



**Doug Boyd to Speak on “The Ransom and Sarah Williams Site:
Public Archeology at a 19th-Century African American Farmstead”**

In 2009, the Texas Department of Transportation sponsored extensive archeological excavations at an African American-owned farmstead occupied from about 1871 until 1905. Ransom and Sarah Williams, both former slaves, raised five children on their 45-acre, hardscrabble farm south of Austin. Although surrounded by white neighbors, the Williams family maintained ties with other African Americans, including some relatives living in the nearby Freeman’s community called Antioch Colony. Various lines of evidence suggest that the Williams family was quite successful with their family farm at a time when economic opportunities for blacks were very limited. This project was designed to include historical archeology, extensive archival research, as well as an oral history component that reached out to interested parties, descendant community members and Williams family descendants.

The Williams Farmstead site is indeed a rare jewel, and the combined historical and archeological evidence revealing many unknown aspects of African American life after emancipation.



J Andrews and D Boyd at Williams site

Douglas K. Boyd received a BA degree in General Studies-Archeology from West Texas State University in 1983 and an MA degree in Anthropology from Texas A&M University in 1986. In 1987 he joined Prewitt and Associates, Inc., a cultural resources services firm in Austin, Texas. Boyd is a vice president there and has served as project archeologist or principal investigator on many projects throughout the state. Over the last 30 years, much of Boyd’s work has been on historic archeological projects in Texas and New Mexico.

Many have been multidisciplinary projects involving archival research, oral history, and community outreach in addition to archeological excavations.

His other research interests include prehistoric, protohistoric, and historic cultures of the southern Plains; native American rock art of the Southern Plains; southwestern influence in the Great Plains; and Plains/Pueblo interaction and bison/man relationships.

Join us at 7:00 pm Thursday, September 15, in Anderson Hall on the Academic Mall at the University of St. Thomas, to learn about this historic site.

Lab Schedule for September

Lab will be held Monday, Sept. 12th & 26th at the usual time and place: 7:00-9:00 pm, Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University. Work continues documenting two private collections from a prehistor-

ic coastal shell midden site. Closest parking is Founder’s Court/Visitor Parking and requires a credit card. For a map, see www.rice.edu/maps.



President's Message

REMINDER: THIS MONTHS MEETING will be September 15, 2011; 7:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. PLEASE NOTE: We will again be meeting at the UST Anderson Hall; room 103. IMPORTANT: THIS IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND WE WILL BE ELECTING NEW BOARD OFFICERS.

As of this month, I will be ending my second term as your HAS president. Looking back, it has been an enjoyable trip for the most part with only a few bumps along the road. But once again it's time to pave the way with new officers and board. That means new leadership with new ideas, talents, and skills to steer HAS further down the road continuing into its second half century of existence. I know there have been some fresh ideas among our membership, for I have heard them. But alas it is now too late for me to act on a lot of them. That's where a new board has the opportunity to explore, refine, and exercise the ability to act on those ideas.

That said, I feel I must be a bit critical of my administration. We have not attracted as many new members as I would have liked. What are the reasons? There may be many that need to be identified. Perhaps a lack of outreach programs whereby we sponsor mock digs, displays, and archeological presentations. Our consideration of participating during the annual San Jacinto Day celebration (which we have been discussing recently) is a perfect example. The vote has been tabled twice apparently for the lack of volunteers willing to commit. Perhaps we need more educational (and fun) opportunities for members such as field trips. Or maybe we are experiencing a lack of HAS archeological discoveries of which we take the lead in investigating and reporting. Perhaps interaction with other organizations in the form of a HAS speakers bureau would give us more exposure to the community. Any or all these things could be publicized through an improved website (which is now under study) and the HAS Facebook page. (That reminds me, the HAS Facebook page is now listed in the internet search engines providing for easier and direct access by the public).

I don't know the answer. I'm sure there is no "one single" answer. One thing I know for certain is that you can't satisfy everybody. A purpose of HAS is to bring together persons with similar interest in the subject of archeology. We must demonstrate we satisfy that interest to the fullest possible.

With the members' support of the new administration, perhaps we can move forward to answer some of these questions and find solutions. But remember, a handful of volunteers cannot do it all. Don't just sit idly by and expect the other guy to do it. Everyone needs to share in the responsibility for HAS to continue to grow.

--Charlie Gordy

Bernardo Work Plans/Schedule

NOTE: *Bernardo work for the weekend of Sept. 17-18 has been cancelled, due to fire hazard.* "We'll re-schedule after a good soaking rain." said Principal Investigator Robert Marcom. "I've placed the order for it but unfortunately it has been back-ordered. Thanks to all who've signed up, and I apologize for all inconvenience caused by this change,"

So far, the work dates of October 22-23 are still on the schedule. There will be a public tour of the site on Saturday, October 22, for Texas Archeology Month. There are no weekday dates planned. We will begin work each day at 8:00 AM until 5 PM. Our objective is to continue excavation in the area where we hope to find the household slave cabins. In addition, we will investigate a magnetometer anomaly near the rear of the main house. Recovered artifacts will be catalogued; however no lab work is planned on site.

