Thursday, February 18th, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.
“Gifts for the Indians: French and Spanish Trade Goods on the Texas Coast in the 1680s”
Brad Jones

Brad Jones, archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeology Division, will present a program highlighting Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle’s 1684 expedition to establish a French settlement on the Mississippi River at the Thursday, February 18, 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Houston Archeological Society. The meeting will be held at MD Anderson Hall at the University of St. Thomas and is free of charge and open to the public.

The program will highlight the wreck of the LaBelle in Matagorda Bay in 1686, and excavations by the Texas Historical Commission to recover the ship in 1995. LaSalle’s expedition unexpectedly resulted in one of the first prolonged engagements between Native American and European peoples in the Texas Gulf region. Among the many items brought by the French were tremendous amounts of European material goods meant as gifts for the Native American communities, nearly a million of which remained in the hold of La Belle when it wrecked in Matagorda Bay in 1686. This presentation reviews La Belle’s excavated trade good assemblage and compares it with the archival records of trade goods provisioned to Spanish maritime expeditions to find La Salle and his colony.

A good overview of La Salle’s expedition and the recovery of the La Belle can be found at http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/belle/. The hull of the La Belle and associated trade goods are currently on display as the centerpiece of the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin.

Bradford M. Jones has been an archeologist for six years for the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeology Division. Currently the Curatorial Facility Certification Program Manager and AD’s Collection Manager, Mr. Jones has nearly 20 years of experience in the archaeology and history of Texas, Ecuador and Peru. In addition to serving as the La Belle Collection Manager, Mr. Jones is an editor and author of the La Belle technical volume and currently working on the analysis and publication of the THC’s excavation of the site of La Salle’s Fort St. Louis and the 1720s location of the Spanish Presidio La Bahia.

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 ($5) 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.
HAS Members and Friends!

A couple of weeks ago five members of the Houston Archeological Society attended a workshop sponsored by the Texas Archeological Society in Bastrop, Texas. The new TAS president, Karen Fustes, called the workshop and invited representatives from regional archeological societies and the TAS Board to discuss the state of the organization, how it is serving its membership, and how to grow TAS in the future. As we sat through the workshop I reflected on how the issues facing TAS are not that much different from those facing HAS – only on a larger scale.

The Texas Archeological Society, founded in 1928, promotes the study, preservation and awareness of Texas archeology. The Society encourages scientific archeological exploration and research, the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites, and the interpretation and publication of the data attendant thereto.

As most of you know, the TAS sponsors many annual events including two upcoming Archeology Academies (discussed elsewhere in this newsletter) and the annual Field School which has been held in many parts of the State since 1962. HAS member Johnney Pollan wrote the following about field school for the TAS website:

“The event is far more than just a gathering of archeological enthusiasts who are capable of digging square holes under the supervision of professional archeologists. The event is the renewing of friendships, the acquisition of archeological tidbits about the site(s) being studied and the people who lived there. The field school is a chance to visit different parts of Texas and study its various environmental settings and learn about the early people who exploited the resources in these areas.”

TAS has just announced that Field School 2016 will again be held on the Tait-Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas, under the direction of HAS member Dr. Jason Barrett. This is the third year that Field School will be held in Columbus – and probably the last time for a while that the event will be this close to home for HAS members. The dates for the 2016 field school will be June 11 – 18. The kids will dig at the Tait House in Columbus, as they have for the past two years. There will be prehistoric and historic components for the adults on the Tait Ranch at the Cotton Field and Bluff sites. Watch for more information about field school coming soon. You must be a TAS member to attend Field School! For information about TAS see www.txarch.org.

Over the next few months, HAS members will continue digging at the Cotton Field site to prepare for TAS Field School. See the article in this newsletter about our most recent field work at Cotton Field or go to http://www.txhas.org/cottonfield_bulletins.html for photo albums of our work there since July 2015. Please join us as we dig up Texas history – one trowel full at a time! Email me at lindagorski@cs.com to be sure your name is on the list to receive up to the minute information about our upcoming field work dates.

Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society
Minutes
Houston Archeological Society Membership Meeting
January 21st, 2016

Welcome Everyone – Linda Gorski
Linda Gorski welcomed new members and guests. A total of 41 members and quests were signed in.

