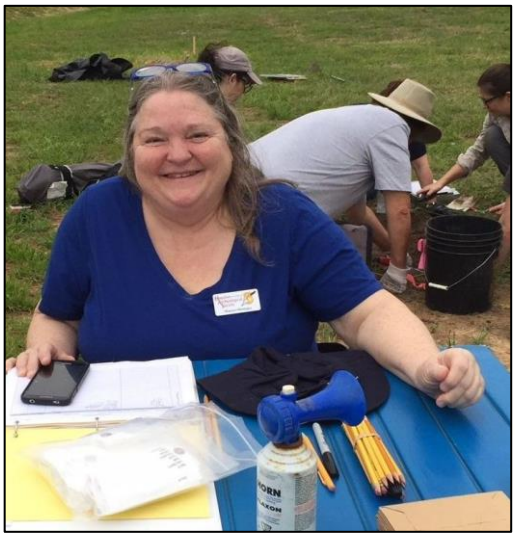


The pace was certainly slower than last year and there were plenty of opportunities to walk over to the units to see artifacts in-situ and experience the resulting buzz of a find. As usual we could hear the youth section's bell loud and clear from the lab. There was also excitement whenever we received a foil packet, an indication that we should not handle or wash the artifact as it will be sent for surface debris analysis.

The week in the lab was very relaxed, turkeys roamed the hill and a deer even stopped to watch Chris Ringstaff for a while. The friendly lab crew consisted of a core group who remained through the whole week with familiar and new faces rotating through daily. Old friendships were renewed, and new friendships were forged but more importantly a wonderful and easy exchange of knowledge paired with a shared love of the archaeology made for a great experience across a wide age group.

For anyone remotely interested in what happens once an artifact has been extracted from the dirt, I would encourage them to sign up for a lab session at the 2023 TAS Field School which will be held in Nacogdoches, Texas, or with HAS. It is a great opportunity for members who are not able to dig to become involved.

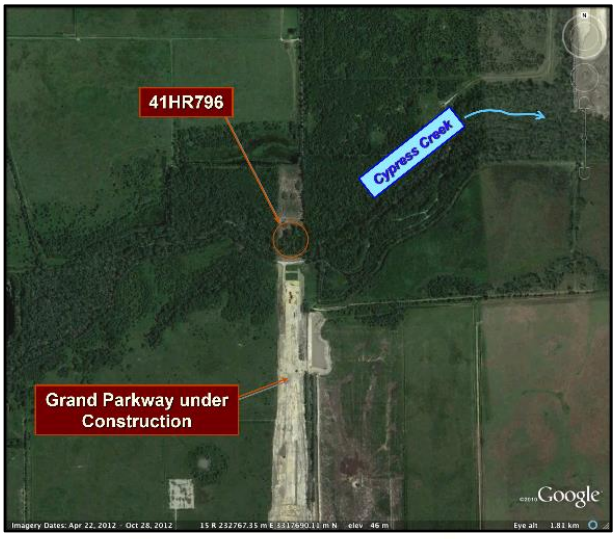
Sharon Menegaz to speak at Kleb Woods on August 11 and Cypress Top on August 18 Highlighting Excavations at the Dimond Knoll Archeological Site 41HR796



HAS member Sharon Menegaz will present two programs highlighting the discovery of and excavations at the Dimond Knoll prehistoric site in northwest Harris County next month. 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. 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 public.

Sharon will give a talk on one of the most significant archeological sites ever excavated in Harris County. The Dimond Knoll site was discovered in 1996 when TxDOT (the Texas Department of Transportation) first began investigating the route of the Proposed Grand Parkway. Designated by the trinomial 41HR796, the site, commonly called Dimond Knoll, was excavated in 2012, and, after realizing the significance of the site and to allow construction of the Grand Parkway to continue, TxDOT authorized an organized and systematic removal of approximately 50 dump truck loads of dirt for screening offsite. This allowed HAS to organize an outreach program that lasted through early 2013 for archeologists and volunteers from all over the state to help screen and recover artifacts. The screening program helped recover over 1000 prehistoric artifacts from the site, with the stone tools representing 11,500 years of at least seasonal occupation of this site on Cypress Creek.

The principal investigator of the site, Dr. Jason W. Barrett, has continued studying Native American trade routes that must have crossed the Cypress area since Paleoindian times. The talk will include slides of the artifacts recovered, the story of HAS outreach programs, and the research still going on into the peoples that have lived and traded goods in our area for a very long time.



