



Houston Archeological Society Meeting ~ Thursday, January 16, 2025

Virtual Only ~ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom ~ Featuring Heather Para, PhD

Solid as a Rock: Ritual Reuse of Hearthstones and Monuments in Early Medieval Wales



Dr. Heather Para | New Mexico State University

HAS members and friends, please join us via Zoom for our January meeting when Heather Para, PhD, will be joining us virtually from New Mexico and speaking on medieval Wales.

Early medieval Wales was a fragmented political landscape, and the threat of incomers from Ireland and Scotland led to an increased sense of urgency amongst the Welsh *uchelwyr* (elites) to retain their hold on the land. To that end, ancient standing stone monuments were given secondary function as property boundary stones, lending legitimacy to land claims. Standing stones were also reused as sites for elite burial, suggesting connections to a mythic past. These elements of ritual reuse gave the *uchelwyr* deeper attachments to their lands, providing a perceived continuity built

on assumed relationships with the past. This paper explores how these practices may have developed out of the ritual significance of hearthstones. The focus of household rituals of death and rebirth and apotropaic efforts to protect the residents of the home, hearthstones also offered evidence of land rights to a nomadic people; generations after departure, returning descendants had the right to claim ownership provided their ancestors' hearthstone remained, even in places where the surrounding structure was in ruin.

We have enjoyed knowing and working with Heather during her tenure at the Museum of the Coastal Bend in Victoria. Now she serves as Museum Curator in the Department of Anthropology at New Mexico State University. More information about the Museum and Department of Anthropology may be found at:

<https://univmuseum.nmsu.edu/>; <https://anthropology.nmsu.edu/>. It will be our honor to have Dr. Para join us again, albeit via Zoom, so that we can learn more about her previous work in Wales. We also hope to hear more about her endeavors in New Mexico. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Bob Sewell at president@txhas.org.

See you in the field! Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President



HAS Memberships for 2025 Are 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 who might enjoy digging up Texas history with us, one trowel-full at a time. You can pay your dues online using a credit card at www.txhas.org/membership.html. Or, if you prefer to submit your payment by mail, then please print and include this completed form along with your check made payable to Houston Archeological Society: www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf. Our memberships are the best deal in town, available at \$25 (Individual), \$30 (Family), \$15 (Student), and \$35+ at the Contributing Membership level. 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 receive free copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!! Note: If you joined after September, then your membership is good for 2025.

President's Message – Bob Sewell



At the December 2024 meeting of the Society, I was delighted to be able to present Houston Archeological Society Merit Awards to several of our members. HAS Merit Awards are presented from time to time to HAS members who have demonstrated a significant commitment to furthering the success of the Society. This year, awards were presented to Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills, and Betsy Wittenmyer.

The first recipient was our Vice President Frank Kozar. Apart from Frank's duties as VP, where he is responsible for organizing our monthly meeting presenters and acting as my backup, he also actively participates in our excavation activities.

The second recipient was Geoff Mills. Geoff is also on the HAS Board as a Director-at-Large. He is usually the first person to respond to invitations to our excavation and outreach activities.



HAS President Bob Sewell presenting Merit Awards to Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills and Betsy Wittenmyer at the December Meeting. Congratulations, all, for a job well done! Thank you for your contributions to our HAS community. Photographs by Tom Williams.

Betsy Wittenmyer was our third recipient. As you know, Betsy produces the Society's fantastic newsletter each month. She actively solicits articles from folks and also rounds up archeology news pertaining to Texas and afar.



Louis, Candy, and Frank clearing units at the Lone Oak site in preparation for HAS work days in 2025! Photograph by Bob Sewell.

And of course, it is now membership renewal time. Make sure that you sign up again now so that you don't miss out on all the fun. You can easily do this by going to our membership page at www.txhas.org/membership.html.

I look forward to seeing everyone out in the field and at our monthly meetings. If you have any questions about the Houston Archeological Society, please email me at president@txhas.org.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Bob Sewell, HAS President

Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2024

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. – Bob Sewell, President. Welcome to all members, both in-person and online. This meeting was shorter than usual to allow for more social time afterwards.

Membership & Treasurer's Report – Louis Hebert, Treasurer. Welcome to our new members! Membership stands at 194 for 2024 and 35 for 2025 so far. It is time to renew memberships for 2025! It's a great deal – yearly dues are \$15 for students, \$25 for individuals, and \$30 for families. HAS finances are healthy, and the 2025 budget will be submitted in early January.

Newsletter – Betsy Wittenmyer, Newsletter Editor. Many thanks to those who have contributed articles to the newsletter! We are always on the lookout for more articles or photos for upcoming newsletters. These can be related to any relevant topics including projects, research, classes or academies, historical or educational trips, or any other interesting experiences that you'd like to share – doesn't necessarily have to be Texas- or United States-related.

Projects – Bob Sewell, President.

- **Goloby Site** (41WL3)
 - We have visited this site a few times recently and plan to return soon.
- **Walnut Tree Hill** (Alleyton)
 - Shovel testing is in process, and a few units have been opened.
 - On hold due to deer hunting season.
- Members interested in participating in upcoming site visits may look out for invitations from fielddirector@txhas.org.
- **Upcoming:**
 - **Kirbee Kiln**
 - This site, located near Montgomery, Texas, centers on an historic kiln and its ancillary structures.
 - HAS has been invited to help out with excavations at this site from February 27 to March 9, 2025.

January 2025 Monthly Meeting – For next month's meeting, the first of 2025, our speaker will be Dr. Heather Para. Her presentation will be *Solid as a Rock: Ritual Reuse of Hearthstones and Monuments in Early Medieval Wales*. The meeting will be ZOOM only for members, but check your email for more details.

HAS Merit Awards – Congratulations to the recipients of this year's HAS Merit Awards: Frank Kozar, Geoff Mills, and Betsy Wittenmyer! Thank you for all of your contributions to HAS this year.

For tonight's presentation, Bob Sewell will review this year's HAS activities and give a preview of what next year will have to offer.

The business meeting was concluded at 6:41 p.m.

