

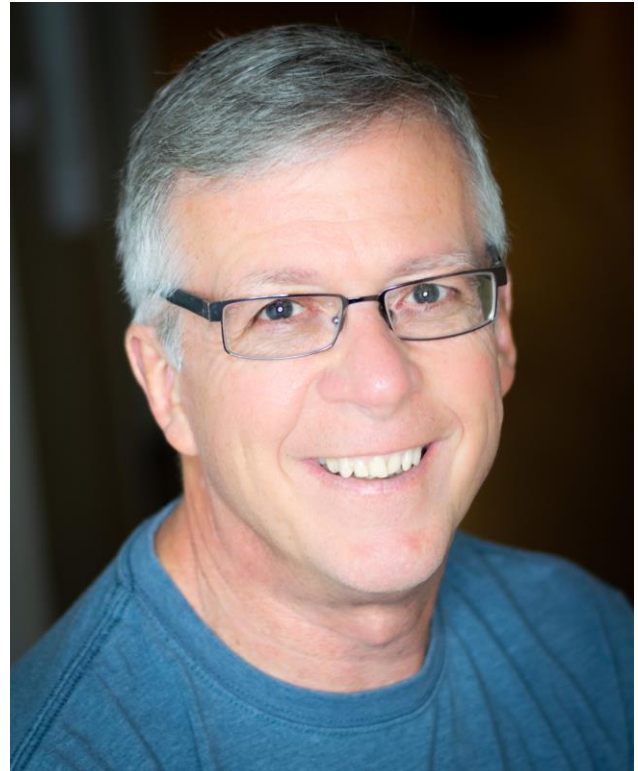


**HAS April Meeting Thursday, April 20, 2022, 6:00 p.m. to Feature Dr. Gregg Dimmick,
Archeology at San Jacinto Battleground**

Greetings HAS members! Our April HAS meeting will be back on our regularly-scheduled third Thursday of the month, which will be THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023, starting at 6:00 p.m. This meeting will be VIRTUAL ONLY, so keep an eye out for the Zoom link, or join us on the YouTube livestream!

Our April speaker will be Dr. Gregg Dimmick, who will present a program on the archeological work and discoveries at San Jacinto Battleground, which coincides with the 187th anniversary of that battle on April 21. Dr. Dimmick will discuss the archeological work performed by Moore Archeological Consulting, the Houston Archeological Society, and Texas Parks and Wildlife over the years, showcasing many of the most interesting artifacts recovered during several intensive metal detecting surveys. These archeological investigations have helped to clarify several aspects of the battle, and have added to our increased understanding of the movements of people across the landscape during the frantic eighteen-minute battle and its aftermath.

Dr. Gregg Dimmick is a retired pediatrician who practiced at South Texas Medical Clinics in Wharton, Texas, for thirty-seven years. He is a 1974 graduate of Texas A&M University and a 1977 Graduate of the University of Nebraska Medical School. He is an avocational archaeologist and has co-authored two archaeological reports on excavations of the retreating Mexican Army of 1836, in addition to his 2006 book, *Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army after San Jacinto* (<https://bit.ly/3LQpP45>). Dr. Dimmick also edited *General Vincente Filisola's Analysis of Jose Urrea's Military Diary: A Forgotten 1830 Publication by an Eyewitness to the Texas Revolution* (translated by John R. Wheat; <http://bit.ly/40ByY4W>) and is currently at work on a multi-volume publication on the Mexican army in Texas.



Dr. Dimmick has participated in archaeological digs at the Fannin Battleground State Historic Site, as well as the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, and has appeared on the History Channel and the Discovery Channel in relation to his work on the archaeology of the Mexican army. He has spoken on Texas History at various forums, including the San Jacinto Conference, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas conference at the Alamo, the Alamo Society, and the Texas Philosophical Society. Dr. Dimmick has served for several years on the board of directors and as chairman of the archeology committee for the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy. Post-retirement, Dimmick has continued to volunteer on archeological digs at Roman sites in Germany, York and the Vindolanda Fort in England, as well as throughout Texas.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Frank Kozar, at president@txhas.org.

Be sure to tune in via Zoom or YouTube on THURSDAY, APRIL 20, for what is sure to be a fabulous presentation!

Sarah Chesney, Ph.D., HAS Vice President

President's Message - Frank Kozar

Last year, while researching a potential HAS project at Fort Lancaster in Sheffield, Texas, I became more familiar with the Buffalo Soldiers of the late nineteenth century who manned many U.S. Cavalry outposts in Texas and other western states and territories. Although the Fort Lancaster project did not come to fruition, my research did lead me to interesting resources, including the National Archives and the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum here in Houston. The BSNM is an example of the many historical museums that populate our metro area, all full of interesting items and knowledgeable staff and volunteers.

One of the most well-known and popular of our local museums is the Houston Museum of Natural Science in the Hermann Park area, founded in 1909 and today hosting over two million visitors per year. The permanent collections showcasing Ancient Egypt, the Hall of Paleontology, the Hall of The Americas, and the Planetarium will fill your day with wonderment.



Farther afield is a museum where HAS has worked many times since it opened in 2018, the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site near Sealy. The SFA museum and visitors center is very kid-friendly, with many interactive displays and interesting artifacts. Recently the site opened the Villa de Austin Townsite, a collection of eight historically-correct structures that are representational of the Austin Colony two hundred years ago.

