



Wilson W. “Dub” Crook to Speak on “What Happened to the Ancient Sumerians?”

Our next meeting is May 20 at 7:00 pm at a different location: Robertson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. Our own Dub Crook will be presenting a talk on “What Happened to the Ancient Sumerians?”

Archeological research in the Levant has shown that the Bible is more of a historical document than is generally accepted. The scriptures often contain very detailed descriptions of events or places which by themselves do not add to the meaning of the story. These descriptions are often proof of eyewitness accounts, many of which have been corroborated later by archeological discoveries.

One of the minor mysteries of the Bible is why the Sumerians are never mentioned, when virtually every other ancient Middle East culture (Egyptians, Assyrians, Canaanites, Phoenicians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, etc.) are detailed. Another mystery of the Bible is the apparent inclusion of passages that seemingly don't tie to any known event or culture. One of these passages is found in Genesis 1:1-9.

An even greater mystery is why God would choose a man from the city of Ur (Abram, later Abraham) to be His chosen patriarch and the founder of the world's three great religions (Christianity, Judaism, Islam). Why would Abraham respond unquestioningly to a God that he did not know?

“Perhaps archeology can provide a clue to an answer to both questions,” says Mr. Crook.

Wilson W. “Dub” Crook is a long-time member of HAS. As the Global Manager for Natural Gas Regu-

latory & Legislative Issues, he is responsible for coordinating all of ExxonMobil's legislative and regulatory activities for natural gas worldwide. Dub has traveled extensively, starting his adventures as a

child. His father was Wilson W. Crook, Jr., who was past President and Fellow of the Texas Archeological Society, was one of the pioneering researchers on archeology of the Upper Trinity watershed. As a result of his father's lifelong interest in archeology and paleoanthropology, Dub grew up going to and working on archeological sites all around the world.

Dub has published over 110 professional papers, 46 of them in archeology. While his archeological research has focused primarily

on the Upper Trinity River watershed, he has also worked on

sites in West Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, California and Virginia. He has also worked outside of the U.S. in the rift valley of East Africa, in South America (Bolivia, Argentina and Peru) and in Kazakhstan. Mr. Crook holds both a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Methodist University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan in the field of mineralogy and rare-earth crystal chemistry. He has been a member of the Dallas Archeological Society for 38 years, a member of the TAS for 34 years, is a member of the Center for the Study of the First Americans, and the Archeological Association of Virginia. He is a Fellow of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin and a Director of the Gault School of Archeological Research.



Wilson W. “Dub” Crook



President's Message

ON THE SERIOUS SIDE: If you were in attendance at our regular membership meeting in April, you are aware that HAS is having to adjust to new meeting times and/or location effective with our next meeting of May 20. If you were not in attendance at that meeting, then this may be a complete surprise to you, hence the main subject of this month's "President's Message". The reason for this change is that HAS has lost our meeting place on our regular day and time through no fault of our own. This loss was a result of a reduction of operating hours for the Clayton Library (actually all

Houston libraries) due to drastic budget cuts city-wide. The only late open hours for the Library now available to HAS are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-8 PM. These details came to my attention on very short notice (about a week) prior to the April meeting at which time I notified our Board of Directors of the problem and a new facility search was immediately initiated. While I promptly secured the Carriage House for the second Wednesday and the 6-8 time period for the next 6 months as an emergency measure, it is easy to see that the early 6 PM meeting start time and early 8PM (actually we have to be out by 7:45) ending time leaves us short on quality program time as well as difficulty arriving and starting an hour earlier than usual. The end result is that we either have to accept this day and time bracket if we stay at Clayton OR we have to find a new facility in which to meet. While several alternative facilities were researched prior to the April meeting, board member Ed Masten contacted the University of St. Thomas and was able to secure a quality meeting place on campus for May. **As a result, our May 20 (third Thursday) meeting will meet at Robertson Science Hall, Room 116 from 7PM to 9:30 PM. I've arranged to have a table set up for snacks, but don't expect coffee this time.** For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the *Interactive Map* (Bldg. 43). There is a good possibility that we will be able to meet at UST on a regular basis, although which room is presently uncertain for now. During our business meeting on the 20th we will continue to discuss our alternatives. Right now, I feel positive about future meeting opportunities at the University of St. Thomas.