Noah Newland, HAS Secretary



Congratulations to our HAS Secretary Noah Newland, who was recently married in a beautiful cathedral of Nature – Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend National Park! You may notice that the lovely bride is holding a bouquet of crocheted flowers. Although weddings are welcome in the Park, regulations prohibit live flowers. Noah's friend created these for her special day.

The bride, the couple, the dress, and the setting – all stunning! We wish Noah and Griffin many blessings!



More information on weddings and events in Big Bend: [Wedding Locations in Big Bend National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#).

Photographs courtesy of Noah Newland.

Highlights from 2024



Left: Dr. Gus Costa with professional and avocational archeologists including HAS members at Caprock Canyon. Below: Gary Fleming, HAS President Bob Sewell, and Garry Hartmann at McNeill Ranch in Victoria County. Photographs courtesy of Frank Kozar and Bob Sewell.



Center Left: Native American Day at Jesse Jones Park.

Center Right: Working at the Goloby Site.

Far Left: Lab work at San Felipe.

Left: Walnut Tree Hill site in Alleyton.



Texas Archeological Society - 95th Annual Meeting

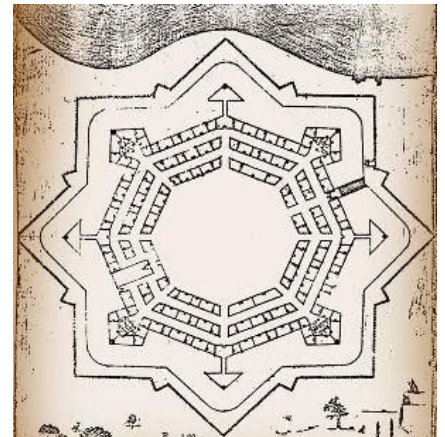


The Texas Archeological Society's 95th Annual Meeting was held in Victoria, Texas, from October 25 through 27, 2024, at the Victoria College Emerging Technology Center and at the Museum of the Coastal Bend and was hosted by the Museum and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT).

As usual, there were many interesting presentations offered throughout the two main days of the convention, with additional lectures presented at the newly expanded museum. Dr. Tamra Walter of Texas Tech University gave a standing-room-only, very informative lecture there on Thursday evening as part of the Stormont Lecture Series, entitled *Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga: A Frontier Mission in South Texas*.

Texas Historical Commission State Archeologist Brad Jones also presented at the Museum Friday evening at a well-attended public forum on *Presidio Soldiers or Soldas Flecheros? New Interpretations of Daily Life at the 1721-1726 Site of Presidio La Bahia de Zuniga (41VT4)*.

Dr. Leland Bement of Oklahoma University headlined the Saturday night TAS Banquet and Awards Program, speaking on the discovery, excavation, and interpretation of Oklahoma bison kill sites in Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview time periods.



HAS members and friends who presented over the weekend included Dr. Gus Costa on the Nighthawk Bison Jump; Kaity Ulewicz on Caddo Sites along King Creek; Heather Leonard on GPS mapping at Orkney, Scotland; Doug Boyd on the 2024 TAS Field School youth group excavations; and Dr. Sarah Chesney on the Block G excavations at the Belle Gallant Site.

On Sunday after the convention, a bus tour transported interested members to the site of Mission Espiritu Santo (41VT11) and the paleo site at McNeill Ranch (41VT141), which has been excavated continuously by CoBALT since 2003.

HAS members Geoff Mills, Sharon Menegaz, and Bob Sewell helped with set-up. Frank Kozar and Louis Hebert assisted with Registration. Geoff, Sharon, Bethie Kennedy, and Sue Gross oversaw auction tables, with Larry Golden and Betsy Wittenmyer contributing auction items, all of which sold. HAS friends Jamie Ross, O. C. Garza, and CoBALT members performed a massive amount of work throughout the weekend. Attendees included numerous other HAS members and friends: Ed and Rita Tate-Jackson, Garry Hartmann, Catherine Jalbert, Jenni and Bennett Kimbell, Sandy Rogers, Gary Ryman, and Eleanor Stoddart.

It was a great weekend to meet with friends and enjoy the archeology presentations. More photographs follow, courtesy of O. C. Garza.

Next year, the TAS Annual Meeting takes place in McAllen, Texas.

Frank Kozar, HAS Vice President



TAS Annual Meeting – Victoria, Texas



Tandra Walter, Thursday night at Museum of the Coastal Bend



Harry Shafer with the first Friday Keynote Presentation, more than 110 attended!



Texas Beyond History presentation, Emily McCuiston



Gus Costa, Nighthawk Buffalo Jump



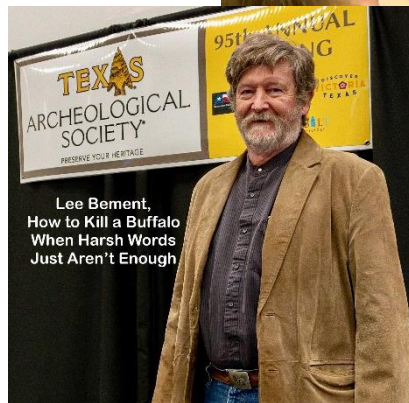
Brad Jones, Friday night at the Museum, of the Coastal Bend



Gus Costa, Sourcing of Ancient Texas Copper



Carol McCaulay, Hand Imagery at Paint Rock Ranch (41CC1)



Lee Bement, How to Kill a Buffalo When Harsh Words Just Aren't Enough

Our thanks again to the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB) at Victoria College and the Coastal Bend Archeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) who hosted the outstanding 95th TAS Annual Meeting this past October 25–27 at the Victoria College Emerging Technology Complex. Photographs courtesy of O.C. Garza and CoBALT. Source: [Texas Archeological Society Members and Friends | Facebook](#).

Waiting List Only for TAS 2025 Academies!

Archeobotany Academy - April 5-6, 2025, in Kerrville - Instructors: Dr. Leslie Bush, Dr. Kevin Hanselka, and Dr. Phil Dering - Learn how to recover plant remains from archeological sites and how to interpret their past roles in human society through historical accounts, experimentation, and traditional knowledge. Registration Fee: \$125 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available. [Register Here](#) to join the waiting list.



