Thursday, April 20th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.
“Ghosts on the Mudflats: Artifacts Recovered from the Lost Townsite of San Jacinto”
Linda Gorski and Larry Golden

The Thursday, April 20th, 2017, meeting of the Houston Archeological Society will celebrate the Battle of San Jacinto and Texas Independence from Mexico. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. at MD Anderson Hall, University of St. Thomas and is free of charge and open to the public. HAS members Linda Gorski and Larry Golden will present this important and relevant program which will highlight significant artifacts recovered from the mudflats on Buffalo Bayou near the long-forgotten 1820’s – 1900 Townsite of San Jacinto.

Collected during very low tides caused by “blue northers” in the 1960s by the Larry Golden family of Pasadena, these artifacts give us a unique glimpse of life in Texas before, during and after the Texas revolution. The Townsite adjoined the San Jacinto Battleground and many of the artifacts date to the 1836 period of the Battle. The Townsite was also a gathering place for Texians fleeing during the Runaway Scrape in 1836 as well as the site of an important Civil War armory in the 1860s (converted from the Townsite’s original sawmill). Among the items in this massive and important collection are coins dating from 1829 to 1900, buttons from Mexican and Texian military uniforms, military buckles, munitions and a number of remarkable clay pipe bowls, including presidential effigy pipes. The ceramics, glassware, bottles, stoneware jugs and children’s marbles and toys show that families lived and thrived there too. The collection of trade beads recovered at the site indicates even earlier occupation – perhaps to French explorers in the 1700s. A special exhibit of these artifacts will be on display before and after the presentation.

Larry Golden has been a Senior Construction Manager for Dashiell Corporation, an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction Contractor of electrical substations across the United States for 30 years. Although his career path led to the construction industry, his true passion lies in the fields of antiques and archeology. He won a competition in his eighth grade Texas history class by assembling and researching a collection of items recovered from the mudflats near the early 1800s Townsite of San Jacinto. That collection is currently being documented and researched by Larry and members of the Houston Archeological Society and has prompted the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy to develop a plan to continue archeological recovery efforts in that area. Larry currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Houston Archeological Society

Linda Gorski is a researcher and writer who has lived and traveled extensively in the United States, Europe and Australia. Her byline has appeared in many publications worldwide and for several years, she was a correspondent for the Houston Chronicle. Gorski is a member of the Harris County Historical Society, the Texas Archeological Society, and currently serves as President of the Houston Archeological Society. She also serves as a Texas Historical Commission Archeological Steward for the State of Texas.

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 in Moran Center Garage at the corner of West Alabama and Graustark. For more information about this program or about the HAS, please contact Linda Gorski, at lindagorski@cs.com.
President’s Message

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!!!!

HAS Treasurer Bob Sewell and I were cleaning out some boxes of old HAS files recently when we came across the announcement shown below.

Would you believe that this month the Houston Archeological Society celebrates its 58th birthday!!! I’m proud to say that 58 years later we are still carrying out the original stated purpose of the organization … to foster enthusiastic interest and active participation in the discovery, documentation and preservation of cultural resources (prehistoric and historic) of the City of Houston, the Houston metropolitan area and the Upper Texas Gulf Coast region.

Since 1959, the Houston Archeological Society has organized directed and participated in multiple archeological projects associated with the salvage efforts of private landowners to minimize the loss of scientific data; mitigation of sites during infrastructure construction to minimize site disturbance; and the excavation of important prehistoric and historic sites as a result of erosion, land development and environmental degradation. We have also formed close working relationships with local CRM (Cultural Resource Management) firms and government agencies including the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). We are also frequently called upon by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to take on projects in the Houston area. Our public outreach and public archeology education programs are second to none. In short, I believe we have the best and most active archeological society in the State of Texas and I’m sure we’re making those founders, who met on April 10, 1959, proud!

There have been 39 presidents of HAS since 1959 and I cannot tell you how privileged I am to be a member of that group. Thanks so much for your support this year and I look forward to seeing you at the April 20th meeting. I’ll bring the birthday cake 😊

If you have questions about any Houston Archeological Society’s activities, especially about our opportunities in public outreach and how you can share your special knowledge and talents, email me back at lindagorski@cs.com

- Linda Gorski, President Houston Archeological Society
Minutes
Houston Archeological Society Monthly Meeting
March 9th, 2017

Welcome New Members and Guests – Linda Gorski, President

Treasurer’s Report: Bob Sewell announced the total amount in our checking and savings accounts. There are some fairly large bills coming up. If anyone is interested in more information on this, please contact Bob.