ON THE AGENDA: As a reminder, our January meeting presented a negative budget for FY 2010. Our biggest expenditures were for the publishing of reports and publications which all come due in 2010. And now we are perhaps faced with the prospect of additional costs for meeting space which obviously was not a consideration in the budget. At the present, our only significant income is from membership dues with the typical uncertainties as to numbers. Sure, we have savings, but we cannot indefinitely dip into them to run things. That's why I have placed a money making idea on this month's agenda in the form of an opportunity offered by Blake Butler and/or Brooke Blodgett from HAS's bank, BBVA Compass. They will introduce a program as to how HAS can earn \$50 (after June 30 becomes \$20) for every one of our members (or supporters) who open up a BBVA checking account as a supporter of HAS. In addition, HAS can earn a royalty of the purchase amount when a HAS supporter uses their BBVA Compass Visa Check Card (tied to the new account) for a signature based transaction. I will leave the program details and the answers to your questions to Blake and Brook at the May meeting. My preview of the program suggests it's a *win-win* deal for everyone and can help us through these economic hard times and beyond.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: New members posted since last month are Susannah Barr, John Meredith, Alissa Nelson, and Louis Aulbach. I would also like to recognize the following guests attending the April meeting: Robert Killian, Jorge Garcia-Herreros, John Rich, Stephen Aulbach and Gary McKee. We hope to see you all again soon. Better yet, why not become a member?
--Charlie Gordy

May and June Schedule Changes

Due to health and other issues, the HAS Lab leaders have cancelled the HAS Lab session for May. In addition, there will be no lab and no monthly meeting in June. The June hiatus is traditional at HAS, in order to give members the opportunity to attend the annual TAS Field School. So—we'll see everyone at the May 20 meeting and resume with the July 15 meeting and July 17 lab session.

Minutes of HAS Meeting April 15, 2010

The April 15 meeting was called to order by President Charlie Gordy who welcomed all members and guests, and thanked refreshment volunteers, Kathleen Berry and Beth Aucoin.

Michael Bailey, HAS Vice President, spoke on the excavation of the Civil War blockade runner, the Acadia, that was run aground in 1865 off San Luis Pass in Brazoria County. After the presentation Michael answered questions and displayed artifacts taken from the Acadia.

Charlie thanked Tom Williams for his designs and art work for HAS.

After a short break the business meeting was conducted. Minutes of March 18 meeting as shown in the Profile were approved. Ed Masten, Treasurer, reported on first quarter, showing income of \$2,084, expenses of \$1,944, with an ending total of \$14,075.

New business: due to city budget cuts, the Clayton Library will be changing their hours and HAS will have to change to an earlier time and day for future meetings, or relocate to another meeting place. Ed Masten volunteered he had spoken with the person responsible for assigning meeting rooms at the University of St. Thomas and the University had agreed to assign a meeting room for HAS meetings that would accommodate maintaining the same day of the week, Thursday, and the same time, 7:00 p.m. until 9 p.m. The members voted to relocate to St. Thomas University beginning with the May meeting.

Other new business was a membership drive. Lucia Bonno suggested that each member bring one new guest to the meetings and for each new member Lucia will make a donation to HAS.

Charlie Gordy reminded members of the refreshment sign-up sheet and announced the next meeting would be at the University of St. Thomas. Meeting adjourned. -- Phyllis Bradley, Secretary

Freedman's Town: Recovering Houston's Multicultural Past

By Robert Marcom, M.A. RPA, Assistant Director, Yates Community Archaeology Program

For more than 150 years the Fourth Ward of Houston has been home to immigrant communities. The area now comprising the National Historic District of Freeman's Town was originally limited to a few city blocks nestled between Buffalo Bayou and West Dallas Street – then known as San Felipe Road. In the months after the end of the American Civil War, emancipated African Americans began to leave the Brazos River plantations and travel toward Houston along the San Felipe Road. As they approached the then-modest community some would put down roots, begin to build homes, businesses and churches, and raise families. This was the beginnings of Freedman's Town. The Fourth Ward is identified by the Handbook of Texas Online as a center of black cultural and professional life during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and has been called "the Mother Ward." In the mid-1980's it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an historically significant African American neighborhood.