Lithics Academy - April 12-13, 2025, in Austin - Instructors: Dr. Robert Lassen, Chris Ringstaff, and Dr. Sergio Ayala - Learn to identify stone artifacts and to interpret basic data through exercises in sorting, classifying, and measuring. Learn the process of making a stone tool from cobble to finished product, the uses of stone tools, and the formation of use-wear and breakage patterns. Registration Fee: \$125 plus TAS membership. CPE credits available. [Register Here](#) to join the waiting list.

TAS Scholarship Program - Support for participation in TAS activities is provided through Diversity Scholarships, Native American Scholarships, and Student Scholarships. For more information, contact Scholarship@txarch.org or [learn more here](#).



Grants Available for Endangered Historic Resources and Heritage Education Projects

Owners of threatened historic or archeological resources in Texas can apply for grant funding from the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Preservation Trust Fund (TPTF). The TPTF grants are available for projects that involve acquisition, survey, restoration, preservation, planning, and heritage education activities that benefit the preservation of Texas' historic architectural and archeological properties and their collections.



The Fiscal Year 2026 grant cycle's estimated amount is \$330,000. The THC anticipates grant awards to be in the \$10,000–\$50,000 range. A one-to-one cash match is required from grant applicants. THC staff scores projects based on endangerment, significance, project viability, and special considerations. Additionally, the THC has special grant funds earmarked for projects located in Dallas and the Panhandle. A total of \$783,719 is available for eligible projects in Dallas in FY 2026. The THC anticipates matching grant awards to be in the \$10,000–\$250,000 range.

The TPTF grant application period for Fiscal Year 2026 is open until 5:00 p.m., Feb. 3, 2025. The grant program application guide is available on the THC's website at thc.texas.gov/tptf.



Source: Pottery Southwest

Pottery Southwest, a scholarly journal devoted to the prehistoric and historic pottery of the Greater Southwest (<https://potterysouthwest.unm.edu>), provides a venue for student, professional, and avocational archaeologists to publish scholarly articles, as well as providing an opportunity to share questions and answers. Published by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society since 1974, Pottery Southwest is available free of charge on its website which is hosted by the Maxwell Museum of the University of New Mexico. Source of information and free download at [Southwest.2024.docx](#).

ArcheoAnalytics, an editor on the Medium website, created a "Best Of" list for online Archeological content from nineteen U.S. and Canadian cultural institutions. Check out [The Best of Archaeology on Web and Social Media](#). Source: [Texas Public Archaeology Network : Texas State University](#).



How can we improve the HAS *Profile* newsletter? What ideas do you have for news items, features, or columns? All HAS members, friends, and readership are heartily invited to share thoughts and submit content to: newsletter@txhas.org.

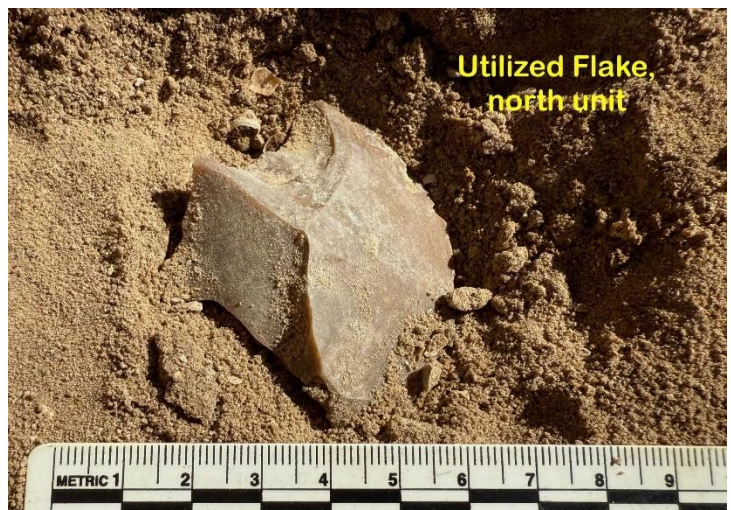
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Update from CoBALT Archeology, Victoria, Texas

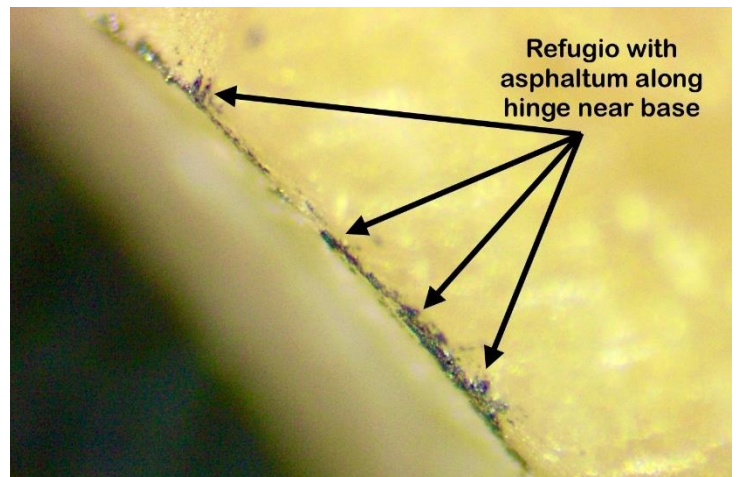
The Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team (CoBALT) is based in Victoria and is working the McNeill Ranch site (41VT141) in a cooperative agreement with the landowner and the Museum of the Coastal Bend (MCB). While considered a significant Paleoindian site, 41VT141 was also regularly occupied by more recent prehistoric cultures over thousands of years.

During our excavations on November 22, 2024, another mild day greeted the team. In the east unit Bill, John, Joe, O.C., Lori, Joe, and Emilio worked around a caliche dome below the bed rock elevation, checking every soil pocket for debitage or other artifacts. They found plenty of rock that deep, but no artifacts.

