



August 21st 2014 Meeting Program

USS Westfield: Civil War Gunboat Sunk during Battle of Galveston in 1863

Justin Parkoff and Jessica Stika, archeological conservators at the Texas A & M University Conservation Research Lab will present the program at the Thursday, August 21, 2014, meeting of Houston Archeological Society. Parkoff and Stika are responsible for the conservation of the Civil War gunboat USS Westfield and will review artifacts that have been recovered from the wreck including the huge 12 foot long, 10,000 pound Dahlgren cannon which recently went on display at the Texas City Museum. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public.

"Forward she was blown into fragments down to the water.... The commodore's boat and all in it were annihilated in the terrible catastrophe – scattered through the air in fragments. The smoke-stacks and the after part of the ship lay in a black mass in the water for ten minutes, when there was another flash, and she was speedily wrapped in flames."

This quote, by a Confederate witness, captures the final moments of the Federal gunboat USS Westfield during the Battle of Galveston in the early hours of January 1, 1863. The gunboat's short life as the flagship of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron ended abruptly when her captain scuttled the ship to prevent her imminent capture by Confederate steamers.

The USS Westfield wreckage lay in the murky waters of the Texas City ship channel until 2009, when the disarticulated artifact debris field was recovered by Atkins Global (formerly PBS&J) during a dredging operation organized and orchestrated by the U.S. Corp of Engineers, making this Texas' largest marine archaeology rescue project to date. The artifacts were brought to Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Laboratory for conservation and analysis. Westfield's fragmented remains offer abundant information about the steam machinery and armor, as the hull itself was not preserved.



Justin Parkoff and Jessica Stika will review these artifacts and demonstrate how even the most scant archaeological evidence can be an asset if properly documented and studied. The importance of conservation for archaeological collections will also be discussed. In addition, they will share the future plans for reconstructing the artifacts into an interpretative museum display at the Texas City Museum that exhibits Westfield's steam machinery and the vessel's unique design.

Justin Parkoff is the Westfield Project Manager and Conservator. Working in coordination with the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Texas Historical Commission, he is currently interpreting and reconstructing large portions of Westfield's steam machinery. Parkoff earned a BA in History and an MA in Nautical Archaeology, both from

Texas A&M University. With Westfield serving as his research focus, Justin is continuing his studies at Texas A&M University pursuing his PhD.

Jessica Stika is the Lead Conservator and Assistant Project Manager for the USS Westfield project at the Conservation Research Laboratory. Continuing her work following the completion of her master's degree, she is responsible for the conservation, documentation, and management of the artifacts excavated from the USS Westfield site. Stika earned a BS in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas and an MA in Nautical Archaeology from Texas A&M University.

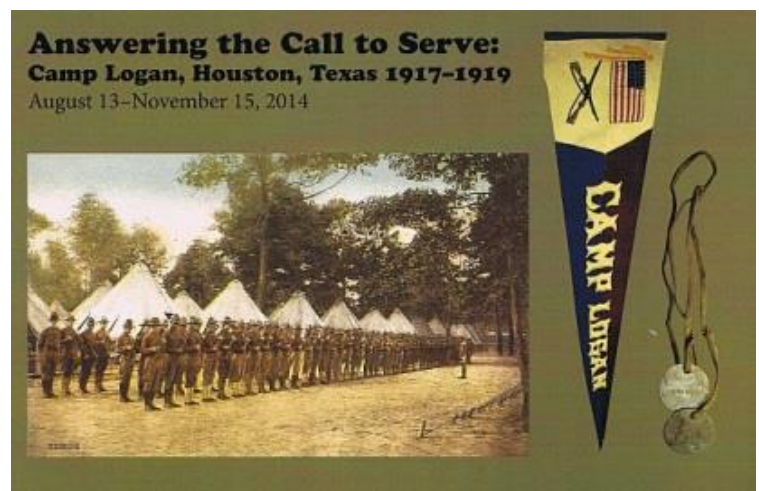
For a campus map, go to www.stthom.edu and look for the Interactive Map, Building 20, Anderson Hall. Street parking is available as well as paid parking (\$2) Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program, contact lindagorski@cs.com

Camp Logan Exhibit

One of the most interesting chapters in Houston's history was written in what is now Memorial Park along the banks of Buffalo Bayou. For it was here that the U.S. Army's sprawling Camp Logan was built in 1917 to house 44,000 soldiers as they trained for combat in WWI. The thing that surprises us is how little you will hear or read about Camp Logan in any of the books on Houston's history. Even the Handbook of Texas dedicates just one paragraph to it!

