



July 16th 2015 Meeting Program

“At the Crossroads of Texas History: The 2015 Field School” – Dr. Jason Barrett

The 2015 Texas Archeological Society Field School, held at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas June 13 – 20, although shortened by Tropical Storm Bill, will be the topic of the July 16th meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. 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.



Dr. Jason Barrett with the mussel-shell belt buckle made for him by Tait-Huffmeyer landowner Rita Tait Jackson

Led by Dr. Jason W. Barrett, HAS member and Field School Principal Investigator, the program will feature highlights from excavations at the Cotton Field and Bluff sites at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch and the youth dig at the 1856 Tait House in Columbus. HAS members will also be on hand to discuss continuing excavations at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site which were conducted during field school by a number of Texas Historical Commission stewards and HAS members.

Over forty members of the Houston Archeological Society attended Field School, participating in excavations or lab activities along with approximately three hundred other professional and avocational archeologists, and students from around the State of Texas.

The grounds of the 1856 Tait Family House in Columbus were excavated by the TAS Youth Group under the expert direction of Doug Boyd and his team. Investigations yielded many household artifacts dating to the 19th century. Foundation features belonging to at least two long-vanished outbuildings revealed at the 2014 field school were examined more thoroughly during the 2015 field school.

The Cotton Field site at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch, located beneath a meter of floodplain sediments was hugely expanded and produced several thermal cooking features, bison and deer bones, and numerous large mussel shell clusters. The site was well stratified, preserving a clear transition between an upper Toyah phase yielding Perdiz, Bonham, and Alba points, and a lower Austin phase exhibiting a Scallorn assemblage.

At the Ranch’s Bluff site, volunteers continued to expose the architectural remains of a nineteenth century cabin homesteader’s cabin and the buried foundation features of a second, previously undocumented building.

Excavations led by THC Regional Archeologist Jeff Durst at San Felipe de Austin, the first colonial capitol of Texas, revealed more foundation features of one of the original town site buildings, the 1830 Farmer’s Hotel. Artifacts recovered during excavations in 2015 included period ceramic sherds, pieces of glass, buckshot, and buttons.

Unfortunately, this year’s field school was dramatically impacted by heavy rains from Tropical Storm Bill and field school had to be called three days early. However, the good news for HAS members is that excavations will continue at the Cotton Field Site throughout the coming months, beginning July 25 and 26, giving us an opportunity to reveal more archeological knowledge of Colorado County. More details to follow.

For a campus map of St. Thomas University, 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) in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact lindagorski@cs.com.



President's Message

HAS Members and Friends –

Someone should write a tune entitled “Digging in the Rain” to memorialize the 2015 TAS Field School!!!

A whole bunch of HAS members just returned from Field School – and it was definitely one for the books!!! If you DID NOT come home with wet and moldy clothes and gear, mud up to your knees or chigger bites, you were NOT at field school. If you DID come home with all of the above plus lots of stories to tell, a whole bunch of new friends, and an appreciation for the incredible archeological sites you excavated, you WERE there.

As you know, Tropical Storm Bill dumped torrential amounts of rain in Columbus and in San Felipe in June, saturating our excavation sites and shortening field school by at least three days. We will get a complete rundown on Thursday, July 16th, at 7 p.m. at the University of St. Thomas when Dr. Jason W. Barrett, HAS Member and Field School PI, presents a program entitled “At the Crossroads of Texas History – the 2015 Field School”.



Dr. Barrett will also report on why the shortened field school will actually benefit HAS members! In order to continue excavations at the incredibly important Cotton Field Site, the landowner has agreed to allow us back onto her property in the coming months. According to Dr. Barrett, there are multiple Austin phase occupations and Toyah interval surfaces at what may be the best preserved site in the state for studying the cultural changes occurring with the adoption of bow and arrow technology, and later the



introduction of ceramics. Eminent geoarcheologist Dr. Charles Frederick describes the preservation at the Cotton Field site with these words: “as Pompeii-like as anything he had seen in Texas”. So watch for announcements about our return to Columbus very shortly.