The north unit continued to produce artifacts, as excavators worked in a transitional zone between Archaic and Paleoindian. Mike, Max, Roger, and Cameron found a distal and a utilized flake with a dulled edge.



During screening we found a Refugio-like point that was crudely flaked with an odd base that had slight grinding on the basal edges. When examined in the lab under the microscope, asphaltum was found under some hinges near the base, indicating the point had been hafted onto a shaft or handle.



The day's work also yielded clay balls, as well a nice variety of organics including land snails, bone, burnt bone, turtle shell, and mussel shell.

HAS members are always welcome to join us at the site or in the lab. The archaeology lab at the Museum of the Coastal Bend is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Stop in at the museum's front desk for directions to the lab.

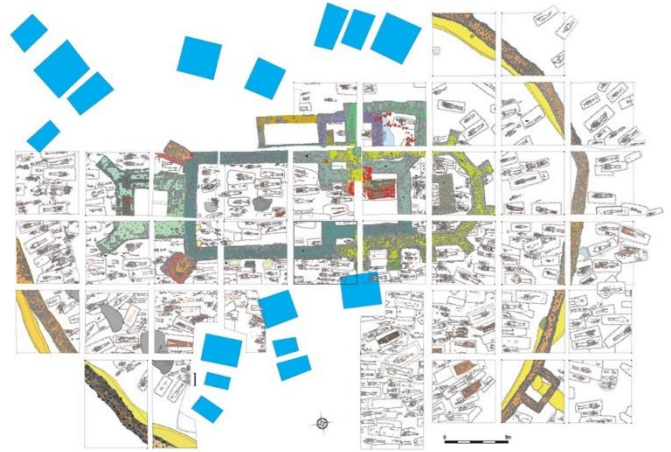
~ O. C. Garza

All photographs courtesy of O.C. Garza. Source: [CoBalt](#).

Adult and Juvenile Osteology Laboratory Research Training Workshops and Funerary Excavations

Recommended as an excellent opportunity for archeology students by HAS friend, Dr. Heather Para of New Mexico State University:

The University of South Florida Romania Human Osteology and Bioarchaeology Program will be offering two summer sessions, each four weeks long. The Adult Osteology Research Workshop and the Juvenile Osteology Research Workshop will train students, both undergraduate and graduate, to conduct osteological analyses and frame appropriate research questions. The combination of an exceptionally rich and well-preserved skeletal research collection, intensive hands-on laboratory training, and relatively small research groups will ensure that each participant develops an extensive osteological skill set.



Curriculum will comprise an in-depth knowledge of all bones in the human body, including landmarks, muscle attachments, and articulations, determining sex and age, development and pathologies; an understanding of fundamental concepts related to human dentition; how to obtain basic demographic data from skeletal populations; and how to conduct proper intensive research under laboratory conditions.

The Juvenile Osteology Workshop will further provide participants with an intensive review of juvenile osteology and an overview of the ways in which this kind of unique information is interpreted. During the Juvenile Osteology Workshop, participants will have the chance to study the growth and development of the human skeleton across various juvenile age cohorts, weaning and dietary stress, as well as reconstruction and interpretation of infant mortality.

These programs provide a unique opportunity to conduct extensive hands-on training and research on an exceptional osteological collection. The very high state of preservation has allowed retrieval of skeletal remains of more than 2,500 adult individuals and over 800 juveniles (ranging from pre-natal to sub-adult). Research collections come from five archaeologically excavated medieval lost churches around the town of Odorheiu Secuiesc (Transylvania, Romania), as well as from an ongoing medieval “Lost Church” excavation at Patakfalva (RO: Valeni), Harghita County, Romania.

Participants can register for one or both Osteology Workshops or, in order to develop a wider array of bioarchaeological skills, combine an Osteology Workshop with a session of our Medieval Cemetery Funerary Excavation. Undergraduate and graduate academic credits can be acquired separately from the University of South Florida (although it is not mandatory to register for credits to participate) – USF deadlines apply. Source and image: Program Brochure.

Program details:

Adult Osteology Research Laboratory Workshop Dates: June 8 - July 5, 2025

Juvenile Osteology Research Laboratory Workshop Dates: July 6 - August 2, 2025

Location: Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania; www.archaeotek-archaeology.org/workshop

Program Director/Instructor: Dr. Jonathan Bethard (University of South Florida)

Medieval Cemetery Funerary Excavations Session 1 Dates: June 8 - July 5, 2025

Medieval Cemetery Funerary Excavations Session 2 Dates: July 6 - August 2, 2025

Location: Odorheiu Secuiesc, Romania; www.archaeotek-archaeology.org/medieval-funerary-excavation

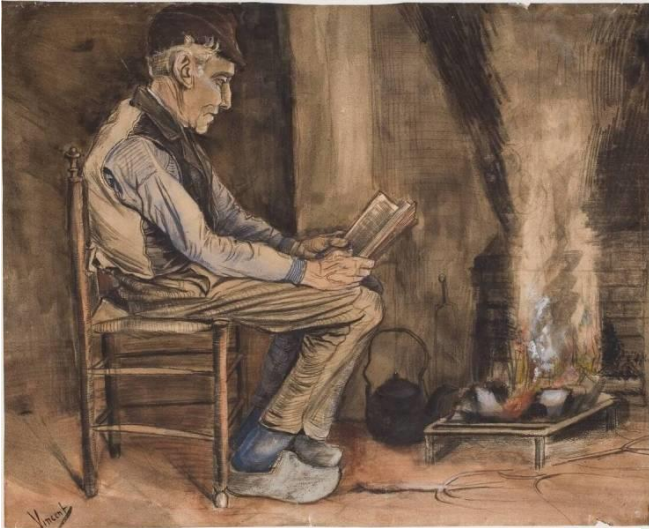
Program Director/Instructor: Dr. Katie Zejdlik (Ohio State University)

University of South Florida Brochure and Credit Application Page: Program Brochure