Treasurer – Tom Nuckols
Checking Account: $10523.45  Savings Account: $14079.74

Membership - Bob Sewell
We have 120 members signed up for 2016. We reached a total of 200 for 2015. 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
• Budget for 2016 – Bob Sewell.
  o Bob Sewell presented the proposed budget for 2016. Journal and report publishing, General Liability Insurance, and an increase in lab activity mean that we will spend about $3000 more than we receive as income. However, HAS received $2100 from the TAS Annual Meeting that will be used to partially offset this. The motion to approve the 2016 budget was proposed by Linda Swift, and seconded by Mary Needham. The membership then unanimously approved the 2016 budget.
• Publications – Dub Crook
  o Journal #135 is now available. It contains 8 papers. Members may collect their copy this evening. Also, 2 special reports are planned - Timber Fawn site and Reminiscences of Moses Austin Bryan for later in the year. Journal #136 is planned for mid-year 2016.

Projects
• Cotton Field Site: Next work weekend at Cotton Field will be January 23 and 24, 2016 at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch, Columbus, Texas. An interesting brick feature has been discovered and will be further investigated. Artifacts from previous Tait Ranch field school will likely be analyzed in the Rice Lab.
• Frost Town: Dr. Jason Barrett reported that the site has been contaminated with lead and other toxic materials. Therefore, HAS will not be allowed to excavate the site.
• Lab at Rice University: We resumed our labs at Rice University on January 19 with a “Lab 101” project that included sorting artifacts from the Barnhill Site. Labs will now be on Tuesday nights due to students using lab on Mondays. Watch for information from Dr. Gus Costa.
• TAS Academies: There are two Academies scheduled – one in march for Geoarcheology that will be held in Kingsland and one April 30 and May 1 in Canyon for lithics. These are very popular and will sell out fast! Flyers in the lobby.
• TAS Field School 2016. TAS Field School 2016 will again be held at the Tait Ranch in Columbus June 11-18. No announcement yet of camping facilities.

Program for January 2016 – HAS Lifetime member Wilson “Dub” Crook discussed the discovery and analysis of “Kingwood’s First Inhabitants: The Timber Fawn Clovis site (41HR1165) in Kingwood, Harris County.”

Program for February 2016 – Brad Jones, archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission’s Archeological Division, will present a program highlighting La Salle’s 1684 expedition to establish a French settlement on the Mississippi River.

The next HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th, 2016.

Bob Sewell, Secretary Houston Archeological Society
Gifts for the Indians:  
French and Spanish Trade Goods on the Texas Coast in the 1680s

BRAD JONES, Archeologist, Texas Historical Commission
presents:
Gifts from the Indians: French and Spanish Trade Goods on the Texas Coast in the 1680s

Wednesday, February 17
7:00pm—8:00pm
Walker Education Center, Auditorium
Notes on Munitions – The Robin Hood Powder and Ammunition Company
By Tom Nuckols

The Robin Hood Powder Company (RHP) of Swanton, Vermont, was founded in 1898. The company manufactured gun powder and shot gun shells. In 1906 the company was reorganized into the Robin Hood Ammunition Company (RHA). Also in that year, production of copper cased rimfire and brass cased center-fire cartridges began.

In 1915 Robin Hood Ammunition Company was purchased by Remington Arms-Union Metallic Cartridge Company (Klinect 1984).

As far as I can determine, no artifact bearing RHA’s headstamp¹ has ever been found on an archaeological site in the Houston area. If a RHP/RHA shot gun shell is ever found on an archaeological site, it will probably consist of only the brass cup. The paper tube will have disintegrated. All of the paper tubed shot gun shells analyzed by this author from archaeological sites in the area have consisted of nothing but the cups. Amazingly, the cardboard base wad located inside the cup is usually extant. In 1960, Remington Firearms Company began selling shot gun shells with plastic tubes; other ammunition manufactures followed suit.

**RHA Rimfire Cartridges**

Rimfire cartridges manufactured by RHA and bearing the “R” headstamp were .22 BB², .22 CB³, .22 Short, .22 Long and .22 Long Rifle (Barber 1987: 69).