Sharon Menegaz is a lifelong resident of the Tomball/Cypress area and is a member of the Texas Historical Commission's Stewards Network, as well as a longtime member of both the Texas Archeological Society and Houston Archaeological Society. She serves as the education and outreach coordinator for the HAS.

HAS members and friends - if you missed participating in the Dimond Knoll excavations, this is a great opportunity for you to see how the project evolved. If you DID participate, this is a chance to see yourselves on the big screen! As an additional treat, coffee, hot tea and donuts will be served! Reservations are not require. For more information about these presentations, contact Sharon Menegaz at mailto:smenegaz@rcseaglesonline.org

Notes on Munitions
Determining Mean Diameter
Part 1
By Tom Nuckols

Introduction

Due to the quality of the bullet molds used to cast them, unfired, lead, spherical muzzle-loading bullets (bullets) recovered on archaeological sites are not perfect spheres; they are actually out-of-round. Since these bullets, recovered from an archaeological site, are out of round, one of the numerous steps that I perform in analyzing them in preparation for a munitions report, is to determine their "mean diameter".

Why Are Bullets Out-of-round?

Hamilton, explains the reason for out-of-round bullets:

> *The mold for making lead bullets was made by routing out a spherical cavity between two opposing plates, usually held by a plier-like arrangement so the resulting two halves could be brought together for the casting of the bullet and then opened to allow the cast ball to be dropped out. The router for cutting out the cavity was called a "cherry" and was a small rotary file, in the shape and size of the proposed bullet, mounted on a slender neck, or shaft, narrow enough to extend through the two halves of the sprue hole. As the globular file, or cherry, was rotated, the two halves were forced together, and the cavity was formed.*
>
> *In the cheaper molds, the neck or stem of the cherry was often thicker than the sprue hole. The opposing plates of the mold could not quite close together at the finish of the cut, so that the cavity, when the finished mold was closed, was not as deep from front to back as it was from side to side. This, of course, cast an out of round bullet.*
>
> *Another cause for uneven bullets was that in the cheaper molds the alignment of the two faces depended upon the two arms of the pliers; if the arms were accidentally sprung, then the two halves of the cavity were not in strict alignment and the two halves of the cast ball were displaced in relation to each other (1980: 128).*

Determining Mean Diameter

A locally recovered, unfired, bullet will be utilized to explain the process that I use to determine its mean diameter in inches. Before beginning, however, I will provide you with the bullet's particulars.

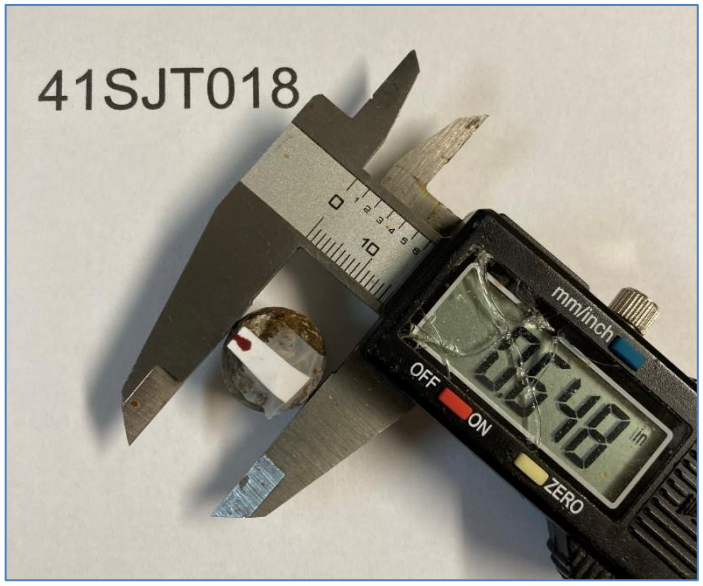
The bullet, Catalogue Number 41SJT018 ("018"), was recovered by the Larry Golden family at the site of the former Town of San Jacinto (41HR526).

The bullet is in near pristine condition, with only a few small surface irregularities. It has a grain weight of 399.2, and was cast in a bullet mold, as evidenced by a roughly cut sprue nib ("nib") and a mold seam. The nib is bisected by a medial ridge that is approximately 0.250 inches long. The medial ridge is aligned with the mold seam. The mold seam runs completely around the bullet.

Since molten lead was poured into the sprue hole at the top of the mold to cast 018, I consider the nib to be the top of the bullet.