The Heritage Society Museum Gallery in Sam Houston Park is about to change all that with an exhibit set to open on August 13 entitled "Answering the Call to Serve: Camp Logan, Houston, Texas 1917 – 1919." Co-curated by HAS president Linda Gorski and HAS vice-president Louis Aulbach, the exhibit will contain artifacts, letters, post cards, photographs and other items from the museum's archives as well as from personal collections of several Houstonians including Robbie Morin who has one of the largest collections of Camp Logan ephemera in the country. The exhibit is scheduled to run through November 15, 2014.

On August 21 Gorski and Aulbach will present a program, part of the Heritage Society's Finger Lecture Series, from 12 – 1 p.m. in the Heritage Society Tea Room which adjoins the museum gallery. The lecture is entitled Camp Logan-Houston's World War I Emergency Training Center. This presentation will be a tribute to the soldiers who trained at Camp Logan-including nine Medal of Honor winners and seventy-one African American soldiers who won the French *Croix de Guerre*! They will also sign copies of their new book *Camp Logan Houston Texas 1917 – 1919*. The lecture is free for members and \$5 for non-members.



The Heritage Society is located at 1100 Bagby Street. For more information check out the Heritage Society's website at www.heritagesociety.org or call them at 713-655-1912.



President's Message

HAS Members and Friends,

This month the Houston Archeological Society will begin examining, documenting and cataloguing one of the most important collections ever to come into our possession – the Marshall Black collection. As many of you know, I was contacted earlier this year by an attorney for Marshall's son, Steve, who had recently passed away and left instructions for his father's collections to be given to the HAS upon his death. This collection includes several boards of mounted lithics – arrow and dart points dating from paleo to prehistoric, stone and shell tools -- and other artifacts – most from Harris County!

Marshall Black was a member of the Houston Archeological Society beginning in the 1980s. But his interest in archeology dates back to the 1930s and 1940s when, as a teenager, he and his friend Stanley began collecting artifacts along Buffalo Bayou and other streams near Houston, cataloguing them and sending them to the Smithsonian Institution. While I was doing research on Marshall Black this week, I came across this article that he wrote for the HAS Journal in 1985. It is such a terrific article about avocational archeology that I wanted to share it with you. Please read it here. <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/journals/1985/HAS%20Journal%20No%2081.pdf>

Marshall Black was a prolific writer who frequently submitted articles to the HAS Journal and contributed to several HAS Reports. These articles are invaluable to today's archeologists. He also kept incredibly accurate maps, drawings, and observations about each of his excavations. In late July, Beth Aucoin, Louis Aulbach and I inventoried the Marshall Black collection and all of us were amazed at the quality of the artifacts and even more so by the amazing detail in the journals, maps and notebooks that were donated along with the artifacts.

Over the next several months we will have the privilege of thoroughly documenting this collection at our Monday night lab sessions at Rice University (see the announcement of Lab nights on Page 7 of this Profile). If you have never been to a lab night at Rice University, I hope that the opportunity to work on this collection will entice you to come. HAS members are so fortunate to be able to participate in a lab at this very prestigious institution. This will also give you an opportunity to see the other collections that HAS has worked on over the years.



The lab is in the basement of Sewall Hall and the nearest parking is in the Founders Court Visitors Lot. Unfortunately, it costs about \$3.50 an hour to park in this lot. I propose that we set up some carpools on lab nights so that more people will be able to take part in this important project. I am happy to drive if people come to my house and we carpool from here or from another central location (I live 3 miles from the university). I'm sure other members will offer to drive as well.

I am looking forward to this project and hope you will join us, too! Please email me back at lindagorski@cs.com if you have any questions.