**RHA Center-fire Cartridges**

Research by this author has failed to determine how many different calibers of center-fire cartridges RHA offered for sale. However, a single page from a RHA catalog (date unknown) and depicted in Klinect (1984: 12)

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¹ Headstamp – The marking impressed upon the base of the cartridge by the maker. It can indicate who made the cartridge, the caliber, when it was made and – these are the basics – and, literally as much information as space allows and the maker fancies to put there (Hogg 1982: 35).

² BB – Bulleted breech cap (1845–present) A rimfire cartridge containing a lead ball that travels at a lower velocity of around 700 ft/s and at a reduced noise level over the standard .22 cartridge. It was developed for indoor shooting galleries with special gallery guns. In Europe this cartridge is known as the 6mm Flobert.

³ CB – Conical Ball Cap (1888-1942) A rimfire cartridge containing a very small propellant charge (usually no gunpowder, just the primer), resulting in a low muzzle velocity of between 350 to 853 ft/s. This cartridge was used for indoor target practice, shooting galleries or pest shooting.
advertises two calibers of center-fire revolver cartridges for sale: .32 caliber S & W (Smith & Wesson) and .38 caliber S & W.

Here is an example of a center-fire cartridge headstamp. The dot represents the location of the primer in relation to the lettering:

![Example Headstamp]

**RHP/RHA Shot Gun Shells**

RHP and RHA manufactured paper tubed; brass cupped shot gun shells in 10, 12, 16 and 20 gauge. The brand names of the shot gun shells were included in the headstamp.

Brands of RHP/RHA shot guns shells and the gauges (in parentheses) available in that brand name: AUTOCRAT⁴ (12), AUTOMATIC (12), CAPITAL (12, 16), CHAMPION (10, 12), CLIPPER (12, 16, 20), COMET (12, 16), CRESCEINT (12, 16), ECLIPSE (10, 12, 16, 20), INDIAN (10, 12, 16), ROBIN HOOD (10, 12, 16), TIGER (12, 16, 20).

An example of a RHA 12 gauge shot gun shell headstamp. The dot represents the location of the primer in relation to the lettering:

![Example Headstamp]

The headstamp on most RHP/RHA shot gun shells included two or three fletched arrows encircling the primer.

**References**

Barber, John L.  

Huegel, Roger E.  
Robin Hood Ammunition Co. - 22 box ID (accessed 1-2016).

Hogg, Ian V.  

Klinect, Windy  
1984 *Robin Hood & Their Merry Shot Shells*. Published by the Ohio Cartridge Collectors Club.

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⁴ Introduced and eventually withdrawn due to conflict with the Winchester Repeating Arm’s Company registered trade mark AUTOMATIC of 1901. AUTOCRAT Replaced AUTOMATIC.
PURPLE GLASS / MANGANESE AND GLASS / DESERT GLASS

While doing surface surveys, it is not unusual to find glass or bottle fragments in different light shades of purple. This glass, commonly referred to as “Desert Glass,” is the result of exposure to the sun.

From the 1880’s to approximately 1915, manganese dioxide (“glassmaker’s soap”) was added to glass as a decolorizing agent to help neutralize the natural effects of iron, which typically left the glass an aqua color. The manganese addition had the ability to decolorize the glass leaving it clear. The exposure of this glass to the sun’s ultra-violet rays over a period of years will turn it different shades of purple, according to the amount of manganese and sun exposure. In 1916, selenium replaced manganese since Germany, the main supplier of manganese, was at war in Europe and supplies were limited.

Finds of purple glass are more prevalent in rocky areas, such as the Hill Country, the Big Bend and areas with little erosion.

Now, if you are doing a surface survey at your local flea market, antique show, etc., and you find a table full of dark purple bottles that date from the 1880’s to 1920’s, surveyor beware. A process has been developed to thermally alter or irradiate glass of this age that results in a darker purple glass that sun exposure could never achieve.

- Larry Golden

As most of you know, we are continuing archeological excavations at the Cotton Field site at the Tait Huffmeyer Ranch in Columbus, Texas that we began during Texas Archeological Society Field School in 2014 and continued in 2015. The great news is that TAS Field School will return to the Tait Ranch in 2016 - June 11 – 18.

Saturday morning dawned cold and clear as the crew gets an early start on the day.
Best thing about the cold morning – no snakes!!!!