Membership: Bob Sewell stated there were 229 members at the end of 2016, and so far in 2017 there are 165 members. Membership Drive for 2017 has begun. Membership forms are at back. All new members get a bumper sticker and a copy of the newest HAS Report and Journal. YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP ENDS MARCH 31. PLEASE RENEW SO YOU WILL CONTINUE TO GET THE NEWSLETTER, BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN HAS FIELDWORK, AND RECEIVE COMPLIMENTARY COPIES OF THE JOURNALS AND REPORTS.

New Business:
Audit Committee: John Lumb, Geoff Mills, and Charlie Aulbach met on February 22 to conduct the audit. Thanks to this great team. A report will be delivered at April 20th HAS meeting.

Lab report: We plan to return to the workshop format for labs which were very popular. We will have HAS members and local archeologists share their expertise on a particular subject. Dr. Gus has announced that labs will be held on the 4th Monday of the month including Monday, March 27, April 24, and May 29. We may have to change May 29 due to Memorial Day weekend. Due to popular demand, Tom Nuckols will repeat his workshop on munitions at the March 27 lab.

High Viz vests - $5.00 while supplies last – have large an XL.

Projects:

Outreach projects: Thanks to everyone for their participation in the Katy ISD Archeological Project; the First Annual Conservation, Ecology, and Environmental Career Forum at the HCC West Loop Campus; and the Science Teachers Association for Area 5 in Beaumont, a Science Mini-Conference for southeast Texas. Several new memberships have resulted due to these outreach events!

Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists will hold an introduction to archeology for their spring workshops. Sharon Menegaz and Bob Sewell will be the leads on this conference which will be held at Brazos Bend Park on March 25. If you’d like to help let Sharon or Bob know.

Frost Town: Phase 1 of the project is finished, but work to demolish the Elysian Viaduct has not begun yet. A meeting will be held next week about the Viaduct. Updates will be forthcoming. Dr. Jason Barrett asked Linda to announce that HAS has won the E. Mott Davis Award for the Frost Town Project!

Kleb Woods Public Archeology Project: Ashley Jones will be our PI and she is currently getting permits for the project.

San Jacinto Symposium: This event will be held April 8, at the Monument Inn and San Jacinto Battleground. HAS will be on hand with the Larry Golden family exhibits and displays. Speakers and battleground tours comprise the program! For more information, check the website for the San Jacinto Conservancy.

TAS Field School: The TAS website is not up yet so information about this year’s TAS Field School is difficult to access. However, it will be held in West Texas near Camp Wood June 10 – 17. We will post as much information as we have on the HAS website and will have an article in our April newsletter.

Program for April meeting: In celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of San Jacinto Larry Golden and Linda Gorski will present a program on artifacts recovered at the Townsite of San Jacinto which was adjacent to the San Jacinto Battleground. Larry will bring his huge exhibit of artifacts to the meeting for everyone to enjoy.

Program for March meeting: HAS member Beth Aucoin gave a presentation on the unpublished papers of Moses Austin Bryan, which she discovered and documented in HAS Report #27. Copies available tonight for HAS members.

Beth Kennedy, Secretary
Whatzit? Houston History in a Bottle – via Del Rio!

Several years ago I drove out to west Texas to attend a SHUMLA board meeting in Comstock. On the way, I passed several signs in Del Rio advertising an estate auction. I followed the signs and even though the auction wasn’t until the following day, the preview was well underway. As I trolled through the boxes and baskets and tables full of treasures, I spotted two large boxes of old bottles. Those of you who know me or have been to my house know that I collect old bottles. I love old bottles. Mostly I love old bottles that have embossed wording on them, especially those from companies that have long since disappeared from historical records. And most of the bottles in those two boxes were embossed – and in perfect condition. Heart be still!

As I searched through the boxes of bottles I spotted an amber colored bottle that read “J. BURGHEIM PHARMACIST, HOUSTON, TEX. NOT TO BE TAKEN”. I didn’t even have to go through the rest of the bottles. I wanted that one – the other 50 or 60 bottles would just be gravy. So I left a bid for the whole lot. The following day I got a call letting me know that I had won both boxes of bottles so on my way back to Houston I stopped to pay my bill and collect my prizes.