Linda Goski – HAS President

Minutes of the Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting July 17th, 2014

President Linda Gorski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed all members and guests. There were a total of 40 attendees, including 10 guests signed in.

Linda made the following announcements:

- Treasurers Report by Robert Killian - Checking account balance \$7,368.48, Savings Account \$11,964.15
- HAS Membership – 141
- Nominating Committee - Linda created a 3 person Nominating Committee chaired by Bob Sewell, including Tracy Connell and Lenore Psencik. A slate of officers for the 2014-2015 HAS Board of Directors will be announced at the August HAS meeting.
- HAS Powell Report – Linda Swift and Beth Aucoin have been working hard on the third portion of the Powell Report. It should be completed by late August 2014.
- San Jacinto Screening Project - Jan Devault of the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy says dirt screening can start immediately. Dirt was removed from the Monument Inn parking lot utilities work. The original 1840s town site of San Jacinto was in that area; expecting cultural material. Members will be notified when the project kicks off.
- HAS Journal - Dub Crook has volunteered to edit the first issue of The Journal which will hopefully be published this fall. He is currently seeking submissions.
- HAS Profile - Bob Sewell is the editor for the HAS Profile monthly newsletter. Please submit any announcements or articles of interest to Bob.
- 2015 TAS Annual Meeting – HAS is hosting the 2015 Texas Archeological Society Annual Meeting here in Houston October 22 – 25, 2015. A committee has chosen the Omni Hotel in West Houston for the venue. Watch for more information.
- Archeology Day, October 18th – Houston Museum of Natural Science is partnering with HAS, stay tuned.
- Archeology Month – Dr. Jason Barrett will present the Dimond Knoll Project on IMAX during Archeology Month.

Upcoming lecture February 15, 2015, at the UST by Larry Baker, Executive Director of the Salmon Ruins Museum and the San Juan County Museum Association. Titled, "An Ancient Astronomical Observatory at Salmon Pueblo, N.M.". Free/open to the public.

The evening's program included an overview of the 2014 TAS Field School held at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas. Dr. Jason Barrett presented the portion of the program that highlighted excavations at The Pyramid Site, the Cottonfield Site and the Bluff Site. Sharon Menegaz presented a PowerPoint presentation on the youth programs held at the Tait Town house. Linda Gorski presented a program on excavations and surveys at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, also held during field school.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Attendees enjoyed snacks provided by Linda Gorski and a birthday cake provided by Sharon Menegaz. The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014.

Lenore Psencik, Secretary Houston Archeological Society

Cypress Historical Society “Old-Fashioned” Picnic

On Saturday 12th July, 2014, Sharon Menegaz, Bob Sewell, Kathleen Hughes, Charlie Gordy, and Jim and Ryan Horner manned a display of information about the Dimond Knoll Project. The Dimond Knoll Site is just a short distance away from Cypress Top Park and local residents were very interested in our participation in the project and the information we distributed at our booth.



Archeology 101 - Summer Institute Teacher Workshop – Kleb Woods Nature Preserve, Tomball, Texas

Sharon Menegaz organized this event which brought 30 teachers from around the State of Texas to this historic spot. THC Stewards, Linda Gorski, Don Keyes and Tom Nuckols demonstrated archeological procedures and equipment to the group. Each teacher earned CPE credit hours for attending this event. We were assisted by Cypress Historical Society member Jay Gavitt who spends many hours volunteering at Kleb Woods.



Screening Project at San Jacinto

Remember that screening project near San Jacinto that we were going to kick off in July? Bob Sewell, Tom Nuckols and Linda Gorski made a trip down to the screening site and discovered that it may be awhile before we can tackle this project. The track to the site is pretty much underwater, the piles of dirt are overgrown with grass, shrubs and even trees and the dirt is too wet to go through our screens



And did I mention the heat and the mosquitos??? We are working with the landowner to get the overgrowth cleared and the track passable before we bring our teams down there. Watch this space for more information!