In addition to the photos above, we've put together a photo album elsewhere in this newsletter highlighting the 2015 TAS Field School and a more extensive album in our [2015 Field School section](#) of our website www.txhas.org. If you have any photos you'd like to share in this photo album please send them along!

Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society

Minutes

Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting

May 21st, 2015

Welcome everyone (Linda Gorski)

Welcome New Members and guests. 47 members and guests were signed in.

Treasurers Report (Tom Nuckols)

Checking Account: \$7583.51
Savings Account: \$11950.63

Membership (Bob Sewell)

Number of members renewed/joined for 2015 is 170.

Membership forms at back. All new and renewing members get a bumper sticker and a copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal.

New Business

No meeting or newsletters in June 2015 due to TAS Field School.

Projects

Preliminary Fieldwork for 2015 Field School – Three dates have been scheduled for May 31st (Sunday), June 6th and June 7th (Saturday and Sunday). Watch for more information. Due to liability issues, this preliminary work is for HAS, FBAS, BAS and TAS members only.

2015 TAS Field School – June 13 – 20, 2015. Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch Columbus Texas – Cottonfield and Bluff sites. Kids field school at Tait House in Columbus. Survey team will be working to find the Atascosito Crossing. Go to the TAS website for registration forms.

Cypress Top Historic Park ‘Old Fashioned Picnic’- Saturday, July 11th, 2015. HAS will have a table and will discuss archeology with participants. Good relaxing fun! Come join us.

Science Teachers from across the State of Texas – Monday, July 13, 2015. Sharon Menegaz is organizing this project. We will need 4 or 5 volunteers to help teach a day-long class in archeology.

Kellum Noble House screening project – On Wednesday, August 26th, 2015, we have been asked to give a lecture at the Heritage Society on August 26 about the project. More info to follow.

Paleontology Dig – Ken Theis has again had to postpone work due to weather and high water in Cypress Creek.

San Jacinto Screening project – As soon as the rain stops and the site dries out we will begin screening again.

Elysian Viaduct/Frosttown Project – Still in permit phase. Work has started on the north side of Buffalo Bayou. The project we will be helping with is on the south side of the Bayou. A field meeting is scheduled for 5/28.

TAS Annual Meeting – October 23 – 25 Houston – HAS will be regional sponsor and we will need lots of help. Anyone who would like to submit items for the Silent Auction should contact Sue Gross suegbobs@comcast.com.

International Archeology Day - October 17th, 2015 at the HMNS. HAS will have a display table.

Program for July-

Dr. Jason Barrett and others will give a program on work at TAS Field School.

Program for May, 2015

Dub Crook presented the 3rd part in his trilogy on archeology on the East Fork of the Trinity River. The program was entitled “Mano a Mano” and discussed ground stone tools including manos and metates.

After the meeting members and guests gathered for a social with refreshments brought by many of our members.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 16th, 2015.

Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society

Dr. August (Gus) Costa new HAS Lab Director

Dr. Gus Costa, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology and Earth Science at Rice University, has taken over the position of Lab Director for the Houston Archeological Society. “I am delighted to take on this new role to encourage a closer relationship between Rice University, Rice students and members of the HAS. We hope to expand HAS lab nights to include workshops using the expertise of various HAS members in specific areas of study“, said Dr. Costa.

The Houston Archeological Society meets for lab at least twice a month at the Rice University laboratory in Sewall Hall. HAS stores several important collections at the Rice lab including an extensive faunal collection which is available to Rice University students for research and study.