When I got home I started researching my Burgheim’s Pharmacy bottle and quickly discovered that it is a very rare medicine bottle indeed! We know it’s a medicine bottle because of the words “NOT TO BE TAKEN” - a phrase that bottle manufacturers regularly embossed on medicine bottles. Further I discovered that J. Burgheim’s Pharmacist was established in Houston 1881 and closed in 1933. In one of its advertisements it claimed to have filled over 800,000 prescriptions! In 1894 the pharmacy was located at the corner of Congress and Fannin but eventually moved to 209 Main Street where, according to an advertisement of the time “… he had more room to display his elegant stock”. Jacob Burgheim (also occasionally spelled “Bergheim”) was active in several national pharmacy organizations and his name appears in the annual reports of those organizations at least as far back as 1897.

My research also revealed that the amber color bottle I discovered was produced in two different sizes, 3 ¾ inches and 5 ¼ inches. Mine is the larger and evidently rarer. I am continuing to research this bottle and how it fits into the broader picture of Houston’s historic bottles. Finally, if you know anything else about Burgheim’s Pharmacy I would love to hear from you!

If you have a “Whatzit” that you’d like to write about, please email our newsletter editor, Bob Sewell at robert-sewell@att.net. We are delighted to publish articles by any of our HAS members, especially if they encourage us to research “the rest of the story!”

- Linda Gorski
HAS Donates Journals and Reports to Woodson Research Center at Rice University

The Houston Archeological Society recently donated hard copies of all its Journals and Reports to the Woodson Research Center at Rice University. Linda Gorski, HAS President and Louis Aulbach, HAS Vice President and a Rice graduate, are shown here with Lee Pecht, University Archivist, and Director of Special Collections.

The mission of the Woodson Research Center, like that of its parent body, the Fondren Library of Rice University in Houston, Texas, is to support the institutional, research and public service programs of the University. The Center collects, organizes, preserves and describes:

- Rice University Archives
- Rare Books
- Manuscripts

These materials are available for Rice faculty, students and alumni, as well as local, national and international researchers via exhibitions, lectures, and other public events, and by publishing print and web-based materials highlighting the department's primary source collections. The Woodson Research Center’s strong service tradition and commitment to both analog and digital preservation enhances access to rare materials, and facilitates long-distance study and teaching. We are proud that the Houston Archeological Society is now part of this great tradition!

HAS Audit Team Reviews the Society’s 2016 Accounts

On February 22, members of the 2017 Audit Committee including Charlie Aulbach, John Lumb and Geoff Mills met to receive the HAS financial books from Treasurer Bob Sewell. The committee will report their findings at the April 20th, 2017 HAS meeting.
MEYER POTTERY by Larry Golden

If you didn’t pick up your WINTER 2016-2017 “American Archeology” published by The Archeological Conservancy you missed the article on “Making Meyer Pottery”, and the article about the Meyer family donating the 2 acres the kiln resides on to the “Conservancy“, for future archeological use.

Arriving at Indianola, Texas, in 1884-1885 German immigrants and potters Frank Schultz and William Meyer began their American journey. Meyer wanting to be a farmer left the company of Schultz and began his farming career. Schultz joined William Saenger at his pottery in Elmendorf, TX. After a failed farming attempt, William Meyer met up with Frank Schultz again after being hired at Saenger’s pottery.

In 1887 Meyer married Schultz’s daughter. The two potters purchased 5 acres for $25 and operated their own pottery business. Meyer and Schultz produced a number of utilitarian wares including jugs, crocks, jars, bowls and pitchers. The first few years they used the typical salt glaze method. In 1895 Meyer found a unique source of clay in the Leon Creek where the future Kelly Air Force Base was to be built. The use of this clay, and now famous Leon slip, would give the finished wares a range of colors from bright mustard yellow to brown to an olive green and sometimes all three colors on the same piece. The potters used a style of handle called a body strap where the handle was attached only on the body and not to the neck or mouth. Meyer purportedly could throw 100 ten gallon crocks in a day.

In the 1930’s utilitarian wares were in less demand and the pottery turned to decorative and souvenir wares. Brightly painted bluebonnets, hill country scenes and other items were made for the Texas Centennial, Alamo and numerous other souvenir and fraternal organizations. The pottery ceased to operate in 1962.