Freedman's Town National Historic District preserves the material heritage for a people who ascended from enslavement to create a unique society replete with professionals, artists and artisans, fine crafts persons, and everyday family people, a material heritage that was innovated from individual character and a will to contribute to their society. Other immigrants had also been attracted to the area: the first Jewish congregants founded the earliest Jewish cemetery there; Italian Americans purchased land, opened stores and built rental properties there, even as it developed primarily as an African-American neighborhood. Today, redevelopment is recreating a 21st century version of the intimate multicultural, multiracial mix that typified early Freedman's Town, but in this case this "new" mix is destroying the historical landscape — the historic structures built by the founders, who ranged from successful middle class merchants and professionals to laborers and artisans. Bungalows, shotgun houses, and larger Victorian houses have been replaced with condominiums and apartment buildings priced beyond the incomes of the 21st century working-class residents. The Yates Community Archaeology Program (YCAP), a project of the Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, Inc, has undertaken to recover, conserve and collaboratively interpret the history of Freedman's Town.

YCAP conducts field schools for local colleges and universities, including the University of Houston, Rice University and the Houston Community College. We have five properties under investigation. Notably,

they include the homes of Rutherford B. H. Yates, son of the luminary Jack Yates and one of the first African-American printers in Houston. The Reverend Ned Pullum's house is also under archaeological investigation. Rev. Pullum was the second pastor of the historic Bethel Baptist Church and the owner of a brick manufacturing company. The home of J. Vance Lewis has recently been investigated and will soon be reported. Lewis, enslaved then emancipated, was a prominent attorney and was the first African-American to be admitted to the State Bar of Texas.

These projects have one thing in common: they are all sites which would have disappeared under redevelopment and renewal projects had they not been purchased by the R. B. H. Yates Museum, Inc. YCAP is happy to host both visitors and volunteers. Be a part of recovering the past of an important historic community in our own back yard. Contact us at <http://www.publicarchaeology.org/yates/> or email us at rmr-com@uh.edu.

Countdown to TAS Field School

This year's TAS Field School will be June 12-19 in Medina County, about 18 miles from the city of Hondo. It promises to be an outstanding Field School with some great archeology for everyone. For more information, including online registration, visit <http://txarch.org/Activities/fschool/fs2010/index.php>.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than June 28 for the July 2010 issue (no *Profile* in June).

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

HAS BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Gordy, President, chasgordy@yahoo.com Lucia Bonno, Director-at-Large, 713-961-0455
Michael Bailey, Vice President, m Bailey@allusaonline.com Kevin Bradley, Director-at-Large, kbradley110@hotmail.com
Phyllis Bradley, Secretary, pebradley@worldnet.att.net Muriel Walker, Director-at-Large, murielwalker02@comcast.net
Ed Masten, Treasurer, edmondmasten@yahoo.com

AREA TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION STEWARDS

Elizabeth & Pat Aucoin, ekpi.aucoin@prodigy.net Sheldon Kindall, kindall1@peoplepc.com
Bob Crosser, 281-341-5251 Bev Mendenhall, bmend2@yahoo.com
Richard L. Gregg, rlgregg@worldnet.att.net Tom Nuckols, annesullivan@andrewskurth.com
Marilyn & Walter Horton, fmhorton@comcast.net Sandra & Johnny Pollan, pollanone@sbcglobal.net
Joe D. Hudgins, manso@jdhudgins.com Sandra E. Rogers (Sandy), sojourne@att.net
Don Keyes, keyes_don@hotmail.com Gary Ryman, ryman1@peoplepc.com

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARCHEOLOGISTS

Pat Mercado-Allinger, pat.Mercado-Allinger@thc.state.tx.us Jeff Durst, jeff.durst@thc.state.tx.us

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Don Keyes, Region V Director, keyes_don@hotmail.com Joe D. Rogers, President, tasinquiries@txarch.org
Pam Wheat-Stranahan, Executive Director, pamwheatstranahan@gmail.com Web Site: www.txarch.org

The Profile
Houston Archeological Society
PO Box 130631
Houston, TX 77219-0631

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