Other museums in or near Harris County worth a visit include the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in LaPorte, the Varner-Hogg Plantation SHS in West Columbia, the Levi Jordan Plantation SHS in Brazoria, the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS, and the Caddo Mounds SHS near Alto, which will open a new museum this summer after a devastating tornado destroyed the previous center in 2019.

Any weekend is a good time to expand your knowledge of Texas history with a short drive to great museums in our area—take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

Frank Kozar, HAS President

-----O-----

Better Late Than Never



A couple of weeks ago I was going through the HAS meeting cart trying to figure out why it was becoming so darn heavy. Among a load of old newsletters and other obsolete paperwork, I found an HAS award plaque. It was for Dr. Elizabeth Coon-Nguyen!! She had been awarded this in 2021, but due to the pandemic and HAS not meeting as often in-person, along with Dr. Liz's professional obligations—and I have to admit, our inability to realize that we hadn't made the presentation—she didn't actually receive the award until last week! Recently, the HAS Audit Committee, including Dr. Liz, met at Emma Baldwin's house to carry out the HAS financial audit, so this was a great opportunity to present the award to Dr. Liz.

As the award inscription says, this was awarded to Dr. Liz for "Technical Expertise in Making HAS Programs Available Online During the COVID-19 Pandemic 2021."

If it wasn't for Dr. Liz's contribution, we would not be providing Zoom meetings today.

Congratulations to Dr. Liz. Better late than never.

Bob Sewell, HAS Treasurer

-----O-----

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2023

WELCOME to our HAS Monthly Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Frank Kozar, HAS President.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Sewell - Funds are looking very healthy with no big bills coming up. Many thanks to all those who made donations in memory of Louis Aulbach.

Membership -Bob Sewell - Membership renewals have brought the total up to 124. The 2022 memberships expire at the end of March and members who have not renewed by then will drop off the email list, so please go to the website and renew online.

Website – Bob Sewell - There have been no reported issues with the website. Membership renewal can be handled through the website using a credit card. Information about meetings, activities, publications, and the newsletter can all be found there.

Newsletter – Bob Sewell on behalf of Betsy Wittenmyer - Many thanks to all members putting forward articles, please continue to send articles to Betsy for publication in the newsletter. Everyone is encouraged to submit photos of HAS activities, brief write-ups of archaeological or historical topics, and news items. Members have been submitting interesting and varied articles, which result in a great newsletter. Please consider contributing – items are due the fifteenth of each month and are very appreciated! Thanks to Betsy for doing such a good job as Editor.

Journals – Bob Sewell - We still do not have a journal editor but are hopeful that Louis's daughter Rachel will help. There is at least one article that Louis had in the pipeline, and we hope that his family will be able to locate it once they start going through his computer files.

Meeting Times – Frank Kozar - Meetings will remain on the third Thursday of every month. This month's Monday meeting was an exception due to it being Houston Rodeo week with many members involved. April's meeting will be virtual only because many of the board members will be taking part in the Kirbee Kiln dig.

Arroyo Dulce – Frank Kozar - The last month saw efforts focused around and underneath the barn in search of the kitchen. These investigations are now finished. The focus will now shift down the hill with a view to locating the land office. Digging occurs on Wednesdays and if you are interested in participating, please contact Beth Kennedy or Mike Woods.

Kirbee Kiln - April 13 to 21, 2023. HAS has been invited to participate in a dig at the Kirbee Kiln site, Northeast of Magnolia, Montgomery County. Remains of the kiln, which produced stoneware pottery in the 1800s, still exist. This follows an invitation to a dig last year where subsequent excavations revealed evidence of structures on the site. The dig will take place under the supervision of a professional archeologist, and we will be looking for the living quarters of the people who were working at the kiln. This should be an interesting site. If you would like to participate, please contact Bob Sewell ASAP with the dates you are available.

Lone Oak - Bob Sewell - Lone Oak excavations have restarted close to an area we have previously explored. Some interesting artifacts have been found during the shovel testing, including a broken medial biface, an Ensor point, plenty of debitage, and expedient stone tools. This Saturday, work to finish up the shovel testing will continue, with new units scheduled to be opened in April once protection from the cattle has been arranged with the landowner.

April meeting is virtual only – Frank Kozar - Dr. Greg Dimmock, HAS member and author of *Sea of Mud*, will speak on the archeology of the San Jacinto battleground. This will be a VIRTUAL ONLY meeting due to HAS working at the Kirbee Kiln site in Montgomery.

Business meeting drawn to a close at 6:43 p.m.

Tonight's Presentation – Frank Kozar - Dr Leslie Bush, Paleoethnobotanist, presented a program on the building of Caddo houses in East Texas, including her participation in the recent grass house construction at Caddo Mounds SHS. Presentation ended at 7:36 p. m.

Meeting called back to order at 7:37 p.m.

Annual Audit – Geoffrey Mills - The annual audit was carried out on March 7, 2023, by Geoffrey Mills, Beth Kennedy, and Liz Coon-Nguyen, with Robert Sewell and Emma Baldwin present. The accounts were found to be in good order and Bob is thanked for his excellent record keeping which makes the audit an easy task.

Meeting drawn to a close at 7:40 p.m.

Emma Baldwin, Secretary



Here's the Scoop - Tales from the Field

Kaity Ulewicz, MSc, RPA

Let's get this dirty little business out of the way. Sweat. We all do it, and yet I haven't seen one archaeologist portrayed in the media as ever looking hot and tired. Now why is that? Could it be that no one wants to see someone sweating on TV? Could the world not be ready to see an archaeologist uncomfortable?