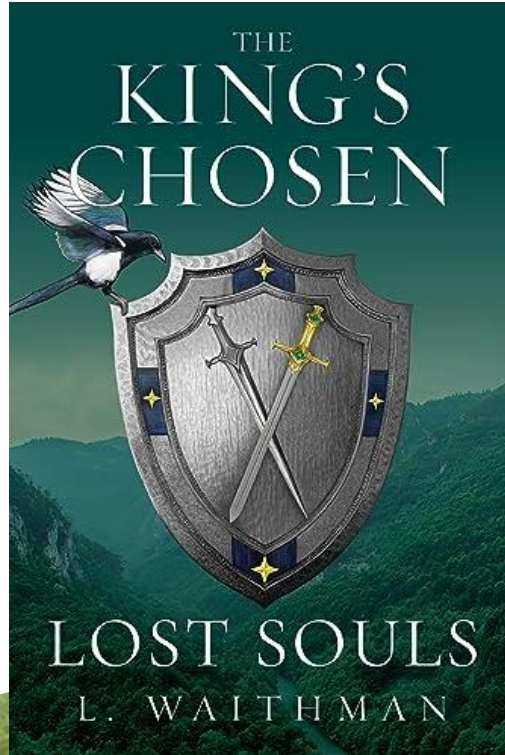
Contact: Dr. Stephen Batiuk at archaeology@archaeotek-archaeology.com



Books to Read by the Fireside

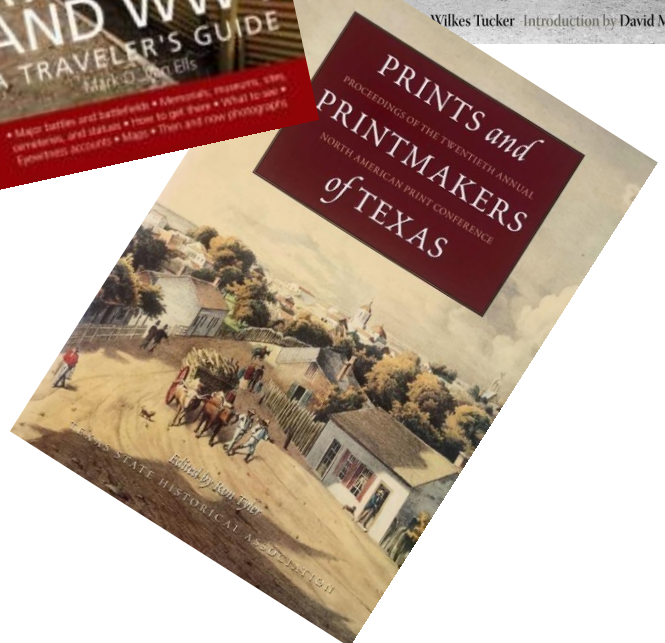
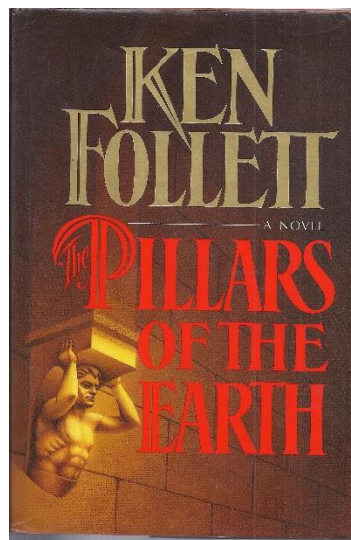
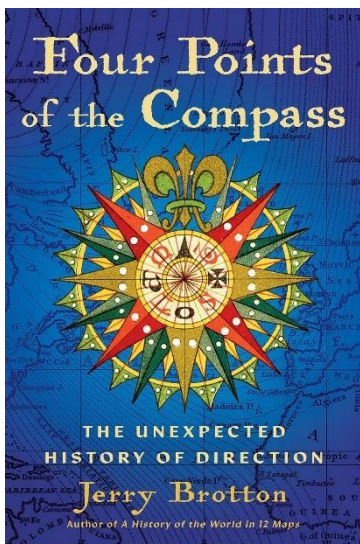
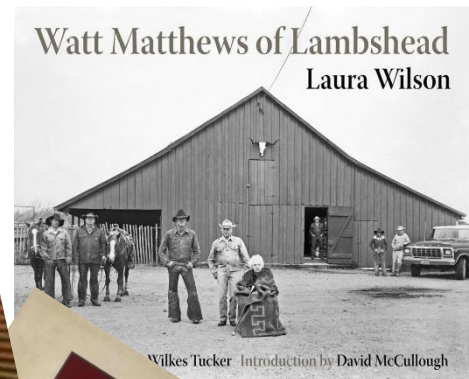
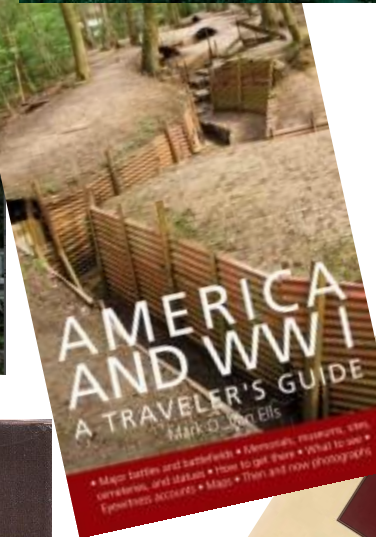
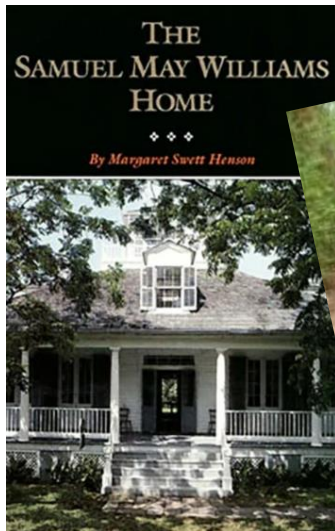
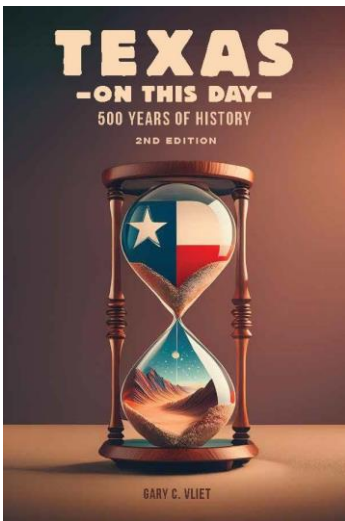


Man Reading at the Fireside, 1881. Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890); Kröller-Müller Museum.