The Cotton Field site, located in Colorado County, offers ideal conditions for studying the Late Prehistoric period, spanning both the Austin phase (ca. 700AD - 1200AD) and the subsequent Toyah phase (1150 AD – 1500 AD) in Texas. Thanks to our landowners, Rita Tait Jackson and Ed Jackson, we are continuing our excavations under the direction of HAS member and Field School PI, Dr. Jason W. Barrett.

The site gets more and more interesting every single time we dig! We had a huge crew at our most recent excavations on January 23 and 24 and our efforts revealed more thermal features and some interesting diagnostic artifacts.

Dr. Jason has come up with a spring schedule for work at the site - February 20 and 21; March 19 and 20, April 2-3 and 23-24, and May 21 and 22. Mark your calendars now!! If you plan to join us, please email me back at lindagorski@cs.com so I can add you to our Cotton Field contact list and send you directions to the site as well as other important information including cancellation notices in case of severe weather.

Remember, you must be a member of the Houston Archeological Society or one of the other regional archeological societies or the Texas Archeological Society to participate. If you are not yet a member of the Houston Archeological Society, please see our website at www.txhas.org and click on “Membership”.

There are more photographs in the Current Projects– Cottonfield section on the HAS website. If you have any questions then email me at lindagorski@cs.com.
Geoarcheology Class in Kingsland

Geoarcheology is a two-day Texas Archeology Academy that explores how geological and soil formation processes affect archeological sites, and how investigators use this information to reconstruct both the human and natural histories of an area. The Academy will be held at the Nightengale Archaeological Center on March 19-20.

Learning to record and interpret soil profiles can illuminate both how a site was used by people and how people responded to changes in the natural environment. This Academy will include instruction, laboratory exercises, and field trips. Both presenters are experienced geoarcheologists. Dr. Charles Frederick taught for several years at the University of Sheffield, England, and is now a consulting geoarcheologist. Karl Kibler is an archeologist and geomorphologist affiliated with Prewitt and Associates.

Previous participants in Archeology Academies answered a survey as follows: "what I learned - how archeology works; loved the tours; and that I definitely want to learn more!" They also explained: "what I liked - it was easy, step by step; the wealth of information, quality of manual and presentation; and nice people."

Deadline for registration is March 4.

The registration fee ($100) plus TAS membership is for two days instruction with refreshments and lunch; it includes a digital manual. A certificate of participation will be awarded to attendees. Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit is available for teachers as approved by the Texas State Board of Education Certification (SBEC). No previous archeological experience is needed to enjoy these sessions.

To register, visit [www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2016/](http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2016/)
Lithics: Reading Stone Artifacts is a two-day Texas Archeology Academy designed to provide the background and hands-on experience to recognize stone artifacts and how to interpret basic information. The Academy will be held at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum on April 30 and at the Gilvin Education and Learning Center in Palo Duro Canyon State Park on May 1.

Participants will engage in exercises designed to record information about stone artifacts. These exercises will include sorting, classifying, measuring, and information recording as part of basic stone tool analysis. Advanced analysis will include understanding the process of making a stone tool from the cobble to finished product, functional uses of stone tools, formation of use-wear, recognizing breakage patterns, and tracing use-life of stone tools. The final part will focus on interpreting stone artifacts and patterns in the archeological record. Dr. Harry Shafer, professor emeritus of archeology at Texas A&M University, and Chris Ringstaff, experimental archeologist and lithic analyst with the Texas Department of Transportation, will lead the workshop.

Previous participants in Lithics Texas Archeology Academy answered a survey as follows: "what I learned - how artifacts tell a story; to I.D. stages of production; artifact traits; and difference between quarry, camp and manufacturing sites." General Texas Archeology Academy comments include: "what I liked - it was easy, step by step; the wealth of information, quality of manual and presentation; and nice people."

Deadline for registration is April 14.

The registration fee ($100) plus TAS membership is for two days instruction with refreshments and lunch; it includes a digital manual. A certificate of participation will be awarded to attendees. Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit is available for teachers as approved by the Texas State Board of Education Certification (SBEC). No previous archeological experience is needed to enjoy these sessions.