Beth Aucoin, Dick Gregg, Linda Gorski, Gus Costa and Tom Nuckols

Costa’s first goal as lab director was to pull together a team to clean, rearrange and inventory all the collections that are currently stored in the Rice Lab. HAS members Beth Aucoin, assistant lab director, Linda Gorski, HAS President, Tom Nuckols, HAS treasurer and longtime HAS member Dick Gregg joined Costa and Rice Professor Dr. Jeff Fleischer for the initial work day.

The next HAS labs at Rice University are scheduled for Monday, July 13th and Monday, July 27th at 7:00 p.m. On July 13th HAS member Tom Nuckols will present a workshop on munitions. He will bring a collection of historic cartridges and other munitions that he has been studying and researching and will demonstrate how to measure, weigh and identify each item through back stamps and other markings. (See article by Tom Nuckols elsewhere in this Profile).

The Rice lab is located in Room 103 (lower level) Sewall Hall, Rice University. The nearest parking lot is the Founders Court/Visitor Parking directly across from Sewall Hall. This lot requires a credit or debit card for access and the cost is \$3.50 per hour. There are other parking lots on the Rice University campus including one near the stadium that is less costly and offers a shuttle bus service to Sewall Hall. See www.rice.edu/maps for a map of camps and parking areas.

HAS maintains a list of members who are interested in receiving special notices about labs at Rice University. For more information about labs or to put your name on the notification list, please contact Gus Costa at augustcosta@rice.edu

Notes on Munitions By Tom Nuckols

I have just completed the analysis of eleven artifacts, surface collected by an individual along Elm Creek north of Eagle Pass between Fort Clark & Fort Duncan in Maverick County. To adequately document the collection, I have assigned numbers to the artifacts. All of the cartridges cases in this collection are firing pin imprinted, indicating that they were fired.



Here are the results of my analysis (Left to right, top to bottom).

1. Brass button. Waterbury Button Company. Decoration: Great Seal of the United States sans "glory" with 13 mullets (stars) and 'E Pluribus Unum'.

(cont.)

2. Rimless bottleneck brass center-fire cartridge case. Caliber: difficult to determine due to deformation, but probably 7.62×39mm. Head stamp: 05 87. Manufactured by the Spreewerke, Lübben Munitions Company (05) in East Germany in 1987.

3. Rimless bottleneck brass center-fire cartridge case. Caliber: .30 Remington. Head stamp: PETERS 30 REM. Manufactured by the Peters Cartridge Company.

4. .44 Henry rim fire copper cartridge case. Head stamp: raised H in an impressed circle. The presence of two vertical, triangular shaped firing pin imprints 180° apart on this case indicate that it was fired in a Henry rifle or a Winchester Model 1866 rifle or carbine. Manufactured by the New Haven Arms Company or the Winchester Repeating Arms Company.

5 and 6. Rimmed straight brass center-fire cartridge case. Caliber: .44-40 (40 grains of black powder). Head stamp: W.R.A. Co. 44 W.C.F. (Winchester Center Fire). Manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Firearms Company.

7. Rimmed straight copper center-fire (Benet primed) cartridge case. Caliber: .45-70. Manufactured by Frankfort Arsenal. The .45-70 black powder (70 grains) rifle cartridge, also known as .45-70 Government, was developed at the U.S. Army's Springfield Armory for use in the Springfield Model 1873, which is known as the "Trapdoor Springfield". The new cartridge was a replacement for the .50-70 Government cartridge which had been adopted in 1866, one year after the end of the American Civil War. The .30-40 Krag (also called the .30 U.S., or .30 Army) replaced the .45-70, circa 1900.

8. Rimmed straight brass center-fire cartridge case. Caliber: .45-70. Head stamp: R F 11 86 (Rifle, manufactured by Frankfort Arsenal in November, 1886).

9. Rimmed straight brass center-fire cartridge case. Caliber: .45-70. Head stamp: R W 2 79 (Rifle, manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company in February, 1879) Winchester began head stamping military contract .45-70 ammunition in October of 1878).

