

HAS VP Michael Bailey is April Speaker

Our next meeting is April 15 at 7:00 pm at Clayton House, with our own Michael Bailey presenting a talk on the excavation of the *Acadia*, a Civil War blockade runner that was run aground in 1865 just off San Luis Pass in Brazoria County.

The *Acadia* was a River Clyde-type steamship built at Sorel, Quebec, in May and July of 1864. She was expressly constructed to be a blockade runner and was larger and faster than the norm. She was a 738 tonner, whereas the usual range of vessels in this occupation was from 400 to 600 tons. The *Acadia* was 211 feet long and had a beam of 31 feet and a hold 12 feet deep. She was a side-wheeler with one 900-horsepower engine. Under the command of Capt. Thomas Leach, the *Acadia* was on her first voyage as a blockade runner when she was run aground and abandoned by her crew on February 6, 1865. As soon as the morning fog lifted she was spotted in 15 feet of water ten miles northeast of the mouth of the Brazos, her intended destination, by the USS *Virginia*, the Union navy ship on patrol in the area. The *Acadia* was destroyed by gunfire, although much of her cargo was salvaged by shore parties. The wreck site was examined by Wendell E. Pierce

during the late 1960s and early 1970s under permit from the Texas Antiquities Committee and under the supervision of Frank Hole, an archeologist at Rice University. Artifacts from the site were housed for a time at the Houston Museum of Natural Science; they are now held by the Brazoria County Museum in Angleton. The wreck of the *Acadia* is a designated state archeological landmark protected under the Texas Antiquities Code.

Michael Bailey is a Curator at the Brazoria County Historical Museum. He holds two degrees (in Anthropology/Archeology and History) from Indiana State University, as well as graduate studies at George Washington University. He has extensive experience in curation and management of collections at a variety of museums and libraries, as well as hands-on field experience and participation in historical reenactments. There is another thing we bet you didn't know about Michael: he is the former Mayor of Saint Vincent, Minnesota.

The meeting will be in the Carriage House at the Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004.

Houston, We Have a Problem

On April 5, after recent citywide budget cuts, the following e-mail was sent to members and patrons of the Clayton Library:

“On Thursday, April 1st, 2010, Dr. Rhea Lawson, Director, Houston Public Library, presented a report to the City Council concerning a required reduction of operating hours in all Houston libraries (including special collections) due to drastic budget cuts city-wide. This proposal had already been approved by Mayor Parker prior to its presentation to council.

“Effective April 17th, 2010, open hours at Clayton Library for Genealogical Research hours will be:

Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10-6; Wednesday 10-8; Saturday 10-5; Library CLOSED on Friday and Sunday. For some time now, there has been a hiring freeze in the HPL system, therefore, adjusting the total number of hours that Clayton Library will be open does not seem to be a negotiable possibility - even though Clayton operating hours are being reduced from 60 to 41 hours per week.”

This new policy will not affect our April meeting, but there are definite ramifications for May and beyond. **Come to the April 15 meeting to find out more details.**



President's Message

I attended the newest TAS Academy, *Geoarcheology*, held March 20-21 on the campus of Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas. Additionally, an extremely interesting field trip to areas of Ft. Hood was taken in order to relate the actual geology with the classroom presentations. Other HAS members that were in attendance included T.R. "Tom" Williams, Sandra Rogers, and Bill Czanyi.

Want to talk dirt? Actually, there wasn't much mention of the term "dirt." "Soil" was the more appropriate term, and the geoarcheology course took soil to a whole different level (stratified, to say the least) than your ordinary garden variety, although it qualifies too.

We know that the remains of cultural material become buried due to many natural processes imposed on the soil. The archeological record has in large part been shaped by the same geologic and soil processes that have shaped the landscape. These processes influence archeological context, site preservation, and site visibility in various ways. This course helps one to understand these various ways and to recognize and evaluate the archeological potential of the landscape. This knowledge helps develop effective site survey strategies to predict potential site locations and where sites with good contextual integrity may be located.

The course exhibited plenty of well-identified display samples. The hands-on exercise included the "feel method of particle size analysis of soil". This is a method of determining soil composition using the guidance of a prepared flow chart while in the field, where a laboratory method is not readily available. It was a rather odd sight watching 50 adults mashing mud in their hands. It was a slight reminder of making mud pies as a kid but with a little higher level of concentration and lacking the "taste" test. To top off the classroom presentations, an excellent review of radiocarbon dating and Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating was discussed with easy-to-follow graphics.

A surprise bonus was the opportunity to attend a free show at the Planetarium on campus with shows ranging from "Legends of the Night Sky: Orion" to a laser show "Pink Floyd: Through the Prism". I have been to all but one of the TAS academies and they all just seem to get better and better. But *Geoarcheology* was simply fascinating, and the staff of instructors, Karl Kibler, Dr. Charles Frederick and Sunny Woods (Ft. Hood Archeologist) did an excellent job. Special thanks to all who made the academy a great learning experience.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Hopefully the pipeline of membership information is now repaired and I am able to now recognize some of our new members. Welcome to Kevin Bradley, Joy Connell, Robert Hickey, Jeri Kuhleman, Jessica Lightfoot, Ryan Orosz, Aaron Ott, and Leslie Rosenblatt. If I missed anyone, please let me know. The pipeline may be repaired but there still might be a rusty spot or two.