To register, visit [www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2016/](http://www.txarch.org/Activities/academy/aa2016/)
Michael Audie Marshall  
15th October, 1949 – 9th January, 2016

It is with great sadness that I report the death of Michael Audie Marshall on January 9, 2016, in Temple, Texas. Mike was a lifelong and very avid member of the Houston Archeological Society. If you read my President’s message in last month’s Profile, I reported on the wonderful visit I had with Mike just six weeks before his death. At that time, he knew he was very ill and wanted to pass along to HAS some of the photos, reports and memories that he had compiled over the years. He also gave us an amazing collection of incised pottery sherds from the Gulf Coast that will be so useful in our future research.

Mike was born October 15, 1949 in Kingsville, Texas. After graduating from Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown, Texas, he joined the U. S. Marine Corps. Upon completion of Basic Training and Advanced Training, he was deployed to Vietnam and assigned to the war zone around Chu Lai. After his honorable service in the Marines, Mike began a career in the art of welding. He was a welder for the City of Baytown for 23 years and the City of Bryan for 3 years. But as many of you know, archeology was Mike’s real passion. He was a lifelong member of the Houston Archeological Society and was also a member of the Texas Archeological Society and Texas Historical Commission. He was a skilled and artistic flintknapper, demonstrating the art at numerous events across the country.

The archeological community has lost a good friend and colleague. A celebration of Mike’s life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 13, 2016, at one of his favorite sites in Baytown. Meet at the Baytown Nature Center, 6213 Bayway Drive, Baytown, TX 77520 and tell the check in attendant that you are there for Mike Marshall or Amber Parks (Mike’s daughter). Follow the road until you see water. Park in the area of water where you will see other cars parked. Boots or shoes that you don’t mind getting muddy are recommended. After the memorial service the group will head to Stingarees (1295 N. Stingaree, Crystal Beach) for a “dutch dinner” and to share Mike stories. For more information please call or text Amber Parks at 940-395-7577.

Linda Gorski, President, Houston Archeological Society

Upcoming Lab Dates

We will convene in the Rice Archaeology Lab on Tuesday February 16th, 2016 between 7-9 PM to continue ongoing processing and analysis of the Barnhill (41WH17) collection and other materials. Additional labs may be scheduled in the near future on Tuesday evenings. I’ll send out an email notification when we have secured times. These short notice sessions do not require a large number of people, but all HAS members will be welcomed.

If you are interested in assisting please contact me at agc4@rice.edu. Catherine Jalbert, a Ph.D. candidate in archaeology from the Memorial University of Newfoundland will be joining us to facilitate lab operations.

Dr. Gus Costa, HAS Lab Director
March 17, 2016 - Eleanor Stoddart - Cultural Resource Subsurface Survey and Archeological Monitoring of the Proposed Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage, Houston, Harris County, Texas. In early 2015, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. conducted cultural resource subsurface survey field investigations and archeological construction monitoring of the proposed Nau Center for Texas Cultural Heritage. The focus of the investigations was on Blocks 119 and 161 in downtown Houston. Over 12 features (including cisterns, brick pavements and trash pits) and 2100 artifacts including glass, ceramics, architectural and personal items as well as faunal remains were recovered from Block 161. Eleanor Stoddart, a professional archeologist with Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. will discuss how these artifacts and features shed light on some of the moderately wealthy early inhabitants of Houston during a time when Houston was undergoing rapid economic and cultural development changes.

April 21, 2016 - TBA

May 19, 2016 - Louis Aulbach and Linda Gorski – “Rome in Ruins – Archeological Sites along the Aurelian Wall”. HAS President Linda Gorski and HAS Vice President Louis Aulbach will present a program highlighting portions of their newest book, Along the Aurelian Wall – Rome in Ruins – A Self-Guided Walk. Most travelers who visit Rome as tourists have a limited amount of time to see the sites. They do the “Caesar shuffle” – see the Colosseum and the Roman Forum -- and think they have seen it all. This talk will highlight the archeological sites of ancient Rome, from the city’s founding in 753 BC to the end of the Roman Empire in 476 AD, over 1200 years of cultural history. The program will feature photos of many of these ancient sites which are off the beaten tourist track.

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

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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 February 26th for the March 2016 issue.

The Profile
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