The author, covered in sand and sweat.

Whatever the real reason (looking at you, Hollywood), we archaeologists work in all weather conditions. I've been on digs where the day starts out below freezing, then it reaches over 100°. I'm out there shedding layers like a snake shedding its skin. And yes, I'm also getting dirty and sweaty. It is just part of the job. When you spend your life in the dirt, of course it's going to stick to you, of course when you're digging holes your body will sweat. I'm out here doing manual labor in the summer, I will not end up looking and smelling like roses at the end of the day.

Sometimes when I'm working with a crew, we have a sweat competition at the end of the day to see who is the sweatiest (it's the little things in life). I may have won a few, mainly due to the fact I had a gray shirt on so you could see EVERYTHING. We have to entertain ourselves somehow while we are out there in the field, and there is only so much you can do on your cell phone when you don't have service.

Sweat is a part of being an archaeologist. It may not be the most glamorous part, but it's a part nonetheless. No one may be writing poems praising the sweat of an archaeologist, but it is just a fact of the trade. When you are out working, you will not look perfect and that's ok. You will get weird looks at the gas station, at the office, even in your own neighborhood. All part of the trade.

You will sweat and smell, and yet you will love it. Go ahead, ask any archaeologist their best story and I bet they will never mention their sweat. You forget how tired and smelly you are once you find something.

That being said, I am open to any suggestions anyone has for sweat-proof deodorant. Sometimes my own stench really scares me, not to mention some of my coworkers.

Kaitly Ulewicz MSc, RPA, Resident Archaeologist at The Heritage Society



HAS Members Assist at the Buckner Ranch Site in Berclair, Texas

Geoff Mills, Gary Fleming, Leonie Waithman

Last February, HAS was contacted by Dr. Heather Para from Victoria College and the Museum of the Coastal Bend regarding the opportunity to participate in a four-day Paleo excavation scheduled March 1 through 4 at Buckner Ranch in Beeville.¹ In response, five of our members, Geoff Mills, Emma Matthey, Leonie Waithman, Fred Meek, and Gary Fleming, were able to go and join David Calame of Borderland Archeology, and geoarcheologists Dr. Charles Frederick and Dr. Vance Holliday.² The primary objectives of the excavation that week were as follows.

- 1) To improve the understanding of the depositional environment of the site.
- 2) To explore for paleo artifacts and possibly find other mammoth and mastodon bones.
- 3) To find evidence of early occupations.

Location

Buckner Ranch, located near Berclair (between Beeville and Goliad), sits on the Berclair Terrace and holds rich deposits dating from the Late Pleistocene into the Holocene geologic periods.³ A significant paleontological and archeological area in Bee County, the Berclair Terrace runs through a shallow valley bordered by two parallel creeks (Blanco Creek and Medio Creek).

In 1936, fossilized ice-age animal bones were found and recovered by paleontologists from the Texas Memorial Museum at the University of Texas after a recent flooding exposed them inside the creek wall. In total, twenty-two mastodons were recovered in just one small area. Since projectile points were also discovered at that time, the theory that it could have been a kill site was discussed but not proven. In subsequent visits to the Berclair Terrace, E. H. Sellards, Texas Memorial Museum Director, and his team recorded sixteen paleontological sites yielding mammoth, mastodon, horse, and bison deposits. A variety of smaller fauna was also found. The site was later designated as 41BE2, the Buckner Ranch site.

Excavation of March 2023



After arriving at the site, we discovered that much had changed since the original excavation in the 1930s. Erosion and new deposits initially made it difficult for the geoarchaeologists to establish where the excavations had ended. David Calame removed most of the overburden with his excavator to reach the site and made several cuts into the creek wall. While waiting, the HAS members had the opportunity to explore and connect with fellow avocational archeologists from other groups. Once undisturbed soil was reached, HAS and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) worked closely to provide further digging with shovels and trowels and screening of all material.⁴ While the backhoe was operating, we took the opportunity to briefly explore the creek edge adjacent to the site, specifically in the formation identified as the Goliad (5 Ma- 13 Ma) (Figure 1).⁵

Figure 1. The Goliad formation in the creek wall. Photography by Emma Matthey.

¹ Museum of the Coastal Bend: <https://www.museumofthecoastalbend.org/>.

² Borderland Archeology: <https://www.borderlandarchaeology.com/>.

³ Buckner Ranch: <https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/st-plains/images/ap7.html>.

⁴ CoBALT Archeology Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CobaltArcheology/>.

⁵ A geological term, “Ma” means millions of years or mega annum.



Figure 2. David Calame with the backhoe. Photograph by Emma Matthey.



Figure 3. HAS members Leonie Waithman, Emma Matthey, Fred Meek, and Geoff Mills. Photograph by O. C. Garza.

Figure 4. Geoff Mills and Gary Fleming digging. Photograph by O. C. Garza.



Museum visit

On Thursday evening, we visited the Museum of the Coastal Bend to meet with Dr. Heather Para and watch a presentation by Dr. Leslie Bush entitled “Deeply Rooted: Native Texas Plants from the Pleistocene to Present.” We found the talk fascinating, and it gave us a broad insight into the use of a vast range of flora by the native inhabitants of Texas for both food and medicine.

Dr. Para also gave HAS members a behind-the-scenes vault tour, sharing many exciting finds including horse teeth, mammoth tusks, and mammoth teeth. Many of these artifacts have been donated privately to the museum. An exhibition to include these artifacts will be held in the Fall.

Figure 5. Section of mammoth tusk.