10. Rimmed straight copper center-fire (Benet primed) cartridge case. Caliber: .50-70. The .50-70 was the United States' first center-fire military rifle cartridge. It was used in the Trapdoor Springfield Model 1866. The cartridge was developed after the unsatisfactory results of the .58 caliber rim fire cartridge. The .50-70 cartridge was also known as the .50-70-450 (caliber-grains of black powder-bullet weight in grains).

11. Round nose lead bullet. Unfired. Caliber: .45. This bullet originated in a 45-70 cartridge. When this bullet was contained in a cartridge case, the assembly (case, powder, primer and bullet) was known as the 45-70-405 (caliber-grains of black powder-bullet weight in grains) or .45 Government cartridge. This bullet is slightly deformed at the base and may have lost some of its original mass of 405 grains. Actual weight is 396.2 grains.

Thanks to HAS member Charles E. Aulbach, the case of the "Mystery Shot Shell" (*The Profile*, May 2015, Vol 4 Number 5) might be solved. What I thought was the cup base from a 12 gauge, paper hulled shot shell is possibly part of the wick adjustment knob of a hand held or hurricane lamp manufactured by Holmes, Booth & Haydens Manufacturing Company. See http://www.thelampworks.com/lw_companies_hb&h.htm

BENNINGTON MARBLES

KELLUM-NOBLE HOUSE (THE HERITAGE SOCIETY) and SAN JACINTO TOWNSITE

Bennington marbles recovered from both locations date from approximately 1870 to 1910. Bennington marbles are made from fired clay with a salt glaze. The most common colors are blue and brown, with some having a mixture of both colors (Fancy Benningtons). Even rarer colors are pink and green. Sizes range from less than ½ inch and as large as 2 inches.



One of the most common characteristics of a Bennington are the splotches, spots or “eyes” that were formed during the firing process while the marbles were touching each other. These spots can also be unglazed and with no color.

Bennington marbles have nothing in common with the Bennington potteries of Vermont, other than the resemblance of the Rockingham glaze. The Bennington name is an American slang term given them. All Benningtons were

shipped from Germany, typically in boxes marked “Agate – Imitations” with brown being the most prevalent color in each box.

The downfall of Benningtons and all European handmade marbles came in the early 1900’s when a marble making machine was invented and patented by M.F. CHRISTENSEN & SON.

Larry Golden

PARTIALLY MARKED STONEWARE SHARD

SAN JACINTO TOWN SITE

A small stoneware shard with a partial stamp was collected from the winter tidal flats of the San Jacinto town site. The shard is gray salt glaze on the exterior and Albany slip on the interior. The partial stamp reads:

AT.J.SMYTH / LLY SPR



In the 1850's, James and Mary Smyth of County Fermanagh, Ireland along with their family emigrated to the U.S. passing through Illinois and Missouri, before settling in Holly Springs, Miss. Their two sons Samuel and Patrick had both been potters in Ireland, and they continued their craft, making utilitarian wares along the Wilcox Clay formation in 1870. It appears that they used a circular kiln. Most of the known pottery examples are a brown body glaze with a darker Albany glaze on the interior. There are three different known stamps used on their wares:

- 1.) "S SMYTH & BRO. HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS."
- 2.) "PAT .J.SMYTH, MANFR. / HOLLY SPRINGS MISS."
- 3.) The third example was a much cruder stamp "P. J. Smyth & Co. / Holly Springs, Miss."

In 1880, the Smyth pottery employed 10 people, including both of Patrick's sons (ages 16 and 13) who were also listed in the census as potters. By 1900, the Smyth's were no longer listed as potters. All had become farmers.