Left: *Lost Souls*, the third YA book in The King's Chosen series by author and HAS member Leonie Waithman. Congratulations on another wonderful book, Leonie!

[Lost Souls \(The King's Chosen, #3\) by L. Waithman; The Samuel May Williams Home; Texas on this Day; Prints and Printmakers of Texas – Legacy of Texas; America and WWI : a traveler's guide : Van Ells, Mark D. Free Download : Internet Archive; Amazon.com: Four Points of the Compass Unexpected History of Direction; Books – Legacy of Texas](#)



A Message from Wales and a Story about the Welsh Drovers

Leonie Waithman

When I stepped down from the HAS board to move overseas, I intended to write some articles for the newsletter. With the summer ending and the early nights starting, what more can you do than spend your time reading or writing? Well, that was before I learned that not only do I like to be warm and dry in my house, but so do the many critters I oohed and aahed over and even called cute in the summer when I saw them outside in the garden. They may still be adorable, but they are even cuter when I catch them in my traps and release them on the hill a mile from my house.

Mice aside, along with all the other excuses that delayed me from writing a story for the newsletter, let's talk about drovers and their essential role in Wales for hundreds of years.

The first time I heard about drovers and how they walked sheep, cattle, and geese along ancient roads from Wales to London, I was on the back porch of my husband's aunt's house. She pointed at a tree line on the hill and told me the old drovers' route to London passed through there. I must admit—I put the information at the back of my mind. Then when we bought our house in Glascwm, these herdsmen of yore were mentioned again. The village of Glascwm lies directly on an old drover's route.



The drovers road as it leaves Glascwm and heads east.

Droving, the practice of walking livestock to market over long distances, took place in Britain during the Roman occupation and perhaps even before, but became a lucrative business in the Middle Ages. Sheep, cattle, and geese could be bought relatively cheaply from rural farms in Wales and sold for a lot more in England, and especially London, where the demand for meat was high. Drovers followed ancient tracks crisscrossing Wales. The network of crude trails proved unsuitable for horse-drawn carts, but often offered high banks, hedges, and groups of pine trees along the way for shelter and rest from the wind. Smithfield, just outside London, became the largest animal market in the world, with an average of 74,000 cattle and 570,000 sheep sold yearly between 1740 and 1750.

Droving peaked in the eighteenth century and continued through the nineteenth century throughout much of England, until the railroad arrived. However, droving continued in Wales well into the twentieth century, the Welsh drovers now herding their animals to market towns with railroad connections, such as Kington in Herefordshire near the Welsh and English border. Perhaps that is why sections of drover routes in Wales are still visible, while in England, they have largely disappeared or become absorbed into modern highways.

So, who were these drovers who walked an average of twenty miles daily in all weather conditions for weeks and sometimes months? They certainly had a reputation as rough and hardy men who could hold their own in a fight against locals, but they were also the messengers of news and erstwhile couriers of money and documents from town to town. They often served as a link to the outside world, since many villagers didn't venture far from home.

You could recognize drovers by their uniforms—traditional smocks with distinctive stitching, depending on the area from which they came. Accompanied by dogs, there would have been four or five drovers managing a large herd of a few hundred animals. The bleating of sheep, mooing of cows, cackling of geese, not to mention the shouting of the drovers and barking of the dogs, passing through a village would have been noisy, but a sight to see.

As the journey was long for both men and animals, cows were fitted with iron shoes, or cues, on their cloven hoofs – and needed to be shooed again several times along the way. Geese's webbed feet were protected with leather shoes, and turkeys'



feet were tarred, so cobblers and blacksmiths located their businesses along the drover routes. Inns and taverns arose along the roads to cater to the drovers' needs. At the end of a drive, with all animals sold, the drovers' dogs were trained to return home ahead of their masters—their stay at inns along the way already prepaid.

The life of a drover was hard and not without danger. Highway robberies took place regularly, especially on the return journey with the drovers rich in profits from the sale of their animals. In the eighteenth century in Anglesey, the Parys copper mines forged special copper pennies, or tokens, to pay their workers. The drovers appropriated these to exchange for food and lodgings along the way. The tokens were of little use to thieves since they weren't legitimate currency.

Another interesting development occurred in Llandoverly, a regular stop for drovers, where David Jones grew up. A drover himself from age fifteen, Jones witnessed other drovers asking the innkeeper at an inn now called the Kings Head Inn to secure their money safely while they stayed the night. Drovers would have carried cash to buy animals as they traveled to the markets, and would have acquired substantial amounts of profits by

Left: A drover dressed in traditional costume. Source: Kington History Museum, [Kington Museum](#). Center: Nineteenth century smock, Llanveynoe. Source: [Abergavenny Museum](#), [Peoples Collection Wales](#).



Left: Cow cues on display in the Kington History Museum, [Kington Museum](#). Photograph by Leonie Waitham. Right: Parys Mine Company copper penny, Anglesey, 1787. Source: [Parys Mine Tokens & Medals](#).

their return trip. When Jones married an heiress, her wealth enabled him to establish a banking business in that same inn in 1799. He named it the Bank of the Black Ox since the area was famous for its black cattle. In 1909, the Bank of the Black Ox became part of Lloyds Bank, but the symbol of a black ox continued to appear on the Lloyds Bank checks for another twenty years before being replaced with a black horse.

It wasn't hard to locate traces of Glaschw's old drover route, once I knew what I was looking for. In fact, surprisingly large sections of it still exist (see photos below). Farmers now use the tracks to access their fields, and hikers enjoy the splendid view of the countryside.