An excellent book “THE MEYER FAMILY: Master Potters of Texas“ by Georgeanna Greer and Harding Black 197 can be found but it is pricey.
Texas Archeological Society Annual Field School 2017

If any of you have tried to access the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) website to find information about the 2017 TAS Field School that is coming up June 10 - 17, you will have discovered that the site is no longer being updated as a new website is under construction and set to go online shortly. However, we want all our HAS members to have as much information about Field School as possible so we have posted the registration forms on our website at www.txhas.org. Click on the 2017 TAS Field School tab. Here’s what we know so far.

This year, the Texas Archeological Society (TAS) annual summer Field School will be held at Mission San Lorenzo de la Cruz in beautiful Real County. The primary Field School excavation area will at the Spanish Mission in Camp Wood on Texas State Highway 55, 40 miles north of Uvalde. Barksdale and the TAS campground are only three miles north the mission.

The field school campground will be in Barksdale, south of the Nueces Canyon High School. The camp area is on the north bank of the Nueces River in a lovely location on private land generously provided for TAS use. The river runs cool and clear adjacent to our campground so bring your swim suit, fishing pole, and lawn chairs to relax in the shallow water. There is no potable water or electricity in the tent area but portable toilets and a trash container will be on site. Tent camping and pop-up campers are encouraged.

Other lodging options are available locally including RV parks in the Camp Wood and Barksdale area. Please make your reservations early, as this part of the Nueces is popular in the summer months. TAS will be offering breakfast and supper as always and will utilize the Mary B. Powers Hall as well as our usual cook’s trailer. Shower facilities will be provided in the local school. The dining and program areas as well as the school are a short walk from the campground. Water and ice will be available in this location also.

The field school will conduct excavations at the Spanish colonial mission in conjunction with the Texas Tech University student field school under Dr. Tamra Walter. If you are a TAS member, take a look at the TAS Winter newsletter for her article on the Mission excavation project. The TAS survey crews will be working to identify and record sites on several beautiful ranches in the area.

Other activities include evening lectures, workshops, Archeolympics, and of course the Wally margarita party featuring live music. A 1.5-hour metal detecting class will also be sponsored by the Education Committee. Also, teachers receive CPE credit hours for most Field School activities including afternoon and evening programs (contact Robin Matthews, Education Committee Chairman, for more information). As always, during one evening of field school, the TAS will host an artifact identification night and public presentation for the local community.

Please see the upcoming new TAS website for what to expect in camp, a general daily schedule, recommended equipment for camp and field activities, camp rules, registration, and additional Field School information as it becomes available.

In the meantime, information currently available can be found on the HAS website www.txhas.org along with the registration form and attendance agreement.

Please contact Ron Ralph (ronralph@austin.rr.com) or Tiffany Osburn (tiffanyosburn@yahoo.com) with questions.
Report on TAS Academy – Lower Pecos Canyonlands.

Earlier this year several HAS members: Louis Aulbach, Sandra Rogers, Karen Fustes, Liz Coon-Nguyen, Robert Killian, and myself, attended the TAS Lower Pecos Canyonlands Academy in Langtry, Texas. Texas State University’s Ancient Southwest Texas Project offered an opportunity to see and hear the results of their excavations in Eagle Nest Canyon.

Those who arrived a day early were treated to a guided tour of the White Shaman Cave, Comstock, by Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Research Director of the SHUMLA School. We viewed the fabulous rock art depicted on the walls (example shown right) and Dr. Boyd explained her interpretation of the images, as described in her book “The White Shaman Mural: An Enduring Creation Narrative in the Rock Art of the Lower Pecos”.

The next day we had introductory lectures at the SHUMLA School before convoying to Eagle Nest Canyon in Langtry. There we toured several rock shelters, including Skiles Shelter, Kelley Cave, Horse Trail Shelter, Bonfire Shelter, the Sayles Adobe, and of course Eagle Cave (shown left). We listened to knowledgeable speakers discussing various aspects of the shelters. The excavations in Eagle Cave are scheduled to be backfilled in the spring of 2017 and so we were probably some of the last people to view the deposits of this shelter.

This was a terrific TAS Academy, and even though the excavation at Eagle Cave has now been mothballed, it would be well worth signing up if a similar academy is offered in future.

- Bob Sewell

Report on TAS Academy – Ceramics.