Larry Golden



Quilt Displays, Spinning, Knitting, & Stitching



Antique Trades and Tools



Free Hot Dog Lunch

**The Cypress Historical Society
Invites You to Our
Seventh Annual
Old-Fashioned Picnic**

When: Saturday, July 11, 2015
Hours: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Where: Cypress Top Historic Park
Cost: Free to Members & Invited Guests



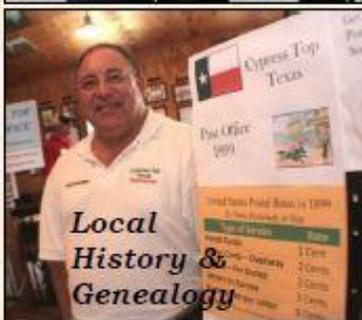
Activities for Kids



Home-made Pies & Cakes



Classic Cars & Hot Rods



Local History & Genealogy

For Information: Jim or Terri Sigmund
 281-373-9052 or JSigm@aol.com



Watermelon Contest



Sharecroppers Early Engines and Tractors



...and More!



Blue Grass, Accordion, and Ragtime Music

Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2015
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

July 16 – Dr. Jason W. Barrett - Report on the 2015 TAS Field School at the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas. Dr. Barrett, will lead a program highlighting excavations and artifacts recovered at the Cottonfield and Bluff Sites at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch and at the Tait House in Columbus. He will also report on the results of surveys to locate the Atascosito Crossing during field school.

August 20 – Dr. Tom Williams, researcher at the Prehistory Research Project (formerly the Gault Project) at Texas State University will present a program entitled "Testing the Atlantic Ice Hypothesis: Comparing Solutrean and Clovis Blade Technology". This presentation focuses on the assumption of scholars that the blade manufacturing technologies of Clovis and Solutrean were “virtually identical”. Specifically focusing on Clovis in Texas, this presentation will explore the manufacture of Clovis blades across Texas and how this has contributed to the debate concerning the first Americans.

September 17 - ArchAerial Team – How Drones are used in Archeological Applications. Drones, or unmanned aerial systems (UAS), are used in archaeology for small-scale and large-scale survey, documentation, and volumetric measuring of trenches and structures. UAS can be used to quickly and easily gather various types of data that can assist in finding new sites and measuring excavation progress throughout the dig season.

October 15 – Dr. Jon C. Lohse, A Precise Chronology of Middle to Late Holocene Bison Exploitation in the Far Southern Great Plains Recent studies of the presence of bison in parts of Texas during prehistoric times has produced a fairly precise, reliable chronology for this animal. This study has involved directly dating bison remains, rather than dating them through their association with other materials, using techniques that help ensure the reliability of dates based on bone collagen. So far, about 65 samples have been dated. As a top-ranked food resource, bison would have been very important for hunter-gatherers across the area. Lohse’s recent article on the subject can be found at <http://jtah.org/2014/12/04/a-precise-chronology-of-middle-to-late-holocene-bison-exploitation-in-the-far-southern-great-plains/>

November 19 – Dr. Charles A. Stewart – The Archaeological Ghosts of Gothic Famagusta. In this presentation, Dr. Stewart, will describe the growth of Famagusta, which remains one of the best preserved “Gothic cities” in the world. He will specifically share his archaeological investigations of the cathedral called “Saint-George of the Greeks” and how it was transformed from a humble Byzantine church to a grand French-style Gothic Cathedral.

December 17 – HAS president Linda Gorski will present an overview of HAS activities in 2015 with a focus on the enormously successful emergency salvage archeology project at the Kellum Noble House as well as ongoing work at San Jacinto, San Felipe de Austin and other sites in southeast Texas.