--Charlie Gordy

Minutes of HAS Meeting March 18, 2010

Meeting called to order by HAS President, Charlie Gordy, who reminded attendees of the sign-in sheet at the entrance, and thanked the refreshment volunteers for this evening, Linda Gorski, Beth Aucoin, and Muriel Mueller.

Charlie introduced the guest speaker, Jim Joblin, Project/Lab Manager for the Conservation Research Lab at Texas A&M University, who spoke on the excavation of the USS Westfield Union gunboat that sank in Galveston Bay in 1863.

After a short break the business meeting began.

- Minutes of February HAS meeting approved with correction.
- A Treasurer's report will be given the first meeting after every quarter (April 15 next report) which will include a comparison with the budget.
- Introduced Kevin Bradley as new Board Member.
- Presented Certificate of Appreciation to Diane Baird for her work as past HAS President.
- Reminded members of the refreshment sign-up sheet.

Meeting adjourned.

-- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Caddo/East Texas Archeological Conference a Success

On March 19th and 20th, the East Texas Archeological Conference was held at UT-Tyler in conjunction with the Caddo Conference, which is also held every year throughout Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Caddo Nation also had their annual meeting and the Caddo Culture Club from Oklahoma provided the entertainment.

The papers presented involved archeology being done on numerous Caddo sites. The sites range over the entire area which made up the Nation.



Caddo Dance Exhibition

There was a book sale and silent auction and delicious refreshments and coffee provided by Dona Stone and Patti Haskins. Each afternoon the Caddos presented tribal dances. Not the lively kind you often see but a stately combination of men and boys drumming and chanting and the women and girls circling them. It was done with such grace and artistry.

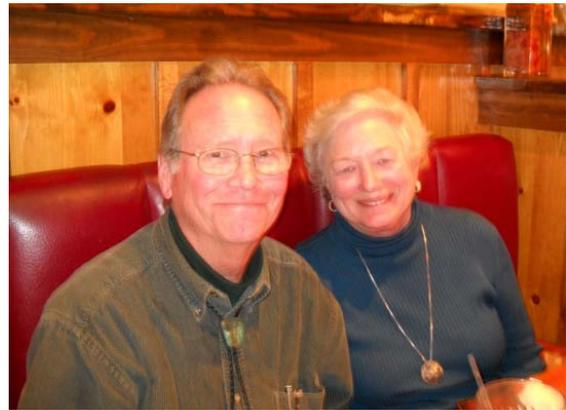
There was a special story taking place at this conference. A family from Columbus, Ohio had been working on their family tree. They had recently discovered they had connections with the Caddo Indians. When

they found out about the Caddo Conference, they piled into a van and came to Tyler. Some of the younger women joined the Caddo dancers.

One of the highlights of the weekend was having lunch with Joan and Arthur Few on Saturday. They are doing great and Joan will have a book about Colorado women miners published this summer. I can't wait!

I did have to complain to them about bringing Colorado weather down with them - it snowed on Sunday! So I stood out in the snow for at least 1 1/2 hours trying to get my flat tire fixed. The "perfect" ending to an otherwise great weekend.

-- Diane Baird



Joan and Arthur Few at Caddo Conference

Re-Dedication of the 1936 Madame Powell Historical Marker is May 1st

The public is invited to attend the re-dedication of the Texas State Historical Marker originally placed where the Mexican Army met at Madam Powell's Tavern after learning of the Texian victory at San Jacinto. The San Jacinto Chapter of the Sons of The Republic of Texas will host a ceremony starting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2010 to re-dedicate the marker that was placed at the site of Elizabeth Powell's home in 1936.

Dr. Gregg Dimmick will be the featured speaker, and Bob Brinkman with the Texas Historical Commission will speak about the history of the 1936 marker program. Everyone interested in Texas history is invited.

To reach the site of the ceremony, proceed southwest from Houston on Highway 59 to the town of Kendleton, Texas. As you exit at the Kendleton exit, make a "U" turn and drive back toward Houston on the access road for about one mile to Darst Road, where you turn right and continue until you cross the bridge over Turkey Creek. The next farm entrance on the left is the entrance to Jack Wendt's farm and ranch, where signs will direct you to the ceremony. For other details, contact Tom Green, at (281) 922-1118, or Cell phone (832) 687-3474.

Upcoming Events

Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Executive Director of the SHUMLA Archeological Research and Education Center, will present a program at the Witte Museum in San Antonio on Wednesday, April 28 from 6 – 8 p.m. entitled ***Rock Art of the Canyonlands***. Her presentation will focus on SHUMLA's Lower Pecos Rock Art Recording and Preservation Project. Admission to this program at the Witte is \$5 for museum members and students, and \$10 for adult non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 210-357-1910. For directions to the Witte see www.witemuseum.org.

Dr. William Neidinger of the Texas Foundation for Archaeological & Historical Research, will present two lectures on the **Sistine Chapel**, two Monday evenings, May 10 and May 17, 2010, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Location is St. Martin 's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road, Houston, Texas 77056. The fee is \$25.00 per person. Information and registration forms can be found at <http://www.tfahr.org/sistine.html> . The proceeds from these lectures will benefit Dr. Neidinger's 2010 Bylazora excavations in Macedonia.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift, swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.

Submit articles no later than April 30 for the May 2010 issue.

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