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## **Brian McAuley to Update Us on Levi Jordan Plantation**

Brian McAuley of the Texas Historical Commission will be with us at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, bringing us an update on the Levi Jordan plantation. He spoke to us last January about renovation and development plans for the site, and now we will get to hear what progress is being made, especially in light of recent drastic cuts in the THC operating budget.

Our November meeting will be at 7:00 pm Thursday, November 17, in Anderson Hall (Room 103) on the Academic Mall at the University of St. Thomas.

Located outside Brazoria, Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site, a Texas Historical Commission property, is significant for its role in post-Civil War Reconstruction. Levi Jordan was already a successful planter in 1848 when he purchased more than 2,200 acres in Brazoria County, Texas. After an initial visit to the acreage, Jordan commissioned construction of the family home and ancillary buildings utilizing slave labor. The two-story Greek Revival-style house served as the focal point of the large plantation operation, which produced primarily sugar and cotton.

Following the Civil War, Levi Jordan and other Southern planters faced economic decline in both market value and productivity. Jordan died in 1873, leaving the property to family members, who continued its agricultural use.

The site consists of the plantation house, currently undergoing exterior restoration, and significant archeological remains, including the slave quarters that were subsequently occupied by freedmen until the 1880s. The site provides a unique opportunity to

understand the evolving agricultural history of the South and a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the lives of African Americans in 19th century Texas.

Bryan McAuley joined the Texas Historical Commission in May of 2008 as part of the recently-developed Historic Sites Division. He currently serves as the site manager for both the Levi Jordan Plantation and San Felipe de Austin State



Historic Sites. McAuley previously worked for the Texas Office of the Attorney General from 1996-2000, leaving that agency to enter the museum/heritage tourism field. Then he joined the staff of the Fort Bend Museum Association in 2001, initially serving as Director of Marketing. The next year he became the Director of Programs at the George Ranch Historical Park (managed by the Fort Bend Museum Association) before accepting the job of Deputy Director of Historical Services for the Association in 2007. He has published on several historical topics and has been a presenter at state and national museum conferences. He earned a BA in government/anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA in political science/sociology from Texas State University.

## **Field Trip to Sugar Barn & Brick Works is Planned for Nov. 19**

Our Board is considering HAS's participating in a proposed excavation project at the Sugar Barn and Brick Works, which was presented in a recent monthly meeting by speakers Fred R. Beeler and John Walker. To this end, we are having a gathering at the Sugar Barn and Brick Works on Saturday November 19th, 2011, from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

Directions to the site (provided by Fred Beeler): At the intersection of Highway 6 and FM 521 (Fresno/Arcola), go West on FM521 towards Juliff/Rosharon approximately 1 mile. You will see an old rusted tin roof place that looks like it used to be a filling station with a house behind it. Across the road will be a metal upright over a metal gate (no writing on the upright). The gate will not be locked, and it is a gravel road. Enter the gate, close gate, travel on road, and you will pass a large white house back off the road to the right (do not visit with ghosts, they take many forms). Continue on gravel road, road will turn left and cross creek. On the right will be a corral and metal barn and hay, and behind the metal barn is the brick sugar barn. Mr. Beeler's cell phone is 713-906-7526, in case you get lost.

## **HAS Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2011, at University of St. Thomas**

Meeting was called to order by President Karen Belvin, who welcomed all members and visitors. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

The speaker for the evening was Dr. C. Wayne Smith of Archeological Preservation Research Laboratory (APRL) and Wilder 3-D Imaging Laboratory, both of which are part of Texas A&M University Department of Anthropology. He spoke about use of 3D imaging as a tool for recording and studying archeological artifacts.

Representatives of Compass Bank spoke about their BBVA program.

Karen Belvin raised the possibility of HAS working with TxDOT on a site which is in the path of the building of Grand Parkway.

Meeting was adjourned.

*-- M. LeBlanc, Secretary*

## **Lab Schedule for October**

Lab will be held on the following dates:

Monday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

Monday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> (one lab only in December)

We'll meet at the usual time & place: 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. We'll continue documenting the Cable & Gibbs collections from Pine Gully, a prehistoric coastal shell midden site in Seabrook. Closest parking is Founder's Court/Visitor Parking and requires a credit card. For a map, see [www.rice.edu/maps](http://www.rice.edu/maps).