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about HAS visit 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/>

Flem Rogers to speak at Fort Bend Archeological Society

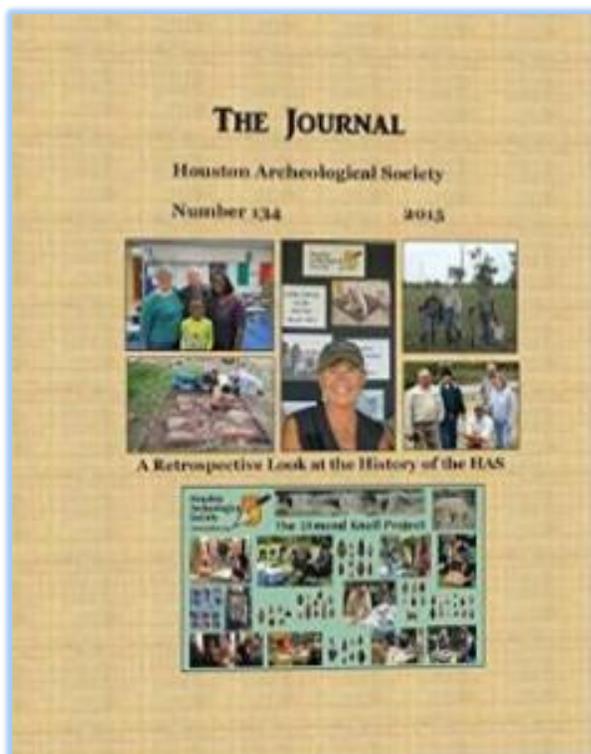
For history buffs want to learn more about Civil War era Texas and firearms, the Fort Bend Archeological Society has a real treat. The July program will feature antique firearms expert, Flem Rogers, who will give a presentation on Dance & Brothers gun makers.

Dance Brothers started to make handguns for the confederacy in 1862. Their first foundry was located in East Columbia, Texas. The foundry no longer stands, but Flem owns the property it stood on as well as the house that was built across the street.



Flem will not only present the story of Texas' first handgun manufacturer but also discuss the archeology that has been undertaken in recent years. The meeting is on Tuesday, July 21st, 2015 at 7pm @ the Assembly Hall of the Gus George Law Enforcement Academy, 1521 Eugene Heimann Circle, Richmond, TX.

Journal 134 Now Is Available



The Houston Archeological Society has made available the HAS 2015 Journal No. 134.

This edition of the HAS Journal contains a history of the HAS organization, together with memories of present and past members' activities. There are also articles by Dub Crook, Jack Farrell and Mark Hughston.

This publication is free to members of the Society. Members should make sure that they collect their copy at the next monthly meeting. If you wish to purchase additional copies then you can find it on amazon.com. You can find the appropriate links in the [Publications List](#) section of our website www.txhas.org

TAS Annual Meeting coming up in Houston October 23 – 25, 2015

The 86th Annual Texas Archeological Society meeting coming up in Houston October 23 – 25, 2015 at the Omni Hotel and Resort Westside is gearing up to be one of the best ever! This annual “gathering of the clan” will bring approximately 350 – 400 professional and avocational archeologists to Houston for workshops and presentations, a public forum, artifact identification, book signings by prominent authors, an International Cross-border workshop, silent auction and raffle and much, much more. You can read more about the Annual Meeting and find Registration Forms for the meeting on the Texas Archeological Society website at <http://www.txarch.org/Activities/AnnualMeeting/am2015/>.

Over the next few months HAS members will be asked to take an active part in this meeting including active participation in the two-day event and donating items to the silent auction and raffle. Several of our members have already donated items to the silent including archeological reports and books on a variety of subjects, a wonderful Texian Campaign Ware plate (by collector extraordinaire Larry Golden), handmade items including a stained glass TAS logo (by stained glass artist Mary Needham), terrific Texas themed wooden signs by Tom Nuckols, jewelry, wine baskets, and much more. Remember – one man’s trash is another man’s treasure! Sue Gross is running the silent auction and raffle and would love to hear from you at suegbobs@comcast.net.

The Omni has also set up a webpage to accept online reservations for hotel rooms at <http://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/houston-westside/meetings/texas-archeological-society-86th-annual-meeting>

If you have any questions about this important annual event or to volunteer your time and talent, please email me at lindagorski@cs.com.

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Note: Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than July 24th for the August 2015 issue.

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

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