Nearer Glaschw, as the track comes over the hill, the road becomes tarmacked as it continues through the village until it exits. The road then splits, with the main road continuing at a 14% incline up the hill and the old drovers' road veering off to the left, running parallel to the main road at a lesser incline until the roads meet again further east. From then on, as it heads to Colva and Gladestry, the drover road is pretty much absorbed into the main road. From Gladestry, the drovers would have continued to Kington, which is an historic market town at the Welsh and English border. In the early nineteenth



Left: Coming from Hundred House (north), through Glascwm, then left (West) towards Colva, Gladestry, and Kington before picking up the main drover route to London. Center: The old drover route as it is coming from Hundred House. Right: The traces of the drover route as it is today, running parallel to the main road as it leaves Glascwm and heads east. Photographs by Leonie Waithman.

century, drovers were still taking livestock from mid-Wales to Kington, where the animals were sold and loaded onto trains to be taken further into England.

I am wondering whether the village of Glascwm flourished more extensively during the time of the drovers, since their route ran straight through it. One of the buildings, I have been told, was used by a cobbler to shoe geese and mend drover's boots. The house next door to mine, which faces the road, used to be an inn, and drovers could have stayed there. Would they have used the fields beside my house to pen their animals overnight? This is possible, since medieval earthworks are in the field next door. And yes, I have been itching to investigate that, but that will have to be another story.

Learn more at: [Drovers' routes: The ancient trails from farm to market, and how they've shaped our roads to this day - Country Life](#); [British walking - Welsh droving routes - www.jeremyseal.com](#); [Victorian Llanwrtyd - the Welsh cattle drovers](#).



From the HAS Archives



A repository of past issues of *The Profile* is available on the HAS website wherein you will find a wealth of archived articles, including this overview of the meeting program for January of 2011 ([2011 January Profile.pdf](#)). The January 2011 meeting featured the late Alston V. Thoms, PhD, a professor from the Department of Anthropology and Laboratory of Ecological Archaeology at Texas A&M University and a sixth-generation Texas. Thoms discussed Cabeza de Vaca and hunter-gather lifeways on the coastal plains of Texas.

According to Dr. Thoms, Cabeza de Vaca and three Old World companions survived shipwrecks and sickness to spend part of the mid-1530s with native people along the Texas coast and adjacent inland regions who were known later as Karankawas and Coahuiltecan. Importantly, his observations about their land-use patterns predate apocalyptic population crashes from Old World diseases. As such, they are applicable, in general, to the Coastal Plains during the Pre-Columbian era as well. In writing about the Yguazes, an inland group, Cabeza de Vaca noted "their dwellings are of mats placed on four arches; they carry them on their backs and move every two or three days to look for food." Rancheria sizes ranged from a few dwellings, for single and multiple families, to those with 50 or 100 dwellings. Among the region's inhabitants were the Fig People, a reference to their reliance on prickly-pear tunas. Everywhere on the Coastal Plains, wild root foods were important. Deer typically provided the bulk of the meat diet and, at times, were hunted using drive techniques.

Dr. Thoms passed away June 4, 2021. <https://ecrmasternaturalists.blog/2021/08/27/remembering-alston-thoms/>; [Alston Thoms Obituary \(1948 - 2021\) - Bryan, TX - The Bryan-College Station Eagle](#). More information from Dr. Thoms on this topic may be found at [Cabeza de Vaca's "Chronicle": A Singular Glimpse of the Native American Past | Marfa Public Radio](#); [Learning From Cabeza de Vaca](#).

Designed with Archeology in Mind – Texas Historical Commission 2025 Conference

The THC Annual Conference, Real Places, delivers top-notch programming for the many different audiences involved in history, heritage, and preservation. This includes archeologists, historians, architects, engineers, curators, interpreters, educators, heritage tourism professionals, downtown revitalization professionals, historic preservation officers, design review board members, County Historical Commission members, nonprofit staff and volunteers, THC staff, Texas Heritage Trail Regions, and many more.

Archeology-Related Content at Real Places 2025 includes:



- Cemetery Associations: Turning Your Vision into Reality
- Best Practices for Restoration and Repair at Historic Cemeteries
- Is that Where it Was?—Using Georeferencing to Better Understand Historic Maps
- Grandma Told Me That—Oral Traditions and Lessons in the Anthropology of History
- The Intersection of Archeology and Interpretation at an Ancient Site in South Texas
- Truth and Reconciliation: Addressing Highway Construction Impacts on African American History
- What is a National Historic Trail?—The Case Study of El Camino Real de los Tejas
- Every Stone Has a Story: Bethany Cemetery and the Fight to Save Black Austin History
- An Old Cemetery at the Brink—Can the Graves of the Farmworkers be Saved?

Explore the [full conference schedule](#) to learn more.



HAS Reference Desk

What research on archeology, anthropology, paleontology, or history have you been reading lately? The HAS Reference desk seeks your suggestions about interesting archeology and history news and links.

[Features - Life on the Inside - Archaeology Magazine - November/December 2013](#)

<https://blogs.loc.gov/bibliomania/papermaking-a-rags-to-riches-story>

[Reopening Notre-Dame; Travel with Rick Steves](#)

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/1-600-year-old-burials-in-crimea-hold-gold-and-silver-jewelry-from-rich-women>

[A Damning Discovery? - by Matt Lewis - Made by History](#)

<https://www.mytsha.com/digital-library/collections/texas-talks>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/these-mysterious-12000-year-old-pebbles-may-be-early-evidence-of-wheel-like-tools-archaeologists-say-180985471/>

<https://youtube.com/@traviscountyarcheologicals7370?feature=shared>

[Discover Texas's Most Mind-Blowing Prehistoric Sites On This Epic Road Trip](#)

[Gladiator knife handle found in Tyne 'reflects spread of Roman celebrity culture' | Archaeology | The Guardian](#)

<https://www.thearchaeologist.org/blog/the-worlds-only-intact-roman-boiler-a-glimpse-into-ancient-engineering>

<https://medievalmatt.substack.com/p/a-damning-discovery>

Discussions about compasses and place names: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/travel-with-rick-steves/id79063354?i=1000678662674>