Figure 6. Mammoth tooth. Photographs by Geoffrey Mills.





Figure 7. Horse tooth in screen.

Figure 8. Alligator teeth.

Figure 9. Scute, a thickened horny plate.

Figure 10. Bone/turtle shell? Photographs by Emma Matthey.

The artifacts

Some artifacts found during the excavations included a fossilized horse tooth (*Equus Fraternus*), two fossilized alligator teeth, a fossilized scute, several snails, mussels, bone fragments, and turtle shell fragments.

Specimens from the Buckner Ranch local fauna are described in great detail in the Lapara Creek reference.⁶



⁶ Lapara Creek: <https://palaeo-electronica.org/content/2019/2445-lapara-creek>.

In addition to the above items, Dr. Charles Frederick located an Archaic hearth feature in one of the cuts in the creek wall. After the backhoe again removed the overburden, the hearth was excavated by trowel. Geoff Mills was able to stay an extra day and help uncover



the hearth. Several charcoal samples were collected and will be date-tested. During the excavation, large soil samples were taken above, in, and below the feature, which Dr. Leslie Bush will analyze to identify floral remains.

Figure 11. Geoff and Mike Belcik.
Photograph by O. C. Garza.

The dig was an excellent opportunity to work with the great folks from CoBalt Archeology from Victoria. They offered to have us visit their site at the McNiell Ranch (41VT141).

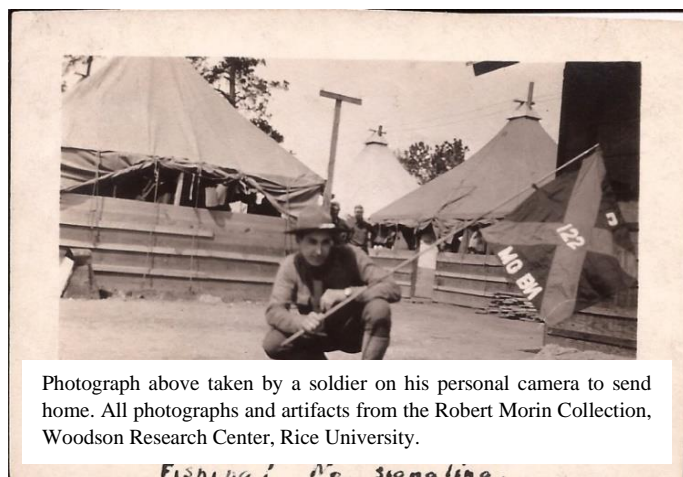
Figure 12. The hearth feature. Photograph by O. C. Garza.



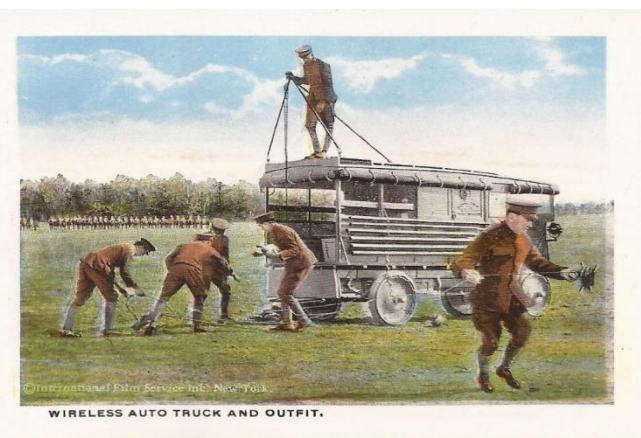
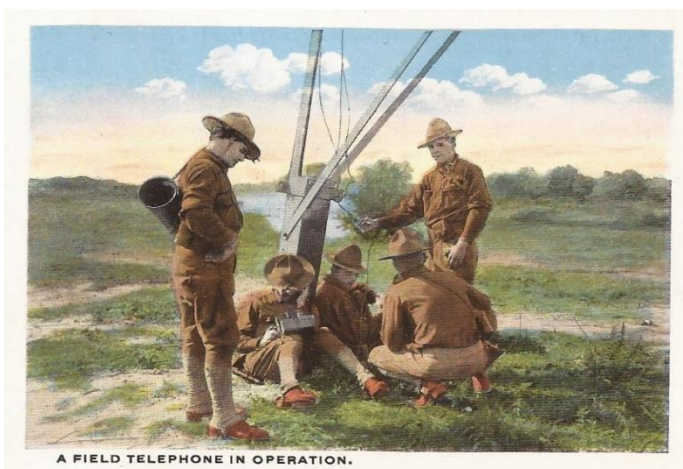
Picturing Camp Logan - From the Robert Morin

Wartime Communications - Robert Morin

A variety of means of communication was essential in the Great War overseas, so the soldiers at Camp Logan learned to operate different types of transmission equipment. The camp library included many volumes of reference books on the topic. Soldiers were trained to use telegraph machines, field telephones, semaphores, signal flags, signal lamps, heliographs, and nascent wireless messaging equipment. The camp also boasted its own central Switchboard Office, mainly operated by female civilians, which provided the luxury for that era of regular telephone service. Many of the companies were connected into the system via wires strung into division buildings and tents.



Telegraphs set up at numerous tents and buildings throughout



Camp Logan allowed soldiers opportunities to practice sending and receiving messages in Morse Code. Soldiers were taught to quickly set up and take apart a field contact base.