*-- Beth Aucoin*

## **Presidio San Saba Having Dedication Ceremony Nov. 19**

If you attended TAS Field Schools at Presidio San Saba, you might be interested in going back this month for a dedication at 10:30 am on November 19. Tours of the 1757 Presidio, Texas' largest Spanish fort, will be conducted before and after the program. The Presidio is located northwest of Menard, Texas, about one mile West of Highway 83 on Highway 190. These other historical sites will also be available for touring or viewing: Menardville Museum, Fort McKavett, Mission Santa Cruz de San Saba (site only), Mission Theater, Ditch Walk, Historical Churches, etc. For more information, call 325-396-2365 or 325-396-2424.

## New Edition of *Stone Artifacts* is Available

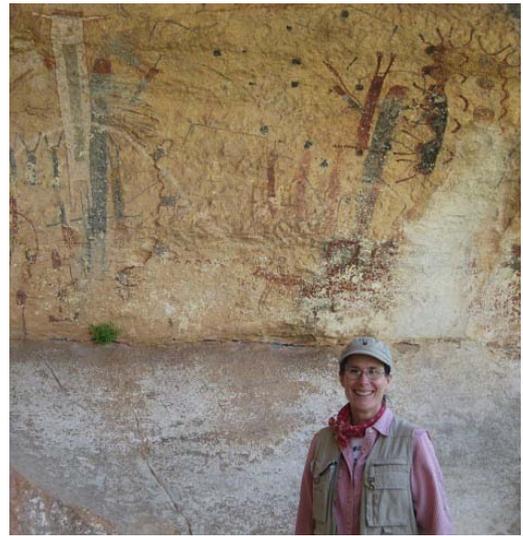
Do you have a dog-eared, dirt-smearred copy of that Bible of Texas archeology, *Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians*? The one we all drag out whenever an unfamiliar projectile point shows up in the screen? Well, you will be happy to know that the new third edition of *Stone Artifacts of Texas Indians* by Ellen Sue Turner, Thomas R. Hester, and Richard McReynolds, illustrated by Richard McReynolds with a foreword by Harry Shafer, can now be found in your favorite bookstores and online. This might be just the Christmas gift for a special archeologist in your life—or even for yourself!

## ROCK ART OF THE LOWER PECOS CANYONLANDS TO BE FEATURED AT NOVEMBER 15 MEETING OF FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Members of the Houston Archeological Society are invited to attend the November 15 meeting of the Fort Bend Archeological Society which will feature a program on prehistoric rock art of the Lower Pecos Canyonlands in Texas.

The Lower Pecos Canyonlands of southwest Texas and northern Mexico house some of the most complex and compositionally intricate prehistoric rock art sites in the world. Over 250 rock shelters are known to contain rock art, some dating from 4200 to 2750 BP, and new sites are being discovered each year.

The November 15 meeting of the Fort Bend Archeological Society will highlight the efforts of SHUMLA, an internationally recognized education and archeological research center located on the Pecos River just west of Del Rio, Texas, to record and document this world-class rock art. SHUMLA launched the Lower Pecos Rock Art Recording and Preservation project in 2009, the most intensive rock art documentation project ever undertaken in the region.



## *Time Team* Show Coming to America, Seeking Producer

Recent news from the Internet says the British archeological show, *Time Team*, is coming to the USA and will be called *Time Team America*. Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) is advertising for a full-time (15 months or until grant runs out) producer for the show, which will initially air four one-hour shows.

If you want to apply, you'll need five years full-time professional experience as a producer of prime time documentary television, TV field production experience, directing experience, strong script writing skills, and so on. No mention of a requirement for knowledge of, or experience in, archeology!

However, you will be expected to live like a field archeologist. The job description says, "These film shoots ... may require varying modes of transportation and/or sleep in non-traditional accommodations. Some work may be outdoors in inclement weather and/or in areas where modern conveniences are not available. Moving heavy equipment up to 40 pounds may be required. Evening or weekend work will happen." That's a familiar scenario!

OPB also is looking to hire two associate producers for the *History Detectives* series. If interested, you'll need to send in your application by Nov. 18 for these two jobs, and by December 2 for the *Time Team America* position. You can find out more about these opportunities at [www.opb.org/insideopb/careers/jobs/#pos01](http://www.opb.org/insideopb/careers/jobs/#pos01).

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at [swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net](mailto:swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net).  
Submit articles no later than December 1 for the December 2011 issue.

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

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