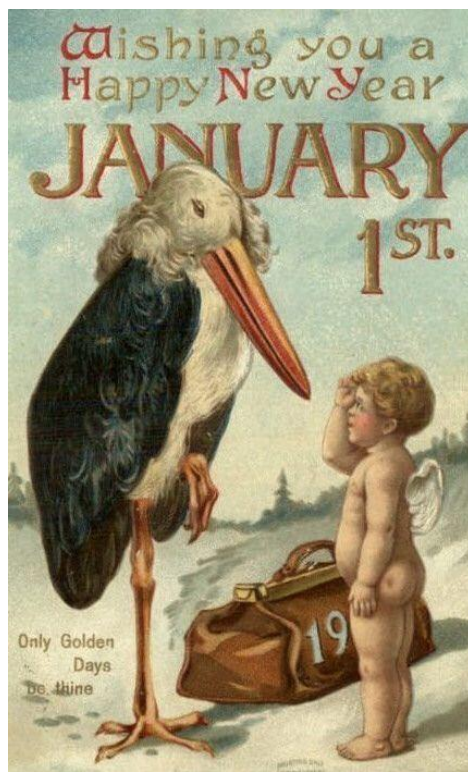
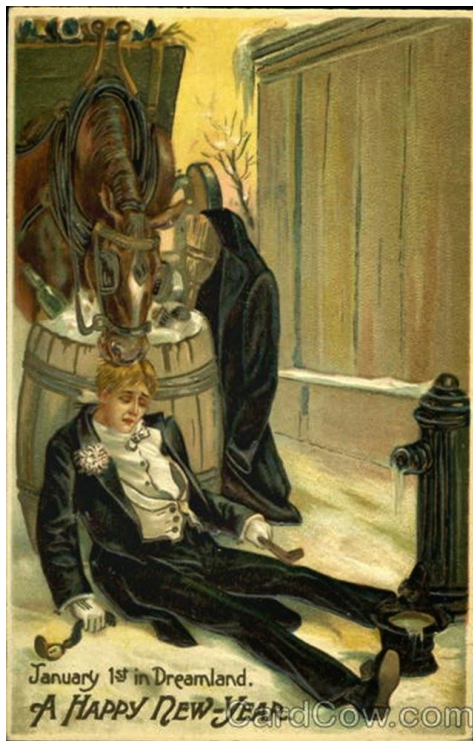
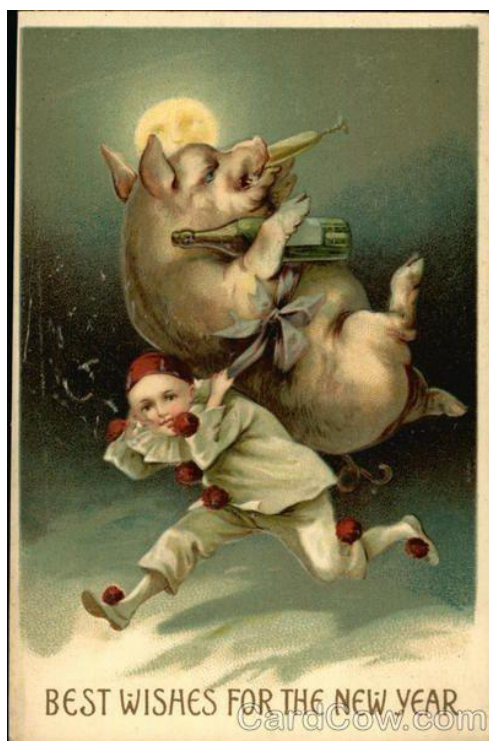
[Prehistoric mastodon jaw found in backyard of New York home](#)

[Archaeologists discover medieval skeleton with his boots still on in London](#)

[Pompeii horse found still wearing harness](#)

[Plant fossil discovered near Utah ghost town doesn't belong to any known plant families, living or extinct | Live Science](#)





Pinterest; Best Wishes for the New Year; Cardcow.com; strange-and-creepy-new-years.html; A Happy New Year Elves; Bonne annie Snowmen Postcard; Pin page; Pinterest/RubyLane

Happy New Year!

We invite you to join us in 2025 as we continue our work ~
digging up history, one trowel-full at a time!



Houston Archeological Society - Monthly Meeting Program Schedule

Please note that meetings vary between in-person, hybrid, or virtual (via Zoom). Some presentations will be uploaded to our YouTube site where they will be archived and available for public viewing. The meeting format may change; be sure to doublecheck the HAS website and your emails prior to each meeting for updates.

January 9 – HAS Quarterly Board Meeting

January 16 – 6:00 p.m. Monthly HAS Meeting. This meeting will be virtual only via Zoom. Featuring Heather Para, PhD, discussing Ritual Reuse of Hearthstones and Monuments in Early Medieval Wales. Be watching your email for the link.

February 20 - 6:00 p.m. Monthly HAS Meeting. Watch your emails regarding whether this month's meeting will be in-person or virtual only via Zoom. Featuring Chris Lintz speaking on the Late Prehistoric Antelope Creek Phase people in the Texas-Oklahoma panhandles.

March 20 - 6:00 p.m. Monthly HAS Meeting in person at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road, Houston, with a Zoom link available for members. Featuring Rebecca Shelton, Regional Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission, who will provide an up-to-date overview of the stewards, what is new, who is new, and current projects.

April 17 - 6:00 p.m. Monthly HAS Meeting, featuring Steve Tomka. Watch your emails regarding whether this month's meeting will be in-person or virtual only via Zoom.

May 15 - 6:00 p.m. Monthly HAS Meeting, featuring Amy Goldstein discussing Kirbee Kiln. Watch your emails regarding whether this month's meeting will be in-person or virtual only via Zoom.

Houston Archeological Society monthly meetings are customarily free and open to the public. Many previous HAS presentations are archived on our YouTube site at www.youtube.com/channel. For more information about HAS, visit www.txhas.org, email us at president@txhas.org, or join our Facebook page at [Houston Archeological Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HoustonArcheologicalSociety).



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

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