Verbal communication with our allies overseas was important, and the French were a very valuable partner. The Trench and Camp newspaper ran a series of “Learn French” articles, and Camp Logan included the articles in their weekly issues, printed locally by the Houston Post. The Robert Morin Collection includes a 1918 French lesson book from nearby Ellington Field, a second area training camp, which was established by the fledgling U.S. Army Air Service. Such textbooks and French phrase books were plentiful. Corporal Paul Hendrickson discusses checking out a French language book from the Camp Logan library in a letter home.¹

Once on the frontlines, commanding officers and other companies needed to be kept apprised of each regiment's status, position, and condition. Wireless radios with portable transmitters were also invaluable for warning soldiers of poisonous gases so soldiers had time to secure their gas masks. Mobile transmission bases mounted on vehicles traveled rapidly from site to site.

Learn French

LESSON IX

The French vowel sounds, as already studied, are as follows:

Sound	English example	French example
a	father	la
è	met	lait
é	fate	café
oe	bect	oui
o	softer	donnez
oh	go	eau
oo	boot	vous
uh	fe (r) n	de
u	(lips as for oo, tongue as for ee)	du
ah		franc
üh	a (ngtry)	cinq
ö		un
ö		bon

In the last four the "nasal" vowels, the breath comes out through nose and mouth at the same time.

The French have but one consonant sound that is rather rare in English, the buzzing sound of si in the word vision. The sound will be represented by zh. It occurs three times in the name of the great French general, Joseph Jacques-Joffre, pronounced zhohzef zhak zhofr.

Pronounce with a distinct trill by making the tip of the tongue vibrate just behind the upper teeth. Telephone operators pronounce the word "three" much like this.

NUMERALS 26-50

French	Pronunciation	Meaning
Vingt six	vät sis	26
vingt sept	vät sét	27
vingt huit	vät weet	28
vingt neuf	vät nuhf	29
trente	träht	30
trente et un	träht e öh	31
trente deux	träht duh	32
trente trois	träht trwa	33
quarante	karäht	40
quarante et un	karäht e öh	41
quarante deux	karäht duh	42
quarante trois	karäht trwa	43
cinquante	säkäht	50

"Of the" before a word like eau, water, oh, la speed of l', au, of the water, some water, duh loh; de l'homme, duh l'om, of the man. "Eau" is feminine and "homme" is masculine, but both begin with a vowel sound.

NEW WORDS

French	Pronunciation	Meaning
le bureau de tabac	luh buroh duh taba	tobacco shop
le paquet	luh paké	package, bundle
la cigarette	la seegarét	cigarette
le timbre (-poste)	(postage) ulamp	stamp
le timbre (-post)	luh täbr (-post)	stamp
la boîte	la bwat	box
une allumette	un alümët	match
le billet	luh bëeyä	bank note, ticket

EXERCISE

Au Bureau de tabac

Bonjour, madame. Donnez-moi deux paquets de cigarettes, s'il vous plaît. Combien? Quinze sous pièce (a piece), monsieur. Donnez-moi aussi dix timbre (-poste) de cinq centimes, et deux boîtes d'allumettes de trois sous (quinze centimes) pièce, s'il vous plaît. Voilà, monsieur. Combien, madame? Cigarettes, un franc dix; timbres, cinquante centimes; allumettes, trente centimes. Un franc quatre ving dix (94) centimes, monsieur. Avez-vous la monnaie d'un billet de cinquante francs? Oui, monsieur. Voilà quarante-huit francs dix centimes. Merci, monsieur. Au revoir, madame.

LESSON X

SOME PAST FORMS OF THE VERB

J'ai donné, zhé doné, I have given, gave

Vous avez écouté, voos avéz ékooté, you have listened, listened

Il a mangé, eel a mänzhé, he has eaten, ate

Nous avons fini, nooz avö feenes, we have finished, finished

Ils ont parlé, eelz ö parlé, they have spoken, spoke

Elle a entendu, el a ähtädu, she has heard, heard

J'ai été, zhé été, I have been, was

Il a eu, eel a u, he has had, had

The forms donné, écouté, mangé, parlé, fini, entendu, été, eu, are called past participles, and mean: given, listened, eaten, spoken, finished, heard, been, had.

Add -ième to deux, trois, etc., to mean second, third, etc.

Premier, première, pruhmye, pruhmyär, first

deuxième, duhzyèm, second

troisième, trwazyèm, third

quatrième, katryèm, fourth

cinquième, säkyèm, fifth

NEW WORDS

French	Pronunciation	Meaning
le chemin de fer	shmä duh fer	railway (road of iron)
le train	trä	train
la voiture	trä	coach, wagon
la gare	vwatur	station
la ville	gar	city, town
le soldat	veel	soldier
la classe	gwalu	class
cher	klas	dear, expensive
voyager	shër	travel
voyagé	zwayazhé	travelled
demande	vwayazhé	to ask for, ask
demandé	duhmähde	asked
offrir	duhmähde	to offer, treat
offert	ofreär	offered, treated
hier	öfer	yesterday

EXERCISE

1. Make past tenses by prefixing j'ai, il a, nous avons, vous avez, ils ont, to the following words: donné, parlé, mangé, regardé, écouté, voyagé, demandé, fini, offert, été, eu, entendu. Repeat them aloud with meanings.