USS Westfield Dahlgren Cannon Exhibit

Further to the topic of our August meeting you may be interested in the Dahlgren cannon exhibit at the Texas City Museum. The first phase of the specially designed exhibit is now on display. In January 1863, the *USS Westfield* was blown up by her captain so that the steamship-turned-warship would not be captured by Confederate forces. Unfortunately, the ship exploded prematurely, killing the captain and 13 crew members. The Dahlgren gun was recovered in 2009.



Currently on display in the museum's atrium is the conserved 12 foot cannon setting atop a replica mount. The cannon's 9 inch bore could spew forth a large ball filled with gun powder. It was also capable of firing canister shot. The display includes one cast replica canister shot container filled with various sizes of shot, a cluster of balls from another canister, a cannon ball plus a sectioned ball (so one can see where the powder was stored) and other artifacts recovered from the channel off Texas City. The installation of a reconstructed boiler and other displays, in addition to other artifacts, will be in place prior to the official grand opening of the exhibit scheduled for December, 2014. Conservation of the artifacts took place at the Texas A&M Conservation Research Lab and was directed by conservator and project manager, Justin Parkoff.

On a lighter note, the first floor exhibits detail the history of Texas City, while the second floor contains an outstanding exhibit of model trains filling the 6,000 square foot space. The train exhibit is open on Saturdays only.

The museum is located at 409 6th Street North and is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: Adults - \$5; Seniors - \$3; Children: 6 and under - Free. I hope you enjoy your visit; I did.

Beth Aucoin

Lab Dates for August 2014

On Monday, August 11th and August 25th, we will begin documenting a wonderful collection of artifacts belonging to the late Marshall Black, a long-time HAS member. The artifacts have been donated to HAS and are comprised of primarily projectile points (containing a possible Folsom point that we can compare to the Folsom point from the Gibbs collection), but also includes a decorated reconstructed pottery bowl, a large whelk shell whose edges are smoothed, a large shell bead drilled on both ends, one pottery sherd, and a very large point from a midden burial. Most, if not all, were collected during the 1940s and have never been documented. I can almost hear the sighs of relief that the collection is NOT comprised of mainly pottery sherds!!

Lab hours are 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Room 103, Sewall Hall, Rice University.

The parking lot across from Sewall Hall is the Founders Court/Visitors Lot. For a map, visit www.rice.edu/maps. Please be advised that access to the parking lot requires either a credit or a debit card and costs about \$3.50/hr. Any member wishing to be included on the lab e-mail list should contact Beth Aucoin, at ekpj.aucoin@prodigy.net.

Beth Aucoin

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2014
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

August 21, 2014

Justin Parkhoff and Jessica Stika, conservators at the Texas A & M Conservation Research Lab will discuss the Civil War gunboat USS Westfield that sunk during the Battle of Galveston in the early hours of January 1, 1863. The USS Westfield wreckage lay in the murky waters of the Texas City ship channel until 2009, when the artifact debris field was recovered by Atkins Global (formerly PBS&J) during a dredging operation organized and orchestrated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, making this Texas' largest marine archaeology rescue project to date. The artifacts were brought to Texas A&M University's Conservation Research Laboratory for conservation and analysis. Westfield's fragmented remains are offering abundant information about the steam machinery and armor, as the hull itself was not preserved.

September 18, 2014

Wilson W. "Dub Crook" will present a program on some new paleo and prehistoric finds on the East Fork of the Trinity River including three pottery vessels plus a cache of five bifaces, a Zoomorphic chipped stone artifact (turtle), and an engraved slate gorget. The artifacts all have significance with regards to trade patterns in east Texas.

October 16

Dr. Jeffrey Fleischer Assistant Professor of Anthropology at Rice University will present a program on Stone Towns of the Swahili Coast which was the subject of a major article in the January/February 2014 issue of Archeology Magazine.

November 20, 2014

Dr. Gregg Dimmick will present a program on archeology at the San Jacinto Battleground including an update on artifacts discovered at the Alamonte surrender site.

December 18, 2014

Linda Gorski, HAS President will present the highlights of the society's archeological activities in 2014.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS see our website at www.txhas.org or email lindagorski@cs.com. You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than August 31st for the September 2014 issue.

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

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