Yet another top-notch TAS academy weekend occurred recently at Fort Richardson State Historical Park in Jacksboro, Texas. The topic was Ceramics, and attendees were treated to some excellent lectures with some of Texas’ experts in the fields of both prehistoric and historic Ceramics. We learned about the techniques involved in clay preparation and how to identify types of temper in the field/lab, as well as basic ceramic vessel making techniques and their identification. Dr. Chris Lintz gave an overview of clays, tempers, techniques and firing as well as an overview of prehistoric Texas typologies. Dr. Marybeth Tomka reviewed historic ceramic typologies seen in Texas and led several lab activities. She even had us experimenting in clay ourselves and I can safely say that since Kindergarten I have not advanced past the ashtray making stage. The instructors also arranged various demonstrations in the fireplace including firing of earthenware, hot rock cooking in clay and even how cactus juice can clear water. Best of all, the state park friends group fed us some north central Texas homecookin’ and the state park venue was excellent!

- Liz Coon-Nguyen
Technology in Archeology - April 29-30, 2017 - in Fredericksburg
Registration deadline is April 14

Another new TAS Academy for 2017, we are very excited to offer for the first time Technology in Archeology in Fredericksburg! Participants will be introduced to exciting methods such as Structure from Motion (SfM) photogrammetry, geophysical survey methods, aerial drone recordation, and 3D scanning are also planned topics. This course will introduce these technologies in an archeological application within a state of the art classroom setting at the Hill Country University Center. Outdoor activities will include SfM, geophysical survey, and drone recordation at the nearby Fort Martin Scott. Instructors: Charles Koenig, Tiffany Osburn, Dr. Zac Selden, and Arlo McKee.

Fredericksburg offers incredible outdoor opportunities such as the nearby Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, shopping, historic sites, wineries, and much more. Lodging opportunities range from nice hotels, an incredible variety of bed and breakfasts, camping, RV parks, and more.

Scholarships are available, please apply!
http://www.txarch.org/scholarships/index.php
While ISIS threatens the history and cultural identity of the populations under its control, people are fighting their influence in every way they can--for example, by defending their cultural heritage. This presentation will document how an important archaeological site in northeastern Syria, ancient Urkesh has become a beacon of hope. It is the only foreign expedition that has remained active in Syria throughout the entire time of the war, and still is today.

Urkesh was a city-state of the Hurrians within the Mesopotamian cultural sphere. While the Hurrian population died out thousands of years ago, their cultural heritage is still felt as deeply alive: the close collaboration between the expedition and the local stakeholders has become a model of its kind, showing how archaeology can communicate values and help fostering a proud sense of identity. This evening's lecture presented by Crossroads Cultural Center will be given by three distinguished experts. Dr. Giorgio Buccellati is Director of the Mesopotamian Lab at UCLA's Cotsen Institute of Archeology. Dr. Marilyn Kelly-Buccellati is director of the Mozan/Urkesh Archaeological Project in Syria. Dr. Charles Stewart is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of St. Thomas.
Last Call for Papers for *The Journal*

Wilson “Dub” Crook, HAS Journal Editor

It has been a year now since I started asking for contributions to the next Journal issue (the Rice one was closed to HAS members) and the only papers I have received for *The Journal* are from outside contributors. As we want to publish two issues this year, I am issuing a “Last Call for Papers” with the deadline being **May 31, 2017**.

The next issue of *The Journal* will then be published in July or August. An end-of-year issue will be dedicated to Etruscan and Roman Archeology so this is your last chance to get a paper published before mid-year 2018. As always, your paper does not have to be “perfect”.

I will work with any contributor to make sure the article is suitable for publishing. If you have questions about style or format, just look at any of the more recent Journal issues and use that as a guide.

If you have any submissions or questions regarding a submission, please contact Dub Crook at dubcrook@kingwoodcable.com or 281-360-6451.
Houston Archeological Society
Monthly Meeting Programs for 2017
7:00pm Third Thursday of every month (except June)
M. D. Anderson Hall, St. Thomas University

Programs for 2017

May 18, 2017 – Kimberly L. Faulk, MA, “Underwater Archeology on the Gulf Coast”.

June – No meeting due to TAS Field School

July 20 – Discussion of the 2017 Texas Archeological Society Field School at Camp Wood, Real County, Texas including prehistoric sites and historic archeology at the Mission San Lorenzo de la Santa Cruz.

August 17 – HAS Member Wilson W. “Dub” Crook, “The Megalithic Archeology of Malta”.

September 21 – Scotty Moore, Professor of Archeology, Houston Community College, “Search for the People of the Palm: Prehistoric Archaeology in the Ecuadorian Rainforest”.

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

Note: Please submit articles for publication to The Profile Editor Bob Sewell at newsletter@txhas.org. Submit articles no later than April 26th for the May 2017 issue.

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

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