2. Read aloud and translate these sentences:

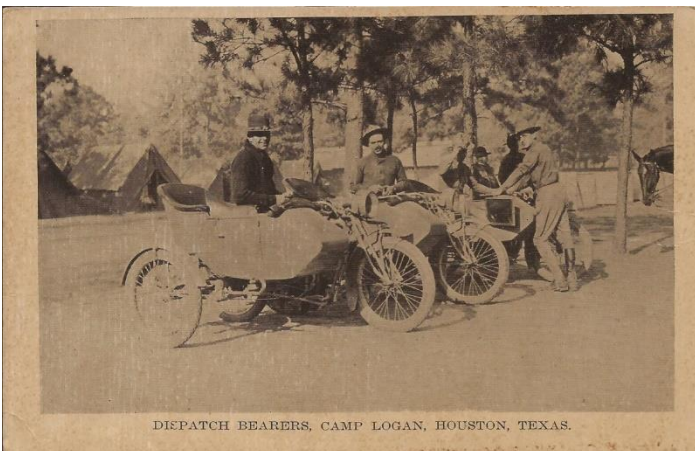
Nous avons été (went) à la ville hier par le chemin de fer. A la gare j'ai demandé deux billets de troisième (class). Nous avons trouvé deux places dans une voiture avec vingt cinq pollus. Nous avons parlé de la guerre. Avez-vous mangé au restaurant? Non, dans le train. Les pollus nous ont donné (gave us) du vin. Nous leur avons offert (treated them to) des cigarettes. Est-ce que le train a marché (run) vite? Non, très lentement. Les voitures françaises (françaises, feminine) sont petites. Il y a (there are) trois classes de voitures: première, deuxième, troisième. Les officiers voyagent en première, mais les pollus voyagent en troisième. Les billets de première (first class tickets) sont très chers.

S. O. S.

Every time you peel your potatoes raw, the Kaiser thanks you.

Animals were also employed in frontline communications: homing pigeons and messenger dogs transmitted vital messages across the battlefields faster and more easily than humans. Messenger dogs could locate wounded soldiers, act as guard dogs, and warn of incoming shells. The dogs were also a source of companionship and comfort for the soldiers.

Motorcycles with sidecars carried important messages to nearby companies—some of the sidecars were built with machine guns and armor for protection against attacks.



Left: French lesson from Camp Logan Trench and Camp newspaper. All photographs and artifacts from the Robert Morin Collection, Woodson Research Center, Rice University. Collection: Robbie Morin Camp Logan Collection | ArchivesSpace Public Interface (rice.edu).

¹ Letter from Paul B Hendrickson to his mother and father, 22 Jan 1918 (jimgill.net) and the Paul Hendrickson World War I Collection, Woodson Research Center, Rice University. Collection: Paul B. Hendrickson World War I collection | ArchivesSpace Public Interface (rice.edu).

Additional Sources: <https://www.britannica.com/technology/military-communication>; National Museum of the Marine Corps, [nmhc_wwi_military_communication_resource_packet.pdf](https://www.nmhc.org/military-communication-resource-packet.pdf).

Thomas L. Nuckols

In February of this year, I joined five other crew members to participate in a week-long archaeological survey on a vacant 400-acre piece of property near Buda, Texas. The land will soon be transformed into a housing development. The company conducting the survey hired me to identify and document, via plan drawings, any extant structures associated with a cattle ranch previously located on the site. These structures would be further documented by elevation photographs taken by the survey's project archaeologist (PA).

When the survey began, I conducted a cursory investigation of the property and found the following: a house (Figure 1), a cattle corral and its associated squeeze chute and concrete loading ramp, a tin barn with an attached lean-to (Figure 2), and a cement made-to-order cattle watering trough manufactured by Austin Concrete Works.¹



Figure 1. The front of the ranch house.

Figure 2. The front of the barn with the lean-to on the right. Photographs by Thomas L. Nuckols.

Towards the back of the barn, I spotted an old green and white porcelain enamel gas stove lying on its back. Since any artifacts found on the property required photographs as part of the survey, I called the PA and informed her of what I had found. When she arrived to photograph the stove, I offered to stand the stove upright. I bent down, hooked my fingers under the back of the stove, and began to lift. I had only raised it a few inches off the ground when I got to thinking about snakes. I lowered the stove back down and said, "I'm not lifting this thing any further, because there's probably a snake under it."



One early morning mid-week into the survey, I decided to draw the plan view of the long rectangular barn and its lean-to. As I approached the barn from the front, I noticed that its front top-slung sliding door (doors?) was missing.² Upon entering the barn, I startled a flock of buzzards roosting on the exposed wooden rafter ties. They flew out of the barn through the open doorway. Once inside the barn, I looked up and noticed that numerous raccoons had somehow wedged themselves in various places between the wooden roof supports and the galvanized tin roofing. They were sound asleep. The noise created by the exiting buzzards and my presence inside the barn did not disturb them.

¹ Austin Concrete Works, Inc., was incorporated in 1924, dissolution was in 1973. See https://opencorporates.com/companies/us_tx/0004191800.

² A top-slung door opens horizontally by sliding, usually horizontal to a wall. The door is hung by two trolley hangers at the top of the door running in a concealed track; all the weight of the door is supported by the hangers, making the door easier to move. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sliding_door.



Figure 3. The rattlesnake under the stove. This is a western diamondback rattlesnake, also known as the Texas diamondback. A member of the viper family, it is indigenous to the southwestern United States and Mexico. Photograph by Thomas L. Nuckols.

After setting the stove down, I found a loose board in the barn and positioned it as a wedge. I began elevating the back of the stove and once it was about a foot off the ground, the PA, standing a few feet away, confirmed my suspicions. “Yes, you were right,” she announced. “There’s a big rattlesnake under there! If you’ll hold that position, I’ll go get the snake hook in the truck.”