We will need about 12 volunteers for each day. If you desire to participate in this work, please contact Charlie Gordy (chasgordy@yahoo.com) and confirm which day(s) you plan to work ASAP.

NOTE: If you have not participated during any work periods since August 2010, there are new release forms requiring your signature upon check-in.

For up-to-date information, go to *Houston Archeological Society* on Facebook.

HAS Meeting Minutes for August 18, 2011, University of St. Thomas

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Charlie Gordy, who welcomed all members and guests and reminded us of the sign-in sheets at the entrance to the meeting room.

Michael Bailey introduced the program, the history of the Waters Plantation and Sugar Barn in Fort Bend County. Speakers were Fred R. Beeler and John Walker who each spoke on the history and the progress on preservation of the plantation.

After a short break to enjoy refreshments provided by Beth and Pat Aucoin, a business meeting was held. Minutes of July 21 meeting approved as read. Treasurer's report given by Michael Johnston. Beginning balance July 6 was \$6,075.70, expenses \$75, bank charge \$3, with ending balance of \$5,997.70.

Nominating committee report given by Muriel Walker. The committee has nominated for the openings on Board of Directors Lucia Bonno and Carol Roberts, for Vice President Michael Bailey. The Committee was unable to find nominees to fill the positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary. Volunteers to fill these positions were requested by Charlie Gordy and Muriel. Mary LeBlanc volunteered to fill the Secretary's position, and Juan Reyes volunteered to fill the Treasurer's position. Vote for the new officers and board members will be at the September meeting.

Unfinished business. Last month action was tabled with regard to participating in San Jacinto Day in 2012. Motion by Bill Haskell to vote to again table the decision on participation, seconded by Tom Williams. Motion carried.

New business. Volunteers requested for website exploratory/advisory committee. Linda Swift, Tom Williams and Michael Bailey will form the committee.

Correction on request of TAS for HAS to host the annual meeting to be held in Houston. The year of meeting is 2013, not 2012 as previously mentioned. Michael Bailey made motion for last month's vote not to participate to stand, seconded by Beth Aucoin. Motion passed.

Charlie announced fall meeting room assignments have been made and HAS will be meeting in room 103 at Anderson Hall for the months September through December 2011.

Motion to adjourn made by Muriel Walker, seconded by Beth Aucoin. -- *Phyllis Bradley, Secretary*

HAS Helps at San Jacinto

This photo shows Linda Gorski, Sandy Rogers and Beth Aucoin digging at San Jacinto on August 30, 2011. Says Linda: "We were working with Roger Moore and several other archeologists doing a metal detecting survey along the proposed alignment of a replacement water line across nearly a mile in the Park. Temp 107 degrees. Ya' gotta love it!"



October is Archeology Month

October is Archeology Month in Texas, and HAS is marking the occasion with a special program at our October 20th meeting. Our topic will be "Three Dimensional Imaging and Archaeology," presented by Dr. Wayne Smith of Texas A&M University. He is Associate Professor, INA Faculty Fellow in Nautical Archaeology, Director, Archaeological Preservation Research Laboratory, and Director, Wilder 3-Dimensional Imaging Laboratory. Mark the date and plan to attend!

Upcoming Events

“**The Rise, Fall and Legacy of Periclean Athens**” will be the presentation at the Friends of Archaeology meeting on Sunday, September 11, at 5:00 pm in Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. Speaker is Dr. Louis Markos, professor in English and Scholar in Residence, Houston Baptist University. This program is free and open to the public.

“**Plundering Empire: Captain Morgan and the Spanish Main**” is the first lecture of the new season for the Houston chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America, on Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 6:30 p.m. at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 5555 Hermann Park Drive. Presented by Professor Frederick Hanselmann, Chief Underwater Archaeologist, RiverSystemsInstitute and The Center for Archaeology, Texas State University, and cosponsored by the Houston Museum of Natural Science & Casa de España. General admission cost is \$18; AIA, HMNS, and Casa de Espana members pay \$12. For more information: 713-364-6344 or aia-houston.com.



“**The Rise of Rome**,” a new adult education series by Dr. William Neidinger, will take place on six Monday evenings, September 26 - October 31, 2011. Cost is \$75-\$80. Each lecture will be from 7:00 - 8:30 pm; location is Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 12535 Perthshire Rd, Houston TX 77024. For additional information and to register, visit <http://www.tfahr.org/RomeRep.html>.

Please submit articles for publication to *Profile* Editor Linda Swift at swiftlinda@sbcglobal.net.
Submit articles no later than October 6 for the October 2011 issue.

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

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