To determine 018's mean diameter, I begin by taping a small piece of paper over the nib. I mark the piece of paper with a red ink line to keep myself orientated as to where I have designated 0° at the bullet's "equator" (Figure 1). Next, using electronic calipers, I take a series of diameter measurements in inches along the bullet's equator, beginning at 0° and continuing, until I have rotated it a full 360°. Even though the mold seam distance above the surface of the bullet is minuscule, I avoid it since it will give me a false measurement. The number of measurements that I take, and whether they are precisely equidistant to each other, does not concern me because, I am looking for duplicate values, in the measurements. Duplicate values indicate to me, that I have probably taken enough measurements.

I add up the nine measurements and get 5.856. That number divided by nine, gives me 0.6506. So, 018 has a mean diameter of 0.6506 inches.



I take fourteen measurements of 018, five of which are duplicates (indicated by an asterisk): 0.648*, 0.649, 0.652*, 0.651*, 0.658, 0.654*, 0.646*, 0.641 and 0.657. Figure 1. A piece of paper marked with a red line, taped over the nib of 018. The red line marks the location of 0° at 018's "equator", where I began taking diameter measurements. And yes, the calipers have a cracked Lens. I have dropped them many times over the years while

Discussion

The mean diameter of 018, falls within the fraction of an inch diameter range, approximately 0.635 inches to 0.670 inches, which constitutes a .69 caliber bullet; Bullets of this size, usually called "balls", were fired in numerous types of .69 caliber, muzzle-loading era firearms that had smooth barrel bores, such as muskets (predominately) and pistols.

Here is what Haecker and Mauck has to say about the subject in regard to muskets:

> *The difference between the diameter of the musket ball and that of the barrel is termed windage. It was standard practice to make the ball caliber .050 smaller than the caliber of the musket barrel for which it was intended. This clearance was needed to take care of three inaccuracies: molded musket balls were not perfectly round and varied in diameter from mold to mold; the barrels were not uniform in the inside diameter or bore, either from one end to the other in a single musket or from musket to musket; and the inside of the barrel accumulated fouling from firing with greatest buildup just forward of the chamber. Beginning with the model 1795 musket, its design based on the French model 1763, regulation U.S. muskets had barrel bores of .69 caliber. Because of crude manufacturing techniques or the period: the diameter was not precise, but good barrels generally ranged from .690 to .705 caliber, or a spread of .015. Up through the U.S.-Mexican War, the standard American musket ball was .640 caliber, with an approximate weight of .9 ounces (1997: 135).*

Nest month: Part 2, What was 018, an unfired bullet, intended to be fired in?

References

Haecker, Charles M. and Jeffrey G. Mauck
1997 *On the Prairie of Palo Alto. Historical Archaeology of the U.S.-Mexican War Battlefield*. Texas A&M Press, College Station, TX.

Hamilton T.M.
1980 *COLONIAL FRONTIER GUNS*. Pioneer Press, Union City, TN.

Houston Archeological Society

Monthly Meeting Programs for 2022

6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

August 18 - **San Felipe de Austin staff:** The Villa 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

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 July 2022 issue no later than 25th June 2022. If you have any concerns or issues with any article published in this newsletter, then please contact the author of the article. The newsletter editor takes no responsibility for the content of articles published.

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Larry Golden, President, president@txhas.org
Linda Gorski, Vice President, lindagorski@cs.com
Bob Sewell, Treasurer, treasurer@txhas.org
Diana Cooper, Secretary, secretary@txhas.org
Mike Woods, Director-at-Large, mikeswoods@aol.com
Leonie Waithman, Director-at-Large, lwaithman@live.com
Frank Kozar, Director-at-Large, tupflash@aol.com

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Sandra E. Rogers, Region V Director, sojourne47@gmail.com

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGY STEWARDS

Elizabeth Aucoin, ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net
Louis Aulbach, lfa1@att.net
Liz Coon-Nguyen, elizabeth.coonnguyenmd@gmail.com
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251
Debbie Eller, debjajul@yahoo.com
Charlie Gordy, chasgordy@yahoo.com
Bruce Grethen, bruceg999@gmail.com
Sue Gross, suegbobs@comcast.net
Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com
Kathleen Hughes, hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com
Brenda Jackson, brendajacks1@yahoo.com
Ron Jackson, ronj845@gmail.com
Beth Kennedy, bethiekennedy902@gmail.com
Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com
Sharon Menegaz, smenegaz@rcseagles.org
Clint Lacy, clacy13@comcast.net
Tom Nuckols, tlnuckols58@att.net
Sandra Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne47@gmail.com
Gary Ryman, gkryman@gmail.com
Steve Salyer, salyer4@hotmail.com
Bob Sewell, robert-sewell@att.net
Paul Spana, pcspana@comcast.net