As I waited for the PA to return with the snake hook, I kept my eye on the rattlesnake. It seemed somewhat lethargic, probably due to the cool morning temperature, and it made a few half-hearted attempts to rattle (Figure 3).



Figure 4. The green and white porcelain enamel gas stove. Photograph by Thomas L. Nuckols.

When the PA returned with the snake hook, she used it to coax the rattlesnake to an out-of-the-way location in the barn.³ While snake-handling, especially of venomous species, is not something typically recommended, this PA had extensive experience with venomous snakes.

After I uprighted the stove, I opened the oven door—and found another large snake inside, although it was a non-venomous rat snake. I closed the oven door, and the PA and I got back to work. She, to photograph several views of the stove, and I, to begin the plan drawing of the barn (Figure 4).

I regarded this survey job as more of a vacation than work. However, I was saddened when I thought about this property giving way to urban sprawl, and all the creatures residing in the barn that would be losing their homes.

³ A snake hook is a tool made from a metal golf club shaft with a U-shaped hook on the end. It is used to move a snake while keeping an arm’s distance.

-----O-----

HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions of interesting archeology and history links! The pandemic did bring one positive effect for HAS—the advent of virtual components augmenting our monthly meetings, thanks to the technological knowledge of Dr. Liz Coon-Nguyen and the HAS tech team that she trained. Indeed, many more lectures about archeological and historical topics are now regularly presented virtually and are available permanently online, for free or at a nominal charge. *The Profile* often highlights some of these opportunities in the Upcoming Events section. Additionally, you might wish to regularly check these following HAS Reference Desk suggestions for more entities that also frequently offer interesting virtual presentations and retain recordings of past events on their websites, Facebook, and YouTube channels. Please contact us with further such resources if you know of some great ones!

Presentations from our fellow Texas societies:

[North Texas Archeological Society - YouTube](#)

[Hill Country Archeological Association - YouTube](#)

[Texas Historical Commission - YouTube](#)

[Texas Parks and Wildlife - YouTube](#)

[Travis County Archeological Society - YouTube](#)
[The Gault School of Archaeological Research - YouTube](#)
[Shumla Archaeological Research & Education Center - YouTube](#)
Further afield:
[National Lecture Program - Archaeological Institute of America](#)
[ArchaeologyTV - YouTube](#)
[Archaeology Now - YouTube](#)
[The Archaeology Channel - YouTube](#)
[The Archaeological Conservancy - Archived - YouTube](#)
[Royal Archaeological Institute - YouTube](#)
[Ancient Rome Live - YouTube](#)
[Old Pueblo Archaeology Center - YouTube](#)
[LIVE! from History \(colonialwilliamsburg.org\)](#)
[Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology - YouTube](#)
[Society for American Archaeology - YouTube](#)
[Crow Canyon Archaeological Center - YouTube](#)
[Archaeology Lunch and LEARN – Montpelier's Digital Doorway](#)

-----O-----

Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

***Please note that meetings will vary between entirely virtual, or multiformat (in-person, Zoom, and streamed to YouTube).**
***The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.**

April 6 – HAS Quarterly Board Meeting. The next quarterly HAS Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

April 20 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. **Please note that this meeting will be virtual only, via Zoom and YouTube.** Featuring Gregg Dimmick, M.D., speaking on San Jacinto archeology. YouTube Stream, <https://youtu.be/MJpMtFQ-ohU>.

May 18 - HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. YouTube Stream, <https://youtube.com/live/wT-NQEmxmIA?feature=share>.

June – No monthly meeting. See you at TAS Field School!

July 20 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mid-year updates on projects and Field School, presented by HAS president and board members. Zoom will be available, but this will not be streamed to YouTube.

August 17 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

September 21 – HAS Monthly Meeting at 6:00 p.m. Featuring Jamie Ross, Archeological Collections Manager for the Texas Historical Commission.

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meetings are ordinarily free and open to the public. Previous HAS presentations are archived at www.youtube.com/channel/UCn5-5YXMO2CwgO811GMFQow. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>.

-----O-----

Upcoming Events

Be sure to reconfirm details before making plans to participate.

VIRTUAL:

Archaeological Institute of America

4/3 – Monday, 6:00 p.m. Central/7:00 p.m. Eastern. Stymphalos: A Planned City of Ancient Arcadia, lecture by Hector Williams of the University of British Columbia. Free, register at https://brynmawr-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwtfuCoqj8uGdWSMZlNrtGI5cb3x-_uoWPez.

4/23 – Sunday, 3:00 p.m. Uncovering the Secrets of Mesopotamian Medicine, presented by Dr. Irving Finkle of the British Museum. Free, register at [Uncovering the Secrets of Mesopotamian Medicine Tickets, Sun, Apr 23, 2023 at 3:00 PM | Eventbrite](#).

4/29 – Saturday, 2:00 p.m. Central/1:00 p.m. Mountain Time. Toys, Burial Goods or Ritual Objects? West African Figurines and their Archaeological Traces, presented by André Luiz R. F. Burmann, Ph. D. candidate in Pre- and Protohistory of Africa at the Institute for Archaeological Sciences, Goethe-University in Frankfurt (Germany). Free, register at <https://aiadenver.org/april-2023-andre-luiz-ruivo-ferreira-burmann-goethe-university-frankfurt-am-main-germany/>.

More AIA events may be found at the following online calendar. Select the desired month and Event Type Hybrid or Virtual;
[Events for April 2023 > AIA Lecture Program > – Archaeological Institute of America.](#)

Engelhardt-Moore Lecture Series

4/6 – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Central. What Is and Isn't a Dinosaur, presented by Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Paleontologist, University of Maryland, College Park. Free, attend via Zoom at [Lectures in 2023 | Lecture Series \(engelhardtmooresite.com\)](#). All E-MLS lectures are free and delivered virtually, with further information and past presentations available at the E-MLS website: <https://engelhardtmooresite.com/lecture-series>.

The Heritage Society of Houston

4/5 – Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. Live Facebook event discussing Houston's historic buildings and architecture with Minnette Boesel, preservationist and Houston History Museum president, and Mr. McKinney, local historian. [The Heritage Society | Houston TX | Facebook](#).

Montpelier Foundation Archaeology Programs

4/19 – Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. Central/Noon Eastern. Lunch and Learn, Citizenship and Colonization, and Archaeology, presented by Dr. Terry Brock, Director of the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology Research Group, Wake Forest University. Free, register and also access past events at [Archaeology Lunch and LEARN | Montpelier](#).

Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center

4/19 – Wednesday, Noon Central Time. Lunch and Learn: Understanding Lower Pecos Feline Imagery, presented by Diana Radillo Rolón, Ph.D., Shumla Preservation Archaeologist.

ON-SITE:

Barrington Plantation, Washington

4/1 – Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Hearth Cooking Workshop, registration required.

4/1 – 4/2 – Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cooking in the Quarter demonstrations.

4/8 – 4/9 – Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Love of Literature. Dr. Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, was an enthusiastic reader with a large library. Learn about his favorite authors.

4/15 – 4/16 – Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Demonstrations with period musical instruments.

4/22 – 4/23 – Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Preparing the gardens for summer.

4/29 – 4/30 – Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Seasonal maintenance of historic fences, tools, and structures.

Fort McKavett State Historic Site

5/26 – 5/28 – Friday – Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Texas Rangers at Fort McKavett. Throughout 2023, the Texas Rangers will be commemorating their organization's bicentennial. In 1878, there was a shootout between Rangers and discharged soldiers from Fort McKavett, which took place at Scabtown, located a mile north of the fort. Mark your calendar for next month, May 26-28, to travel out and see living history demonstrations of period Texas Ranger firearms and equipment.

San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site

4/1 – Saturday, 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. Fire on the Brazos: The Fall of San Felipe de Austin. Featuring live demonstrations, reenactments, and guided tours, Fire on the Brazos will provide an account of the events that took place and the people forced to abandon and burn their own homes and businesses in the economic, social, and political center of Texas in the 1820s and 1830s.

4/8 – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Printing Technology in San Felipe de Austin, covering technology and techniques used by those in the printing office at San Felipe de Austin. San Felipe de Austin hosted a couple of different newspapers that operated over a few different years, while also printing documents needed by Stephen F. Austin in giving his land grants.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site

4/1 – Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ammunition of the Texas Revolution, demonstrations on how period ammunition worked and bullets were made.

4/22 – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. San Jacinto Day Celebration. The Battle of San Jacinto was the final chapter to six months of fighting and debate about the future of Texas. Representatives from the other major Texas Revolution sites will be on hand to share their parts of the Texas story that led up to the Battle of San Jacinto. Hands-on, participatory activities allow interactions with reenactors as they cook food, check weapons, and engage in the daily routines of soldiers and civilians from almost 200 years ago. All activities are family friendly. Drop in all day long but parking is limited; check the website before you go for further details: [2023 San Jacinto Celebration | THC.Texas.gov - Texas Historical Commission](#).

Shumla Archeological Research and Education Center

4/22 – 4/23 – Saturday and Sunday, Full Day Treks to VV75 and the Red Linear Type Site, Fate Bell, Fate Bell Annex, and Running Horse Shelters. You'll hear about the breath-taking rock art, the lifeways of the people who painted it, and current research. More information and registration links: [Shumla Treks - Shumla](#).

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

4/15 – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Farmer's Market and Plant Swap. Come shop with local vendors and bring a plant, cuttings, or seeds to swap and share.

Museum of Fine Arts Houston

Now through 4/16 - *Golden Worlds: The Portable Universe of Indigenous Colombia* showcases over 400 artifacts, from intricately cast gold pendants and hammered gold masks to ceramic effigies of fantastical creatures and rare ancient textiles, spanning all the major ancient cultures of Colombia. Landscapes, archaeological sites, and collaborations add important context to the objects and their timeless messages.

-----O-----

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

We would like for **all HAS members** to consider submitting content for *The Profile* newsletter. Please send submissions to newsletter staff members at wittenmy@flash.net or newsletter@txhas.org. Report on an interesting on-site experience, academy, field school, historic location, or community outreach event! Send photos of yourself on an HAS or TAS adventure! What archeological artifact or historical event have you been researching? Your contributions can be brief, such as a couple of paragraphs or about 250 words. Please submit information for upcoming issues no later than the fifteenth of each month.

-----O-----

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, debajul@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, tnuckols58@att.net
Sandra Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne47@gmail.com
Gary Ryman, gtkryman@gmail.com
Steve Salyer, salyer4@hotmail.com
Bob Sewell, robert-sewell@att.net
Paul Spana, pcspana@comcast.net

Disclaimer: For concerns or issues regarding any article published in this newsletter, please contact the author of the article. The content of any article published is solely the responsibility of the author.

Copyright @2023 by the Houston Archeological Society. All rights reserved.